

R2811

Comité **YURI ORLOV** Committee

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Compte N° C7-101.685.0
Société de Banque Suisse

The Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
LONDON
GRANDE BRETAGNE

26 January 1981

Dear Prime Minister,

Our committee of support for the imprisoned Soviet physicist Yuri Orlov has been encouraged by a recent letter received from Mr. Wilberforce, the leader of the British Delegation to the Madrid Conference, in which he outlines the proposal sponsored by Britain and other countries on guarantees of the right of individuals to monitor the application of the Helsinki Accords in their own countries without hindrance.

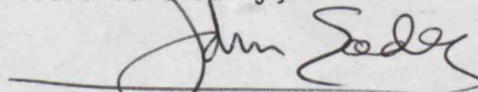
However, as Orlov's condition continues to deteriorate, we intend to intensify our own efforts on his behalf. Indeed, certain actions can only be initiated by Orlov's western colleagues. One such action concerns the CERN Council. As you know, CERN carries out an extensive programme of scientific collaboration with the Soviet Union, a circumstance providing excellent lines of contact with the Soviet authorities via the international scientific community.

We have approached the Council Members ourselves with the suggestion that a discussion of the adverse effects of the Orlov affair on the progress of this collaboration would be to everyone's advantage. So far we have had no reply to this suggestion, and it seems clear that no Council Member will take such a step without prior instructions from his Government.

We therefore would like to suggest that you ask the British members of the CERN Council to request that the agenda of the next council meeting in February include a full discussion of the damage done to the cause of Soviet-Western cooperation in high-energy physics by such actions as those of the Soviet authorities in this case, and an evaluation of the consequences of the eventual death of Professor Orlov in prison.

An open discussion of such a nature would not only strengthen Orlov's position, but would have the effect of giving public recognition to the attitude of a large majority of western physicists of all persuasions, who do not wish to damage the Soviet collaboration, but who are unwilling to remain indifferent when a colleague's life is in danger.

Yours faithfully,



J. Eades

For the Yuri Orlov Committee