



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

December 5, 1989

Virginia D. Birdsall, Executive Director
Embrace Foundation
20 West 22nd Street
New York, NY 10010

Dear Ms. Birdsall:

Thank you for your letter of October 11, 1989, to Secretary Baker regarding the difficulties which you, Embrace Foundation President Ajata Sharma and other individuals encountered in Bucharest while traveling on TAROM, Romania's national airlines.

The U.S. Government is of course alert to any and all reports of possible abuses of human rights by sovereign governments. Although I have not heard accounts of "human rights" abuses in Romania similar to those you described in your letter, your report nonetheless warrants a closer investigation.

Consequently, I am transmitting your letter and this interim reply to our Embassy in Bucharest, which will look into the particulars of your complaint. The Embassy will respond directly to you with whatever information it are able to gather.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in red ink, appearing to read "Frederick Becker".

Frederick Becker
Country Officer for Romania
Office of Eastern European
and Yugoslav Affairs