

PLS

WOMEN'S CAMPAIGN FOR SOVIET JEWRY

Co-Chairmen: RITA EKER, MARGARET RIGAL

148 Granville Road, London NW2
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RE/DC

15th September, 1981.

(4)

The Rt. Hon. Margaret Thatcher, MP.,
Prime Minister,
House of Commons,
Westminster, S.W.1.

R16/9 *Prime Minister*
I have add'd
something more we can
do. It is a terrible story

Dear Mrs. Thatcher,

I enclose a photograph that Avital Shcharansky asked me to send you. She is most anxious for me to make sure that it should reach you with her grateful thanks.

She also asked me to tell you that yesterday a letter arrived at Ida Milgrom's (Anatoly's mother) from Anatoly. This is the first time she has heard from him since the end of May. In the letter Anatoly says that he had a medical examination on June 9th in which he complained of his constant shivering and feeling of weakness. He was given Vitamin C and told that his diet of 1,005 calories was sufficient to prevent the death of inmates. At that time his weight had been reduced to 54 kilos (8½ stone). Some time later he collapsed and was allowed to stay in bed in his cell for one day. After that he was given medication for a few days and his low blood pressure returned to normal. Nevertheless, he continued to feel desperately tired.

On August 26th Anatoly collapsed again and was taken to hospital where he still is. When he is returned to the punishment block he will be, once more, alone and under the same regime as he has endured for the last eight months. He tells his mother that during the many spells of fifteen days solitary confinement which he is given he is not allowed to write to her and his letters, therefore, are written at irregular intervals whenever he has an opportunity. He is still being threatened with a return to Chistopol Prison.

Avital is convinced that he is suffering from starvation, pure and simple, and she fears that if the present regime continues he will collapse and die. Although he is a strong man there must be a limit to anyone's endurance.

She knows that you are sympathetic and willing to help her and she implores you once more to ensure that President Reagan knows of your concern. May I add my own thanks to Avital's.

Yours sincerely,

Rita Eker

Rita Eker (Mrs.),
on behalf of
Women's Campaign for Soviet Jewry.

Enclosure.



PREM 19/2547

PREM 19/2547

To The Prime
Minister Mrs Thatcher

With warm regards. Please
continue to help my husband.

Avital
Scharansky

CF to keep?

file
Soviet
Union

BL

21 October 1981

The Prime Minister has seen your letter to Michael Alexander of 19 October about Anatoly Shcharansky. She notes that Lord Carrington will have an opportunity to emphasise our concern about Shcharansky in his Churchill Memorial Speech on 27 October, and that you doubt whether there is much else we can do at present to help Shcharansky.

WFSR

F.N. Richards, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

BL



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

19 October 1981

(2)

Prime Minister

To note the point at A.

Dear Michael,

ms.

Am 27x

Thank you for your letter of 21 September enclosing a copy of one which the Prime Minister received from Mrs Eker about Anatoly Shcharansky. The Prime Minister asked whether there was anything further we could do on Shcharansky's behalf.

A.

Lord Carrington shares the Prime Minister's concern at recent reports of Shcharansky's condition, and has asked the Department to consider what further action we might take on behalf not only of Shcharansky, but also of other prominent cases of abuse of human rights in the Soviet Union. He himself is to deliver the Churchill Memorial Speech in Luxembourg on 27 October and feels that this would offer a good opportunity to emphasise our continuing concern about Shcharansky in a passage which will contrast the Soviet attitude to human rights and freedoms with the values which are respected in the West.

We doubt that anything else we could do now would help Shcharansky, and a direct approach at this stage to the Soviet authorities would merely serve to sour our exchanges with Mr Gromyko on other matters to no useful purpose. But it remains important to keep the Shcharansky case in the public eye when the occasion arises, and we shall be on the lookout for further opportunities to do so. This is a point which Mrs Eker obviously has in mind.

/I see from



I see from Mrs Eker's letter that she has asked the Prime Minister to ensure that President Reagan knows of her concern for Shcharansky. The Prime Minister may wish to tell Mrs Eker that she is sure that President Reagan, who like the Prime Minister also received Mrs Shcharansky, is in no doubt about her views on Soviet treatment of Shcharansky.

Yours ever,

Francis Richards

(F N Richards)
Private Secretary

M O'D B Alexander Esq
10 Downing Street
LONDON SW 1

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12/10

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21 September 1981

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and again 20/10

MRS. SHCHARANSKY

I enclose a copy of a letter which the Prime Minister has received from Mrs. Rita Eker about Mrs. Shcharansky. I have acknowledged Mrs. Eker's letter. The Prime Minister has seen it and has asked whether there is nothing more we can do on Mrs. Shcharansky's behalf. Perhaps you would like to give this some thought.

M. O'D. B. ALEXANDER

Francis Richards, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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801P

16 September 1981

I am writing on the Prime Minister's behalf to thank you for your letter of 15 September about Mrs. Avital Shcharansky. I will be drawing your letter to the Prime Minister's attention. She will be most grateful for the enclosed photograph.

M. O'D. B. ALEXANDER

Mrs. Rita Eker