

C.F.



S. Uwa

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10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

5 January 1981

Sean Francis,

I enclose an extract from a letter which the Prime Minister has received from Mr. Bryan Forbes about the situation in the Soviet Union. I also enclose a copy of the Prime Minister's reply. I should be grateful for any background which you can provide on the closure of a kindergarten in the Soviet Union attended by the children of Jewish dissidents.

You will note that the Prime Minister wishes to make our revulsion at present Soviet policy "known and felt". We have of course been doing this for some time (Michael Arthur's letter to me of 30 October refers) but you may wish to consider whether there is any suitable occasion in prospect when the message could be reinforced. It would be helpful if you could let me have one or two specimens of the kind of thing which has been said recently by FCO Ministers, News Department spokesmen and our representatives in Madrid about Soviet repression.

Yours ever

Richard Alexander

Francis Richards Esq
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

HL



10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

2nd Jan 1960.

Dear Bryan,

Thank you for your letter. We too had the impression that the Soviet system had become even harsher towards dissidents. I will consult with the F.O. to see how best we can make our revulsion known and felt.

Love to you all.

Harold



10 DOWNING STREET

PRIME MINISTER

Here is a personal
letter from Bryan Forbes
about Soviet dissidents.

Do you want us to refer
Mr. Forbes' comments to the FCO,
without identifying your
correspondent?

MA

2 January 1981

Mr. Alexander Todd

Bryan Forbes
Bookseller

The Bookshop
Virginia Water Surrey
09-904 2463

230/12

as from: Seven Pines,
Wentworth, Surrey

The Prime Minister,
The Rt.Hon.Mrs Margaret Thatcher,
10, Downing Street,
London, SW1

Dear Margaret,

Knowing of your previous and continuing involvement with the plight of various Soviet dissident groups, I am writing to tell you that we have just received the most urgent news of the deteriorating situation. I am reliably informed that the present wave of repression is the worst for ten years and that further more - and I quote from my correspondent "the Kindergarden has been forcibly closed - it is hard to understand how even children can be a threat to the Soviets". The Kindergarden referred to is that used to help the offspring of Jewish dissidents.

I am sure that through the Foreign Office H.M. Government makes frequent representations, but I may I prevail upon our friendship to ask you to make one more personal appeal in the hope that some small measure of relief may be granted to these unfortunate and innocent victims in the new Year?

Nanette joins me in sending you, Dennis, Carol and Mark every possible good wish for 1981 and may it see the light at the end of your various dark tunnels.

With love and affection, as ever,

Bryan Forbes