



2 MARSHAM STREET
LONDON SW1P 3EB

My ref: *Loose*

Your ref:

28 February 1980

The Lord Bethell

MEMORIAL TO THE VICTIMS OF YALTA

I know that, following the Prime Minister's letter to you of 21 February, you have been in touch with my office to arrange a meeting, at which Sir Bernard Braine and John Jolliffe would also be present, for next Wednesday morning (5 March). I am anxious to resolve the question of the wording of the inscription as soon as possible, particularly since it is some time since the proposal for the memorial was made. I regret to say, however, that a meeting of a Cabinet Committee of which I am a member has been arranged for next Wednesday morning, and that I shall have to postpone our meeting as a result. I understand as well that the timing of our proposed discussion would have proved difficult for Peter Blaker, who is now handling the FCO interest in this matter.

I am sorry about this further delay, but I can now put to you the following alternative wording which, we consider, would meet the Prime Minister's concern to ensure an uncontroversial inscription:

"This memorial was placed here by Members of Parliament of all parties and others to commemorate the thousands of men, women and children from the Soviet Union and other Eastern European nations who suffered unjustly after their return to the communist countries between 1943 and 1947."

Perhaps you could let me know whether you can agree to this alternative wording, and whether you still wish to discuss the question.

I am sending copies of this letter to Sir Bernard Braine and John Jolliffe, and to Peter Blaker at the FCO.

Michael Heseltine
MICHAEL HESELTINE

The Lord Bethell

29 FEB 1980





2 MARSHAM STREET
LONDON SW1P 3EB

My ref:

Your ref:

29 FEB 1980

Dear Lord Bethell

MEMORIAL TO THE VICTIMS OF YALTA

The Secretary of State wrote to you yesterday with an alternative wording for the inscription on this proposed memorial. As I explained to you by 'phone this morning, Mr Heseltine has asked me to let you know that the wording which we would like you to consider is in fact the following:

"This memorial was placed here by Members of Parliament of all parties and others to commemorate the men, women and children from the Soviet Union and other Eastern European nations who were persecuted after their return to Communist Countries at the conclusion of the Second World War."

You said that you would let us have your comments on this wording in writing, in advance of the discussion which you thought you would wish to have with Mr Heseltine. We shall of course seek to arrange such a discussion as soon as is mutually convenient.

I am sending copies of this letter to Sir Bernard Braine and to the Hon John Jolliffe.

Yours sincerely

Paul Bristow

P N BRISTOW
Private Secretary

The Lord Bethell



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

27 February 1980

(File with the box)

Mr. Munro

Dear Paul,

I am writing to thank you for your letter of 25 February to Paul Lever.

We agreed this morning that as it is not now clear when Mr Heseltine could meet Lord Bethell, Sir B Braine and the Hon John Jolliffe, he might first invite their comments on an alternative draft inscription. I incorporate a suggested text incorporating certain revisions to the one suggested in Paul Lever's letter of 7 February to Michael Alexander in a draft letter which Mr Heseltine might send to Lord Bethell.

I should add that, as was said in Paul Lever's letter of 7 February, FCO Ministers do not accept that this is an issue of foreign policy. The problem lies over the acceptability of allowing Crown land to be used for the erection of a monument whose inscription imputes culpability to previous British governments.

I am sending copies of this letter (and enclosure) to Michael Alexander (No 10) and David Wright (Cabinet Office).

Yours ever,

Colin A. Munro

C A Munro
PS/Mr Blaker

P N Bristow Esq
Private Secretary
Secretary of State for the Environment
2 Marsham Street
London SW1P 3EB



DRAFT LETTER FOR THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT TO SEND TO LORD BETHELL

The Prime Minister has sent me copies of the letter from you about the proposal to erect a memorial to those who were repatriated to the Soviet Union at the end of the war and her reply.

I should be glad to discuss this with you. As a starting point you might like to consider the following as a possible alternative text for the inscription:

"This memorial was placed here by Members of Parliament of all parties and others to commemorate the men, women and children from the Soviet Union and other Eastern European nations who were persecuted after their return to communist countries at the conclusion of the Second World War."

Perhaps you, and Sir E Braine and the Hon John Jolliffe, to whom I am copying this letter, would like to let me have your comments.