



FILE

JR

cc: Couns
(letter returned)
FCO

10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

18 October, 1983

Dear Mr. Campbell. Scarous.

Thank you for your letter of 26 September enclosing correspondence from Mrs. Ruth Balogh about the reported arrest of a number of members of the Moscow Group for the Establishment of Trust between the USSR and the USA.

A member of the 'Trust Group' wrote to me earlier this year on the question of curbing the nuclear arms race. I do not often reply myself to letters from private individuals overseas. On this occasion, however, I decided that, in view of the personal risks taken by the Soviet citizens involved to deliver their message (they only managed to reach our Embassy at their third attempt, having been detained by the KGB on the first two occasions), it would be right for me to reply.

A meeting had been arranged between a member of the Embassy Staff in Moscow and representatives of the 'Trust Group' on 5 September to hand over my reply to their letter. The representatives did not arrive. If, as a member of the Group has reported, they were prevented from carrying out the appointment by being forcibly detained on their way to the Embassy, that is deplorable. Members of the Group were again prevented from reaching the Embassy to receive my reply on 12 October. We made strong representations to the Russians on both occasions about the harassment of the Group, and sought an assurance that there will be no further hindrance to their receiving my letter.

/ I do not

RW

I do not think it would be right to divulge the contents of my letter to a group of private individuals until it has been successfully delivered or until it is clear that this is not possible. But I can assure you that the first attempt by the Embassy to hand over my letter was certainly not timed to coincide with the planned visit of 'Women for Life on Earth' to the Soviet Union. My reply was in fact sent some weeks earlier, but it had taken our Embassy some time to contact the group.

As to Mrs Balogh's last point, people in this country are free to correspond with anyone they choose, including the Soviet authorities. We do not harass those who hold different views, or deprive them of such elementary rights as freedom of expression and privacy of correspondence. That is one of the crucial differences between democracy and despotism.

Yours sincerely
Nagant Dhalta

Dale Campbell-Savours, Esq., MP.

CONFIDENTIAL



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

TF

A.J.C. 17

JSM

in his SR?

RA

14 October 1983

John [unclear]

the type in [unclear]

Moscow Group for the Establishment of Trust between
the USSR and the USA

In your letter of 29 September you asked for a draft reply from the Prime Minister to a letter of 26 September from Mr Dale Campbell-Savours MP, enclosing a letter to him from a Mrs Ruth Balogh. - SR?

The Group referred to in Mr Campbell-Savours' letter is also known as the Soviet Unofficial Peace Movement. They wrote to the Prime Minister on 14 June about the nuclear arms race. The Prime Minister agreed to send a personal reply in view of the risks they had run in delivering their letter. However, representatives of the Group did not reach the Embassy for an appointment on 5 September to receive Mrs Thatcher's reply. Another member of the Group subsequently reported by telephone that they had been forcibly detained on their way to the Embassy. The same thing happened again yesterday, 12 October (Moscow telno 1149 enclosed). (They were similarly harassed when they initially delivered their own letter to the Embassy; they only succeeded in doing so at the third attempt.) We have made strong representations to the Russians on both occasions, and sought an assurance that there would be no further hindrance to their receiving the Prime Minister's letter.

In your letter of 15 July you agreed that the Press should be informed of the Prime Minister's reply and given a full account of its contents. We thought it right to delay doing this until every effort had been made to deliver the letter to the Group. The Embassy in Moscow have recommended, and we agree, that they should make one more attempt to get the letter to the Group in a few days' time. The Embassy will also try to check with the Group that publicising the gist of their letter to the Prime Minister would not cause them embarrassment.

We suggest that the Prime Minister should not accede to Mrs Balogh's request to know the contents of the letter.

[Handwritten signature]

(R B Bone)
Private Secretary

A J Coles Esq
10 Downing Street

CONFIDENTIAL

DRAFT: minute/letter/teleletter/despatch/note

TYPE: Draft/Final 1+

FROM:

Reference

Prime Minister

DEPARTMENT:

TEL. NO:

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

TO:

Your Reference

- Top Secret
- Secret
- Confidential
- Restricted
- Unclassified

Dale Campbell-Savours Esq MP
House of Commons
LONDON SW1A 0AA

Copies to:

PRIVACY MARKING

SUBJECT:

.....In Confidence

CAVEAT.....

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Enclosures—flag(s).....

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Dale Campbell-SAVOURS

MP



13/10

HL

ACK 29/9.

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

29 September 1983

I enclose a copy of a letter from Mr. Dale Campbell-Savours, M.P., with which he encloses one from Mrs. Ruth Balogh.

Contrary to what Mrs. Balogh claims, we have no record of having written to any organisation called the "Group for Trust".

I should be grateful for a draft reply for the Prime Minister to send to Dale Campbell-Savours by Thursday 13 October.

WILLIAM RICKETT

Chris Branner, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

NO TRACE

26 September 1983

DCS/JG/P.3

The Rt Hon Margaret Thatcher MP
Prime Minister
House of Commons
LONDON
SW1A 0AA

*See attached P28
Did we write to
the "Group for Trust"
this year? MARG*

Dear Mrs Thatcher

I have received the enclosed correspondence from Mrs Ruth Balogh, who is obviously concerned about the arrest of several members of the Moscow based group of intellectuals, the "Group for Trust". She raises a number of questions in the letter and I wonder if you would care to reply to those questions.

Yours sincerely

DALE CAMPBELL-SAVOURS MP

Loweswater Hall
nr Cockermouth
Cumbria CA13 0SU
tel: Lamplugh 861447

Sept 22nd 1983

Dear Dale,

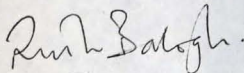
I am very concerned about the recent arrest of several members of the small Moscow-based group of intellectuals, the "Group for Trust", which as you may know, has established contact with the rather larger, British based "Women for Life on Earth".

The arrest took place when four members were on their way to pick up a letter from the Prime Minister from the British Embassy. I feel that Mrs. Thatcher should be pressed very strongly to reveal the contents of the letter; to be asked whether she makes a habit of communicating with small groups struggling for human rights elsewhere in the world (for instance El Salvador), and to explain why the letter arrived to coincide with the (since postponed) visit of the Women For Life on Earth to the USSR.

I would, of course, also like to know how she would react if the USSR were to send similar letters to the Women For Life on Earth in Britain, but the conservative government's hypocrisy concerning East West relations renders this question purely rhetorical.

I hope you are able to help, and look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,



Ruth Balogh