



City of Cambridge

Calendar Item No. 5

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COUNCILLOR D. SULLIVAN

IN CITY COUNCIL

~~June 9, 1986~~

September 22, 1986

- WHEREAS: Anatoly Dimitrievich Ponomaryov has been detained since 1978 in psychiatric hospital Skvortsov-Stepanov No. 3 in Leningrad, USSR; and
- WHEREAS: Mr. Ponomaryov was arrested because of his writings and other non-violent actions which reflect his dissension from Soviet policies; and
- WHEREAS: The Soviet government unjustly treats Mr. Ponomaryov and many like him by labelling dissension as insanity, by abusing psychiatry through the confinement of individuals considered healthy by international psychiatric standards, and by denying these individuals any recourse or impartial appeal; and
- WHEREAS: Mr. Ponomaryov has been adopted by Amnesty International as a Prisoner of Conscience since his confinement is believed to be for political rather than medical reasons; and
- WHEREAS: Mr. Ponomaryov is but one of 4668 Prisoners of Conscience adopted or under investigation by the 3430 Amnesty International groups in 55 countries; and
- WHEREAS: Amnesty International Group 69, located in Cambridge, has been working for Mr. Ponomaryov's release since 1979 by writing letters of appeal to Soviet authorities, by organizing petitions and by informing the public of the plight of Prisoners of Conscience; and
- WHEREAS: The Cambridge Public Library is a forum for the free exchange of ideas and symbolic of the freedom of expression which we enjoy and which has been denied to Mr. Ponomaryov; therefore, be it
- RESOLVED: That the Cambridge City Council declare June 21, 1986 Anatoly Dimitrievich Ponomaryov Day; and be it further
- RESOLVED: That the City Council give approval to Group 69 to plant a tree on the grounds of the main branch of the Cambridge Public Library and dedicate it with a plaque to Anatoly Dimitrietich Ponomaryov.



Anatoly Dimitrievich Ponomaryov, a 52 year old engineer, has been detained since December 14, 1978 in Soviet psychiatric hospitals in Leningrad. This is his sixth such internment since 1971. Amnesty International has adopted Mr. Ponomaryov as a prisoner of conscience because both his present and earlier confinements are believed to be based on political rather than medical reasons.

Mr. Ponomaryov graduated from the Military Engineering Institute in Leningrad in 1956. He worked as an engineer at the Leningrad branch of the All-Union Research Institute of Medical Instrument Design until 1970.

In 1970 he was arrested for circulating satirical poems and for re-typing Solzhenitsyn's Letter to the Writer's Congress. He was charged under Article 190-1 of the Russian Criminal Code with having "distributed clearly false fabrications discrediting the Soviet State and social system" After being subjected to a psychiatric examination, Mr. Ponomaryov was found non-accountable and sent to a psychiatric hospital for compulsory treatment in 1971.

In 1973 he was discharged as a diagnosed "schizophrenic" and in addition was classified as a class 2 invalid which means no one is allowed to employ him. Mr. Ponomaryov has been re-confined 5 additional times.

During a confinement in 1974, he was examined by Dr. Marina Voikhanskaya, a psychiatrist who left the USSR in 1975. Dr. Voikhanskaya reports that when she first spoke with Mr. Ponomaryov, she "suspected something amiss". She states that at the time, haloperidol injections had been prescribed for him "in doses intended to pacify the most disturbed and agitated patients" She had the injections stopped, and he remained calm, confirming her suspicion that he was mentally healthy.

Mr. Ponomaryov is currently detained in the psychiatric hospital Skvortsov-Stepanov No. 3 in Leningrad, in the Eighth Department. Dr. A. I. Tobak is the physician directly responsible for Mr. Ponomaryov's case. Mr. Ponomaryov's diagnosis as a "schizophrenic" has not been reviewed by a Medical Conference since 1968.



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Order # 6

OS-556

- ♦ C.D. Sullivan re: resolutions declaring June 21, 1986 as Anatoly Dimitrievich Ponomaryov Day
- ♦ in honor of the Soviet dissident & giving
- ♦ approval to Amnesty International Group 69 to plant a tree on the grounds of the Main Branch of the Cambridge Public Library & dedicate it with a plaque to him.

In City Council,

June 9, 1986

C.D. Sullivan
Tabled