

MOSCOW, 16 November 1966, (Communist Area Analysis Department:  
USSR).

TO: The Presidium of the 13th Congress of the CPSU  
The Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR  
The Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the RSFSR

Respected Comrades!

We, a group of Moscow writers, address you with the request that we be permitted to put up bail for the recently convicted writers, Andrei Singarevsky and Yulii Daniel. We consider that this would be a wise and humane act.

While we do not approve of the means, publishing their works abroad, to which these writers resorted, we cannot agree that in their actions there was anti-Soviet intent, proof of which was necessary for such stern punishment. Such malicious design was not proved in the course of the trial of A. Singarevsky and Yu. Daniel.

At the same time, the conviction of writers for satirical works is an extremely dangerous precedent, capable of holding back the process of Soviet cultural development. Neither science nor art can exist without the freedom to express paradoxical ideas, to create forms of hyperbole. The complex circumstances in which we live demand the expansion (and not the contraction) of freedom for intellectual and artistic experimentation. From this point of view, the trial of Singarevsky and Daniel has already caused incomparably greater damage than all the errors of Singarevsky and Daniel.

Singarevsky and Daniel are talented persons, and they ought to be given a chance to correct the political errors and indiscretions they have committed. Released on bail, Singarevsky and Daniel would sooner recognize the mistakes they made, and in contact with Soviet society would be able to create new works,

the artistic and spiritual value of which will reduce the harm caused by their blunders.

For all these reasons we request that Andrei Birbavsky and Yulii Daniel be released on bail.

The interests of our country demand it. The interests of the world demand it. The interests of the world communist movement demand it.

Signed: Members of the Union of Writers of the USSR

[There follows a list of 61 signatories headed by K. Chukovsky and I. Ehrenburg. Owing to poor legibility of the available Russian text, transcription of the full list must await a check of names and initials.]

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