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NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
WASHINGTON, D C 20506

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September 29, 1986

INFORMATION

MEMORANDUM FOR JOHN M. POINDEXTER

FROM: DAVID G. MAJOR *DGM*

SUBJECT: Background on Orlov/Daniloff/Zakharov

Per your request this morning, I have attached the following information at Tabs I through III.

- Background on Yuriy Orlov
- Keydates
- Chronology of Events

Attachments:

- Tab I Orlov Background
- Tab II Key Dates
- Tab III Events

DMF

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YURIY ORLOV

Yuriy Federovich Orlov, age 60, physicist and former corresponding member of the Armenian Academy of Science, founded the Helsinki Monitoring Group in Moscow in 1975. He was arrested on February 10, 1977, and tried under violation of Article 70, anti-Soviet activity. During his trial his defense attorney was kicked out of the court room, Orlov was not able to present evidence in his defense, and was shouted down when he tried to speak. He was given the maximum sentence on May 18, 1978 of 7 years hard labor and 5 years internal exile.

Orlov currently lives in the most northern region of Yakutia, Siberia, in an eskimo village named Kobyai. This town of 1,000 is completely isolated with no roads or trains. The only way of getting to Kobyai is by plane. Orlov has indicated he feels very isolated in exile. The local citizens have been told Orlov is a traitor and instructed not to speak to him.

He lives in a one-room shack with no running water and no heat. It is reported that the stove does not even melt the ice in the shack during the winter. He works as a laborer and guard at an elementary school. All his teeth have been lost and one arm is useless due to a beating he received while in exile. He earns 68 rubles per month.

His wife Irina, lives in Moscow as an artist. She was fired from her job after she visited Orlov in Siberia in May 1985.