

Free Europe Committee, Inc.

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March 30, 1964

Mr. Chester W. Ott
Executive Assistant to the Director
Radio Free Europe
One English Garden
Munich 22, Germany

Dear Chester:

Last week while in Washington, I checked on the private bill for Mr. Kaloyan D. Kaloyanoff. As you know, this has passed the Senate and is now in the hands of the Immigration Committee of the House. Mr. Walter Besterman, who is Secretary to the House Subcommittee on Immigration and Naturalization, tells me that under normal circumstances the bill will pass the House during the month of April.

While with Mr. Besterman, I raised the question of the other emigres in Munich who are anxious to complete their citizenship requirements. He is familiar with this problem, as there had been an approach to the Subcommittee by the Newspaper Guild about three years ago. At that time there was supposed to have been a meeting at Geneva to discuss this problem. In some way this meeting never took place, due to lack of follow-through on the part of the Guild.

The House Subcommittee, however, is very much interested in the problem, and does not wish to have a series of private bills which will, in effect, single out a few emigres for special attention rather than cope with the entire problem. Mr. Besterman had talked recently with Mr. Bohusz and indicated to the latter that there would be no chance of a general amendment to the Immigration Laws which would handle this situation.

However, Mr. Besterman did feel that there was a way of taking care of the problem through an omnibus private bill, which in his view might well be introduced by Congressman Feighan of Ohio, the present Chairman of the Subcommittee. Mr. Besterman's suggestion to us is that if we consider this an important enough problem, we should develop a presentation to be made to

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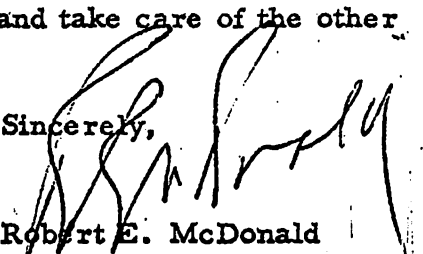
Chairman Feighan jointly by the management of the Free Europe Committee and the Newspaper Guild. At this time we should have a complete record of every individual to be included in the bill. The information needed would include a list of the individuals in question, their immediate families (who would be affected by the Act), their immigration status, the last time they had resided in the United States and the length of time they had been in the United States.

Under the proposed bill, the five-year residency required and the six-month residency within a state would be waived. All that would be necessary would be for the individual involved to come to the United States and be sworn in as a citizen. (This could be accomplished over a period of time.)

I am writing this letter in the hope that you can advise me as to the action you would like to have us take in this matter. If this seems to be a desirable procedure (as indicated above), we would be very happy to handle it. If, on the other hand, there are reasons that this procedure should not be followed, out of courtesy I should inform Mr. Besterman, who will be expecting some word from us.

I will discuss the matter with Dick Greenlee here and take care of the other clearances after hearing directly from you.

Sincerely,


Robert E. McDonald
Assistant to the President

REM:lg

cc: John Richardson, Jr., C. Rodney Smith, Hans Fischer, John Schneider,
Richard Greenlee