

OPS CC MASTER

FILE

610

SUBJECT: SOVIET UNION
Human Rights
May 1980



10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. T.106/83

20 July 1983

Dear Ron,

Thank you for your letter of 2 July about human rights in the Soviet Union.

I fully share your concern. Violations by the Soviet Union of commitments it has made about human rights call into question its behaviour in other areas.

We must certainly do all we can to help those courageous individuals who are suffering in the Soviet Union for trying to obtain or restore rights which would be taken for granted in our own countries; and those many other ordinary people who wish to emigrate, or who are divided from other members of their family and long to be reunited. On 15 July I again discussed with Mrs. Shcharansky the situation of her husband, one of many distressing personal cases.

It is obviously important for Western countries to consult about these issues and so far as possible to co-ordinate the action which they intend to take with the Soviet authorities. We were glad to have Walter Stoessel here. Geoffrey Howe has recently had useful discussions both with him and with George Shultz in Washington about our policy.

Yours ever
Ronald Reagan

The President of the United States of America.

da