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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

15 May 1986

Dear Charles,

Mrs Ida Nudel

Mrs Friedman, sister of the well-known Soviet refusenik, Mrs Ida Nudel, has approached our Ambassador in Tel Aviv to ask for the UK to continue to press the Soviet authorities on Mrs Nudel's behalf; for the attached letter, enclosing an appeal from Mrs Nudel to Mr Shevardnadze, to be passed to the Foreign Secretary and to Number 10; and for the Prime Minister to meet her in Israel later this month.

I understand that the Prime Minister has previously taken an interest in this case, and that she wrote to Mrs Friedman on 22 February 1982. Mrs Friedman also made a similar call on our former Ambassador in Tel Aviv in January 1984. Number 10 were consulted at the time over the terms of his reply.

We would propose to instruct our Ambassador to reply along the following lines:

"As Mrs Friedman will be aware, from her correspondence with the Prime Minister and previous contact with the Embassy, British Ministers are greatly concerned at the problems faced by the Jewish community in the Soviet Union and the continued maltreatment of many individuals who seek to exercise the fundamental freedom of religious expression and practice. The recent drastic cutback in Jewish emigration and the harassment of those who express a wish to emigrate are issues which have frequently been brought to the attention of the Soviet authorities. The Prime Minister recently stressed her concern when she met the departing Soviet Ambassador. Mrs Nudel's case is well-known to us, and has been raised with the Soviet authorities on a number of occasions at both Ministerial and official level, most recently at the CSCE Experts Meeting in Ottawa and Berne. The Prime Minister was particularly perturbed to hear from Mrs Friedman of Mrs Nudel's deteriorating state of health. Mrs Friedman can rest assured that we will not allow Mrs Nudel's plight to be forgotten, though she will understand that decisions on how best to pursue the case must inevitably be a matter for our judgement".

You will also want to consider whether a meeting with Mrs Friedman should form part of the Prime Minister's programme in Israel.

Yours ever,  
Colin Budd

(C R Budd)  
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq  
PS/10 Downing Street

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March 31, 1986

The Honorable Foreign Minister  
of Great Britain

c/o Mr. Squire

Dear Sir;

The enclosed letter, sent by my sister Ida Nudel to the Foreign Minister of the U.S.S.R. is an eloquent plea for freedom by one who has already suffered too much. In asking for your help on her behalf, as I have asked the Foreign Ministers of all freedom loving countries, I seek your aid on solely humanitarian grounds.

I would like to draw your attention to the following:

In an interview on French television, Mr. Gorbachev, the Secretary General of the CPSLL, stated that the Soviet authorities may keep persons from leaving the country for a period of five to ten years. My sister has been held now for fifteen years.

Ida is 55 years old. She is isolated, sick and exhausted by ceaseless struggle against impassive authority. She has no relatives besides myself, my husband and my son, who reside in Israel. Surely it is time she was reunited with her family.

I am confident that you can help to bring this about.

Sincerely, *E. Spudis*



TO: THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE USSR, MR. E. SHEVARDNADZE

FROM: IDA YA. NUDEL, CITIZEN OF THE USSR, ID NO. LUOM 515668, ISSUED ON 25 MAY 1982 BY THE DEPT. OF THE INTERIOR OF THE KRIVOSHEINO REGION; CITIZEN OF ISRAEL, CERT. NO. 648, ISSUED ON 1 JUNE 1978 BY THE ISRAELI KNESSET.

DEAR SIR,

I APPEAL TO YOU WITH REQUEST TO USE YOUR INFLUENCE ON THE APPROPRIATE SOVIET AUTHORITIES IN ORDER THAT AN EXIT VISA TO GO TO ISRAEL TO JOIN MY SISTER RESIDING THERE IS GRANTED TO ME.

I HAVE BEEN TRYING TO OBTAIN AN EMIGRATION PERMIT SINCE 1971. REPRESENTATIVES OF YOUR MINISTRY IN MANY FOREIGN CAPITALS HAVE TO DEVOTE A LOT OF TIME IN DISCUSSING MY FATE AND THE CIRCUMSTANCES IN WHICH I LIVE WITH MY FRIENDS AND WITH PEOPLE SYMPATHETIC TO MY CAUSE. SOME OF YOUR COLLEAGUES, SUCH AS, FOR EXAMPLE, MR. A. DOBRYNIN, PROBABLY KNOW BY HEART ALL THE DETAILS ABOUT MY PAST AND PRESENT LIFE. UNFORTUNATELY, YOU YOURSELF PROBABLY HAD TO OBSERVE MY NUMEROUS PORTRAITS, WHICH WERE PUT ON DISPLAY, AND TO HEAR THE SLOGANS CHANTED ABOUT MY DESIRE TO LEAVE FOR ISRAEL.

WHO NEEDS ALL THIS UNPLEASANTNESS AND WHY?

IN DECEMBER 1971, WHEN THE OVIR OFFICE IN MOSCOW NOTIFIED ME THAT AN EXIT VISA WAS BEING DENIED TO ME, I WAS TOLD THE FOLLOWING:

REASON FOR REFUSAL: "STATE INTERESTS"

VALIDITY OF REFUSAL: "TILL JANUARY 1977"

GROUND FOR REFUSAL: "YOU KNOW NO SECRETS, BUT YOU MAY HAVE OVERHEARD SOMETHING".

IT WOULD BE USELESS TO CLAIM: "I DID NOT PRY AND DID NOT EAVESDROP ON ANYONE, I WAS NOT A SPY AND I DID NOT PASS ON INFORMATION TO ANYONE". NO ONE WOULD BELIEVE ME. BUT 14 YEARS HAVE PASSED. IS IT POSSIBLE THAT FOR THESE 14 YEARS THE SECRETS, WHICH I DID NOT HEAR, STILL HAVE NOT LOST THEIR RELEVANCE - DESPITE THE PRESENT TEMPO OF SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT? ANY PERSON, EVEN NOT A VERY EDUCATED ONE, CAN UNDERSTAND THAT ALL THE RUMOURS HAVE BEEN FORGOTTEN AND ALL THE SECRETS HAVE STOPPED BEING SECRETS.

WHY, THEN, ALL THIS AGGRAVATION? AND I DO NOT REFER HERE TO MY SHORT-TERM ARRESTS, THE TRUMPED-UP HOOLIGANISM CHARGE PRESENTED AGAINST ME, THE TRIAL, THE 4 YEARS OF EXILE, THE REFUSAL OF THE AUTHORITIES (WHO SEEMED TO MAKE A MOCKERY OF THE LAW) TO GRANT ME A RESIDENCE PERMIT SO THAT I COULD RETURN AFTER THE TERM OF EXILE TO MY OWN MOSCOW APARTMENT, MY EXPULSION FROM MOSCOW, THE WONDERINGS FROM TOWN TO TOWN WHILE SEEKING A RESIDENCE PERMIT AND THE FORCED EXPULSIONS, THE FACT THAT I WAS DEPRIVED OF MY PRIVATE APARTMENT - AGAIN IN VIOLATION OF THE LAW, THE CONSTANT BUGGING OF ANY PLACE WHERE I LIVED, THE THEFT OF MY LETTERS AND OF CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESSED TO ME, THE THREATS TO WHICH MY FRIENDS HAVE BEEN SUBJECTED IN ORDER TO BRING ABOUT MY ISOLATION, THE ENDLESS INVITATIONS TO COME TO THE POLICE FOR "BRAINWASHING" SESSIONS, ETC. ETC. THE LIST IS ENDLESS.

ALL THIS HAS BEEN DONE IN ORDER TO TAKE REVENGE FOR MY ACTIVE POSITION IN THE MATTER OF REPATRIATION TO ISRAEL AND THE QUESTION OF RIGHTS OF OTHER JEWS LIKE ME. IN THE MEANTIME, MEN OF GOOD WILL HAVE MORE AND MORE SYMPATHY FOR ME AS A WOMAN WHO HAS BEEN SUBJECTED TO SENSELESS TORTMENTS.

DEAR MINISTER! ALL THIS CAN BE CHANGED BY A STROKE OF A PEN, BY ISSUING ME AN EXIT VISA. MY FRIENDS WILL SHOUT SOME MORE, BUT THESE WILL BE SHOUTS OF JOY AND YOUR OFFICIALS WILL NOT HAVE TO TAKE ANY MORE TIME OFF THEIR DUTIES IN ORDER TO GIVE MY FRIENDS ANY MORE EXPLANATIONS. I ASSURE YOU THAT MANY OF YOUR REPRESENTATIVES WILL SIGH WITH RELIEF, TOGETHER WITH MY FRIENDS AND ACQUAINTANCES, AS THEY, OFFICIALS STATIONED IN VARIOUS WESTERN CAPITALS, WILL HAVE LESS UNNECESSARY WORK TO DO.

I APPEAL TO YOU ONCE AGAIN TO HELP ME IN MY EFFORTS TO OBTAIN AN EXIT VISA TO GO TO ISRAEL.

RESPECTFULLY YOURS

2 JANUARY 1986  
BENDERY 278100, MOLDAVSKAYA SSR  
UL. SOVETSKAYA 6/2.

IDA NUDEL