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REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

Letter dated 17 January 1984 from the Permanent Representative
of the United States of America to the United Nations addressed
to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you a statement issued today, 17 January 1984, by the United States Department of State on behalf of the United States Government on the occasion of the thirty-ninth anniversary of the disappearance of Raoul Wallenberg.

Taking into account General Assembly resolution 38/94 entitled "Question of enforced or involuntary disappearances", adopted on 16 December 1983 under agenda item 12, I request that the enclosed statement be circulated as an official document of the General Assembly under the item entitled "Report of the Economic and Social Council".

(Signed) Jeane J. KIRKPATRICK

ANNEX

ANNIVERSARY OF THE DISAPPEARANCE OF
RAOUL WALLENBERG
TUESDAY, JANUARY 17, 1984

On January 17, 1945, in Budapest, Hungary, Soviet authorities escorted away a young Swedish diplomat whose compassion and courage changed the fate and saved the lives of tens of thousands of Jews. Today, 39 years later, Raoul Wallenberg is not forgotten.

Wallenberg's mission began in 1944 when he arrived in Budapest from Sweden to find that over 400,000 Hungarian Jews had been deported to Auschwitz and Birkenau, and 300,000 more remained in ghettos and deportation centers -- waiting. Wallenberg was determined to rescue them. Ignoring all personal danger, he pulled people out of "death marches," boarded the deportation trains to hand out Swedish papers, and helped to block the destruction of the Budapest ghetto. Altogether, nearly 100,000 Jews -- among them a future Member of the United States Congress -- were rescued by Raoul Wallenberg. After the Nazis left, in 1945, Wallenberg was escorted by Soviet officers to the headquarters of the provisional Hungarian government in eastern Hungary. He never returned.

In response to repeated inquiries, the Soviet Union finally stated in 1957 that Wallenberg had perished in prison 10 years before. Yet there are reports from survivors of the Gulag that he is still alive. The Soviet Union has a moral

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obligation to put to rest, once and for all, the questions that continue to arise about Raoul Wallenberg.

In the very depths of the Holocaust, Raoul Wallenberg held high the standard of goodness and dignity. The United States Government supported his mission then, and the American people continue to own him a special debt. In 1981, the President signed into law a bill making Raoul Wallenberg an honorary U.S. Citizen -- the only non-American other than Winston Churchill ever to be so honored.

We know we speak for all Americans, and for all who live by the principles of justice, when we call on the Soviet Government to provide a full accounting of the fate of Raoul Wallenberg.
