



cc FCO

Rm.

10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

6 December 1982

*Dear Mrs. Eker*

Thank you for your letter of 18 November, enclosing information compiled by the 'Helsinki Agreement Watchdog Committee on Behalf of Soviet Jews'.

The case histories which you have sent me are a compelling indictment of the treatment of Jews by the Soviet authorities. I can assure you that the Government deplores the continuing harassment of Jewish and other religious communities in the Soviet Union and that we shall continue to raise these questions with the Soviet authorities at every suitable opportunity.

As you say, the CSCE Review Meeting in Madrid offers such opportunities; and you may like to see the enclosed text of the speech which the Leader of the UK Delegation, Mr Anthony Williams, made there on 16 November. He included in his catalogue of violations by the Soviet Union of its commitments under the Helsinki Final Act the persecution and harassment of those seeking to exercise freedom of religious thought and practice, including the Soviet Jewish community.

A copy of the information pack has, as you may already know, been sent to our delegation, and I am sure they will find it a valuable source.

*Yours sincerely*

*Margaret Thatcher*

Mrs Rita Eker and Mrs Margaret  
Rigal,

BK.



10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Private Secretary*

31 December 1982

I am writing on behalf of the Prime Minister to thank you for your letter of 23 December and for keeping her up to date on the plight of Alexander Paritsky. I know she would want me to wish you a happy New Year.

Mrs. Rita Eker

Soviet Union



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

1 December 1982

*Dear Sir,*

*The draft refers to the text of a speech, which doesn't seem to be enclosed. Text requested. Text endorsed*

*2/12 att  
to PM's signature*

Thank you for your letter of 19 November with a letter enclosing a package of information about persecution of Soviet Jews addressed to the Prime Minister from Mrs Rita Eker and Mrs Margaret Rigal of the Women's Campaign for Soviet Jewry. Mrs Eker and Mrs Rigal also wrote separately to the department enclosing another copy of the information pack. This has been forwarded to our delegation at the CSCE Review Conference in Madrid, and Mrs Eker and Mrs Rigal have been so informed. I enclose a draft reply for the Prime Minister's signature.

*Yours sincerely,  
R B Bone*

(R B Bone)  
Private Secretary

T Flesher Esq  
10 Downing Street

DSR Revised)

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

**TYPE:** Draft/Final 1+

**FROM:**

Reference

The Prime Minister

**DEPARTMENT:**

**TEL. NO:**

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

**TO:**

Your Reference

Top Secret

Mrs Rita Eker and Mrs Margaret Rigel

Secret

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

Confidential

Restricted

Unclassified

**Copies to:**

PRIVACY MARKING

**SUBJECT:**

.....In Confidence

Thank you for your letter of 18 November, enclosing information compiled by the 'Helsinki Agreement Watchdog Committee on Behalf of Soviet Jews'.

CAVEAT.....

The case histories which you have sent me are a compelling indictment of the treatment of Jews by the Soviet authorities. I can assure you that the Government deplores the continuing harassment of Jewish and other religious communities in the Soviet Union and that we shall continue to raise these questions with the Soviet authorities at every suitable opportunity.

As you say, the CSCE Review Meeting in Madrid offers such opportunities; and you may like to see the enclosed text of the speech which the Leader of the UK Delegation, Mr Anthony Williams, made there on 16 November. He included in his catalogue of violations by the Soviet Union of its commitments under the Helsinki Final Act the persecution and harassment of those seeking to exercise freedom of religious thought and practice, including the Soviet Jewish community.

Enclosures—flag(s).....

*Soviet Union, June 79, Soviet Jewry.*

A copy of the information pack has, as you may already know, been sent to our delegation, and I am sure they will find it a valuable source.

-2 DEC 1982

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6 7 8 9 10 11 12

# WOMEN'S CAMPAIGN FOR SOVIET JEWRY

# 35's

Co-Chairmen: RITA EKER, MARGARET RIGAL

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

RE/DC

(Please note new address)

23rd December, 1982.

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

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Dear Mrs. Thatcher,

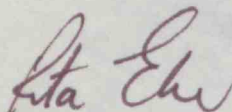
I was most grateful for your letter of December 6th and have now perused the text of the speech made by the head of the British Delegation at Madrid.

To keep you up-to-date with the information on Alexander Paritsky I am enclosing a letter which we have sent to all people and organisations interested in this family.

May we from the 35's take this opportunity of wishing you, Mr. Thatcher, and all your family a happy Christmas and peaceful 1983.

With our best wishes,

Yours sincerely,



Rita Eker.

Enclosure

*Thanks on behalf of PM  
for your letter and for keeping  
her up to date on the  
 plight of Alexander Paritsky.  
I know she would want me  
to wish you a happy  
New Year.*

*wh  
31/12*

# WOMEN'S COMMITTEE FOR POLINA PARITSKY

96 Kingsley Way N2

01 - 458 6624

Chairman : RITA EKER - Press Officer : JANE MOONMAN - Group Co-ordinator : JEAN KARSBERG

RE/DC

22nd December, 1982.

To the adopters of the PARITSKY family

Dear Friend,

Today we have been informed that Alexander was given a term of six-months punishment in solitary confinement in the prison of the camp. Solitary confinement means being incarcerated in a cell measuring 6' x 6'; the temperature never rises above 56°F. We have learned from Professor Ilya Glazer, a former Prisoner of Conscience, that all heavy clothing, including warm underwear is removed from the prisoner and he is left only in light-weight prison garb. Alexander has been kept in such confinement since October 13th and this news was only relayed to us via his wife, Polina, when she arrived back in Kharkov from the camp. Polina has also been threatened that a file will be opened against her and she has been forbidden to stay in the vicinity of the camp.

We know that only world-wide pressure can help alleviate the sufferings of the Paritskys and it is for this reason that I am asking you to send your letters of appeal to:-

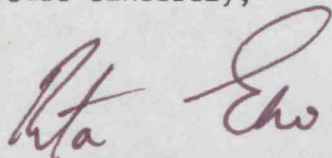
The Soviet Ambassador, H.E. Mr. Victor Popov,  
The Soviet Embassy, 18 Kensington Palace Gardens, London, W.8.

I know that you will, of course, write your usual letters of comfort and support to Polina and her daughters:-

USSR / UKRAINIAN SSR / KHARKOV 310091 / ul. Tonkopia 19/2 / Apt. 48  
PARITSKY, Polina.

With best wishes for 1983 which we hope will be a better one for our friends in the Soviet Union,

Yours sincerely,



Rita Eker (Mrs.),  
Women's Committee for Polina Paritsky.

# Winnipeg Campaign for South Jersey

South Jersey - June 79

Winnipeg Campaign for South Jersey  
1979

Winnipeg Campaign for South Jersey  
1979

Winnipeg Campaign for South Jersey  
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Winnipeg Campaign for South Jersey  
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Winnipeg Campaign for South Jersey  
1979



R22

C/F file

# WOMEN'S CAMPAIGN FOR SOVIET JEWRY

Co-Chairmen: RITA EKER, MARGARET RIGAL

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

MR/DC

(Please note new address)

21st December, 1982.

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

*Handwritten notes:*  
6/12  
22/12/82  
✓ RB

Dear Mrs. Thatcher,

We enclose the Soviet Jewry Calendar for 1983.

Perhaps the most tragic development through 1982 has been the alarming decrease in the number of Refuseniks allowed to leave. As is mentioned on the cover, of the forty-eight Refuseniks featured in the calendar last year only one has been able to emigrate. Forty-seven other Refuseniks are still having to endure the life of an outlaw, despised by normal Soviet society, denied the rights of a Soviet citizen, but forbidden to leave. In the last fortnight 'Final Refusals' have been given to long-term Refuseniks in Moscow and in Leningrad - a life sentence for those involved.

We are most grateful for your support throughout 1982 and we hope that you will have a happy and successful 1983 and that it will bring greater freedom for those for whom we work.

Yours sincerely,

*Handwritten signature: Rita Eker*

Rita Eker  
Co-Chairmen,

and

*Handwritten signature: Margaret Rigal*

Margaret Rigal

Women's Campaign for Soviet Jewry.

Enclosure



# Women's Campaign for Soviet Jewry

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

DC

23rd December, 1982.

Mr. Timothy Flesher,  
Private Secretary,  
to  
The Rt. Hon. Mrs. Margaret Thatcher,  
Prime Minister,  
10 Downing Street,  
London, S.W.1.

*mm 21/12*

Dear Mr. Flesher,

Thank you so much for sending the text of the speech omitted from Mrs. Thatcher's letter dated December 6th and I have today written thanking her for this.

Yours sincerely,

Rita Eker.



10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Private Secretary*

20 December 1982

Thank you for your letter of 14 December.

I am sorry that the text of the speech referred to in the Prime Minister's letter of 6 December was not included. I now enclose a copy.

(TIMOTHY FLESHER)

Mrs. Rita Eker

# WOMEN'S CAMPAIGN FOR SOVIET JEWRY

Co-Chairmen: RITA EKER, MARGARET RIGAL

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

DC

(Please note new address)

14th December, 1982.

Miss Joy Robilliard,  
Constituency Secretary,  
to  
The Rt. Hon. Mrs. Margaret Thatcher,  
Prime Minister,  
10 Downing Street,  
London, S.W.1.

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Dear Joy,

I have received the letter from Mrs. Thatcher dated December 6th but the text of the speech to which she referred in the third paragraph was omitted.

Please could you let me have a copy of this as soon as possible and once I have perused same I will, of course, be writing to thank Mrs. Thatcher for her letter.

With many thanks in anticipation and all good wishes,

Yours sincerely,

  
Rita Eker.

Mrs Rita EKER

FIVE SW



Enclosure to  
letter was too bulky  
to copy. FCO have  
been asked to send  
it back with draft  
reply.

10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Private Secretary*

19 November, 1982

3/12

I enclose a copy of a letter which the Prime Minister has received from Mrs. Rita Eker and Mrs. Margaret Rigal, Co-Chairmen of the Women's Campaign for Soviet Jewry.

I should be grateful for a draft reply which I could send to them by 3 December.

TIMOTHY FLESHER

C. Greenwood, Esq.,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

P



FUF SW

10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Private Secretary*

19 November, 1982

The Prime Minister has asked me to thank you for your letter of 18 November.

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

TIMOTHY FLESHER

Mrs. Rita Eker

A handwritten signature in the bottom right corner of the page.

# WOMEN'S CAMPAIGN FOR SOVIET JEWRY

Co-Chairmen: RITA EKER, MARGARET RIGAL

*R18/11  
by hand*

BY HAND

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

MR/DC

(Please note new address)

18th November, 1982.

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

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Dear Mrs. Thatcher,

We are enclosing a complete pack of the Evidence that we are giving to the Prime Ministers of all the signatory countries of the Helsinki Agreement.

As you are already aware the situation for Soviet Jews has deteriorated seriously in the last twelve months and during October only one hundred and sixty-eight were allowed to emigrate - less than half the number permitted to leave in October 1981.

We know that we can rely on the British delegation in Madrid to raise these matters during their discussions and we are most grateful to you and your Administration for your support and concern.

We hope you will find the Evidence of use.

With many thanks and every good wish,

Yours sincerely,

Rita Eker  
Co-Chairmen,

and

Margaret Rigal,

Women's Campaign for Soviet Jewry.

Enclosed: Complete Helsinki Pack.

TEXT OF SPEECH BY HEAD OF BRITISH DELEGATION TO CSCE  
FOLLOW-UP CONFERENCE, MADRID: 16 NOVEMBER 1982

As a newcomer to both the process of the Helsinki Final Act and to this Madrid meeting, I consider it an honour to speak for the first time in this forum, in the name of the United Kingdom. I should like to take this opportunity of joining my colleagues in expressing the gratitude of my Delegation to the Spanish authorities for their generous hospitality and for the excellent facilities put at our disposal.

I have listened with great interest to the speeches of my distinguished colleagues. If there is a common thread running through them all, it is surely that of concern over the further deterioration of the international situation in regard to implementation of the Final Act, even since the Fifth Session in March.

Lord Carrington, then Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs in the United Kingdom, spoke at length in this hall on 12 February about the great concern with which my country viewed developments in Poland. This concern derived not only from the obvious suffering of the Polish people under martial law, but also from such manifest violation of commitments under an international agreement to which my country is also a signatory. My predecessor addressed earlier this year an appeal to the Polish authorities to take action which would give some credence to their words, reiterated here again in this session, that they take seriously the solemn commitments of Helsinki. What we have seen however is continuing restrictions upon travel abroad by Polish citizens and of communications with and within Poland- continuing censorship of the Polish press and media; continuing difficulties imposed on the work of foreign journalists; continuing restrictions upon free political activity, on gatherings and demonstrations; the arbitrary militarisation of factories and workplaces, suppressing the human and civil rights of the workforce; and, more recently, the dissolution of the free trade union Solidarity, a union with over ten million members. It is a sorry record to which there seems no end. We have, of course, noted reports of the release from detention of one of Solidarity's leaders - Mr Lech Walesa. It is our hope that this will prove a positive development of real

/significance



significance. It is also our hope that this one case will be followed by all those other cases of detention for no reason other than the exercise of rights, supposedly assured under the Helsinki Final Act.

Mr Chairman, we are also legitimately concerned about developments in Afghanistan, even though that country is not itself a participating state. The Afghan people continue to be prevented from choosing their own destiny by the intervention of a participating state, which still shows no willingness to take part in any attempt to negotiate a peaceful settlement acceptable to the international community. While we have stood adjourned, the Afghan people have continued to fight and die for their freedom or to be forced into exile.

This meeting has also a special responsibility to concern itself in the fate of those who have sought to review and report on implementation of the Final Act in their own countries. The recent history of such Helsinki groups in the Soviet Union is really very disturbing. I am informed that, in April, Ivan Kovalyov of the Moscow Group was sentenced to five years in the camps and five in internal exile - exactly a year after his wife, a member of the same Group, was given an identical sentence. At least six members of other groups have, I understand, recently been re-sentenced and, in September, the Moscow Group felt obliged to cease its activities because of continued harassment. One of its remaining members, Sofia Kalistratova, the venerable and distinguished Soviet defence lawyer, was informed that a case was being prepared against her allegedly for anti-Soviet slander. Meanwhile, as is only too well known, Anatoly Schcharansky and Yuri Orlov are enduring the most arduous conditions in Soviet penal institutions and there are grave fears for their health, about which, with singular heartlessness, their families are being denied reassurance or even reliable information.

As for academician Sakharov, it gives no encouragement to anyone with faith in the Helsinki process to recall that he is now completing his third year of exile in Gorky, while the distasteful Soviet practice persists of confining in psychiatric institutions those seeking to exercise their right to freedom of opinion.

Serious concern has been legitimately expressed about the deteriorating health of the Podrabinek Brothers and of Dr Anatoly Koryagin, who have exposed this thoroughly reprehensible practice.

I must also record my Government's concern over the continuing harassment and persecution of those seeking to exercise the right to freedom of religious thought and practice. The Jewish communities of the Soviet Union have over the past year seen many of their prominent members sentenced, or stripped of their academic qualifications, or victimised, not least among them Ida Nudel and Alexander Paritsky. The teaching of Hebrew and Jewish culture and seminars on other subjects seems to have been the target of a deliberate campaign by the Soviet security authorities. Meanwhile Jewish emigration has been reduced to a trickle. It is expected that less than three thousand will be allowed to leave in 1982, compared with 51,000 in 1979.

Other religious groups have also suffered. In this context I must, in particular, mention Baptist believers and those Pentecostalist families known as the 'Siberian Seven'.

Turning to another field, we have been disappointed to experience, this summer and autumn, severe disruptions in the telephone service between the Soviet Union and Western countries. There have been protests by the European Community and by individual Western governments against this unrepentant flouting of the Final Act, as it affects businessmen, journalists and individuals, as well as governments. But, so far, a normal service has not been restored.

Today's world is supposedly characterised by the information revolution: but not apparently in this case. Or are we to assume that the Soviet Government's motive for disrupting telephone links with the West is the same as that underlying their persistent interception of and interference with mail between individuals in the Soviet Union and the West - and their recent decision to prohibit the export of books unless a one hundred per cent duty is paid and a licence somehow obtained

from the Lenin Library?

The Soviet Union not only thus continues to prevent information coming out to the rest of us, it also continues to resort to jamming of Western broadcasts to prevent outside information coming in both to its own country and, since the end of last year, to Poland; this we can only regard as a clear infringement of the provisions on radio broadcasting in the Final Act.

It is against this sorry background, Mr Chairman, that we have re-assembled and it is precisely because this background is so sombre that we believe we must resume our work with redoubled dedication. It is obvious that the need to establish a secure political foundation for the conduct of our mutual relations and for accommodating the inevitable processes of change is greater today than ever before. We continue to believe firmly in the value of the CSCE process and of the Helsinki Final Act. But the experience of these months since our meeting adjourned serves only to confirm that words unreflected by action are not enough and that whatever we can agree upon here will be of value only to the extent that it can credibly be expected to lead to implementation. It is with this conviction and, to echo our distinguished Soviet colleague, in a spirit of businesslike cooperation that the delegation of the United Kingdom approaches this session.

Mr Chairman, my delegation has participated fully in the work of formulating the new proposals and other improvements to RM 39 which have now been tabled as RM 41 to 54. We endorse the explanations for them which have been given by various of our distinguished co-sponsors. My delegation shares the gratitude which all of us here feel towards our Neutral and Non-Aligned colleagues for the very statesman-like job they did in compiling RM 39, nearly a year ago. I know that they, for their part, well understood us when, even then, we told them that there were parts of it we felt to be in need of modification or improvement. But now we are some eleven months older, and, as I have said Mr Chairman, they have been sombre months. As our distinguished Swiss colleague has been the first to acknowledge, RM 39 now also needs up-dating. The modifications to it which, in RM 41 to 54, we now propose are formulated precisely /and

and solely with this need in view. We are not seeking confrontation or indulging in polemics. Our aim is the aim of the signatories of the Helsinki Final Act - security and cooperation, not just in words but in deeds. We do not feel it right to incorporate wording which we are only too aware is not borne out by current deeds or to seek undertakings which not all of us could be expected to honour. Indeed, we have been careful to avoid wording going further than undertakings already given in the United Nations and other forums, to which all here have I believe already subscribed.

As other speakers have indicated, notably my distinguished French colleague, RM 39 also needs to be improved in the chapter on confidence and security measures. An important part of the tasks ahead of us will be to work for a more precise mandate defining the objectives of the first stage in a conference on disarmament in Europe, particularly in regard to the issue of 'the zone'. I confess I was puzzled to hear that some compensation was expected from Western Europe for the Soviet Union's preparedness to regard Europe as extending to the Urals. The facts of geography, Mr Chairman, long pre-date this conference, and indeed the Final Act. It is not in our powers or in our mandate to alter them or to claim any such alterations as a concession. Clearly this point will need further elaboration and clarification in our discussions.

Mr Chairman, the United Kingdom became a signatory to the Final Act in the hope that it would make a practical contribution to improving the quality of life for the people of Europe. Despite disappointments and setbacks, we shall continue to seek in good faith a substantial and balanced concluding document, consistent with reality and establishing sensible and practical provision for wider respect for human rights and greater confidence and security in Europe.