



Prime Minister: Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

5 December, 1983

Do you agree
to be proposed

telegram and press line ?

Jan John. Yes JA 6/12 Yes not

Soviet Unofficial Peace Movement

Since I wrote to you on 14 October, the Embassy in Moscow have made several further attempts to hand over the Prime Minister's letter to the Soviet Unofficial Peace Movement (also known as the Moscow Group for the Establishment of Trust between the USSR and the USA, or the Trust Group). It is now clear that the KGB will not permit members of the group to take delivery of the Prime Minister's letter. Although from the Embassy's account (Moscow telno 1318 enclosed) there may be different views within the group, on balance the views expressed by Mr Dudkin in favour of publicising the correspondence appear to be more reliable and representative.

We think it right not to make any further attempts to hand over the Prime Minister's reply, but to give the press in Moscow and London a full account of the background and to release the texts of the group's letter and the Prime Minister's reply. You agreed in your letter of 15 July that the press should be told of the contents of the Prime Minister's letter once it had been delivered. Before releasing the texts, we recommend that Sir Iain Sutherland should be instructed to make a strong protest to the Russians.

If you are content we would propose to send instructions to Moscow in the terms of the enclosed draft telegram. Thereafter we would propose that the Embassy should release the texts of the two letters to the British press in Moscow. The Embassy and the FCO News Department would also draw on the enclosed draft press line in answering questions.

[Handwritten signature]

(R B Bone)
Private Secretary

A J Coles Esq
10 Downing Street



JR

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

7 December 1983

SOVIET UNOFFICIAL PEACE MOVEMENT

Thank you for your letter of 5 December.

The Prime Minister agrees that the telegram of instructions to HM Ambassador in Moscow should be despatched and further agrees with the proposed press line and your suggestion that the texts of the correspondence between the Prime Minister and the Soviet Unofficial Peace Movement should be released.

A. J. COLES

R.B. Bone, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.



SOVIET UNOFFICIAL PEACE MOVEMENT: DRAFT PRESS LINE

1. Our Embassy in Moscow have been trying for some time to hand over to members of the Moscow Group for the Establishment of Trust between the USSR and the USA (also known at the "Trust Group" and the Soviet Unofficial Peace Movement) the Prime Minister's reply to the Group's letter of 14 June. Meetings were arranged at the Embassy on 5 September and 12 October but on both occasions representatives of the Group did not arrive. On 5 September a member of the Group telephoned the Embassy to say that the representatives had been arrested near the Embassy. Sir G Howe raised this with Mr Gromyko in Madrid on 7 September. On 12 October, the immediate vicinity of the Embassy was saturated with plain clothes officials and traffic on the road outside the Embassy was restricted by the militia so that access to the building was effectively blocked. A member of the Group telephoned the Embassy shortly after they were due to arrive to say that his colleagues had been detained. After both incidents we made strong representations in Moscow to the Russians and sought an assurance that there would be no further hindrance to the Group receiving the Prime Minister's reply.

2. It is clear from the Embassy's most recent contact with the Group that it will not be possible to hand over the Prime Minister's reply. With the agreement of a member of the Group, we think it right now to make public both the background and the texts of the letters themselves.

3. Our Ambassador in Moscow has made a further strong protest to the Soviet authorities. He has pointed out the clear breach of the commitments the Russians have only just undertaken in the concluding document of the CSCE Review meeting in Madrid to assist access to Diplomatic Missions.

Supplementaries

Why were the letters not published earlier?

We had hoped the Russians would take account of our previous representations. We also wished to make every reasonable effort



to deliver the Prime Minister's letter to the Group. It is now clear that the Group will not be permitted to receive the letter. In these circumstances publication of the letters will draw attention to this regrettable incident and to the need by the Soviet authorities to honour their international commitments.

Is publicity likely to harm members of the group?

The group have consistently sought publicity for their activities. Moreover the Soviet authorities already know of the existence of the correspondence.

What commitments in the Madrid Concluding Document have the Soviet authorities breached?

In the sector on human contacts the Soviet Union undertook to facilitate the normal functioning of diplomatic missions. Specifically they stated that - "Access to these missions will be assured with due regard to the necessary requirements of security of these missions."

OUT TELEGRAM

Classification and Caveats

Precedence/Desk by

CONFIDENTIAL

IMMEDIATE

ZCZC	1	ZCZC
GRS	2	GRS
CLASS	3	CONFIDENTIAL
CAVEATS	4	
DESKBY	5	
FM FCO	6	FM DECEMBER 83
PRE/ADD	7	TO IMMEDIATE MOSCOW
TEL NO	8	TELEGRAM NUMBER
	9	YOUR TELNO 1318: SOVIET UNOFFICIAL PEACE MOVEMENT
	10	1. We agree that the time has now come for publication. The
	11	Prime Minister has agreed that before releasing the texts of
	12	the letters you should speak at an appropriate level to the MFA
	13	leaving the Russians in no doubt of the effect on public and
	14	Ministerial attitudes of this incident, and making the following
	15	points:
	16	(i) the group has now been prevented on several occasions
	17	from reaching the Embassy to receive the Prime
	18	Minister's reply to their letter. This is deplorable.
	19	I raised this directly with Gromyko in Madrid on
	20	7 September, who undertook to look into the question.
	21	We had presumed that no further obstacles would be
///	22	put in the way of the group receiving the Prime
//	23	Minister's letter. But this has turned out not to
/	24	be the case.
	25	(ii) Soviet actions are impossible to reconcile with their

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File number		Dept Private Office	Distribution Limited Soviet D News D Research D Info D PS PS/Mr Rifkind PS/Mr Whitney PS/PUS Sir J Bullard Mr Jenkins
Drafted by (Block capitals) ROGER BONE			
Telephone number			
Authorised for despatch			
Comcen reference	Time of despatch		cc: 10 Downing Street

OUT TELEGRAM (CONT)

	Classification and Caveats CONFIDENTIAL	IMMEDIATE	Page 2
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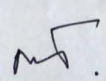
recent commitments at Madrid to assure access by visitors to diplomatic missions.

(iii) The fact that the Soviet authorities have, notwithstanding our representations, repeatedly prevented the transmission of a letter from the Prime Minister in response to one criticising the arrest of members of the peace movement in Britain will inevitably raise serious doubts in the minds of Ministers as well as with public and parliamentary opinion about the value of Soviet commitments to peace as well as towards their commitments in the Madrid and Helsinki Documents.

(iv) We now intend to make public the background to the incident and the texts of the group's letter and the Prime Minister's reply.

2. Following your protest to the MFAYou should release the texts of the two letters to the British press in Moscow and draw on the Press line in MIFT. News Department will respond on the same basis to questions here.

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TOP COPY

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GR350
CONFIDENTIAL
FM MOSCOW 181102Z NOV 83
TO IMMEDIATE FCO
TELNO 1318 OF 18 NOV 83.

YOUR TEL NO 919: SOVIET UNOFFICIAL PEACE MOVEMENT.

1. AFTER SEVERAL ABORTIVE ATTEMPTS TO CONTACT REITHAN'S GROUP, WE HAVE NOW HAD THREE TELEPHONE CONVERSATIONS WITH DUDKIN, WITHIN THE LAST 5 DAYS WHILE THE GROUP REFLECTED AND CONSULTED AMONG THEMSELVES. THE UPSHOT, IS THAT, SINCE WE CANNOT MEET THE GROUP ELSEWHERE AND ACCOMPANY THEM TO THE EMBASSY, THEY DO NOT SEE ANY POINT IN AGAIN ATTEMPTING TO COME TO THE EMBASSY, THE KGB HAVING ON THE LAST OCCASION TOLD THEM IN NO UNCERTAIN TERMS THAT THEY WOULD CONTINUE TO BE INTERCEPTED.

2. AFTER THE SECOND CONVERSATION, WHEN THE GROUP'S DECISION WAS CLEAR, WE ASKED DUDKIN WHETHER THEY WOULD HAVE ANY OBJECTION TO PUBLICATION OF THEIR LETTER AND THE PRIME MINISTER'S REPLY. AFTER FURTHER CONSULTATION, HE CALLED BACK TO SAY THAT, ON THE CONTRARY, THEY WOULD FAVOUR PUBLICATION. HE COMMENTED THAT THIS WOULD OBIVATE THE NEED FOR US TO HAND OVER A TEXT OF THE PRIME MINISTER'S REPLY. WE MADE CLEAR THAT THE BACKGROUND WOULD BE GIVEN TO THE BRITISH PRESS.

3. ON 17 NOVEMBER, TWENTY-FOUR HOURS AFTER THE LAST OF OUR TELEPHONE CONVERSATIONS WITH DUDKIN, WE WERE TELEPHONED BY SOMEONE WHO CLAIMED TO BE A MEMBER OF THE GROUP, AND WHO MAY HAVE BEEN ROSENOER (HE DID NOT CLEARLY IDENTIFY HIMSELF). THIS CALLER SAID THAT IN AGREEING TO PUBLICATION DUDKIN HAD SPOKEN ONLY FOR HIMSELF, NOT FOR THE GROUP AS A WHOLE, WHICH WAS AGAINST PUBLICATION. WHILE WE CANNOT BE SURE, WE BELIEVE THAT THIS CALLER WAS EITHER AN IMPOSTER OR A MEMBER OF THE GROUP SPEAKING UNDER DURESS. THE SOVIET AUTHORITIES WILL CERTAINLY HAVE MONITORED OUR DISCUSSIONS WITH DUDKIN, AND HAVE AN OBVIOUS INTEREST IN TRYING TO FORESTALL PUBLICATION. THE GROUP THEMSELVES, ON THE OTHER HAND, HAVE CONSISTENTLY SOUGHT PUBLICITY. I THEREFORE RECOMMEND THAT WE SHOULD GO AHEAD WITH PUBLICATION.

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/ 4. IF YOU

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4. IF YOU AGREE, I THINK THAT THIS SHOULD BE REGARDED AS A MOSCOW, RATHER THAN A LONDON, STORY. IT IS IN FACT POSSIBLE THAT THE GROUP THEMSELVES MAY, AS IN THE PAST, CONTACT LOCAL BRITISH CORRESPONDENTS. I SHOULD THEREFORE BE GRATEFUL FOR EARLY AUTHORITY TO RELEASE DETAILS BOTH OF THE CORRESPONDENCE AND OF OUR ABORTIVE EFFORTS TO ARRANGE DELIVERY OF THE PRIME MINISTER'S LETTER.

SUTHERLAND

LIMITED
SOVIET D
NEWS D
RESEARCH D
PS
PS/MR RIFKIND
PS/MR WHITNEY
PS/PUS
SIR J BULLARD

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