

“regimes”: the prison differs from the camps by imposing even severer living conditions and still greater deprivations on its inmates.

According to information that has reached me, Father Boris, a physically healthy and rather young man (he was born in 1940, I believe) has been reduced to such a state of physical debility in the Vladimir prison that there is now every reason to fear for his life. After an operation for appendicitis which he underwent in prison, the wound would not heal: to such an extent were the tissues of his body sapped of their vitality.

From the latest available information I have learned that Father Boris, whose physical condition is extremely grave, has asked his recently released co-prisoners to arrange for a priest to be permitted to visit him. But ministers of religion are not admitted to hospitals or prisons in contemporary Russia and all petitions and complaints to this end have remained unanswered.

Action needs to be taken to alleviate Father Boris's lot and to save his life.

(Russian text in *Novoye Russkoye Slovo*, New York, 14 April, 1974.)

Poem

Solzhenitsyn, February 1974

Perhaps more than the speech you did not say
This was the gesture which relieved who knows
How many millions on a Winter day
Who stood aside from violence and chose
To watch you turn away

With unshed tears and no farewells and take
Your soap, a tooth-brush, and go with the men
Who threatened you. Courage and keen heartbreak
Trembled the world to gentleness again.
Yes, still one man can make

Tormenters look at empty hands, the wild
And violent opportunists feel disgraced.
Russia has given one more tragic child
To reach compassion to the wondering West,
Make it, a moment, mild.

ELIZABETH JENNINGS