

A D R I A N M. S. P I P E R
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FAX & REGISTERED MAIL

Two Pages Total

Dear Dean Wolfson:

On my recent lecture tour in the U.S. from which I have just returned, I inadvertently discovered that my name is on a U.S. Transportation Security Administration Watch List of 77,000 "Secondary Security Screening Selectees," i.e. suspicious travelers who must go through special screening procedures in order to board flights in the U.S. (i.e. they pat you down, open up your luggage, swab packed items for explosives, etc.). I have been subject to these procedures ever since 9/11, but I assumed it was because I look as though I could be Middle Eastern. I have never had any objection to this brand of racial profiling because I never felt that it was being used against me as an excuse for racial harassment or intimidation: the security guards were always thorough, but very polite and not in any way disrespectful. On this trip, I even felt moved to express my appreciation to one particular guard for doing his job well. A couple of days later, I read the attached article in *USA Today*, and realized that my ticket had the SSSS designation (also attached). This is an unjustified violation of my constitutional rights, and a threat to my physical safety and wellbeing in the United States. Under these circumstances, in order to stay out of harm's way, I will not be returning there for any reason, until such time as my constitutional rights are fully restored. Therefore, pending the restoration of my constitutional rights, I hereby apply for a leave of absence from Wellesley College of indefinite duration.

Sincerely yours,

Adrian M. S. Piper
Professor of Philosophy
Wellesley College

cc: Marilyn Melville