



**Minister for Jerusalem  
& Diaspora Affairs**

March 21, 2005

Congressman Frank Wolf  
241 Cannon Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Wolf:

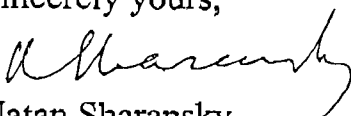
I am delighted and encouraged from my review of the legislation to promote democracy which you have introduced (H.R. 1133).

The democratic system of governance responds to the basic human need for autonomy and freedom of self realization. But where it is repressed, only very rarely can it emerge without support, encouragement and reinforcement. The United States, the champion of freedom for many decades, can do much to promote democracy and this legislation, in my opinion, sets out a course well designed to succeed.

It provides for support and encouragement to the dissidents – the very people who can make a difference. Dissidents are already motivated, they are tested by experience, and they have definite and clear goals in steady focus. I recall my own years as a dissident and how the foreign diplomats in Moscow, though personally empathetic nevertheless acted ambivalently. They were not sure that their governments would want to risk offending the host country. Your bill is exceedingly important because it assures US diplomats that their country supports their natural inclination to encourage freedom and democracy.

Congratulations on your insight and initiative. It deserves the widest support.

Sincerely yours,

  
Natan Sharansky