

**EMBASSY OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION**

2650 Wisconsin Ave., N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20007

Mr. Baruch Tenenbaum, Founder  
The International Raoul Wallenberg Foundation  
34 East 67<sup>th</sup> Street  
New York, NY 10021

June 15, 2006

Dear Mr. Tenenbaum,

Thank you very much for your letter to Mr. Veniamin Yakovlev, Adviser to the President of the Russian Federation. We would like to inform you of the following.

Russian people highly respect the efforts of Swedish diplomat Raoul Wallenberg who saved many Jewish residents of Budapest from Nazi genocide during World War II. Democratization of our country in early 1990-2 allowed us to start clearing away layers of lies that distorted the fate of Mr. Wallenberg, who was arrested by Soviet special services in Hungary in January 1945. A Joint Russian-Swedish Working Group, created by two governments, has examined a vast array of archived documents and witness recollections over the 10 years of its work, with active participation by Mr. Wallenberg's relatives.

The group concluded its activities in 2001 when it prepared and published reports by both its Russian and Swedish parts. It failed to find any documentation proving the Swedish diplomat's death in USSR because all direct evidence was destroyed. At the same time, circumstantial evidence gathered by the Working Group confirms that Mr. Wallenberg died or, most likely, perished in the URRS on July 17, 1947.

In December 2000 the Prosecutor General of the Russian Federation made a decision to rehabilitate Raoul Wallenberg as a victim of political repression. The report of the Russian part of the Working Group contains a simple political conclusion - responsibility for the death of Mr. Wallenberg lies with the USSR leadership at that time and on I.V. Stalin personally. No other authority could deal with a Swedish diplomat, representative of a neutral state, a member of the "Wallenberg House", well known both abroad and to the Soviet government.

With the time factor in mind, chances of finding any new witnesses, who could offer no-worthy information, are practically nil. Emergence of documents that could present fundamentally new aspects of the case is also almost improbable. At the same time the Russian side is ready to render any assistance necessary to foreign researches, interested in continuing their work in Russian archives.

Sincerely,



Alexander Darchlev  
Deputy Chief of Mission