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Prime Minister

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

Agree instructions in amended form

London SW1A 2AH

9 March 1984

A.J.C. $\frac{9}{2}$

Jon [unclear]

Yes not

Mrs Ida Nudel

Mrs Fridman, sister of the well-known Soviet refusenik, Mrs Ida Nudel, has approached our Ambassador in Tel Aviv to ask if the Prime Minister would be willing to take up her sister's case with the Soviet Ambassador in London. The Prime Minister has previously taken an interest in this case, and wrote to Mrs Fridman herself on 22 February 1982 (I enclose a copy of the letter).

The present position is that Mrs Nudel has completed her term of internal exile in the Soviet Union but is forbidden to live in Moscow and continues to be refused permission to emigrate.

We would propose to instruct our Ambassador in Tel Aviv to reply to Mrs Fridman along the following lines:

The Ambassador should confirm that British Ministers, including the Prime Minister, attach considerable importance to the better observance of human rights in the Soviet Union, and to the Russians' carrying out their commitments in this field under the Helsinki Final Act and the Madrid Concluding Document. While the Prime Minister is ~~certainly~~ aware of Mrs Nudel's case and has full sympathy with her ~~continued ordeal~~, we have to consider carefully how we raise specific cases. Mrs Fridman ~~must~~ therefore ^{we} leave to us the decision as to the level, manner and timing of any future approach to the Russians about her sister. ~~However, she may rest assured that~~ ^{but} Mrs Nudel's case will not be forgotten.

Mrs. Fridman will

hope that

I would be grateful to know if the Prime Minister is content that we should send instructions to Tel Aviv in these terms.

[Handwritten signature]

(R B Bone)
Private Secretary

A J Coles Esq
10 Downing Street

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HM AMBASSADOR TEL AVIV TO MRS. FRIDMAN

The Ambassador should confirm that British Ministers, including the Prime Minister, attach considerable importance to the better observance of human rights in the Soviet Union, and to the Russians' carrying out their commitments in this field under the Helsinki Final Act and the Madrid Concluding Document. While the Prime Minister is aware of Mrs. Nudel's case and has full sympathy with her, we have to consider carefully how we raise specific cases. We therefore hope that Mrs. Fridman will leave to us the decision as to the level, manner and timing of any future approach to the Russians about her sister. But Mrs. Nudel's case will not be forgotten.

A. J. COLES

10 DOWNING STREET. N U D E L

22 February 1982

Thank you for your letter of the 3 January about your sister Ida Nudel.

I remain very concerned at your sister's plight. We have, as you know, raised her case on several occasions at the CSCE meeting in Madrid, where our delegation have taken a leading role in pressing for a much needed improvement in the Soviet record on human rights. They have drawn particular attention to the treatment of Soviet Jews. We hope in this way to bring about a more liberal attitude on the part of the Soviet authorities from which your sister and others may benefit.

We shall continue to take opportunities to remind the Soviet authorities of humanitarian obligations they have accepted under the terms of the Helsinki Final Act.

I am encouraged to hear that your sister may be released in March, though this will be only the first step towards her leaving the Soviet Union to join you in Israel. If, however, she is not released we shall have to consider raising her case again. Perhaps you could keep us informed of developments?

Mrs Elena Fridman

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File 46

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

12 March 1984

MRS IDA NUDEL

Thank you for your letter of
9 March.

The Prime Minister agrees that
HM Ambassador in Tel Aviv should reply
to the approach of Mrs. Fridman on the
lines suggested in your letter. But
Mrs. Thatcher would prefer a slightly
revised instruction, the text of which
I enclose with this letter.

A. J. COLES

Roger Bone Esq
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

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