



Prime Minister

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

The Foreign Secretary's Office

London SW1A 2AH

You should not carry on the  
correspondence in London. - *Need*

9 April, 1984

A.S.C.g.  
/4.

Dear John,

Soviet 'Peace' Letters

You asked us to consider whether it would be worth the Prime Minister replying to the letter from Mrs Tereshkova which was published alongside her own in Komsomolskaya Pravda last month.

While we believe that Mrs Tereshkova's points should not remain unanswered, and there is no particular problem in producing a convincing retort, we do not think that another letter from the Prime Minister would be the right way to do this. Our Embassy in Moscow have advised that the Russians are most unlikely to publish another letter in this exchange: Komsomolskaya Pravda have already refused to publish a similar letter from Chancellor Kohl. We will not therefore repeat the most significant achievement of the Prime Minister's first letter - that of being read by the Soviet man in the street. And our appearing to try to have the last word in the exchange (as the Russians would see it) would risk impairing the chances of similar publication of a letter from the Prime Minister on some future occasion.

The Foreign Secretary also believes that if we are to continue to be treated as serious interlocutors in the East/West dialogue we need to be careful not to be seen to be operating too much on a purely polemical level, and above all not to risk devaluing in any way the currency of the Prime Minister's involvement (the impact of her appearance in Moscow at Andropov's funeral was considerable). A letter from the Prime Minister to the Soviet Union's first woman astronaut, while it would have publicity value domestically, would nevertheless carry risks on both these counts.

We would, however, be looking for an early opportunity to include a reference to Mrs Tereshkova's letter, and our rebuttal of the points she makes, in a Ministerial speech on arms control, and we are also setting about the preparation of the Prime Minister's exchange with the Soviet 'I Vote for Peace' campaign which will be published in 'Defence and Disarmament Issues', a pamphlet put out by the FCO which receives a wide distribution to the press and to individuals.

*Gommes,*

*Len Appleyard*

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 1AA

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10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Private Secretary*

16 April, 1984

SOVIET "PEACE" LETTERS

Thank you for your letter of 9 April. The Prime Minister agrees with the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary's recommendation that we should not attempt to pursue the correspondence in Pravda.

A. J. COLES

L.V. Appleyard, Esq.,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

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