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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

22 September 1980

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Prime Minister

MAF 23/ix

Dear Mike,

Open letter from Dr Sakharov

Following your letter to me of 13 August, your Press Office commented on the record on 14 August in response to Dr Sakharov's open letter to President Brezhnev of 27 July about Afghanistan.

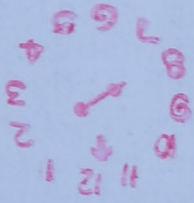
The Prime Minister may be interested to know that a member of our Embassy in Moscow has since met Dr Sakharov's wife, Mrs Elena Bonner, when both were trying (without success) to gain admittance to the recent trial in Moscow of the human rights activist Tatiana Velikanova. Mrs Bonner told the member of our Embassy that Dr Sakharov had noted the Prime Minister's comment with pleasure. She added that Dr Sakharov had also noted that none of the other Western leaders to have received copies of his letter had made any response, and had been surprised that the Western press had not picked up this fact.

Yours etc

Paul

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(Private Secretary)

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