



10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

I was very pleased to hear that the Brussels III Conference on Soviet Jewry will now take place in March.

The Government deplore the present plight of Soviet Jewry and the drastic cut back in emigration from the Soviet Union. Soviet persecution of those who seek to exercise fundamental rights such as the freedom of movement and the freedom to profess and practise their faith is an affront to basic human values, and violates the provisions of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Helsinki Final Act. The Soviet failure to honour their human rights commitments has cast a dark shadow over international life and has further weakened international trust and confidence.

Together with other Western Governments we shall continue resolutely to press the Russians for an improvement in their human rights record and to subject that record to the most demanding public scrutiny. I am sure the Brussels III Conference will help to underline the strength of public concern about the position of Soviet Jews. May I offer my best wishes for your success.

*Margaret Thatcher*

March, 1983



HOUSE OF COMMONS  
LONDON SW1A 0AA

24, March, 1983

R25

Dear Margaret,

Your message to the Third World Conference on Soviet Jewry which I delivered on your behalf in Jerusalem where I was visiting vocational schools ~~was~~ was very well received not least by the considerable number of British delegates. It was a privilege to read it out on your behalf.

The vocational and technical standards of courses in the schools in Israel were most impressive. Some 60% of pupils aged 14-18 are on straight-forward vocational courses on which they obtain specific qualifications of great use in the world outside.

all good wishes  
Yours

Rhodes

Soviet Union  
June 77 Soviet  
Jewry



СОВЕТСКИЙ  
СОЮЗ





WORLD ZIONIST ORGANIZATION

*Arye L. Dulzin,  
Chairman of the Executive*

March 23, 1983

Margaret Thatcher,  
Prime Minister of the United Kingdom,  
LONDON.

*Prime Minister*  
*A.S.C. 11/4*

Dear Madame Prime Minister:

As Chairman of the Presidium of the Third World Conference on Soviet Jewry, held in Jerusalem March 15 to 17, 1983, I would like to take this opportunity of thanking you for your message, which Dr. Rhodes Boyson, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Education and Science, delivered on your behalf to the Conference.

It was important that your voice be heard from Jerusalem, so that Soviet Jews will know that the free world is with them, and so that the new leader in the Kremlin will understand your care and concern about human rights for Soviet Jews, primarily their right to leave unharassed, so that they can join their families in their historic Homeland - Israel.

We are very grateful to you for having sent us your message of solidarity and identification.

Sincerely yours,

*Arye L. Dulzin*  
Arye L. Dulzin,  
Chairman, Executive,  
World Zionist Organization.

Soviet Union,  
June 29, Soviet  
Jewry

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Soviet Union.



DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND SCIENCE  
ELIZABETH HOUSE, YORK ROAD, LONDON, SE1 7PH  
TELEPHONE 01-928 9222

FROM THE PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE

A J Coles Esq  
Private Secretary  
10 Downing Street  
London  
SE1

25 March 1983

*None for the file  
I have told Stephen Crowne  
that this is ok.*

*Dear Coles ✓*

*STC  
28/3*

I enclose a copy of the text of a Priority Written Parliamentary Question from Mr Michael Latham, concerning Dr Boyson's recent visit to Israel, together with a draft reply. The reply is due on 29 March. Perhaps you would let me know if the Prime Minister is content.

I am copying this letter to John Holmes (Foreign and Commonwealth Office) who may wish to comment.

*Yours sincerely*

*Stephen Crowne*

S T CROWNE  
Private Secretary



DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND SCIENCE

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TELEPHONE 01-928 9222

FROM THE PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE

A J Coles Esq  
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25 March 1983

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I am copying this letter to John Holmes (Foreign and Commonwealth Office) who may wish to comment.

*Yours sincerely*

*Stephen Crowne*

S T CROWNE  
Private Secretary

QUESTION NO

TUESDAY 29 MARCH 1983

MR MICHAEL LATHAM (Melton): To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Science, whether he will make a statement on the recent visit of the Under Secretary of State to Jerusalem; and whether he will reproduce in the Official Report the message from the Prime Minister which he took with him to the world conference which he addressed.

DR RHODES BOYSON

Following an invitation from Mr Hammer, Minister for Education and Culture, I undertook an official visit to Israel from 13 to 20 March 1983. I visited a number of institutions providing education at different levels to see various aspects of Israeli education. I was particularly interested in vocational and technical education for pupils of secondary school age, and I will be reporting my impressions to my Ministerial colleagues. I also had meetings with Mr Hammer, with leading educationists and with the Prime Minister of Israel, Mr Begin.

The visit coincided with the Brussels III Conference on Soviet Jewry, where I was privileged to read out this message from the Prime Minister:-

"The Government deplore the present plight of Soviet Jewry and the drastic cut back in emigration from the Soviet Union. Soviet persecution of those who seek to exercise fundamental rights such as the freedom of movement and the freedom to profess and practise their faith is an affront to basic human values, and violates the provisions of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Helsinki Final Act. The Soviet failure to honour their human rights commitments has cast a dark shadow over international life

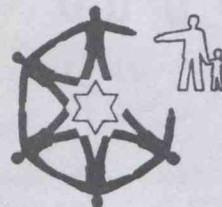


and has further weakened international trust and confidence. Together with other Western Governments we shall continue resolutely to press the Russians for an improvement in their human rights record and to subject that record to the most demanding public scrutiny. I am sure the Brussels III Conference will help to underline the strength of public concern about the position of Soviet Jews. May I offer my best wishes for your success."

010  
Soviet Union

## National Council for Soviet Jewry

of the United Kingdom and Ireland  
3 Finchley Road  
London NW3 6LD  
Tel: 01-624 0181



Ref AH/CB

11th March 1983

Mr A S Coles,  
Private Secretary to the Prime Minister,  
10, Downing Street,  
LONDON SW1.

A.S.C. 14  
5

f-a.

Dear Mr Coles,

WORLD CONFERENCE ON SOVIET JEWRY  
JERUSALEM, MARCH 15 - 17 1983

Many thanks for your letter of 8th March and for sending me a copy of the Prime Minister's message to the World Conference on Soviet Jewry.

I know that all the participants will be very much encouraged by this message and I would ask you to extend our thanks to the Prime Minister.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Arieh L. Handler', written in a cursive style.

ARIEH L. HANDLER  
Chairman

**Patrons:** His Grace the Duke of Devonshire, The Rt. Hon. Dr. David Owen MP, The Rt. Hon. Peter Archer QC MP, The Chief Rabbi Sir Immanuel Jakobovits, His Honour Judge Lachs, Henry Moore OM CH, Professor W. S. Peart FRS, Professor D. Brian Spalding, Edward Fox, F. J. Chapple.

**President:** The President of the Board of Deputies of British Jews The Hon. Greville Janner MA QC MP. **Hon. Vice-Presidents:** Andrew Balcombe BA MBA, June Jacobs.  
**Chairman:** Arieh L. Handler. **Vice-Chairmen:** Rita Eker, David Tack. **Treasurers:** Eric Graus, Victor Lucas FSA FCI Arb.  
**Hon. Secretaries:** Cynthia Jacobs, Ruth Urban. **Hon. Solicitors:** Victor Mishcon & Co.

4 MAR. 1983

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9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

11/11/82

11/11/82

Private Secretary to the Prime Minister

10 Downing Street  
London SW1A 2AA

Dear Sir,

WORLD WIDE COMMUNICATIONS GROUP  
1000 AVENUE OF THE STARS  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20004

I am pleased to hear from you and for sending me a copy of the Prime Minister's message to the World Conference on Soviet

I am sure that all the participants will be very much encouraged by this message and I would ask you to extend our thanks to the Prime Minister.

Yours sincerely,

John A. ...  
Secretary



*Soviet Union*

10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Private Secretary*

10 March, 1983

We discussed on the telephone the Brussels III Conference on Soviet Jewry which is to be held in Jerusalem from 15-17 March. You told me that your Minister would be paying an official visit to Israel at the time and that Mr. Greville Janner, M.P. has suggested that he should attend the Conference and read out a message which the Prime Minister has sent for use at the Conference.

I have checked that the Foreign and Commonwealth Office see no difficulty in this procedure. They do not, given that the Conference is in West Jerusalem. The Prime Minister would be grateful if Dr. Rhodes Boyson would accordingly arrange to read out her message. I enclose a copy of a letter which I sent to Mr. Handler, Chairman of the National Council for Soviet Jewry, containing the text of the message. It may be that you, or the FCO, will have to get in touch with the Conference organisers and explain the procedure which we now envisage.

I am copying this letter to John Holmes (Foreign and Commonwealth Office).

A. J. COLES

S. T. Crowne, Esq.,  
Department of Education and Science

NR.



FILE

Soviet Union RM

B/c: 1 Kydd 413

FCO

10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Private Secretary*

8 March, 1983

'BRUSSELS CONFERENCE' ON SOVIET JEWRY,

JERUSALEM, MARCH, 1983

With his letter of 1 September, 1982, Mr. Kydd sent to Mr. Balcombe a message from the Prime Minister on the occasion of the Brussels III Conference, which was due to be held in Paris in October. I understand that the Conference was subsequently postponed and will now take place from 15 to 17 March. I have pleasure in enclosing a new message from the Prime Minister.

A. L. COLES

A.L. Handler, Esq.,

RM

010



Prime Minister

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

Agree to send the  
attached message to the  
Conference on Soviet Jewry in  
Jerusalem later this month?

2 March 1983

*from John,*                      *A.S.C. 3/12.*                      *Yes*

'Brussels Conference' on Soviet Jewry: Jerusalem,  
15-17 March

You may recall that Mr Balcombe, then Chairman of the National Council for Soviet Jewry (NCSJ), wrote to the Prime Minister on 2 August 1982 (copy enclosed), asking her to provide a short message to the 'Brussels III' Conference which was to have been held at Versailles from 24-26 October 1982.

We agreed that there would be value in the Prime Minister doing so, and a message (copy enclosed) was sent to Mr Balcombe for publication in the NCSJ report on the occasion of the Brussels III Conference. The Conference was then postponed, apparently for security reasons, and it will now be held in Jerusalem from 15-17 March.

In his capacity as President of the NCSJ and Vice-Chairman of the All-Party Parliamentary Committee for the Release of Soviet Jewry, Mr Greville Jenner MP recently wrote to Mr Rifkind suggesting that Mr Rifkind or a senior Government Minister might attend and address the Conference. Mr Rifkind declined the invitation both on his own behalf and on behalf of HMG. However, at a recent meeting with the members of the Parliamentary Committee, Mr Jenner told Mr Rifkind that a fresh message from the Prime Minister to the Conference would be much appreciated.

/We believe



/  
/  
We believe that a fresh message would be a further useful demonstration of the Government's concern for Soviet Jewry, and I enclose a draft which the Prime Minister might wish to consider, together with a draft Private Secretary letter. This is addressed to Mr Handler, who has succeeded Mr Balcombe as Chairman.

*Yours ever,*  
*R B Bone*  
(R B Bone)  
Private Secretary

A J Coles Esq  
No 10 Downing Street



12 1  
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5 6 7 8 9

2 - MAR 1983



DRAFT: minute/letter/teleletter/despatch/note

TYPE: Draft/Final 1+

FROM:  
PS/No 10

Reference

DEPARTMENT: TEL. NO:

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

TO:

Your Reference

- Top Secret
- Secret
- Confidential
- Restricted
- Unclassified

Arieh L Handler, Esq  
 Chairman  
 National Council for Soviet Jewry  
 183 Finchley Road  
 LONDON  
 NW3 6LD

Copies to:

PRIVACY MARKING

SUBJECT: 'BRUSSELS CONFERENCE' ON SOVIET JEWRY,  
JERUSALEM, MARCH 1983

.....In Confidence

1. <sup>will</sup> Under cover of his letter of 1 September 1982,

CAVEAT.....

Mr Kydd sent to Mr Balcombe a message from the Prime Minister on the occasion of the Brussels III Conference, which was due to be held in Paris in October. I understand that the Conference was subsequently postponed and will now take place [redacted] from 15<sup>th</sup> 17 March. I have ~~great~~ <sup>new</sup> pleasure in enclosing a ~~fresh~~ message from the Prime Minister.

*blind copies to:*

*(1) Mr. Holmes  
P/c.o.*

*(2) Mr. Kydd.  
43*

*AK 4/3.*

Enclosures—flag(s).....

~~DRAFT~~ MESSAGE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER.

I was very pleased to hear that the Brussels III Conference on Soviet Jewry will now take place in March.

The Government deplore the present plight of Soviet Jewry and the drastic cut back in emigration from the Soviet Union. Soviet persecution of those who seek to exercise fundamental rights such as the freedom of movement and the freedom to profess and practice their faith is an affront to basic human values, and violates the provisions of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Helsinki Final Act. The Soviet failure to honour their human rights commitments has cast a dark shadow over international life and has further weakened international trust and confidence.

Together with other Western Governments we shall continue resolutely to press the Russians for an improvement in their human rights record and to subject that record to the most demanding public scrutiny. I am sure the Brussels III Conference will help to underline the strength of <sup>public</sup> ~~international~~ concern about the position of Soviet Jews. May I offer my best wishes for your success.

10A

GWS 245/6



10 DOWNING STREET

16 SEP 1982  
1 September 1982

Dear Mr Balcombe,

With reference to my letter to you of 10 August I am delighted to be able to forward the enclosed message from the Prime Minister on the occasion of the Brussels III Conference.

Yours sincerely  
Ian Kydd

IAN KYDD  
Press Office

A D Balcombe Esq



10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

I was very interested to hear of the Brussels III Conference.

The British Government are deeply concerned by the present plight of Soviet Jewry, and are disturbed by the recent drastic cut-back in emigration and intensified campaign of persecution of Jewish communities in the Soviet Union. The obstacles placed in the way of those seeking freedom of movement and freedom of religious belief stand in stark contradiction to the provisions of the UN Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Helsinki Final Act which the Soviet Union solemnly undertook to observe.

We and other Western Governments will continue to subject the Soviet human rights performance to rigorous public scrutiny. Although our efforts, both bilaterally and through the CSCE process, may not bring immediate results, we continue to hope that in time the Soviet authorities will be persuaded to change their policies of repression.

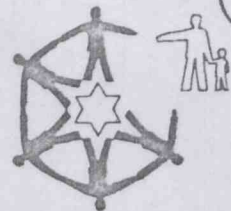
I wish the Conference every success.

Margaret Thatcher

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# National Council for Soviet Jewry

of the United Kingdom and Ireland  
183 Finchley Road  
London NW3 6LD  
Tel: 01-624 0181



The Rt. Hon. Mrs. Margaret Thatcher,  
Houses of Parliament,  
Westminster,  
London, SW1.

2nd August, 1982.

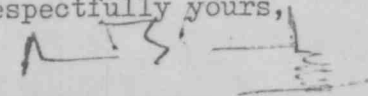
*Ry*

Dear Prime Minister,

On October 24th - 26th, 1982, in Versailles, there will take place a World Conference to discuss the fate of Soviet Jewry. This is the third such Conference since the rebirth of Jewish consciousness in the Soviet Union and the start of Jewish emigration to the West in the early 1970's. The Conference, which will be known as Brussels III (because the first took place in Brussels), is not confined to Jews. All those interested in the predicament of some two and a half million Soviet Jews who are deprived of their right to emigrate and practice their religion freely and develop their own culture like other Soviet minorities will join this Conference to voice their protest. The objective is to influence the Soviet authorities for a positive change of policy and in retrospect we can see the two earlier Brussels Conferences did achieve similar objectives.

A number of distinguished personalities from the United States, Gt. Britain, France and other Western countries are scheduled to take part. The British group, represented by the National Council for Soviet Jewry, is preparing a report of activities that have taken place in the United Kingdom on behalf of Soviet Jews. We would be very grateful if you would write a short preface or message to the Conference. British Jewry as a whole would be greatly honoured if you could join with us at this most difficult time for Soviet Jews.

Respectfully yours,

  
A. D. BALCOMBE  
Chairman