

CONFIDENTIAL FILING

Prime Minister's meeting with
Natan Shcharansky 22 September 1986

PRIME MINISTER

July 1986

Referred to	Date	Referred to	Date	Referred to	Date	Referred to	Date
8.9.86							
10.9.86							
23.9.86							
22.4.87							
23.4.87							
7.5.87							
11.5.87							

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נתן שרנסקי
Natan Sharansky

cf research

②

Prime Minister

The Prime Minister
Rt Hon Mrs Margaret Thatcher
10 Downing Street
London SW1A 2AA

MS

22/5

*CD
20/5*

11th May 1987

Dear Prime Minister

Thank you for sparing the time to see me last week on what was evidently a very crowded afternoon. I found our discussion most useful and was particularly interested to hear your impressions of your visit to the Soviet Union.

As I remarked to you then, the explicit linkage which you made in your speech to the Kremlin between human rights and arms control gave great encouragement to refuseniks in the USSR. The Soviet leaders are desperately trying to separate the three Helsinki baskets but you reminded them that they must abide by their commitment to the Helsinki Final Act. Soviet Jews are very concerned by the new Soviet Emigration law restricting the right to emigrate only to those with "first degree" relatives abroad and the bogus reliance on "state security" to hold many refuseniks illegally for many years. They fear that the small number of 12,000 emigrants mentioned for this year may be the last allowed to leave.

From our discussion I know that you will stand firm on the principle of linkage and free emigration for all 400,000 Jews who wish to leave. I look forward to your continued support following your undoubted victory in the forthcoming election.

With very best wishes from Avital

Natan Sharansky

PM. Migs with Shcharansky - 7/86

1986
1987
1988

1989
1990
1991

נתן שרנסקי
Natan Sharansky

Charles Powell Esq
10 Downing Street
London SW1A 2AA

2001
26/5

11th May 1987

Dear Mr. Powell,

Thank you for your help in arranging Mr Sharansky's meeting with the Prime Minister at such short notice. It was greatly appreciated, particularly in view of the obvious pressures on her time that afternoon.

I believe Mr Sharansky has already explained, and I would like to re-iterate, that owing to the confusion at No.10 when we arrived, we were all inadvertently shown straight upstairs together. It was only when the Prime Minister arrived that I realised the mistake. Mr Bradman, Mrs Eker and myself would certainly have withdrawn had we been requested to do so.

I look forward to our future co-operation in the confident expectation that the election will result in Mrs Thatcher being securely returned to office.

Yours sincerely,
Matthew Kalman

Matthew Kalman
Assistant to Natan Sharansky

PRIME MINISTER

MEETING WITH SHARANSKY

You are to see Mr. Sharansky tomorrow. He has sent a list of subjects which he would like to raise. They are really too detailed for you to deal with. You will want to tell him about your visit to the Soviet Union; and to assure him that we shall continue to press the Russians, both bilaterally and in the CSCE meeting in Vienna, on these issues.

Some briefing is attached.

C.D.P.

CHARLES POWELL

5 May 1987

BM2BES



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

5 May 1987

cc PC
cc P/Up
✓

Dear Charles,

Prime Minister's Meeting with Mr Sharansky: 6 May

Thank you for your letter of 1 May enclosing a note of the points Mr Sharansky has asked to discuss with the Prime Minister at their meeting on 6 May; and requesting a brief.

This is enclosed, in the form of self-explanatory points on which the Prime Minister may wish to draw on each of the subjects listed by Mr Sharansky, and relevant background.

Mr Sharansky was last in the UK in September 1986 when he called on the Prime Minister (on 23 September) and Mr Renton in the FCO. (He will be seeing Mr Renton and officials on 7 May on this occasion). Mr Sharansky tends to the view that the West should do more to enforce upon the Soviet Union a linkage between human rights and other areas.

In recent months Mr Sharansky has: attended the 43rd Session of the UN Commission on Human Rights (February/March); attended the European Parliament Plenary Session (early April) where he opened an exhibition on refuseniks, and spoken at the birthday celebrations for Ida Nudel in Israel on 27 April. You will recall that HM Ambassador in Tel Aviv sent a message of support to the organisers of the latter event on the Prime Minister's behalf.

The Prime Minister may also wish to ask Mr Sharansky's impression of prospects for relations between the Soviet Union and Israel. There have recently been conflicting public Soviet statements about a visit by a Consular delegation to Israel: Deputy Foreign Minister Petrovsky said in Kuwait on 19 April that it had been cancelled, but a Soviet MFA press spokesman said on 24 April that preparations for it were in hand.

The Russians have also blurred their position on Soviet Jewish emigration following Israeli and American Jewish leaks about specific Soviet understanding to give exit visas for 11,000 Soviet Jewish refuseniks this year and to improve conditions for the practise of Judaism in the Soviet Union. This may, however, be no more than a reluctance to be pushed into confirming publicly statements intended to be kept in private.

/Gorbachev



Gorbachev provided the current Soviet statement of Soviet/Israeli relations in his speech on 24 April for President Asad when he said that the absence of Soviet relations with Israel could not be considered normal, but that they could only be normalised in the context of Israel's agreement to a peace settlement.

Yours ever,
A C Galsworthy

(A C Galsworthy)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
PS/10 Downing Street



PRIME MINISTER'S MEETING WITH NATAN SHARANSKY: 6 MAY 1987

Points to Make

Restriction on Emigration and Religious Practise

- Should set our sights high: freedom to practise one's religion and freedom to leave one's country for all. Our arguments should start from fact that we seek only for Soviet Union to observe its international commitments (including Helsinki Final Act) and freedoms set out in its own constitution.

- Have welcomed in Vienna and Moscow progress made by Soviet authorities, and stated that long way still to go. Right to acknowledge improvements, even if small.

- Will aim to secure strongest possible language on these questions in any final text of Vienna meeting. Also Western proposal on Human Dimension provides for continuous monitoring mechanism.

New Emigration Law

- We are not allowing the law to distract attention from the fact that emigration should be a right.

- Our delegation in Vienna has repeatedly questioned Soviet delegation on how new legislation is intended to work in practice; and on numerical impact. Satisfactory answers not received. Will continue to press.

- Russians have told us new law will increase numbers allowed to leave. Figures so far are improved. But aware of fears that no new applications will be allowed, and that legislation will be strictly applied to exclude applicants on ground of lack of 1st degree relatives abroad, security etc.



- Raised these questions strongly with Gorbachev in Moscow. Will continue to do so and to monitor situation closely.

Jackson/Vanik Amendment/Economic and Cultural Sanctions

- Not convinced Jackson/Vanik was the main cause of increased emigration in late 1970's. Other factors also at work. No impact since 1979. (Afghanistan).
- Oppose general economic sanctions, particularly where target is a large developed economy such as Soviet Union. Effectiveness doubtful and may actually be counterproductive.
- Similarly not in favour of sustained cultural boycotts. Our aim at present is to increase contacts between peoples, take advantage of opportunities offered by glasnost. Contact offers opportunities to urge better human rights.

Postal Communications

- We frequently raise non-delivery of mail with the Soviet authorities.
- UK tabled a proposal on freedom of postal communications of the CSCE Berne meeting a year ago. No final document then, but tabled again in Vienna with a view to inclusion in any final document.
- Will maintain pressure in multilateral fora and bilateral contacts.



BACKGROUND

1. Sharansky was born in 1948. He was a prominent Jewish activist and founder member of Helsinki monitor organisation. He was arrested and sentenced in 1978 to 3 years imprisonment and 10 in a labour camp, on a charge of treason, anti-Soviet agitation and propaganda (Russians alleged that he worked for the Americans, a claim which President Carter publicly denied). He was released in February 1986 as part of East/West exchange and now lives with his wife Avital in Jerusalem. His family were allowed to join him in August 1986.
2. Western proposal on human dimension attached.
3. The amendments to the Soviet law on emigration which came into effect on 1 January appear largely a tabulation of existing practise. However there are indications that the Soviet authorities, while offering assurances that outstanding applications to emigrate will be dealt with expeditiously under the new law, are refusing to accept new applications where no close relatives abroad are involved. Applications are also still being turned down on grounds of access to state secrets.
4. Figures for Jewish emigration have been rising this year: 717 were allowed to leave in April, following 470 (March); 146 (February); 92 (January).
5. The Jackson/Vanik amendment to the US Trade Act (1974) was aimed primarily at the Soviet Union and prohibited the conclusion of favourable trade agreements (including the granting of MFN status) with communist countries unless the President was assured that their policies were leading to freer emigration. In such a case, the President could waive such restrictions for up to one year without Congressional



approval. The passage of this amendment and Soviet rejection of it effectively prevented the implementation of the 1972 US-Soviet Trade Agreement. The amendment remains in force and seems unlikely to be substantially altered in the near future. There is no hard evidence that passage of the amendment led directly to increased Jewish emigration from the Soviet Union.

6. Proposal tabled by the UK at Vienna on freedom of postal communications attached.

10

National Council for Soviet Jewry

of the United Kingdom and Ireland
College House
4a New College Parade
Finchley Road
London NW3 5EP
Tel: 01-586 5742/3



nb/jip


C. D. Powell, Esq.
Private Secretary,
10, Downing Street,
London, SW1A 2AA

1st May 1987

Dear Mr. Powell,

At the request of Mr. Sharansky I enclose a list of matters he would like to raise with the Prime Minister at their meeting next Wednesday, 6th May 1987.

Yours sincerely,


NEIL BRADMAN
Chairman

Patrons: His Grace the Duke of Devonshire, The Rt. Hon. Dr. David Owen MP. The Rt. Hon. Peter Archer QC MP. The Chief Rabbi Sir Immanuel Jakobovits.
His Honour Judge Lachs. Professor Sir Stanley Peart FRS. Professor D. Brian Spalding. Edward Fox. Lord Chapple.

President: The President of the Board of Deputies of British Jews Dr. Lionel Kopelowitz JP. Hon. Vice Presidents: Arieh L Handler, Andrew Balcombe., June Jacobs.
Chairman: Neil Bradman. Vice Chairmen: Rita Eker, Cynthia Jacobs. Treasurers: B.A. Berman FCA. Jeffrey Pinnick FCA.
Hon. Secretaries: Linda Isaacs, Sylvia Sheff J.P. Hon. Solicitors: Victor Mishcon & Co.

PRIME MINISTER, 10, Downing Street, London, SW1A 2AA

6 p.m. 6th MAY 1987

1. The nature and scale of relaxation of restrictions on emigration and religious practise which the West should seek at the present time having regard to the Helsinki Agreement and current East-West negotiations.
2. The new emigration law and its treatment at the CSCE talks in Vienna.
3. The continuing importance of the Jackson/Vanik amendment.
4. The role of agreements with the Soviet Union involving co-operation in science and technology.
5. The British Government's approach to economic and cultural sanctions.
6. The need for action to improve postal communication between refuseniks and the West.

1st May 1987



BM

10 DOWNING STREET

LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

1 May 1987

As you know, the Prime Minister is to see Mr. Sharansky next week. He has now notified us of the points which he would like to discuss. I enclose his note. It would be very helpful if the department could do a short brief.

(C.D. Powell)

Lyn Parker, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

bcc

Tessa
Confirmed.
CM

PRIME MINISTER

Charles

||| would 6.00 pm. on
~~Thursday~~ Wednesday 6th
be OK? Tessa 24/4

You have said that you will see Mr. Sharansky when he is in London on 5-7 May. However, before I put a time in the diary can I just draw to your attention how very busy those particular days are. You will see from the attached that on Tuesday 5, there is a gap between 1630-1730 which Stephen has asked that I keep free in case you wish to do any Manifesto work. On Wednesday 6, there is a gap between 1800-1945, but as this precedes the dinner for the President of Mozambique I am loathe to put anything here in case you wish to clear your boxes, etc. On Thursday, there is a keep free after Questions and again Stephen has asked for this to be kept free in case you need to do any Manifesto work.

I could put Mr. Sharansky for, say, quarter of an hour in one of these times but are you happy for me to do so?

I think I must
not

Tessa

MRS. TESSA GAISMAN

23 April 1987

Tuesday 5 May

0750 Hair?
0900-0930 Questions briefing
1000 MISC 128
1100 Meeting of Ministers + DN
1200 Meeting of Ministers + DN
1300 Lunch and Questions briefing
1515 Questions H/C
1545 Ralph Howell MP + MA
1615 Return to No.10
1630-1730 Free
1730 A. Steen MP + MA
1800-1900 Keep free for Scottish Conference
Speech
2000 Keep free

Wednesday 6 May

Half day regional tour
Return after lunch
1545 Keep free
1600 Talks with President of Mozambique
1700 Chancellor of the Exchequer + DN
1730 Foreign Secretary + CDP
1800-1945 Free
1945 for Dinner in honour of President
2000 of Mozambique No.10

Thursday 7 May

0830 Hair
0900 Questions Briefing Team
1000 Cabinet
1130 E(A)
1300 Lunch and Questions Briefing
1515 Questions
1545 Keep free for SS H/C
1730-1830 E(A)

PRIME MINISTER

Mr Sharansky has resuscitated his visit to London for 5/7 May and has renewed his request to see you. There is probably some interest and benefit in this. Agree to see him briefly?

EST

Yes m

Charles Powell

22 April 1987

File ✓

PRIME MINISTER

Mr Sharansky has resuscitated his visit to London for 5/7 May and has renewed his request to see you. There is probably some interest and benefit in this. Agree to see him briefly?

Charles Powell

22 April 1987

Prime Minister

(2)

You might like to see this very helpful press conference

^H
MR SCHARANSKY SPEAKS TO MEDIA

AFTER HIS MEETING WITH THE PRIME MINISTER, 10 DOWNING ST

TUESDAY 23 SEPTEMBER 1986

ms

CDP
23/9.

S: Well, I'm very satisfied with our meeting with the Prime Minister. I see that we have very good friend, she is a good friend of Soviet Jews' struggle for their right to go to Israel, for other oppressed people in the Soviet Union, a good friend of Israel. I was surprised but I was glad to hear from Mrs Thatcher some points about Soviet Union which I do make all the time speaking with you. It means that the Prime Minister of Great Britain understanding very well their partners and I was satisfied to hear that the policy, the concern about the cause of human rights and the problem of Soviet Jews, thousands of Jews who want to immigrate, will be on the agenda, talks or negotiation with the Soviet Union. And the principle of linkage between the third basket of Helsinki Accord the first two will be, will remain and will be strength.

Q: Do you think she's doing all she can?

S: Well, I think that she is doing very good job. In my case Mrs Thatcher was public and quiet diplomacy, was actively involved in the struggle for my release and demonstrates, in fact her activity was one of good example the quiet diplomacy can work only if there is strong public pressure and she personally not only was meeting with my wife but was taking active part in this public campaign.

Q: If there anything more you would like to see the British Government do?

S: I'd like that in the next, when the continuation of the Helsinki process which will start very soon, they will be quite firm and clear position of the West, of all the Western Governments, on the question of linkage that there will be no attempts to dislink the problem of Soviet Jews who want to join their people in Israel from the other issues discussed in Helsinki as the attempt like this was in Berne and I have an impression from all my meetings which I had now in West European capitals with President François Mitterrand, in Belgian with the Foreign Minister, now with top officials of England, that in Vienna talks the position of the West will be strong.

Q: Was Mrs Thatcher encouraging?

S: Yes, she was encouraging. She shared my optimism and my hope and readiness to continue

Q: Did you talk about where Soviet Jewry should go when it leaves the Soviet Union?

S: No we didn't discuss this question.

Q: On a personal note, did you talk to Mrs Thatcher about how you were adjusting to life in the West?

S: No we had some personal discussion, very nice and very pleasant.

Q: Tape indistinct.

S: Well I told simply that I don't have any information, had no opportunity because of my tough schedule to read the reports about the this meeting but I understand that there was some statements of the Prime Minister during the last days that the problem of Soviet Jewry will be on the agenda of all the other negotiations with the Soviet Union and there will be, that no improvement in relations between Israel and Soviet Union are possible without improvement of the problem of Soviet Jewry. I hope that during the negotiations our Prime Minister was in this position.



JE VK4AJW
cpc

SUBJECT CC MASTER

10 DOWNING STREET ^{Meeting record}
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

23 September 1986

PRIME MINISTER'S MEETING WITH MR. SHCHARANSKY

The Prime Minister had a talk with Mr. Shcharansky this afternoon. The Israeli Ambassador was also present.

Mr. Shcharansky expressed great gratitude for the Prime Minister's constant interest in his fate and efforts to secure his release. His wife had told him that Mrs Thatcher had been willing to see her more often than any other world leader. Prisoners in the camps in the Soviet Union had been very cheered when the Prime Minister and President Reagan had been elected and shown themselves ready to take a firm line with the Soviet Union.

In a discussion of the best tactics for securing the release of further prisoners of conscience and refuseniks, the Prime Minister and Mr. Shcharansky agreed that there was a place both for public statements and private diplomacy. Mr. Shcharansky stressed the importance of preserving linkage between all three of the Helsinki baskets. It was also important not to get euphoric about the release of a small number of well known prisoners. The Prime Minister commented that we must never forget those whose names we did not know.

Mr. Shcharansky described the Daniloff case as typical hostage tactics by the KGB. The State Department's first reaction had been weak and the KGB had clearly seen an opportunity to win an important advantage. It now seemed that President Reagan was determined not to let the Russians get away with an easy victory. He was sure that the Soviet authorities would release Daniloff and probably soon, presenting it as a major concession which absolved them of the need to do anything else on the human rights front.

Mr. Shcharansky spoke of his feelings of guilt at the great efforts which had been made to secure his release and the fuss made of him on his arrival in the West. His thoughts were constantly with the thousands who remained behind in the camps. The Prime Minister said that Mr. Shcharansky was a symbol of hope for the others. He should continue his

JB

marvellous work in keeping the spotlight on the Soviet Union's outrageous conduct in the field of human rights.

CHARLES POWELL

C.R. Budd, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

CC BY UP

PRIME MINISTER

MEETING WITH MR. SHCHARANSKY

Mr. Shcharansky is coming to see you tomorrow afternoon. If you have no objection, the Israeli Ambassador will accompany him.

You met Mr. Shcharansky briefly in Jerusalem.

He continues his campaign for the release of Soviet Jewry and will want to quote you in support of it when he speaks to the press afterwards. While of course you support the objective, you favour discreet pressure while Mr. Shcharansky wants to link Jewish emigration explicitly with progress at the CSCE conference.

You might ask him for some first-hand impressions of the Soviet system; and how he thinks the Daniloff case will be resolved.

C.D.P.

C.D. POWELL

22 September 1986

BM2AVC

CONFIDENTIAL

cc PD
cc P/UP



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

19 September 1986

Dear Charles,

Prime Minister's Meeting with
Natan Shcharansky: 23 September

/ I enclose a brief for the Prime Minister's meeting with Mr Shcharansky.

The Israeli Ambassador has asked if he can accompany Mr Shcharansky both to his meeting with the Prime Minister and his meeting with Mr Renton. You will no doubt wish to consider this. In our view there is no need for Avner to be present: the reason for these calls, plainly enough, is Shcharansky's status as a prominent human rights activist and former Soviet dissident.

Yours ever,

Colin Budd

(C R Budd)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
PS/10 Downing Street

CONFIDENTIAL

PRIME MINISTER'S MEETING WITH NATAN SHCHARANSKY, TUESDAY
23 SEPTEMBER 1986

Your Objective

- To express pleasure at meeting him as a free man.
- To emphasise that HMG takes an interest in Soviet human rights.
- To welcome his constructive suggestions about how HMG could be more effective in its representations to the Soviet Union.
- To invite his views on development of Israeli/Soviet relations.

His Objective

- To criticise Western European failure to do more to relieve plight of Soviet Jewry, in particular at Berne CSCE Meeting on Human Contacts.
- To persuade HMG to be more vociferous in condemnation of Soviet Human Rights abuses, and to be prepared to use "linkage" to obtain better Soviet behaviour.

Your Argument

1. Great admiration for way in which you stood up against repressive machinery of state. Glad that I have opportunity to meet you as a free man, and that your family have now been allowed to join you in Israel.
2. Assure you that we do not forget those in Soviet Union who still suffer for their beliefs and who are still not allowed to emigrate. Inconsistent with Gorbachev's attempt to improve relations with West, and to win support with Western publics.
3. Issue of Soviet Jewry raised by British Government with Soviet authorities on many occasions, most recently by me with Shevardnadze in July. Will continue to press Soviet Union to honour their commitments under Helsinki Final Act. Soviet Jewry will certainly be addressed at CSCE Follow-Up Meeting, Vienna.



4. Note that level of Jewish emigration from Soviet Union has increased in last two months to one hundred. A small move in the right direction but still unacceptably low. Little evidence that change in Soviet policy imminent.

5. Your views on prospects for Israeli/Soviet relations.

His Arguments

1. Western European Governments should be more vociferous in condemnation of Soviet human rights abuses: and tougher at Vienna CSCE Follow-Up Meeting than they were at Berne Human Contacts Meeting. They should use "linkage" to obtain Soviet improvements.

2. Position of Soviet Jewry worse under Gorbachev than under Brezhnev. Emigration down from c. 57,000 a year peak in late seventies.

Your Response

1. Sir Geoffrey Howe meeting Shevardnadze today, will raise human rights issues. British Ministers do so at every suitable opportunity. Believe that there is role for quiet diplomacy, complementing efforts of individuals and NGOs.

2. Little we can do in response to many appeals we receive on behalf of individual refuseniks. Must have applied to go to third country (Israel or US); we have no standing to raise this with Soviet government. They would refuse to discuss.

3. Your suggestions about what we might do.

4. Do not believe simple linkage of human rights improvements to trade/arms control "concessions" by the West will work. But do believe, and tell Russians, that the extent to which Western governments can carry their public in developing trade and other links is affected by public perception of Soviet behaviour.

CSCE

5. [If he argues that acceptance of Berne Agreement would have excluded Soviet Jews from the Human Rights clauses of the Helsinki Accords] Berne Agreement contained elements which could have been of use to individuals and groups in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, including members of the Jewish communities. Agreement on postal violations among those we have pressed for a long time. West rejected any formulations which effectively excluded Soviet Jews.

Vienna Follow-Up Meeting

5. UK (and western) objective will be to keep alive steady pressure on Soviet Union for better performance on human rights/Basket III (humanitarian issues). We will not allow Russians to get away with proposition that Ottawa/Budapest/Berne were disappointing and that CSCE should turn to easier subjects for cooperation.

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PRIME MINISTER'S MEETING WITH NATAN SHCHARANSKY, 23 SEPTEMBER

ESSENTIAL FACTS

Shcharansky

1. Born 1948. Prominent Jewish activist, founder member of Helsinki monitor organisation. Arrested, sentenced in 1978 to 3 years imprisonment and 10 in a labour camp, on a charge of treason, anti-Soviet agitation and propaganda (Russians alleged that he worked for the Americans, a claim which President Carter publicly denied). Released February 1986, as part of East/West exchange. Now lives with his wife Avital in Jerusalem. His family were allowed to join him in August 1986.

2. Shcharansky has criticised Western European governments for not taking a hard enough line on the issue of Soviet Jewry at eg the Berne CSCE Meeting on Human Contacts [see attached article from "The Observer"]

Berne Human Contacts Meeting

3. Berne Expert Meeting on Human Contacts took place 15 April-27 May this year. The meeting ended without a concluding document as a result of US blocking compromise text at last minute. US concerned at lack of attention to Jewish problem (and claimed that the Helsinki text would have been undermined).

4. The draft concluding document made no reference to Soviet Jewry, but said nothing which would have effectively excluded them.

Background for Vienna

5. This week preparatory meeting opens 23 September. Main meeting convenes 4 November, open ended, could last 1 to 2 years.

6. At Vienna consideration will be given to balance between all 3 baskets;

- i. General principles including human rights, security.
- ii. Economy, science and technology, environment.
- iii. Humanitarian issues

Soviet Department
19 September 1986

✓
10 September 1986

Thank you for sending me a fresh copy of your letter of 30 July. We were able to trace the original and I see that a reply was sent to you on 8 September. I hope it has now arrived.

P.A. BEARPARK

Ms Margaret Rigal

slw

GR?

WOMEN'S CAMPAIGN FOR SOVIET JEWRY



MR/JA

Co-Chairmen: RITA EKER, MARGARET RIGAL

755A Finchley Road, London NW11 8DL

Telephone 01-458 7148/9

Mr. Andrew Bearpark
10 Downing Street

LONDON SW1

9th September, 1986.

BY HAND

=====

Dear Mr. Bearpark,

PP's attached

I enclose a copy of our letter to Mrs. Thatcher and should be most grateful if you would let me know whether we shall have the pleasure of her company and if not, whether she will be sending Sharansky a message of greeting.

Yours sincerely,

Margaret Rigal
on behalf of
35's (Women's Campaign for Soviet Jewry)

*T7 for sending me a
further copy of your letter
of 30 July. We were able
to trace the original and I
see that a reply was sent to
you on 8 Sept. I hope
it has now arrived.*

encl.

MR/JA

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

30th July, 1986.

Dear Mrs. Thatcher,

We have now made arrangements for Natan (Anatoly) Sharansky to visit this country for a week from 21st September.

His first public engagement will be at the Royal Albert Hall on Sunday, 21st September at 7.30 p.m.

We should, of course, all be delighted if you and Mr. Thatcher were able to be with us on that occasion as your support has been of such great importance in the campaign for his release.

However, as you told us in your letter of 11th June, your engagements in the autumn are very heavy and we should therefore be grateful if we may take advantage of your kind offer to send us a message.

With every good wish to you both,

Yours sincerely,

Rita Eker and Margaret Rigal
on behalf of
35's (Women's Campaign for Soviet Jewry)

PM: Meeting with Sharansky July 8



The Hon. Mrs. ...
Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
London SW1

It is a pleasure to have you with us...
The first public statement will be at the House of Commons...
of course, it is difficult to say...
on this occasion as your support...
in your interest...
at you told us in your letter of 11th June...
in the future and very happy...
day take advantage of your visit...
With every good wish to you both,
Yours sincerely,

David Owen
and
Margaret Thatcher
The Prime Minister's Office
10 Downing Street
London SW1



10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

THE PRIME MINISTER

8 September 1986

Dear Mrs. Eker.

Thank you for your letter of 30 July inviting me to attend the meeting organised by the Women's Campaign for Soviet Jewry at the Royal Albert Hall on 21 September.

Regrettably I will be unable to attend the meeting. But I should like to pass on the following message to those who will be present.

"Natan Shcharansky came to be seen by the whole world as the symbol of the brave individual standing up to the repressive machinery of the state. We all rejoiced at his release. We rejoice now that his family have been allowed to join him in Israel.

But we also remember those in the Soviet Union who still suffer for their beliefs and who are still not allowed to leave. I and my colleagues in the Government will not forget them. We shall continue to press the Soviet authorities to honour their commitments under the Helsinki Final Act, until the day when people in the Soviet Union are assured their basic human rights."

I have been approached separately by the Israeli Ambassador about the possibility of a meeting with Mr. Shcharansky, and am arranging this through him.

Yours sincerely

Margaret Thatcher

Ms. Rita Eker and Ms. Margaret Rigal.

VB



Flett
cd/p Cradock

10 DOWNING STREET

LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

8 September 1986

DF ||| Thank you for your letter of
1 September about Mr. Shcharansky.
The Prime Minister would like to see
him and could do so at 1400 on Monday
22 September. I should be grateful
if you could convey an invitation
to him.

CHARLES POWELL

Colin Budd, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

da



File JA
oct 20

10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

THE PRIME MINISTER

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Yours sincerely

Margaret Thatcher

Ms. Rita Eker and Ms. Margaret Rigal.

SB

PRIME MINISTER

MR. SHCHARANSKY

You will wish to know that Mr. Shcharansky is visiting the United Kingdom in the week beginning 21 September and the Israeli Ambassador has suggested that you might like to meet him briefly. I think that this would be a good idea, despite the other calls on your time. There would be a great deal of media interest. We could probably fit him in on 22 September.

Agree to see Mr. Shcharansky?

CDP

CDP

2 September 1986

Y
10 mb

P.S. Agree to sign the attached letter?
CDP



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

1 September 1986

Dear Charles,

Thank you for your letter of 31 July enclosing a letter the Prime Minister had received from the Women's Campaign for Soviet Jewry inviting her to a meeting to hear Natan Shcharansky.

/ As requested, I enclose a draft reply containing a short message which the Prime Minister may wish to send to the Women's Campaign.

--/ I also enclose a copy of a letter which Sir David Miers has received from Mr Moshe Raviv, the Minister Plenipotentiary at the Israeli Embassy, asking whether the Prime Minister and Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary would be able to meet Mr Shcharansky during his visit to the UK. Sir Geoffrey will be away at the UN General Assembly while Mr Shcharansky is in this country. In his absence Mr Renton will be taking up the Israeli Minister's invitation to see Shcharansky. Sir Geoffrey believes that the Prime Minister may wish to see him also.

You may recall that President Reagan met Mr Shcharansky during the latter's visit to Washington in May. If the Prime Minister agrees, Mr Raviv would be the right interlocutor through whom to make arrangements for the meeting.

Yours ever,

Colin Budd

(C R Budd)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
PS/10 Downing Street

DSR (Revised Sept 85)

DRAFT: minute/letter/teleletter/despatch/note

TYPE: Draft/Final 1 +

FROM:
PRIME MINISTER
DEPARTMENT:

TEL. NO:

Reference

BUILDING:

ROOM NO:

Your Reference

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

TO:

Copies to: JAB ADV

Top Secret

Secret

Confidential

Restricted

Unclassified

Rita Eker and Margaret Rigal
Women's Campaign for Soviet Jewry
755A Finchley Road
LONDON NW11 8DL

SUBJECT:

PRIVACY MARKING

..... In Confidence

Thank you for your letter of 30 July inviting me to attend the meeting organised by the Women's Campaign for Soviet Jewry at the Royal Albert Hall on 21 September.

CAVEAT

Regrettably I will be unable to attend the meeting. But I should like to pass on the following message to those who will be present.

" Natan Shcharansky came to be seen by the whole world as the symbol of the brave individual standing up to the repressive machinery of the state. We all rejoiced at his release. We rejoice now that his family have been allowed to join him in Israel.

But we also remember those in the Soviet Union who still suffer for their beliefs and who are still not allowed to leave. I and my colleagues in the Government will not forget them. We shall continue to press the Soviet authorities to honour their commitments under the Helsinki Final Act, until the day when people in the Soviet Union are assured their basic human rights.

Enclosures flag(s)

.../I

I have been approached separately by the Israeli
Ambassador about the possibility of a meeting with
Mr Shcharansky, and am arranging this through him.



EMBASSY OF ISRAEL
2 PALACE GREEN
LONDON W8 4QB
Telephone: 01-937 8050

שגרירות ישראל
לונדון

8 August 1986

Sir David Miers KBE CMG
Assistant Under-Secretary of State
Middle East Department
Foreign & Commonwealth Office
Downing Street East
LONDON SW1

Dear Sir David,

Mr Natan Scharansky will be visiting England during the week of September 21. Various organisations which are active on behalf of Soviet Jewry are handling his programme. In view of the continuous efforts of the British Government to ease the plight of Soviet Jewry, and its numerous interventions on behalf of Scharansky personally, we would be most appreciative if Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and Sir Geoffrey Howe would be able to receive him during his visit to the United Kingdom.

With every good wish

Yours sincerely
Moshe Raviv
MOSHE RAVIV
Minister Plenipotentiary

Riva EVTR

SKW

29/8

31 July 1986

I enclose a copy of a letter to the Prime Minister from the indefatigable Women's Campaign for Soviet Jewry. The Prime Minister will not be able to attend the meeting at the Royal Albert Hall, but would, I am sure, be ready to send a message. Could you please let me have a draft by the end of August.

(C. D. POWELL)

Colin Budd, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

JR



10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

089
31 ^{July} ~~March~~ 1986

Thank you for your letter of 30 July. I fear it is very unlikely that the Prime Minister will be able to attend the meeting on 21 September, but I am sure that she will be ready to send a message. I will try to let you have this in early September.

Charles Powell

Mrs. Rita Eker

JE

CDP
2/9 w/c Friday. Recanned
message? MGA 31/7

WOMEN'S CAMPAIGN FOR SOVIET JEWRY

35's

RE/JA

Co-Chairmen: RITA EKER, MARGARET RIGAL

755A Finchley Road, London NW11 8DL
Telephone 01-458 7148/9

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

30th July, 1986.

R31

Dear Mrs. Thatcher,

We are sorry to hear that you are about to undergo surgery and very much hope that you will soon be entirely recovered.

Natan (Anatoly) Sharansky will be coming to England in September and we are organising a meeting at the Royal Albert Hall on 21st September, 1986, as his first public engagement here.

We should, of course, enormously appreciate your joining us on that occasion but if you cannot be with us, we should be most grateful if you would send a message of welcome to him. He knows, as do all of us, that your support for him was of indisputable benefit to him and also gave a wonderful example to other world figures.

As I am sure you know, Avital is expecting a baby in the autumn and we are all looking forward to the happy ending of their particular story.

With renewed good wishes,

Yours sincerely,



Rita Eker and Margaret Rigal

on behalf of
35's (Women's Campaign for Soviet Jewry)



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