



10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

29 May 1981

Thank you for your letter of 19 May enclosing a copy of one you sent to the President of the USSR Academy of Sciences about the plight of Anatoly Shcharansky.

I saw Mrs Shcharansky on 29 April and Peter Blaker saw her on 27 April. I enclose a copy of a statement issued after Peter Blaker's interview with Mrs Shcharansky.

I remain concerned about the plight of Mr Shcharansky. His case has been raised on numerous occasions, most recently in Plenary and Working Group sessions of the current CSCE Review Conference in Madrid, where our delegation has taken the lead in pressing for a searching examination of the Soviet human rights record. A large number of other Western Governments have also given their fullest support.

In your letter you say that immediate pressure is necessary to halt further decline in Shcharansky's condition. We will continue to do all we can to work for Mr Shcharansky's release or, at the very least, for an improvement in the appalling conditions he faces. Although our bilateral efforts and moves through the CSCE process may not bring results as quickly as we would like, they force the Soviet authorities to defend their policies before a large and critical audience and that in itself focusses attention on the plight of Anatoly Shcharansky and others.

/I hope

059

I hope that official representations combined with the support on Mr Shcharansky's behalf shown by his fellow scientists such as yourself will lead the Soviet authorities to bring about an improvement in the conditions faced by Mr Shcharansky and the many others suffering from human rights abuses in the Soviet Union.

Yours ever  
(sgd) Margaret

The Lord Flowers, FRS