



Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D. C. 20515

Tom Lantos  
California

2/26/81

My dear Mrs. Thatcher,

Just a note to support  
Morris McWhorter's plea  
on behalf of Raoul  
Wallenberg in the hope  
that you will raise the  
matter with President  
Reagan —

Most cordially,  

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Tom Lantos

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, D.C. 20515**

Dear :

Next week I shall introduce a bill to award honorary citizenship to Raoul Wallenberg -- a Swedish diplomat -- who by extraordinary courage and heroism saved the lives of an estimated 100,000 innocent victims of Nazi terrorism in World War II Hungary.

Wallenberg went to Budapest in 1944 to carry out his heroic rescue mission at the request of Secretary of State Cordell Hull. The United States War Refugee Board financed and directed Wallenberg's activities. Suspected of being an American spy, Raoul Wallenberg was seized by Russian soldiers in direct violation of his diplomatic immunity, and was imprisoned in the Gulag Archipelago. For thirty-six years Soviet authorities have adamantly refused to account in a credible manner for Raoul Wallenberg's fate. He may still be alive today.

We owe a debt of gratitude to Raoul Wallenberg. Since his humanitarian actions were undertaken at the behest of our government, it is appropriate that the United States express its appreciation for those unprecedented acts of courage on our behalf by formally awarding honorary citizenship to Raoul Wallenberg.

I am enclosing some information about the Wallenberg case and a list of current cosponsors of the bill. I invite your participation as a supporter of this legislation. If you wish to be an original cosponsor, or want additional information, please contact me or Edna Mitchell of my staff, X53531.

Cordially,

Tom Lantos  
Member of Congress

TL/em

97th CONGRESS

1st SESSION

# H. J. RES.

(Original signature of Member)

Insert  
title  
here



Proclaiming Raoul Wallenberg to be an honorary citizen of the United States, and requesting the President to ascertain from the Soviet Union the whereabouts of Raoul Wallenberg and to secure his return to freedom.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

\_\_\_\_\_, 19\_\_\_\_

Insert  
sponsor's  
names  
here



Mr. LANTOS introduced the following joint resolution; which was referred to the Committee on \_\_\_\_\_

## JOINT RESOLUTION

Whereas during World War II the United States was at war with Hungary, and had no diplomatic relations with that country;

Whereas in 1944 the United States Government through Secretary of State Cordell Hull requested the cooperation of Sweden, as a neutral nation, in protecting the lives of Hungarian Jews facing extermination at the hands of the Nazis;

Whereas Raoul Wallenberg agreed to act at the behest of the United States in Hungary, and went to Hungary in the summer of 1944 as Secretary of the Swedish Legation;

Whereas Raoul Wallenberg, with extraordinary courage and with total disregard for the constant danger to himself, saved the lives of almost one hundred thousand innocent men, women, and children;

Whereas Raoul Wallenberg, with funds and directives supplied by the United States, provided food, shelter, and medical care to those whom he had rescued;

Whereas the Soviet Union, in violation of Wallenberg's Swedish diplomatic immunity and of international law, arrested him on January 17, 1945, with no explanation ever given for his arrest and subsequent imprisonment;

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

Whereas reports from former prisoners in the Soviet Union, as recent as January 1981, suggest that Raoul Wallenberg may

still be alive;

Whereas history has revealed that heroic acts of salvation were tragically rare during the massacre of millions of innocent human beings during World War II; and

Whereas the significance of this symbol of man's concern for his fellow man has been tainted by the wall of silence that surrounds the fate of Wallenberg: Now, therefore, be it

1       Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of  
2 the United States of America in Congress assembled,

3       SECTION 1. Raoul Wallenberg is proclaimed to be an  
4 honorary citizen of the United States of America.

5       SEC. 2. The President is requested to take all possible  
6 steps to ascertain from the Soviet Union the whereabouts of  
7 Raoul Wallenberg and to secure his return to freedom.

## SUMMARY OF THE CASE OF RAOUL WALLENBERG

In March of 1944, the Nazis invaded Hungary with the announced purpose of finishing the liquidation of the last remaining Jewish community in Europe. By this date, 5 million Jews had been taken to the gas chambers. Of 900,000 Hungarian Jews, approximately 250,000 were in Budapest penned in ghettos and star-marked houses. For four years nothing was done by the western world. Finally, the American War Refugee Board acted to coordinate a rescue effort to save this last remnant of the Jewish population in Europe. The American government asked Sweden, a neutral nation, to help locate a person who would be willing to go to Hungary to organize a rescue mission. Raoul Wallenberg, American educated son of a distinguished Swedish family, volunteered. Armed with Swedish diplomatic papers, the 32 year old Wallenberg went to Budapest as Secretary of the Legation. Support funds and directives for his work were provided by the War Refugee Board through Iver Olsen and Ambassador Herschel Johnson.

Wallenberg printed Swedish passports of his own design and distributed them to thousands of Jews. With incomparable courage he faced Nazi soldiers and death squads; he followed the death marches and went daily to the deportation trains where he literally pulled people out of the clutches of the Nazis, repeatedly risking his own life. He purchased and rented scores of houses in Budapest, equipped them with Swedish flags, and personally protected the refugees from the onslaught of the Nazis and the Arrow Cross. Altogether, he is credited with saving the lives of up to 100,000 victims. Congressman Tom Lantos, then 16 years old, and his wife-to-be, Annette Tilleman, were among those saved.

In 1945, as the war ended, Russian troops occupied Budapest. Wallenberg, taken into custody by the Soviet military, was imprisoned unaccountably in direct violation of his diplomatic immunity. He was never released. At first, the Russians acknowledged taking him into protective custody; six months later they denied any knowledge of him. Evidence began to accumulate in Sweden about Wallenberg's presence in the Gulag, reported by former inmates of Russian prisons who were released and at great risk to their own lives made their way to Sweden. In response to Swedish inquiries, in 1957 Deputy Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko asserted a man named "Walenberg" was taken prisoner in Hungary but died of a heart attack in July, 1947 in prison. Stalin and others were blamed for this mistake. Despite overwhelming evidence by former Russian prisoners that they had seen or spoken with Wallenberg during the years 1947-1980, the Russians continue to maintain their position of silence on the case.

As recently as January, 1981, thirty-six years after his abduction, at an international hearing in Stockholm, witnesses from the Soviet Union reported Wallenberg is alive in Spets Korpus in the Gorkij prison region.

Raoul Wallenberg's mission, in retrospect, has proven to be a unique contribution in the history of the salvation of European Jews from the massacre; and as such he has become, for millions of people, a symbol of our deepest humanitarian values.

# The New York Times

NEW YORK, N.Y., FRIDAY, JANUARY 16, 1981

## Swedish Hero: Still Alive in the Soviet?

By JOHN VINOCUR

Special to The New York Times

STOCKHOLM, Jan. 15 — An international panel called on the Soviet Union today to reopen the case of Raoul Wallenberg, the Swedish diplomat presumed to have disappeared in Soviet prisons after saving thousands of Jews from the Nazis in the final days of World War II.

After a hearing in which the panel was told that Mr. Wallenberg had been seen alive in the Soviet Union after the Soviet authorities reported him dead, the group concluded that the original Soviet statement could not have been true and that "tragic misinformation" had been advanced about the diplomat's fate.

"We have every reason to believe that he is still alive," said a resolution adopted by the panel, which was headed by Ingrid Garde Widemar, a Justice of the Swedish Supreme Court and chairman of the Swedish Raoul Wallenberg Association, which sponsored the meeting.

The Soviet Embassy here described the hearing as an anti-Soviet provocation.

### Bluff and Heroism

A member of a prominent family of bankers and industrialists, Mr. Wallenberg would be 69 years old today. The Swedish Government sent him to Budapest in mid-1944 at the request of the United States War Refugee Board and the World Jewish Congress to try to save Hungarian Jews from deportation to Nazi extermination camps. With what was described as bluff, heroism and contempt for convention, Mr. Wallenberg managed to issue protective passes to about 20,000 Jews and to assist indirectly perhaps 100,000 more.

When Soviet troops entered Budapest in January 1945, Mr. Wallenberg and his driver were placed under what was described to the Swedish Foreign Ministry a month later as Soviet protection. It was assumed that the Soviet Union regarded him as a possible spy for the United States.

But in 1947, Andrei V. Vyshinsky, the Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister at the time, told the Swedish Government that the diplomat was not in the Soviet Union and was unknown to the Soviet authorities.

### 'I Met Raoul Wallenberg'

However, the Russians changed their story in 1957, when reports from returning prisoners of war mentioned Mr. Wallenberg. Foreign Minister Andrei A. Gromyko reported that a search of prison archives showed that Mr. Wallenberg had died of a heart attack in his cell in



Raoul Wallenberg

July 1947 at the age of 35.

The most unusual testimony presented to the panel today was a report, from Andre Shimkevich, who said that he served 27 years for espionage in Soviet jails from 1930 to 1957.

"I met Raoul Wallenberg in December 1947," Mr. Shimkevich said. "Nothing is forgotten in prison."

He said that they shared the same cell for two days, five months after the diplomat's reported death. Mr. Wallenberg, the witness said, told him that he was a diplomat under investigation for spying. Mr. Shimkevich declined to reply to reporters' questions about whether he had told of the meeting before, and, if not, why he had withheld the information.

### General Is Reportedly Hounded

Other testimony came from Simon Wiesenthal, who runs the Jewish Documentation Center in Vienna. He said that Gennadi N. Kupriyanov, a Soviet general sentenced to prison for participation in an alleged plot, told a reliable informant now in the West that he had spent time

with Mr. Wallenberg in 1953, 1955 and 1956.

The name of the informant was not disclosed at his request, Mr. Wiesenthal said, but according to one account, the general, who had been released from prison, died in 1979 after being hounded by the Soviet secret police for discussing his acquaintance with the Swede.

An American, Marvin W. Makinen, a professor of biophysics at the University of Chicago, who was arrested by the Soviet authorities in 1961 and served 28 months in prison on espionage charges, told the panel a cell mate spoke to him of the presence of a Swede at a time when officials in Stockholm knew of no other possible Swedish prisoners in the Soviet Union except Mr. Wallenberg.

"We've had no satisfactory evidence from the Soviets about his fate, and considerable material indicating that Raoul Wallenberg did not die as we've been told," said a member of the panel, Gideon Hausner, the chief Israeli prosecutor in the trial of Adolf Eichmann. "Therefore, we cling to the idea that he is alive."

January 8, 1981

# Hunt for a Lost Hero

## PBS' Haunting Tale Of Raoul Wallenberg

By Michael Kernan

At long last, the astounding story of Raoul Wallenberg, the lost hero of the Holocaust, has reached the vast American television audience.

Tonight, the hour-long story will be presented on Channel 26 at 10. Titled "Missing Hero," the film is a model of documentary technique, intercutting real pictures from the past with present-day interviews in Israel, in Sweden, in Canada, in England.

The black and white newsreels and stills—some of them taken by Wallenberg himself—are perhaps familiar to us now. But they still yank us out of our daily lives and haunt us—those faces, those people clambering onto trains to nowhere. Rarely has one

hour on TV or anywhere else evoked the mighty range of the human spirit, the appalling and the sublime.

In a few days a new Congressman, Rep. Thomas Lantos (D-Calif.), will pay off a 36-year-old debt in his first congressional act. Lantos will introduce a bill making Wallenberg, the long-missing Swedish diplomat, an honorary American citizen.

Lantos was one of more than 100,000 Hungarian Jews saved by Wallenberg in the bitter closing months of the war in Budapest, when Adolf Eichmann and squads of Hungarian Nazis were doing their best to kill off all the Jews left in Hungary.

Wallenberg, scion of a great Swedish banking family, could have spent the war in safety and comfort. Instead, he rushed into Hungary with what American money he could get, printed up thousands of Swedish passports of his own design, and began literally pulling Jews off the cattle trains bound for Auschwitz, claiming them as Swedish citizens.

He bought or rented scores of houses in Budapest, equipped them with Swedish flags and called them Swedish territory. Day after day, he defended them with his physical presence when Nazis tried to break in or blow up the houses. Time after time, he faced the death squads with sheer force of will.

Rep. Lantos was 16 when he escaped to Budapest from a Hungarian labor camp. With an uncle and aunt (his parents had been taken away already) he was brought to a Wallenberg safe house in October 1944, to remain unharmed until the war ended in that part of the world.

He emphasizes that Wallenberg's heroism was not simply in buying up the houses but in physically defending them and in actually going to the railroad station to drag Jews out of the hands of their captors.



Raoul Wallenberg

"When we see a child drowning, we're all heroes," said Lantos. "The thing about Wallenberg is that he sought out danger and probable death. He volunteered. He went in there and did something about what was happening to the Jews."

After the Russians took Pest, the east side of the city, in January 1945, Wallenberg was summoned to the Soviet headquarters on the 17th. He told aides he didn't know whether he was a guest or a prisoner. He never returned.

The Soviets didn't even admit Wallenberg's existence until 1957, when hundreds of Germans returning from Russian prison camps confirmed they had seen him. The Russians then said Wallenberg had died 10 years earlier of a heart attack.

Reports kept drifting over the iron curtain. A Briton talked to a Swedish prisoner in Lubyanka in 1963, when no Swedes were known to have been incarcerated in the Moscow prison. Another man who said he met Wallenberg in '75 wrote to his daughter about it when he was released in '77, and was promptly re-arrested.

Meanwhile, the governments of the world belatedly began pressing the Soviets for word of Wallenberg. The Swedes, whose earlier requests for information had been timid, now began to speak more loudly. Simon Wiesenthal, the famous nemesis of Nazi criminals, learned of more sightings of Wallenberg. Just in the past few months, committees have been springing up around the world and rallies have been held demanding news of Wallenberg. And on Jan. 15, an international seminar honoring the man will be held at Stockholm.

How Lantos' bill will affect the search for Wallenberg can only be guessed. But surely, in combination with the TV documentary tonight, American pressure will increase. Attempts to have the Protestant Wallenberg proclaimed a saint have been to no avail. A more viable possibility is giving him the Nobel Peace Prize in hopes of forcing the Soviets to bring him out.

Wiesenthal says he thinks the Russians can only benefit in the world's eyes by producing the lost hero, now nearly 69 years old, even if they say it was all a mistake.

"It is our duty as people, not only as Jews, to help this man," he says.