



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

Prime Minister

To note - I shall let you  
have a reply to President Reagan's message.  
12 July 1983

A.S.C.  $\frac{12}{7}$ 

John Taylor

Message from President Reagan: Human Rights in the Soviet Union

Ambassador Walter Stoessel, former Deputy Secretary in the State Department, called on Sir Geoffrey Howe this afternoon, and subsequently had fuller discussions with Mr Whitney. These calls were part of a tour of Western European countries which Ambassador Stoessel is making at the request of President Reagan to discuss human rights in the Soviet Union and what the West might do to bring about some improvement in the Soviet performance. Ambassador Stoessel had already been to Vienna, Rome, Paris, The Hague and Bonn, and was also going on to Brussels. He had generally been received at Foreign Minister or Deputy Foreign Minister level (although in Rome he had called on Prime Minister Fanfani).

Ambassador Stoessel brought with him a message from the President to the Prime Minister regarding Soviet human rights performance, which I enclose herewith.

Ambassador Stoessel said that the Americans were concerned about how to maintain co-ordination of Western efforts in this area after the end of the Madrid meeting. He put forward a number of ideas which we shall be following up, although most of them already form part of our own policy in this area. The Americans were clearly well satisfied with co-ordination between the US and the UK, and no differences of perspective emerged from the discussion.

/We will let

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We will let you have a draft reply as soon as possible.

*Yours on*  
*R B Bone*

(R B Bone)  
Private Secretary

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