

Comité YURI ORLOV Committee

Case postale 335
1217 MEYRIN 1
Switzerland

Compte N° C7-101.685.0
Société de Banque Suisse

Mrs Margaret THATCHER
Prime Minister
10, Downing Street
UK - LONDON

Geneva, 30 August 1982

Dear Prime Minister,

We have contacted you on previous occasions about the fate of the well-known Soviet physicist Y. ORLOV. Our approach resulted in a British proposal in June 1981 to discuss in the CERN Council the impact of the Orlov affair on the progress of the CERN-Soviet Collaboration, which is codified in the attached agreement (Encl. 1). However, support among the council delegates was not considered sufficient by the proposal's sponsors and it did not reach the Council's agenda.

Two new developments lead us to approach you once more concerning our colleague Orlov. The first is the very severe deterioration of Orlov's health outlined recently in a communication from Amnesty International (Encl. 2). Orlov still has several years of his sentence to serve and conditions in Soviet detention camps do not encourage the hope that he will eventually leave prison alive.

The second development is the recent request from Soviet quarters for an extension of the agreement on the CERN-Soviet collaboration. Given the wide measure of support for Orlov in the scientific community and the close connection between scientific research and freedom of thought, it seems to us that this ought to be considered out of the question unless the Soviet authorities demonstrate their understanding of this connection by freeing Orlov or allowing him to reside elsewhere. We might add in passing that the extent of the collaboration is already far wider than was laid down in the original agreement, which specifies (Annex III) not more than one Electronics experiment at a time. The attached list (Encl. 3) includes 13 such experiments at various stages of progress.

We therefore ask you to instruct your delegates to the CERN Council to introduce a new proposal taking these conditions into account at the next meeting of the CERN Council. It is unlikely that another opportunity to influence the Soviet authorities in this matter will ever present itself in Orlov's lifetime. Moreover, unconditional acceptance of the Soviet request would imply that the member states are prepared to overlook any further violations of human rights in the future.

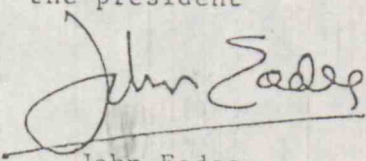
In closing, we would like to stress once more that we do not advocate ending the CERN-Soviet Collaboration. We do, however, believe that it should be used as a mean of exerting pressure on the Soviet government in this important case involving violation of the human rights of Orlov, who is one of the supposed beneficiaries of the collaboration.

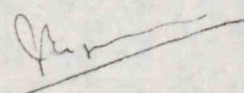
Yours faithfully,

the president

the vice-president

cc. CERN Council Members
CERN Director General


John Eades


J.P. Lagnaux

Soviet Union, May '80,
Position of Dissidents.

-6 OCT 1982

