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January 31, 1983

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Nobel Institute
Drammensvein 19
Oslo, Norway

Gentlemen:

As initiators of the international citizens Helsinki human rights movement, Yuri Orlov, Anatoly Shcharansky, Mykola Rudenko, Viktoras Petkus, Vaclav Havel, Jacek Kuron, Adam Michnik and Lech Walesa, at great personal sacrifice, serve the cause of world peace and decency. Their peaceful public activity and steadfast dedication to humanitarian goals have earned them the special acknowledgement which only the Nobel Institute can bestow. As participants in the international Helsinki movement and as the Congressional members of the United States Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe, it is a special honor to nominate these eight men for the 1983 Nobel Peace Prize.

The courageous work of citizens' groups in the Soviet Union, Lithuania, Czechoslovakia and Poland in promoting the human rights principles of the 1975 Helsinki Final Act epitomizes an insight of 1974 Nobel Peace Prize Laureate, Andrei Sakharov: "The defense of human rights is a clear path towards the unification of people in our turbulent world and a path towards the relief of suffering." By acting on this concept of peace through individual rights and by persevering despite official persecution, these citizens' groups have publicized violations of such Helsinki human rights provisions as economic, political, national and religious rights and freedom of movement for people and ideas.

Under the leadership of Professor Yuri Orlov -- with the energetic advocacy of Anatoly Shcharansky -- the first group to monitor the Soviet Helsinki human rights record was organized in May 1976 in Moscow. Although forced by relentless government repression to call a halt to its peaceful public work on September 8, 1982, the moral influence of the Moscow Helsinki Group continues unabated. Indeed, inspired by the Moscow Helsinki Group, similar groups were organized in Ukraine (led by poet Mykola Rudenko), Lithuania (with a leading role played by literary historian Viktoras Petkus), Georgia and Armenia; allied groups were formed to advocate the rights of believers, psychiatric prisoners and the handicapped.

Tragically, the only discernible official Soviet response to this peaceful public effort has been repression: ten in the Moscow Helsinki Group are serving a total of 97 years of imprisonment; 31 in the Ukrainian Helsinki Group were sentenced to a total of 222 years; five in the Lithuanian Helsinki Group are serving a

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total of 32 years; two in the Georgian and Armenian Helsinki Groups are serving a total of 17 years, while six people in the affiliated groups are serving a total of 48 years of imprisonment. Yuri Orlov and Mykola Rudenko were each sentenced to 12-year terms of imprisonment for "anti-Soviet agitation;" Anatoly Shcharansky received a 13-year term of imprisonment for "treason," while Viktoras Petkus was handed a 15-year term for "anti-Soviet agitation."

Charter '77 was organized in January 1977 to monitor the human rights situation in Czechoslovakia and to promote governmental compliance with international commitments, including the Helsinki Final Act. In April 1978, the Committee for the Defense of the Unjustly Persecuted (VONS) was formed to publicize individual human rights cases. Despite systematic official repression over the last six years, Charter '77 and VONS continue their activities. Today, as many as 25 members are imprisoned or forced into exile, yet, both groups continue to document human rights abuses in Czechoslovakia. Playwright Vaclav Havel, one of the original Charter spokesmen and VONS activists, was sentenced on October 23, 1979 to four and one-half years of imprisonment for "subversion." Consistently refusing official offers of exile to the West -- unless the other imprisoned Chartists are also released -- Havel serves his sentence in the Plzen-Bory prison.

In Poland, the Committee of Social Self-Defense, also known as the Workers' Defense Committee (KOR), was founded on September 27, 1976 by sociologist Jacek Kuron and historian Adam Michnik to promote governmental compliance with Polish international human rights commitments. Kuron and Michnik later became key advisors to Lech Walesa, prominent in the Solidarity workers' rights movement which ultimately claimed the allegiance of ten million members. Indeed, under Solidarity, KOR felt its basic aims were being realized and so, nearly five years to the day after its establishment, KOR dissolved itself.

Unfortunately, however, the Polish government tried to snuff out the Solidarity labor-reform movement by imposing martial law on the night of December 13, 1981: Walesa, Michnik and Kuron were arrested along with thousands of other Solidarity activists. In a much heralded "liberalization" move, the Polish government recently released many imprisoned Solidarity sympathizers and members, including Lech Walesa. Adam Michnik and Jacek Kuron remain in prison, however, with at least 1,500 Polish citizens still awaiting trial, and 2,500 others convicted of martial law offenses. Kuron, Michnik and three other KOR activists have been charged with "making preparations for the violent overthrow of the Polish socio-political system" -- a charge which carries the maximum penalty of death -- and reportedly

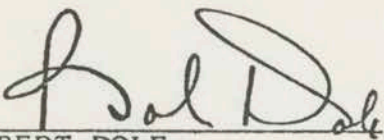
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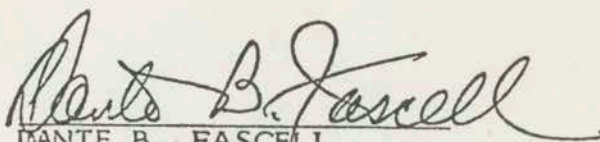
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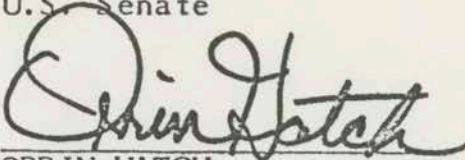
will stand trial in the near future. Lech Walesa, although no longer imprisoned, faces a precarious future as he continues to advocate liberal solutions for Poland's problems.

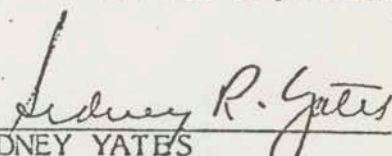
The painstaking human rights advocacy of these eight men -- and many thousands of their associates in the Soviet Union, Lithuania, Czechoslovakia and Poland -- embodies the spirit of civic commitment to the daily promotion of peace which inspires people everywhere. In light of these contributions to world peace and genuine international understanding, we are honored to nominate Lech Walesa, Jacek Kuron, Adam Michnik, Vaclav Havel, Yuri Orlov, Anatoly Shcharansky, Mykola Rudenko and Viktoras Petkus for the 1983 Nobel Peace Prize.

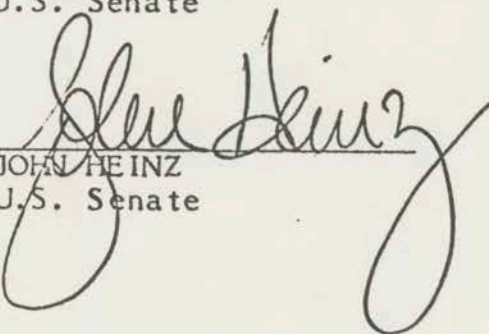
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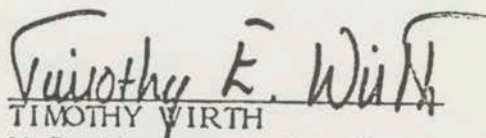

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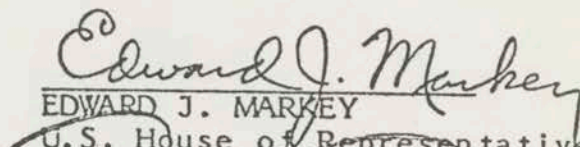

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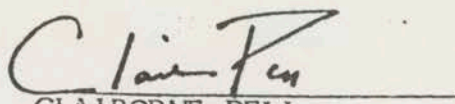

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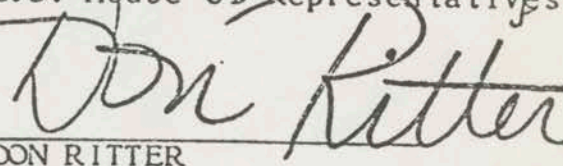

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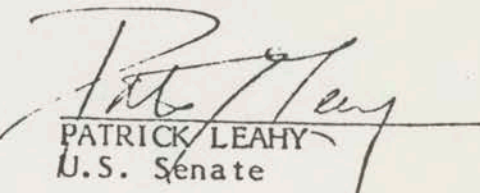

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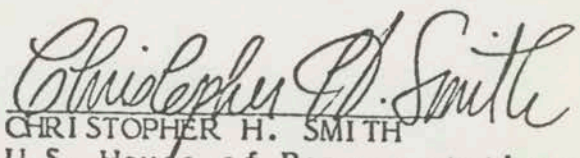

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