



American Academy of Arts and Sciences

165 Allandale Street

Jamaica Plain Station, Boston, Massachusetts 02130

Telephone 617 522-2400

October 3, 1973

Madame Ekaterina A. Furtseva
Ministry of Culture
10 Ulitsa Kuibysheva
Moscow, U.S.S.R.

Dear Madame Furtseva:

On behalf of the Council of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, I am writing to express to you, as the chief ministerial representative of your Government's cultural policies, our great anxiety for the welfare of Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn. We believe that your stewardship of Soviet culture, of which Russian literature is one of the greatest treasures, lays upon you grave responsibilities in this matter.

Unchallenged reports indicate that Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn is being harassed and threatened because of his alleged "slander" and "political activities." Such harassment bespeaks an attitude towards Mr. Solzhenitsyn as an individual, and towards creative artists and intellectual workers as a group, which is contrary to basic human rights and which is bound to harm the Soviet Government's announced and, we believe, sincere efforts to further the cause of international détente.

To us as Americans, Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn's writings display the continuing richness of the Russian literary tradition and bear witness to the basic strength of Soviet society. We understand that there may be differences of opinion about the quality and significance of his works, but we find it impossible to understand why he should be subjected to public harassment for expressing, through literature, his view of the human condition. Those governments which have shown themselves appreciative of the achievements of dissenting artists have been regarded with respect in history, whereas those that have suppressed such individuals are remembered only for their exercise of power in an unequal struggle.

Madame Ekaterina F. Furtseva
October 3, 1973
Page 2

We ask you to convey to those responsible for the unwarranted and dishonorable campaign now being directed against Mr. Solzhenitsyn that they imperil the cause of détente and normalization of relations. We support that cause. Many of the members of our organization have been in the forefront in efforts to liquidate the cold war. But our willingness to promote, or participate in, cooperative relations with the Soviet nation is inevitably diminished by actions which deny a man we look upon as our colleague his right to earn his livelihood or to speak his conscience. Until such time as it becomes clear how détente is to be reflected in the lives of Mr. Solzhenitsyn and our other Soviet colleagues, the fruits of détente can only seem to us to be tainted.

Sincerely yours,

Harvey Brooks

Harvey Brooks
President

HB/es

Copy to: - Anatoly F. Dobrynin