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FILE NO.: SO 215/1

26 November 1956

Dear Miss Gottlebe,

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of 19 September 1956 relating to your complaint.

I regret to inform you that there is little that the Secretary-General can do to help you at the present time.

Under the normal official procedure for dealing with cases such as yours, a brief summary of your letter would be included in a confidential list of communications presented annually to the Commission on Human Rights, and a copy of your communication would be sent to the Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics without disclosing your identity, unless it is clear that you have no objection this being done. I wish to point out, however, that the confidential list is compiled principally for the Commission's information, and the Commission "recognizes that it has no power to take any action in regard to any complaints concerning human rights". Whether or not the Government concerned will take any action upon receiving a copy of the communication depends on its own decision.

If you wish your letter to be dealt with according to the above procedure, kindly let us know within two weeks whether there is any objection to the disclosure of your name, and, if possible, let us have an additional copy of your letter.

It is impossible to say at this time whether any form of assistance from the Secretary-General, other than that which I have outlined above, may become available in the future.

.....  
I am enclosing the relevant provisions of resolution 75 (V) of the Economic and Social Council, as amended, which authorize the procedure described above.

Yours sincerely,

*Margaret K. Bruce*

Margaret K. Bruce  
Division of Human Rights

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