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## PRESS RELEASE, REQUESTING HELP FROM CANADIAN MINISTER KENNEY REGARDING THE SEARCH FOR RAOUL WALLENBERG

Your Excellency Jason Kenney, Minister of Citizenship, Immigration, and Multiculturalism,

Thank you so much for making your statement commemorating Raoul Wallenberg Day.

In your statement you wrote: "Raoul Wallenberg was captured by Soviet forces on January 17, 1945. Ten days after making that statement, as the Soviet Union pushed the Nazis out of Hungary. He was not seen again."

Although this statement is correct, it is important to know that the search for Raoul continues, as you can see from the enclosed correspondence.

Could I kindly ask your assistance in clarifying your government's position in the case of Raoul Wallenberg, Canada's first Honorary Citizen.? (Please see House of Commons resolution at the end of this letter.)

What is of immediate importance is the fact that somewhere around the globe there may still be individuals (witnesses) with factual information on the whereabouts of Raoul. The urgency of this request cannot be overstated, since the witnesses we are attempting to find are most likely in their 80s or 90s and their life expectancies are obviously limited. The Swedish and Israeli Ministries of Foreign Affairs previously approved the text of the attached "Missing in Action" Appeal, and it was sent to some Swedish and Israeli embassies around the world.

I would like to please further request that your government also send out the "Missing in Action" Appeal through your network of embassies, with a request that each ambassador hold a briefing with representatives of the local media, human rights groups, Holocaust groups, and governments to stress the importance of the fact that Raoul Wallenberg's fate is still unknown and that perhaps through the help of these individuals (witnesses) the case may be resolved.

For your information, Sweden states that the Raoul Wallenberg case today remains on the official Swedish-Russian agenda, and the question of what happened to Raoul Wallenberg in Soviet captivity remains formally open. There is a general consensus among professional historians and Wallenberg researchers that important documents exist in Russian archives that could shed light on the issue of Raoul Wallenberg's fate. Sweden outlined this fact at the end of its official Swedish Working Group report in 2001 through formulation of 17 questions that the Russian side can and must answer before any binding conclusions about Raoul Wallenberg's fate can be drawn.

This general consensus is supported by Vasily S. Khristoforov, Head of the Office of Registration and Archival Funds of Russia's FSB, Lieutenant General, Doctor of Law, member of the Commission for the Rehabilitation of Victims of Political Repression under President of Russian Federation, who said "The point in the history of Raoul Wallenberg has not yet been set." (Translation provided by Google; please see original Russian text <u>http://www.vremya.ru/2009/6/13/221158.html</u>.)

You could also contact Mrs. Susanne Berger and Mr. David Matas, Wallenberg research experts and International Human Rights lawyers, who are both active in the search and familiar with its details, as well the Honorable Prof. Irwin Cotler.

Therefore, could I kindly ask you what steps the Canadian government is considering in trying to clarify Raoul Wallenberg's fate?

I look forward to your response and will gladly provide any additional information you may require.

Respectfully submitted,

## Max Grunberg

cc: Prof. Guy von Dardel (brother of Raoul Wallenberg, Switzerland) Mrs. Nina Lagergren (sister of Raoul Wallenberg, Sweden) Ms. Louise von Dardel (niece of Raoul Wallenberg, France) Mrs. Marie Dupuy (niece of Raoul Wallenberg, France)

Mrs. Susanne Berger, Wallenberg expert and Former Independent Consultant to the Swedish-Russian working group, USA Prof. Irwin Cotler, Member of Canadian Parliament, Wallenberg expert and Former Chair International Wallenberg Commission Mr. David Matas, Wallenberg expert and Barrister and Solicitor, Canada Prof. Frank Vajda, Wallenberg expert, Raoul Wallenberg Committee, Australia

## House of Commons

Wednesday, December 11, 1985

And whereas the Soviet Union, in violation of Raoul Wallenberg's Swedish diplomatic immunity and of international law, seized him on January 17, 1945, with no explanation ever given for his detention and subsequent imprisonment;

And whereas Raoul Wallenberg has been a prisoner in the Soviet Union since 1945;

And whereas reports from former prisoners in the Soviet Union, as recently as January, 1981, suggest that Raoul Wallenberg is still alive and remains a prisoner.

P.S. This document has been made available for distribution to the general public.