

December 6th 1989

Dear Prime Minister,

*temporarily retained*

THIS IS A COPY OF THE ORIGINAL  
DANNED UNDER SECTION 2(1)  
OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS ACT 1958

18.11.2016

On Thursday December 7th my brother Roger Cooper begins his fifth year in Evin Prison, Tehran. You have already expressed your own and your government's deep concern about his case in a letter to my father, which was sent to him in prison and which to our great surprise and his great pleasure actually reached him.

I am writing to ask whether you might find two minutes tomorrow in what is I am sure a characteristically busy day to sign a jumbo-sized Christmas card which we are sending him, and on which we hope to collect the signatures and good wishes of as many members of Parliament of all parties as possible.

The card carries a simple and non-political message which I hope will give no offence in Iran: This reads:

"Wishing you peace at Christmas, and hoping that the Islamic Republic of Iran will act with clemency and give you back your liberty in the New Year."

I have no doubt these are sentiments you share. It goes without saying that if you feel able to add your name, at such short notice, the card will be brought to you wherever and whenever is most convenient.

Our plans for the day are as follows:

- 10 a.m. Meeting with Tim Sainsbury at the Foreign Office
- 11 a.m. - 6.30 p.m. "Remember Roger Cooper" vigil held in Whitehall on the corner of King Charles St. by a dozen to 20 close family and friends.
- 2.00 - 4. p.m. Roger's daughter Dr. Gisu Cooper and myself will bring the Christmas Card to Room W6 an annexe to the Palace of Westminster which has been booked by Nick Baker whom you recently appointed a junior Whip, and who went to school with Roger and myself. We hope it will be signed by lots of MPs, and may get the TV news programmes interested in filming this.

Yours sincerely,

Paul Cooper

Rt. Hon. Margaret Thatcher  
10 Downing St.

16.20  
No. 45

PRD  
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PRIME MINISTER

MR ROGER COOPER

Mr Roger Cooper is just entering his fifth year in prison in Tehran. His brother is collecting signatures for a jumbo-size Christmas card for him with an innocuous inscription. He is hoping to collect the signatures of as many Members of Parliament as possible and has asked if you would sign too.

I am sure this is worthwhile. We have arranged for him to bring the card to your room in the House immediately after Questions tomorrow, together with a TV crew and a photographer. I hope you will be content with this.

C.D.P.  
Charles Powell

6 December 1989

I usually send  
Christmas cards to  
British people so  
detained.

mf

c: Cooper (MJ)



10 DOWNING STREET

Charles

I've arranged that  
She will sign the card  
in her room at the  
House at 3.40 - just  
after quezhairs but  
~~before~~ Cranley Onslow.

If she is content, Terry  
will arrange for a TV crew,  
one photographer and  
one reporter to be present.

Will you do a note?

CTB