

US 11/1/85

PROTEST TO THE SOVIET EMBASSY  
ON THE CONDUCT OF THE EAST BERLIN POLICE

BEGIN TEXT:

ON NOVEMBER 4 1988, AMERICAN CITIZEN DONNA ELIZABETH FLAKE, THE DEPENDENT WIFE OF AN AMERICAN MILITARY OFFICER, WAS UNJUSTLY DETAINED IN THE SOVIET SECTOR OF BERLIN FOR ALMOST FIVE HOURS BY LOCAL POLICE AUTHORITIES AND WAS ACCUSED OF A CRIME SHE COULD NOT POSSIBLY HAVE COMMITTED. THE UNJUST DETENTION OF MRS. FLAKE WAS PROLONGED BY THE ILLEGAL AND UNNECESSARY REFUSAL OF THE LOCAL POLICE AUTHORITIES TO HONOR MRS. FLAKE'S REPEATED REQUESTS THAT A SOVIET MILITARY OFFICER BE SUMMONED TO THE SCENE.

IN CONNECTION WITH THIS INCIDENT, THE AMERICAN AUTHORITIES IN BERLIN WOULD LIKE TO DRAW THE ATTENTION OF THE SOVIET AUTHORITIES TO THE FACT THAT, IN REALITY, MRS. FLAKE WAS NOT THE PERPETRATOR, BUT RATHER THE VICTIM OF AN ATTEMPTED CRIME. BECAUSE OF THE ATTEMPTED CRIME AGAINST HER AND HER UNJUST TREATMENT BY THE LOCAL POLICE AUTHORITIES, MRS. FLAKE EXPERIENCED MEDICAL DIFFICULTIES WHICH ENDANGERED HER UNBORN CHILD.

THE AMERICAN AUTHORITIES CONSIDER THE ACCUSATION THAT MRS. FLAKE WAS ENGAGING IN CRIMINAL ACTIVITY TO BE ABSURD AND TOTALLY WITHOUT FOUNDATION. MRS. FLAKE IS IN THE SEVENTH MONTH OF A DIFFICULT PREGNANCY, FRAUGHT WITH MEDICAL COMPLICATIONS. SHE WAS VISITING THE SOVIET SECTOR IN ACCORDANCE WITH ACCEPTED PRACTICE, WHEN HER PURSE WAS STOLEN. MRS. FLAKE PURSUED AND CAUGHT THE THIEF. DURING THE ENSUING STRUGGLE, LOCAL POLICE AUTHORITIES ARRIVED ON THE SCENE AND TOOK CUSTODY OF MRS. FLAKE, ACCUSING HER OF BEING THE THIEF.

THE IMPOSSIBILITY OF SUCH A CHARGE COULD EASILY HAVE BEEN VERIFIED BY THE LOCAL POLICE AUTHORITIES HAD THEY ASKED MRS. FLAKE OR HER COMPANIONS IF SHE HAD BEEN VICTIMIZED, HAD THEY ASKED MRS. FLAKE IF SHE WERE STILL IN POSSESSION OF HER PURSE (WHICH SHE WAS NOT) OR EXAMINED THE PURSE IN QUESTION (WHICH WAS AN AMERICAN PURSE) WHERE IT WAS PICKED UP ON THE FLOOR OF THE CENTRUM DEPARTMENT STORE, OR HAD THEY UNDERTAKEN ANY OF THE OTHER ACTIONS NORMALLY TAKEN BY RESPONSIBLE POLICE AUTHORITIES IN THE INVESTIGATION OF A CRIME. HAD ANY OF THESE STEPS BEEN TAKEN, THE TRUTH, THAT MRS. FLAKE WAS THE VICTIM OF THE ATTEMPTED CRIME AND NOT THE PERPETRATOR, WOULD HAVE BECOME CLEAR.