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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
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SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS RELATED TO THE US STAND ON HUMAN RIGHTS
(17 - 23 February 1978)

SOVIET UNION

- Dissident spokesman Andrey Sakharov visited the US Embassy in Moscow on February 22 to present appeals from Soviet Pentecostals for President Carter's assistance in emigrating from the USSR. The appeals are from members of the religious group in the Ukraine and Belorussia, and include a list of 1,596 families who wish to emigrate. *The Pentecostals made their request public the same day by giving copies to Western newsmen in Moscow. Representatives of the Pentecostal Christians living in various parts of the Soviet Union have long sought the embassy's assistance in seeking to emigrate. Typically, whole communities are involved, and many have reportedly applied for exit visas on the strength of invitations from their US "brothers and sisters in Christ."*

- Soviet authorities have appointed a lawyer to defend arrested dissident Anatoly Shcharansky

This is another move suggesting that the trial of Shcharansky may be near. The issue of selecting a lawyer for Shcharansky has been agitating

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the Soviet dissident community for some time. The authorities have brushed aside the wishes of Shcharansky's family for a Western attorney to defend him, while the family has refused to engage a Soviet lawyer without Shcharansky's written consent, as is required by Soviet law.

[redacted] former Major General Petr Grigorenko has been deprived of his Soviet citizenship. Grigorenko, who has been in the United States visiting his stepson since November, had been assured at the time of his departure from Moscow that he would be allowed to re-enter the Soviet Union when his six-month exit visa expired. The Soviet action against Grigorenko is not unexpected, and represents a tactic that has been used to block re-entry of other prominent dissidents in the past. Soviet authorities probably believe Grigorenko's removal from the Soviet scene will further weaken the dissident community's leadership core.

EASTERN EUROPE

-- Romanian authorities have moved a critic of their policies toward the Hungarian minority from Bucharest to a small town in the southwest part of the country, [redacted]

[redacted] The regime imposed this internal exile on Karoly Kiraly, an ethnic Hungarian who was once a member of the top Romanian leadership, after he allegedly refused a regime demand to deny that he had written criticisms which recently appeared in U.S. newspapers. In several letters to top Romanian officials last summer, Kiraly accused the present Romanian leadership of not doing enough to assure the ethnic and cultural identity of the 1.7 million Hungarians living in the Transylvanian region of Romania. One of the Kiraly letters was leaked to the Western press in January through the efforts of ethnic Hungarians--in the US and perhaps in Hungary--who share Kiraly's concerns and want to pressure Bucharest into changing its ways. The status of the Hungarian minority in Romania is an emotion-laden issue