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10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

21 February 1980

Dear Nicholas,

I am sorry for the delay in replying to your letter to me of 28 January about the proposal to erect a memorial on Crown Land to those who were repatriated to the Soviet Union at the end of the last war. The proposal, as I am sure you realise, raises some difficult issues.

Having reflected on the problem, I have come to the conclusion that it would only be right for the kind of memorial that you have in mind to be erected on Crown Land if the inscription on the memorial is uncontroversial and, in particular, if it avoids imputing guilt to previous British Governments. I have, therefore, asked Michael Heseltine to get in touch with you and arrange for a discussion to take place about the wording of the inscription. I am confident it will prove possible to agree on wording with which everyone is content.

Yours
Margaret

The Lord Bethell

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