

Mrs Shcharansky called on me this afternoon. She informed me of the deteriorating state of her husband's health. He is being held in internal prison in a labour camp in the Urals.

Politicians of all Parties and the public in this country are deeply concerned about this case. The British Government will continue to draw attention to Mr Shcharansky's plight at the Madrid Conference and elsewhere. We are co-sponsors of a proposal at Madrid for improved observance by participating States of the Final Act's human rights provisions, which includes a specific reference to the work of Helsinki monitors like Mr Shcharansky. The Soviet authorities' treatment of Mr Shcharansky is not only an affront to basic human values but a clear breach of commitments voluntarily undertaken at Helsinki.

Peter Blaker  
27 April 1981