



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

13 January 1981

Thank you for your letter of 23 December to the Prime Minister enclosing copies of appeals and statements on behalf of Jews in the Soviet Union.

The Prime Minister was grateful for this information. She values the efforts made by the many responsible organisations such as your own to draw cases of human rights abuse to public attention.

You will know that our delegation at Madrid raised the question of the many forms of repression practised by the Soviet Union, particularly the persecution of Jews, at an early stage in the Conference. Where appropriate they have illustrated their points by quoting individual cases, and they have - as Mr. Blaker said in the House of Commons on 3 December - made clear the strong feeling of the British people about such conduct. Our delegation will continue to raise these matters in Madrid.

M. O'D. B. ALEXANDER

Mrs. Rita Eker and Mrs. Margaret Rigal

RH



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

12 January 1981

MR. ALEXANDER *To mine*

Dear Mike,

Thank you for your letter of 31 December, asking for a draft Private Secretary reply to a letter of 23 December from the Women's Campaign for Soviet Jewry. This I enclose.

Yours ever,

Francis Richards

(F N Richards)
Private Secretary

M Pattison Esq
10 Downing Street

DRAFT: minute/letter/teleletter/despatch/note

TYPE: Draft/Final 1+

FROM:

Private Secretary

Reference

DEPARTMENT:

TEL. NO:

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

TO:

Your Reference

- Top Secret
- Secret
- Confidential
- Restricted
- Unclassified

Rita Eker and Margaret Rigal
 Women's Campaign for Soviet
 Jewry
 148 Granville Road
 NW 2

Copies to:

PRIVACY MARKING

SUBJECT:

.....In Confidence

CAVEAT.....

Thank you for your letter of 23 December to the Prime Minister enclosing copies of appeals and statements on behalf of Jews in the Soviet Union.

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We ~~are~~ grateful for this information, ^{She} ~~and~~ value the efforts made by the many responsible organisations such as your own to draw cases of human rights abuse to public attention.

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And

Enclosures—flag(s).....

FIVE

VLB

31 December 1980


*Overdue
Chax 15/1 MAF*

I enclose a letter to the Prime Minister from the Women's Campaign for Soviet Jewry.

I should be grateful if you would provide us with a draft Private Secretary reply. It would be helpful if this could reach us by 12 January.

M A PATTISON

Francis Richards, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.



FILE

VLB

31 December 1980

I am writing on behalf of the Prime Minister to thank you for your letter of 23 December, with which you enclosed a number of appeals and statements.

Your letter is receiving attention, and a reply will be sent to you as soon as possible.

M A PATTISON

Mrs. Rita Eker

GA

WOMEN'S CAMPAIGN FOR SOVIET JEWRY

Co-Chairmen: RITA EKER, MARGARET RIGAL

148 Granville Road, London NW2
Tel: 01-458 7147

MR/DC

23rd December, 1980.

The Rt. Hon. Mrs. Margaret Thatcher, MP.,
Prime Minister,
10 Downing Street,
London, W.1.

Dear Mrs. Thatcher,

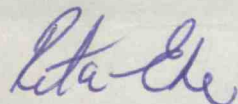
The enclosed Appeals/Statements have just reached us and we feel that you should see them without delay.

We have also heard from returning travellers that the position of Soviet Jews is deteriorating day by day. At the end of last week the Jewish kindergarten in Moscow was broken up with unnecessary force and brutality.

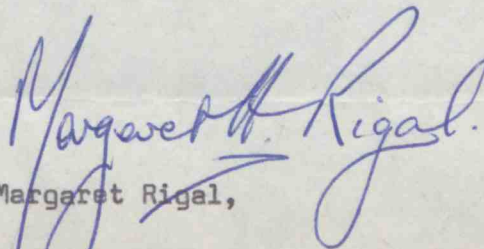
We fear that the Soviet Jews are now in physical danger and we know that they are relying on you to give a lead to other Western leaders on their behalf. They are unable to protect themselves and are appealing for help. They are particularly nervous that action will be taken against them while the Madrid Review is in recess.

We very much hope that you and Mr. Thatcher will have a peaceful and happy Christmas holiday.

Yours sincerely,



Rita Eker and



Margaret Rigal,

Co-Chairmen,
Women's Campaign for Soviet Jewry.

Enclosed: Statements/Appeals from the USSR.

To the Public Prosecutor of the City of Odessa

A copy to the Central Committee Communist Party of the Ukraine.

The Reference

We are deeply worried by the actions of the KGB with regard to the treatment of our friends.

The KGB called them to the Ukrainian KGB and talked with them for a few hours. After this 'talk' they did not make any record of this interview. This situation allows them to use threats and take offensive attributes to our friends. Similar actions have been taken by the KGB to Goldman, Nepomnyastchiji's family and others.

The particular worry for us is the event which took place on the 4th November, 1980. A group of people attacked our friend, Alexander Kisser, and roughly beat him up. Then he, together with a militiaman, was taken to a local militia station. There he was put in a cell during the night and he was falsely assured that his relatives were informed about him. In the morning, before his relatives knew about this event Alexander Kisser was found guilty by a public judge, A. Bubosarskiji, of hooliganism and sentenced to a correctional job for two months. He was deprived of his right to write an appeal to the public prosecutor and show the evidence of physical assault. The people who beat him were people who had held a 'talk' with him at the Ukrainian KGB.

We ask you to look into these facts to prove these events took place and to punish the culprits.

Kosharovsky, Yuli.	Moscow.	Gerasima Kurina Str. 4, Korp. 3, Apt. 52.
Kholmiansky, A.	Moscow.	General Belova Str. 33, Korp. 19, Apt. 96.

The following names are previously unknown to us and we hope the spelling is correct:

Dubin,	Moscow.	Molotovikh Str. 11, Korp 6, Apt. 207.
Grechnovskiy.	Moscow.	Otkritoe shosse 2, Korp 6, Apt. 102.
Izelshtat	Moscow.	Yaroslavskoe shosse 4, Korp. 1, Apt. 43.
Kholmiansky.	Moscow.	Kirovogradsky str. 24, Apt. 191.
Ziserman	Moscow.	Pechatny pereulok 1/4, Apt. 7.

Alexander KISSER, Odessa.

On November 4th when I crossed Kirov Street a driving-school car "Moskvich" moved on the crossroad from Svetlaya Street. The car stopped at a distance of 1.5 metres from me. Two people jumped out of the car, came up to me and started to shout at me: "A learner is sitting at the steering-wheel and you throw yourself under the car. You want to send us to prison". They they knocked my spectacles off and beat me in the stomach. Somebody shouted "Give him more!". Five more men ran to me and started to beat me. I started to shout for help. They threw me down on the ground and started to kick me. A militiaman, who appeared in twenty seconds, drove away these people and offered to take me with him to the local militia station. He refused to inform my relatives about this event. We climbed into the "Moskvich". I found out that the person who had earlier held 'a talk' with me at the KGB was sitting on the back seat.

Near an entrance to the local militia station, when we got out of the car, some person suddenly appeared who then is named as Mishurin U.N. In our presence he stepped in some mud and accused me of pushing him into a puddle.

In the interviewing room I was searched and then I was moved to a common cell. But Mishurin and people who were not in the car were used as witnesses. Earlier I had met Mishurin at the local militia station. I asked him to tell my parents but I was deceived by the militia men. All night I was in the common cell where some people beat me and mocked me. I was not allowed to go to the toilet. In the morning a public judge, Dubosarskiji, told me his sentence about a correctional job for two months in accordance with the Edict of 26.06.1966. He found me guilty of shouting in the street, using unquotable bad language and obstructing a moving vehicle. I was deprived of any opportunity to give an explanation or to make a declaration.

Appeal to the Participants of the Madrid Conference.

We are called Jewish Refuseniks because we are refused our rights to live on the earth of our ancestors and to join our relatives or parents who are living in Israel.

We appeal to you for help. For some years we have not succeeded in obtaining these elementary rights about which so much is said. We have applied to all State and Party organisations but have not received any answers. We are existing on hope and waiting only for the time when we can reach the country of our ancestors and reunite with our families. We plead not guilty and we do not know what we are punished for.

We appeal to you that you will raise a question about the fate of the thousands of separated families and speak out in defence of our essential rights.

Tsukerman:	the refusal since 1978.	A wife is living in Israel.
Vainshtein:	refusal since 1974.	A wife and daughter are living in Israel.
Lantsman:	refused since 1974.	
Faerman:	refused since 1979.	Husband is living in Israel.
Lederman:	refusal since 1977.	Mother and brother are living in Israel.
Traferberg:	refusal since 1977.	Son, brother and sister are living in Israel.
Shvartsman:	refusal since 1978.	Mother is living in Israel.
Khozin:	refusal since 1978.	Parents are living in Israel.
Lovshin:	refusal since 1980.	
Vodovoz:	refusal since 1972.	Parents and brother are living in Israel.
Melskran:	refusal since 1980.	Mother and brother are living in Israel.
Averbukh:	refusal since 1980.	Parents and sister are living in Israel.
Reizerovich:	refusal since 1979.	Brothers are living in Israel.
Braslavsky:	refusal since 1975.	
Moonblit:	refusal since 1978.	Mother and daughter are living in Israel.

KHARKOV

For the first time in ten years of emigration the OVIR have started to refuse visas on the pretext of "insufficient kinship" or "there are no reasons for reunification". The OVIR refuse even when there is documentary confirmation of close kinship. About five hundred families have received refusals. In the summer of 1979 the OVIR stopped accepting documents and at the same time the Post Office stopped delivering invitations. The chief of the Kharkov OVIR, answering Refuseniks' complaints, declared that in 1979 the law about Human and Citizens' Rights was adopted.

In the autumn of 1979 and in the spring of 1980 the Soviet authorities pursued a campaign of accusing refuseniks of parasitism. However, a Jewish refusenik, in fact, cannot get work in his speciality. Besides the local press repeatedly publishes articles about refuseniks describing them as parasites and traitors, the press uses any slander because the press is sure of absolute freedom from punishment. In particular, Alexander Paritsky (a refusenik since 1975) has been subjected to accusations and slanders.

In January 1980 in Kharkov the two cultural seminars for Refuseniks started to function. Later these seminars joined together. Founded on the basis of this seminar the University of Refuseniks was organized. The University has departments of physics, mathematics, chemistry, English and Hebrew. At the present time the University has available cultural and scientific seminars for refuseniks. About fifteen young students study at the University. They are children of refuseniks and they have lessons on Saturdays. Thirty students attend the cultural seminars and fifteen students the scientific seminars.

In the beginning of November some university teachers were called to the KGB for a talk.

The KGB agents burst into the Paritsky's flat, breaking open the front door and wanted to take him away by force, but their neighbours prevented them from doing this. The people who burst into the flat showed their identity cards as militiamen. However, the Chief of the Department of the Interior at Kharkov, Colonel Khomenko, said that there are no people with these names on his staff.

The Hebrew teacher, Mashkovich, was called to the OVIR by a telephone call from a Major Alekseev as if to complete some formalities. When he came back home he was detained and accused of vagrancy. A group of refuseniks (twenty people) went to the militia station and demanded Mashkovich's release. In the morning he was freed.

APPEAL

from VARVAK

I appeal to all people of the world to help my family. I am Liliya Varvak. I am thirty-five. My husband is thirty-four. He is a mathematician and has a degree of Candidate of Science. For years he has been very ill and he is classified as an invalid of the second-class. We have three children, Zura - 6 years, Anja - 4 years, and Peta - 3 years. For three years we have tried to get a visa to leave for Israel where my parents are living. My husband is ill with a very severe form of diabetes; we cannot get any medicine for the last six months. We have been deprived of the right to have correspondence from abroad because we have a persistent wish to leave Russia. During the last year I have sent 177 complaints and references to various Soviet political and social bodies. I asked these bodies to help my family to leave the USSR. For my husband the right to go to Israel is the right to his life. The KGB agents tried to prevent me from applying to the Central Committee of the CPSU with my complaint on actions of the OVIR.

On April 3rd this year when I wanted to go to Moscow I was seized by the KGB agents on the railway station. They searched me and took all my papers, references and personal letters. They detained me at the militia station until midnight. This action was done in violation of the Soviet laws.

In order to intimidate us the Soviet authorities started to check if we are bringing up our children in the right way. These checks have a very ominous character. In the Soviet Union there are cases where children are taken away from their parents by force. It is done to victimise the parents for their religious or political convictions. In May 1980 my husband and I renounced our Soviet citizenship.

My persistent wish to save the life of my children's father was judged by Soviet bodies as madness. In the Pavlov Mental Hospital at Kiev a medical card was made with my name without any reference to me. In this card was written that I am a socially dangerous person. In May 1980 I knew that the Soviet authorities wanted to take me to the mental hospital by force. And I ran away from Kiev. In two weeks my family joined me. We came back to Kiev at the end of September. After returning to Kiev I continued to try to get permission to leave Russia.

At the beginning of the Madrid Conference on November 11th 1980, I together with other refuseniks went on three days hunger strike as a protest against the illegal removal of our right to choose the country we live in according to our personal wishes.

On 10th November 1980 at midday an ambulance drove up to my house. At this time I and my children were in court. The five men, including two plain-clothed men and two wearing surgeons' coats under overcoats, got out of the car. They surrounded me and invited me to come to the car. I called my children and asked the men to show me their identity cards. I explained to them that my husband was in hospital and I did not want to abandon my children. The newcomers refused to show me their identity cards or give me their names. I refused to go and told them that I would hand over my children only to their father. They answered that my children could not join their father because he could not feed the children and it is not known what he would do with them. They said "we will give your children to 'good hands'". Again I asked them to show me their identity cards. They answered me with threats "If you continue in this manner we will take you to a house for madness and you will stay there all your life". The children cried. I started to soothe them. Then these men started to take away my children from me by force. I called for help. People began to come out of their houses but they did not protest and watched how the five men took away my children and took me to a car by force. These men were embarrassed that there were a lot of witnesses and let me go but continued to request that I went with them. After some time they drove away. This event lasted about one hour. My children and I came into our apartment and I made a telephone call to the hospital where my husband was.

My husband was forced to stop his treatment and come back home. At about 3 p.m. an ambulance drove up again with the same people. At this time two refuseniks were staying at my home. We started to demand that they show us their identity cards. I insisted that they should inform me who called an ambulance for me. They refused to answer. After my saying that I would resist any illegal deprivation of my freedom one of the men came out of my flat and told somebody "they demand that we should show our identity cards". He was told "no identity cards". Then all of them drove away.

My mother, Lidiya Markovna, who is an employee at the military collage, did not try to prevent them sending me to a madhouse and take away my children from me. She is fanatically devoted to the Soviet power and would prefer to see her daughter in a grave rather than emigrate.

19th November 1980. My husband is still alive and I am still free and my children are with me but the decision of the Soviet authorities to destroy my family is like the sword of Damocles hanging over our heads.

At the beginning of the Madrid Conference on November 11th 1980 I together with other refuseniks went on three days hunger strike as a protest against the illegal removal of our rights to choose the country we live in according to our personal wishes.

On 18th November 1980 at midnight a woman in a white coat came to my home. At this time I and my children were in court. The woman, including the white-coated man and the woman in white coat, came to the court. They surrounded me and invited me to come to the court. I looked at my children and asked the man to show me their identity cards. I explained to them that my husband was in court and I did not want to abandon my children. The woman refused to show me identity cards or give us their names. I refused to go and told them that I would hand over my children only to their father. They answered that my children could not join their father because he could not feed the children. It is not known what he meant with them. They said "we will give your children a good hand". I asked them to show us their identity cards. They answered us with the words "If you continue in this manner we will send you to a house for madmen and you will stay there all your life". These men started to take away my children as my father called for help. People began to come out of their houses but they did not dare to approach. The five men took away my children and took me to a car by force. These men were embarrassed that there were a lot of witnesses and let me go. I continued to request that I want with them. At the moment they drove away. The events lasted about one hour. My children and I came into the hospital and I was a refusenik at the hospital where my husband was.

from KISHINEV

THE OPEN LETTER TO THE PARTICIPANTS OF THE MADRID MEETING.

We, Soviet citizens of Jewish nationality, have tried to get permission to go to Israel to join our relatives who have lived there for a long time.

Our dreams cannot be realised because of absurd excuses. Trying all ways, praying and demanding for attention to our divided families, we are forced to resort to a hunger strike which we start on the day of the opening of the Madrid Conference. We understand that our problem is not the main problem of this meeting but we want people of the world to pay attention to the horror of our absurd detention. Our action is to ensure that questions about our position will not slip out of your consciousness. This is our last opportunity to protest against gross violations of Human Rights that is proudly included in the Helsinki Act.

This is why we depend on your support, and appeal to your conscience and ask for your assistance to free us from helpless captivity.

Tsukerman,
Vodovoz
Leiderman
Khodin
Vainshtein
Leivorig.

KIEV

The 8th October and the 4th November. The KGB agents, Kamenev and Petrenko, talked with Mark Varvak. They showed him some complaints and statements which he had signed. Among them were his renouncement of his Soviet citizenship and his personal letter to journalist Gevin Klodt. They did not give the names of witnesses. Kamenev and Petrenko told Mark Varvak to stop his activities, otherwise they would start to draw up a prosecution case against him (under Article 187 of the Ukrainian Criminal Code or Article 190 of the USSR Criminal Code). Varvak declared that as the witnesses' testimonies were without their names they were worthless. He refused to withdraw from his fight for the right to leave the USSR.

On October 23rd Stanislav Zubkov was arrested near the KGB building. The chief of the local KGB took part in the arrest. Thirty refuseniks saw how Zubkov was taken to the car. Police said that Zubkov resembled a well-known robber and he was taken to check his identity even though Zubkov was carrying his internal passport. However, he was not at the local KGB building and his friends could not find him for more than a day.

That evening his friends gathered in the administrative department of the KGB and refused to leave the building when it was time for closing. They demanded to be told where their friend was. About 8 o'clock Sidorenko, the Chief of the KGB, arrived in a furious temper and told them that if he had a chance he would throw them into the place they were making such a fuss about. Sidorenko said that Zubkov had disorganised the work of the Soviet institutions by coming and interrupting them. Hethen threatened that if they did not all go away they would get fifteen days in prison. The next day the friends found out that Zubkov was taken to the Darnitsky KGB and sentenced to fifteen days detention; on the same day windows in the Zubkov flat were broken. The public prosecutor of Kiev was given a statement about the illegal arrest signed by Zubkov's witnesses (This was under Article 173 of the Criminal Code of the USSR). The refuseniks were surprised that the public prosecutor began the criminal case - however, later the case was stopped.

On November 3rd Victor Zanenko was sentenced to two years imprisonment. In the summer he was held at the mental hospital for two months.

On November 5th Vladimir Livenshtein, together with his wife were coming home. A man, standing near the house, dropped some glass down when witnesses and a militia car suddenly appeared. Vladimir and his wife were taken to the police-station from which his wife was released at 2 a.m. but Vladimir was sentenced to ten days in prison.

On November 11th Melinshtein had a telephone call from the chief of the local KGB, Mistchenko, who scolded him for participating in a hungerstrike and promised trouble in the future.

On November 15th Mistchenko came to Iosif Golshtein's flat and charged him with swearing at a tram stop. Golshtein was taken to the Darnitsky KGB. About twenty refuseniks went to the local KGB building and demanded the release of Golshtein. The chief of the local KGB, Mistchenko, threatend that he would fall on the ground and then send everyone to prison for fifteen days for knocking him down.



C.S.C.E. UNIT

✓ MJP

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

Psatt K16/7

15 July 1980

Ms R Eker & Ms M Rigal
Co-Chairmen of the Women's Campaign
for Soviet Jewry
148 Granville Road
LONDON NW2

Thank you for your letter of 7 July to the Prime Minister to which I have been asked to reply.

I can assure you that Mr Blaker's statement made earlier this year to the effect that the Third Basket would be included for discussion at the Madrid CSCE Review Meeting in November remains valid. The Helsinki Final Act, on which the CSCE process is based, makes it clear that the follow-up meetings of the Belgrade and Madrid type will involve a 'thorough exchange of views on the implementation of the provisions of the Final Act'. There can be no question of any of the three Baskets being ignored or played down.

In this context you may be interested in seeing the enclosed copy of Mr Blaker's answer to a Parliamentary Question on 19 June in which he emphasised the point, commenting that 'the first priority of the Madrid Meeting will be to review implementation of all aspects of the Helsinki Final Act. The failure of the Soviet Union and certain other Governments to respect human rights and fundamental freedoms will figure prominently in this Review'. It goes without saying that the review will also cover in considerable detail the sections of Basket III which deal with human contacts. It is under these sections of the Helsinki Final Act that the participating States declared their aim 'to facilitate freer movement of contacts ... among persons, institutions and organisations ... and to contribute to the solution of the humanitarian problems that arise in that connection'.

bc:
Private Secretary
Mr Alexander
No 10 Downing Street

M L Tait

Commissioners; and, if so, whether he will specify in what manner the Commissioners do not benefit financially as a consequence of 75 per cent. of a tax exemption being thus eliminated.

Mr. Peter Rees [pursuant to his reply, 10 June 1980, c. 83]: The answer to the first part of the question is Yes. The answer to the second part was given in my written reply to the hon. Member of 11 March 1980.—[Vol. 930, c. 550]. The acquirer's benefit has hitherto accrued to the National Land Fund. In future the Vote provisions for expenditure on acceptances in lieu of tax (Class VIII, 6 and Class X, 32) will derive the benefit. The effect is to reduce the amount which is paid to the Commissioners of Inland Revenue in respect of each object accepted in lieu. This means that a given provision for expenditure on acceptances in lieu goes further than would be the case if the douceur arrangements did not apply.

FOREIGN & COMMONWEALTH AFFAIRS

Human Rights (Madrid Conference)

Mr. Lawrence asked the Lord Privy Seal whether he intends to ensure that the question of human rights in general, and in the Soviet Union in particular, will be on the agenda for the forthcoming Madrid conference.

Mr. Baker: The first priority of the Madrid meeting will be to review the implementation of all aspects of the Helsinki Final Act and particular attention will be given to those of its provisions which have been most blatantly disregarded. The failure of the Soviet Union and certain other Governments to respect human rights and fundamental freedoms will figure prominently in this review.

New Hebrides

Mr. Lawrence asked the Lord Privy Seal whether the French sent 100 para-military troops to the New Hebrides without first notifying or discussing their proposed action with his Department.

Mr. Baker: The French Government did inform us that they were sending a contingent of gendarmes to Vila. This

followed a joint recommendation from the two resident commissioners that British and French troop reinforcements should be sent to the New Hebrides to deal with any disturbances which might follow the death of Mr. Yoïou.

Cash Limits

Mr. Carew-Jones asked the Lord Privy Seal whether any changes have occurred in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office cash limits for 1980-81.

Mr. Hurd: Subject to parliamentary approval of the necessary Supplementary Estimate, the cash limit of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office Vote 5 (Foreign and Commonwealth Services) will be increased by £2 million to £21,879,000 to provide for an expanded programme of military training assistance. This addition is being found by savings made on other cash limits.

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Entertainment Allowance

Mr. Arthur Lewis asked the right hon. Member for Middlesbrough, as representing the House of Commons Commission, which posts in the service of the House receive a tax-free entertainment allowance of £1,500 per annum; and whether he will arrange to pay £1,500 per annum to those officers not in receipt of this allowance.

Mr. Arthur Bottomley: No officer on the staff of the House receives an entertainment allowance of the kind described. I am writing to the hon. Member.

ARTS POLICY

Mr. Latham asked the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster whether he will make a statement on the results of that section of his Department which deals with the arts, after 13 months of the present Government, in achieving the policy programme which he set it on assuming office.

Mr. St. John-Stevens: When I took office I set up an Office of Arts and Libraries as an independent, though very small, Government Department with a total headquarters staff of fewer than 40 people. This staff has helped me not only to carry out the day to day administrative