



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

15 July 1983

Call on the Prime Minister by Mrs. Shcharansky

Thank you for your letter of 13 July. Mrs. Shcharansky called on the Prime Minister this morning. She was accompanied by Lord Bethell.

She handed to the Prime Minister a report of Mrs. Ida Milgrom's meeting with her son on 5 July, together with a report by an American heart specialist on her husband's condition. Copies of both documents are enclosed.

Mrs. Shcharansky briefly described the contents of the two documents. Lord Bethell added that Mr. Shcharansky was also being punished for attempting to observe rules of the Jewish faith.

The main part of the conversation was related to the prospects of using the Madrid Conference for obtaining the release of Shcharansky. Mrs. Shcharansky argued that the concluding stages of the Conference offered an important opportunity to secure her husband's release. It was inconceivable that the Madrid Agreement should be signed if it did not provide for the release of people like her husband. The Americans had earlier assured her at the highest level that they would not sign the Agreement unless there was complete understanding with the Soviet Union that Shcharansky would be released. She was worried to read in the press reports that the West were going to sign and that the Russians had proposed to release some dissidents but not her husband. Vladimir Bukovsky, who sent his regards to the Prime Minister, was also worried about the rush to sign. The Prime Minister said that she believed that the Madrid Agreement would be signed. It would provide for expert meetings on human contacts and also for a conference on disarmament in Europe. These were important advantages which it was in our interest to secure. But we certainly hoped that the Soviet Union would release people on the occasion of the signing. She knew that vigorous efforts were being made by a number of countries on behalf of Shcharansky.

Mrs. Shcharansky said that there was a difference between words and deeds. The Madrid document would be simply a piece of paper unless accompanied by concrete action. Her husband had again threatened to go on hunger strike and she was very worried about the situation.

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The Prime Minister said that she shared Mrs. Shcharansky's concern. We used every possible opportunity to bring pressure to bear on the Soviet Union and she believed that it was in the latter's political interest to release Shcharansky. We would continue to do everything we could.

A. J. COLES

Roger Bone, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

REPORT of IDA MILGROM'S MEETING WITH HER SON ANATOLY SHCHARANSKY-
on JULY 5th, 1983

(Received by Avital Shcharansky by telephone- July 8th, 1983)

Anatoly's last letter arrived in November, 1981. From that time until January, 1983 there was only silence. On the 5th of July, Anatoly was finally permitted to meet with his brother, Leonid and his Mother, Ida Milgrom. They were permitted to speak only through a glass screen. At this meeting, Anatoly explained that his connection with the outside world had been severed when the censor had begun returning all of his longer letters. Out of necessity he began writing short letters, one page or less but these were also returned if there was any mention of his wife Avital. He was also forbidden to write her directly. After many complaints, the State Prosecutor arrived at the prison. The commander of the prison declared that Anatoly had no right to send letters outside the borders of the Soviet Union but the prosecutor disagreed and affirmed in the presence of both Anatoly and the prison commander that Anatoly had the legal right to send letters outside of the Soviet Union. The continued confiscation of Anatoly's letters (after the State Prosecutor's statement) led Anatoly to begin his hunger-strike against his isolation.

Anatoly's life during the hunger-strike:

At the meeting with his Mother, Anatoly told her that the worst part of his hunger-strike was the force-feeding by the jailers. They tied him up, beat him when he was nearly unconscious and then forcefully pried open his mouth causing wounds and lacerations in his throat that of course did not heal in his condition and caused him unbearable pain. Anatoly noted that this was the most trying period of his life and he hadn't expected such treatment. Anatoly told his Mother that he would try to turn the radio on full volume in order to revive himself from his state of near unconsciousness. During this period, the general commander of prisons would come from the city of Kazan and scream that in the Soviet Union there was no such thing as hunger strikes and that if Anatoly refused to eat he would be punished and confined in solitary detention. As a result, Anatoly spent most of his hunger strike in solitary detention and thus in conditions where he was unable to stand on his feet. At this time the authorities informed his Mother that his letters were being confiscated because he

was trying to reveal secret information in code. The authorities erased nine of the eleven lines that Anatoly wrote in a note to his Mother on January 14th, 1983 at the end of his hunger strike. At their meeting Anatoly told his Mother that the erased lines explained the reasons for his hunger-strike. At the meeting Anatoly said that he was astonished that after the hunger strike his letters were not being censored despite the fact that they were twenty to thirty pages long and that Avital's name was mentioned many times. If this was permissible after the strike it was not clear why it had been forbidden for a year and a half.

Anatoly's health was destroyed by the hunger strike and he developed a severe heart condition and various allergies. He became pale and jaundiced, suffered from pains in his chest and most of his hair fell out. He was only able to stand up from a reclining position five months after his hunger strike and this is still painful. During the meeting with his Mother, he kept his hand close to his heart the entire time. On January 14th he weighed only 35 kilograms (77 pounds) with a height of 1.60 meters (5 feet 3 inches). At the time of the meeting with his Mother six months later he weighed 55 kg. (121 lbs.). He told his Mother that in his opinion the authorities deliberately prepared for the meeting by making him "presentable". (Beforehand he was simply not "presentable.")

He told his Mother that he had been in "hot-house" conditions for the last few months. He had been given especially good food; the work quota he normally would have been expected to meet was sewing eight sacks daily but he was sewing only one sack daily without being punished. He is convinced, however, that as soon as his Mother returns home his treatment will worsen and return to previous conditions.

Anatoly indicated to his Mother that at present he is not alone in his cell. At the end of February he began a second hunger strike that further worsened his physical condition. This strike was on behalf of another prisoner.

At the meeting Leonid informed Anatoly in detail of the activities on his behalf in the free world since January 21st, the day that Marchais (the head of the French Communist Party) received Andropov's letter indicating the possibility of Anatoly's early release and up until the receipt of the negative decision of the Supreme Soviet regarding the appeal of Anatoly's Mother to have Anatoly released on grounds of poor health. The decision arrived a few days before the meeting. The appeal had been denied because of the seriousness of Anatoly's "crimes" against the State.

Anatoly's Mother asked him if he had been visited by the KGB.

Anatoly responded that indeed he had been visited by a representative of the KGB and that he had been willing to speak with him only because he came at her request. Anatoly's Mother told him the full story:

She had been called to the offices of the KGB but she refused to supply them with a letter authorizing them to speak to her son in her name. She told them that she would not send her son anything through the KGB.

Anatoly told his Mother that the KGB representative had said that he had met with her for a long and relaxed discussion and that she had urged him to speak to Anatoly in her name, and that now he was fulfilling her request. The KGB agent said that Anatoly's behavior in prison was very important because this would enable the authorities to arrange a meeting between Anatoly and his Mother. The possibility of such a meeting depended on "proper" behavior in prison. When Anatoly asked for the definition of "proper" behavior, the KGB agent replied that this meant no deviation from the prison regimen. Anatoly informed the KGB agent that he had never deviated from the prison regimen and it was the prison authorities that had been violating the rules of conduct set down for Soviet prisons. The KGB agent strongly requested that if Anatoly had any personal needs or problems that he write directly to "Ivanov" in Moscow. Anatoly later made use of this "privilege" and wrote to "Ivanov" about a small matter but his letter was returned without reply.

At the meeting with his Mother and brother they asked Anatoly to appeal to the Supreme Soviet to release him on grounds of his severe medical condition. Anatoly stopped them in the middle and told them that this was not a matter for discussion. He explained: "Everything that had been done to him for the past six years has been illegal. Remember, he told his Mother and brother, that at my trial it was announced that I had nothing to say to judges who in two hours time would read a sentence that had been prepared well in advance. I will not say one word but every day that I am in prison is a continuation of the illegal situation that began with my trial. So on what basis should I appeal? Any appeal would be inappropriate. I will not turn to them with any requests. I strongly urge you to find a way to convey to those people who are active politically and in public life, to all my good friends, to those who are working and fighting in my behalf, to those who believe in my cause, those who insist on my innocence give them my warm thanks. Write them that I can make no appeal

to the Soviet authorities but the absence of such an appeal will not have a negative effect on any decision regarding my release. Any positive decision will not depend on letters... This is totally clear to me."

Anatoly's Mother and brother attempted to tell him that before they received the denial of their appeal, his Mother had tried to reach him and persuade him in the name of the family to appeal for his release. Anatoly cut them off and said, "Understand... This does not depend on one refusal or another. This is something I will not do!"

He continued in this vein and said, " I am an innocent victim and this is well-known to everyone especially to those who "framed" me. Therefore I have nothing to say to them."

Finally Anatoly informed his visitors that if his letters are not received for three months he will again begin a hunger strike. He intends to send the monthly letter that he is permitted to write in July to his wife Avital in Jerusalem.



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The H. B. Burns Memorial Building / 2150 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W. / Washington, D.C. 20037

June 9, 1983

Mrs. Atival Shcharansky
c/o The Embassy of Israel
3514 International Drive, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20008

Dear Mrs. Shcharansky:

As per your request I have reviewed the available information regarding your husband's present heart disease.

In review of the translated letters from Mr. Shcharansky I find numerous references to a specific kind of chest pain which is rather classical for a condition called "angina pectoris. This form of chest pain implies a rather grave condition commonly referred to as "coronary insufficiency". The causes of this circumstance can be many, however, stress and deprivation notoriously can be the inciting factors.

The fact that Mr. Shcharansky has had electrocardiograms performed which show no documentation of a "heart attack" is precisely what would be expected in this circumstance. Until the patient has a myocardial infarction, electrocardiograms remain deceptively unimpressive unless they can be performed instantly during one of the patient's episodes of angina pectoris. This is the reason that so many unfortunate patients are reassured by their physician that their electrocardiogram is normal, only to experience a cardiovascular catastrophe after that reassurance is offered.

The second issue of great concern is your husband's description of the fact that the most minimal exertion frequently results in palpitations and chest and arm pain. The severity of heart disease can usually be graded by the level of activity a patient can perform up to the point of developing the symptoms. A patient as functionally limited as your husband appears to be should normally be hospitalized immediately for an intensive diagnostic evaluation.

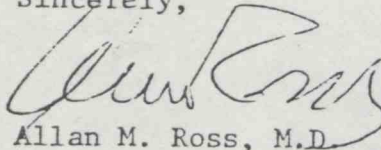
June 9, 1983

The final item of concern in these letters has to do with the irregular heart beat (extra systoles). This disturbance of the cardiac rhythm is ominous, particularly in individuals with coronary insufficiency. Extrasystoles are the harbinger of rapid and chaotic heart beat which, in fact, is the most common single cause of sudden cardiac death. This problem may well be magnified under the circumstances of stress, inappropriate diet, exposure, etc.

In summary then, at this time, my presumptive diagnosis must be acute and chronic coronary insufficiency resulting in angina pectoris and complicated by ectopy or ventricular arrhythmias (extra systoles). This circumstance should be considered with the highest possible level of concern. Appropriate management would include hospitalization followed by a battery of examinations to determine both the severity of the condition and necessary therapeutic interventions. It is impossible without such an evaluation to determine whether conservative medicinal therapy would suffice or more aggressive kinds of management strategies will be required.

If you should obtain any additional information on his present status that can be added to what I already have it might be possible for me to further refine my diagnostic impression.

Sincerely,



Allan M. Ross, M.D.
Professor of Medicine
Director, Division of Cardiology

AMR/rdf

10 DOWNING STREET

John Coles.

discussed.

Re. Mrs. Scharanski.

*Vol 14.
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Lord Bethell has arranged for Mrs. Scharanski to come to his home from the Airport when she arrives on Friday early morning from USA.

Lord Bethell was expecting to bring her and attend the meeting, as he did with the last meeting when Michael Alexander was here.

He would also like to book a room at the House of Lords for a Press Conference for Mrs. Scharanski. The proposed purpose is to tell the Press the latest news of her husband, who was seen by his mother, for the first time for 18 months, last week. She would not reveal to the Press what had taken place at her meeting with the P.M., which is private, other than that the P.M. had seen her to find out the latest position.

I could with great difficulty put him off coming, and with less difficulty put him off holding a press conference in the Lords. I see no great reason for doing so, but await your views!

David Wolfson.

P.S. Would we have a photographer, as the last visit? Would P.M. make any statement, directly or through Bernard, to the press? Or encourage a question at next Tuesday's P.M.'s Questions?