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FROM : Embassy, STOCKHOLM 1133
TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON

DATE June 2, 1959

REF

ACTION	DEPT.	OTHER
REC'D		

WALLENBERG
WALLENBERG

SUBJECT Notes Exchanged Between Swedish and Soviet Governments Concerning Raoul Wallenberg.

On May 28, 1959, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs released a statement that there had been a new exchange of notes between the Swedish and Soviet Governments concerning Raoul WALLENBERG.

The most recent of the earlier Swedish notes on this subject was dated February 17, 1957, and delivered to the Soviet Foreign Ministry on February 19, 1957. The text of this note, as well as an extensive review of the circumstances surrounding the mysterious disappearance of Mr. Wallenberg in Budapest in 1944, after the Red Army entered the city, were reported in Embassy despatches No. 964, February 25, 1957, and No. 989, March 5, 1957. A recent conversation on this subject between an Embassy officer and an officer in the Ministry for Foreign Affairs was reported in despatch No. 1042, April 23, 1959.

The press release from the Ministry for Foreign Affairs (English translation enclosed) stated that on February 9, 1959, the Swedish Government requested that the Soviets investigate whether Wallenberg had been held in the Vladimir prison, which is located some 200 kilometers east of Moscow. The Soviet Government's reply of March 6, 1959, stated that the investigation had been made as requested by the Swedish Government, but that nothing had been revealed and that the information of the Swedish Government concerning Wallenberg's presence in Vladimir had not been confirmed.

The Swedish press release did not indicate how long after 1947--the date the Soviet Government reported that Mr. Wallenberg had died--Wallenberg is believed to have been alive. The press reported that one of the persons who reported knowing of Mr. Wallenberg after 1947 was a Swiss, Emil BRUGGER, who stated that he had been in contact with Wallenberg in the Vladimir prison on August 4, 1954. Brugger stated that, by means of knocking on the wall, Wallenberg had given him this message: "Wallenberg--First Secretary in the Swedish Mission in Budapest, taken in 1945." Brugger stated that he replied, giving his name and stating that he had been taken from Vienna in 1948. Brugger reported that Wallenberg asked him to contact Swedish authorities if he (Brugger) was released, since Wallenberg was not permitted to have any correspondence. Another returning prisoner, unidentified, except as a German was reported to have stated that he had been in the Vladimir prison from spring to fall of 1956, during which time he had been in contact with a Soviet citizen who had been in the Vladimir prison since 1945. The Soviet citizen reported that Wallenberg had been in the Vladimir prison after 1947, the date that Wallenberg had been reported dead by the Soviet authorities.

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From

A spokesman of the Raoul Wallenberg Committee, made up of friends and relatives of Mr. Wallenberg, has informed the press that there are a number of witnesses who have given testimony proving that Wallenberg was interned in various Russian prisons several years after his alleged death in 1947, and that the committee is confident that, with the help of the Swedish Government, Wallenberg will soon be back in Sweden.

In addition to the press release issued by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Foreign Minister ORDEN made the following statement to the press: "It is difficult to judge the value of statements made by former Soviet prisoners. However, we will continue to take cognizance of any clues that may present themselves. It is an open question whether the matter will be taken up with the Soviet Chief of Government during his visit here. There is nothing to prevent this from being done. We have systematically sought to question people who have returned from imprisonment in Russia, regardless of their nationality, about Wallenberg. Some of them have made certain statements to the effect that Wallenberg was in a prison in Vladimir at a later time than that which the Russians have given as the day of his death, namely July 17, 1947. These statements caused us to turn to the Soviet Government with the request for an investigation whether Wallenberg could have been in the prison mentioned at any time after 1947. However, no new information resulted from the Russian investigation."

The Swedish press had been unaware of the renewed efforts on the part of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs to learn about Wallenberg's fate and whereabouts and commended the Government for not having been satisfied with the many negative replies which it had received from Moscow. Conservative "Svenska Dagbladet" considered the latest Soviet denial to be less categorical than previously, and stated that the Swedish Government was justified in continuing to press the case. The paper suggested that Khrushchev's forthcoming visit to Stockholm in August will present "a ready opportunity once again to impress upon the Soviet rulers the burden created for Swedish-Russian relations by the unsolved Wallenberg affair." The statement on this subject by Foreign Minister Orden given above is somewhat less categorical but it is probable that the whereabouts and fate of Wallenberg will be one of the questions raised by the Swedish Government during Khrushchev's forthcoming visit.

For the Chargé d'Affaires, a.i.:

G. Alonzo Stanford
Second Secretary

Enclosure:

Press Release.

Department please pass:

Ambassies Moscow, Helsinki, Oslo, Copenhagen.
Legation, Budapest.

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Ministry for Foreign Affairs Press Release, May 22, 1959.

In its note of February 17, 1957, to the Soviet Government the Swedish Government stated that it reserved the right to present further material concerning Raoul Wallenberg, which was considered to be of importance for continued investigations in the Soviet Union.

The Swedish authorities have continued to examine carefully all traces concerning Wallenberg's stay in the Soviet Union. In this connection there have been brought to their knowledge several accounts from persons, who have returned from Soviet imprisonment, implying that after 1947 Wallenberg had been in a prison at Vladimir, some 200 kilometers west of Moscow.

Because of this information the Swedish Government requested in a note, which was handed over to the Soviet Ministry for Foreign Affairs on February 9, 1959, that an investigation be made to establish whether Wallenberg had been in the Vladimir prison.

The reply of the Soviet Government, dated March 6, 1959, stated that the investigations which had been requested in the Swedish note had been carried out, but had not revealed anything new in the matter and that the information of the Swedish Government concerning Wallenberg's stay in Vladimir had not been confirmed.

Translator: MLHajlen Rylander.

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