



Office of the Attorney General
Washington, D. C. 20530

September 15, 1982

Mr. Robert Keith Gray
Gray & Company
The Power House
Washington, D.C. 20007

Dear Bob:

I have received your letter of August 30, concerning Mr. Robert M. Beachum. In that letter you referred to a previous letter dated June 17 on the same subject. I apologize for not responding to that earlier letter. It was routed directly to an official in the Parole Commission and not brought to my attention until the receipt of your most recent correspondence. In any event, I am afraid that my response to that earlier letter would not have been too helpful, since there is no authority vested in the Attorney General to review decisions of the Parole Commission.

Your letter of August 30 requests that I meet with Mr. Beachum's attorney to consider if there are any grounds for the President to grant clemency for time served. If Mr. Beachum is interested in exploring the possibility of action by the Executive Branch concerning his sentence, he should begin by applying to the Pardon Attorney, David C. Stephenson. Mr. Stephenson's address is:

David C. Stephenson, Pardon Attorney
Park Place Building, Room 280
5550 Friendship Blvd.
Bethesda, Maryland

Mr. Stephenson will be able to advise Mr. Beachum's counsel concerning how to proceed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bill".

William French Smith
Attorney General

bcc: David Stephenson w/original incoming



Office of the Attorney General
Washington, D. C. 20530

June 11, 1982

MEMORANDUM FOR FRED F. FIELDING
Counsel to the President

FROM: William French Smith *WFS*
Attorney General

SUBJECT: William F. Buckley, Jr., Letter on
Vladimir Sokolov-Samarin

Your memorandum to me of May 7 on this subject requested a draft response to Mr. Buckley for the President's signature. As members of my staff have discussed with Dick Hauser, the President should not discuss the case with Mr. Buckley since it is a pending criminal prosecution. We propose that the President simply send a brief noncommittal reply to Mr. Buckley, and that Assistant Attorney General Lowell Jensen of the Criminal Division send Mr. Buckley the attached letter. I have attached a memorandum from Mr. Jensen to me explaining the facts of the case and setting forth a brief proposed response for the President's signature. I understand that this course of action has been approved by Dick Hauser.

Attachments



U.S. Department of Justice

Criminal Division

Office of the Assistant Attorney General

Washington, D.C. 20530

MAY 24 1982

Mr. William F. Buckley, Jr.
Editor
The National Review
150 East 35th Street
New York, New York 10016

Dear Mr. Buckley:

On behalf of the President, the Attorney General has asked me to respond to the points you raise in your April 19 letter to the President concerning Vladimir Sokolov.

The Department of Justice filed suit against Mr. Sokolov on January 25, 1981, in federal court in New Haven. The suit seeks to revoke Mr. Sokolov's American citizenship on grounds that his alleged activities as a Nazi propagandist during World War II, and his alleged subsequent concealment of those activities, rendered him ineligible to enter the United States and to procure American citizenship.

No trial date has yet been set, but when the case is tried Mr. Sokolov will have every opportunity to present his defense to the government's action, including the testimony of witnesses on the matters raised in your letter. The government has the burden of proving its charges by clear and convincing evidence.

The present suit does not involve the possible deportation of Mr. Sokolov. It is limited to the question whether his citizenship should be revoked. If the government prevails, a separate action will be brought seeking to deport Mr. Sokolov. The Immigration and Nationality Act provides that, in such cases, if deportation is ordered, the defendant may nominate a country to which he wishes to be deported. The decision rests with the court, which may order the defendant deported to the country of his choice, to the country of his birth, to the country from which he entered the United States, or, in some cases, to a

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fourth country. Thus it cannot be assumed that Mr. Sokolov, if he is ordered deported, would necessarily be deported to the Soviet Union.

The judgment in both the denaturalization case and the deportation case are subject to appeal by the losing party. Of course, if Mr. Sokolov should prevail in the present suit, no deportation action could be brought.

I trust this responds to the points that you raised. Please do not hesitate to write if I can provide further information.

Sincerely,



D. Lowell Jensen
Assistant Attorney General
Criminal Division

Memorandum



DLJ:MR:AARyan:nw
146-2-47-222

Subject

William F. Buckley's letter to the President
re: Vladimir Sokolov

Date

MAY 24 1982

To The Attorney General

D. Lowell Jensen
From D. Lowell Jensen
Assistant Attorney General
Criminal Division

This memorandum sets forth the facts concerning Vladimir Sokolov, the subject of William F. Buckley, Jr.'s letter to the President of April 19, 1982 (Tab A).

I. SUMMARY

On January 27, 1982, the Department filed a civil action against Sokolov in the United States District Court in New Haven, Connecticut, seeking to revoke Sokolov's naturalization on grounds that he took part in Nazi persecution during World War II. The legal basis for our complaint is in essentially two counts: that Sokolov obtained his citizenship illegally because Nazi persecutors were ineligible to enter the United States, and fraudulently because he misrepresented and concealed his Nazi background when he obtained a visa and again when he applied for citizenship.

Sokolov's answer denies all allegations of the complaint. The case is in the discovery stage, and no trial date has been set.

II. FACTUAL BACKGROUND

We have alleged that Sokolov--who used the pen name "Samarin"--was a writer and deputy editor for the Nazi propaganda journal Rech, a Russian-language semi-weekly published in Nazi-occupied Russia from 1942-1944. Sokolov's articles called for the annihilation of Jews in the area and throughout the world. The articles are not only viciously anti-Semitic (they refer to "kikes" as "crooked-nosed big brown rats with bared teeth"), but they listed the names and occupations of local Jews, all of whom were apparently murdered by the Nazis at about the time Sokolov's articles were published. While many of the articles were anti-Soviet and anti-American as well, the virulent attacks on the Jews run prominently throughout his writings.

In 1944-1945, after the Nazis were driven out of Russia, Sokolov-Samarin worked for another Russian-language Nazi newspaper in Berlin.

When Sokolov applied to enter the United States as an immigrant in 1951, he swore that he had been a "corrector" (proofreader) in Russia and denied under oath that he had ever taken part in persecution. He entered the United States in 1951 and applied for naturalization in 1957 (again misrepresenting his background).

He was employed by Yale University as an instructor in Slavic languages from 1959 to 1976, when copies of Rech surfaced and he resigned.

Prior to filing suit, attorneys from the Office of Special Investigations interviewed Sokolov. He admitted that he was employed by a Nazi propaganda company and that he had been decorated for his work. He also admitted that he "could have" written the articles in question. His explanation was that he was at heart an anticommunist and that he had been forced to write anti-Semitic articles as well. He contended that the more virulent anti-Semitic language had been "inserted" by the German "censor" prior to publication--an explanation that OSI attorneys believe highly unlikely given the circumstances.

Since Sokolov's authorship is not in question as such, the Department's case will consist largely of the articles themselves. Sokolov has admitted that the certified copies that OSI has received from Soviet archives appear to be genuine.

III. MR. BUCKLEY'S STATEMENTS

Mr. Buckley is mistaken in believing that a successful prosecution of this case would result in Sokolov's deportation to the Soviet Union. The outcome of this case will affect only Sokolov's citizenship. If we prevail at trial and on appeal, Sokolov becomes an alien again. A second proceeding would then be brought before an immigration judge seeking Sokolov's deportation. Assuming that we again prevail, including appeals, Sokolov would be deported to a country determined by the immigration judge. Under the Immigration and Nationality Act, Sokolov could be deported to the country he himself selects, to the country of birth (Russia), the country from which he entered the United States (West Germany), or possibly some fourth country.

The allegation by Mr. Buckley's colleague Strobe Talbott that "the whole operation against Sokolov is [probably] a KGB operation" is highly unlikely, since Sokolov has admitted to us that the copies

of Rech we will introduce at trial appear to be genuine. His defense will apparently be that his superiors were responsible for the anti-Semitic portions of the writings that appeared over his name. This, of course, is a factual dispute to be resolved by the court.

Finally, it is not unusual that some of Sokolov's friends in this country should express surprise at the charges in light of Sokolov's apparent lack of anti-Semitism in the years he has lived here. This follows a common pattern in Nazi cases that OSI has investigated: former Nazi persecutors in this country lead generally quiet lives and are not outspoken anti-Semites or caught up in neo-Nazi activities. In any event, Sokolov will presumably be free at trial to call witnesses to his apparent lack of anti-Semitism, thus supporting his defense that he was not responsible for the anti-Semitic aspects of his writings.

It is important to note, however, that our case will not be simply that Sokolov wrote anti-Semitic articles, but rather that his repeated incitements to kill Jews were an integral part of the Nazi annihilation then in progress, and that he was employed, paid and commended by the official Nazi propaganda unit that published Rech.

IV. PROPOSED RESPONSE

Because this case is in litigation, it would be improper for the President to take any action or speak publicly on the merits. Because Mr. Buckley is a personal friend of the President, however, a normal Department staff reply would be insufficient. I suggest therefore that the President reply to Mr. Buckley as follows:

"Thank you for your letter of April 19 concerning Vladimir Sokolov.

"Because the Attorney General has advised me that the case is now pending in federal court, I am sure that you will understand that it would be inappropriate for me to take any action or to comment on the case."

At the same time, I will write to Mr. Buckley with a more substantive response, pointing out the fact that Sokolov will have his day in court and explaining that the issue in the present suit is citizenship, not deportation.



U.S. Department of Justice
Office of the Attorney General

Counselor to the Attorney General

May 10

NOTE FOR JOHN ROBERTS:

I would very much appreciate the chance to visit with you on the attached matter at your very earliest convenience.

Muchas gracias.

Call in to Harner

cc

Stewart
R. OLSEN

1. send an ltr:
public case, can't comment

2. Ltr to WAB:
- CIT, NOT DEP.
- IF DEP, NOT S. UNION & REC
- BASIS

KEEP R.A.,
AS OUT

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

May 7, 1982

- send the draft
to Hauser

- send Small cc
to Hauser

- Tell Small until
mail the has
go out

MEMORANDUM FOR WILLIAM FRENCH SMITH
ATTORNEY GENERAL

FROM: FRED F. FIELDING *FFF/RMS*
COUNSEL TO THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT: William F. Buckley, Jr. Letter
on Vladimir Sokolov-Samarin

The President recently received the attached letter from William F. Buckley, Jr., concerning the pending trial of Vladimir Sokolov-Samarin.

We would very much appreciate from the Department a draft response to Mr. Buckley for the President's signature.

Thank you.

Attachment

WILLIAM F. BUCKLEY, JR.

Editor

April 19, 1982

Dear Mr. President:

Thanks for a wonderful weekend: altogether memorable -- even if you did not win the National Review Medal of Freedom. I am writing separately to Nancy and to Claudette. Meanwhile here is the memorandum you requested on the matter of the Yale professor who is being threatened by deportation to the Soviet Union:

His name is Vladimir Sokolov-Samarin (hereafter, "Sokolov"). (I sound like a lawyer.) His address is 82 Crestwood Road, Milford, Connecticut. His telephone number is 203-878-2388. His lawyer's name is Brian M. Gildea, whose firm is Celentano & Gildea, 265 Church Street, New Haven, Connecticut 06510 (home telephone: 203-393-2494, business telephone: 203-787-2244).

In brief: From 1942 to 1944, Sokolov was in Nazi-occupied Russia, and during this period he wrote for the Nazis, including (in all probability) some anti-Semitic material. This material was allegedly published in the newspaper, Rech, in Orel, Russia.

On May 21, 1951, Sokolov applied in Wentorf, Germany, for a visa to the United States under the displaced persons provisions of the code. He arrived in America on June 27, 1951, and went to work in New York for several newspapers, mostly emigré Russian journals. For a while he was associated with

the Tolstoy Foundation, and with the Chekhov publishing company. During that period he also published one or two books on Soviet literature, and he attempted to stay in touch with anti-Communist groups. The Columbia University Press published his book Soviet Education in 1957.

In 1959, he began teaching at Yale University -- first as an instructor in Russian, then as a lecturer; finally as a senior lecturer. For the past 20 years he lectured there, and at other places including Princeton, before regular students and occasionally before groups of Russian exiles.

In 1975, articles began to appear in the Jewish Daily, a New York newspaper charging that Professor Sokolov of Yale University was a violent anti-Semite, a Nazi, etc. The charge astonished everyone at Yale who knew him as either a colleague or as a teacher, because there was never any evidence that at any time had he uttered a pro-Fascist, or anti-Semitic remark.

However, pressure was generated by some of his colleagues, notwithstanding that Professor Alexander Schenker, of the Slavic Linguistics Department at Yale (himself Jewish), stoutly defended his colleague, Sokolov. In any event, he resigned in 1976 because he could no longer bear the tension of continuing to teach in hostile circumstances.

During the contentious period, Hannah Grey, acting president of Yale (now President of Chicago) attempted to help him. So also did Strobe Talbott, a trustee of Yale and a former student of Sokolov, and the chief diplomatic correspondent of Time magazine -- who asserted that any imputation of anti-Semitism to Professor Sokolov was wildly off-target, as Talbott had come to know him very well as a student.

I checked with Talbott over the telephone (I have known him over the years), and he reaffirms his feelings on Sokolov, and tells me that the high probability is that the whole operation against Sokolov is a KGB operation. On this he would not like to be quoted.

Suddenly, in January of 1982, the Bureau of Immigration filed proceedings against Sokolov in the U.S. District Court for New Haven, where Judge Daly was assigned to the case, which is to be prosecuted (or so my notes improvisationally indicate), by Mr. Joseph Lynch of the Department of Justice, who will use Mr. Jovi Tenez as trial attorney.

The United States is charging that Professor Sokolov obtained his visa in 1957 under false pretenses because he didn't confess the exact nature of his Nazi past. Professor Sokolov denies this. The matter is to go into discovery, and to cross-motions; after which there would presumably be a trial, and if the United States were successful, Sokolov would be deported to the Soviet Union -- where presumably he would be executed.

That is the story. I can extend it to any desireable length, up to the limits of my own knowledge. The matter came to my attention by reason of a letter from Charles Moser, Chairman of the Department of Slavic Languages and Literature, George Washington University, who is as outraged as the rest of us are by this episode.

Yours as ever,

Wm. F. Buckley, Jr.

The Honorable Ronald Reagan
The White House (16690)
Washington, D.C..