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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

2 November, 1984

Dear Charles,

Stalin's Daughter

ms  
Prime Minister  
CDP 4/xi

You may have seen reports in today's press that Stalin's daughter, Svetlana Alliluyeva, may have returned with her daughter to Moscow.

I enclose copies of three telegrams which give the text of the original article in the Cambridge Evening News, background and instructions to certain posts, and the initial US reaction.

You will wish to be aware that the Home Office have just informed us that Mrs Peters and her daughter Olga left Terminal 2 at Heathrow on 23 October. An embarkation card does not ~~require~~ the destination to be stated, and she could therefore have gone anywhere in Europe. There was, however, an Aeroflot flight to Moscow that day.

We will telegraph any further information that may emerge to New Delhi. I am copying this letter to Richard Hatfield (Cabinet Office) and to Hugh Taylor (Home Office).

Yours ever,

Colin Budd

(C R Budd)  
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq  
10 Downing Street

PS Curious coincidence:  
Svetlana defected in Delhi  
in 1967.

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FM WASHINGTON 020016Z NOV 84

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 3256 OF 1 NOVEMBER

INFO IMMEDIATE TO MOSCOW AND PRIORITY TO HELSINKI, BERNE AND STOCKHOLM.

YOUR TELEGRAMS NOS 1872 AND 1873:

STALIN'S DAUGHTER.

1. MINISTER SPOKE ACCORDINGLY TO PALMER, DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY IN THE STATE DEPARTMENT, AND SENT HIM THE TEXT OF THE CAMBRIDGE EVENING NEWS ARTICLE.
2. PALMER SAID THAT THE STATE DEPARTMENT HAD HEARD NOTHING OF THE RUMOURS THAT MRS PETERS MIGHT RETURN TO THE SOVIET UNION. HE WOULD WARN SHULTZ , WHO WAS ON HIS WAY TO DELHI.

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FM FCO 012030Z NOVEMBER 1984

TO IMMEDIATE WASHINGTON

TELEGRAM NUMBER 1872 OF 1 NOVEMBER

INFO IMMEDIATE MOSCOW, PRIORITY HELSINKI, BERNE STOCKHOLM

STALIN'S DAUGHTER

1. MIFT GIVES THE TEXT OF AN ARTICLE IN THE CAMBRIDGE EVENING NEWS TODAY.
2. YOU SHOULD PASS A COPY OF THE ARTICLE TO THE STATE DEPARTMENT MAKING IT CLEAR THAT AT THIS STAGE WE HAVE NO CONFIRMATION THAT MRS PETERS HAS RETURNED TO THE SOVIET UNION. WE ARE MAKING CHECKS AT THE OBVIOUS POINTS OF DEPARTURE AND WILL INFORM YOU IF THESE CONFIRM THE STORY. FOR THE TIME BEING NEWS DEPARTMENT WILL TAKE THE LINE THAT WE ARE AWARE OF THIS REPORT BUT HAVE NO CONFIRMATION OF IT. THEY WILL GO ON TO SAY THAT AS A PRIVATE US CITIZEN MRS PETERS WAS FREE TO COME AND GO AS SHE WISHED.
3. YOU SHOULD TELL THE STATE DEPARTMENT THAT, FOLLOWING AN INDICATION BY VICTOR LOUIS IN MOSCOW EARLIER THIS MONTH (MOSCOW TELNO 1112) THAT MRS PETERS WISHED TO RETURN TO THE SOVIET UNION, WE WERE IN THE PROCESS OF MAKING DISCREET ENQUIRIES AS TO HER REAL INTENTIONS, NOTWITHSTANDING THE FACT THAT ON 8 OCTOBER THE DAILY TELEGRAPH CARRIED A REPORT DENYING THAT MRS PETERS HAD ANY INTENTION OF RETURNING TO THE SOVIET UNION. OUR INITIAL ENQUIRIES CONFIRMED THAT MRS PETERS WAS CAPABLE OF SUDDEN CHANGES OF MOOD, BUT NOT THAT SHE HAD ANY INTENTION OF RETURNING TO THE SOVIET UNION. (YOU SHOULD KNOW THAT SOME FURTHER BACKGROUND HAS BEEN PASSED TO THE AMERICANS ON OTHER CHANNELS.)
4. GRATEFUL FOR AN EARLY REPORT OF US REACTIONS.

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5. (COPY ADDRESSEES) YOU SHOULD REPORT ANY INFORMATION THAT COMES TO YOUR ATTENTION LOCALLY IN CONNECTION WITH MRS PETERS' WHEREABOUTS. WE WOULD NOT, HOWEVER, WANT YOU AT THIS STAGE TO APPROACH YOUR LOCAL AUTHORITIES.

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FM FCO 012030Z NOVEMBER 1984

TO IMMEDIATE WASHINGTON

TELEGRAM NUMBER 1873 OF 1 NOVEMBER

INFO IMMEDIATE MOSCOW, PRIORITY HELSINKI, BERNE, STOCKHOLM

MIPT: STALIN'S DAUGHTER

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF ARTICLE IN CAMBRIDGE EVENING NEWS OF 1 NOVEMBER.

BEGINS:

RIDDLE OF CALL TO SAFFRON WALDEN SCHOOL

STALIN'S DAUGHTER MYSTERY

SVETLANA STALIN, DAUGHTER OF JOSEF STALIN, IS BELIEVED TO HAVE MADE AN INCREDIBLE RETURN TO RUSSIA WITH HER 13 YEAR OLD DAUGHTER OLGA, WHO HAS NOT RETURNED TO HER SAFFRON WALDEN SCHOOL.

THE MYSTERIOUS DISAPPEARANCE WAS REVEALED TODAY WHEN THE HEADMASTER OF THE SCHOOL, MR JOHN WOODS, TODAY TOLD THE NEWS EXCLUSIVELY HE HAD RECEIVED A TELEPHONE CALL FROM MRS PETERS, FORMERLY SVETLANA ALLEUVENA STALIN, SAYING OLGA WOULD BE GOING ABROAD - AND MENTIONING MOSCOW.

MRS PETERS DEFECTED TO THE WEST IN 1967 - AND CAME TO ENGLAND IN AUGUST 1982, LIVING IN A FLAT AT THE HOME OF PROFESSOR DONALD DENMAN IN CHAUCER ROAD, CAMBRIDGE, UNTIL EARLY THIS SUMMER.

THE DEFECTOR HAS A SON STILL LIVING IN THE SOVIET UNION. MRS PETERS HAD BEEN DUE TO VISIT PROFESSOR DENMAN'S WIFE, JESSIE, IN CAMBRIDGE TODAY, BUT BY MID MORNING SHE HAD NOT TELEPHONED TO CONFIRM WHETHER SHE WOULD ARRIVE. MR WOODS SAID TODAY 'I KNOW OLGA HAS LEFT THE COUNTRY BECAUSE THAT IS WHAT HER MOTHER SAID - AND MOSCOW WAS MENTIONED. I DO NOT KNOW IF THE MOTHER IS STILL

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IN THIS COUNTRY, BUT I WOULD DOUBT IT. SHE GAVE NO INDICATION WHEN OLGA WOULD BE COMING BACK, AND DID NOT EXPLAIN THE NATURE OF THE VISIT', SAID MR WOODS. THE SURPRISE TELEPHONE CALL WAS MADE DURING THE HALF-TERM HOLIDAY.

OLGA, 13, LEFT THE 100-YEAR-OLD FRIENDS SCHOOL AS NORMAL ON OCTOBER 20TH. SHE IS STILL OFFICIALLY A PUPIL. THE FEES OF MORE THAN POUNDS STERLING 1000 A TERM ARE PAID IN ADVANCE.

MR WOODS SAID OLGA, WHO BECAME A PUPIL AT THE SCHOOL LAST YEAR, HAD SETTLED IN WELL AND SEEMED VERY HAPPY. BUT MRS DENMAN, WHO WITH HER HUSBAND HAD BEEN SWORN TO SECRECY OVER MRS PETERS' NEW ADDRESS, WAS SURPRISED BY THE DISAPPEARANCE.

'I WOULD HAVE THOUGHT IT WAS THE LAST THING SHE WOULD HAVE DONE' SHE SAID.

MRS DENMAN, WHO HAD BECOME FIRM FRIENDS WITH THE DAUGHTER OF THE FORMER SOVIET DICTATOR, ADDED, HOWEVER, 'SHE IS THE TYPE OF PERSON WHO WOULD DO ANYTHING ON THE SPUR OF THE MOMENT.

SHE COULD EASILY HAVE GONE ANYWHERE ON THE SPUR OF THE MOMENT. SHE HAS GOT MANY FRIENDS IN SWEDEN AND SWITZERLAND. SHE WAS GOING TO COME AND SEE ME TODAY AND WAS GOING TO CALL ME. SHE HASN'T. BUT SHE SAID I'LL COME AND SEE YOU AT SOME TIME. IT WASN'T A DEFINITE ARRANGEMENT', MRS DENMAN SAID.

MRS PETERS' DEFECTION TO THE WEST CREATED A SENSATION IN THE LATE 1960S.

SHE FLEW TO INDIA IN 1967 TO SCATTER THE ASHES OF HER DEAD FOURTH HUSBAND, BRIESH SINGH, IN THE GANGES - AND SOUGHT ASYLUM AT THE AMERICAN EMBASSY.

OLGA IS THE DAUGHREER OF A SHORT-LIVED MARRIAGE BETWEEN MRS PETERS AND AMERICAN LAWYER WILLIAM PETERS. THEY WERE WED IN 1970 BUT SEPARATED IN 1971.

NEITHER THE RUSSIAN OR AMERICAN EMBASSIES ADMITTED TO KNOWING ANYTHING ABOUT OLGA'S VISIT TO RUSSIA.  
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