

PRIME MINISTER

In the attached letter from the Women's Campaign for Soviet Jewry, which unfortunately I did not see before your stop-over in Moscow, the co-Chairmen asked you to raise the cases of Anatoly Sharansky and Ida Nudel with the Russians. I do not think, in any case, that you ^could have taken these particular matters up with Mr. Kosygin across the supper table. May I reply in the terms of the attached draft?

Sh

Agreed ok

2 July 1979

*Letter to inna -
cc FCO (M. Lerner)*

*Sh
2/7*



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

2 July 1979

cc
FCO

Dear Mrs. Eker and Mrs. Rigal,

The Prime Minister has asked me to thank you for your letter of 25 June about Anatoly Sharanksy and Ida Nudel.

As you know, Mrs Thatcher has frequently made clear her very deep concern for the suffering of all those who have been imprisoned in the Soviet Union because of their political or religious beliefs and her admiration for their courage. She has asked me to explain that it was not possible, during a very brief stop-over in Moscow on 26 June on her way to Tokyo, to raise these matters with the Soviet authorities and that the Government continue to take every reasonable opportunity of making the Soviet Government aware of the concern to which these cases give rise in the UK.

Yours sincerely,

James Callaghan

Mrs Rita Eker and Mrs Margaret Rigal

By

cc FB

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Women's Campaign for Soviet Jewry

BY HAND

148 Granville Road London NW2

Tel: 01-458 7147

MR/DC

25th June, 1979.

The Rt. Hon. Mrs. Margaret Thatcher,
Prime Minister,
House of Commons,
Westminster, S.W.1.

Dear Mrs. Thatcher,

May we wish you a very happy and successful journey and hope that your visit to Tokyo will be interesting and fruitful.

When you discuss the present situation during your short stop in Moscow we do hope that you will express the widely-felt concern over the continued detention of Anatoly Sharansky. Our latest information is that his constant headaches have increased and that he is now suffering from lack of vision. We understand that this condition will make it impossible for him to fulfil his normal quota of work and that he will therefore be deprived of the little pocketmoney he would earn. This, in turn, would mean that he has no money to buy the small amount of extra food available to prisoners and he will suffer from even more acute starvation. Whether or not he is suffering from inflammation of the brain it is impossible for us to judge but this is the fear of medical friends and such a condition will obviously be exceedingly dangerous.

Please may we also remind you that Ida Nudel is still enduring the most appalling conditions in Siberia. Last Thursday was the first anniversary of her trial and she is therefore due to remain in her present state for another three years; her friends are convinced that she will never be able to survive so long - the only woman in a community of male criminals.

We beg you to emphasise to the Soviet Authorities that their concern for their own reputation as a civilised super power should lead them to release her immediately.

With many thanks and best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

Rita Eker & Margaret H. Rigal.

Rita Eker and Margaret Rigal,
Co-Chairmen,
Women's Campaign for Soviet Jewry.

