

510

*With the compliments of
the Legal Secretary*

H. STEEL

*Law Officer's Department,
Royal Courts of Justice,
Strand, W.C.2.*

COP
WLR

CONFIDENTIAL

CCNO



H. STEEL, CMG OBE
LEGAL SECRETARY

LAW OFFICERS' DEPARTMENT
ROYAL COURTS OF JUSTICE
LONDON, WC2A 2LL

20 November, 1984

Dear Sir,

SOVIET ASSISTANCE TO THE NUM

Thank you for sending us a copy of your letter of today's date to Charles Powell at No.10. ^{with CDP} I was particularly interested in your comment that the Russians could have passed the money through a Soviet bank direct to a TUC or regional NUM account without, so far as FCO lawyers can see at first glance, there being any risk of sequestration. As you may know, and as a result of a decision taken at a recent meeting of MISC 101, the British Government now have an interest, going beyond their ordinary political interest, in the sequestrators laying their hands on NUM funds. If the FCO now have or acquire in the future any concrete information about the way in which the money in question is in fact being transferred, it would therefore be very desirable that that information - not necessarily, of course, in its "raw" form - should be passed on to the sequestrators. For that purpose, the best channel of communication would be Gerald Hosker, the Deputy Treasury Solicitor, who is our point of contact with the sequestrators and who could ensure that the necessary security requirements, etc., were respected. If you and the other recipients of this letter see no objection, I should be grateful if somebody in the FCO could be asked to give Gerald Hosker whatever information is now available on this topic and to continue to do so on a regular basis as and when more information is received.

I am copying this letter only to Charles Powell and Richard Hatfield, and to Gerald Hosker himself.

*Yours ever,
Henry Steel*

H STEEL

C R Budd Esq
Assistant Private Secretary to
The Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary
Foreign and Commonwealth Office
Downing St
London SW1

CONFIDENTIAL