



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

4 October 1982

*Dear John,*

*Type letters pl.*

Letters from the Women's Campaign for Soviet Jewry: Alexander Paritsky

*OR 5 / 10.*

The Women's Campaign for Soviet Jewry (WCSJ) have sent two letters to the Prime Minister about Alexander Paritsky. The first, from their Co-Chairman Rita Eker, was enclosed with your letter of 21 September. The second, from Mrs Cecily Woolf of the Brighton and Hove Branch of the WCSJ dated 17 September, was enclosed with your letter of 24 September.

I enclose draft replies. The FCO has recently received a number of letters about Paritsky. It is possible that the Women's Campaign are encouraging their members to write. If the Prime Minister agrees, any further letters from members of the public on this case might, unless special considerations apply, be answered by the appropriate FCO department.

*Your own*

*R B Bone*

(R B Bone)  
Private Secretary

A J Coles Esq  
10 Downing Street

DRAFT: ~~minutes~~/letter/~~teleletter~~/~~despatch~~/~~note~~  
~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~

TYPE: Draft/Final 1+

FROM:

Reference

Private Secretary  
No 10 Downing Street

DEPARTMENT:

TEL. NO:

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

TO:

Your Reference

- Top Secret
- Secret
- Confidential
- Restricted
- Unclassified

Mrs R Eker  
Women's Campaign for Soviet Jewry  
564 Finchley Road  
LONDON NW11

Copies to:

PRIVACY MARKING

SUBJECT:

.....In Confidence

Thank you for your letter of 20 September to the  
~~Prime Minister about Alexander~~  
Prime Minister about Alexander Paritsky. ~~We share~~

CAVEAT.....

We share your concern for Alexander Paritsky's health.

We do ~~not~~, however, have <sup>no</sup> ~~any~~ independent means of confirming  
the details in your report at present. ~~Should the FCO~~ *If the Foreign and Commonwealth*  
*Office* receive any further information, they will ~~of course~~ be  
in touch with you.

In the meantime the Government will continue to remind  
the Soviet authorities of the great importance we attach  
to the observance of human rights and of the strong  
feelings in the UK on this matter. The Foreign and  
Commonwealth Secretary <sup>spoke</sup> ~~raised this~~ subject with the Soviet  
Foreign Minister in New York at the end of September.  
We shall keep up the pressure.

*We shall look for  
an appropriate  
opportunity of raising this  
case again, either in  
the CSCE or in  
direct bilateral contacts  
with the Soviet  
authorities.*

*MR 5/10*

Enclosures—flag(s).....

**DRAFT:** minute/letter/teleletter/despatch/note

**TYPE:** Draft/Final 1+

**FROM:**

Private Secretary  
No 10 Downing Street

Reference

**DEPARTMENT:**

**TEL. NO:**

**SECURITY CLASSIFICATION**

- Top Secret
- Secret
- Confidential
- Restricted
- Unclassified

**TO:**

Mrs Cecily Woolf  
12 Wilbury Gardens  
HOVE  
East Sussex BN3 6HY

Your Reference

Copies to:

**PRIVACY MARKING**

.....In Confidence

**CAVEAT**.....

**SUBJECT:**

Thank you for your letter of 17 September to the Prime Minister about Alexander Paritsky.

We are aware of Mr Paritsky's plight and share your concern for his health. The Prime Minister, as you recalled, mentioned his case in her speech to the Board of Deputies of British Jews in December 1981. The UK delegation to the CSCE Review Meeting in Madrid have twice raised Mr Paritsky's case and it will be raised again when a suitable occasion arises, either within the framework of the CSCE or in direct bilateral contacts with the Soviet authorities. We continue to hope that pressure by both the United Kingdom and other Western countries may eventually help Alexander Paritsky and others in a similar position.

The Soviet Union have been reminded on several occasions recently of the importance we attach to human rights and of the strong feelings in the UK on this subject. The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs raised this subject with the Soviet Foreign Minister when they met in New York at the end of September. We shall keep up the pressure.

Enclosures—flag(s).....

*WOL 3/2*



>5 OCT 1961







10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Private Secretary*

6 October, 1982.

Letters from the Women's Campaign for Soviet  
Jewry: Alexander Paritsky

Thank you for your letter of 4 October. I have written accordingly to Mrs. Rita Eker and Mrs. Cecily Woolf. I agree that further letters to the Prime Minister from members of the public on this case may be answered by the appropriate FCO Department - though there will be exceptions, particularly letters from the Campaign's Headquarters which is established in the Prime Minister's constituency.

A. J. COLES

R.B. Bone, Esq.,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

R



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

6 October, 1982.

Thank you for your letter of 17 September to the Prime Minister about Alexander Paritsky.

We are aware of Mr. Paritsky's plight, and share your concern for his health. The Prime Minister, as you recalled, mentioned his case in her speech to the Board of Deputies of British Jews in December, 1981. The UK delegation to the CSCE Review Meeting in Madrid have twice raised Mr. Paritsky's case, and it will be raised again when a suitable occasion arises, either within the framework of the CSCE or in direct bilateral contacts with the Soviet authorities. We continue to hope that pressure by both the United Kingdom and other Western countries may eventually help Alexander Paritsky and others in a similar position.

The Soviet Union have been reminded on several occasions recently of the importance we attach to human rights and of the strong feelings in the UK on this subject. The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs raised this subject with the Soviet Foreign Minister when they met in New York at the end of September. We shall keep up the pressure.

A. J. COLES

Mrs. Cecily Woolf

24 September 1982

I attach a copy of a letter which the Prime Minister has received from Mrs. Cecily Woolf, Secretary to the Brighton and Hove Committee for Soviet Jewry.

I should be grateful for a draft reply which I could send to Mrs. Woolf. It would be helpful if this could reach me by Friday 8 October.

(TIM FLESHER)

Chris Greenwood, Esq.,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.





*J*

10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Private Secretary*

24 September 1982

I am writing on behalf of the Prime Minister to thank you for your letter of 17 September. This is receiving attention and a reply will be sent to you as soon as possible.

(TIMOTHY FLESHER)

Mrs. Cecily Woolf

Brighton and Hove Committee for Soviet Jewry  
Incorporating the 35's (Women's Campaign for Soviet Jewry)

Mrs

Mrs. C. Woolf,  
12, Wilbury Gardens,  
Hove, E. Sussex, BN3 6HY.

U R G E N T

The Rt. Hon. Margaret Thatcher, M.P.,  
Prime Minister,  
10, Downing Street,  
London, W.1.

17th September, 1982.

Dear Mrs. Thatcher,

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As you have no doubt heard, our adoptee, Dr. Alexander Paritsky of Kharkov, who was sentenced to 3 years in a labour camp for "disseminating anti-Soviet propaganda" has recently had a heart-attack, and his condition is serious. His wife, and two small daughters are distraught.

In the past, you have been kind enough to take an interest in Dr. Paritsky, mentioning him during one of your after-dinner speeches, and including his name on the list which was submitted by H.M. Government to the Russians at Madrid.

We have been informed that there is to be an amnesty for some prisoners, on the occasion of the 60th anniversary of the Soviet Union, and we therefore beg you to ask for Dr. Paritsky's release on humanitarian grounds, before it is too late to save him, from the unbelievably harsh conditions at the camp, which may well kill him.

Whilst realizing how very busy you must be at this moment, we do hope that you will give the matter your sympathetic consideration.

Yours sincerely,

*Cecily Woolf*

Cecily Woolf (Mrs.)  
Secretary.

Soviet Union, June '79.

Womens Campaign for Soviet Jewry

*[Faint signature and illegible text]*





10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Private Secretary*

5 October, 1982.

Thank you for your letter of 20 September to the Prime Minister about Alexander Paritsky.

We share your concern for Alexander Paritsky's health. We have no independent means of confirming the details in your report at present. We shall look for an appropriate opportunity of raising this case again, either in the CSCE or in direct bilateral contacts with the Soviet authorities. If the Foreign and Commonwealth Office receive any further information, they will be in touch with you.

In the meantime the Government will continue to remind the Soviet authorities of the great importance we attach to the observance of human rights and of the strong feelings in the United Kingdom on this matter. The Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary spoke accordingly to the Soviet Foreign Minister in New York at the end of September. We shall keep up the pressure.

A. J. COLES

Mrs. Rita Eker

file BOL  
Soviet Union

21 September 1982

In the Prime Minister's absence overseas,  
I am writing on her behalf to thank you for  
your letter of 20 September.

This is receiving attention and a reply  
will be sent to you as soon as possible.

(TIMOTHY FLESHER)

Ms. Rita Eker

LTC

*late* *609*

21 September 1982

I enclose a copy of a letter to the Prime Minister from Rita Eker, Women's Campaign for Soviet Jewry.

*B/F* /  
I should be grateful if you could let me have a draft Private Secretary reply to send to Ms. Eker, to reach me by 5 October.

(TIMOTHY FLESHER)

Chris Greenwood, Esq.,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office



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# WOMEN'S CAMPAIGN FOR SOVIET JEWRY

Co-Chairmen: RITA EKER, MARGARET RIGAL

564 Finchley Road, London NW11  
Tel: 01-458 7147

(Please note new address)

RE/RE

20th September 1982.

The Rt. Hon. Mrs. Margaret Thatcher,  
Prime Minister  
10, Downing Street  
London, S.W.1.

R21

Dear Mrs. Thatcher,

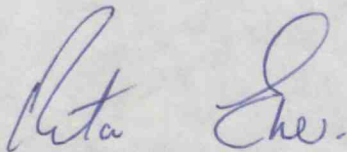
We were distressed to read in Friday's International Herald Tribune that Soviet Jewish Prisoner of Conscience, Alexander PARITSKY, suffered a severe heart attack on the 7th September.

I am enclosing a copy of the article. We have been unable to find out any more information about Alexander and wonder whether it would be possible for enquiries to be made at an official level as we are most anxious to know his present situation. In view of your very kind support for Paritsky, we are sure you will understand our concern.

We have been following the descriptions of your visit to the Far East in the Press and would like to express our appreciation for all your hard work.

With every good wish,

Yours sincerely,



Rita Eker  
on behalf of  
Women's Campaign for Soviet Jewry and  
Women's Committee for Polina Paritsky  
Enc.

**INTERNATIONAL HERALD TRIBUNE.**

**FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 1982**

### ***Jailed Soviet Jew Is Reportedly Ill***

*United Press International*

MOSCOW — Alexander Paritsky, a Ukrainian Jewish activist confined in a Siberian labor camp, is in serious condition after suffering a heart attack, according to family friends.

Mr. Paritsky, 44, an electronics engineer, was arrested last year and sentenced to three years in a labor camp near the Mongolian border.

The family friends said Wednesday that on Sept. 7 the chief prison doctor called on Mr. Paritsky's wife, Polina, in her rented room in the nearby village of Vydrino to tell her that her husband had suffered a heart attack and was in serious condition.