

NOTE TO PRESS OFFICERS

CALL ON MR BLAKER BY DR STEPHEN ROTH AND OTHERS FROM THE
BOARD OF DEPUTIES OF BRITISH JEWS

Line to take :

The representatives came to express to Mr Blaker their interest in ensuring the problems of Soviet Jewry are ventilated at Madrid. They passed over a report made by the World Conference on Soviet Jewry about implementation of the Helsinki Final Act with particular reference to Soviet jews. Mr Blaker received the report with thanks and sympathy. He said there must be a full and frank review ^{of} implementation of the Final Act focussing on the shortcomings of the countries concerned. He also passed to them a message for the Special Emergency Meeting of the National Council for Soviet Jewry.

(Copies of Mr Blaker's message may be passed out on request).

GR

8 November 1980

It is with great pleasure that I send you a message for this Special Emergency Meeting of the National Council for Soviet Jewry.

The Government are always willing to listen sympathetically to the views of responsible organisations such as yours. I am sorry, therefore, especially as it is just prior to the opening of the Madrid CSCE Review Conference that I cannot deliver this message myself.

The current international climate in which the Conference is being held is not encouraging but the Government remain convinced of the importance of the CSCE process.

The Government consider that our principal objective at Madrid should be to ensure that the Conference reflects in its proceedings the present set-back to genuine détente caused by Soviet actions in Afghanistan and in the area of human rights. We must re-affirm the West's longstanding view that détente is indivisible and therefore cannot survive if countries claim the right to apply it only in certain areas and to certain subjects, contrary to the intentions of the Helsinki Final Act.

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Priority must therefore be given to a full, frank and thorough review of the record of implementation by participating states of the provisions of the Final Act, focussing on the evident shortcomings of those countries concerned, as measured against their Helsinki commitments. The Government believe that the credibility of the CSCE process would be seriously undermined if this fundamental responsibility were to be evaded.

The Government are deeply concerned with the problems of Soviet Jews and, of course, all those who are harassed and oppressed contrary to the intentions of the Final Act. We therefore intend to draw attention to these unfortunate people whose problems will be very much in our delegation's minds during the Conference.

Peter Baker