

PRIME MINISTER

MEETING WITH PARLIAMENTARY AND CONGRESSIONAL WIVES GROUP
FOR SOVIET JEWRY

The Group will come on Wednesday morning for 45 minutes.
A list of those attending is attached.

We have agreed that you will receive the delegation at
the entrance to the Pillared Room. This will be televised,
but the meeting itself will not be.

The scenario is that you would make a brief opening
statement about what the Government has done to help over
Soviet Jewry: I attach a text. There would then be
interventions from the floor which you would deal with as
appropriate.

We know that the Group will make particular mention of
the case of Dan Shapiro and hand over a letter from his
mother. I attach a speaking note and background on him.

I have asked Nigel Broomfield from the Soviet Desk to be
present in case you want advice on detailed points.



CHARLES POWELL

10 June 1985

cc: Mr. Murray

SHAPIRO

DAN SHAPIRO

SPEAKING NOTE

- Case well known to us.
- Particularly disturbing in view of Mr Shapiro's poor health and conditions in which he is being held.
- (If asked) Do not give advance commitments to raise specific cases; but obviously take careful note of representations.
- Our Embassy in Moscow in close touch with developments; believe trial may be imminent; will make attempt to attend together with other Western representatives (unlikely to be permitted to enter courtroom).
- Grateful to you for passing on Mrs Shapiro's appeal.



BACKGROUND NOTE

Dan Shapiro

- 1980 - first applied for exit visa for Israel.
- 1984 - June - signed a collective appeal to President Mitterand, stating his "right to be repatriated to his homeland - Israel"
- September - home searched; religious literature etc. confiscated.
 - December - staged a demonstration on International Human Rights' Day with relatives of Prisoners of Conscience and refuseniks. Signed petition to Supreme Soviet on persecution of would-be emigrés.
- Co-signatory to a letter of appeal to the Moscow City Council for the release of Shcharansky, Begun, Kholmiansky and Edelshtein. Attempted to attend trial of Edelshtein; sentenced to 10 days administrative detention for refusing to produce identification.
- 1985 - January 22 - Arrested and charged under article 190/1 "Defaming the Soviet State ..."

1. Mr Shapiro is an expert linguist, who knows Hebrew, Arabic, Aramaic and German. He is a former pupil of Hebrew teacher, Yuli Edelshtein, and was consequently involved in protests against the arrest of Edelshtein and other such teachers. He is said to suffer from a heart condition, needing medical supervision, and to be officially recognised as a disabled person.



2. Although we have no definite date, it is believed that Mr Shapiro's trial is about to start. Our Embassy in Moscow will try to attend in the company of representatives from other Western missions.

3. According to the programme for the conference, the group will hand over a letter of appeal from Dan Shapiro's mother to the Prime Minister. This will probably be the same appeal that has already reached us via the Women's Campaign for Soviet Jewry and, more recently, Dr Martin Gilbert. A copy is attached.

PARLIAMENTARY WIVES FOR THE RELEASE OF SOVIET JEWRY

Names of Delegates from Overseas and the U.K.
to Conference - 10th-12th June 1985

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

- * Mrs. Joanne Kemp
- * Mrs. Shirley Metzenbaum
- * Mrs. Dolores Beilenson
- * ~~Mrs. Teresa Heinz~~
- Mrs. Catherine Steens
- Mrs. Marcelle Leahy
- Mrs. Gail Bartlett
- Mrs. June Miller
- Mrs. Wren Wight
- Mrs. Sheila Smith

Mr. William Kaiserling, the Chairman of the National Conference in Washington, will accompany.

CANADA

- Mrs. Doreen Doody
- * Mrs. Lucille Broadbent
- * Mrs. Jane Crosbie
- * Mrs. Audrey King
- Mrs. Goldie Hirsh
- Mrs. Janet Foster
- Mrs. Donna Wedman
- * Mrs. Penny Colinette

~~Lacy~~ Goldie Hershon will accompany the group.

BELGIUM

- Mme Jean Gol ?
- ~~Mme Willy Claes~~

ISRAEL

- * Mrs. Nitsa Ben Elissar
- Mrs. Nira Harel

NETHERLANDS

- * Mrs. Maryke van de Bergh
- Mrs. Blough

FRANCE

Mme Dreyfus-Smit + 1 other.

GREAT BRITAIN

- * Mrs. Susan Dykes
- * Mrs. Valerie Cocks
- * Mrs. Myra Janner
- * Mrs. Gloria Lawrence
- * Mrs. Caroline Latham

Mrs. Marjorie Brown
Mrs. Susie Sainsbury
Mrs. Carolyn Sumberg
Mrs. Mary Micardo
Lady Stone
Mrs. Sara Prop.
Lady Lever

- * denotes those who attended the Conference in Washington D.C. in April 1984.

PARLIAMENTARY WIVES FOR THE RELEASE OF SOVIET JEWRY

CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

Monday 10 June

- 4 p.m. Tea on Terrace of Palace of Westminster, with the wives of Leaders of Opposition parties.
- 5 p.m. Press Conference, Room WI
- 8 p.m. Panel and discussion during dinner at private house. Arieh Handler, Chairman National Council for Soviet Jewry - opening remarks.
- Speakers: Lord Mishcon (Opposition spokesman in the House of Lords); Janet Suzman, the actress; Richard Lindley, reporter with "Panorama", recently returned from filming in Moscow; Colin Shindler, lecturer and journalist.

Tuesday 11 June

- 10 a.m. Opening Session in the Jubilee Room.
Address by Lord Wilson, former Prime Minister.
- 10.10 a.m. Emanuel Litvinoff - authority on Soviet Jewry, author and journalist.
- 10.30 a.m. The Rt. Hon. David Steel - Leader of the Liberal Party.
- 10.45 - 12.10 Panel and discussion. Nan Greifer, Editor of "Jews in the USSR" will be in attendance. Parliamentary wives from America, Canada and Britain to lead discussion on "Wives of Refuseniks we have met".
- 1 p.m. Lunch at the Residence of the Israeli Ambassador.
- 3 p.m. Attempt to see the wife of the Russian Ambassador.
- 5 p.m. Tea with the wife of the American Ambassador at Winfield House, Regent's Park.
- 6.30 p.m. Reception and Buffet Supper at Michael House.
Dr. Martin Gilbert, the biographer of Churchill and author of "Jews of Hope", will address the guests, together with a former Refusenik.
Many members of Both Houses of Parliament will attend.

Wednesday 12 June

- 9.30 - 10.15 a.m. Visit the Prime Minister at 10 Downing Street for discussions. An appeal letter from Dan Shapiro's mother to be handed to Mrs. Thatcher by a former Refusenik.
- 10.30 a.m. Meeting at the Foreign Office, to have discussions with John Macgregor, the First Secretary at the Russian Desk.
- 1 p.m. Symbolic Lunch at County Hall.
Delegates will be served with prisoners' rations, i.e. cabbage soup, salted herring, black bread and water. Professor John Yudkin, the nutritionist, will discuss the food value of what we have eaten.
Ivan Lawrence, Q.C., M.P., will speak.
- 2.30 p.m. Final Press Conference with concluding statements and Conference Resolutions.
- 7 p.m. Buffet Supper at the Speaker's State Apartments, with guests Mr. Malcolm Rifkind, M.P., the Minister of State at the Foreign Office, and the Duke of Devonshire.

Thursday 13th June

- 10.30 a.m. Tour of the Houses of Parliament for delegates.

SUPPLEMENTARY POINTS

General1. JEWISH EMIGRATION FROM SOVIET UNION

Have repeatedly made clear concern at continued low level of permitted Jewish emigration from Soviet Union. Raised issue myself with Mr Gorbachev last December. In CSCE context detailed discussion of question of emigration and family reunification at Berne Meeting on Human Contacts next year. In meantime, shall continue to press Russians on this point.

2. SOVIET JEWRY RAISED AT OTTAWA?

Delegation did indeed raise issue of religious persecution in Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, including problems of Jewish communities. Bilateral discussion with Soviet delegation in margins provided invaluable opportunity to raise specific issues and cases.

3. WHO WAS RAISED?

Referred to well-known cases of Anatoly Shcharansky, Yuri Orlov, Ida Nudel. Also raised a number of cases privately. More helpful if these kept confidential.

4. RESPONSE (if pressed)

Soviet response gave us ^{no} reason to expect an early change in the general situation. But nevertheless hope that interventions on both issues and cases will have some effect.



Soviet Jewry

1. The general situation for Soviet Jews appears to be deteriorating. The large scale emigration of a number of ethnic groups, and particularly Soviet Jews, which began in the 1970s has been cut back drastically since 1979 when more than 51,000 Jews left. Since then the numbers have slumped: 20,000 in 1980, 9,400 in 1981, 2,700 in 1982, 1315 in 1983 and about 900 in 1984. Although there has been a slight upturn in the first few months of 1985 (April figure 166 compared with all-time low of 29 last October), it is too early to say whether this signals the start of a significant improvement. Additional administrative obstacles are constantly being placed in the path of potential emigrants. There have been reports of them being told that exit visas had been refused for life. In addition some have been told that the requisite invitations from relatives abroad can now only be accepted for one exit visa application. Each invitation can now only come through the postal system and can no longer be brought in by visitors to the Soviet Union. If the application is refused it can only be renewed once a new invitation is received. Many of those denied the right to emigrate have been told that the refusal is based on security ground, though in many cases those concerned have not worked for the government or completed military service for very many years.

2. One disturbing innovation which seems intended in part to discourage Jewish emigration was the establishment in April 1983 of a Soviet 'Anti-Zionist Committee'. It is likely that this organisation, which includes some of the USSR's 'establishment' Jews, has been formed as an attempt to put further pressure on Soviet Jewry. The Committee's statements, which have contained crude anti-semitic elements, have been designed to accentuate the insecurity of the Jewish community in the Soviet Union by characterising the desire to emigrate to Israel and to establish a Jewish



identity as politically and morally unacceptable. Recent evidence suggests that serious consideration is being given to the establishment of local branches of the Committee. There has always been a strong vein of anti-semitism in central and eastern Europe, but this amounts to official encouragement of it. The official campaign was stepped up in late 1984/early 1985 with crude attacks in the Soviet press and on radio and television.

3. In 1984 the Soviet authorities created difficulties over providing burial space in cemeteries especially in the Moscow area and have insisted instead on the cremation of the dead. This has caused great offence to Orthodox Jews, whose religion forbids cremation.

4. The authorities have also stepped up their efforts to prevent the teaching of Hebrew, with the widespread confiscation of Hebrew literature and the arrests last year of individuals such as Kholmiansky, Zunshain and Mesh. A significant factor in several of these cases is that 'criminal' charges are being brought (alleged possession of firearms, drugs) as well as the more normal 'political' charges such as anti-Soviet agitation and propaganda.

5. The Soviet authorities announced that from 1 August 1984 customs duties on parcels sent to the Soviet Union had to be paid by the recipients. The move is seen as an attempt to eliminate schemes, some of which involve Jewish relief organisations, whereby the duty is prepaid at the point of despatch. The Post Office earlier sought clarification from the Soviet authorities of the new arrangements, but have merely been told that it applies to all categories of parcel.

6. There is continuing concern, especially amongst Jewish organisations, at the non-delivery of mail sent to the Soviet Union. The UK delegation, in concert with our



partners in the Ten, raised the matter at the Congress of the Universal Postal Union in Hamburg in July 1984. Most recently, the issue was raised by our delegation to the CSCE Expert Meeting on Human Rights in progress in Ottawa.

ccpk.

DLO



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

7 June 1985

COO 15/b

Dear Charles,

Call on the Prime Minister by a delegation of the
Parliamentary and Congressional Wives Group for
Soviet Jewry

/ Thank you for your letter of 5^{att} June. I enclose as requested, a draft opening statement for the Prime Minister's use. I have also included a few supplementaries and a background note on Soviet Jewry.

/ You asked specifically for material about 'Dan' Shapiro and Ida Nudel. I attach a speaking note and background note on each.

On Ida Nudel, you asked whether this was a case on which it might be worth the Prime Minister taking some action. We would not advise this. Although hers is not a particularly serious case by the low standards that apply (she is not in prison, but only in internal exile in Moldavia), for some reason the Soviet authorities appear to feel that their pride is at stake. Our delegation raised her name last month privately with the Russians at the Ottawa Human Rights Meeting and were told that Mrs Nudel was someone we should 'forget about'. They did not use such language of numbers of other cases we raised. Our conclusion is therefore that the Prime Minister should not risk making a fruitless effort on Mrs Nudel's behalf. Since she is applying to emigrate to Israel, it would not in any case be something in which we would have a clear standing to intervene.

Yours ever,

(P F Ricketts)
Private Secretary

Peter Ricketts

C D Powell Esq
10 Downing Street

MRS IDA
NUDEL

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BACKGROUND NOTE

MRS IDA NUDEL

1. Born 27 April 1931. Prominent Jewish activist and refusenik. She applied to emigrate in 1971, but was refused permission on grounds of access of classified information (before her dismissal, she worked at an institute concerned with hygiene standards in food and shops). She was repeatedly harassed, and in 1977 accused of collecting secrets for the CIA. In 1978 Mrs Nudel hung banners outside her flat asking to be allowed to leave for Israel. She was charged with 'malicious hoolaganism' and sentenced to 4 years in external exile in June 1978. In March 1982 she returned to Moscow on completion of her sentence, but has been refused a residence permit for both Moscow and Riga. She is therefore obliged to live in Moldavia. Not a case in the same category as eg Shcharansky. But subject of fairly constant lobbying organised by her sister in Israel.

2. Mrs Nudel has now been diagnosed as suffering from stomach cancer. Due to her past history, she is said

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to be unwilling to undergo the necessary operation in the Soviet Union. Our delegation to the CSCE Expert Meeting on Human Rights raised the case with the Soviet delegation in bilateral talks and made a special plea on Mrs Nudel's behalf in view of her condition. The Soviet response, however, was that Mrs Nudel was one of those whom we should "forget about".

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SPEAKING NOTE

IDA NUDEL

- disturbing case

- as you know Government have raised Mrs Nudel's case on numerous occasions.

- amongst those discussed last month by Sir Anthony Williams, head of our delegation to Ottawa human rights' conference, with Soviet delegation. Made special plea on Mrs Nudel's behalf because of ill-health.

- (response - if raised) regrettably, Soviet response gave no cause for optimism. But hope that representation will be noted in Moscow.



DCA
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10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

5 June 1985

PRIME MINISTER'S MEETING WITH PARLIAMENTARY AND
CONGRESSIONAL WIVES GROUP FOR SOVIET JEWRY

Caroline Ryder wrote to Roger Bone on 3 May last year to say that the Prime Minister had agreed to meet the Parliamentary and Congressional Wives Group for Soviet Jewry on 12 June 1985 and to request briefing for it. This meeting has now been confirmed. You may find it helpful to have a copy of the recent correspondence from the Parliamentary Wives for the Release of Soviet Jewry which I enclose.

There will be some 45 delegates present at the meeting with the Prime Minister, which will last 45 minutes. After greeting them, the Prime Minister will make a short statement of the Government's position on Soviet Jews and then conduct a general discussion. It would be helpful to have briefing not later than 5.00 pm on 7 June on the issues likely to arise, together with a draft opening statement (sufficient to fill 4-5 minutes).

Mrs. Dykes who is in charge of the arrangements for this meeting has mentioned to us that the Group will be making a special effort on behalf of Mr. Shapiro, and will be pressing the Prime Minister to help. It would therefore be helpful to have a detailed note on his case with advice on what the Prime Minister could say.

Mrs. Dykes has also mentioned that the Group hopes that the Prime Minister will be able to help in the case of Ida Nudel. I don't know whether the case is familiar to the Department but apparently she is dying of cancer and there are hopes that she may be allowed to leave the Soviet Union and go to Israel to see her sister for the last months of her life. Mrs. Dykes emphasised that no publicity was being given to this case but she would be grateful if the Prime Minister could take some action to help secure her release. I should be grateful for early advice on how the Prime Minister should respond. If it is a case where she could appropriately write to the Soviet authorities it would be helpful to have a draft.

Colin Budd, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

(Charles Powell)

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