

To Rick Hutcheson

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

February 21, 1977

The attached is forwarded to you  
for your information.

The Vice President  
Stu Eizenstat  
Hamilton Jordan  
Bob Lipshutz  
Frank Moore  
Jack Watson

Rick Hutcheson

2/24/77

My initial reaction is that  
this "explanation" might be  
construed as:

(1) Cynical and thus a  
weakening of real commitment  
to human rights matters.

(2) A re-institution of  
"linkage" in simply another  
way. — PJL

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

February 21, 1977

TO : The President  
FROM: Jody Powell  
RE : Soviet Dissidents

It seems to me that the Soviets should understand your feeling that it is necessary to build domestic political support for initiatives in arms control and for detente in general. One of the reasons Ford-Kissinger failed in this effort and had to back away from detente was because the American people would not support a policy which seemed to abandon our position in support of basic human rights.

Surely the Soviets are sophisticated enough to understand that the domestic political flexibility we need to make progress in other areas is enhanced by your position on human rights.

Perhaps this could be conveyed to Dobrynin by you on an informal basis -- by phone, for example. An even less formal way would be through Brzezinski. I could even do it through their Embassy Press Counselor Kamenev, whom I know.

This probably should be done before you see Bukovsky on Tuesday to try to prevent another public reaction on their part which will only put us in a position of having to avoid the appearance of backing down.

JLP:cs