

PC (F)



SHARANSKY  
MR RYDER

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

17 August 1979

Dear Sir,

Anatoly Sharansky

I enclose a copy of a letter, and its enclosures, which Richard Ryder has received from Mrs. Margaret Rigal about Anatoly Sharansky. Richard Ryder has sent an acknowledgement.

Yesterday morning Mrs. Sharansky telephoned Richard Ryder direct from Jerusalem to tell him that her husband had recently been visited by his mother at the prison, 800 kilometres east of Moscow, in which he is incarcerated. She had found him in a very poor physical state. Mrs. Sharansky said that her mother-in-law, and she herself, were beginning a simultaneous hunger strike on 19 August. Mrs. Sharansky claimed to have received a personal telephone call from Cyrus Vance, who had given her his support and encouragement.

Richard Ryder concluded from this conversation that the purpose of Mrs. Sharansky's call was to convey a personal plea to the Prime Minister to send a message to President Brezhnev urging him to release Anatoly Sharansky from prison and from the Soviet Union. Richard Ryder naturally gave no commitment, saying simply that he would report the conversation. I should, however, be grateful for advice on whether there is at this stage action which the British Government could usefully take, either in London or in Moscow, on Anatoly Sharansky's behalf; and, in particular, on whether other Western Governments - e.g. the United States, France and the FRG - are being more active on this case than we are.

Yours ever,

John Corke

J.S. Wall, Esq.,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office



MR RYDER



PC

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

23 August 1979

Dear Boyan,

Anatoly Shcharansky

Thank you for your letter and enclosures of 17 August. As Paul Lever told you in his letter of 26 July, Lord Carrington plans to raise with Mr Gromyko in the margins of the UN General Assembly next month the issue of the treatment of Helsinki Monitoring groups in the Soviet Union. He will mention specifically the names of a small number of prominent and deserving individuals. In Lord Carrington's absence, Mr Hurd believes that Mr Shcharansky would clearly qualify for particular mention on that occasion.

If we wished to do more, a possible course of action would be for the Prime Minister or Lord Carrington to send a message to President Brezhnev or Mr Gromyko expressing concern at reports of Mr Shcharansky's physical condition and urging that he be given the medical attention he needs. Such a message might stimulate a less hostile Soviet reaction than one which sought his release. But it would certainly anger the Soviet Government who take the line that the case of Mr Shcharansky is an internal Soviet affair in which other countries should not interfere. (The same is of course true of the approach Lord Carrington plans to make to Mr Gromyko). In our judgement it is possible that a message sent at this time would make the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary's task when he sees Mr Gromyko more difficult in that the latter would be prejudiced in advance against giving due weight to our representations. It is conceivable, though unlikely, that Mr Gromyko would be prompted to refuse to meet Lord Carrington. We therefore believe that it would be better to take no action with the Soviet authorities before Lord Carrington sees Mr Gromyko.

It is difficult to establish precisely what action our Western partners are taking in this sensitive area. The State Department have told our Embassy in Washington in strict confidence that they have raised the matter of Mr Shcharansky's health with the Soviet Embassy in Washington and have confirmed press reports that Mr Vance has spoken on the telephone to Mr Shcharansky's wife in Jerusalem at Mrs Shcharansky's instigation. However, the Americans are in a very special position in matters of this sort and, indeed, may be in negotiation for Mr Shcharansky's release. We have no information to suggest that the French have taken recent action on Mr Shcharansky's behalf although there was earlier a report that President Giscard handed over a list of cases during his official visit to Moscow in April:

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this has not been confirmed by the French. So far as we know the FRG have taken no action. but they have been generally reluctant to take up individual cases of this kind with the Soviet authorities, fearing that this might complicate their relatively successful efforts to secure the emigration of ethnic Germans from the Soviet Union.

If the Foreign and Commonwealth secretary takes up Mr Shcharansky's case with Mr Gromyko next month, we shall have been at the least no less active than other Western Governments with the possible exception of the Americans. If it is agreed that Lord Carrington should raise the case with Mr Gromyko, we might well decide after that conversation to reveal that he had spoken up for Mr Shcharansky; but the wisdom of this would have to be weighed at the time.

I enclose a draft letter for Mr Ryder to send to Mrs Margaret Rigal.

*You ever,*

*Stephen*

(J S Wall)

Private Secretary

Bryan G Cartledge Esq  
10 Downing Street  
LONDON



Registry  
No.

LETTER

DRAFT

Type 1 +

## SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

Top Secret,  
Secret.  
Confidential.  
Restricted.  
Unclassified.

To:-

Mrs Margaret Rigal  
International Committee for the  
Release of Anatoly Shcharansky  
148 Granville Road  
LONDON NW2

From

Mr Ryder

Telephone No. Ext.

Department

## PRIVACY MARKING

..... In Confidence

It was kind of you to send me with your letter of 16 August the material which Mrs Shcharansky wanted me to receive. I was very glad to have it. Anatoly's story impressed me profoundly and I can only admire his fortitude and selflessness. The recent report of his physical condition is deeply disturbing.

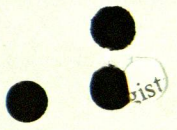
You will want to hear from me what the British Government can do. Anatoly is not, as you know better than I, the only case which has been brought to our attention. Sadly, there are all too many. Ideally, we should like to take up every case of this kind which is drawn to our attention with the Soviet authorities. But we must be realistic. We are in a position to raise some cases, particularly those of members of Groups whose objective is to monitor the implementation of the Helsinki Final Act, but a number of other factors need to be taken into account. For example, in our experience only certain kinds of approach are worth trying and the right opportunity may not occur often. And it may well be in the interests of those concerned that we should keep confidential the details of any representations we make.

In deciding which cases to take up and how to make our approach I assure you that Anatoly Shcharansky will be very much in our minds. I sincerely hope that pressure on the Soviet authorities from every possible quarter may lead to his release.





23 AUG 1979





3rd September 1979

It was kind of you to send me, with your letter of 16th August, the material which Mrs Shcharansky wanted me to receive. I was very glad to have it. Anatoly's story impressed me profoundly and I can only admire his fortitude and selflessness. The recent report of his physical condition is deeply disturbing.

You will want to hear from me what the British Government can do. Anatoly is not, as you know better than I, the only case which has been brought to our attention. Sadly, there are all too many. Ideally, we should like to take up every case of this kind which is drawn to our attention with the Soviet authorities. But we must be realistic. We are in a position to raise some cases, particularly those of members of Groups whose objective is to monitor the implementation of the Helsinki Final Act, but a number of other factors need to be taken into account. For example, in our experience only certain kinds of approach are worth trying and the right opportunity may not occur often. And it may well be in the interests of those concerned that we should keep confidential the details of any representations we make.

In deciding which cases to take up and how to make our approach I assure you that Anatoly Shcharansky will be very much in our minds. I sincerely hope that pressure on the Soviet authorities from every possible quarter may lead to his release.

With best wishes.

Richard Ryder  
Political Office

Mrs Margaret Rigal



WOMEN'S CAMPAIGN FOR SOVIET JEWRY

(Rigal)  
SHARANSKY

Co-Chairmen: RITA EKER, MARGARET RIGAL

148 Granville Road, London NW2  
Tel: 01-458 7147

RF

MR/RE

5th September, 1979.

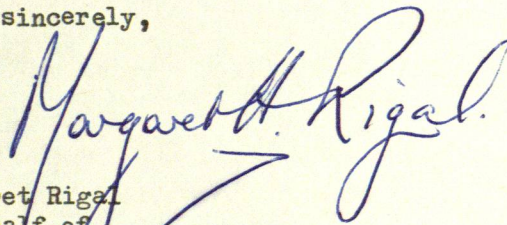
Richard Ryder, Esq.,  
10, Downing Street  
London, S.W.1.

Dear Mr. Ryder,

Thank you for your kind letter of the 3rd September and for your assurances concerning Anatoly Sharansky. We know, of course, as you point out, that his is not the only case in need of your help, but many Soviet Jews begged me when I was in Moscow earlier this year to concentrate all possible efforts on his behalf. They feel that not only is Sharansky suffering because of his work for others, but that he personifies their own struggle to be free and, in their own words, their future is inextricably bound with his.

With many thanks for your sympathy and understanding, and best wishes,

Yours sincerely,



Margaret Rigal  
on behalf of  
Women's Campaign for Soviet Jewry