

PREM 19/2425

CONFIDENTIAL FILING

Prime Minister's Meeting with the
World Leadership of Soviet Jewry
& the "Mothers for Freedom".

PRIME
MINISTER

("Mothers for Freedom" booklet in attached
folder).

SEPTEMBER 1983

Referred to	Date	Referred to	Date	Referred to	Date	Referred to	Date
15.9.83							
10.10.83							
31.10.83							
11.11.83							
7.12.83							
11.12.83							
17.9.85							
3.10.85							
9.11.87							
12.1.87							
13.1.87							
4.5.87							
3787							
4.5.87							

PREM 19/2425



file ✓
afp
pc

10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

THE PRIME MINISTER

4 May 1987

Dear Mothers,

As you know, a delegation from Mothers for Freedom came to see me on 13 January. I found their stories deeply moving. It is quite wrong for families to be torn apart in this way.

Since then I have visited the Soviet Union. I thought you might find it helpful to have an account of my talks there. With Mr Gorbachev I made a point of expressing the hope that more prisoners of conscience would be released and that Soviet Jews would be allowed to emigrate if they so wished. Mr Gorbachev told me that the Soviet Government considered all humanitarian cases very carefully and would continue to deal with them attentively, with positive results where possible.

The Foreign Secretary also raised these questions with the Soviet Foreign Minister and handed him a list of imprisoned Soviet citizens and others who have been refused exit visas and about whom the Government have received representations in recent months. Mr Shevardnadze undertook to look into the cases listed. The helpful information supplied by your delegation was taken into account when compiling these lists.

I was glad to have been able to meet the refuseniks Mr and Mrs Begun and Rosa Ioffe on 1 April and to hear their concerns at first hand. I regard my meeting with them as a gesture of solidarity with all those suffering the long vigil to leave.

I have noted the increase in the latest figures for Jewish emigration from the Soviet Union. I am also aware of recent reports in Israel and elsewhere that the Soviet authorities may be preparing to allow large numbers of refuseniks to leave and are showing greater respect for Jewish culture at home. These are encouraging signs.

I therefore very much hope that we shall see a genuine and sustained improvement in the coming months and that some at least of you may soon have the joy of being reunited with your children.

Warm regards.

Yours sincerely

Ransau Shalita



CF

R1/S

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

1 May 1987

Dear Charles,

/ Please refer to the enclosed copy of your letter of 13 January about the call on the Prime Minister by a delegation from the group 'Mothers for Freedom'.

You suggested that a reply to the letter which the delegation left with the Prime Minister might be needed after her visit to Moscow. A letter to the group from the Prime Minister giving a brief account of her talks would no doubt be greatly appreciated.

/ I enclose a draft which covers the ground in standard terms. If the Prime Minister agrees to reply to the group, her letter could be returned to us for delivery by our Embassy in Tel Aviv.

Yours ever,

(L Parker)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
No 10 Downing St

DSR 11 (Revised Sept 85)

DRAFT: minute/letter/teleletter/despatch/note

TYPE: Draft/Final 1 +

FROM: PM

Reference

DEPARTMENT:

TEL. NO:

Your Reference

BUILDING:

ROOM NO:

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

Top Secret

Secret

Confidential

Restricted

Unclassified

TO: Mothers for Freedom
1 Bak Street
78 Hamasger Street
Tel Aviv
Israel

Copies to:

B m

SUBJECT:

PRIVACY MARKING

..... In Confidence

CAVEAT

As you know, a delegation from Mothers for Freedom came to see me on 13 January. I found their stories deeply moving. It is quite wrong for families to be torn apart in this way. ~~As a mother myself, I can well appreciate the pain and sorrow you must all feel.~~

Since then I have visited the Soviet Union. I thought you might find it helpful to have an account of my talks there. With Mr Gorbachev I made a point of expressing the hope that more prisoners of conscience would be released and that Soviet Jews would be allowed to emigrate if they so wished. Mr Gorbachev told me that the Soviet Government considered all humanitarian cases very carefully and would continue to deal with them attentively, with positive results where possible.

Enclosures flag(s)

/The

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I therefore very much hope that we shall see a genuine and sustained improvement in the coming months and that ^{you are at least} you may soon have the joy of being reunited with your children.

AYW

BU
16/3/87
AD 14/1

*B. Butt - Pre actual sentence
B/U for*

*Asi Karlin -
R. Kheralla Smith 2/1.
Mogin 12/1*



10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

Mr Longrigg, Soviet Dept

*cc PS
PS/Mr Lenton
Mr Ratford*

To note especially 'x'

*Lyn Parker
13/1*

From the Private Secretary

13 January 1987

Dear Lynn,

MOTHERS FOR FREEDOM

As you know, the Prime Minister saw a delegation from Mothers for Freedom today. I believe that the Foreign Secretary also received the delegation. I enclose a copy of a letter which the delegation left with the Prime Minister. There are a number of detailed separate documents which I will not send over, since I suspect that the Foreign Secretary was also a recipient. The Prime Minister will want to raise the general issue of family reunification during her visit to Moscow, and you will therefore want to take account of this material in preparing briefing for her visit. No further reply to the letter from the Mothers for Freedom is called for for the time being, but you will wish to note on the file that a reply may be required after the Prime Minister's visit to Moscow.

*yours sincerely,
Charles Powell*

(Charles Powell)

Lyn Parker, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

למען אחי ורעי



המועצה הציבורית למען יהודי ברית המועצות

THE ISRAEL PUBLIC COUNCIL FOR SOVIET JEWRY

12 January 1987

The Rt. Margaret Thatcher
10 Downing street
London S.W.1
England

Dear Mrs. Thatcher,

We have come to England from our Homeland Israel to ask for your help. We are well aware of your efforts on behalf of Soviet Jewry and would welcome your support on behalf of our families who are still in the USSR.

We sincerely appreciate the fact that you were willing to fit us into your busy schedule. As a mother, we feel you will understand our anguish.

We represent 200 mothers in Israel separated from their children because they are still refuseniks in the Soviet Union; for some of us it is more than fifteen years since we last had the joy of seeing those children that we brought into the world. We ask only to be reunited with them, a basic human right.

Our loss cannot be measured in years - the time that has passed since we were last with our children is immeasurable and can never be replaced. Nothing can fill the void we feel at not being allowed to share in the joy of a child's marriage, a grandchild's first steps, his first day at school.

We are elderly women, many of us are ill, some are dying, and some have died here in Israel without ever being reunited with their loved ones who remain in the Soviet Union.

The concept of family reunification receives in our case a direct expression that cannot be paralleled; your agreeing to meet us demonstrates that you as one of the most prominent leaders of the Free World are aware that the purpose of statesmanship and public policy is to make it possible for people to enjoy the basic family right to live together.

We are broken women. Not a day or an hour goes by when we can erase the thought of our children and their suffering from our minds. Not only are our children hostages, but so are we. There can be no normalcy in our lives until we are reunited with our loved ones still trapped behind the Iron Curtain.

We are sure that you will do all in your power to help us and to publicize our situation. Please remember our fate and the fate of our children when you are in Moscow. People of the Free World cannot remain silent in the face of such a personal tragedy, and our meeting with you has given us renewed hope and strength to carry on our struggle in the knowledge that we have your sympathy, your understanding and your support.

Yours Faithfully,

Mothers for Freedom



DA
47

C/F

10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

13 January 1987

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(Charles Powell)

CA

Lyn Parker, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

למען אחי ורעי



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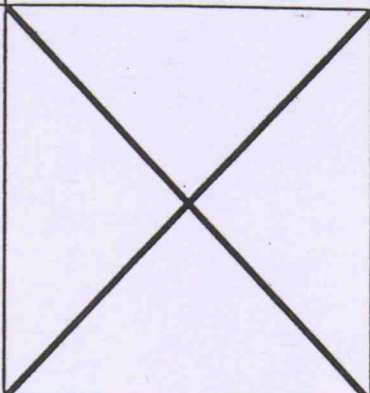
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Yours Faithfully,

Mothers for Freedom

A The National Archives

DEPARTMENT/SERIES <i>PREM 19</i> PIECE/ITEM <i>2425/1</i> (one piece/item number)	Date and sign
Extract details: <i>Attachments to Powell to Parker dated 13 January 1987</i>	
CLOSED UNDER FOI EXEMPTION	
RETAINED UNDER SECTION 3(4) OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS ACT 1958	
TEMPORARILY RETAINED	<i>4/6/2006</i> <i>G. Gray</i>
MISSING AT TRANSFER	
NUMBER NOT USED	
MISSING (TNA USE ONLY)	
DOCUMENT PUT IN PLACE (TNA USE ONLY)	

Instructions for completion of Dummy Card

Use black or blue pen to complete form.

Use the card for one piece or for each extract removed from a different place within a piece.

Enter the department and series,
eg. HO 405, J 82.

Enter the piece and item references, .
eg. 28, 1079, 84/1, 107/3

Enter extract details if it is an extract rather than a whole piece.
This should be an indication of what the extract is,
eg. Folio 28, Indictment 840079, E107, Letter dated 22/11/1995.
Do not enter details of why the extract is sensitive.

If closed under the FOI Act, enter the FOI exemption numbers applying to the closure, eg. 27(1), 40(2).

Sign and date next to the reason why the record is not available to the public ie. Closed under FOI exemption; Retained under section 3(4) of the Public Records Act 1958; Temporarily retained; Missing at transfer or Number not used.

PRIME MINISTER

MEETING WITH "MOTHERS FOR FREEDOM" DELEGATION

You are to have a very brief meeting with the "Mothers for Freedom" delegation tomorrow morning. They represent families in Israel who are separated from other family members in the Soviet Union.

There are two members of the delegation itself, Mrs. Wanda Osnis and Mrs. Freida Lemberg. They will be accompanied by two ladies from the National Council for Soviet Jewry and a representative of the Israeli Embassy.

We envisage some photographs followed by just five or ten minutes with the ladies to give them and their cause encouragement.

There are notes in the folder about the two families:

- Mrs. Lemberg's third son Grigory has been trying to leave the Soviet Union since 1978 but is constantly being refused a visa.
- Mrs. Osnis' only son Marat has been applying for an exit visa since 1972 without success, and has lost his job as a computer engineer just for asking.

C.D.P.
CHARLES POWELL
12 January 1987

EL3BQN



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

12 January 1986

Dear Charles,

Prime Minister's Meeting with
Mothers for Freedom on 13 January

Mrs Frieda Lemberg and Dr Wanda Osnis of "Mothers for Freedom" will be calling on the Prime Minister at 11 am on 13 January. They will be calling on the Foreign Secretary at 10 am.

Our Ambassador to Israel has met members of the group and described them as "non-controversial and non-political". The group has approximately 100 members, all of them the mothers of refuseniks. They emphasise the humanitarian nature of their cause and can be expected to ask the Prime Minister to raise individual cases during her visit to the Soviet Union.

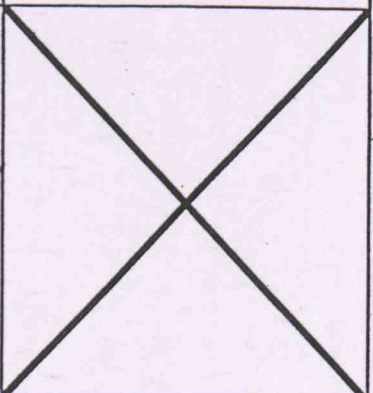
/ I enclose notes on the family details of Mrs Lemberg and Dr Osnis prepared by the National Council for Soviet Jewry.

Yours ever,
L. Parker

(L Parker)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
PS/10 Downing Street

A The National Archives

DEPARTMENT/SERIES <i>ACEM 19</i> PIECE/ITEM <i>2425/1</i> (one piece/item number)	Date and sign
Extract details: <i>Attachment to Parker to Lowell dated 12 January 1986</i> <i>(Note: Date on letter is incorrect - should be 1987)</i>	
CLOSED UNDER FOI EXEMPTION	
RETAINED UNDER SECTION 3(4) OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS ACT 1958	
TEMPORARILY RETAINED	<i>4/6/2010</i> <i>O. Gray</i>
MISSING AT TRANSFER	
NUMBER NOT USED	
MISSING (TNA USE ONLY)	
DOCUMENT PUT IN PLACE (TNA USE ONLY)	

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eg. HO 405, J 82.

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File

SM

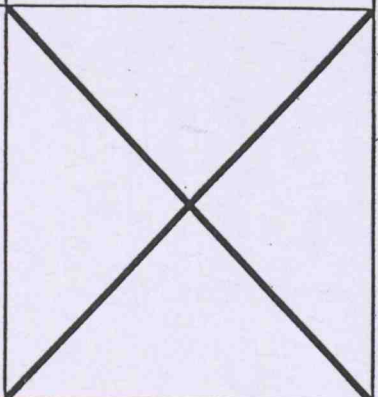
MR. HORNE

I attach some self-explanatory correspondence.
Could you please arrange for photographers
to be present on this occasion.

(C.D. Powell)

9 January 1987

A The National Archives

DEPARTMENT/SERIES <i>Mem 19</i> PIECE/ITEM <i>2425/1</i> (one piece/item number)	Date and sign
Extract details: <i>Attachment to Powell to Home dated 9 January 1987</i>	
CLOSED UNDER FOI EXEMPTION	
RETAINED UNDER SECTION 3(4) OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS ACT 1958	
TEMPORARILY RETAINED	<i>4/6/2016</i> <i>G. Gray</i>
MISSING AT TRANSFER	
NUMBER NOT USED	
MISSING (TNA USE ONLY)	
DOCUMENT PUT IN PLACE (TNA USE ONLY)	

Instructions for completion of Dummy Card

Use black or blue pen to complete form.

Use the card for one piece or for each extract removed from a different place within a piece.

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eg. HO 405, J 82.

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eg. 28, 1079, 84/1, 107/3

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SM

bc Mike Horne

10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

9 January 1987

The Prime Minister has asked me to thank you for your letter of 6 January in which you ask her to receive a delegation of Mothers for Freedom.

The request comes at short notice and at a very busy time for the Prime Minister. However, she can manage a very short meeting for 15 minutes at 1100 hours on Tuesday 13 January.

I should be grateful if you would telephone the Duty Clerk at 10 Downing Street (930-4433) with the names of those whom you wish to bring.

(C.D. Powell)

Mrs. Cynthia Jacobs

BK
B/F for
meeting
older on
Mornings
in



Five -
Thank
you
J.

10 DOWNING STREET

Mothers For Freedom

Delegation will be:

MRS VENDA OSNIS and
MRS FREIDA LEMBERG.

If you agree they'd
also like to bring:

NAN GRIEFER (Translator);
Hon. Secretary: Mrs Cynthia Jacobs;
and Vice-Chairman
Mrs Ruth URBAN.

I said we'd only ring
her back if this causes
a problem.

It's also possible
that there'll be a
representative from the
Israeli Embassy.

Julie
a/1.

National Council for Soviet Jewry

of the United Kingdom and Ireland
College House
47 New College Parade
Finchley Road
London NW3 5EP
Tel: 01-586 5742/3



CJ/bk

6th January 1987

The Rt. Hon. Mrs. Margaret Thatcher
Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
London
SW1

Dear Mrs. Thatcher

"Mothers for Freedom"

I am writing to ask you if you would be kind enough to receive a delegation of Mothers for Freedom.

These Mothers are representatives of many others living in Israel, whose children and grandchildren are still in the Soviet Union - divided families because the Soviet authorities repeatedly refuse them permission to leave.

The delegation will be in this country during Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of next week (12th - 14th January).

I would be extremely grateful if you would be able to find time to see them on one of these dates.

Yours sincerely,

Cynthia Jacobs
Cynthia Jacobs
Hon. Secretary.

*Yes - but I can't
go on later on*

*more money of their
visits... The day is
already very full and the
whole pathetically poor*

*Prime Minister
There are I believe
only three mothers in
the delegation &
they would only want
1/2 an hour.
I hope you will see
them. D. Wolfson
agrees.*

*Agreed to
see
them?
CDP
7/1*

CF lrl

SRW



cfco

10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

3 October 1985

Dear Greville,

Thank you for your letter of 17 September, conveying greetings from the 1985 Ottawa Conference of the Commonwealth Jewish Council.

I recall with great pleasure receiving your delegation after the Council's founding Conference in 1982. I am delighted to hear that the Council is now firmly established with London headquarters. Please express my warm thanks to all members of the Council for their kind message.

Yours sincerely
Margaret Thatcher

The Honourable Greville Janner, Q.C., M.P.

BM



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

2 October 1985

Dear Mark,

Letter to the Prime Minister from Greville Janner QC MP

Thank you for your letter of 19 September enclosing one to the Prime Minister from the Hon Greville Janner QC MP, President of the Commonwealth Jewish Council.

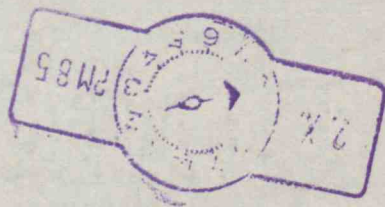
We suggest a brief acknowledgement. I enclose a draft.

Yours ever,

Peter Ricketts

(P F Ricketts)
Private Secretary

Mark Addison Esq
10 Downing Street



DRAFT: minute/letter/teleletter/despach/note

TYPE: Draft/Final 1+

FROM:
Prime Minister

Reference

DEPARTMENT: TEL. NO:

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

- Top Secret
- Secret
- Confidential
- Restricted
- Unclassified

TO:
The Hon Greville Janner QC MP

Your Reference

Copies to:

PRIVACY MARKING

.....In Confidence

CAVEAT.....

SUBJECT:

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I recall with great pleasure receiving your delegation after the Council's founding Conference in 1982. I am delighted to hear that the Council is now firmly established with London headquarters. Please express my warm thanks to all members of the Council for their kind message.

Enclosures—flag(s).....

Pm.

Meeting with
Gouvert Jewry
9/83



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

Adm 19 September 1985

I enclose a copy of a letter which the Prime Minister has received from the Hon. Greville Janner MP, President of the Commonwealth Jewish Council.

br I should be grateful if you would let me have a draft Prime Ministerial reply, to reach this office by Thursday 3 October.

Mark Addison

Peter Ricketts, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

Adm



The Commonwealth Jewish Council

Please reply to: 25 Victoria Street,
London SW1

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Rt. Hon. Margaret Thatcher, MP
Prime Minister,
10 Downing Street,
London SW1

17th September, 1985

Antigua
Australia
Bahamas
Barbados
Bermuda
Canada
Cayman Islands
Cyprus
Fiji
Gibraltar
Hong Kong
India
Isle of Man
Jamaica
Jersey
Kenya
Mauritius
New Zealand
Singapore
Sri Lanka
Trinidad and Tobago
Turks & Caicos Islands
United Kingdom
Zambia
Zimbabwe

My dear Prime Minister -

Three years ago, you were kind enough to receive a delegation from the founding meeting of the Commonwealth Jewish Council, held in London. The Council now represents Jewish communities in 26 Commonwealth countries and at its meeting in Ottawa which ended last Tuesday, a Resolution was passed conveying warm greetings to the heads of government in each of our member countries. It is therefore with much pleasure that I write to you - especially as I know that you will be glad that the organisation has taken firm root, with its headquarters in London.

The Canadians were marvellously helpful with the Conference, which was held in the Parliament Buildings. Their Prime Minister and the Leaders of all major political parties addressed the Conference, and the Speaker held a reception in honour of our delegates.

Among the many substantive matters discussed was the plight of Jewish people in the Soviet Union, and on behalf of us all, I thank you for your concern with that unhappy and continuing campaign.

Hoping that you and Denis are well and with best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

The Commonwealth Jewish Council, 25 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0EX Telephone 01-222 2102
Patrons: Hon. Leslie E. Ashenheim, OJ, PC. Sir Isaiah Berlin, OM, CBE, FBA. H.E. Judge Maxwell Cohen, OC, QC.
Rt. Hon. Sir Zelman Cowen, AK, GCMG, GCVO, QC. Sir Joshua Hassan, CBE, MVO, QC. Rt. Hon. The Lord Kadoorie, CBE, JP.
Sir Lewis N. Ross, CMG, FCA. Maj.-Gen. J. R. Samson, PVSM.
President: Dr. The Hon. Greville Janner, QC, MP. Hon. Secretary: Jack Galaun, FCA. Hon. Treasurer: Geoffrey Leigh.
Chairman Co-ordinating Committee: Arnold Morris. Executive Director: Paul Secher LL.B.

PM Sept 83

World leadership of
Soviet Jewery





10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

21 December, 1983.

The Prime Minister has asked me to thank you for your letter of 1 December giving details of some of the recent activities of your organisation.

Mrs. Thatcher was pleased to note that as part of your lobbying exercise on 8 December you called on Malcolm Rifkind, since she knows he will have re-iterated the Government's concern for the worsening plight of Jews in the Soviet Union.

The Prime Minister has asked me to assure you that the Government will continue to apply pressure on the Soviet authorities to live up to their international commitments on human rights, and to take suitable opportunities to raise these matters with them.

David Barclay

Mr. Jonathan Arkush

K



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

20 December 1983

Mr David,

GR: fms please
DMS
21/12

Thank you for your letter of 7 December about the letter the Prime Minister has received from Jonathan Arkush of the Student and Academic Campaign for Soviet Jewry. I enclose, as requested, a draft reply.

(R B Bone)
Private Secretary

David Barclay Esq
10 Downing Street

DRAFT: minute/letter/teleletter/despatch/note

TYPE: Draft/Final 1+

FROM:

Reference

Prime Minister

DEPARTMENT:

TEL. NO:

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

TO:

Your Reference

- Top Secret
- Secret
- Confidential
- Restricted
- Unclassified

Jonathan Arkush
 Student & Academic Campaign
 for Soviet Jewry
 PO Box 217
 LONDON WC2 A3SS

Copies to:

PRIVACY MARKING

SUBJECT:

.....In Confidence

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 of some of the recent activities of your organisation.

CAVEAT.....

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 since *she* knows he will have re-iterated *the Government's* ~~our~~ concern for
 the worsening plight of Jews in the Soviet Union.

The PM has asked me to the Government
 I ~~can~~ assure you that ~~we~~ will continue to apply pressure
 on the Soviet authorities to live up to their inter-
 national commitments on human rights, and to take
 suitable opportunities to raise these matters with them.

Enclosures—flag(s).....

PM : Mtg with World
Leadership of Sweet Terry
Terry



V

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

7 December 1983

I attach a copy of a letter the Prime Minister has received from Jonathan Arkush, on behalf of the Student and Academic Campaign for Soviet Jewry.

I should be grateful if you could provide a draft reply for the Prime Minister's signature, to reach me by Wednesday 21 December.

BU

DB

R.B. Bone, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

289



Acad 7/12 85

Student and Academic Campaign for Soviet Jewry

The Rt Hon Margaret Thatcher MP
10 Downing Street
London SW1

1 December 1983

Dear Mrs. Thatcher,

Almost exactly two years ago, in response to the deteriorating conditions encountered by the Jewish community in the Soviet Union, this Campaign organised a Parliamentary lobby by students to brief MP's and enlist their support. On that occasion you were good enough to receive a joint delegation from the Campaign and the Union of Jewish Students and we greatly appreciated that opportunity to convey to you the views of very many British students and their organisations as to the plight of our Soviet Jewish colleagues. I was myself among the delegation and in the course of a visit to the USSR just a few days afterwards was able to describe our meeting to many Jewish 'refuseniks' who were undoubtedly encouraged and strengthened by your support.

As I am sure you will know from your recent ^{see file} meeting with the world leaders of the Soviet Jewry campaign, the situation inside the USSR where Jews are concerned has tragically deteriorated over the last two years still further. Emigration has been cut to a trickle and those who lead the Jewish cultural movement have been threatened or, in the case of Iosif Begun, jailed for long terms in prison and exile.

In the light of these recent events this Campaign is again impelled to arrange a lobby at the House of Commons on Thursday 8th December immediately following Prime Minister's Questions. In view of your meeting with the world leaders of the campaign just a short while ago, and the many calls upon your time, the purpose of this letter is merely to convey to you our deep concern as to the present repression of Jews in the USSR and to appeal to you for Her Majesty's Government to press the Soviet Government through all possible channels to permit greater freedom for Soviet Jews to leave the country and to practice their religion and culture, in accordance with international agreements to which the USSR is party. We would find of great assistance and would appreciate any message of support which you could send in this connection, which we would publicise in conjunction with our efforts. We are indeed trying to arrange a meeting with Mr Rifkind for the day of the lobby.

/2

PATRONS
Professor C. Abramsky
The Rt. Hon. Peter Archer, Q.C., M.P.
- Lord Bethell
- Dr. Rhodes Boyson M.P.
Patrick Cormack M.P.
Arthur Davidson Q.C., M.P.
Professor C. Domb
- Hugh Dykes M.P.
- The Haham, Rabbi Dr. S. Gaon

Bryan Gould
- Rabbi Hugo Gryn
- The Chief Rabbi
Dr. Immanuel Jakobovits
Lord Janner
- Greville Janner, Q.C., M.P.
Miriam Karlin
- Professor E. Kedourie
- Ivan Lawrence M.P.
Evan Luard

John Macdonald Q.C.
Eric Moonman
Libby Morris
Sir Brandon Rhys-Williams Bt. M.P.*
Robert Rhodes-James M.P.
- Timothy Sainsbury M.P.
- Professor L. Schapiro
Baroness Seear
Lord Segal
Arnold Shaw

The Rt. Hon. Sam Silkin Q.C., M.P.
Lord Soper
The Rt. Hon. David Steel M.P.
Tom Stoppard
Alec Woodall M.P.
Professor J. Yudkin
Professor M. Zander

*Member European Parliament

to thank you
May we take this opportunity/for the support you have expressed
in the past for the activities of the Campaign to secure an
improvement in the plight of Soviet Jewry.

Yours sincerely

Jonathan Arkush

JONATHAN ARKUSH
on behalf of SACSJ



10 DOWNING STREET

- ① GOOD ALL-PARTY PATRONS.
- ② GENERAL MESSAGE PRO HUMAN
FREEDOM AGAINST RELIGIOUS REPRESSION
CAN'T DO ANY HARM!

With the compliments of

David W



cc Ro

10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

16 November 1983

Dear Greville,

Thank you for your letter of 3 November about the position of the Jewish community in Zimbabwe.

I understand your fears that the difficult state of relations between Zimbabwe and Israel might have repercussions on the treatment of Jewish residents. In general the Zimbabwean Government have a good record of religious tolerance, and as far as I am aware the Jewish community is well treated. But I understand the concern of your Council lest such a trend should develop.

I shall certainly bear in mind your suggestion that this concern might be brought to Mr. Mugabe's attention during the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting. Obviously I would only speak to him as you suggest if I felt at the time that the effect would be helpful. I can assure you that the Zimbabwean Government are already fully aware of the importance we attach to reconciliation between all the various groups in their country.

Yours ever
Raymond

The Honourable Greville Janner, QC, MP.

da

RESTRICTED



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

14 November, 1983

Type letter pl.

HR 17/11.

Jon T. J.

/ As you requested, I enclose a draft reply to the letter to the Prime Minister from Mr Greville Janner about the Jewish community in Zimbabwe.

Although the fears expressed by Mr Greville Janner are understandable, there is to the best of our knowledge little substance to them (as he himself seems to accept). Like most other African countries, Zimbabwe's relations with Israel are poor. In particular, the Zimbabwean Government believe that Israel has given military training to South Africa and pre-Independence Rhodesia. Bishop Muzorewa was arrested ostensibly on the grounds that he had been involved in clandestine activities against the State as proved by his recent visit to Israel (though the real reasons for his arrest are more likely to be irritation over some of his recent statements). There have also been press reports that in a broadcast the week before the Bishop's arrest Mr Mugabe described the Israelis as 'the hated Jews'.

However we have no knowledge of any discrimination against or ill-treatment of Jewish residents in Zimbabwe. Mr Janner's letter accepts that there is a good chance that the Zimbabwean Government will not indulge in official anti-Semitism. Nevertheless we have asked our High Commissioner in Harare to look into the position.

Mr Janner asks that the Prime Minister should, if the appropriate opportunity arises, let Mr Mugabe know of the concern of the Commonwealth Jewish Council about the situation of Zimbabwe's Jewish community. The Foreign Secretary has considerable reservations about this, unless an opportunity occurs naturally. Mr Mugabe would be bound to react angrily over what he would almost certainly see as an unwarranted interference in his country's internal affairs, particularly given that we have no real grounds or evidence to raise it. Moreover for the Prime Minister to raise the issue could conflict with our efforts to put our bilateral relations back on an even keel and thus enhance the prospects for the early release of the air force officers. Finally, and perhaps most importantly, there is

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a risk that any approach would be more likely to have
a harmful than a helpful impact on the Jewish community.

Yours

R B Bone

(R B Bone)
Private Secretary

A J Coles
10 Downing Street

RESTRICTED

DRAFT: minute/letter/teleletter/despatch/note

TYPE: Draft/Final 1+

FROM: Prime Minister

Reference

DEPARTMENT:

TEL. NO:

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

- Top Secret
- Secret
- Confidential
- Restricted
- Unclassified

TO: Hon Greville Janner QC MP
 President
 The Commonwealth Jewish Council
 BCM Box 8242
 LONDON WC1N 3XX

Your Reference

Copies to:

PRIVACY MARKING

.....In Confidence

CAVEAT.....

SUBJECT:

Thank you for your letter of 3 November about the position of the Jewish community in Zimbabwe.

I understand your fears that the difficult state of relations between Zimbabwe and Israel might have repercussions on the treatment of Jewish residents. In general the Zimbabwean Government have a good record of religious tolerance, and as far as I am aware the Jewish community is well treated. But I understand the concern of your Council lest such a trend should develop.

I shall certainly bear in mind your suggestion that this concern might be brought to Mr Mugabe's attention during the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting. Obviously I would only speak to him as you suggest if I felt at the time that the effect would be helpful. I can assure you that the Zimbabwean Government are already fully aware of the importance we attach to reconciliation between all the various groups in ~~that~~ ^{the} country.

Enclosures—flag(s).....

Handwritten signature
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COMMONWEALTH; CHOSM : PLS

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The Commonwealth Jewish Council

Prime Minister.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

A.S.C. 16/11

Pl. copy to F.C.O. (Dr. done). 14th November, 1983.

Prime Minister The Rt.Hon. Margaret Thatcher M.P.
10 Downing St.,
S.W.1.

ms

Dear Prime Minister -

Previous correspondence in PM's signature folder letter sent 16/11

I am delighted to tell you that the restrictions which were worrying the Zimbabwe Jewish community have been lifted - and the concern that I expressed to you in my previous letter is now greatly reduced. I thought I should let you know immediately that the heat has now been removed from this matter - certainly in the short term. So my colleagues no longer consider that intervention is necessary at this stage.

We all appreciate very greatly indeed your personal kindness and involvement in causes of human rights such as these.

I wish you a happy and safe journey to India.

Yours sincerely

COMMUNIST PARTY: CMOGM: P25



15 NOV 1983
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Lee Ho

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

3 November 1983

I am writing on behalf of
the Prime Minister to thank you
for your letter of 3 November.

This is receiving attention
and you will be sent a reply as
soon as possible.

A. L. COLES

The Hon. Greville Janner, Q.C., M.P.

Ho



10/11
fcl/b

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

3 November 1983

ZIMBABWE

I enclose a copy of a letter which the Prime Minister has received from Mr. Greville Janner. He asks whether the Prime Minister would raise with Mr. Mugabe at CHOGM the concern of the Commonwealth Jewish community among others about the situation of the Jewish community in Zimbabwe.

I should be grateful if you would let me have advice and a draft reply for signature by the Prime Minister by Thursday 10 November.

A. J. COLES

Roger Bone Esq
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

RB



Mr Cosles

The Commonwealth Jewish Council

FROM THE PRESIDENT

The Prime Minister
The Rt. Hon. Mrs. Margaret Thatcher MP
10 Downing Street,
LONDON SW1

3rd November, 1983.

My dear Prime Minister -

My warmest thanks and those of my colleagues on the Praesidium of the World Soviet Jewry Movement for receiving us and our representations so cordially.

Two of our leading American guests told me they were "enchanted" - and all of us were tremendously encouraged by the assurance of your continued support for that remarkable humanitarian effort.

I hope that you will not mind my seeking your guidance on another matter - and this time in my capacity as the President of the Commonwealth Jewish Council. You may possibly remember that when you were kind enough to receive the leaders of that Council at 10 Downing Street last December, they included a Mrs. Murial Rosen, from Zimbabwe - a most distinguished and intelligent former member of the Rhodesian Parliament. She was again in London this week and told me very privately of the fears of the 500 Jewish families still left in her country. These were, of course, much accentuated by the arrest of Bishop Abel Muzerewa, according to some reports because of his alleged conspiring with Israel, while at a theological seminary in Jerusalem - according to the reports, made apparent by his public suggestion that Zimbabwe should recognise the State of Israel.

Mrs. Rosen believes that there is a good chance that the Government will not indulge in official anti-Semitism. But I write to you at her request to ask whether you might be kind enough when you are in Delhi and should the appropriate opportunity arise, to let Prime Minister Mugabe know (directly or possibly indirectly) of the concern of my Council and of others regarding the situation of Zimbabwe's steadfast and loyal Jewish community. On the basis that such concern is no doubt entirely without justification, ~~by~~ the fact that it is shared by other Commonwealth leaders might help to avert the sort of catastrophe which has been too frequent an occurrence in Jewish history for us to not recognise the danger signals.

Anyway, if you have any suggestions or guidance which you might give to me as to how this potentially very dangerous situation might be handled, I would be profoundly grateful. And should you wish me to call on you - or perhaps to have a word before or after a vote in the House - then of course I shall be only too glad to do so.

May I say once again how very deeply I appreciate your kindness.

Yours sincerely,

Freddie

MR. COLES

Noted

(1) S.U. 17/11.

(2) Take note of letter to CHOGM.

A.J.C. 22/11

I attach a letter recording the Prime Minister's meeting with the Praesidium of the World Conference of Soviet Jewry.

The only point of action is recorded in the penultimate paragraph, where you will see that the Prime Minister agreed to intercede with Mrs. Gandhi on behalf of the Soviet Jews in the course of CHOGM. I imagine that the letter will be sufficient to ensure that this is mentioned in the briefing.

DMB

31 October, 1983.

B



copy.

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

31 October, 1983.

World Conference of Soviet Jewry

The Prime Minister received a delegation of the Praesidium of the World Conference on Soviet Jewry at 10 Downing Street this morning.

The President of the Praesidium thanked the Prime Minister for receiving them, and said that the World Conference wished to express their appreciation of the Prime Minister's continued support for the cause of Soviet Jewry. The Conference was greatly troubled by the further reduction in the numbers of Jews allowed to leave the Soviet Union - only 900 had been released so far this year. In all, 700 thousand affidavits had been sent from Israel, but only 270 thousand Jews had been allowed to leave.

The Prime Minister said that she was greatly concerned about the deteriorating situation. She had noted in particular the establishment of a Soviet Anti-Zionist Committee. The right response to these developments was difficult to judge. On the one hand, the policy of drawing public attention to the plight of individuals symbolised the oppression of many, and made it difficult for the Soviet Union to engineer the "disappearance" of the prominent people involved. On the other hand, it also made it harder for the USSR to release them.

The Prime Minister said that she had been very disappointed that Anatoly Shcharansky had not been released. For a time the signs had been hopeful, and she had herself met Mrs. Shcharansky in July. The delegation referred also to the case of Iosif Begun who had been sentenced to 12 years imprisonment and exile although his only "crime" appeared to be that he taught Hebrew. The Prime Minister expressed her deep concern.

Members of the Delegation described the action taken by other Western Governments in support of Soviet Jewry. Mr. Shultz had agreed that whenever he or one of his officials had contacts with the Soviet Union, the issue of Soviet Jewry should be raised. The Canadian Government had made clear that future bilateral relations would be seriously affected by the USSR's treatment of Soviet Jews. The French

/ Government

Government also had a very good record in this area, and it was fitting that Britain and France as two of the world's most mature democracies should be of one mind on this issue.

The delegation asked the Prime Minister if, during the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting, she would ask Mrs. Gandhi to exert her considerable influence with the Soviet Union to improve the treatment of Jews. The Prime Minister readily agreed to raise this subject at Delhi. She added that the West's influence with Mrs. Gandhi would be enhanced if the United States in particular could match the speed and scale of the Soviet response to her requests for practical aid.

The Prime Minister concluded by re-emphasising her strong support for the cause of Soviet Jewry, and her concern both about the disappointing number of Jews allowed to leave the USSR and about the apparent resurgence of anti-Semitism. She re-affirmed her willingness to give whatever help she could.

David Barclay

Roger Bone, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

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/ Government

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David Barclay

Roger Bone, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

PROCEEDIUM OF SOVIET JEWRY ~~WOMES~~ DELEGATION

1. Mr. ArieH Dulzin (Chairman of Jewish Agency)
2. Mr. Gerald Craft (President, Bnei British World Organisation)
3. Mr. Julius Berman (Chairman, Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organisations)
4. Mr. Edgar Bronfman (President, World Jewish Congress)
5. Mr. Abe Harman (Chancellor of the Hebrew University, Jerusalem and Chairman of Israel Council for Soviet Jewry)
6. Rev. ArieH Handler (Chairman, National Council for Soviet Jewry (Britain))
7. Claude Kellman (Chairman, Soviet Jewry Actions Committee (France))
8. Isi Leibler, C.B.E. (President, Executive Council Australian Jewry)
9. Morris Abram (Chairman, National Conference of Soviet Jewry (USA))
10. Mr. Greville Janner, Q.C., M.P. (President, Board of Representatives of British Jews)



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

28 October 1983

See Mr.

mb

Prime Minister
*in view of the number I
have asked for sufficient
days to be put in the
blue book. A.J.C. 22/10*

World Leadership of Soviet Jewry

As requested in Willie Rickett's letter of 23 September
I enclose a brief for the call by a delegation of the World
Leadership of Soviet Jewry on the Prime Minister on 31 October.

(R B Bone)
Private Secretary

A J Coles Esq
10 Downing Street

CONFIDENTIAL

CALL ON THE PRIME MINISTER BY A DELEGATION FROM THE WORLD LEADERSHIP OF SOVIET JEWRY, AT 1030 ON 31 OCTOBER

POINTS TO MAKE

HMG's Attitude to Soviet Human Rights Abuses

1. Deplore consistently poor performance of Soviet Union on human rights.
2. Especially concerned about way in which Jews being singled out for specially harsh treatment. Since 1979, drastic cut back in emigration of Soviet Jews. Also notable increase in unfavourable press comment on Jews, establishment of Anti-Zionist Committees.
3. Do World Leadership consider this amounts to serious resurgence of anti-semitism in communist countries?
4. HMG takes active interest in all aspects of abuse of human rights: refusal of exit visas to those (mainly Jews) wishing to emigrate; the repression of religious and cultural freedom of expression; and Soviet action against Helsinki Monitors.
5. Saw Mrs Avital Shcharansky myself in July.
6. HMG continues to direct Western public attention to Soviet human rights record by raising both general principles and individual cases with Soviet authorities.
7. Private pressure groups (eg National Council for Soviet Jews) play vital role in publicising Soviet abuses.

CONFIDENTIAL

Achievement of CSCE Review Meeting at Madrid in field of
Human Rights and follow up [If raised]

8. Madrid meeting made small but significant achievements on human rights. Criticisms of Soviet abuses by Western delegations obliged Soviet side to attempt to defend miserable record. West also made private approaches to Russians on number of individual cases.

9. Agreement in Madrid to supplement human contacts section of Helsinki Final Act will, if implemented by Russians, help separated families.

10. Agreement in Madrid to hold human rights experts meeting in Ottawa in May 1985 and human contacts experts meeting in Switzerland in 1986 will provide opportunities to keep up public pressure on Russians.

AAAAAN

MS

ESSENTIAL FACTS

1. The general situation for Soviet Jews appears to be deteriorating. The large scale emigration of a number of ethnic groups, and particularly Soviet Jews, which began in the 1970s has been cut back drastically since 1979 when more than 51,000 Jews left. Since then numbers have slumped: 20,000 in 1980, 9,400 in 1981 and under 2,700 in 1982, the lowest figure since 1970. Currently only about 100 are leaving per month. Recently further administrative obstacles have been placed in the path of potential emigres. There have been reports of them being told that exit visas had been refused for life. In addition some have been told that the requisite invitations from relatives abroad can now only be accepted for one exit visa application. If the application is refused it can only be renewed once a new invitation is received.

2. One disturbing recent innovation which seems intended in part to discourage Jewish emigration was the establishment in April of a Soviet 'Anti-Zionist Committee'. It is likely that this organisation, which includes some of the USSR's 'establishment' Jews, has been formed as an attempt to put further pressure on Soviet Jewry. The Committee's statements, which have contained crude anti-semitic elements, seem designed to spread a feeling of insecurity among the Jewish community in the Soviet Union by characterising the desire to emigrate to Israel and to establish a Jewish identity as politically and morally unacceptable. Recent evidence suggests that serious consideration is being given to the establishment of local branches of the Committee.

3. There has been some particularly unpleasant press comment on the position of Soviet Jewry in the Soviet press recently.

4. Action against Jewish activists and attempts to suppress Jewish cultural and religious freedoms persist. Simon Shirman and Lev Elbert were sentenced earlier this year to 1 and 3 years in camps respectively for alleged offences connected with their call up for military service. On 19 January Boris Kanevsky, a mathematician who had gathered evidence of discrimination against Jewish students, was sentenced to 5 years internal exile for slandering the Soviet system.

5. Iosif Begun: On 14 October Iosif Begun was sentenced to 7 years imprisonment and 5 years internal exile, the maximum under Article 70 of Soviet Criminal Code for Anti-Soviet agitation and propaganda. His real crime in the eyes of Soviet authorities was to teach Hebrew.

6. Anatoly Shcharansky: Prime Minister met Mrs Avital Shcharansky again on 15 July and reiterated HMG's concern for Mr Shcharansky's plight.

CSCE

7. The agreement in Madrid to supplement the human contacts section of Helsinki Final Act will, if implemented by the Russians, help separated families by reducing visa costs and time taken processing visa applications. The human rights experts meeting to be held in Ottawa in 1985 and the human contacts experts meeting in Switzerland in 1986 will enable us to subject Soviet practice to renewed public scrutiny.

Copy sent to
Janner on 25/10
at the HMC.



He VC
CT

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

19 October 1983

The Prime Minister has asked me to thank you for your letter of 12 September in which you ask whether Mrs Thatcher would be able to receive a delegation from the World Leadership of the Soviet Jewry Movement.

The Prime Minister would be glad to receive the delegation at 1030 hours on Monday, 31 October. It would be helpful if you could let me have before then a list of those whom you would wish to bring.

AJK

The Hon. Greville Janner, Q.C., M.P.

CONFIDENTIAL

HL

23 September 1983

World Leadership of Soviet Jewry

RF | Thank you for your letter to John Coles of 22 September. The Prime Minister has agreed to see this delegation for half-an-hour at 1030 on 31 October. I should be grateful for a suitable brief by Friday 28 October.

WILLIAM RICKETT

Roger Bone, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

CONFIDENTIAL

NR



Prime Minister

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

We could give this delegation 1/2 hour on the morning of 31 October, but would you prefer Janet Young to receive them?

22 September 1983

Jewry

Wm
w/a

I will see them
not

World Leadership of Soviet Jewry

Thank you for your letter of 15 September. Given the occasion, and the eminence of those taking part in the conference, the Foreign Secretary's view is that it would be appropriate for the Prime Minister to receive the delegation from the World Leadership of Soviet Jewry on 31 October. If a call on the Prime Minister is not possible, we believe it would be right for a senior FCO Minister to receive them. Lady Young would be very happy to take this on.

[Handwritten signature]

(R B Bone)
Private Secretary

A J Coles Esq
10 Downing Street

Prime Minister:

Mtg with
World Leadership
of Soviet Union



Sept 83

22 SEP 1983





Encl
Ackd. 15/9
CT

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

15 September 1983

SOVIET JEWRY

The Prime Minister has received a letter from Mr. Greville Janner asking whether she would be prepared to receive, on 31 October, a delegation from the World Leadership of Soviet Jewry who are holding a conference in London on 30 and 31 October. Those attending will include the leaders of most of the large Jewish communities, including the Chairman of the Conference of Presidents of American Jewish Organisations, the President of the World Jewish Congress and the Chairman of the Jewish Agency. I should be grateful for any advice which you may wish to offer on this matter by Wednesday, 21 September.

LBF

A. J. COLES

J.E. Holmes, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

The Board of Deputies of British Jews

cup

WOBURN HOUSE, UPPER WOBURN PLACE, LONDON, WC1H 0EP.

Telegrams: DEPUTIES, LONDON, WC1.

Telephone: 01-387 3952 or 388 7651

FROM THE PRESIDENT

The Prime Minister
The Rt. Hon. Mrs Margaret Thatcher MP
10 Downing Street
London SW1.

12th September 1983

My dear Prime Minister -

ASC - to deal

I do hope that you are well and that you have enjoyed some tranquility during the Recess.

I write knowing of your great interest in and help to the Soviet Jewry movement. For the first time, the world leadership of that movement is gathering in London for a Conference on Sunday 30th October and Monday 31st October. Among those coming will be the leaders of most of the large Jewish Communities - including the Chairman of the Conference of Presidents of American Jewish Organisations; President of World Jewish Congress (who, alas, had to cancel his previous visit, after you had been so kind as to say that you would see him); and the Chairman of the Jewish Agency.

The meeting ends at 4.00 pm on Monday 31st. If it were possible for you to allow me to bring the delegation from my colleagues to call upon you at any time on the Monday - although preferably prior to 4.00 pm - I and they would be honoured and grateful.

With kindest regards,

Yours sincerely

I do hope that the request will not involve an undue keepass on your time - ^{fully} But I know how much it would mean to the Soviet Jewry movement, if you were able to agree.

President: The Hon. Greville Janner, Q.C., M.P.
Vice-Presidents: Dr. Lionel Kopelowitz, J.P., Martin Savitt
Treasurer: Victor Lucas, F.S.V.A., F.C.I.Arb.
Secretary General: Hayim Pinner

Lunch with IBH afternoon free at present.



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