

PRIME MINISTER

"Peace" letters from Soviet citizens

You will recall that you agreed to sign 30 replies to letters which named Soviet citizens had written to you. These will be distributed by the Embassy in Moscow using the normal envelopes employed in the Soviet Union. Your replies are attached. I suggest that you simply put "Margaret Thatcher" at the bottom of each. This will avoid the need to write all the Russian names.

So that you know what you are saying I attach at Flag A the English version.

Secondly, you agreed that the FCO should summon a Soviet Embassy official and hand over a further reply to the very large number of other letters (mostly unsigned) which we received. That reply, which is identical with the others, is at Flag B.

A. J. C.

*Good letter mt*

17 February 1984

## DRAFT REPLY FROM THE PRIME MINISTER

You and many of your Soviet fellow citizens have written to me about your wish for peace. We in Britain share completely your horror of war. That is why our first priority is to avoid the possibility of it ever happening.

I want to make one thing absolutely clear: NATO does not threaten you. It threatens no-one. It is a purely defensive alliance. Together with the other Heads of State and Governments of the NATO countries I declared in June 1982 that 'Our purpose is to prevent war, and while safeguarding democracy, to build the foundations of lasting peace. None of our weapons will ever be used except in response to attack.' I repeat: none of our weapons - nuclear or conventional - will ever be used except in response to attack.

The circular which you sent me asked us to stop the deployment of long-range intermediate missiles in Europe. Let me ask you to put yourself in our place. A year ago we were faced with over a thousand warheads on Soviet medium range missiles. How many did we have in Western Europe? None. That was a profoundly disturbing situation, and it explains why our deployments have begun. But I repeat that none of these missiles will ever be used if NATO is not attacked. Not only this; we have offered that all such weapons on both sides should be eliminated by agreement. Agreement cannot be reached without negotiations; and for the  
/moment

moment the Soviet side has walked away from the talks with the Americans. We want negotiations on nuclear disarmament to be resumed as soon as possible, and without preconditions. We are willing to put all our efforts into achieving the sort of reductions that will reduce East/West tensions and give both sides the security which they want, and to which they have a right.

So, I vote for peace too: let us build on this common wish for a safe and prosperous future.

SOVIET UNION: Relations: Pe

Mark - For the file - to complete  
the saga! Kay 9/3

MR TAYLOR

Mr. Coles has given the "all clear"  
for the sacks of letters from Russia, at  
present in the basement, to be destroyed.

I should be grateful if you would  
put this in hand.

Kay Daves

9 March 1984

Note : "Peace" uNews.

no. 10 didn't retain  
copy of Russian text.



file

See

10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Private Secretary*

21 February 1984

"Peace" letters from Soviet citizens

Thank you for your letter of 30 January.

I now enclose some thirty letters signed by the Prime Minister and addressed to named Soviet recipients and should be grateful if you would arrange for these to be delivered through HM Embassy in Moscow.

I also enclose a letter which the Prime Minister has signed (but which is not addressed to any specific person) and should be grateful if, as previously agreed, you would arrange for it to be handed over to a senior member of the Soviet Embassy.

We have considered here whether it is practicable to sort through the various sacks of letters which were received in order to distinguish between those where no senders' addresses were given and those where addresses were provided. But we doubt whether this is worth the considerable effort which would be necessary. I therefore hope that you could agree to give the Soviet Embassy an oral explanation to the background of the Prime Minister's letter.

A. J. COLES

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

Mr. Coles ✓

6x Soviet  
Relations  
1952

PEACE LETTERS FROM SOVIET CITIZENS.

You asked ~~which~~ which of the letters would be handed over to the Soviet Embassy.

As I understood it the FCO ~~will~~ will hand over an example of the reply sent to the 30 citizens. Assuming it is the Russian version which is required I attach a copy of the text of the letter ~~but~~ with the recipient's name blanked out.

Presumably the FCO's covering letter will explain to the Soviet Diplomat the background to this affair.

Mark  
17/2

Coles.

### PEACE LETTERS FROM SOVIET CITIZENS.

The FCO have now provided final draft replies, in Russian, for the PM to send in reply to 30 Soviet citizens.

The names of the recipients are at the foot of ~~each~~ each letter but it is not clear to me how the letters should be addressed. The choice seems to be between 'Dear Sir or Madam' or leaving ~~it~~ blank. The latter might be the best course, if the PM agrees, given the way in which the page has been laid out.

All is in hand at the Soviet Dept in the FCO for the letters to be despatched in local style envelopes, addressed by hand, for our Embassy staff in Moscow to post.

We will need to send the next of the letters / petitions to the FCO to be handed over to a senior member of the Soviet Embassy as outlined in the last paragraph of Mr. Bone's letter of 30 January.

Will you be writing a covering letter?

Marl.

What is the letter to be handed over to the Soviet Embassy?

JA  $\xrightarrow{16/2}$

Marl  
16/2.



Mr. Bowyer (Private Office) - Downing St. West 51

"I VOTE FOR PEACE" LETTERS TO THE PRIME MINISTER

1. As requested, I have translated into Russian and typed on No 10 paper in Russian the Prime Minister's intended reply to 30 of the thousands of Soviet citizens who had sent letters <sup>to her</sup> under a campaign sponsored by Komsomolskaya Pravda. I now enclose the

Thirty letters, each of which bears the name (but, as instructed, not the full address) of the individual addressee in the bottom left-hand corner. I understand that these letters are now to be signed by the Prime Minister and returned to Soviet Department for forwarding to our Moscow Embassy, where they will be put into Soviet envelopes, hand addressed, and posted locally.

2. I have also prepared in Russian a typed list of the thirty addressees, bearing the full address also. I am sending

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this direct to Soviet Department, who will forward it to our Embassy together with the 30 letters signed by the Prime Minister, whom received.

3. I am sending you separately ~~also~~ <sup>for return to</sup> No 10, the batch of 50 or so letters from which I selected the final thirty addressees who will be sent the PM's reply.

K.A. Bishop.

Soviet Section,

R.D.

15/2/84

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10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Private Secretary*

Harvey Bowyer. (FCO)

We spoke. I enclose the letters. I hope you can find 30 names and addresses which can be used. If not we can easily send you another batch - we've got 24,000 to work our way through!

I have spoken to Mr. Coles who has said:

a) The PM will happily sign 30 photocopies provided the typing is 'reasonable'. (Send it to us if you have definitely decided.)

and b) all of the ~~remain~~ remainder of the letters will be passed over

to a former member of the Soviet Embassy,  
with a reply from the CIA. We will not  
be sorting them into those with and  
those without addresses.

Hopefully this solves any problems. If not  
we'll have to think again.

You'll need to let us know when you  
want the sacks of letters for onward  
transmission to the Soviet Embassy.

Thanks.

Mark Allen.  
1/4/74