

President Moshe Katzav
President's House
Rechov Jabotinsky
Jerusalem
2005

Paris, 18 April

Cc.: Mr Nathan Sharansky, Minister for Jerusalem and Diaspora Affairs

re: Request by the von Dardel Family to meet with Russian President Vladimir Putin

Dear President Katzav

Our stay in Israel and our meeting with both you and Prime Minister Ariel Sharon was very important to our family. For the first time in many years we felt a strong, personal commitment for finding the truth about the fate of our uncle Raoul Wallenberg and we are very touched by that.

As you know, a few weeks ago we, together with Minister Nathan Sharansky, met with the U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights, Louise Arbour, in Geneva. At our meeting Ms Arbour indicated that she would be willing to raise the question of Raoul Wallenberg's fate directly with the President of Russia, Vladimir Putin.

We have felt for a long time that in addition to approaches by Ms Arbour and yourself to the Russian President, it perhaps would also be helpful, if our family could meet with President Putin directly. We would respectfully ask you, President Katzav, if you could mediate a meeting with President Putin, Minister Nathan Sharansky, my father, Dr. Guy von Dardel, my sister, Marie Dupuy, and myself in Moscow.

The ten year research of the Swedish-Russian Working Group has shown that it is possible to solve the mystery of Raoul Wallenberg's disappearance in Russia. The Group's work has raised very important questions and has provided numerous precise leads, which deserve an equally precise follow-up investigation. In fact, the currently pending questions are of such a nature that, if answered, they would almost certainly provide decisive clues about Raoul Wallenberg's fate in Soviet captivity.

Both the governments of Sweden and Russia have repeatedly stated their determination to pursue further research and to clarify Raoul Wallenberg's fate beyond a reasonable doubt. My family is very grateful for this formal commitment but it is also a fact that current projects are effectively stalled, due to limited

access to relevant Russian archives. President Putin could make a valuable contribution by stating his personal support for the ongoing efforts to clarify Raoul Wallenberg's fate and by providing the necessary access to pertinent documentation for qualified, international researchers. Our family is of course mindful of Russian concerns over issues of confidentiality and national security; however, we are confident that with a concerted effort from all sides these difficulties could be overcome.

Sixty years have now passed since our uncle was abducted. Both his sister, Nina Lagergren and his brother Guy von Dardel are now over eighty years old. Our dream would be that they get to know the truth before they pass away, after decades of searching for their beloved brother.

With our Best Regards and Deepest Thanks,

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