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CONFIDENTIAL FILING

Womens Campaign for Soviet Jewry
The Case of Ida Nudel
The Case of Anatoly Shcharansky
The Case of Alexander Paritsky

SOVIET UNION

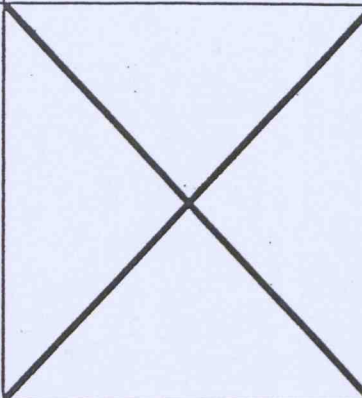
PT 1: June 1979

PT 2: February 1987

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| 23.2.87. | | 3.11.88 | | | | | |
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PREM 19 / 3186

A The National Archives

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| DEPARTMENT/SERIES <i>prem 19</i> PIECE/ITEM <i>3186</i> (one piece/item number) | Date and sign |
| Extract details: <i>BERNARD INSHAM TO MR POWERE</i> <i>INC ATTACHMENTS</i> <i>DATED 20 NOVEMBER 1990</i> |  |
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| RETAINED UNDER SECTION 3(4) OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS ACT 1958 | |
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Women's Campaign for Soviet Jewry

Co-Chairmen: RITA EKER, MARGARET RIGAL
PANNELL HOUSE
779/781, Finchley Road, London NW11 8DN

TEL: 081-458 7148/9 FAX 081-458 9971

Prime Minister

ODM

13/6

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

MR/pmf

12th June 1990

mt

Dear Mrs. Thatcher,

We were thrilled to hear that you had laid a wreath at Babi Yar on behalf of the Jewish women and children murdered and buried there. It was an imaginative and much appreciated gesture and we are all most grateful.

Thank you also for receiving the Soviet Jewish Refuseniks and for bringing up their cases with the Soviet Authorities.

No doubt, you heard at first hand the fears felt by many Soviet Jews over the increasing and anti-Semitic violence within the USSR and you will understand how anxious we all are that those who wish to leave should be allowed to emigrate while they are still unharmed. We fear that they face increasing danger.

With many, many thanks from all of us here and from the Soviet Jews themselves.

Yours sincerely,

Rita Eker

Rita Eker

Margaret Rigal

Margaret Rigal

~~TOP SECRET~~ SUBJECT CC MASTER
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CONFIDENTIAL
PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. T 781/90

013060
MDHOAN 7142

CONFIDENTIAL

FM FCO

TO IMMEDIATE TEL AVIV

TELNO 64

OF 181500Z APR 90

INFO IMMEDIATE WASHINGTON, MOSCOW, UKMIS NEW YORK

INFO ROUTINE JERUSALEM, CAIRO, AMMAN, TUNIS

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IMMIGRATION OF SOVIET JEWS: MESSAGE FROM SHAMIR TO PRIME MINISTER

1. THE PRIME MINISTER HAS RECEIVED A MESSAGE DATED 28 MARCH FROM MR SHAMIR ABOUT THE IMMIGRATION OF SOVIET JEWS. TEXT IN MIFT.

2. PLEASE DELIVER THE FOLLOWING REPLY AS SOON AS POSSIBLE:
BEGINS

THANK YOU FOR YOUR MESSAGE OF 28 MARCH ABOUT THE EMIGRATION OF SOVIET JEWS TO ISRAEL.

IT IS INDEED A MOST WELCOME DEVELOPMENT THAT THE JEWS IN THE SOVIET UNION ARE NOW FREE TO TRAVEL TO ISRAEL AND ELSEWHERE. THIS IS AN OUTCOME TO WHICH, AS YOU RIGHTLY SAY, I HAVE BEEN PERSONALLY COMMITTED FOR MANY YEARS. I AM GLAD THAT YOU APPRECIATE THE FIRM POSITION WHICH WE AND OUR EUROPEAN PARTNERS HAVE TAKEN ON THIS IMPORTANT QUESTION, NOTABLY IN THE STATEMENT ISSUED IN DUBLIN ON 20 FEBRUARY.

YOU WILL HAVE NOTED HOWEVER THAT THIS STATEMENT ALSO SAID THAT THE ATTAINMENT BY SOVIET JEWS OF THEIR RIGHTS TO LEAVE THE SOVIET UNION MUST NOT BE AT THE EXPENSE OF THE RIGHTS OF THE PALESTINIANS IN THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES. I MADE THE SAME POINT IN A SPEECH I GAVE TO THE BOARD OF DEPUTIES OF BRITISH JEWS ON 18 FEBRUARY.

YOU SAY THAT FEWER THAN ONE PER CENT OF THE SOVIET IMMIGRANTS HAVE CHOSEN TO SETTLE IN THE WEST BANK OR GAZA. MAY I MAKE TWO POINTS. FIRST, THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES INCLUDE IN OUR VIEW NOT ONLY THE WEST BANK AND GAZA, BUT ALSO THE GOLAN HEIGHTS AND EAST JERUSALEM. IF ONE INCLUDES THOSE IMMIGRANTS WHO MAY CHOOSE TO SETTLE IN EAST JERUSALEM AND ITS SUBURBS, THE NUMBERS INVOLVED ARE NOT SO SMALL. MORE IMPORTANT, HOWEVER, IT IS NOT JUST A QUESTION OF NUMBERS, BUT OF INTERNATIONAL LAW. WE REGARD THE SETTLING OF SOVIET JEWISH IMMIGRANTS IN ANY PART OF THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES, INCLUDING EAST JERUSALEM, AS ILLEGAL AS A MATTER OF PRINCIPLE.

IT WOULD BE DEEPLY REGRETTABLE IF THE PROGRESS WHICH HAS BEEN MADE ON THE PEACE PROCESS OVER THE LAST 18 MONTHS WERE TO BE

JEOPARDISED BY THIS MATTER.

ENDS

3. THERE WILL BE NO (NO) SIGNED ORIGINAL.

HURD

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DISTRIBUTION

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MAIN 132

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NENAD
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SOVIET D
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PLANNERS
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PS/MR SAINSBURY
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MR P J WESTON
CHIEF CLERK
MR TOMKYS
MR GORE-BOOTH
MR SLATER
MR GREENSTOCK
MR MOSS
MISS R SPENCER

ADDITIONAL 12

ARAB/ISRAEL

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CONFIDENTIAL



*File 88
CPC*

10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

17 April 1990

ISRAEL

Thank you for your letter of 17 April covering a draft reply from the Prime Minister to Mr. Shamir's message about the immigration of Soviet Jews.

The Prime Minister is content with the reply, subject to one or two minor changes. I enclose the approved version which may be despatched.

C. D. POWELL

R. N. Peirce, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office
CONFIDENTIAL

cele
①



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

17 April 1990

Prime Minister

Agree to add this

message in the
Shamir attached?
form attached?

Dear Charles

Israel

Thank you for your letter of 9 April enclosing a copy of one the Prime Minister has received from the Israeli Prime Minister.

As a result of Mr Peres' announcement on 11 April of his inability to form a government, Mr Shamir remains Prime Minister of Israel for the moment. I enclose a draft reply to him in the form of a telegram to Tel Aviv, together with a copy of the EC statement to which Mr Shamir refers in his message and a copy of the Prime Minister's remarks to the Board of Deputies of British Jews, to which she might refer in her reply.

CDP
17/4

Answers Yes not
both

(R N Peirce)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
10 Downing Street

OUT TELEGRAM

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| | | Classification CONFIDENTIAL | Caveat | Precedence IMMEDIATE |
| ZCZC | 1 | ZCZC | | |
| TC | 2 | CONFIDENTIAL | | |
| CAVEAT | 3 | | | |
| FM | 4 | FM FCO | | |
| TO | 5 | TO IMMEDIATE TEL AVIV | | |
| TELNO | 6 | TELNO | | |
| OF | 7 | OF Z APR 90 | | |
| AND TO | 8 | INFO IMMEIDATE WASHINGTON, MOSCOW, UKMIS NEW YORK | | |
| | 9 | INFO ROUTINE JERUSALEM, CAIRO, AMMAN, TUNIS | | |
| | 10 | | | |
| | 11 | IMMIGRATION OF SOVIET JEWS: MESSAGE FROM SHAMIR TO PRIME | | |
| | 12 | MINISTER | | |
| | 13 | 1. The Prime Minister has received a message dated 28 march | | |
| | 14 | from Mr Shamir about the <u>immigration</u> of Soviet Jews. Text in | | |
| | 15 | MIFT. | | |
| | 16 | 2. Please deliver the following reply as soon as possible: | | |
| | 17 | BEGINS | | |
| | 18 | Thank you for your message of 28 March about the emigration | | |
| | 19 | of Soviet Jews to Israel. | | |
| | 20 | It is indeed a most welcome development that the Jews in | | |
| | 21 | the Soviet Union are now free to travel to Israel and elsewhere. | | |
| | 22 | This is an outcome to which, as you rightly <u>say</u> , I have been | | |
| | 23 | personally committed for many years. I am glad that you | | |
| | 24 | appreciate the firm position which we and our European partners | | |
| | 25 | have taken on this important question, notably in the statement | | |
| /// | 26 | issued in Dublin on <u>20</u> February. | | |
| // | 27 | You will have noted however that this statement also said | | |
| / | 28 | that the attainment by Soviet Jews of their rights to leave the | | |
| | 29 | Soviet Union must not be at the expense of the rights of the | | |
| | | | | |
| YYYY | | | Catchword: Palestinians | |
| MAIN | | File number | Dept NENAD | Drafted by (Block capitals) C H SALVESEN |
| ADDITIONAL | | | | Telephone no 2456 |
| NNNN | | Authorised for despatch by: | Initials | Date/time |
| | | For COD use only | Comcen reference | Telegram number |
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OUT TELEGRAM (CONT)

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| | CONFIDENTIAL | | IMMEDIATE |
| 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 | <p>Palestinians in the Occupied Territories. I made the same point in a speech I gave to the Board of Deputies of British Jews on 18 February.</p> <p>You say that fewer than one per cent of the Soviet immigrants have chosen to settle in the West Bank or Gaza. May I make two points. First, the Occupied Territories include in our view not only the West Bank and Gaza, but also the Golan Heights and East Jerusalem. If one includes those immigrants who may choose to settle in East Jerusalem and its suburbs, the numbers involved are not so small. More important, however, it is not just a question of numbers, but of international law. We regard the settling of Soviet Jewish immigrants in any part of the Occupied Territories, including East Jerusalem, as illegal as a matter of principle.</p> <p>It would be deeply regrettable if the progress which has been made on the peace process over the last 18 months were to be jeopardised by this matter.</p> <p>ENDS</p> <p>3. There will be no (no) signed original.</p> <p>HURD</p> <p>YYYY</p> <p>MAIN</p> <p>ARAB/ISRAEL</p> <p>ADDITIONAL</p> <p>ARAB/ISRAEL</p> <p>NNNN</p> | | |
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Palestinians in the Occupied Territories. I made the same point in a speech I gave to the Board of Deputies of British Jews on 18 February.

You say that fewer than one per cent of the Soviet immigrants have chosen to settle in the West Bank or Gaza. May I make two points. First, the Occupied Territories include in our view not only the West Bank and Gaza, but also the Golan Heights and East Jerusalem. If one includes those immigrants who may choose to settle in East Jerusalem, ^{and its suburbs} the numbers involved are not so small. More important, however, it is not just a question of numbers, but of international law. We regard the settling of Soviet Jewish immigrants in any part of the Occupied Territories, including East Jerusalem, as illegal as a matter of principle. // It would be deeply regrettable if the progress which has been made on the peace process over the last 18 months were to be jeopardised by the ~~settlement of further Israeli citizens in territory whose final status remains to be determined by negotiations.~~ ^{the settlement of further Israeli citizens in territory whose final status remains to be determined by negotiations.}

ENDS

3. There will be no (no) signed original.

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For distribution order see Page

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| AND TO | 8 | INFO IMMEDIATE WASHINGTON, MOSCOW, UKMIS NEW YORK | | |
| | 9 | INFO ROUTINE JERUSALEM, CAIRO, AMMAN AND TUNIS | | |
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| | 11 | MIPT : IMMIGRATION OF SOVIET JEWS : MESSAGE FROM SHAMIR TO THE | | |
| | 12 | PRIME MINISTER | | |
| | 13 | 1. Following is the text of Shamir's message to the Prime | | |
| | 14 | Minister, dated 28 March: | | |
| | 15 | BEGINS | | |
| | 16 | I take the liberty of writing to you on an important matter, | | |
| | 17 | one which pertains to the raison d'etre of the State of Israel | | |
| | 18 | and that is of cardinal importance to the Jewish people. | | |
| | 19 | The opening of the gates of the Soviet Union to Jewish | | |
| | 20 | emigration is an expression of the great and positive changes | | |
| | 21 | that have been taking place in the world. It is an answer to | | |
| | 22 | our hopes and efforts, which were shared by a number of | | |
| | 23 | countries and leaders, including the United Kingdom, to allow | | |
| | 24 | Soviet Jews to fulfil their wish to be repatriated to the Jewish | | |
| | 25 | State. Unfortunately, these welcome and much desired | | |
| /// | 26 | developments have come up against unforeseen difficulties. While | | |
| // | 27 | we receive reports about the unstable situation facing the Jews | | |
| / | 28 | in the Soviet Union, Arab states and organisations are carrying | | |
| | 29 | out a co-ordinated international campaign against the | | |
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| ADDITIONAL | EADABW/SI | NENAD | C H SALVESEN | 270 2456 |
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2 Jewish immigration to Israel.

3 It must be noted that this campaign is not a new or a recent

4 phenomenon. The Arab states have fought against Jewish

5 immigration since the Balfour Declaration in 1917. The Arabs

6 realized then that, without immigration, the Jewish State would

7 never emerge. Even after they failed in their first attempt at

8 preventing the emergence of Israel, they never gave up their

9 resolve to stop Jewish immigration. During the twenties and

10 thirties, the Arabs not only waged a violent struggle against

11 the small Jewish community here, but they even launched a

12 diplomatic campaign which resulted in the imposition of

13 restrictions on Jewish immigration by the mandatory authorities.

14 Eventually, the country's gates were shut to Jewish

15 immigration just at the time when Jews were trying to escape the

16 Nazi storm and reach safe haven. The end is known. Europe

17 became one large graveyard for six million of our brethren.

18 This tragic chapter is deeply engraved in the consciousness of

19 the Jewish people and the State of Israel.

20 Against this background, Israel, with the help of its friends

21 around the world, has consistently struggled to ensure the

22 freedom of emigration to Israel of any Jew who wishes to do so.

23 It has also kept its own gates permanently open to such

24 immigrants and endeavoured to integrate them into its society

25 speedily and effectively. This, of course, applies to the

26 recent wave of Soviet immigrants as well. Like all Israelis,

27 they are free to choose where to reside, and like the majority

28 of Israelis, most of them have chosen to live close to sources

29 of employment, in the big cities and in the centre of the

30 country. Less than one percent of them have chosen to settle in

31 Judea, Samaria or Gaza. Nevertheless, our enemies have used

32 this miniscule number as an excuse to resume their war against

33 any Jewish immigration to Israel.

34 We appreciate the decision of the Ministers of the European

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// 32
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OUT TELEGRAM (CONT)

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Community council at their recent meeting in Dublin, to welcome both the opening of the gates of the Soviet Union and the Jewish emigration to Israel and other places. We believe this resolution to be an expression of European understanding that the raison d'etre of Israel is her role as the national home of the Jewish people and a potential place of refuge for every Jew. The campaign being waged by the Arab states against immigration to Israel strikes at what is most precious to our country. Unfortunately, it has already had some unfortunate results. This grave phenomenon has a most negative effect on public opinion in Israel and on the efforts to advance peace between Israel and her neighbours.

Dear Madam Prime Minister, Great Britain and you personally have been at the forefront of the international struggle for human rights in Eastern Europe. Your ongoing efforts to open the gates of the Soviet Union to Jews desiring to leave have borne fruit.

I would be very grateful if you would use your influence with the Arab countries so that they will desist from their war against Jewish immigration. A clear and determined stand on this humanitarian matter, on your part, will also have a positive influence on the Soviet authorities to facilitate the departure of Soviet Jews.

ENDS

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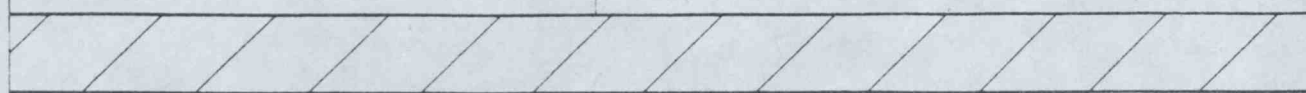
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ARAB/ISRAEL

ADDITIONAL

ARAB/ISRAEL

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STATEMENT BY THE TWELVE ON THE EXTENSION OF JEWISH
SETTLEMENTS IN THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES : 20 FEBRUARY

The Twelve reiterate their view that Jewish settlements in the Occupied Territories, including East Jerusalem, are illegal under international law. They are seriously concerned at the possibility that immigrants to Israel may be settled in the Occupied Territories. The further call made in recent days for increased Jewish settlement in the West Bank and Gaza only increases this concern. The Twelve deplore the Israeli settlement policy in the Occupied Territories. The Israeli statements on this matter are not conducive to establishing the climate of confidence necessary to make the progress which is urgently needed in the peace process.

As they made clear in their statement of 31 January, the Twelve warmly welcome the liberalisation of Soviet emigration controls, including the freedom of Soviet Jews to emigrate to Israel and elsewhere. They believe that this sentiment is very widely shared in the international community, on the basis that the right of everyone to leave any country, including his own, is enshrined in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. The attainment by Soviet Jews of this right must not, however, be at the expense of the rights of the Palestinians in the Occupied Territories.

The Twelve urge the Israeli government not to jeopardise the prospects of bringing peace to the region by either allowing or encouraging Jewish immigrants to settle in the Occupied Territories.

EADABC/SI

file DS



10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary *No Ack* 10 April 1990

BM

I enclose a copy of a letter to the Prime Minister from Mr Shamir about Jewish emigration from the Soviet Union. I should be grateful for advice and a draft reply.

C. D. POWELL

R. N. Peirce, Esq.
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

[Handwritten signature]

Subject ce MASTER
ops

Charles



PRIME MINISTER'S

PERSONAL MESSAGE

SERIAL No. T57A11/90

ראש הממשלה
THE PRIME MINISTER

Jerusalem,

March 28, 1990.

715-7

Dear Prime Minister,

I take the liberty of writing to you on an important matter, one which pertains to the *raison d'être* of the State of Israel and that is of cardinal importance to the Jewish people.

The opening of the gates of the Soviet Union to Jewish emigration is an expression of the great and positive changes that have been taking place in the world. It is an answer to our hopes and efforts, which were shared by a number of countries and leaders, including the United Kingdom, to allow Soviet Jews to fulfil their wish to be repatriated to the Jewish State. Unfortunately, these welcome and much desired developments have come up against unforeseen difficulties. While we receive reports about the unstable situation facing the Jews in the Soviet Union, Arab states and organizations are carrying out a coordinated international campaign against the Jewish immigration to Israel.

It must be noted that this campaign is not a new or a recent phenomenon. The Arab states have fought against Jewish immigration since the Balfour Declaration in 1917. The Arabs realized then that, without immigration, the Jewish State would never emerge. Even after they failed in their first attempt at preventing the emergence of Israel, they never gave up their resolve to stop Jewish immigration. During the twenties and thirties, the Arabs not only waged a violent struggle against the small Jewish community here, but they even launched a diplomatic campaign which resulted in the imposition of restrictions on Jewish immigration by the mandatory authorities.

The Right Honorable
Mrs. Margaret Thatcher
Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
London



Eventually, the country's gates were shut to Jewish immigration just at the time when Jews were trying to escape the Nazi storm and reach safe haven. The end is known. Europe became one large graveyard for six million of our brethren. This tragic chapter is deeply engraved in the consciousness of the Jewish people and the State of Israel.

Against this background, Israel, with the help of its friends around the world, has consistently struggled to ensure the freedom of emigration to Israel of any Jew who wishes to do so. It has also kept its own gates permanently open to such immigrants and endeavoured to integrate them into its society speedily and effectively. This, of course, applies to the recent wave of Soviet immigrants as well. Like all Israelis, they are free to choose where to reside, and like the majority of Israelis, most of them have chosen to live close to sources of employment, in the big cities and in the center of the country. Less than one percent of them have chosen to settle in Judea, Samaria or Gaza. Nevertheless, our enemies have used this miniscule number as an excuse to resume their war against any Jewish immigration to Israel.

We appreciate the decision of the Ministers of the European Community Council at their recent meeting in Dublin, to welcome both the opening of the gates of the Soviet Union and the Jewish emigration to Israel and other places. We believe this resolution to be an expression of European understanding that the *raison d'être* of Israel is her role as the national home of the Jewish people and a potential place of refuge for every Jew. The campaign being waged by the Arab states against immigration to Israel strikes at what is most precious to our country. Unfortunately, it has already had some unfortunate results. This grave phenomenon has a most negative effect on public opinion in Israel and on the efforts to advance peace between Israel and her neighbors.

Dear Madame Prime Minister, Great Britain and you personally have been at the forefront of the international struggle for human rights in Eastern Europe. Your ongoing efforts to open the gates of the Soviet Union to Jews desiring to leave have borne fruit.



I would be very grateful if you would use your influence with the Arab countries so that they will desist from their war against Jewish immigration. A clear and determined stand on this humanitarian matter, on your part, will also have a positive influence on the Soviet authorities to facilitate the departure of Soviet Jews.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Yitzhak Shamir', written in a cursive style.

Yitzhak Shamir



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

9 February 1990

R912

dh

Dear Charles,

Student and Academic Campaign for Soviet Jews:
Letter from Mr Trenner

Thank you for your letter of 27 January enclosing one from Mr Justyn Trenner of the Student and Academic Campaign for Soviet Jews. I enclose a draft reply.

In the light of the final paragraph of Mr Trenner's letter, we recommend that a sentence on the Moscow Conference be included in the Prime Minister's speech to the Board of Deputies on 18 February. The following passage could be inserted after the final sentence in the section on Soviet Jewry:

" ... all injustices are put right. The Soviet authorities well know that we have yet to make up our minds about attending the human rights conference in Moscow next year. They know that we expect progress in their human rights record to be sustained."

Yours ever,

(R H T Gozney)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
10 Downing Street



ms
c. Trenne
cf

10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

9 February 1990

Thank you for your letter of 26 January to the Prime Minister about the CSCE Conference in Moscow in 1991. I have been asked to reply.

In January last year we agreed in principle to a CSCE Conference on the Human Dimension in Moscow in 1991 provided that the considerable progress over the human rights situation was maintained. Over the past year there has been a continued improvement in the Soviet Union's human rights performance. A major legislative reform process is under way to create a State based on the rule of law. But as you recognise there is still a long way to go.

The situation of Soviet Jewry has also changed, in large part for the better. Jewish communities are no longer automatically prevented from practising their religion. There are now over one hundred synagogues functioning in the USSR. There is a new law on religion coming before the Supreme Soviet. The cultural life of Soviet Jewry is once again beginning to develop. Freedom of expression is openly practised by Soviet Jews, as illustrated recently by the successful Jewish conference held in Moscow. Jewish emigration is now running at record levels, with a new law on emigration to be considered further at the next session of the Supreme Soviet later this month.

On the other hand, only half of the Jewish cultural groups have official recognition. There are still a number of long-term refuseniks denied permission to leave the USSR. A number of prisoners including Soviet Jews continue to be imprisoned on the flimsiest of pretexts. There are growing fears among Soviet Jewry of anti-semitism. William Waldegrave discussed these issues with a group of Jewish representatives when he was in Moscow recently.

We shall continue to raise individual human rights cases with the Soviet authorities until they are resolved satisfactorily. We shall underline to the Soviet authorities that we expect the human rights legislation coming before the Supreme Soviet to resolve such problems once and for all. At

✓

Soviet suggestion we are sending a non-governmental team with legal expertise to Moscow for talks with Soviet lawyers and parliamentarians about the new draft emigration law. Our position on our attendance at the Moscow Conference in 1991 remains that we will attend only if the progress made so far is sustained.

Charles Powell

Justyn Trenner, Esq.

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PART TWO OF TWO PARTS

EMIGRATION OF SOVIET JEWS TO ISRAEL AND THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES

14. IN CONCLUSION I ASKED OSAMA FOR HIS VIEWS ON THIS ISSUE. OSAMA SAID THAT THE ARABS WERE VERY UPSET AND HAD CALLED FOR AN IMMEDIATE ARAB SUMMIT. THE EGYPTIANS HAD SAID THAT THE CALLING OF SUCH A SUMMIT WAS FUTILE UNLESS THEY KNEW WHAT POLICY TO PURSUE. OSAMA EXPRESSED DISGUST WITH SOVIET TACTICS WHICH WERE TO TRY TO PLACE ALL THE BLAME ON THE UNITED STATES, ACCUSING THE LATTER OF CONNIVING IN ISRAELI ATTEMPTS TO SEND THE IMMIGRANTS TO THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES AND OF CLOSING THE GATES TO EMIGRATION TO AMERICA. THEY WERE ALSO ACCUSING THE AMERICANS OF FINANCING THE OPERATION. THE SOVIETS HAD EVEN TOLD THE ARABS THAT THEY WERE PREPARED TO GO TO THE SECURITY COUNCIL TO PROTEST AGAINST THE AMERICAN BEHAVIOUR. MENAWHILE THE ISRAELIS WERE STILL PRESSING TO CONTINUE DIRECT FLIGHTS FROM THE SOVIET UNION TO ISRAEL AND THE RUSSIANS WERE HESITATING ABOUT WHAT TO DO.

15. THE ARAB ATTITUDE, SAID OSAMA, WAS UNREALISTIC. THEY WERE CALLING FOR A BAN ON JEWISH EMIGRATION FROM THE SOVIET UNION AND A DEMAND FOR AMERICA TO ADMIT IMMIGRATION INTO AMERICA. ALTHOUGH THE EGYPTIANS WERE ALSO PRIVATELY URGING THE AMERICANS TO TAKE MORE SOVIET JEWS (THOUGH MANY OF THESE WERE PRIMITIVE ANTI-MUSLIM JEWS FROM SOUTHERN RUSSIA) THE ARABS WERE IN FACT ASKING FOR THINGS WHICH WERE NOT THEIR BUSINESS AND IN WHICH THEY HAD NO STANDING. THE EGYPTIANS WERE TRYING THEREFORE TO INTRODUCE A RATIONAL APPROACH. PRESIDENT MUBARAK HAD THIS WEEK SENT MESSAGES TO PRESIDENTS BUSH AND GORBACHEV. IN THESE MESSAGES, EXPRESSED IN FIRM LANGUAGE, THERE WAS NO TALK ABOUT THE MERITS AND DEMERITS OF EMIGRATION BUT INSTEAD A CLEAR DEMAND THAT THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY'S ACTION SHOULD BE ENGAGED ON TWO POINTS:

A. PROHIBITION OF JEWISH SETTLEMENT OF ANY ISRAELIS IN THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES AND THE GOLAN HEIGHTS (FROM MEMORY I DO NOT THINK THAT OSAMA RESTRICTED THIS TO NEW SOVIET JEWISH

EMIGRANTS ONLY): AND

B. THE INSTITUTION OF A MECHANISM FOR VERIFICATION OF THIS PROHIBITION.

THE EGYPTIANS WERE INFORMING THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY AND THE ISRAELIS OF THIS APPROACH. I SAID THAT I PERSONALLY THOUGHT THIS WAS A MUCH MORE CONSTRUCTIVE APPROACH THAN ALL THE VAGUE EMOTIONAL APPEALS FROM ARAB SOURCES WE HAD SEEN IN RECENT WEEKS. OSAMA SAID HE WAS TRAVELLING TO MOSCOW THIS SATURDAY, 9 JANUARY, PARTLY TO PREPARE FOR PRESIDENT MUBARAK'S VISIT THERE IN MARCH AND PARTLY TO DISCUSS THE JEWISH EMIGRATION PROBLEM. IN CONCLUSION, OSAMA SAID THAT THE WHOLE ISSUE OF SOVIET JEWISH EMIGRATION HAD ERUPTED AT A MOST UNFORTUNATE TIME. (IN A WILD ASIDE HE SAID HE WOULD ALSO NOT PUT IT PAST THE ISRAELIS TO SETTLE SOVIET JEWS IN SOUTHERN LEBANON). SPEAKING PERSONALLY HE THOUGHT THAT THE PRESENCE OF AN EXTRA HALF A MILLION JEWS IN ISRAEL WOULD BE PROFOUNDLY DESTABILISING. SOME OF THEM WOULD INEVITABLY FIND THEIR WAY TO THE WEST BANK AND DISPLACED PALESTINIANS WOULD CROSS THE ALLENBY BRIDGE INTO JORDAN. THE POSITION OF KING HUSSEIN, WHICH HAD BEEN FUNDAMENTALLY INSECURE FOR THE PAST TWO YEARS, WOULD BE RENDERED EVEN MORE DIFFICULT BY THIS NEW THREAT.

16. ON OUR WAY OUT OSAMA MADE MORE DISMISSIVE REMARKS ABOUT THE SOVIET ROLE. I SAID THAT TAVASOV (TUNIS TELEGRAM NO 31) HAD BEEN A NUISANCE IN TUNIS. OSAMA SAID THAT TAVASOV HAD BEEN INVOLVED IN OTHER DISINFORMATION ACTIONS RECENTLY.

COMMENT

17. THIS WAS A GOOD OSAMA SESSION. HE WAS RELAXED, FRIENDLY AND INFORMATIVE. I DO NOT THINK THAT THE AMERICANS WOULD THANK HIM FOR SOME OF THE INFORMATION HE DIVULGED AND IN PARTICULAR THE CONFIRMATION OF SOME OF THE PALESTINIAN NAMES WHICH THE PLO HAD HANDED OVER, IF ONLY AS EXAMPLES. HIS FUNDAMENTAL PESSIMISM ABOUT THE OUTCOME OF A POSSIBLE CAIRO DIALOGUE MEETING, WHICH WAS ALREADY EVIDENT WHEN MR WALDEGRAVE SAW HIM IN NOVEMBER AND WHEN I TOOK SIR C TICKELL TO SEE HIM IN DECEMBER, WAS CONFIRMED.

18. THIS TALLIES WELL WITH A SESSION WHICH DHM AND FULLER HAD WITH THE AMERICAN CHARGE (MARK JOHNSON) EARLIER ON 7 FEBRUARY. ARENS HAD PERSUADED THE AMERICANS TO HOLD THE TRIPARTITE MEETING AFTER THE LIKUD CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEETING. NAMES OF PALESTINIANS HAD BEEN EXCHANGED INFORMALLY BETWEEN THE 3 PARTIES BUT THERE WAS NO LIST AS

SUCH. JOHNSON'S REMARKS CONFIRM THE IMPRESSION GIVEN BY OSAMA THAT THE PROBLEM OF WHO SHOULD ANNOUNCE THE NAMES AND THE AGENDA QUESTION HAVE NOT BEEN FINALLY SETTLED. UNLIKE THE POSITION OF SOME WEEKS AGO THE EGYPTIANS AND THE OTHER PARTIES MAY BE CONTEMPLATING A TRIPARTITE MEETING EVEN IF NOT ALL THE CRUCIAL ISSUES HAVE BEEN PRE-COOKED IN ADVANCE.

19. MEANWHILE THE FRENCH AMBASSADOR CALLED ON THE EGYPTAIN FOREIGN MINISTER EARLIER THIS WEEK TO DELIVER A MESSAGE FROM DUMAS ABOUT THE PEACE PROCESS.

ADAMS

YYYY

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14

ADVANCE 14

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STUDENT & ACADEMIC CAMPAIGN
FOR SOVIET JEWS

TUDOR HOUSE LLANVANOR ROAD
LONDON NW2 2AR
01-458 1009

The Prime Minister,
Rt. Hon. Margaret Thatcher MP,
10 Downing Street,
London SW1A 2AA.

26th January 1990

Dear Mrs Thatcher,

As you may be aware, on January 19th, the anniversary of the Vienna Concluding Document, over 450 academics, including over 350 Professors, signed a statement (enclosed) supporting Britain's position to attend a human rights conference in Moscow, in 1991, on the basis that the conditions, as set out in January last year, are met.

The statement points to the fact that, one year on, none of the conditions have been met. For example, Soviet Jews continue to be refused visas on the most spurious grounds, anti-Semitic groups flourish, youth groups experience difficulties with the authorities when trying to meet and the emigration bill does not conform with international law.

Last year 212 MPs and 228 MEPs publicly stated that Britain should not attend the Moscow conference so long as basic human rights continue to be abused. In September over 50 Students' Unions signed a similarly worded statement, now followed by the academics petition. It is interesting to note that the vast majority of MPs, MEPs, student union leaders and academics are not Jewish and come from all over the UK. Clearly there is a growing concern within Britain for Soviet abuse of human rights.

I understand that next month you will be addressing the Board of Deputies for British Jews and I know many of us involved in Soviet Jewry will be attending solely to hear your views on the Moscow conference. We trust your position has not changed and that the strong and admirable resolve the Government has shown to date will continue.

Yours sincerely,

Justyn Trenner

Justyn Trenner
CHAIRPERSON



R6
mem
cc FCO

10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

THE PRIME MINISTER

10 August 1989

Dear Chief Rabbi,

Thank you for copying to me Mr. Wolfson's letter of 3 July to you. I have asked our Embassy in Washington to talk to the American Administration.

Although Senator Dole has apparently mentioned the problems facing Hebrew schools in the Soviet Union to the President, when our Embassy consulted the White House and the State Department they were told that no decision had been taken. According to Senator Dole's office, the prospect of a joint visit to Moscow by the Congressional leadership is remote.

This would not necessarily prevent me from raising the issue of Hebrew schools with Mr. Gorbachev (although I would want to place it firmly in the context of the wider problems still facing Soviet Jewry). But as a first step I believe the British and US Embassies in Moscow should take this up with the relevant Soviet officials. If this does not produce the desired result, I would be happy to consider making joint representations with President Bush. In any event we will keep in close touch with the Americans so that we can co-ordinate our efforts.

Kind regards,

Yours sincerely

Nayant Shahar

The Chief Rabbi, the Lord Jakobovits

EA



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

7 August 1989

Dear Candine,

Hebrew Schools: Letter from Lord Jakobovits

Charles Powell wrote on 6 July to Bob Peirce about the Chief Rabbi's representations to the Prime Minister about the legalisation of Hebrew schools in the Soviet Union. I am sorry we have taken so long to reply, but our Washington Embassy have had some difficulty getting a clear picture of what the Americans plan.

Although Senator Dole's staff claim that he has raised this with President Bush, the White House and State Department both seem to be completely unsighted. The Embassy have commented that the possibility of early action by President Bush with Mr Gorbachev on this issue is remote.

Senator Dole has been pursuing this question with the Russians (he has written to Mr Gorbachev and has made representations to the Soviet Ambassador in Washington) but has yet to receive a substantive reply. According to Senator Dole's office however the prospect of a joint visit to Moscow by the Congressional leadership is "pie in the sky".

Against this background, the Prime Minister might write to the Chief Rabbi saying that we are happy to take this issue up with the Russians, but that we intend to reserve an intervention by the Prime Minister for a later stage (if necessary). I enclose a draft.

Yours sincerely,
Richard Gozney

(R H T Gozney)
Private Secretary

Miss Caroline Slocock
10 Downing Street

DSR 11 (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

- Top Secret
- Secret
- Confidential
- Restricted
- Unclassified

TO: *The Chief Rabbi,*
 the Lord Jakobovits
 85 Hamilton Terrace
 London Terrace
 London NW8

Copies to:

MRMAKF
(T)

PRIVACY MARKING

..... In Confidence

CAVEAT

SUBJECT:

Thank you for copying to me Mr Wolfson's letter of 3 July to you. I have asked our Embassy in Washington to talk to the American Administration.

Although Senator Dole has apparently mentioned the problems facing Hebrew schools in the Soviet Union to the President, when our Embassy consulted the White House and the State Department they were told that no decision had been taken. According to Senator Dole's office, the prospect of a joint visit to Moscow by the Congressional leadership is remote.

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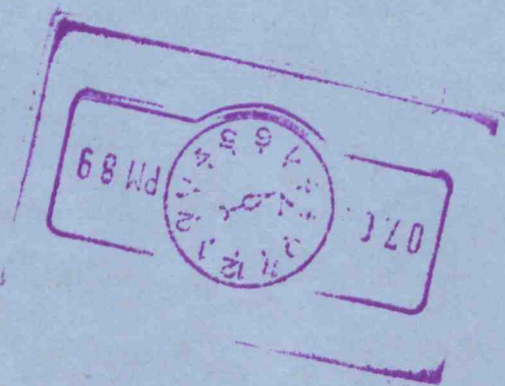
Enclosures flag(s)

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SOVIET UNION: Soviet Jewry

Pt 2

we will keep in close touch with the Americans so
that we can co-ordinate our efforts.





FILE
DATAET

10 DOWNING STREET

LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

6 July 1989

SOVIET JEWRY

I enclose a copy of a letter to the Chief Rabbi, which has been passed on to me, asking whether the Prime Minister would be able to join President Bush in making representations to Mr. Gorbachev about the legalisation of Hebrew schools in the Soviet Union. In principle this is something which the Prime Minister would like to do. But we would need to establish first whether the Americans are indeed taking action as suggested by Senator Dole and if so through what channels. The best time for taking action would presumably be in connection with the proposed visit by the delegation mentioned in the letter to the Soviet Union. The Chief Rabbi does not yet know when that will take place: but he hopes to join it and will let us know when a date has been fixed.

There are various ways in which an intervention could be handled: a message from the Prime Minister to Mr. Gorbachev, a message to the Minister for Religious Affairs (with whom the Prime Minister spent some time when in the Soviet Union) or by Sir Roderic Braithwaite speaking to Chernayev. I should be grateful if you could arrange for the Americans to be consulted and then let me have some advice.

(C.D. POWELL)

R.N. Peirce, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

D

Zee W. Wolfson ONE STATE STREET PLAZA • NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10004

July 3, 1989

*Orig. letter
returned to
Lord Jakobovits*

Lord Jakobovits
85 Hamilton Ter.
London Terrace
London NW8, England

Dear Chief Rabbi:

It was good meeting with you in Jerusalem and I was happy to see that, thank G-d, you appear to be in good health. I am writing to you as we agreed during our brief meeting.

Several weeks ago, I arranged a luncheon at the U.S. Capitol between the top leadership of both Houses of Congress and Soviet Ambassador Dubinin. The following persons were present:

Senator George Mitchell, Democratic Leader
Senator Robert Dole, Republican Leader
Congressman Thomas Foley, Speaker of the House
Congressman Robert Michel,
Republican Leader of the House
Albert Reichmann, of Olympia and York
Zev Wolfson

The meeting was held for the sole purpose of intervening with the top Soviet leadership concerning the legalization of Hebrew Schools in the Soviet Union.

Albert Reichmann and myself have offered to finance the establishment and the maintenance of such schools in the Soviet Union.

Ambassador Dubinin showed great interest and even warmth in the subject matter and was very encouraging. He indicated that he would attempt to arrange for the group to meet with President

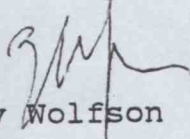
Zev W. Wolfson

Page Two


Gorbachev concerning the matter. Senator Dole indicated that he would involve President Bush before we visit the Soviet Union.

We would appreciate your addressing your Prime Minister, Mrs. Margaret Thatcher, requesting that she, likewise, intervene directly with President Gorbachev concerning the legalization of Hebrew Schools in the Soviet Union.

Sincerely,


Zev Wolfson
/kb

COPY FOR INFORMATION -



**National
Conference
on
Soviet
Jewry**

with compliments -
National Council for Soviet Jewry,
(UK).

NEWS RELEASE

CONTACT: Deborah/Jerry Strober
(212) 679-6122

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**NCSJ OFFICIALS ATTENDING LONDON CSCE INFORMATION
FORUM ENDORSE BRITISH PRIME MINISTER'S CALL FOR
COMPREHENSIVE HELSINKI ACCORDS COMPLIANCE; SUBMIT SOVIET
JEWRY PRIORITIES TO U.S. AND OTHER DELEGATIONS**

NEW YORK -- April 18, 1989. . . Officials of the National Conference on Soviet Jewry (NCSJ) attending the Information Forum of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) now meeting in London today endorsed British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's call, in her address to the Forum's opening session, for full compliance with the Helsinki Accords.

Attending the session were Denis Braham, a Houston, Texas attorney and NCSJ Vice-Chairman; and NCSJ Executive Director Martin A. Wenick. Commenting on the British leader's address, Mr. Braham stated: "In her call for full compliance with the Helsinki Accords, especially in the area of human rights, Prime Minister Thatcher has set the necessary tone for the London Forum, which is an important follow-up to the recently completed Vienna CSCE meeting, and is an integral part of the CSCE process, leading to the Conference on Human Dimension, which will take place in Paris this May. These meetings, in turn, are part of an on-going process, which will include meetings in Copenhagen in 1990, and in Moscow in 1991. Let us hope that these discussions will bear fruit for Soviet Jewry and for the cause of human rights."

RESTRICTED
FM FCO
TO DESKBY 040430Z MOSCOW
TELNO 446
OF 031930Z APRIL 89

YOUR TELNO 577:SAMOILOVICH

1. THIS IS EXCELLENT NEWS. PLEASE KEEP UP THE PRESSURE FOR US TO BE INFORMED IN ADVANCE WHEN SAMOILOVICH IS BEING TOLD. WE WANT TO GET A SHARE OF THE CREDIT AND DO NOT WANT TO BE CAUGHT OUT WHEN THE STORY BREAKS. THE WOMEN'S CAMPAIGN FOR SOVIET JEWRY HAVE ALREADY GOT WIND OF IT, APPARENTLY FROM AMERICAN SOURCES. HOW SURE ARE YOU AND THE RUSSIANS THAT THE STORY IS NOT ALREADY MORE OR LESS OUT?

2. IS IT CLEAR WHETHER SAMOILOVICH IS BEING LET OUT ALTOGETHER IE IS ALLOWED TO GO ON TO ISRAEL AFTER HIS TREATMENT, OR IS IN PRINCIPLE AT LEAST JUST BEING GIVEN A SHORT VISIT TO BRITAIN? WILL HIS FAMILY BE ALLOWED TO ACCOMPANY HIM OR WILL HE BE TREATED LIKE CHERNOBILSKY?

HOWE

YYYY

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TELNO 577
OF 031520Z APRIL 89

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MOSCOW TELNO 496: SAMOILOVICH

1. THE HEAD OF THE HUMANITARIAN LINKS DIRECTORATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS HAS JUST INFORMED ME THAT THE SOVIET AUTHORITIES HAVE LIFTED THEIR OBJECTION TO A VISIT TO BRITAIN BY SAMOILOVICH FOR MEDICAL TREATMENT. I THANKED RESHETOV FOR THIS NEWS WHICH I SAID WOULD BE WELL RECEIVED.

2. RESHETOV SAID THAT SAMOILOVICH HIMSELF HAD NOT YET BEEN INFORMED. THIS WOULD BE DONE 'WITHIN THE NEXT THREE DAYS.' HE ASKED THAT WE SHOULD GIVE NO PUBLICITY TO SAMOILOVICH'S RELEASE MEANWHILE. WE URGED THAT THE MFA SHOULD LET US KNOW IF POSSIBLE WHEN IT WAS INTENDED TO INFORM SAMOILOVICH OR AT LEAST WHEN THIS HAD BEEN DONE SINCE THE NEWS WOULD CERTAINLY BREAK SOON THEREAFTER.

3. RESHETOV ALSO PROVIDED ORAL RESPONSE TO THE LISTS OF REFUSENIKS AND DETAINEES HANDED OVER ON 28 MARCH. NEARLY ONE THIRD OF THE NAMES ON THE LIST OF REFUSENIKS WERE SAID TO BE NOW FREE TO LEAVE THE SOVIET UNION AND NINE OF THE FOURTEEN PEOPLE ON THE SECOND LIST ARE SAID TO BE NO LONGER IN DETENTION. A DETAILED TELEGRAM FOLLOWS.

BRAITHWAITE

YYYY

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ADDITIONAL 1

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File

MR. POWELL (on return)

Mrs. Eker of the Women's Campaign for Soviet Jewry telephoned on a couple of occasions last week to see whether there was any chance of the Prime Minister seeing Dr. and Mrs. Raold Zelichenot when they were over between 3 and 7 April.

I understand from FCO that he was one of the most prominent refuseniks, now released and living in Israel. I have pleaded wall to wall diary engagements next week, especially with the Gorbachev visit. Though I have left the door very slightly ajar for you if you felt that he merited half an hour of the Prime Minister's time on Monday or Tuesday.

If you agree, I will happily phone Mrs. Eker and say that we have had no cancellations from the diary and regret that this time we must pass.

DOMINIC MORRIS

28 March 1989

PM3ALO

Soviet
Department

Waldegrave



10 DOWNING STREET

Dominic

Mrs EKER, Women's Campaign
for Soviet Jewry, ring.

She'd like the PM to see a
Dr and Mrs RAOLD ZELICHENOT
whilst they are in Britain next
week - 3 to 7 April. (He's an
ex-prisoner and ex-Soviet citizen.)

She says she usually talks to
CDP, but rather than wait for
his return, she wondered whether
anything could be arranged
this week.

(a) Shall I pass the message on to
CDP when I next talk to the
party? or

(b) let her know it's pretty unlikely
given PM's diary for next week &

leave for CDP's network?

letters
28/3

UWS EKER 458 7147



MIRM

CCFCO

10 DOWNING STREET

LONDON SW1A 2AA

28 February 1989

From the Private Secretary

Dear Mrs. Lagergren,

Thank you for your letter of 10 February to the Prime Minister about Raoul Wallenberg. I have been asked to reply.

We are very aware of the great heroism of Raoul Wallenberg in helping Jews to escape the Nazis in Budapest in 1944. We are also aware that the Soviet Government have still failed to give an adequate explanation about Raoul Wallenberg's fate.

We, together with like-minded governments with whom we are in touch, have never accepted the explanation that Mr. Wallenberg died of a heart attack in 1947 and have consistently supported the Swedish government in pressing the Soviet authorities for a full and detailed account of Mr. Wallenberg's death. But despite the question being raised with them repeatedly, the Soviet authorities' latest announcement on the matter two weeks ago added nothing to the response they gave in 1957.

Whether or not your brother is still alive, the Russians clearly have an obligation to explain themselves. I can assure you that we do call on the Soviet authorities to explain in detail what happened to Raoul Wallenberg and will continue to do so - even if, as they claim, it is now tragically no more than a matter of historical glasnost. He has been acknowledged the world over as an heroic figure - the Soviet Union should take the opportunity of increasing openness about Stalin's crimes to tell the world the truth about what happened to him. The CSCE process and our bilateral dialogue offer plenty of further opportunities to make this point and we shall be taking them.

Yours sincerely,

CHARLES D. POWELL

Mrs. Nina Lagergren

ea

SECRET

2(ac)R28/2



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

28 February 1989

Dear Charles,

Thank you for your letter of 14 February enclosing one from Mrs Nina Lagergren. I enclose a draft reply.

Although the Swedes are aware of this, they have made it clear to us that they would strongly disapprove of any move to say this openly (thus effectively closing the case).

Yours ever,

Richard Egan
(R H T Gozney)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
10 Downing Street

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RETAINED UNDER SECTION 3 (4)
OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS ACT

SECRET

DSR 11 (Revised Sept 85)

DRAFT: minute/letter/teleletter/despatch/note

TYPE: Draft/Final 1 +

FROM:

Reference

PS/PM

DEPARTMENT:

TEL. NO:

Your Reference

BUILDING:

ROOM NO:

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

Top Secret

Secret

Confidential

Restricted

Unclassified

TO:

Copies to:

Nina Lagergren
Riddarg 10
11435 STOCKHOLM

ML

SUBJECT:

MEMAJS

PRIVACY MARKING

..... In Confidence

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CAVEAT

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Enclosures flag(s)

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/to do

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Mrs. Nina LAGERGREN
28/2



M

10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

A/ 14 February 1989

I attach a copy of a letter which the Prime Minister has received from Mrs. Nina Lagergren.

I should be grateful if you could provide a draft reply, to reach me by 28 February.

C D POWELL

Richard Gozney, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

2

RAOUL WALLENBERG-FÖRENINGEN

Ordförande Per Anger

Sekreterare Sonja Sonnenfeld



Prime Minister
Mrs. Margaret Thatcher
10, Downing Street
LONDON, SW 1

R14/2

February 10, 1989

Dear Mrs. Thatcher,

Time is running out for the still imprisoned Raoul Wallenberg and thus for us, so desperately fighting for his release.

You care for human rights, as you care for young generations: imagine what Raoul's example means to young people - here is a man who has shown to the world what one single human being can achieve by being just human! This man, who has become a symbol and a legend, is still alive. He needs you and your will-power that resembles his own so very much.

We turn to you because of Mr. Gorbachev's esteem for you and because he listens to you. In spite of Glasnost and Perestroika, there are no changes in the Soviet position regarding Raoul Wallenberg. It is our understanding that Mr. Gorbachev himself, who wants to wipe out the dark spots in his country's past, would be more than willing to open up the files on Raoul. Why doesn't he? It sounds incredible, but according to quite reliable sources, he is neither well informed nor well advised as to Raoul Wallenberg's fate. It must be in somebody's interest to hide the facts from Mr. Gorbachev, and has been so for the past 4 years, ever since he took office. It is obvious that Mr. Gorbachev, who has nothing to lose but only to gain from wiping out this dark spot, would have found ways in his four years in power, if he had been let in on the secret of the camp of silence with prisoners since the time of Stalin.

The terror of Katyn - so far taboo - has been revealed, but the existence of such camp with 60-70 prisoners of various nationalities, mostly Polish citizens, is still taboo.

Do we KNOW that Raoul is among those prisoners? There is too much pointing to it to be ignored. Do we KNOW that people can survive 45 years in prison. Yes, we know, it's a fact. In 1987 a man was released after 45 years and now lives in the West.

The Soviet Union is planning a Human Rights Conference in Moscow. Mr. Sakharov's very official comment the other day was that he didn't approve of such a conference to take place in Moscow, since "there are no human rights in the USSR..."

Would you make the same comment and add "... as long as Raoul Wallenberg is imprisoned"? He is in desperate need of help!

Sincerely yours,

Nina Lagergren

Nina Lagergren
Raoul's sister

Per Anger

Per Anger
Ambassador

Sonja Sonnenfeld

Sonja Sonnenfeld

PPS (1)

Prime Minister (2)
EAB
3/2

K2/2

18th December, 1988

Margaret Thatcher
Prime Minister
10, Downing Street
London
U.K.

ms

Dear Prime Minister

I have the greatest pleasure in telling you the happy news that (Alek) Roald Zelichenok and his wife Galina are going to be granted permission to leave the U.S.S.R. to come to Israel.

May I thank you deeply for your great efforts in helping them obtain their heartfelt wish to come to their spiritual homeland.

Thank you very much indeed and Mr. Paul Secher, all party Parliamentary Committee for Release of Soviet Jewry and Miss L. Mason and Soviet Department Foreign and Commonwealth Office for this humanitarian deed.

In deep appreciation,

I remain

Yours sincerely,

Sarah Meyer
(Mrs.) Sarah Meyer

Temporarily Retained 16/11/2016 *MSJ*

THIS IS A COPY. THE ORIGINAL IS
RETAINED UNDER SECTION 3 (4)
OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS ACT



C. FILE
EAM

10 DOWNING STREET

LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

3 November 1988

In the Prime Minister's absence in Poland, I am writing to thank you on her behalf for your letter of 1 November.

I am sure she will be heartened to learn that her stand against a human rights conference in Moscow at present is supported by the very people for whom she is primarily concerned in taking that stand. As the Prime Minister said in her speech at the Savoy on 27 October, the Government will consider attending a human rights conference in Moscow only when the Soviet Union has actually implemented the commitments which it has accepted in the Helsinki Accord. Anything less would be to betray all those brave people within the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe who have fought so valiantly for their basic and God-given rights.

It was very good of you to take the trouble to write in reporting on your visit. I know the Prime Minister will be grateful.

Dominic Morris

Mrs S Sainsbury

da



PARLIAMENTARY WIVES FOR THE RELEASE OF SOVIET JEWRY

CHAIRMAN

1st November 1988

R3/11

PPS?
MTT

Susan Dykes

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

Prime Minister 2

MEMBERS

Miff Archer

(I have acknowledged)

Marjorie Blackburn

Am - 2/11

Lady Bottomley

Dear Prime Minister,

Marjorie Brown

It was a great encouragement to us to return from Moscow yesterday evening to hear that you had made a very strong statement against the proposed Human Rights Conference to be held there in a few years time.

Valerie Cocks

Mary Cormack

We wholeheartedly agree with you and know that it is also the wish of the divided Jewish families who we met. Until Perestroika is shown to be actively working the West should not agree to such a Conference taking place in the USSR.

Olwen Howells

Myra Janner

Caroline Latham

Four of us from the Committee, Valerie Cocks, Margaret Morris, Pat Tuckman and myself spent three days on a fact finding visit. Our British Ambassador met us for informal talks and felt that we should continue to press the Soviet Authority to lift the secrecy ban and to release these long term families in refusal. We were unable to get a meeting with the Soviets but will continue to publicise the plight of these courageous people.

Gloria Lawrence

Jan Leadbitter

Lady Lever

June McKay

Leslie McWilliam

If you would like to hear more of our discussions please let us know.

Mary Mikardo

Renee Miller

Yours sincerely
Susan Sainsbury

Dora Prag

Colleen Rees

Edith Rifkind

Susie Sainsbury

Susie Sainsbury

Lady Stone

Carolyn Sumberg



off file

filed
a fo

10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

THE PRIME MINISTER

19 October 1988

Dear Mrs. Woolf.

Thank you for the letter and the flowers which you gave me last Wednesday.

I am not sure that you are right to say that leaving the Soviet Union is harder than ever. Despite continuing unjustified restrictions and the tragic cases which we hear about all too often, it is nevertheless true that the number of Jews allowed to leave the USSR is rising and could well reach 20,000 this year, two and a half times the total allowed to leave in 1987. Whilst it would obviously be better if all those who wished to emigrate were allowed to do so freely, the trend is nevertheless welcome.

I am not satisfied yet that the Soviet Union has irrevocably decided to improve its human rights record. We shall keep up pressure on the Soviet authorities, urging them to move ahead with the new emigration legislation which they have promised, and we shall go on raising specific hardship cases which you and others bring to our attention. We shall certainly not weaken in our resolve on this. But at the same time it is right to recognise that improvements are being made. We and other Western delegations in Vienna have been trying to combine acknowledgement of this with the appropriate mixture of pressure and inducement to persuade the Russians to take the further steps which we all wish to see. We and the United States are very much of the same opinion when it comes to these important issues and our

LB

delegations work closely and effectively to secure improvements in Soviet performance and commitments. Ambassador Shifter of the United States State Department was in London recently for talks with Foreign and Commonwealth Office officials precisely about how best to achieve this.

I can assure you that it has all along been our position that the concluding document at Vienna which will serve as a yardstick against which to measure actual Soviet performance, must not only represent a considerable step forward in human rights and other important areas, but that the balance between the humanitarian and security-oriented commitments must also be right. This is a view shared by all Western delegations and is very much at the head of our agenda as Vienna moves into its concluding stages.

Yours sincerely

Raymond Shifter

Mrs. Cecily Woolf



CF
papers

CR

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

17 October 1988

Dear Charles,

Brighton and Hove Committee for Soviet Jewry

You and Nigel Wicks both wrote on 12 October to ask for an early draft reply to the letter handed to the Prime Minister by Mrs Woolf.

The so-called 35's are very much the hard line of the Soviet Jewry lobby in the UK. They seem to have heard that the Americans are wobbling on their conditions for agreeing to a Moscow human rights conference although the letter does not say so. Ambassador Shifter, Assistant Secretary for Human Rights at the US State Department, called at the FCO on 12 October to explain the latest US position and to explore UK intentions following an appeal from Mr Shultz to consider a common set of pre-conditions. I have already written to you about this.

The National Council for Soviet Jewry with whom we are also in regular contact tell us that a decision to agree to a Moscow conference in circumstances where everyone else is prepared to go along with it would be accepted by the majority of the Jewish lobby so long as significant and real improvements such as the release of all the long-standing refuseniks had been achieved.

The present reply therefore focusses on general reassurances.

Yours ever,
L Parker

(L Parker)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
PS/No 10 Downing Street

DRAFT: minute/letter/teleletter/despatch/note

TYPE: Draft/Final 1+

FROM: Prime Minister

Reference
PO3AAH

DEPARTMENT:

TEL. NO:

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

- Top Secret
- Secret
- Confidential
- Restricted
- Unclassified

TO:
 Mrs Cecily Woolf
 Secretary
 Brighton and Hove Committee for Soviet Jewry
 12 Wilbury Gardens
 Hove
 E Sussex BN3 6HY

Your Reference

Copies to:

03222A

To James

PRIVACY MARKING

.....In Confidence

CAVEAT.....

SUBJECT:

Thank you for the letters and the flowers which you gave me on Wednesday. ~~I hope that I shall continue to deserve them!~~

I am not sure that you are right to say that leaving the Soviet Union is harder than ever. Despite continuing unjustified restrictions and the tragic cases which we hear about all too often, it is nevertheless true that the number of Jews allowed to leave the USSR is rising and could well reach 20,000 this year, two and a half times the total allowed to leave in 1987. Whilst we ~~should naturally like to see all those who wish to emigrate~~ ^{*it would obviously be better if all*} ~~allowed to do so~~ ^{*see*} freely, the trend is nevertheless welcome.

~~Naturally~~ ^{*not*} I am far from satisfied yet that the Soviet Union has irrevocably decided to improve its human rights record. We shall keep up pressure on the Soviet authorities, urging them to move ahead with the new emigration legislation which they have promised, and we shall go on raising specific hardship cases which you and others bring to our

Enclosures—flag(s).....

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

Top Secret

Secret

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Unclassified

PRIVACY MARKING

.....

In Confidence

attention. We shall certainly not weaken in our resolve on this. But at the same time it is right to recognise that improvements are being made. We and other Western delegations in Vienna have been trying to combine acknowledgement of this with the appropriate mixture of pressure and inducement to persuade the Russians to take the further steps which we all wish to see. We and the United States are very much of the same opinion when it comes to these important issues and our delegations work closely and effectively to secure improvements in Soviet performance and commitments. Ambassador Shifter of the US State Department was in London recently for talks with FCO officials precisely about how best to achieve this.

I can assure you that it has all along been our position that the concluding document at Vienna which will serve as a yardstick against which to measure actual Soviet performance, must not only represent a considerable step forward in human rights and other important areas, but that the balance between the humanitarian and security-oriented commitments must also be right. This is a view shared by all Western delegations and is very much at the head of our agenda as Vienna moves into its concluding stages.

CM

Mrs. C. Woolf
14/10



file No
LOBAZZ

Chase 17/10

10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

12 October 1988

I enclose a copy of a letter handed to the Prime Minister in Brighton this morning by the Secretary of the Brighton and Hove Committee for Soviet Jewry. In handing it over, Mr. Woolf claimed that the United Kingdom was under heavy pressure from the United States to accept unjustified compromises.

The Prime Minister is keen to reply promptly, possibly even on Friday. I should be grateful for a **very early draft reply.**

CHARLES POWELL

Lyn Parker, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.



10 DOWNING STREET

LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Principal Private Secretary

12 October 1988

Dear Lynn,

**PRIME MINISTER'S MEETING WITH MRS. WOOLF OF THE
BRIGHTON AND HOVE COMMITTEE FOR SOVIET JEWRY**

Mrs. Woolf, Secretary of the Brighton and Hove Committee for Soviet Jewry, had a 15 minute discussion this morning with the Prime Minister. She handed over the letter attached.

After general discussion of refusenik cases, particularly the Shoikhet family and Mr. George Samoilovich, Mrs. Woolf said that a Mr. Shifter (if that is his spelling) was coming from the US to persuade the Prime Minister not to follow President Reagan's lead in acceding to the Final Document at Vienna. (We have no record of such a visit in the diary.) She hoped that the Prime Minister would ensure that the British kept to their present position. Her information was that the Soviets so wanted agreement on the document that they would be willing to make concessions themselves. We should stand fast. President Reagan was motivated by a wish to leave office on a high point with an important agreement with the Soviet Union. The Prime Minister expressed surprise to hear that President Reagan was ready to compromise on an issue concerning human rights. He had done so much for that cause in the Soviet Union.

There was then some general discussion about the level of refusenik emigration from the Soviet Union. Mrs. Woolf said that Mr. Gorbachev had successfully persuaded many people that refusenik emigration was now proceeding at a rapid pace. Emigration was still only one-fifth of its level in the Brezhnev period. The Soviet authorities were also having recourse to devices, like conscription which could put a bar on emigration for 10 years.

It was agreed that Mrs. Woolf would tell the press that particular refusenik cases had been discussed and that the Prime Minister would send her a considered reply to her letter attached.

I should be grateful if you could let Charles Powell here have a draft reply for the Prime Minister to send to Mrs. Woolf in answer to her letter below. There would be advantage, I think, in despatching this by Wednesday 19 October.

Truly

Nigel Wicks

(N.L. WICKS)

Lyn Parker, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

Brighton and Hove Committee for Soviet Jewry

Incorporating the 35's (Women's Campaign for Soviet Jewry)

Mrs. C. Woolf,
12, Wilbury Gardens,
Hove, E. Sussex BN3 6HY.

c/o The Rt. Hon. Margaret Thatcher, M.P.,
Conservative Party Conference,
Brighton.

12th October, 1988.

Dear Mrs. Thatcher,

Re: Helsinki Review: Final Document at Vienna.

Many thanks for kindly allowing me to present you with this letter and the flowers, which are a token of appreciation for all your help in the past.

As you know, it is now harder than ever to leave the U.S.S.R. 'Secrecy' restrictions hold for an indefinite period, sometimes 20 years; financial waivers from relatives are withheld because of KGB pressure; and conscription is used as a further 10 years delay. Despite glasnost, we now learn that a new law makes demos virtually impossible with penalties for dissidents of long imprisonment.

On behalf of all Soviet Jewry groups in this country, we therefore beg you not to sign the Final Document at Vienna unless it is linked with unconditional emigration and full human rights. This is a crucial bargaining counter for our oppressed brethren.

Like Sharansky, whom you helped to freedom, we believe that the Soviet Union cannot be trusted to keep future agreements until they have first fulfilled their obligations under the U.N. Declaration of Human Rights.

We applaud the British delegation's present refusal to compromise on these issues and hope that no pressure from the United States will succeed in changing this policy.

Yours sincerely,

Cecily Woolf
Cecily Woolf (Mrs.)
Secretary.

SOU. UNION: Soviet Jewry
pr2

PRIME MINISTER

Mrs. Cecily Woolf of the Brighton and Hove Committee for Soviet Jewry is coming to see you at 9.30 am. The meeting should only last ten to fifteen minutes and will take place in your sitting room.

Mrs. Woolf will present you with some flowers and a letter on behalf of her Committee. The letter will urge you not to sign the declaration at present being drawn up in Vienna.

She may also raise the case of the Shoikhet family and of Mr. George Samoilovich. I attach some briefing on both these cases which Charles commissioned from the Foreign Office. You should know that you wrote to a member of the Shoikhet family last week and I attach a copy of your letter.

Mrs. Woolf asked if she could be photographed with you, and I told Christine Wall to arrange for a Press Association photographer to be at hand. I suggest the photograph is taken at the beginning of the meeting.

Nigel Wicks will sit in on the meeting.

AMANDA

12.10.88

R6/10



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

6 October 1988

Dear Charles,

Thank you for your letter of 3 October enclosing one from the Brighton and Hove Committee for Soviet Jewry, and requesting briefing for the Prime Minister on the Samoilovich and Shoikhet cases.

Both are well known to us. George Samoilovich was first refused permission to emigrate in 1972 and is now one of the most longstanding refuseniks in the USSR. His latest application was refused on 23 August. He has been diagnosed as suffering from large cell lymphoma cancer of the throat by Dr Rosenblatt of the Hackensack Medical Centre, New Jersey, USA and has been offered treatment by the Centre. The Americans tell us his medical condition is serious, but not terminal. However to prevent permanent and painful damage to the tissue, treatment is required within one month. The Russians have so far refused a visa.

The Americans are in the lead on this case, since Mr Samoilovich is seeking treatment in the US. However, a campaign on his behalf has also been mounted in this country. We have expressed concern at official level on Mr Samoilovich's behalf in London, Vienna and Moscow in recent weeks. The Foreign Secretary raised the case with Mr Shevardnadze in New York on 26 September. He was told that the matter would be looked at again. Mr Samoilovich has also been added to our list of refusenik cases.

There are four members of the Shoikhet family: Mikhail (an electrical engineer); Anna, his wife; Alexander, their 17 year old son and his grandmother, Anna Dolinsky. As your correspondent says, the family were granted exit permission in June and made preparations to leave. But permission was subsequently rescinded on grounds of "secrecy", although Mikhail had not done secret work since 1971. Mr Shoikhet's brother, Anatoly, who lives in Israel, has written to the Prime Minister about the case. I sent over a draft reply on 3 October, recommending that the Prime Minister reply in person. If she has done this, she might like to give a copy of her letter to the Committee.

In filing, X
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up with
Samoilovich

/We have



We have also received other letters about the Shoikhets. The family have been added to our list. The next opportunities to hand this over will be the Supreme Soviet visit in the autumn, and Mr Waldegrave's proposed visit to Moscow shortly thereafter.

Yours ever,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'L. Parker'.

(L Parker)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
10 Downing Street



File AS
afw

10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

THE PRIME MINISTER

4 July 1988

Dear Mrs. Nudel.

I was very pleased at last to be able to meet you when you came to No. 10 on 14 June and found what you had to say intensely interesting. I hope that we shall have a chance to talk further on another occasion.

You left me details of the case of Leonid Lubman. A round of human rights consultations was recently held in Moscow between British and Soviet officials, during which we handed to the leader of the Soviet delegation, Deputy Foreign Minister Adamishin, a list which included the name of Leonid Lubman. I shall let you know if we get a response. We shall continue to press for progress both in such individual cases and in the Soviet human rights performance overall.

Kind regards,

Yours sincerely

Raymond Storer

Mrs. Ida Nudel

—

KS



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

1 July 1988

Dear Charles,

Prime Minister's meeting with Ida Nudel:
the case of Leonid Lubman

at 11.00
In your letter of 14 June you asked for advice on the case of Leonid Lubman, which Ida Nudel mentioned to the Prime Minister.

Leonid Lubman was included on a list of human rights cases which was handed to Deputy Foreign Minister Adamishin during the first round of UK/Soviet human rights talks in Moscow on 23 June. This list included all those cases which remain unresolved from previous lists, plus a number of other cases, including Leonid Lubman, about which we have recently received representations. The Soviet delegation provided immediate comments about all the prisoners of conscience and a number of the refuseniks who have featured on previous lists and promised to look into the new cases. The Embassy will be following this up with the Soviet Foreign Ministry.

The Prime Minister may like to inform Ida Nudel of the action that has been taken on Leonid Lubman's behalf. I enclose a draft.

Yours ever,

(L Parker)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
PS/No 10 Downing Street

DRAFT: minute/letter/teletype/despatch/note

TYPE: Draft/Final 1+

FROM:
PM

Reference

DEPARTMENT:

TEL. NO:

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

- Top Secret
- Secret
- Confidential
- Restricted
- Unclassified

TO:
Mrs Ida Nudel
c/o British WIZO
107 Gloucester Place
London. W1H 4BY

Your Reference

Copies to:

PRIVACY MARKING

.....In Confidence

CAVEAT.....

SUBJECT:

at last
I was very pleased to be able finally to meet you *when you came to No. 10 on 16 June and found what* on 14 June and to discuss at first hand the situation *you had to say it's very interesting* of Jews in the Soviet Union. I value such personal *I hope that we shall have a* contacts with courageous human rights activists such *chance to talk further on another* as yourself. We shall certainly want to continue to *discuss* give human rights and the plight of Soviet refuseniks *an important place on the East/West agenda.*

"You left me details of the case of Leonid Lubman.."

As you may know, a round of human rights consultations was recently held in Moscow between British and Soviet officials, *which* during these talks a list of human rights cases about which we are *we* concerned was handed to the leader of the Soviet delegation, Deputy Foreign Minister Adamishin, *a* The list included the name of Leonid Lubman, whose case *shall let you know if we get a response* you raised at our meeting. We shall continue to press for progress both in such individual cases and in the Soviet human rights performance overall.

SPMAAG

Handwritten signature

DS3110

SOVIET UNION, Jews Pt 2



SUBJECT MASTER

file

SR

CCPC



10 DOWNING STREET

LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

14 June 1988

Dear Lyn,

PRIME MINISTER'S MEETING WITH IDA NUDEL

The Prime Minister met Ida Nudel (with a cast of thousands) this afternoon. Their discussion was mostly concerned with Mr. Gorbachev's reforms in the Soviet Union and the prospects. Mrs. Nudel was pessimistic: Russians were extraordinarily conservative people and would be alarmed by the disruption caused by the greater freedom of expression which was gradually being permitted, as well as the effects of economic reform on their jobs and livelihoods. She also said that this conservative backlash was already being manifested in a new wave of anti-Semitism and a resurgence of nationalism among the various ethnic groups within the Soviet Union.

At the end of the meeting Mrs. Nudel handed over the enclosed details of the case of Leonid Lubman which she asked the Prime Minister to look into. I should be grateful for advice on this point.

BTV

Yours sincerely,
C. D. Powell

C. D. POWELL

Lyn Parker, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

SR

LEONID LUBMAN.

Leonid was born on the 5th of March 1936 in Leningrad. In 1943 he began school, and ended his studies in 1953. Between the years 1954-57 he served in the red army, and from there went on to work in industry and research institutes connected to the army. At the same time he continued his studies part time in the field of electronics, which he finished with his B.A. (electronics) Following this he went on and completed his M.A. in sociology, and found work in planning and development of Industry, and automation in particular.

In 1977 he decided to emigrate to Israel after having recieved the necessary invitation. The decision came out of a growing awarness of the problems inherent in the soviet reality. In the end, all of the above and the presence of a Hebrew Grammar text served to accuse him of being in contact with a foriegn intelligence service. In order to emigrate he had, some years before, resigned from his post in the military industry, and taken work in building - the department for planning and organizing manpower.

There the following occured:

One of his fellow workers, Kogan, also decided to emigrate to Israel. The general meeting of the local branch of the Party had to relate to the request. The

first speaker was the local secretary, and he used antisemitic language, both in referring to Israel and to Kogan personally. He accused him of treason, and called him "an enemy of the people". Following him, Leonid asked for the floor. He addressed his fellow workers with the truth about Jewish immigration. He accused the secretary in turn of being an antisemite. He claimed that Jewish immigration to Israel was not treason, as it broke no law in the Soviet constitution. Furthermore, he claimed that the secretary had no moral right to continue in his present function, as by his actions he blackened the reputation of the soviet system.

This led to the first intervention in Leonid's life by the K.G.B. - as the protocol of the same general meeting was in turn passed on to their offices.

Leonid was interested in a wide spectrum of activities. He disagreed with the policies of the party, and in fact was totally independent. He read a lot, and published a few articles in the professional literature. During the same period he completed two books, "The Economic problems of the U.S.S.R." and "Who is Who?". In these he described the soviet Elite, with all its problems, portrayed all its corruption, and suggested brave and daring tools for changing soviet "paradise". All in all, he wrote a few hundred pages - and because there was no possibility of publishing them in the U.S.S.R. he decided to try his luck in the West. He tried to interest in

particular the popular workers union in Germany - an organization of Russian expatriots - by way of friends that immigrated before him. This organization appealed to Ms. Gabrielli of Italy, an expert in Slavic Studies, who was at the time in a seminar at Leningrad. She was asked to meet Leonid, and take copies of his writings. He gave her the works, but when she went to leave the country the signed papers were confiscated by the authorities at the border. Ms. Gabrielli was allowed to leave, but later TASS published an article accusing her of attempted smuggling of secret documents on behalf of Lubman. These contained his recommendations for the undermining of the soviet government by way of spying, sabotage, and mass propaganda. It seemed that the K.G.B. decided to make this into a "spy trial" only long after the event. Ms. Gabrielli had been allowed to leave - a most unusual event - and at the same time the K.G.B. had been preoccupied with the trial of Scharansky.

On the 27/8/1977 Leonid Lubman was arrested, and taken to the K.G.B.'s headquarters in Leningrad in Voyenov St. - where he spent the next eight months. At the end of this period he was given a secret trial of a few days in the local courts. This was not a true trial, but rather a farce bearing no relation to the carriage of justice. The hall was all of 45-50 sq. meters, outside and in surrounded by armed guards. During the trial a propaganda film was taken, and the local journalists were busy

throughout. Relatives and friends of Leonid, including his Mother and Father, were forbidden from attending. Only on the last day of the trial, for the reading of the sentence, were the parents admitted. This was a show trial, run not according to the laws of the land, but rather to the scenario written ahead of time by the K.G.B. The "defence" didn't defend, he was himself a K.G.B. employee, and by no means Leonid's representative. Leonid was left alone to face the might and power of the institutions ranged against him. He refused to plead guilty. The accused him under para.64/a of the soviet legal code - treason against the motherland, contact with the C.I.A., and contact with the popular workers union. He was also accused of betraying state secrets. This "spy trial" was entirely the creation of the K.G.B. under the direction of Rebchuk. (deputy director of investigations in Leningrad)

This then is yet another example of the U.S.S.R. breaking international agreements on the subject of Human Rights, and of course the Helsinki Agreements.

At the beginning of his investigation, Lubman was accused under para.70/a - an accusation of agitation and propaganda against the soviet authorities. During the investigation the K.G.B. wanted to "break" Leonid, and turn him into a collaborator. Rebchuk told him, "A trial is like a masquerade party - everything will be organized exactly the way we want it to be". The director of the prison, Grischen, told him that his trial was going to be a

show trial, under the total control of the K.G.B. The K.G.B. specifically determined upon a "Spy Trial" in order to maintain secrecy, and throughout the investigation they worked on Leonid with threats, a process that continued eight months. About this Rebchuk said, "We keep the prisoners 8-9 months..... and they all break eventually." Lubman was told repeatedly that his Mother had died - then a lie, and that if and when he was sent to the prison camp the other prisoners would probably kill him for being jewish. He was also threatened with lifetime incarceration, and internment in a psychiatric hospital (where he would "meet his death"). There were also concrete offers: "Inform on Edward Kozniezov in the prison camp and you'll get only one year." "Accept a charge of a lesser crime, and receive a far easier sentence". All the above notwithstanding Leonid refused to co-operate with the authorities and become a "rat". All the decisions of the court then were based entirely on information made up by, and at the order of, Rebchuk. In his final statement at the trial, Lubman spoke of the zionist dream: He claimed citizenship of the State of Israel, and denied the right of the judge to try him. His final words were: Shalom (peace), and "Next year in Jerusalem!"

He was sentenced to 13 years in a prison camp, under stringent conditions, and was sent to Mordovia, by the village of Lesnoyeh. There he remained until 1978. From there he was moved to camps for political prisoners in Perm.

There the conditions were even harsher. To this day Lubman is here.

Leonid opposes the cruelty of the directors of the prison, and has on several occasions announced a hunger-strike. Each time the reaction the directors is the same, Leonid is sent to isolation. His health has suffered terribly. After the move from Mordovia to Perm he sent a letter to his parents, saying that they could come and visit him for three days. With great difficulty his parents in fact made it to the place, and there they were greeted with the news that "just a few hours before" he had been moved to another camp some 20 km. away. They made there way there, and after much time and effort they were rewarded with a meeting with their son. The food that they brought with them for him was wasted, as Leonid had been treated before the visit specifically to deny him this luxury.

MR. POWELL

cc. Front Door

*copy already
with front
Door*

MEETING WITH IDA NUDEL - TUESDAY 14 JUNE, 1700 HOURS

The Prime Minister agreed that the following could come with Mrs. Nudel today:

Mrs. Nudel's sister (who speaks no English - and I am afraid I don't know her name).

Mrs. Raya Jaglom (President, WIZO).

Mrs. Gina Monty (BRITISH Chairman of WIZO).

Mrs. Leila Wymbourne (President, British Jewry).

I think they just want to meet the Prime Minister and Crawfie has said she will look after the ladies once the meeting starts and has offered to show them the State Rooms. Could I leave this with you.

TESSA GAISMAN

14 June 1988

PRIME MINISTER

MEETING WITH IDA NUDEL

Mrs. Ida Nudel is coming to see you tomorrow. She will be accompanied by the Israeli Ambassador and by Mr. Litterton of the World Council for Soviet Jewry. She may also be accompanied by her sister, whom you met in Israel, although this is not clear.

You were very active on Mrs. Nudel's behalf over many years. You had hoped to see her in Moscow but she did not receive the invitation in time.

You will want to express in person your pleasure at her release and your continued concern for Refuseniks still in the Soviet Union. You might like to ask her how she sees the prospects for the release of greater numbers of Soviet Jews in the light of the result of recent internal changes.

C. D. ?

mt

C. D. POWELL

13 June 1988

SLHAXE

14.6.88



10 DOWNING STREET

Charles

Meeting with Ms Nudel (tomorrow)

Mr Littlestone of Nat Council of Soviet
Jewry may. Ms Nudel would be
grateful to know if the Israeli
Ambassador and Mr Neil Badner,
Chairman of Nat. Council may be
allowed to join the accompanying
delegation.

Content?

✓
Yes

| | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------|
| Littlestone 586 5742 | told 13/6. FD told 14/6 | Keith 13/6 |
|-------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------|



file
49

10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

7 June 1988

The Prime Minister has asked me to thank you for your letter of 3 June in which you ask whether the President of the World Jewish Congress, Mr. Edgar Bronfman, could come to see her about the position of Jews in the Soviet Union.

BF | The Prime Minister will be seeing a small group led by Dr. Kopelowitz, Chairman of the Board of Deputies of British Jews, at 12.15 pm on Friday 15 July. She would be very happy for Mr. Bronfman to join that meeting, and I have established that Dr. Kopelowitz will likewise be content. I hope that this will be acceptable to Mr. Bronfman.

C. D. Powell

Dr. Stephen J. Roth

Power

cc: Fea 3/6 (2)
Prime Minister
C.D.P.
- 8/6

114.

22 Draycott Avenue
Kenton
Middx. HA3 OBU

The Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
London SW1A 2AA

68/6

6th June 1988

Handwritten signature

Dear Prime Minister

It is with enormous gratitude that I write to convey to you the marvellous news that I have heard this afternoon from Mr Grigory Rosenstein in Moscow, that his entire family have now received permission to emigrate to Israel. Throughout the last year I have kept Mr Rosenstein informed of the active involvement of your office, Mr Butt at the Foreign Office and the British Embassy in Moscow and he has asked me in particular to convey to you his thanks.

At a time like this it is difficult to adequately express one's feelings, but I hope it will be sufficient if I make clear that this family owes its happiness and its future to you.

Yours sincerely

Handwritten signature of Julian M Sorsby

JULIAN M SORSBY

c.c. Mr Butt, Foreign Office

1

PRIME MINISTER

Mr. Edgar Bronfman is asking whether he can see you again about Jewish emigration from the Soviet Union. You have already agreed to see a small delegation from the Board of Deputies of British Jews in July and I am not sure whether you really need to see Mr. Bronfman as well at this juncture.

Agree that we should politely decline on this occasion?

CDA

(C.D. POWELL)

Perhaps he could come with the British Jews

no

6 June 1988



IJA

INSTITUTE OF JEWISH AFFAIRS
in association with the World Jewish Congress

11 Hertford Street, London W1Y 7DX

Telephone: 01-491 3517
Cables IJA STUDIES LONDON W1 Telex 21633

R6/6

Our Ref: SJR/RJC/P/21

3rd June, 1988

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

Dear Prime Minister,

I write at the request of the Head Office of the World Jewish Congress in New York to enquire whether it would be possible for you to receive in the near future the President of the World Jewish Congress, Mr. Edgar Bronfman, whom you well know from previous meetings.

Mr. Bronfman has been in Moscow two weeks ago, in his capacity as President of the World Jewish Congress, and had, among others, a two hour meeting with Foreign Minister Shevardnadze on matters relating to human rights, the right to emigration, the CSCE process and the Middle East conflict. Mr. Bronfman is anxious to report to you on what appears to have been very important conversations.

Mr. Bronfman is quite frequently in London and would adjust his timetable to your convenience.

Yours sincerely
Stephen J. Roth

DR. STEPHEN J. ROTH
Director

1215
15/6

*President Lord Goodman CH Chairman, Research Board Lord Lever PC
Chairman, Finance and General Purposes Committee Mr Ellis Birk Chairman, Policy Planning Group Sir Monty Finniston FRS
Chairman, Functions Committee Sir Sigmund Sternberg JP Chairman, Lecture Committee Professor Samuel E. Finer
Chairman, Organization Committee Mr William Frankel CBE Chairman, Publications Committee Lord Weidenfeld
Director Dr S J Roth*

S UNION: Women Campaign
for Sov Jewry
pt 2

The Board of Deputies of British Jews

WOBURN HOUSE, TAVISTOCK SQUARE, LONDON, WC1H 0EP.

Telex: 262666 BOD G Telegrams: DEPUTIES, LONDON, WC1 Telephone: 01-387 3952 or 388 7651

FROM THE PRESIDENT

31st May, 1988

Charles Powell Esq
10 Downing Street
LONDON SW1

✓ memo
to note
✓ 1/6 *CPJ*

Dear Mr. Powell,

The President of the Board of Deputies has asked me to acknowledge your telephone message of Friday 27th May and he has made a firm note of July 15th at 12.15 pm, in his diary. We will be in touch with you again nearer that date.

Yours sincerely,

Lilian Bennett

Lilian Bennett (Mrs)
P.A. to The President

①

~~PAB~~ Jerry ✓
1/6
to rel
G

PRIME MINISTER

BOARD OF DEPUTIES OF BRITISH JEWS

Dr. Kopelowitz, Chairman of the Board of Deputies of British Jews, has been in touch to request a meeting about the position of Soviet Jews. He would come with two colleagues. It is some time since you last saw the Board of Deputies on this subject and I think it would be wise to do so again. We could find a time on Friday 15 July.

Agree to see them?

✓ in
draw

C.D.P?

Yes not

(C.D. POWELL)

27 May 1988

FILE

KK



10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

26 May 1988

Thank you for your letter of 23 May.
I have passed this on to Mike Bates who is
the Press Officer dealing with the meeting,
and I am sure he will be happy to answer
your questions.

(MRS. TESSA GAISMAN)

Ms. Jane Prevezer

KK



ויצו-הסתדרות עולמית
לנשים ציוניות

PA

127/5

WIZO-WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL
ZIONIST ORGANISATION

9F

CONSULTATIVE STATUS WITH
E. C. O. S. O. C. U. N.
MEMBER OF UNICEF

May 24 1988

WIZO FEDERATIONS :

- Argentina
- Australia
- Austria
- Barbados
- Belgium & Luxembourg
- Bolivia
- Brazil
- Canada
- Chile
- Colombia
- Costa Rica
- Curacao
- Denmark
- Dominican Republic
- Ecuador
- Finland
- France
- Germany
- Gibraltar
- Great Britain & Ireland
- Ireland
- Greece
- Guatemala
- Holland
- Honduras
- Hong Kong
- Israel
- Italy
- Japan
- Jamaica
- Kenya
- Mexico
- New Zealand
- Nicaragua
- Norway
- Panama
- Paraguay
- Peru
- Portugal
- Singapore
- South Africa
- Spain
- Sweden
- Switzerland
- Trinidad
- U. S. A.
- Uruguay
- Venezuela
- Zaire
- Zimbabwe

Mrs Tessa Gaisman
10 Downing Street
LONDON SW1A 2AA

✓ 79 27/5

Dear Mrs. Gaisman,

I acknowledge, with thanks, the receipt of your letter dated May 6, advising that Mrs Leila Wynbourne and Mrs Gina Monty, co-president and chairman of British Wizo respectively, have been invited to the meeting with Mrs Margaret Thatcher, Ida Nudel, her sister and myself.

I look forward to the occasion with much anticipation and pleasure.

Yours sincerely

Raya Jaglom
Raya Jaglom
President
World Wizo



WIZO

Federation of Women Zionists
of Great Britain and Ireland

CELEBRATION

70

107 Gloucester Place,
London W1H 4BY
Telephone 01-486 2691
Telegrams Wizocentre
Wesdo London

Life Patron
The Lady Sieff of Brimpton

Honorary Presidents
Lady Hadow
Carmel Webber

Presidents
Brenda Katten
Leila Wynbourne

Vice-Presidents
Rena Behrman
Susi Bradfield
Judith Goldkorn
Fela Kerstein B.A.
Doris Lewis
Enid Sandelson B.Sc

Chairman
Gina Monty

Vice-Chairmen
Barbara Harding
Brenda Hyman
Shirley Levinson

Honorary Treasurers
Esther Berman
Myrna Young B.Sc

Honorary Secretary
Paula Marber B.A. (Hons)

CELEBRATION 70

Patrons
Mrs M. Avner
Lady Hadow
Lady Jakobovits
The Lady Sieff of Brimpton
Mrs Carmel Webber
Leila Wynbourne

Executive and Committee
Male Associate Committee
Peter Ohrenstein

Acc. + pass to
Times Rates to decs. pls

R2415

Mrs Tessa Gaisman
Private Secretary
10 Downing Street
London SW1A 2AA

23rd May 1988

Dear Mrs Gaisman,

Ida Nudel meeting Mrs Thatcher
Tuesday 14th June at 5pm at 10 Downing Street

Ida Nudel will be meeting Mrs Thatcher with Raya Jaglom,
President of World Wizo, Gina Monty, Chairman of
British Wizo and Leila Wynbourne, Co-President of British
Wizo.

I am writing to ask:

1. Will you be issuing a press release
 - a) in advance of the meeting?
 - b) after the meeting?

If so, may I send you a brief outline of Wizo's involvement
with Ida Nudel for inclusion?

2. Will you have a photographer to take photos of the
delegation inside No 10 with Mrs Thatcher and if so, will
we be able to order copies?

3. Will our own photographer be able to take photos
outside No 10? Will he need a security permit?

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

Jane Prevezer

Jane Prevezer
Press Officer

R16/S - PPS

(2)

WOMEN'S CAMPAIGN FOR SOVIET JEWRY

RE/JA



Co-Chairmen: RITA EKER, MARGARET RIGAL

Pannell House, 779/781 Finchley Road, London NW11 8DN.
Telephone 01-458 7148/9

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

13th May, 1988.

Rita Eker

000 16/5

Dear Mrs. Thatcher,

Vladimir Tufeld is flying to Baltimore today and he would like us to send you his personal thanks as, without your help, he is sure he would never have seen Isolda again.

We are all delighted to know that this devoted couple will be reunited once more and we are most grateful to you for your assistance.

Thank you so much.

Yours sincerely,

Rita Eker

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

mt



ויצו-הסתדרות עולמית
לנשים ציוניות

*cf you should now
hold these
papers v.c. 31/3*

R 31/3

WIZO-WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL
ZIONIST ORGANISATION

CONSULTATIVE STATUS WITH
E. C. O. S. O. C. U. N.
MEMBER OF UNICEF

Tel Aviv, March 27th, 1988

WIZO FEDERATIONS :

Argentina
Australia
Austria
Barbados
Belgium &
Luxembourg
Bolivia
Brazil
Canada
Chile
Colombia
Costa Rica
Curacao
Denmark
Dominican Republic
Ecuador
Finland
France
Germany
Gibraltar
Great Britain &
Ireland
Greece
Guatemala
Holland
Honduras
Hong Kong
Israel
Italy
Japan
Jamaica
Kenya
Mexico
New Zealand
Nicaragua
Norway
Panama
Paraguay
Peru
Portugal
Singapore
South Africa
Spain
Sweden
Switzerland
Trinidad
U. S. A.
Uruguay
Venezuela
Zaire
Zimbabwe

Mr. Charles Powell
Private Secretary to the Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
London SW1A 2AA

Dear Mr. Powell,

Thank you so much for your letter dated February 29th,
which reached me last week.

Ms. Ida Nudel is delighted at the prospect of being
received by Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and will
be accompanied by her sister Ilana Friedman and myself.

Yours sincerely,

Raya Jaglom

RAYA JAGLOM
President World Wizo

P.S. Do you think it would be possible to have a photograph
taken of this historic meeting ?



file Kb
LOFAST
odj PC

10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

29 February 1988

Thank you for your letter of 14 February to Her Majesty's Ambassador in Tel Aviv asking whether the Prime Minister could see Ida Nudel when she visits London in mid-June.

As you know, the Prime Minister has taken a close personal interest in Mrs. Nudel's case over the years. She would welcome the opportunity to meet Mrs. Nudel in such happy circumstances.

In view of the personal nature of her contacts with Mrs. Nudel, the Prime Minister feels it would be most appropriate to restrict the meeting to Mrs. Nudel, her sister, and a representative of their hosts: perhaps yourself or someone from British WIZO.

The Prime Minister suggests that this meeting be at 1700 on 14 June. She hopes that this will be convenient and looks forward very much to seeing Mrs. Nudel in the summer.

ABF-

CHARLES POWELL

Mrs. Raya Jaglom.

ABF



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

29 February 1988

1700 14/6

Joan Channon

PAB

Can we have a
delt please with

Ida Nudel

I enclose a copy of a letter to our Ambassador in Tel Aviv from Mrs Raya Jaglom, the President of the World WIZO and Chairman of the Israeli pressure group for Ida Nudel, asking whether the Prime Minister might receive Ida Nudel and her sister when she visits London in mid-June. Mrs Jaglom also asks whether Mrs Nudel might be accompanied by WIZO representatives and the Israeli Ambassador.

The Prime Minister has of course taken a close personal interest in Mrs Nudel's case over the years and we assume that she would wish to meet her. You will recall that the Prime Minister met Mrs Nudel's sister, Ilana Friedman, when she visited Israel in May 1986. She had also hoped to meet Ida Nudel herself during her visit to Moscow last year but in the event Mrs Nudel did not receive the invitation to come to Moscow in time.

We see no reason for the meeting to be a large one. The purpose will be for the Prime Minister to meet Ida Nudel at last and to express in person pleasure at her release and continued concern for refuseniks still in the Soviet Union. We would suggest that the Prime Minister agree to see Mrs Nudel, her sister, and a WIZO representative (as the sponsors of the visit).

I enclose a draft Private Secretary reply, which can be forwarded through our Embassy in Tel Aviv.

Yours ever

(R N Culshaw)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
10 Downing Street

DSE (Revised Sept 85)

DRAFT: minute/letter/teleletter/despatch/note

TYPE: Draft/Final 1 +

FROM:
C D Powell

Reference

DEPARTMENT:

TEL. NO:

Your Reference

BUILDING:

ROOM NO:

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

- Top Secret
- Secret
- Confidential
- Restricted
- Unclassified

TO:

Copies to:

Ms Raya Jaglom
38 David Hamelish Blvd
Tel Aviv
Israel

CO4ASJ

PRIVACY MARKING

..... In Confidence

SUBJECT:

Thank you for your letter of 14 February to Her Majesty's Ambassador in Tel Aviv asking whether the Prime Minister could see Ida Nudel when she visits London in mid-June.

As you know, the Prime Minister has taken a close personal interest in Mrs Nudel's case over the years. She would welcome the opportunity to meet Mrs Nudel in such happy circumstances.

In view of the personal nature of her contacts with Mrs Nudel, the Prime Minister feels it would be most appropriate to restrict the meeting to Mrs Nudel, her sister, and a representative of their hosts: perhaps yourself or someone from British WIZO.

The Prime Minister suggests that this meeting be at 1700 on 14 June. She hopes that this will be convenient and looks forward very much to seeing Mrs Nudel in the summer.

Enclosures flag(s)

en



ויצו-הסתדרות עולמית
לנשים ציוניות

WIZO-WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL
ZIONIST ORGANISATION

February 14 1988

CONSULTATIVE STATUS WITH
E. C. O. S. O. C. U. N.
MEMBER OF UNICEF

WIZO FEDERATIONS :

Argentina
Australia
Austria
Barbados
Belgium &
Luxembourg
Bolivia
Brazil
Canada
Chile
Colombia
Costa Rica
Curacao
Denmark
Dominican Republic
Ecuador
Finland
France
Germany
Gibraltar
Great Britain &
Ireland
Greece
Guatemala
Holland
Honduras
Hong Kong
Israel
Italy
Japan
Jamaica
Kenya
Mexico
New Zealand
Nicaragua
Norway
Panama
Paraguay
Peru
Portugal
Singapore
South Africa
Spain
Sweden
Switzerland
Trinidad
U. S. A.
Uruguay
Venezuela
Zaire
Zimbabwe

His Excellency Mr Clifford William Squire
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
British Embassy
192 Rehov Hayarkon
TEL AVIV 63405

Dear Mr Ambassador,

I appreciate the assistance we received from you in the past in the efforts for Ida Nudel, and once again appeal to you for help.

On June 12, I shall be travelling to London, together with Ida Nudel and her sister Ilana Friedman, in order to address British Wizo's Rebecca Sieff Day, and we shall be in London from June 12 to 15.

Ida is most anxious to be received by Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, in order to personally express her profound gratitude for the interest shown by Mrs Thatcher in her plight and for Mrs Thatcher's efforts on her behalf.

If it is at all possible, we would be grateful if Mrs Thatcher would agree to receive a delegation led by the Israeli Ambassador to the Court of St James, and comprising Ida and her sister, the President and Chairperson of British Wizo, and myself.

I would appreciate it very much indeed if you would use your good offices to arrange this meeting, and look forward to hearing from you in due course.

Sincerely yours

Raya Jaglom

Raya Jaglom
President
World Wizo

C/F to
keep



RYASP

cfw

10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

17 December 1987

From the Private Secretary

Thank you for your letter of 1 December to the Prime Minister on behalf of the Raoul Wallenberg Committee.

In the rather limited time available for her talks with Mr. Gorbachev, it was not possible for the Prime Minister to raise Mr. Wallenberg's case. His fate remains of concern to the Government, which has carefully noted the contents of the last Soviet statement about him. This does not go beyond the information previously supplied by the Soviet authorities in any material detail and therefore remains unsatisfactory. At the same time, we have to accept that there is no conclusive evidence that Mr. Wallenberg is still alive.

The case of Raoul Wallenberg is primarily a matter for the Swedish authorities. However, as you know, the Government have raised it with the Russians on a number of occasions in recent years. We will continue to have it in mind in future contacts with the Soviet authorities and to press them to give at last a full and frank account of Mr. Wallenberg's fate.

C.D. POWELL

Ms Claire Jordan

1085

SECRET



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

17 December 1987

THIS IS A COPY. THE ORIGINAL IS
RETAINED UNDER SECTION 3 (4)
OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS ACT

Dear Charles,

attached

Thank you for your letter of 2 December enclosing one from Claire Jordan and others of the Raoul Wallenberg Committee.

Interest in Mr Wallenberg's case has revived in this country with the transmission of a TV documentary about him on 26 November and recent Soviet statements about his fate. But these have added no material facts to the longstanding assertion of the Soviet authorities that he died in prison in 1947.

Mrs Jordan last wrote to the Prime Minister in March before her visit to the Soviet Union. I enclose a copy of your reply on that occasion.

The subject of Wallenberg was not raised in the time available during the talks at Brize Norton on 7 December. However we shall be considering whether the Foreign Secretary might refer to it during his talks in Moscow early next year, as public and parliamentary interest in the case is likely to continue.

But Sir Geoffrey Howe may be able to make the point to Shevardnadze in February that it should now be possible for the Russians to say more, given glasnost and greater readiness to be open about the darker periods of Soviet history.

Clearly we cannot say any of this to Mrs Jordan but it may be worth hinting in the reply to her that there is no conclusive evidence to show that Wallenberg is still alive, any more than prove that he is dead. I attach a draft accordingly.

Yours ever

L Parker

(L Parker)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
PS/10 Downing Street

SECRET

~~AL~~
~~SB~~

LR
mm 27/4



10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

pa Wallenberg
Soviet Dept
PS
810
27/4

From the Private Secretary

24 April, 1987.

Thank you for your letter of 20 March to the Prime Minister. The case of Raoul Wallenberg is, of course, very well-known to us. While it is primarily a matter for the Swedish Government, we have raised the case with the Russians on a number of occasions in recent years and pressed them to give a full and frank account of Wallenberg's fate.

The Prime Minister did not in the event raise the question of Wallenberg during her visit to Moscow. As you will appreciate, she and the Foreign Secretary had to be selective. But she did encourage Mr. Gorbachev to continue down the path of greater openness on which he has embarked, and which may eventually make it easier for the Soviet authorities to respond to the Swedish request for more information about Wallenberg's fate.

(C.D. Powell)

Mrs. Claire Jordan

DRAFT: minute/letter/teleletter/despatch/note

TYPE: Draft/Final 1+

FROM: PS No. 10

Reference

DEPARTMENT:

TEL. NO:

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

TO:

Your Reference

Top Secret

Claire Jordan
47 Cintra Park
Crystal Palace
London. SE19 2LQ

Secret

Confidential

Restricted

Unclassified

Copies to:

PRIVACY MARKING

SUBJECT:

.....In Confidence

Thank you for your letter of 1 December to the Prime Minister *on behalf of* [redacted] the

CAVEAT.....

Raoul Wallenberg Committee.

rather limited
In the *time* available for her talks with Mr Gorbachev, it was not possible for the Prime Minister to raise Mr Wallenberg's case. His fate remains of concern to the government, which has carefully noted the contents of the last Soviet statement about him. This does not go beyond the information previously supplied by the Soviet authorities in any material detail and therefore remains unsatisfactory. At the same time, we have to accept that *there is* no conclusive evidence [redacted] that Mr Wallenberg is still alive.

Enclosures—flag(s).....

The case of Raoul Wallenberg is ~~of course~~ primarily a matter for the Swedish authorities. However as you know the government have raised it with the Russians on a number of occasions in recent years. *WR* [redacted] will continue to have it in mind in future contacts with the Soviet authorities and to press them to give at last a full and frank account of Mr Wallenberg's fate.

WR

Claire JORDON

16/12



file 9876

10 DOWNING STREET

LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

A4/ 2 December 1987

I attach a copy of a letter the Prime Minister has received from Claire Jordan and colleagues of the Raoul Wallenberg Committee.

I should be grateful if you could provide a draft reply for Private Secretary signature. It would be helpful if this could reach me by Wednesday 16 December.

C D POWELL

Lyn Parker, Esq.
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

6

010

RESTRICTED

ccpc



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

(2)

2 December 1987

Rose Parker
QD.

Dear Charles,

Mr Gorbachev's Stopover: Release of Prominent Refusenik

The Prime Minister may like to know that a prominent refusenik, Dr Victor Brailovsky, and his wife Irina, who have recently been allowed to emigrate having first applied to do fifteen years ago, were in London at the end of last week and called on Soviet Department. Dr Brailovsky's case was raised by Government Ministers on a number of occasions, most recently by the Secretary of State with Mr Shevardnadze during the Prime Minister's visit in March. Dr Brailovsky received the Annual Award in 1981 from the All-Party Parliamentary Committee for Soviet Jewry. He was presented with the award at a ceremony in February in the British Embassy in Moscow.

W

Dr Brailovsky particularly asked for his thanks to be passed to Mrs Thatcher for her role in securing his own release and that of other refuseniks. At the same time he hoped that the Prime Minister would continue to press for the release of all who wished to emigrate and for improvements in human rights generally.

The Brailovskys will live in Israel where both he and his wife have been given teaching jobs at Tel Aviv University.

Yours ever
L. Parker

(L Parker)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
10 Downing Street

RESTRICTED

Raoul Wallenberg Committee

President:

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

Chairman:

Maurice Samuelson, M.A. (Oxon.)

Secretary: Claire Jordan
47 Cintra Park
Crystal Palace
London SE19 2LQ

Tel: 01 538
6483 (daytime)

To: The Rt Hon Margaret Thatcher MP
10 Downing Street
SW1

1st December 1987

Dear Madame,

We are writing to you to urge you to raise the case of Raoul Wallenberg during your forthcoming meeting with Mr Gorbachev, not in a spirit of accusation but in the hope that he will be willing to act on his stated policy of clearing up historical misunderstandings and administrative errors.

Recent developments have rendered this far more urgent than might otherwise have been the case: yesterday the Soviet Ambassador to Sweden, Mr Boris Pankin, invited Wallenberg's half-sister Nina Lagergren to a meeting at which he again reiterated that Wallenberg had died in 1947 and stated that fresh investigations had confirmed this, whilst at the same time freely admitting that the Soviet Union could produce no evidence whatsoever to this effect because all those involved at the time were now dead: he seemed quite upset at the West's continued disbelief, stressing how much his government wants a good relationship with Sweden. The implication is that the campaign for Raoul Wallenberg's release has become a matter of serious concern to the Soviets, if they are prepared to go to so much trouble to defuse it, but also that they are hoping to bury the case once and for all. It is of course quite possible that Mr Gorbachev has himself been misled by incorrect information provided by his subordinates: if they admit that they have no evidence of Wallenberg's death it is difficult to imagine how they are supposed to have proved it to themselves. The actual tone (as opposed to the content) of the meeting and of a recent Tass statement on the case (enclosed) has been much less hostile than we have come to expect.

We appreciate the reasons why you may think it most productive to concentrate on human rights in general rather than on specific cases, but the situation of Wallenberg is unique. He is not a political prisoner, nor a dissident or refusenik, and there is a risk that he will be missed by broad changes of policy: both in his achievements and his subsequent fate he is unique, and needs to be remembered as such. This new statement by the Soviets makes it absolutely crucial that Western leaders act now before the matter - and the man - are indeed buried by traditional Soviet inflexibility: Mr Gorbachev's apparent willingness to be friendly and his evident respect for your opinions still provide an opportunity, if you will only make clear your deep concern for Raoul Wallenberg, to keep the case open and even, perhaps, to ensure his release before he embarks on the 44th year of his imprisonment.

A. Brannwell
G. Brown

Yours faithfully,
May Hayes
Claire Jordan
Nicholas Cornford
Sarah Rhodes

Raoul Wallenberg Trust: Registered Charity No. 326273

Trustees: Greville Janner Q.C., M.P., Brian Beckman LL.B., Maurice Samuelson M.A. (Oxon.), Colin Shindler M.Sc. (M.R.S.C.), C. Chem., Cert. Ed.

Nicholas Bayard
[Signature]

STOCKHOLM AUGUST 10 TASS - TASS CORRESPONDENT NIKOLAI VUKOLOV REPORTS:

+THE SWEDISH GOVERNMENT WAS INFORMED IN 1957 AFTER INVESTIGATION THAT VALLENBERG HAD DIED IN JULY 1947 IN PRISON PROBABLY AS A RESULT OF MYOCARDIAL INFARCTION. WE UNDERSTAND THE CONCERN OF VALLENBERG'S RELATIVES AND OF ALL THOSE WHO ARE INTERESTED IN WHAT HAPPENED TO HIM. IT WOULD BE GOOD IF RUMOURS TO THE EFFECT THAT HE IS ALIVE WERE JUSTIFIED. HOWEVER, LAST YEAR ANOTHER THOROUGH INVESTIGATION INTO ALL THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE CASE WAS CONDUCTED. IT CONFIRMED THAT VALLENBERG HAD DIED IN 1947+.

THE SWEDISH PRESS GAVE LITTLE COVERAGE TO THIS STATEMENT MADE RECENTLY AT A BRIEFING IN MOSCOW BY GENNADY GERASIMOV, SPOKESMAN OF THE USSR MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, ALTHOUGH HE MENTIONED THE PROBLEM TO WHICH THE LOCAL PRESS DEVOTES SOMETIMES WHOLE COLUMNS AND EVEN PAGES.

THE EXPLANATION WAS GIVEN ABOUT THE DESTINY OF RAUL VALLENBERG, A SWEDISH DIPLOMAT, WHICH, IN ITSELF, WAS NOT ACCIDENTAL. THE THING IS THAT NUMEROUS MATERIALS APPEARED IN THE MASS MEDIA OF SWEDEN AND OTHER COUNTRIES REPEATING THE VERSION THAT VALLENBERG WAS ALLEGEDLY ALIVE AND THAT SOVIET AUTHORITIES DID NOT WANT TO SET HIM FREE. THE LEADING SWEDISH NEWSPAPERS PUBLISHED THE EXPLANATION GIVEN BY THE SOVIET SPOKESMAN. THIS STEP SEEMED TO BE PERFECTLY IMPARTIAL. HOWEVER, IT WAS NOT REALLY SO.

ALL THE NEWSPAPERS FOUND IT POSSIBLE TO PUBLISH THE EXPLANATION, CONCISE BUT MEANINGFUL, IN AN ABBREVIATED FORM. THEY RULED OUT THE PARTS OF THE EXPLANATION THAT DESERVE TO BE READ BECAUSE THEY EXPRESS UNDERSTANDING OF THE CONCERN OF VALLENBERG'S RELATIVES AND OF ALL PEOPLE IN GENERAL WHO ARE INTERESTED IN WHAT HAPPENED TO HIM. ANYONE WHO READ THE STATEMENT WOULD NOTICE AT ONCE THE TONE IN WHICH IT WAS MADE. IT EXPRESSED ONCE AGAIN THE REGRET OF THE SOVIET SIDE OVER WHAT HAD HAPPENED AND ADMITTED THAT THE CASE WAS BY NO MEANS UNIMPORTANT TO THE SOVIET UNION. THE STATEMENT SAID: +IT WOULD BE GOOD IF RUMOURS TO THE EFFECT THAT VALLENBERG IS ALIVE WERE JUSTIFIED+. THIS PHRASE NEVER REACHED SWEDISH READERS.

IT IS A PITY THAT THE SWEDISH PUBLIC DID NOT SEE THE SOVIET STATEMENT IN FULL VOLUME, BECAUSE IT IS CLEAR, CONTRARY TO WHAT IS SAID ABOUT IT IN SWEDEN, THAT THE SOVIET SIDE IS STRIKINGLY FRANK, THAT NO ONE IN THE SOVIET UNION CALLS IN QUESTION THE IDENTITY OF RAUL VALLENBERG AND HIS ACTIVITIES DURING THE WAR YEARS. IT IS CLEAR AS WELL THAT IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE POLICY OF OPENNESS PURSUED IN THIS COUNTRY, WITH THE INTENTION TO OPENLY EXAMINE ALL THE PROBLEMS, THE USSR SEEKS TO CLARIFY THIS PROBLEM AND AT THE SAME TIME TO CLEAR UP MISGIVINGS AND MISTRUST THAT SWEDEN STILL HAS OVER THIS PROBLEM. THIS STAND IS BROUGHT ABOUT BY A SINCERE DESIRE TO DEVELOP AND DEEPEN SOVIET-SWEDISH GOODNEIGHBOURLY RELATIONS IN THE INTERESTS OF BOTH COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES.

JUDGING BY STATEMENTS OF SWEDISH LEADER, THIS DESIRE IS SHARED BY SWEDEN. IN VIEW OF THIS FACT IT IS NOT CLEAR WHY THE SWEDISH PRESS GAVE SUCH LITTLE COVERAGE TO THE EXHAUSTIVE SOVIET EXPLANATION AIMED AT SETTLING THE MATTER WHICH, IN THE OPINION OF THE SWEDISH SIDE, STILL AGGRAVATES THE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES.

A SPOKESMAN OF THE SOVIET FOREIGN MINISTRY EXPLAINED THE STAND OF THE USSR AND THE LEADING SWEDISH NEWSPAPERS PUBLISHED A BRIEF VERSION OF IT. THIS COMMENTARY WOULD NOT BE NECESSARY IF THE NEXT DAY ONE OF THOSE NEWSPAPERS, SVENSKA DAGBLADET, DID NOT COME UP WITH HACKNEYED ACCUSATIONS OF THE SOVIET UNION AND DEMANDS OF EVER NEW EXPLANATIONS. THE NEWSPAPER WAS OBVIOUSLY FORGETFUL OF THE FACT THAT THE EXPLANATIONS HAD BEEN GIVEN A COUPLE OF DAYS AGO.

ITEM ENDS +++

Ida Nudel message: CR
Am?



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

27 October 1987

Handwritten initials/signature

Joan Chacko

Mrs Ida Nudel

/ I attach a letter from Mrs Ida Nudel to the Prime Minister which HMA Tel Aviv has received via the Chairman of the Group "Israeli Women for Ida Nudel".

No reply is required.

Handwritten signature

Handwritten signature

(R N Culshaw)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
10 Downing Street

WIZO



federation of
women zionists
of Great Britain
and Ireland

107 Gloucester Place
London W1H 4BY
telephone 01-486 2691
telegrams Wizocentre
Wesdo London

life patron

The Lady Sieff of Brimpton

honorary presidents

Lady Hadow
Carmel Webber

presidents

Brenda Katten
Leila Wynbourne

vice-presidents

Rena Behrman
Susi Bradfield
Judith Goldkorn
Fela Kerstein B.A.
Doris Lewis
Enid Sandelson B.Sc.

chairman

Gina Monty

vice-chairmen

Barbara Harding
Brenda Hyman
Shirley Levinson

honorary treasurers

Esther Berman
Myrna Young B.Sc.

honorary secretary

Paula Marber B.A. (Hons)

22nd October 1987

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

Dear Mrs Thatcher,

On behalf of all the women of British WIZO, I write to thank you for your help and support on behalf of Ida Nudel during her long period of imprisonment.

We feel sure that it was due in no small measure to your personal intervention on Ida's behalf that her release was secured.

We thank you most sincerely for your continued support of the cause of Soviet Jewry.

Yours sincerely,

Gina Monty

Gina Monty
Chairman
British WIZO

Ria Minister

CDP
28/10

26/10

4

The Board of Deputies of British Jews

2

WOBURN HOUSE, TAVISTOCK SQUARE, LONDON, WC1H 0EP.

Telex: 262666 BOD G Telegrams: DEPUTIES, LONDON, WC1 Telephone: 01-387 3952 or 388 7651

FROM THE PRESIDENT

R14/7

10th July, 1987

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

mt

Prime Minister

COO
14/7

Jean Pierre Mission

I write this short note to thank you most warmly for receiving representatives from the World Conference on Soviet Jewry which met in London over last weekend.

As I mentioned in my remarks, London was chosen for the venue as a tribute to you for all your efforts on behalf of the Jews in the Soviet Union.

We were very encouraged by your remarks, and we wish you every success during your forthcoming visit to the United States.

Very sincerely,

Lionel Kopelowitz

(Dr.) Lionel Kopelowitz JP

RESTRICTED



SUBJECT CC MASTER

ECU
bc PC

10 DOWNING STREET

LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

6 July 1987

Dear Lynn,

SOVIET JEWS

The Prime Minister received a delegation from the World Conference on Soviet Jewry this afternoon, led by Dr. Kopelowitz.

The delegation expressed gratitude for the way in which the Prime Minister had dealt with the issue of Soviet Jews during her visit to the Soviet Union. This had been the strongest blow struck so far for the liberty and rights of Soviet Jews. They also expressed appreciation for Mr. Mellor's remarks to their Conference earlier today.

The delegation were pessimistic about the prospects for Soviet Jewry. The numbers allowed to leave had increased only slightly and remained far short of those achieved in the late 1970s (although they might still reach 10/12000 this year). The Soviet authorities were applying a regressive definition of the family and of national security considerations in the Emigration law. Their fear was that Gorbachev would let out a few thousand now, have a successful Summit and then close the gates completely. There had been no significant improvement in the conditions of Jews in the Soviet Union. Those who asked to leave faced immediate discrimination and penalties. They hoped that the Prime Minister would urge President Reagan to press the issue hard at a Summit. They also hoped that the Soviets would be urged to fulfil their tentative commitment to institute flights to Israel via Rumania.

The Prime Minister recalled the very different starting point of the Soviet authorities, schooled in a philosophy which gave little account to the individual. Some progress had been achieved. She suspected that the Russians might be holding back further concessions to gain the maximum political impact, for instance in connection with a Middle East peace conference. We would use every opportunity to keep up pressure on them. There was so much more to do.

Yours sincerely,
Charles Powell

CHARLES POWELL

Lyn Parker, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

ECU

PRIME MINISTER

WORLD CONFERENCE ON SOVIET JEWRY

You have agreed to see a delegation from the World Conference on Soviet Jewry on Monday. I attach a list of those attending. You will see that they include Mr. Bronfman (who had to cancel his last meeting with you, after he had a skiing accident). Sir David Wolfson will also be present.

The occasion is the meeting in London of the International Council of the World Conference on Soviet Jewry.

You will want to ask the delegation how they now assess the prospects

- (a) for Jewish emigration from the Soviet Union. There has been an upturn in the figures this year: 3,000 in the first six months, which is more than the total of the last three years put together. But the figure is still well short of those achieved in the late 1970s (51,000 in 1979), and of the target of 10/15,000 for this year. When you saw Mr. Bronfman in January he was optimistic about the possibility of much increased emigration. Does he remain so?
- (b) for treatment of Jews in the Soviet Union. There have been reports of improved conditions. The Chief Rabbi has been very active.

You will want to recall your own meetings in Moscow with Mr. and Mrs. Begun and Mrs. Ioffe.

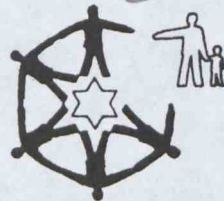
C.D.P.

CHARLES POWELL

Loback 3 July 1987

National Council for Soviet Jewry

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



nb/jip

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

2nd July 1987

Dear Mr. Powell,

I refer to your letter dated 6th May 1987 and now write to confirm the names of those who will comprise the delegation meeting the Prime Minister at 15.15 on Monday 6th July. The list is:-

Arye Dulzin, Chairman, World Conference on Soviet Jewry

Dr. Lionel Kopelowitz, President of the Board of Deputies of
British Jews

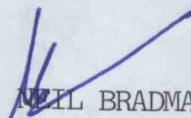
Edgar Bronfman, President of the World Jewish Congress

Morris Abram, Chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major
American Jewish Organisations and Chairman of the
American National Conference on Soviet Jewry

Abe Harman, President of the Israel Public Council for Soviet
Jewry

Neil Bradman, Chairman, National Council for Soviet Jewry

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. Lord Chapple. Edward Fox.

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Chairman: Neil Bradman. Vice Chairmen: Rita Eker, Cynthia Jacobs. Treasurers: Len Rosenberg. Jeffrey Pinnick FCA.
Hon. Secretaries: Linda Isaacs, Sylvia Sheff J.P. Hon. Solicitors: Victor Mishcon & Co.

SOVIET UNION

SOVIET TRUMP

PT 2



skw

6 May 1987

BF // The Prime Minister has asked me to thank you for your letter of 1 May in which you ask whether she would receive a small delegation during the International Council of the World Conference on Soviet Jewry on 5 and 6 July. Subject to confirmation nearer the time, the Prime Minister could see a small delegation at 1515 on Monday 6 July. I should be grateful if you could let me know, in due course, the names of those who will make up the delegation.

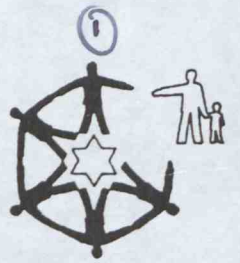
(C. D. POWELL)

Neil Bradman, Esq.

skw

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



R115

15-15
26

nb/jip

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

Prime Minister
I think you ought
to do this if
possible. Agree?

1st May 1987

CJP
S/S.

Dear Prime Minister,

Yes mb

The International Council of the World Conference on Soviet Jewry which is comprised of representatives from many countries throughout the world, will meet in London on 5th and 6th July 1987.

The Chairman of the Council has asked me to write to you to enquire whether you would be good enough to receive at some stage of its proceedings, a small international delegation representing the Council.

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.

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GRS 250

Restricted

PS NO 10

DOWNING ST

RESTRICTED
FM TEL AVIV
TO ROUTINE FCO
TELNO 129
OF 280630Z APRIL 87
INFO ROUTINE MOSCOW

YOUR TELNO 80: SOVIET JEWRY: HIDA NUDEL.

1. HE ATTENDED THE MEETING TO MARK THE BIRTHDAY OF HIDA NUDEL ON 27 APRIL AND READ OUT THE MESSAGE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER IN YOUR TUR. THE MINISTER OF ABSORPTION PUBLICLY THANKED MRS THATCHER FOR THE MESSAGE AND FOR HMG'S EFFORTS IN THIS AND OTHER CASES.

2. OTHERS WHO SPOKE DURING THE TWO HOUR MEETING INCLUDED ANOTOL SHARANSKY, ABIE NATHAN AND HELENA FRIEDMAN (HIDA NUDEL'S SISTER). THE MAIN THEMES DEALT WITH THE NEED FOR PRESSURE ON THE SOVIET AUTHORITIES, ENCOURAGEMENT OF REFUSEES AND TREATING THE HIDA NUDEL CASE AS A TEST OF SOVIET SINCERITY. THERE WAS ALSO MUCH SCEPTICISM ABOUT SOVIET MOTIVES.

3. IN THE COURSE OF THE MEETING A LIVE 'PHONE CALL WAS RECEIVED FROM HIDA NUDEL AND THE MINISTER AND OTHER PERSONALITIES SPOKE TO HER. AT THE CHAIRMAN'S REQUEST HE REPEATED HMG'S CONTINUED INTEREST IN THIS CASE.

4. AN ISRAELI POET, NAOMI SHERER, READ OUT A POEM ON HIDA NUDEL AND GAVE ME A MANUSCRIPT VERSION IN HEBREW FOR TRANSMISSION TO THE PRIME MINISTER (BY BAG). EXTRACTS FROM THE PROCEEDINGS, INCLUDING THE PRIME MINISTER'S MESSAGE, WERE CARRIED ON ISRAELI TV AND RADIO THE SAME EVENING AND IN THE LOCAL ENGLISH AND HEBREW LANGUAGE PRESS ON APRIL 28.

SQUIRE

YYYY

TVHPAN 5347

LIMITED
SOVIET DEPT
NENAO
CSCE UNIT
NEWS D
PS
PS / MR BENTON
MR RATFORD

PS NO 10 DOWNING ST

Restricted

010

CFR



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

שגרירות ישראל
לונדון

עמ 22/4

22nd April 1987

Dear Prime Minister

עמ 22/4

I have been instructed to transmit
to you the attached letter from
Mr. Yitzhak Shamir, Prime Minister of
Israel.

Respectfully,
Yehuda Avner

Yehuda Avner
Ambassador of Israel

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

Soviet Jersey



PT 2



2



ראש הממשלה
THE PRIME MINISTER

Prime Minister

CDP
22/4

SUBJECT
CC MASTER
OPS

Jerusalem, 16-APR-1987

PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. T71B/87

Dear Prime Minister,

I would like to express my appreciation and the appreciation of my government for your firm and principled stand on behalf of Soviet Jewry, and particularly for the sense of commitment to the cause of the refuseniks which you have manifested during your recent visit to the Soviet Union.

Your words and deeds have infused thousands of refuseniks with renewed courage and determination and have evoked the admiration of all who cherish justice, humanity and freedom.

Sincerely yours,

Yitzhak Shamir

The Prime Minister
Mrs. Margaret Thatcher
10 Downing Street
London



10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

9 April 1987

From the Private Secretary

Thank you for your letter of 16 March to the Prime Minister about Soviet women refuseniks.

The Prime Minister was very sorry to hear that you were prevented from visiting the Soviet Union last month, but she took the opportunity of her own visit to Moscow to press home some of the points you were unable to make yourselves. As you will be aware, she was also able to meet some long term refuseniks, including Rosa Ioffe, to hear of their concerns at first hand. She regarded this meeting as an important element in her programme. The refuseniks made a point of stressing the importance to them of the support of organisations like your own.

During her talks with Mr Gorbachev, the Prime Minister expressed the hope that Soviet Jews would be allowed to emigrate if they so wished. Mr Gorbachev said 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 this question with the Soviet Foreign Minister and handed him a list of cases of Soviet citizens refused exit visas, about whom the Government have received representations over the last few months. Mr Shevardnadze undertook to look into the cases listed, which included many long term women refuseniks.

The Government have welcomed the recent releases of prisoners of conscience and hope they will continue. They are also aware of recent reports that the Soviet authorities may be preparing to allow large numbers of refuseniks to leave. Certainly the March figure for Jewish emigration, at 470, was a considerable improvement over February (146) and January (92). These are encouraging signs.

The Prime Minister, therefore, very much hopes that we shall see genuine and sustained progress in the coming months and that exit visas will be forthcoming for the long term refusenik women whom you mention, their families and others like them.

Charles Powell

Mrs Susan Dykes

MS2ATF
afk

088



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

9 April 1987

Dear Charles,

~~CCP~~
pap.

Thank you for your letter of 18 March enclosing one to the Prime Minister from Mrs Susan Dykes about long term refusenik women.

Mrs Dykes is the Chairman of "Parliamentary Wives for the Release of Soviet Jewry". She, her husband Hugh Dykes MP and other members of the group were, as she says, recently refused visas to visit the Soviet Union, when they had hoped to meet refusenik women. They had written to the Prime Minister about their plans: I enclose a copy of your reply of 5 March.

/ I attach a draft reply for your signature.

Yours ever

L Parker

(L Parker)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
No 10 Downing St

SOVIET UNION:

Womens Campaign Soviet

News Pt 2



DSR 11 (Revised Sept 85)

DRAFT: ~~minute~~/letter/~~teletype~~/~~dispatch~~/~~note~~

TYPE: Draft/~~Final~~ +

FROM: PS/^PM

Reference

DEPARTMENT:

TEL. NO:

Your Reference

BUILDING:

ROOM NO:

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

- Top Secret
- Secret
- Confidential
- Restricted
- Unclassified

TO:

Copies to:

Mrs Susan Dykes
 1 Glenilla Road
 London NW3

Handwritten:
 10 copies
 ✓

SUBJECT:

PRIVACY MARKING

..... In Confidence

Thank you for your letter of 16 March to the Prime Minister about Soviet women refuseniks.

CAVEAT

The Prime Minister was very sorry to hear that you were prevented from visiting the Soviet Union last month, but she took the opportunity of her own visit to Moscow to press home some of the points you were unable to make yourselves. As you will be aware, she was also able to meet with some long term refuseniks, including Rosa Ioffe, to hear of their concerns at first hand. She regarded this meeting as an important element in her programme. The refuseniks made a point of stressing the importance to them of the support of organisations like your own.

Enclosures flag(s)

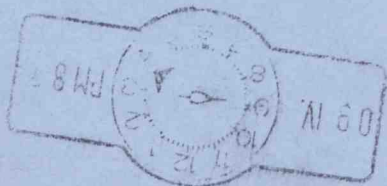
During her talks with Mr. Gorbachev, the Prime Minister expressed the hope that Soviet Jews would be allowed to emigrate if they so wished. Mr Gorbachev said that the Soviet Government considered all humanitarian cases very carefully and would continue to deal with them attentively, with positive results where possible.

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The Government have welcomed the recent releases of prisoners of conscience and hope they will continue. They are also aware of recent reports that the Soviet authorities ^{maybe} ~~are~~ preparing to allow large numbers of refuseniks to leave. Certainly the March figure for Jewish emigration, at 470, was a considerable improvement over February (146) and January (92). These are ~~all positive~~ and encouraging signs.

The Prime Minister, therefore, very much hopes that we shall see genuine and sustained progress in the coming months and that exit visas will be forthcoming for the long term refusenik women whom you mention, their families and others like them.

Ch



MR. POWELL *CPD*

MRS. EKER: WOMENS CAMPAIGN FOR SOVIET JEWRY

Mrs. Eker rang to plead for an urgent meeting with the Prime Minister. Even five minutes would be enough. She was being besieged by refuseniks who were telephoning her from the Soviet Union, often at some real personal risk to themselves, and even though Josef Begun had telephoned to say the Prime Minister was "a wonderful lady and we all love her". Many refuseniks were anxious to know what was going on. They were particularly concerned, Mrs. Eker said when I pressed her, about Mr. Bronfman's statement that 12,000 Jews would be coming out. What was that set against the vast numbers who would remain?

Mrs. Eker is leaving for Israel on Tuesday morning. She appreciated the diary difficulties and the problem the Prime Minister would have if she started going back on her decision not to have individual meetings like this. But she very much hoped a short meeting will be possible.

I said that I would of course pass on the request. But I knew the diary would be very difficult indeed on the Prime Minister's return. Mrs. Eker said she could understand that.

Mrs. Eker's telephone number is: 458 7148/9.

MEA

Mark Addison

1 April 1987

DG2BVI



10 DOWNING STREET

Neil Bradman Esq
Chairman
National Council for Soviet Jewry
of the United Kingdom and Ireland
College House
4a New College Parade
Finchley Road
LONDON NW3 5EP

24 March 1987

Neil W Bradman

Thank you for your letter enclosing information
and a copy of the first issue of "Soviet
Jewry". This is most useful.

With best wishes.

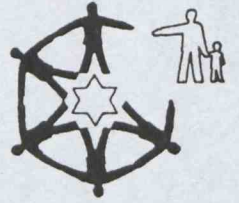
Yours sincerely

Hartley Booth

HARTLEY BOOTH

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

Mr. Hartley Booth,
Policy Department,
10, Downing Street,
London, SW1.

23rd March, 1987

Dear Mr. Booth,

Prisoners of Zion

I am pleased to inform you that since last Thursday's meeting with Mrs. Thatcher, three more Prisoners of Zion have been released. Remaining in captivity are: Iosif Berenshtein, Yuli Edelshtein and Alexei Magarik. All three were sentenced on fabricated criminal charges: Iosif Berenshtein for resisting arrest and Yuli Edelshtein and Alexei Magarik for illegal possession of drugs. All Prisoners of Zion sentenced for 'political offences' have therefore now been released.

Refuseniks

The primary objective of Soviet policy in harassing refuseniks has been on the one hand to discourage other Jews from applying for permission to emigrate and on the other to try to influence some of the refuseniks to change their minds. However, that harassment, appalling though it has been and still is, is not uniform. Individual exceptions to almost every general statement can be found. Few refuseniks are completely without employment, some have retained their professional position and cases of boys being barmitzvah and so on are known. For this reason it is important to concentrate on the refuseniks prime objective - permission to emigrate. We should judge any Soviet response to representations in terms of the numbers permitted to do so.

..2/

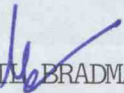
Patrons: His Grace the Duke of Devonshire, The Rt. Hon. Dr. David Owen MP. The Rt. Hon. Peter Archer QC MP. The Chief Rabbi Sir Immanuel Jakobovits.
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Distribution of Jews in the USSR

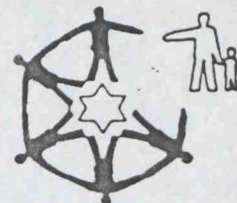
You will recall that Mrs. Thatcher asked about the distribution of Jews in the USSR. Two-thirds of the Jewish population is concentrated in four cities: Moscow, Leningrad, Kiev and Odessa. A table showing the distribution of the Jewish population by republic is enclosed. Incidentally, the desire of many refuseniks to pursue Jewish studies as well as their scientific careers is illustrated by the contents of The Journal of the Academic Proceedings of Soviet Jewry, a copy of which is enclosed.

Yours sincerely,


NEIL BRADMAN
Chairman

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



Background Information

DISTRIBUTION OF JEWS IN THE USSR ACCORDING TO REPUBLIC

| Name of Republic | Republic Total (in thousands) | Percentage of total Jewish Population | Percentage of Republic population |
|------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| RSFSR | 701 | 38.7 | 0.5 |
| UKRAINE | 634 | 35.0 | 1.3 |
| BYELORUSSIA | 135 | 7.5 | 1.4 |
| UZBEKISTAN | 100 | 5.6 | 0.6 |
| MOLDAVIA | 80 | 4.5 | 2.0 |
| AZERBAIDZHAN | 35 | 1.9 | 0.6 |
| GEORGIA | 28 | 1.5 | 0.6 |
| LATVIA | 28 | 1.5 | 1.1 |
| LITHUANIA | 15 | 0.8 | 0.4 |
| TADZHIKSTAN | 15 | 0.8 | 0.4 |
| ESTONIA | 5 | 0.3 | 0.3 |
| KAZAKHSTAN | 35 | 1.9 | |
| KIRGIZIA | | | |
| ARMENIA | | | |
| TURKMENIA | | | |
| Total | 1,811 | | |

Figures for 1979 All Union Census from 'Vestnik Statistiki, 1980, No.2 Moscow



file SH

10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

awh 18 March 1987

I attach a copy of a letter the Prime Minister has received from Mrs. Susan Dykes.

I should be grateful if you could provide a draft reply for Private Secretary signature, to reach me by 1 April.

C D POWELL

R. N. Culshaw, Esq., M.V.O.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

SH

PCO for document

PARLIAMENTARY WIVES FOR THE RELEASE OF SOVIET JEWRY



16th March, 1987

Mrs Susan Dykes,
1, Glenilla Road,
LONDON NW3.

CHAIRMAN

.....

Susan Dykes

MEMBERS

.....

Miff Archer

Marjorie Blackburn

Lady Bottomley

Marjorie Brown

Valerie Cocks

Mary Cormack

Olwen Howells

Myra Janner

Caroline Latham

Gloria Lawrence

Jan Leadbitter

Lady Lever

June McKay

Leslie McWilliam

Mary Mikardo

Renee Miller

Dora Prag

Colleen Rees

Edith Rifkind

Susie Sainsbury

Lady Stone

Carolyn Sumberg

Dear Prime Minister,

Thank you so much for your letter of good wishes and support for our visit to Moscow.

Unfortunately our visas were refused. Although Tim Renton from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office spoke with Leonid Zamyatin, his efforts could not persuade the Russian authorities to change their minds

In preparing for our visit, we had asked if we might meet Mrs Gorbachev and subsequently Mrs Zoiya Puchova, the Chairman of the Soviet Women's Committee. We had planned to meet some of the 200 long-term refusenik women who on February 5th had written to Mr Gorbachev to plead with him to allow them to leave for Israel to join their families. As they had had no response from him by March 5th, the women, from 9 cities throughout the USSR marked International Women's Day by going on a hunger strike for three days.

They are law abiding women who have struggled to bring up their children according to Russian law, and their own religious principles. Disillusioned and fearful of the future, many of their sons are now approaching military service.

Our group and many groups like us would be so grateful if during your visit to Moscow you could bring up the subject of the plight of these divided families, and of these troubled women.

I wish you much success with your forthcoming visit.

Yours sincerely,

Susan Dykes

cc [unclear] ①



Prime Minister

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

13 March 1987

This might be
worthy of consideration,
even though you are very
pressed.

A fifteen minute appearance
could be a useful antidote to
the Fourth Protocol letter
Dear Charles, last evening!

No Hook
Dykes
was sharply
critical of
our

CDP 13/3

You will recall the request from Ida Nudel's sister,
Mrs Fridman, in Israel, to see the Prime Minister and show
her a film about her sister.

As suggested in your letter of 7 February,
HM Ambassador in Tel Aviv has seen the film on the
Prime Minister's behalf. He sees no reason to recommend
that the Prime Minister should see the film herself; but
suggested that she might care to look in on a reception
which Mrs Susan Dykes is giving by permission of Mr Speaker,
at the Speaker's House on the evening of 19 March, for
the "Parliamentary Wives for Soviet Jewry". The Speaker's
office have confirmed to us that the film will be shown
(in video form) at this reception; but there would be no need
for the Prime Minister to stay for the showing unless she
particularly wished to.

Lizy an
operator.
- Hookin
with anti
have it
all ways
no

The group of Parliamentary wives led by Susan Dykes
who were to have gone to Moscow last week to meet
refuseniks were in the end refused visas. Mr Renton
remonstrated with the Soviet Embassy about this.

We plan in any case to brief the Prime Minister to
raise Ida Nudel's case in Moscow. We have submitted
separately a draft reply to Mrs Fridman's latest letter.

Yours ever,

[Handwritten signature]

(L Parker)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
PS/10 Downing Street

SOVIET UNION: Soviet Jewry: Pt 2





FILE
JA

10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

13 March 1987

I enclose a copy of a letter and enclosure from the Chief Rabbi. Although no further reply is needed, you will see that he encloses details of yet another refusenik case which you will want to add to your list.

(Charles Powell)

Lyn Parker, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

dg



*de upo
clw*

10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

THE PRIME MINISTER

13 March 1987

Dear Mrs. Fridman,

Thank you for your letter of 22 February about your sister, Ida Nudel. I was encouraged to hear that you had been able to speak directly to Mr. Gerasimov about her.

I know only too well how long you and your sister have suffered separation. It was at my request that our Ambassador in Tel Aviv showed the film about her on 5 February. I was also pleased that our Ambassador in Moscow on behalf of our All Party Parliamentary Committee for the Release of Soviet Jewry was able to present Ida an award for her courage on 23 February. I remain very concerned about her and, like you, long for the day when she will be able to leave for Israel.

I will do what I can to help when I go to Moscow, and have noted carefully what you wrote about the facts of the case.

Yours sincerely

Rajiv Gandhi

Mrs. Elena Fridman.

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF RABBI

TELEPHONE:
01-387 1088
CABLES:
CHIRABINAT LONDON WC1

ADLER HOUSE,
TAVISTOCK SQUARE,
LONDON, WC1H 9HN

12th March 1987

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

My dear Prime Minister,

Please accept my renewed immense appreciation for the graciousness with which you received me yesterday, the sympathy and understanding with which you discussed my concerns for Soviet Jewry, and the deep humanity with which you so manifestly seek to bring your exceptional personality and unique influence to bear on the amelioration of those suffering oppression and discrimination. My European colleagues, too, would share these sentiments with the most abiding gratification.

For me, the visit was an altogether inspiring and heartwarming experience.

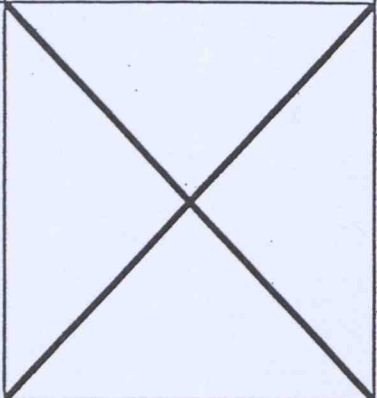
May I also enclose details on another Refusenik whose cause I was particularly asked to plead.

With fervent prayers for success on your impending momentous and historic mission to the Soviet Union, and with every good wish for a safe and rewarding trip,

Yours sincerely,

Isaac Jacobowitz

Enclosure

| | |
|---|--|
| DEPARTMENT/SERIES <i>PLEM 19</i> PIECE/ITEM <i>3186</i> (one piece/item number) | Date and sign |
| Extract details: <i>Refusenik - attachment to letter PM from Chriet Rabbic dated 12 March 1987</i> |  |
| CLOSED UNDER FOI EXEMPTION | |
| RETAINED UNDER SECTION 3(4) OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS ACT 1958 | |
| TEMPORARILY RETAINED | <i>[Signature]</i> <i>18/11/2016</i> |
| MISSING AT TRANSFER | |
| NUMBER NOT USED | |
| MISSING (TNA USE ONLY) | |
| DOCUMENT PUT IN PLACE (TNA USE ONLY) | |



EL3BUC
SCPC

10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

11 March 1987

From the Private Secretary

Dear Lynn,

PRIME MINISTER'S MEETING WITH THE CHIEF RABBI

The Prime Minister saw the Chief Rabbi this afternoon for a discussion which was mostly concerned with the position of Jews in the Soviet Union.

The Chief Rabbi said that he had come to see the Prime Minister in his capacity as President of the Conference of European Rabbis. Their immediate concern was not so much with the minority of Jews who wished to emigrate from the Soviet Union - although of course they supported the campaign to allow this - but with the position of Jews who remained in the Soviet Union. The aim of the Conference of European Rabbis was to bring pressure to bear on the Soviet authorities to enable Jews to have the minimal requirements for maintaining their Jewish religion, culture and identity. The Soviet constitution provided for this but in practice none of the basic rights of Jews were implemented. Instead there was a state of repression with virtually no facilities for Jews to practice their religion. Moscow alone contained more Jews than the whole of the United Kingdom, yet there was only a single synagogue. If young Jews attempted to attend it, they were immediately expelled from university. Even so and almost incredibly there was a revival of Jewish consciousness.

The Chief Rabbi continued that he had been in correspondence (copies enclosed) with the Soviet Ambassador about the possibility of sending a delegation of European Rabbis to discuss these matters. The reply had been that a meeting could be arranged with the Soviet Chief Rabbi. But that was not the point. They wanted to meet decision-makers, not to make a social call. They had put forward an agenda of twelve points which would enable Jews in the Soviet Union to assert their religious and cultural rights without in any way conflicting with Soviet interests. They had no fixed idea of whom they should meet. Obviously they would very much like to see Mr. Gorbachev. But a meeting with the Minister of Cults or of the Interior would be perfectly acceptable. What they needed was reassurance that some substantive measures would emerge from their discussions, even though they did not expect to achieve all twelve of their points. He wondered whether the Prime Minister could mention both the general problem and the specific proposal for a visit by a delegation of European Rabbis in the course of her visit.

BA

The Prime Minister said that she was very much aware of the repression of Soviet Jews and had studied the evidence for this submitted not just by the Chief Rabbi but also by the Board of Deputies of British Jews and other organisations. She would certainly raise this issue as well as that of Jewish emigration and of course human rights more generally during her visit. The problem was to find a way to do so effectively. She did not wish to launch into a diatribe on the subject just to see Mr. Gorbachev's eyes glaze over. He would in any case probably counter attack by references to us sheltering Nazi war criminals. We needed to find new ways of presenting the arguments. For instance she might recall that it had been the Red Army which had liberated Auschwitz and saved the remaining Jews there; that the Soviet Union had been almost the first to recognise the State of Israel; that Golda Meir had not only been born in Russia but also been the first Israeli Ambassador to Moscow. These were just a few examples. But they were an indication of the sort of arguments which she thought might have some effect. The Chief Rabbi expressed his appreciation of the Prime Minister's willingness to follow up his points.

The Chief Rabbi's representations will need to be taken into account in the papers which the Department are already preparing on the general issue of human rights for the Prime Minister's discussions with Mr. Gorbachev.

As he left, the Chief Rabbi handed over the attached list of names of people personally known to him who were awaiting the grant of exit visas. He hoped that the Prime Minister could take some action on it while in Moscow. You are no doubt assembling a full list of all the names which the Prime Minister has been asked to raise.

*Yours sincerely,
Charles Powell*

CHARLES POWELL

Lyn Parker, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

11 March 1987

Dear Charles,

Letter from Mrs Elena Fridman

Thank you for your letter of 25 February enclosing one to the Prime Minister from Ida Nudel's sister in Israel, Mrs Elena Fridman.

/ I enclose a copy of the Prime Minister's letter of 23 January to Mrs Fridman.

At the Prime Minister's request, following an approach from Mrs Fridman, our Ambassador in Israel showed at his Residence a film about Ida Nudel on 5 February. Ida Nudel was also able to attend the ceremony at the Embassy in Moscow on 23 February to receive from Sir Bryan Cartledge an award presented by the All Party Committee for the Release of Soviet Jewry.

The Prime Minister has expressed an interest in meeting Ida Nudel with other refuseniks while in Moscow. We are consulting Sir Bryan Cartledge about how a meeting with refuseniks might be arranged, and who should attend. Since it will certainly be at short notice, to avoid arousing Soviet sensitivities in advance of the visit, we have not included any reference to a possible meeting in the draft reply.

We shall be briefing the Prime Minister to refer to Ida Nudel's case during her talks.

/ I enclose a draft reply.

Yours ever,

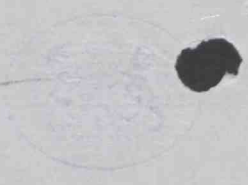
(L Parker)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
PS/10 Downing Street

SOVIET UNION
SOVIET JEWRY



PT 2



DRAFT: minute/letter/teleletter/despatch/note

TYPE: Draft/Final 1 +

FROM:

Reference

PRIME MINISTER

DEPARTMENT:

TEL. NO:

Your Reference

BUILDING:

ROOM NO:

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

- Top Secret
- Secret
- Confidential
- Restricted
- Unclassified

TO:

Copies to:

Mrs Elena Fridman

*Lob
ADK*

AB JWP

SUBJECT:

PRIVACY MARKING

..... In Confidence

Thank you for your letter of 22 ebruary about your sister, Ida Nudel. I was encouraged to hear that you had been able to speak directly to Mr Gerasimov about her.

I know only too well how long you and your sister have suffered separation. It was at my request that our Ambassador in Tel Aviv showed the film about her on 5 February. I was also pleased that our Ambassador in Moscow on behalf of our All Party Parliamentary Committee for the Release of Soviet Jewry was able to present Ida an award for her courage on 23 February. I remain very concerned about her and, like you, long for the day when she will be able to leave for Israel.

I will do what I can to help when I go to Moscow, and have noted carefully what you wrote about the facts of the case.

Enclosures flag(s)

Temporarily Retained 18/11/2016 ddy

**THIS IS A COPY, THE ORIGINAL IS
RETAINED UNDER SECTION 3 (4)
OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS ACT**

PRIME MINISTER

MEETING WITH THE CHIEF RABBI

The Chief Rabbi is coming in to see you on Monday. He wants to see you about Soviet Jewry (on which he has sent in considerable background) and about the Government's campaign on AIDS.

On Soviet Jewry you are aware of the enormous degree of interest and concern. Very many people have asked to come to see you. Since you cannot receive them all, you have asked them to put their views in writing. Many, such as the Board of Deputies and the Orthodox Jews, have already done so. It will be very useful to you to have all this material as background for your visit. There are some slightly more promising signs that restrictions on emigration may be eased. You certainly intend to raise the issue with Mr Gorbachev, both the question of emigration and the treatment of Jews in the Soviet Union. But past experience suggests that the effectiveness of representations is in inverse proportion to the amount of public fanfare which accompanies them. And obviously the scope for you to raise specific cases and individuals is limited.

If the Chief Rabbi asks whether you will be meeting any refuseniks in Moscow, you might tell him in strict confidence that you hope to do so (and those whom you hope to meet include Mr and Mrs Begun). But it is vital that news of this is not made known in advance, or there is a risk that difficulties will be placed in the way of the meeting.

The particular point which the Chief Rabbi wants to raise (and the subject of his increasingly irritable correspondence with

the Soviet Ambassador) is the wish of the Conference of European Rabbis to send a delegation to Moscow to discuss the condition of Soviet Jewry. This is not strictly a matter for you, but you could offer to consider whether there is any way you can help.

CD?

C D POWELL

6 March 1987



10 DOWNING STREET

LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

5 March 1987

Thank you for your letter of 11 February to the Prime Minister about your forthcoming visit to Moscow with other Parliamentary wives. I understand that you have already discussed your plans with Mr Renton and that the Foreign and Commonwealth Office are in touch with our Embassy in Moscow about arrangements.

I understand also that you have not yet received Soviet visas, but that the Foreign and Commonwealth Office have spoken to the Soviet Embassy in support of your application. The Prime Minister hopes that you will be granted your visas and wishes me to convey to you her best wishes for the success of your visit. She feels very strongly about the denial by the Soviet authorities of exit visas to the thousands of Jewish citizens who, like those you mention, have been waiting for many years to emigrate. She is aware that, despite some recent encouraging developments such as the release of 140 Soviet prisoners of conscience, including Iosif Begun, there has been little progress overall; and she has noted the cases you mention. She will certainly take the opportunity of her visit to Moscow this month to make her concern on behalf of Jewish refuseniks known.

You also mentioned Victor Faemark, whose American wife, Andrea Wine, is currently living and working in the UK. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office are in regular contact with her and she called on our Consul in Moscow during a recent visit to her husband, when she was also able to see some senior Soviet officials. We have made it clear to the Russians that we have agreed that Mr Faemark may join his wife here, and we very much hope that he will soon be permitted to leave.

As you can imagine, we have had an enormous number of requests from organisations, particularly those with an interest in the fate of Jewish refuseniks, to see the Prime Minister before her visit to Moscow. Since she cannot possibly see them all, we have asked everyone to put their

DTSAGB
file
cc FCO

views in writing instead, and several have already done so. I know that the Prime Minister would be very grateful if you were able to let her have a note of your group's visit. You know what a close interest she takes in this whole issue - which will be very much at the forefront of her mind when she visits Moscow - and in your work.

C D POWELL

Mrs. Susan Dykes



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

4 March 1987

Dear Charles,

Letter to the Prime Minister from Mrs Susan Dykes

Thank you for your letter of 12 February enclosing one to the Prime Minister from Mrs Susan Dykes, the Chairman of Parliamentary Wives for the Release of Soviet Jewry, about her forthcoming visit, with other wives, to the Soviet Union.

The group's departure date is 6 March, so a reply if it is to reach them should issue now. We held up advising on a reply pending some advice from our Embassy in Moscow and while awaiting news of the group's visas. These have yet to be granted. We have kept in close contact with Mrs Dykes, who called with her husband, Hugh Dykes MP (who will be travelling with the group) and other wives on Mr Renton on 18 February. We have also put down a marker with the Soviet Embassy about the outstanding visas: the recent Soviet decision to withhold visas from members of the All Party Committee for Soviet Jewry is not an encouraging precedent. We understand that the Soviet Ambassador has offered to see the wives after their return from Moscow; but that is no guarantee that the visas will be forthcoming.

Sir Geoffrey Howe does not think it necessary for the Prime Minister to see the group on their return. We have offered alternative language on this point, depending on whether the Prime Minister wants to and can find time.

Andrea Wine, the wife of Victor Faemark, is an American only temporarily resident in the UK and the US is also pressing hard on her behalf. She visited Moscow over Christmas and besides our Consul, was able to see Kashlev, the Head of the MFA Humanitarian and Cultural Affairs Department, and Gerasimov, Head of the Information Department. Ms Wine told us that she felt reasonably optimistic after these meetings.

Yours ever,

L Parker

(L Parker)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
PS/10 Downing Street

DSR 1 (Revised Sept 85)

DRAFT: minute/letter/teleletter/despatch/note

TYPE: Draft/Final 1 +

FROM:
PS/No 10

Reference

DEPARTMENT:

TEL. NO:

Your Reference

BUILDING:

ROOM NO:

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

- Top Secret
- Secret
- Confidential
- Restricted
- Unclassified

TO: Mrs Susan Dykes
1 Glenilla Road
Hampstead
LONDON NW3

Copies to:

DASAB

TO ISSUE TODAY PLEASE
CS

SUBJECT:

PRIVACY MARKING

..... In Confidence

CAVEAT

Thank you for your letter of 11 February to the Prime Minister about your forthcoming visit to Moscow with other Parliamentary wives. I understand that you have already discussed your plans with Mr Renton and that the Foreign and Commonwealth Office are in touch with our Embassy in Moscow about arrangements.

I understand also that you have not yet received Soviet visas, but that the Foreign and Commonwealth Office have spoken to the Soviet Embassy in support of your application. The Prime Minister hopes that you will be granted your visas and wishes me to convey to you her best wishes for the success of your visit. She feels very strongly about the denial by the Soviet authorities of exit visas to the thousands of Jewish citizens who, like those you mention, have been waiting for many years to emigrate. She is aware that, despite some recent encouraging developments such as the release of 140 Soviet prisoners of conscience, including Iosif Begun, there has been little progress overall; and she has noted the cases you mention. She will certainly take the opportunity of her visit to Moscow this month to make her concern on behalf

Enclosures flag(s)



of Jewish refuseniks known.

You also mentioned Victor Faemark, whose American wife, Andrea Wine, is currently living and working in the UK. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office are in regular contact with her and she called on our Consul in Moscow during a recent visit to her husband, when she was also able to see some senior Soviet officials. We have made it clear to the Russians that we have agreed that Mr Faemark may join his wife here, and we very much hope that he will soon be permitted to leave.

[Unfortunately the Prime Minister's busy schedule in advance of her visit to Moscow means that she will not be able to meet with you after your visit, but she would be very grateful to receive your impressions.]

[In view of her close interest in these matters, the Prime Minister would welcome an opportunity to hear your impressions of your visit. Perhaps you would contact me after your return to arrange a time for you to call on her.]

As you can imagine we have
had an enormous number of requests
to see the Prime Minister before he
visits Moscow. Since she cannot possibly
see them all, we have had to ^{choose} ask
everyone to put their views in writing instead, &
send them ~~to~~ ^{to} us. So.

I know
that the
Prime Minister
would be
very grateful
if you were
able to let her
have a copy
of your report
visit. You
know what a
close interest she
takes in this
whole thing -
which will be very
much to her benefit
if you could
let her see it
at the time of
her visit to
Moscow.

from
arguments,
partly
more with
an interest in
the fate of
Jewish
refuseniks,

file

PRIME MINISTER

MR. AND MRS. SHARANSKY

I told you recently that Mr. and Mrs. Sharansky would be in London to see the Prince and Princess of Wales on 26 March. I pointed out that it was just before your departure for Moscow, and an exceptionally busy time for you; also that, since the main purpose of the visit was to meet the Prince and Princess of Wales, it might be better for you not to be involved this time.

You said, however, that you had better see them.

Could I ask you to reconsider? Your diary really is very full at that time: you will be meeting the Sakharovs and refusenik representatives in Moscow which makes it less urgent to see similar people outside the Soviet Union, and you normally try to avoid overlapping events with the Royal Family.

Agree not to see the Sharanskys on this occasion, but to send a warm message?

CDP

4 March, 1987.

JD18

CDP was put
letter in box

dkw

26 February 1987

I know that the Prime Minister will be very grateful to you for sending the briefing document on the plight of Soviet Jewry. I shall make sure that she sees this very soon and she will certainly want to take it with her on her visit to Moscow. Its arrival today is very timely as we are having a discussion of her visit tomorrow.

(C. D. POWELL)

Dr. Lionel Kopelwitz, J.P.

010
The Board
of Deputies
of British Jews

CCB/ECPC
②
CCFCO

WOBURN HOUSE, TAVISTOCK SQUARE, LONDON, WC1H 0EP.

Telex: 262666 BOD G Telegrams: DEPUTIES, LONDON, WC1 Telephone: 01-387 3952 or 388 7651

FROM THE PRESIDENT

25th February, 1987

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

Prime Minister
You will wish
to see before
Kronman's seminar.

Jews' Rights Mission

C.D.P.
26/2.

THE PLIGHT OF SOVIET JEWRY

You will recall that when you received me, together with Mr. Edgar Bronfman, on Monday January 12th, I suggested preparing a briefing document prior to your visit to the Soviet Union.

I now have much pleasure in enclosing this document, which I trust you will find helpful.

Yours sincerely,
Lionel Kopelowitz

(Dr.) Lionel Kopelowitz JP

THE PLIGHT OF SOVIET JEWRY

The tragedy of the Jews of the Soviet Union lies in the fact that while they are unable to live as Jews in the USSR, free from fear and on an equal basis with the other peoples of that multinational state, they are at the same time, prevented from leaving it.

The following facts are indicative of their plight :

- There are approximately 400,000 Jews in the USSR, who in recent years have expressed their desire to leave for Israel, their ancestral homeland, by requesting from relatives in that country invitations required by the Soviet authorities to initiate the emigration process. Yet the emigration of Jews has been virtually halted. In 1984 a mere 896 Jews managed to leave; in 1985, 1140 and in 1986 - only 914. (Over 51,000 Jews left in 1979). Despite public Soviet assurances to the contrary, the number of Jews leaving the USSR has not increased significantly in recent weeks.
- Personal data is available regarding nearly 12,000 Jews known to have been formally refused permission to leave, though undoubtedly the number of refuseniks is far larger. The refuseniks live as outcasts from Soviet society and have no legal redress against their harassment and victimization. More than 300 families have been refused exit visas for more than 10 years and some for over 15 years. In recent days a number of veteran refuseniks, including such well known persons as Yuli Kosharovskiy, Alexander Lerner and Vladimir Stepak, have had their applications refused once again.
- In some cases the Soviet authorities have meted out to refuseniks long terms of imprisonment and exile on trumped-up charges, when their only real "crime" has been their assertion of their rights and their identity as Jews. At the present time there are eight of these "Prisoners of Zion" : Yosif Berenshtein, Yuly Edelshtein, Evgeny Kofman, Yakov Levin, Vladimir Lifshits, Aleksei Magarik, Mark Nepomnyashchy and Leonid Volvovskiy. The physical condition of several of these prisoners - Berenshtein, Edelshtein and Nepomnyashchy - is a source of grave concern.
- Jews are the only recognized nationality among the more than 100 nationalities in the USSR who are deprived of the possibility of studying their national language, Hebrew, and of transmitting their own cultural heritage and traditions to their children.

- Jews are the only religious denomination in the USSR which has no central organization, no theological seminary and no facilities for regular contacts with co-religionists abroad.
- Anti-Jewish discrimination and anti-Semitic propaganda (camouflaged as anti-Zionism) are continuing features of Soviet life.
- Over the past year there have been a few welcome cases of the release of individuals after tremendous and sustained pressure. However, these isolated gestures have left the basic situation of Soviet Jewry unchanged. New Soviet regulations relating to emigration, the adoption of which has been widely publicized by the Soviet government, codify and even extend the existing highly restrictive practices. They limit the right of emigration to those having immediate relatives abroad (a limitation having no foundation in international law) and even within this category arbitrary refusals abound based on bogus national security considerations. Tens of thousands of Jews are denied even the possibility of applying to leave because their invitations come from relatives deemed insufficiently close. The new regulations thus deny the right to leave to the vast majority of those Soviet Jews seeking to live in their historic Jewish homeland.



Laws and the... discrimination in the USSR... which has no... and no facilities for regular contacts with consular... abroad.

Anti-Jewish discrimination and anti-Semitic propaganda (confronted as anti-Zionism) are continuing features of Soviet life.

Over the past year there have been a few welcome cases of the release of individuals after tremendous and sustained pressure. However, these isolated gestures have left the basic situation of Soviet Jewry unchanged. New Soviet propaganda relating to emigration, the adoption of which has been widely publicized by the Soviet government, could and even extend the existing daily restrictive practices. They limit the right of emigration to those having immediate relatives abroad (a limitation having no foundation in international law) and even within this category arbitrary refusal should be based on bogus national security considerations. Tens of thousands of Jews are denied even the possibility of applying to leave because their invitations come from relatives deemed insufficiently close. The new regulations thus deny the right to leave to the vast majority of those Soviet Jews seeking to live in their historic Jewish homeland.

Soviet Union: Jewry PT 2.

COUNCILLOR H. J. LOBENSTEIN MBE

27 FAIRHOLT ROAD
LONDON N16 5EW

TEL. HOME: 01-800 4746
OFFICE: 01-800 4384

HJL/JY

R26

Prime Minister

2

The Rt. Hon. Mrs. Margaret Thatcher,
FRS., MP.,

The Prime Minister,
10, Downing Street,
London, S.W.1.

Some useful
points: but I
don't think you
can raise them
in detail

25th February, 1987.

ml

CDP
26/2

Dear Prime Minister,

Thank you for the message which you kindly passed on to me via Hartley Booth, that you are pleased to receive a memorandum from me - on behalf of the Orthodox Jewish Community - in regard to the plight of Soviet Jewry, and that you will use this as background information during your forthcoming meeting with Mr. Gorbachov in Moscow.

I now have pleasure in submitting the enclosed memorandum on behalf of the Agudas Israel Organisation of Great Britain, and would point out that I have purposely kept it as brief as possible in order not to impose unduly on your very valuable time.

Should there be any further information that you require on this subject, please be assured that I am always available. I shall be grateful to hear from you upon your return.

Meanwhile, please accept my best wishes for a successful journey and safe return.

Yours sincerely,

Joe Lubenstein

P.S. The Agudas Israel Organisation of Great Britain is the British branch of the Agudas Israel World Organisation which, for the past 75 years, has been actively engaged in the protection of religious rights of Jews throughout the world.

אגודת ישראל באנגליה

ב"ה

AGUDAS ISRAEL ORGANISATION

OF GREAT BRITAIN

(AFFILIATED TO THE AGUDIST WORLD MOVEMENT)

THE UNION OF UNIVERSALLY ORGANISED INDEPENDENT ORTHODOX JEWRY

97, STAMFORD HILL,
LONDON, N.16.

In your reply please quote

1

MEMORANDUM TO THE RIGHT HONOURABLE MRS MARGARET THATCHER THE PRIME MINISTER

RELIGIOUS PROBLEMS IN THE USSR

FEBRUARY 1987

INTRODUCTION

It is our contention that under both the Helsinki agreements and Russia's own constitution, Jews wishing to do so should be free to practice every aspect of their religion without interference. Essential religious requisites and foods should be easily available, and present restrictions on their sale or despatch by post should be lifted. Furthermore, the religious infrastructure - places to pray, study and practice their religion - should be available without distinction or hinderance. Jews should not be forced to attend work, college or school on Saturdays (the Jewish Sabbath). Finally, besides repatriation and reunification of families, Jews should also have the right to migrate to wherever they can study and practice their religion fully.

BACKGROUND

Before World War I, Russian Jewry was the largest Jewish community in the world. For centuries until the 1917 Revolution the Jews were cruelly persecuted under the Tsar's antisemitic policies. Nevertheless religious communal life and institutions flourished and many religious leaders in England as elsewhere were educated there. The subsequent Communist regime has virtually destroyed the former religious life and organisation of the Jewish communities. After the Second World War these same policies were extended to Lithuania, Latvia, and other eastern countries.

Recent spokesmen - official and unofficial - have alleged that Jews are being adequately catered for in both cultural and religious fields and claimed that "Hebrew can be studied in the U.S.S.R. ... and is also studied at religious schools and synagogues of which there are about one hundred in the Soviet Union ...". Unfortunately, even these minimal claims are not substantiated by the facts.

HEBREW STUDY

Though the Hebrew alphabet is fundamental to Jewish prayer, the only known place where Hebrew is officially taught is to a few hand-picked students at the Moscow Central Synagogue. In fact the study of Hebrew in the U.S.S.R. is treated as an "anti-Soviet activity" as shown in the persistent K.G.B. harassment of unofficial Hebrew teachers and students - even leading to their imprisonment (usually now on transparently trumped up criminal charges). Mr Gorbachev has not broken with the Andropov doctrine that the Communist Part's aim is to merge the nations of the U.S.S.R. which indicates a strong assimilationist or Russification policy. On average one Jew per month has been imprisoned since Mr Gorbachev came to power - 70 per cent of those jailed for studying Judaism were incarcerated in the last two years.

RELIGIOUS INSTITUTIONS

Whereas other major religions - Russian Orthodox, Greek Orthodox, Islam and Buddhism - each have central co-ordinating bodies; Jews have no central organisation nor even a federation of congregations. Effectively there is no Jewish community in the formal sense.

Islam has four training centres, the Orthodox Church has two academies and eight seminaries but the Jews are allowed only one single Talmudic College in Moscow with five to ten students.

Actually there are only seventy-four registered synagogues (less than under Stalin) mostly impoverished and obscure to serve an estimated two million Jews as against one thousand synagogues in 1926. Moreover, these synagogues are often staffed by Party appointees who report regularly to the K.G.B.

The building or repair of ritual baths essential for religious married life are blocked. Since 23-6-75, in a move apparently custom-designed against Jews (who have to rely heavily on minyans/quorums in private flats) special permission is required for each occasion "a religious service is held in the apartments or houses of believers". These rules also apply to prayers at the

flat of a mourner (who should stay at home during the seven days shiva) or attending a circumcision ceremony. Private religious study circles are regularly broken up.

RELIGIOUS FULFILLMENT

Despite all the bland official assurances, Matzot, Etrogim, Kosher food, Passover food, door Mezuzot, phylacteries, prayer shawls and tzitzit are not widely available throughout the Soviet Empire. The "People of the Book" are deprived of almost all religious literature and no Hebrew Bible has been authorised since 1917. During the fourth biennial International Book Fair held in Moscow, "fifteen books on Jewish religious holidays in Russian" were banned from the stand of a New York publisher as "inappropriate". Most of the 119 national groups in the U.S.S.R. have their own publishing houses, but Jews - the twelfth largest group - have none.

Groups wishing to study recent and ancient Jewish history have come under attack from the K.G.B.'s Jewish Affairs Department. (The last Jewish history book printed in Russia was in 1930.) Those wishing to celebrate Purim or Passover together have been harassed and warned off" and Jews attending New Year or Simchat Torah at the Moscow Central Synagogue have to face being openly filmed by K.G.B. cameramen to be marked down for possible future harassment.

Nowhere near sufficient numbers are trained as scribes or clergy or in religious animal or poultry slaughter and circumcision to serve two million people spread across a vast area.

POSTAL INTERFERENCE

In a selfless humanitarian gesture private individuals abroad have been sending small parcels to relatives and friends. These were primarily to help families who had lost their breadwinner in the Nazi holocaust as well as older citizens now tragically alone with only a small pension. These parcels were also useful in making up shortfalls in seasonal religious articles. A Russian authorised agency operated for this purpose from 1945-84 with the duty being paid in the country of despatch.

However in 1977 the despatch of matzot, prayer books and other religious articles was cruelly banned entirely. Moreover, administrative changes were introduced in August '84 whereby duty now had to be paid by recipients. Nevertheless the despatch and receipt of humanitarian parcels continued.

On 22 August 1986 the situation deteriorated further when the Russian Authorities returned almost all the packages on the pretext that "these parcels were sent by an organisation." In the Prime Minister's constituency of Finchley, hundreds of Jews who sent parcels had them returned.

CONCLUSIONS

The Soviet Authorities be urged:

1. Not to confine their emigration policy to the limited category of "re-unification of families", but to allow any person who so wishes to emigrate to the country of his/her choice so as to enable them to lead a life conducive to their religious belief.
2. That those Jews who wish to remain in the Soviet Union be provided with facilities to conduct a religious life, such as synagogues, ritual baths, freedom to practice their religion including teaching of the Hebrew language, prayers and religious literature.
3. That as there are no Jewish scribes in the Soviet Union to write Torah scrolls, phylacteries and Mezuzot (small scrolls affixed to the doorposts of Jewish homes) such items shall be allowed to be imported to the Soviet Union free of charge.
4. (a) As there are only very few qualified Shochetim (slaughterers to provide Kosher meat) in the Soviet Union, a rota of qualified Shochetim from other countries shall be allowed to visit the USSR for periods of say six months so that Kosher meat shall be available for Soviet Jews.
 (b) The same applies to Mohelim (i.e. persons qualified to perform religious circumcisions).
5. That Jews in the Soviet Union shall be allowed to receive postal parcels from individuals outside the U.S.S.R. which include:
 - a) Matzot for the Passover festival (as was the rule until 1977).
 - b) General parcels (which were allowed until 1986).
 - c) Religious requisites such as prayer books, Hebrew Bibles, Hebrew literature and appurtenances (which were inexplicably never allowed).
6. Jews shall be exempt from working on the Jewish Sabbath and religious Holy days. Jewish children and students shall be similarly exempt from attending schools and colleges on the Jewish Sabbath and Holy days.

APPENDIX I

EXTRACT FROM CONSTITUTION OF THE U.S.S.R.

(Adopted at the Seventh [Special] Session of the Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R. Ninth Convocation, on October 7, 1977.)

ARTICLE 34. Citizens of the USSR are equal before the law, without distinction of origin, social or property status, race of nationality, sex, education, language, attitude to religion, type and nature of occupation, domicile, or other status. The equal rights of citizens of the USSR are guaranteed in all fields of economic, political, social, and cultural life.

ARTICLE 45 Citizens of the U.S.S.R. have the right to education by the opportunity to attend a school where teaching is of the native language; and by the provision of facilities for self-education.

ARTICLE 52. Citizens of the U.S.S.R. are guaranteed freedom of conscience, that is, the right to profess or not to profess any religion, and to conduct religious worship or atheistic propaganda. Incitement of hostility or hatred on religious grounds is prohibited.

ARTICLE 56. The privacy of citizens, and of their correspondence, telephone conversations, and telegraphic communications is protected by law.

ARTICLE 57. Respect for the individual and protection of the rights and freedoms of citizens are the duty of all state bodies, public organisations, and officials.

Citizens of the USSR have the right to protection by the courts against encroachments on their honour and reputation, life and health, and personal freedom and property.

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| DEPARTMENT/SERIES <p style="text-align: center;">..... <i>PREM 19</i></p> PIECE/ITEM <i>3186</i> (one piece/item number) | Date and sign |
| Extract details: <i>APPENDIX II - ATTACHMENT TO LETTER HJ LOBENSTEIN TO PRIME MINISTER DATED 25 FEBRUARY 1987</i> | |
| CLOSED UNDER FOI EXEMPTION | |
| RETAINED UNDER SECTION 3(4) OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS ACT 1958 | |
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APPENDIX III

Repatriation, in contrast to deportation, expulsion and resettlement, is understood in the U.S.S.R. as the voluntary return of ethnic groups and individuals to countries and territories considered to be their homeland. Also, Soviet practice in regard to repatriation has permitted different interpretations of the concept of 'homeland' according to specific situations. 'Homeland' has been defined as a country whose citizenship a given group or individual had held in the past, or is holding at present; it has been defined as the country in which the main ethnic body of a given national minority is bound by emotional and historic ties and traditions.

"From the point of view of Soviet practice, the return to the U.S.S.R. of the so-called 'displaced persons' who found themselves outside its borders as a result of the vicissitudes of World War II was *voluntary repatriation*. In cases of persons officially declared to be collaborators, the U.S.S.R. fought for their forced extradition in order to punish them on their return. However, the resettlement in Soviet Armenia of all Armenians living outside the U.S.S.R., a right granted in 1946, is also considered repatriation by the Soviets. It is significant in this context that Soviet Armenia is viewed as the historic homeland of all Armenians no matter where they are born, where they live, or what citizenship they hold. On July 10, 1957 an agreement came into force for the repatriation from the U.S.S.R. to Poland of persons of Polish nationality, an agreement signed and ratified earlier by the governments of Poland and the U.S.S.R. Such examples can be multiplied by recalling that Spaniards, Greeks and other national minorities living in the U.S.S.R. who moved to their respective countries were also considered repatriates. Therefore, the right to repatriate to Israel, which Soviet Jews seek to realise, corresponds completely with Soviet emigration theory and practice, and from the legal point of view is automatically an aspect of legitimate free choice. This by no means replaces the question of the reunification of families; in emphasis to the national plane.



SM

10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

25 February 1987

BL 11

I enclose a copy of a letter the Prime Minister has received from Mrs. Elena Fridman.

I should be grateful for a suitable draft reply to send to Mrs. Fridman, to reach me by 11 March please.

(C.D. Powell)

Lyn Parker, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

Kho

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YOUR TELNO 206: AWARDS FOR SOVIET JEWS

1. THE CEREMONY AND LUNCH WERE HELD AS PLANNED TODAY 23 FEBRUARY AND TOOK PLACE IN A VERY EASY ATMOSPHERE. WITH THE EXCEPTION OF JOSEPH BEGUN AND HIS WIFE ALL THE GUESTS, AND THREE OF THEIR SPOUSES, ATTENDED. BEGUN HAD ONLY ARRIVED IN MOSCOW AT 11.00AM TO A HERO'S WELCOME AT THE STATION AND HE AND HIS WIFE WERE UNDERSTANDABLY RESTING AT HOME. THE MILITIA GUARD ON THE EMBASSY WAS SLIGHTLY REINFORCED DURING THE MORNING BUT ALL THE VISITORS WERE ADMITTED TO THE EMBASSY WITHOUT QUESTION ON PRODUCTION OF THEIR IDENTITY DOCUMENTS.

2. I MADE A SHORT SPEECH ABOUT THE AWARDS, INCLUDING THE REGRETS OF THE ALL-PARTY COMMITTEE THAT THEY WERE UNABLE TO BE REPRESENTED. I ALSO SAID THAT ALTHOUGH THE AWARDS WERE SYMBOLS FIRSTLY OF THE CONCERN OF BRITISH PEOPLE OF JEWISH FAITH FOR THE CONDITIONS OF JEWS IN THE SOVIET UNION THEY REFLECTED THE WIDER SYMPATHIES OF THE BRITISH PEOPLE FOR THOSE, BOTH JEWS AND NON-JEWS, WHO WERE PREVENTED FROM ENJOYING THE FREEDOMS WHICH WERE GUARANTEED IN A NUMBER OF INTERNATIONAL DOCUMENTS TO WHICH THE SOVIET UNION WAS A PARTY. THE RECIPIENTS WERE ALL MOST APPRECIATIVE OF THE OCCASION AND ASKED FOR THEIR THANKS TO BE CONVEYED TO THE COMMITTEE.

3. THE PRESS, PERHAPS BECAUSE OF PREOCCUPATION WITH BEGUN, LARGELY LEFT US ALONE. THE OCCASION THEREFORE PASSED OFF, IN ACCORDANCE WITH MY INTENTIONS CONVEYED TO USPENSKY ON 20 FEBRUARY, AS A PRIVATE OCCASION. IN RESPONSE TO PRESS ENQUIRIES WE ARE SIMPLY CONFIRMING THAT IT TOOK PLACE AND WHO THE PARTICIPANTS WERE.

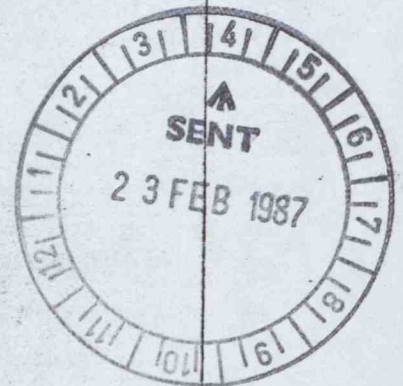
4. SO FAR SO GOOD. IT MAY BE THAT THE HOSTILE REACTION OF SECOND EUROPEAN DEPARTMENT ON 20 FEBRUARY, WAS AS I SUGGESTED IN MY TELNO 231 ONLY AN EXPRESSION OF PIQUE BY THE SOVIET AUTHORITIES AND THAT NO MORE WILL BE HEARD ABOUT IT FROM THEM. DESPITE THE SPEED WITH WHICH ATTITUDES ARE EVOLVING HERE, HOWEVER, I RESERVE JUDGEMENT ON THIS. MEANWHILE I THINK THE EVENT CAN BE ACCOUNTED A SUCCESSFUL BRITISH GESTURE TOWARDS THOSE SEEKING GREATER FREEDOM IN THE SOVIET UNION.

5. PLEASE PASS THE GIST OF PARAS 1 AND 2 ABOVE TO THE ALL-PARTY COMMITTEE AND INFORM THEM THAT I INTEND TO PRESENT BEGUN WITH HIS AWARD, MORE INFORMALLY, IN THE NEAR FUTURE. I HOPE THAT THE COMMITTEE WILL BE RESTRAINED AND SPARING WITH FURTHER PUBLICITY FOR THE EPISODE, PREFERABLY ESCHEWING IT ALTOGETHER. SMOOTH WORKING RELATIONS WITH THE MFA ARE AN IMPORTANT INGREDIENT IN OUR PREPARATION FOR THE PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT.

CARTLEDGE

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February 22, 1987

The Prime Minister
Mrs. Margaret Thatcher
10 Downing Street
London SW1A 2AA, England

R25/2

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Dear Madame Prime Minister:

Your letter of January 23 which was handed to me personally by your ambassador at his home in Ramat Gan serves as noble and ongoing testimony to your concern and activity on behalf of my sister, Ida Nudel. Unfortunately, while I deeply appreciate the efforts of your Minister of State at the Foreign Office, Mr. Tim Renton, in pleading Ida's case with his Soviet counterparts during his recent visit to Moscow, I am now, more than ever, convinced that only you, personally, stand a chance of receiving a satisfactory response.

Anticipating your upcoming visit to Moscow, and knowing how much you want to help achieve Ida's freedom, allow me to share with you my apprehension that the Soviet leaders will, once again, try to further prolong this terrible struggle by claiming "state security reasons related to previous employment."

I beg you, Madame Prime Minister, not to let them make this claim again without your offering a convincing response to this ridiculous charge. The facts related to this case are as follows.

Never during her years of employment as an economist, before or after she was dismissed from her job in 1971 for having applied to emigrate, has my sister been in possession of any state secrets. In 1974, when this reason was officially given her for the ongoing refusal, Ida personally visited the Director of Personnel at the institute in Moscow where she had worked. He said to her that no inquiry had ever been made of him regarding the nature of her employment and he reaffirmed that she had not, indeed, had any access to state secrets. This had obviously been fabricated by outside KGB sources intent on retribution for Ida's humanitarian support of Jews in jails, work camps, and exile serving sentences for their wish to emigrate to Israel.

Furthermore, the Soviet authorities have themselves acknowledged that the time frame for this refusal on grounds of "state interests" continued only "until January 1977." In 1980, the then Soviet Ambassador to Canada Alexander Yacovlev, acknowledged this to a group of Canadian parliamentarians and further stated that the only thing then holding back Ida's emigration visa was the fact that she was currently serving a four-

(more...)

The Prime Minister
February 22, 1987
Page 2

year sentence of internal exile in Siberia.

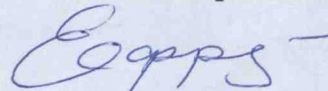
You are well aware, Madame Prime Minister, that over the years, many persons of consequence have made representations to the Soviet leaders on Ida's behalf. Incredibly, according to the reports I have received about such meetings, none of them seem to have had either the strength of conviction, character or perhaps the facts of the case in these confrontations to refute the totally unacceptable and insulting response of "state security." What could my sister possibly know that would constitute a danger to that great country if she were allowed to emigrate? And after 16 years, this claim becomes progressively more ridiculous by the day.

This has, of course, been a source of increasing frustration and pain for me and Ida. Last week, this frustration overcame me and forced me to place a phone call from Rehovot, here in Israel, directly to Mr. Genadie Gerasimov in his office at the Foreign Ministry in Moscow.

Surprisingly, Mr. Gerasimov himself spoke with me for over 15 minutes on Thursday and gave me the opportunity of relating all of the above and to share with him my conviction that a terrible bureaucratic error had escalated into unbelievable proportions. He agreed that I call him again within a week, so that he may have the opportunity of discussing this possibility with his colleague, the Head of the Interior Ministry - Ovir, Mr. Kuznetsov.

Armed with the above information, I pray you will soon be able to effect a positive conclusion to this tragedy, as the opportunity will certainly present itself during your upcoming talks in Moscow.

Yours respectfully,



Elena Fridman

EF:pk

SOVIET UNION: Womens Campaign

Soviet Jewish Pt 2



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MR. BOOTH

ORTHODOX JEWISH COMMUNITY: JO LOBENSTEIN MBE

The Prime Minister has considered your note of 11 February suggesting that she should see Mr. Lobenstein and a delegation from the Orthodox Jewish Community before her visit to Moscow. She takes the point that it would be awkward for her to see the Board of Deputies of British Jews and not representatives of the Orthodox Jewish Community. She has therefore decided to see neither, and has asked that both groups put their views in writing before her visit. The Board of Deputies have accepted this. I should be grateful if you would so inform Mr. Lobenstein.

Charles Powell

17 February 1987

PRIME MINISTER

ORTHODOX JEWISH COMMUNITY

Can I come back to you once more, please, on the subject of seeing representatives of the Orthodox Jewish Community before you go to Moscow.

As I said in my earlier note, you have already agreed to see a very large number of people before you go. The diary is under pressure. I have just persuaded the Board of Deputies of British Jews to put in their views in writing rather than send a deputation to see you. Can we not ask Mr Lobenstein and his colleagues to do the same?

Yes not

CDP

C D POWELL

16 February 1987

Mrs Susan DYKES

SKW

26/2

D 3/3

ack/ 12 February 1987

I enclose a copy of a letter which the Prime Minister has received from Mrs. Susan Dykes.

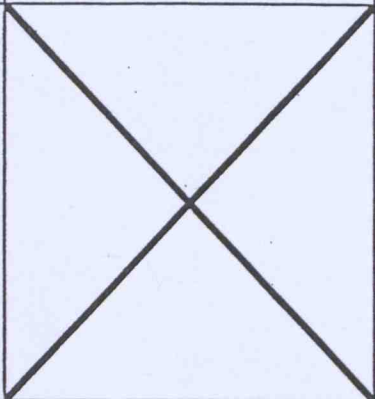
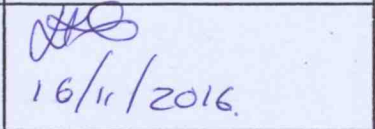
I should be grateful if you would provide a draft Private Secretary reply which I might send to Mrs. Dykes to reach us by Thursday 26 February.

(C. D. POWELL)

Robert Giddish Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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| DEPARTMENT/SERIES <i>PREM 19</i> PIECE/ITEM <i>3186</i> (one piece/item number) | Date and sign |
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PRIME MINISTER

11 February 1987

ORTHODOX JEWISH COMMUNITY - JO LOBENSTEIN MBE

The Orthodox Jewish Community are desperately keen to have a very short meeting with you before you go to Russia. They want to talk about freedom of religion and religious persecution in Russia. A delegation of 3 Rabbis and 3 lay leaders would be led by Jo Lobenstein who you know. Jo, as you may recall, is a towering figure in East End politics and to many in the East End of London he represents the Conservative party. We strongly support this application by Jo who undoubtedly is the senior political figure in the Orthodox community and also represents the Agudas Israel Organisation. We feel that a short meeting would have considerable political significance. Moreover, if the Orthodox Community hear about the visit of the Board of Deputies, which is likely to be in the Jewish Press, the Orthodox Jews will be upset!

JB.

HARTLEY BOOTH

I'm afraid I
shall have to

Say Yes.

me

MR BEARPARK

CSP

In our dealing with this.

10 February 1987

JO LOBENSTEIN MBE

Diary Meeting Note

The Orthodox Jewish Community are desperately keen to have a very short meeting with the Prime Minister before she goes to Russia. They want to talk about freedom of religion and religious persecution in Russia. A delegation of 3 Rabbis and 3 lay leaders would be led by Jo Lobenstein who the PM knows. Jo, as she may recall, is a towering figure in East End politics and to many in the East End of London he represents the Conservative party. I strongly support this application by Jo who in this context assures me that he represents the Orthodox community and the Agudas Israel Organisation.

HB.

HARTLEY BOOTH

MR BOOTH

I really don't think the Prime Minister can take this on. She is already seeing the Chief Rabbi and a delegation from the Board of Deputies of British Jews who have undertaken to represent the views of all the Jewish community here. The list of applicants from the Jewish community to see her before her visit to the Soviet Union is almost endless. Could he be persuaded to see the Foreign Secretary, who will also be going to Moscow, instead?

CSP

CHARLES POWELL
10 February 1987

PART 1 ends:-

PM TO MRS E. FRIDMAN 23.1.V

PART 2 begins:-

HB TO PAB 10.2.87

S. DYKES

~~PM TO MRS E. FRIDMAN 23.1.V~~



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