

TRANSLATION EXAMPLE A: Lenin's Cry for Help

<p>• Archive Number: Z-33-12, 04-04</p> <p>• Category: letter</p> <p>• Language: Russian</p> <p>FELIX DZERZHINSKY</p> <p>Resolution of Comrade Dzerzhinsky F. E.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Offer Comrade Stalin to visit Gorki.2. Direct the letter to CC, or Stalin, nevertheless everything in it doesn't reflect the reality.3. Prepare and approve the list of the Comrades who could entertain Ilich and thus help him release the tension.4. Send Provanov to Ilich. <p>UNKNOWN WRITER</p> <p>Find out through whom, etc the letter was delivered.</p> <p>We must check and find out where are really these people? If they were killed it would be the basis for prosecution of Stalin and others.</p> <p>JOSEPH STALIN</p> <p>Bastard has completely lost his mind.</p>	<p>V. ULIANOV LENIN</p> <p>To the Head of VChK Comrade Dzerzhinsky F. E. from Lenin</p> <p>Dear Felix!!!</p> <p>Everything that happened to me, seems to be, was done by Stalin and those associated with him. It's terrible. I've been practically isolated from the Party and society. Yesterday the security was doubled. It's almost 100 of them here. They even designated walking trails I am supposed to take. I must not take any other trails!!! How do you like that? Is it adequate treatment when some piece of shit from VChK (<i>The All-Russian Extraordinary Commission for Combating Counter-Revolution and Sabotage</i>) or I don't know who claims he has some special instructions: not to talk to me, not to except any mail from me, not to tell me anything, etc. What is this? How should I take it? I have recently asked several times to meet with you, Comrade Kalinin, Vlad. Bonch-Bruevich, Kamenev, not to mention those I simply would like to see. It's been three months since they let someone to see me. Complete isolation. Telephone was cut off. Lady from the station says there is no connection with Moscow. What bullshit, God forgive me. I've been feeling a lot better. I think I'll be poisoned or killed. The guards will kill me. Doctors will poison me. What should I do? Escape? Not possible. They're watching my every step. They say these are all good intentions. I don't believe it. I understand it will all be over soon. If somebody knew they wouldn't believe it. Doctors look at me and talk to me like with a crazy man, like with a child, clueless <i>little</i> toddler. It's a conspiracy. This will lead to a dictatorship of one group within the Party over the other and it will all end with a lot of blood. I am not sure if I have any influence in the Government these days, what happened to my office in the Kremlin? Why have I been deprived of communication? I don't understand anything. I am the State's first Person, no one removed me from performing my duties. My illness simply turned into isolation. I've been cured and isolated. There's no other name for it. Is it possible to take any measures??? For example, transfer me to the First City (Hospital) in Moscow. I can't live in the forest anymore. I am slowly going insane. I have a gut feeling they want to perpetrate something against me. No one believes me, everyone acts by the same instruction. Those who find common ground with me get removed and I never see those beautiful people again. Where did they go, for example: Shishkin, Lazarev, Apaev, where are they? Are they alive or have they been killed? I must call Politburo. I have already addressed an open letter to Comrades but Stalin grinned. He called Nadenka a degenerate and a prostitute!!!! How do you like that! What's more important after demands for an apology our relationship turned unbearable. I have become his personal enemy. And he has Caucasus temperament.</p> <p>Felix, Nadenka says she heard that Stalin said a phrase like the faggots in the Kremlin are done. Of course, it was said more rudely and vulgarly, but as I've concluded this relates directly to me and my Comrades. I am aware that in my absence some changes are done. And he rules everywhere. He approves CC (Central Committee). What is going on at CC? I am reading newspapers and everything seems to be fine at first sight. It means he controls the press. This is the end. Damned be the day when I agreed to be hospitalized in Gorki. God damn it all. There nothing more disgusting than this artificial isolation. Hundreds of idiots from VChK. These massive men. It's hard for me to speak to them. I always have to look up. I demand decreasing the security. Why so many. You can do with fewer. Then, on the first floor there are some officials. I have no clue what they're doing. They don't answer questions. They say they're here so I would heal faster. I beg you to do something, transfer me to Moscow. I want back to the capital. It's been a while since I spoke to the working-class people. I started falling behind the times.</p> <p>Heartiest hugs. Yours, Ulianov/Lenin/.</p> <p>20/12/1921</p>
--	--

ARCHIVE EXAMPLE A: Lenin's Cry for Help

• Archive Number: 2-33-12; 06.04.1974

• Category: letter

• Language: Russian

• Physical Description: Three-page typed with handwritten ink in margins and three stamps impressed in blue ink along the top of page one and one archival stamp along the bottom of page two and three.

• Sender: Vladimir U. Lenin

Dzerzhinsky F. E.

• Recipient: F. Dzerzhinsky

Handwritten comments: Joseph Stalin (red pencil), Felix Dzerzhinsky

• Signed: Yes, blue ink.

• Date: 20.12.1921 – December 20, 1921.

• Subject: Lenin writing to Dzerzhinsky, head of VChK asking to be released from his isolation in Gorki. Lenin is describing the nature of the isolation, his frustration and extreme paranoia all of which he attributes to Stalin.

• General description of content:

A remarkable document where the confined Vladimir Lenin is powerless to stop the forces around him from eliminating him. Vladimir Lenin, only years earlier, led the Revolution that formed the Soviet Union.

In this typed letter from Lenin to Dzerzhinsky, Lenin expresses his condition of isolation in a sanatorium outside of Moscow in Gorki. Lenin demonstrates his trust and companionship to Dzerzhinsky in this letter, meanwhile, agents of the VChK (The All-Russian Extraordinary Commission for Combating Counter-Revolution and Sabotage) from which Dzerzhinsky is the leader of, are responsible for supervising him in Gorki. In other words, Lenin is pleading for relief from his condition of isolation from the very man who is in charge of the agency isolating him. Lenin comes across as naïve as he can't understand why communication has been cut off from him and in his pleading to return to Moscow. It is in the final paragraph of Lenin's letter where Stalin writes in red pencil in the margin in response to Lenin's frantic state, "Bastard has completely lost his mind."

Both Stalin and Lenin have written on this letter. Lenin composed the letter sent it to Dzerzhinsky, who must have shared the letter with Stalin, who upon reading it wrote comments in the margin. The letter illustrates the isolation Lenin was suffering and his outlook on the world and Stalin at this point in history. Lenin went on to serve as the head of the Soviet Union until his death on January 21, 1924, however, his health began declining shortly after this letter was written and his ability to govern deteriorated clearing a trajectory for Stalin.

Lenin quotes:

"Everything that happened to me, seems to be, was done by Stalin and those associated with him. It's terrible. I've been practically isolated from the Party and society." "It has been three months since they let someone to see me."

"This will lead to a dictatorship of one group within the Party over the other and it will all end with a lot of blood."

"Felix, Nadenka says she heard that Stalin said a phrase like the faggots in the Kremlin are done... I am aware that in my absence some changes are done. And he rules everywhere."

"I beg you to do something, transfer me to Moscow. I want back to the capital. It's been a while since I spoke to the working-class people. I started falling behind the times."

Stalin quotes:

In the margin adjacent to the final paragraph of Lenin's letter where he is asking about Stalin and pleading to be released from Gorki, Stalin writes in ink in the margin: "Bastard has completely lost his mind."