

G.R.

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Please type letter.

A.F.C. 3.



Prime Minister.

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

I think this is right.  
Agree that I reply in terms  
of the attached letter.

6 January, 1984

Dear Sir

A.F.C. 6.

Michael Miller

ms.

Women's Campaign for Soviet Jewry

In your letter of 22 December you asked for advice on a request from the Women's Campaign for Soviet Jewry that the Prime Minister should write a foreword to a booklet commemorating the 7th anniversary of the arrest of Anatoly Shcharansky that Mrs Thatcher should be the sole patron of the anniversary.

Our advice is that the request should be refused. Mr Shcharansky is only one of a number of victims of Soviet repression whose cases are pursued by active lobbyists in this country. To offer the Prime Minister's support to one and not to others would involve an invidious choice. The Prime Minister has in any case already done quite a lot for Shcharansky's own case by agreeing to receive his wife on two occasions.

I enclose a draft reply from you to Mrs Eker.

(R B Bone)  
Private Secretary

A J Coles Esq  
10 Downing Street

DRAFT: ~~minute/letter/teleletter/despatch/note~~

TYPE: Draft/Final 1+

FROM:

Reference

PS/No 10

DEPARTMENT:

TEL. NO:

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

TO:

Your Reference

~~Top Secret~~  
Secret  
Confidential  
~~Restricted~~  
Unclassified

Mrs Rita Eker  
Women's Campaign for Soviet Jewry  
96 Kingsley Way  
LONDON N2

Copies to:

PRIVACY MARKING

SUBJECT:

.....In Confidence

The Prime Minister has asked me to thank you for your letter of 19 December about the concert you intend to hold in honour of Anatoly Shcharansky on 25 March. She was also grateful to <sup>know</sup> read the latest news of Mr Shcharansky's condition, which is indeed disturbing.

CAVEAT.....

As you know the Prime Minister takes a particular interest in Mr Shcharansky's case, and has received his wife at No 10 on two occasions. However, Mrs Thatcher does not feel that she can accede to your requests to provide a foreword to your booklet or become patron of the events marking the anniversary. To do so would identify her in a very clear way with a particular name, when there are many victims of Soviet repression about whom she receives representations. Furthermore groups like The Women's Campaign for Soviet Jewry can represent cases like that of Mr Shcharansky most effectively when they are seen to operate independently of the Government, and are not open to the allegation, unfounded, but often made by the Russians, of political rather than humanitarian motivation.

Enclosures—flag(s).....

/The

UNCLASSIFIED

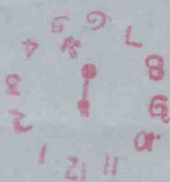
The Prime Minister nevertheless hopes very much that the concert will be a success and that it will draw attention to the plight of a very brave man. She also wishes you and The Women's Campaign all the best for 1984.

A. J. C. <sup>a</sup>/<sub>1</sub>.

UNCLASSIFIED

Soviet Union

Soviet Jenny Jan 1984



JAN 6 1984



cc 720

JL

10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Private Secretary*

9 January 1984

The Prime Minister has asked me to thank you for your letter of 19 December about the concert you intend to hold in honour of Anatoly Shcharansky on 25 March. She was grateful to know the latest news of Mr. Shcharansky's condition, which is indeed disturbing.

As you know the Prime Minister takes a particular interest in Mr. Shcharansky's case, and has received his wife at No. 10 on two occasions. However, Mrs. Thatcher does not feel that she can accede to your requests to provide a foreword to your booklet or become patron of the events marking the anniversary. To do so would identify her in a very clear way with a particular name, when there are many victims of Soviet repression about whom she receives representations. Furthermore, groups like The Women's Campaign for Soviet Jewry can represent cases like that of Mr. Shcharansky most effectively when they are seen to operate independently of the Government, and are not open to the allegation, unfounded, but often made by the Russians, of political rather than humanitarian motivation.

The Prime Minister nevertheless hopes very much that the concert will be a success and that it will draw attention to the plight of a very brave man. She also wishes you and The Women's Campaign all the best for 1984.

A. J. COLES

Mrs. Rita Eker

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Re K

10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Private Secretary*

22 December 1983

Women's Campaign for Soviet Jewry

I enclose a copy of a letter which the Prime Minister has received from Mrs Rita Eker of the Women's Campaign for Soviet Jewry. She asks that the Prime Minister should write a foreword to a souvenir booklet which will commemorate the 7th anniversary of the arrest of Anatoly Shcharansky - and also that Mrs Thatcher should be the patron of this anniversary.

I should be grateful for your advice as soon as possible after the Christmas holidays.

A. J. COLES

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

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ACKD 2012

# WOMEN'S CAMPAIGN FOR SOVIET JEWRY

# 35's

Co-Chairmen: RITA EKER, MARGARET RIGAL

564 Finchley Road, London NW11

Tel: 01-458 7147

Temporary Address from 7.12.83.:  
35's (Women's Campaign for Soviet Jewry),  
c/o Mrs. R. Eker, 96 Kingsley Way, London, N.2.  
Telephone number is still: 01-458 7147.

RE/DC

21  
19th December, 1983.

The Rt. Hon. Mrs. Margaret Thatcher,  
Prime Minister,  
10 Downing Street,  
London, S.W.1.

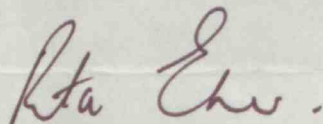
Dear Mrs. Thatcher,

March 15th, 1984, will be the seventh anniversary of the arrest of Anatoly SHCHARANSKY and we are intending to hold a concert in his honour on March 25th. Martin Gilbert will write a souvenir booklet. We should be most grateful if you, Anatoly's outstanding champion, would be so kind as to write a brief foreword and be our only patron.

We have just heard from Avital that Anatoly wrote to his mother on December 1st saying that the pains in his chest were worse. He cannot lie on his left side or make the slightest physical effort without acute stabbing pains and he is now losing the use of his left arm. He told his mother that he is very frightened that this will be used by the authorities as an excuse for further punishment as he cannot possibly complete his work quota but he fears that they may send him back to the punishment block where his rations will be cut even further.

We should all like to send you our best wishes for 1984 and our thanks, once more, for your support and kindness.

Yours sincerely,



Rita Eker,  
on behalf of  
Women's Campaign for Soviet Jewry.