

A.G. GABRILES

11711 MEMORIAL DR., NO. 163
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77024
TELEPHONE: (713) 784-1738
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7 Nov. 1997

8 Dec. 1997

Mr. Victor Maria
1003 Woodband Dr.
Seabrook, Tx 77586

Ref: Kabardino-Balkarian Republic, Russian Federation MVD Police officers
Visit

Dear Victor:

As discussed today I am attaching a copy of my November 7th letter to David Taylor, but I see that it does not address the information that you have requested.

The police who are wanting to visit their counterparts in Houston, are headquartered in Nalchik, capital of the tiny Caucasian republic of Kabardino-Balkaria, in the Russian Federation. It is a city of about two hundred thousand, and the republic's population is about five or six hundred thousand.

Our district have been helping the hospitals in Nalchik during the past four years, having shipped a total of about six hundred thousand dollars in medical supplies.

The police who would participate in this vocational visit are in the Organized Crime and Narcotics department of the MVD (not to be confused with the former KGB or current equivalent FSB). As David has suggested, there would be three police officers, one prosecutor and one person from either the mayor's office, or republic government office which is responsible with organized crime and narcotics problems. And at least one of the group will be English speaking who will act as the group's translator. We anticipate that all of the group will at least have some English speaking ability.

Nalchik is located about fifteen hundred miles south of Moscow, and is in the northern Caucasus, about midway between the Black and Caspian seas. Kabardino-Balkaria borders Chechnya to the east, Ingushetia and Ossetia to the southeast, Georgia to the south, Karachayevo-Cherkessia to the west, and Stavropol Krai to the north. In about half of these neighboring states, there has been inter-ethnic or separatist fighting during the past few years.

The police department in KBR have been diligently combating organized crime and narcotics. A number of police have lost their lives in the line of duty, and this summer two police officers were kidnapped and held for ransom by an organized crime group in Ingushetia.

We mailed the form for the participants to fill in with their personal data and photographs. Probably it will be sometime in January before we get the completed forms back, because it takes anywhere from three to four weeks for airmail service between Houston and Nalchik. Obtaining their U.S. visa may also be time consuming, judging from the length of time it took for the Rotary sponsored doctor who came to Houston in April of this year. Realistically I would say that if all goes well the visit would be in April.

Please let me know if you need any further information or if I may be of service.

Thank you. Best wishes.

sincerely,


A.G. Gabriles

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7 Nov. 1997

Dr. David Taylor
Space Center Rotary Club

Ref: VOCATIONAL VISIT BY ANTI-NARCOTICS/ANTI-ORGANIZED CRIME DIVISION POLICEMEN OF KABARDINO-BALKARIAN REPUBLIC, (N. CAUCASUS REGION), RUSSIAN FEDERATION

Dear David:

I contacted Dr. Slava Koumikov in Nalchik on November 5th, to communicate your questions and suggestions.

Slava indicated that if six officers would present a logistics problem the number can certainly be reduced. Three police and a representative from the Nalchik Mayor's office would be fine. Or since the police do not speak English, other than a very limited use of the language, a translator could accompany them.

Slava told me that if necessary the police participants could take a crash course in English during two months. I have witnessed the results of their "crash course" in a young man who was invited to Spain. After only sixteen hours of Spanish classes, the young man was not only conversant in Spanish, but also spoke it with a Castillian accent.

The policemen are based in Nalchik but operate throughout their small republic, as needed.

David, I feel that it is not a matter of the policemen wanting to get a free trip to U.S.A. They most sincerely want to see how their American counterparts are dealing with combating narcotics use/trafficking and organized crime in the Houston area. Our population in Houston is about three to four times greater than in their small republic.

As I mentioned they would be paying for their own transportation and other expenses, and are prepared to pay for accommodations while in Houston.

As a result of the medical supplies we have been providing to Nalchik over the past three and a half years, we have established a close relationship with their republic, and as a result Rotary is well known and respected by their people. Rotary has gotten a lot of publicity.

So why hasn't a Rotary club been established in Nalchik? Till now there hasn't been sufficient economic base there to support a Rotary club. Hopefully it may happen in the not too distant future depending on the success of democracy and free enterprise system in their region.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Best wishes,

sincerely,

Alex Gabriles

Dr. Vyacheslav K. Koumikov
Shogentsukova 33-69
360000 Nalchik, KBR, Russia
Telephone: 011 78 66 225-1164
e-mail: azamat@mailexcite.com

From: Dr. David Taylor
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ICQ UIN: 4413583

Dear Slava:

Alex Gabriles is an old friend of mine in Rotary and when he asked me about hosting some Russian police officers, I explained to him that I had previously started just such a project called Vocational Visitors, and that I would be glad to make arrangements along our project lines.

He tells me he sent you the Vocational Visitor application forms about three weeks ago and that you might be getting them about now. I told him we should try to establish some electronic communication because that is a very cumbersome mail delay.

So I will be sending you copies of the Vocational Visitor application form after transmitting this letter. Let me suggest that you send me back the completed forms by e-mail, as well as the originals by regular mail. We use the forms to gain clearances with vocational sites, and to arrange host homes.

The Houston Police Chief confirmed personally to one of our Rotarians this week that he could put your officers through as long days as they want, and suggested that they will also go out some nights, even by helicopter. They will also see the Police Academy, the jail, the sheriff's office, and perhaps some federal agencies.

Another Rotarian who is a retired federal agent is trying to make arrangements to visit the Drug Enforcement Agency and the Federal Bureau of Investigation. But they will also need the information on the Vocational Visitors forms as soon as possible to gain approval. That's why I think you should send them e-mail as well.

If you will go to the website www.mirabilis.com and download the free software called: ICQ and register to get a user identification number: we can communicate more directly. We can hold live chats, and leave e-mail type messages which signal you that they are on your computer. This may be important while the officers are here as well.

Please send me back a note right away just to let me know that you successfully received this message. I am looking forward to arranging a meaningful visit for your officers. I believe Alex told you that I think you would do well to bring someone from government (for future budgetary reasons), a prosecutor, and about three officers. We want your group to fit in one automobile. Be sure they speak English, and that one of them is extremely accomplished in translation.

There will be no translators at these agencies and the Houston Police Department has made it clear to me that they must speak English well enough to make the visit worthwhile.

I think I may have homes and transportation taken care of and we will devise a social agenda as we get closer to time. Please let me know any specific requests as to what you want to see or do while here. Everyone who has been approached to get involved in this so far wants to know when it will be. Please give some idea as to a target month.

Wishing you season's greetings.

Sincerely,

David

8:30 p.m., December 11, Thursday.

MEMO FROM DAVID TAYLOR
IN RE: RUSSIAN FEDERATION POLICE
VISIT TO HOUSTON DEA & FBI.

THERE ARE QUESTIONS THAT MUST BE ANSWERED BEFORE I CAN APPROACH EITHER THE FBI OR DEA TO ARRANGE FOR FOREIGN POLICE TO VISIT THEIR FACILITIES AND TO OBSERVE VARIOUS FEDERAL POLICE OPERATIONS AND PROCEDURES.

1. WE NEED AN OFFICIAL REQUEST, THROUGH PROPER CHANNELS, FROM THE APPROPRIATE RUSSIAN CENTRAL POLICE AUTHORITY REQUESTING THIS VISIT. THIS SHOULD BE DONE THROUGH THE U.S. EMBASSY IN THE COUNTRY MAKING THE REQUEST.
2. WE MUST HAVE COMPLETE BIOGRAPHICAL DATA ON EACH RUSSIAN OFFICER MAKING THIS TRIP.
3. THE VISIT MUST BE APPROVED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE AND THE RESPECTIVE FEDERAL HEADQUARTERS IN WASHINGTON, D.C.
4. UNLESS THERE HAS BEEN A CHANGE - THE RUSSIAN OFFICERS WILL BE RECEIVED IN D.C. BEFORE COMING TO THIS AREA. HOUSTON FBI AND HOUSTON DEA WILL RECEIVE THEIR INSTRUCTIONS FROM D.C.

3 police officers
1 person from mayor's office
1 prosecutor

And one of these people needs to be selected primarily because they are very accomplished in English as well.

It looks like we need to get biographical forms back to get the police department approval before we try to set dates.

Sincerely,

Dr. David Taylor
281-332-6513

Alex Gabriles
11711 Memorial Drive #163
Houston, TX 77024

713 784-1738

Dear Alex:

Enclosed is a copy of a letter I just received from the HPD Police Chief C. O. Bradford agreeing to accept the Russian Federation police officers, but on certain terms.

You will note that they will need to complete the biographical forms which I had previously sent you, and that they must be able to speak English to benefit from this vocational visit.

I have been trying to make some contacts with the F.B.I. without just making a cold call on them. So far I have not had any luck. I have had a suggestion from someone who is connected with the D.E.A. that they might want to tour that facility.

It has also been suggested that they might want to visit the court system but I have not been able to think of just which court or who to contact. With that in mind, in addition to someone from government accompanying them, perhaps they should also try to bring a prosecutor.

Perhaps you know someone in these other venues.

If they have limited English, then I can suppose that they will need to bring an accomplished translator to insure that communication is not a problem. Because we need them to be able to fit in one vehicle, which is about 5 people, the team is beginning to look something like:

- 3 police officers
- 1 person from mayor's office
- 1 prosecutor

And one of these people needs to be selected primarily because they are very accomplished in English as well.

It looks like we need to get biographical forms back to get the police department approval before we try to set dates.

Sincerely,

Dr. David Taylor
281 332-6513



CITY OF HOUSTON

Houston Police Department

61 Riesner Street Houston, Texas 77002 713/247-1000

Bob Lanier, Mayor

CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS: Helen Huey Michael J. Varbraugh Martha J. Wong Jew Don Boney, Jr. Rob Todd Ray F. Driscoll John Kelley Felix Fraga
John Castillo Gracie Guzman Saenz Joe Roach Orlando Sanchez Chris Bell Judson W. Robinson III CITY CONTROLLER: Lloyd Kelley

December 2, 1997

C. O. "Brad" Bradford
Chief of Police



Dr. David Taylor
One Professional Park
Webster, Texas 77598

Dear Dr. Taylor:

I received your correspondence regarding the Vocational Visitors program. The Houston Police Department will be honored to host six police officers from the Russian Federation for a total of seven days.

It is my understanding that all transportation and housing issues will be handled by the Rotary Club. When the officers have arrived in Houston and are prepared to begin their training they will be welcomed into our new police headquarters by members of our Community Services Division. Please ensure that each officer can speak and read English, as our translator resources for Russian dialects are very limited. The officers will then spend several days with our Narcotics Division and Criminal Intelligence Division. In preparation for their visit to our facilities, please forward to my office full biographical data, including a photograph, for each Russian officer at least five weeks prior to their planned arrival date. The names will be reviewed and you will be notified when all of the names have been approved for access to the information being requested.

Again, we are looking forward to hosting our Russian police counterparts. The Community Services Division will serve as the department's official liaison and will address any problems associated with the visit. You may contact Community Services at 713-308-3200 if you need further information.

Sincerely,

C. O. Bradford
Chief of Police

cob/alm

cc: J.L. Breshears, Assistant Chief
M.W. Thaler, Assistant Chief
D.N. Richards, Assistant Chief
COP# 97-4380



A.G. GABRILES

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15 Dec. 1997

Dr. David Taylor

FAX 281 332 6513

Ref: Vocational Observer Program/ Nalchik, Russia Police officers

Dear David:

Thank you for your fax. I understood that you would be E-mailing Slava either Thursday or Friday, so on Saturday I took the initiative of phoning Slava to find out if he had received the E-mail from you. As of 1 PM Saturday our time (10 PM Nalchik time) he had not received the E-mail.

I'll give him a call again either later tonight or around 1 PM our time tomorrow to find out if he has gotten it.

I checked the E-mail address to which your letter was directed and it is correct, so I don't understand why they haven't received it.

Doris St. Cyr of University Area Rotary club told me that they have taken this project on, and that Dick Kuriger, with whom we have already established contact and who is very enthusiastic about the project, will be the person heading this project at their club.

A few days ago Vic Maria called me and indicated that in order to get the FBI involved in the vocational observer part of the project, the proper avenues for getting FBI involved will be to have the FBI contact the Russian Embassy and to go through Moscow as a formality. He indicated that actually the correct procedure would be for a request to send the policemen to U.S.A. should come from the Russian government. I hope that I'm not misquoting Vic.

I told Vic that if the Kabardino-Balkarian republican police have to go through Moscow, chances for a visit materialising are virtually nil. If such a possibility for receiving police from Russian Federation is being extended by us, Moscow will want to decide who will come and from where.

I told Vic that in this case, if Moscow has to be involved, then better that we only involve the local police and forget about FBI, and by all means avoid the Moscow bureaucracy. Vic said that what could probably be done, is yes, to avoid Moscow and Washington and only have direct links between us here and our friends in Nalchik. Once the police are in Houston, then possibly he can put the police in contact for a day or two of activities. I think that this will be the best approach.

Slava is fluent in English and he is also a university physics professor. He indicated that he will organize a crash total immersion English language course for the participants. I told him that would be fine, but that at least one person in the group would have to be very fluent in English. I wonder if maybe we should invite Slava to be one of the participants, and act as translator and spokesman for the group?

During the past four years Slava has unselfishly devoted hundreds of hours of his time to liaison "Project Nalchik: Humanitarian Medical Aid from Rotary Dist. 5890". He works at three jobs to provide an "acceptable standard" of living for his family. I think that it would be very useful to have him visit Houston with the group. What do you think?

VOCATIONAL EXCELLENCE AWARD
Rotary District 5890 (Greater Houston Area)

I could put Slava up at my place while they are here. And Dick Kuriger indicated that the group could have use of his suburban while they are here and that the vehicle will accomodate the driver and six passengers. In the police department letter to you, they indicate that they will accept up to six individuals.

I suggested to Slava that a government official and prosecutor be included. He said that this will be no problem. He suggested the aide to their republic's president (like a state governor in U.S.A.), who is responsible for overseeing anti-organized crime and anti-narcotics activities in their small republic.

Well, that is all for now. As I have indicated I'll try to phone Slava either tonight, or tomorrow, and will be back in touch with you then.

Best wishes.

Alex Gabriles

Vic Maria

Dick Kuriger 713 622 5561

and nomination forms to the Space Center Rotary meeting on Monday, February 16, 1998. Please distribute the forms to Sheila by Monday, February 16, 1998. The committee will have a meeting to select several of those nominated and set up another meeting with those selected for an interview. After the interviews one more meeting will be held to select the winner of the Vocational Excellence Award. This outstanding business person will be present at the Space Center Rotary meeting (TBD) to accept the award and plaque. Thank you for your assistance on this great committee!

I will email or fax the flyer and forms to each of you (this way you have a little heads up on what we are doing)! I will make copies and take to the next Rotary meeting Monday, January 12, 1998.

Again, thanks so much and please call if you have any questions.

Sheila