



QUEEN ANNE'S GATE LONDON SW1H 9AT

19 April 1984

R Nich,

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24/4

Thank you for your letter of 30 March about the cases of Mr Igor Rykov and Mr R C Oleg Khlan, two Soviet soldiers at present in Pakistan, in which you asked for clarification of the sponsorship requirement referred to by the Prime Minister in her letter of 27 March, and for your further letter of 3 April.

In the past when we have been able to agree to the admission of individuals with no connections here and no entitlement to come here, it has not been unusual for us to ask for a sponsor or sponsoring organisation who will undertake to assist the individuals in practical and financial ways for an initial period until they can stand on their own. This was one of the requirements that was made when we agreed to take some Polish refugees from Austria in 1982.

In requesting sponsorship we have in mind that private funds would be made available to bring Mr Rykov and Mr Khlan to this country and that arrangements would be made for their reception and accommodation for an initial period. Provided that they are personally acceptable we would envisage admission for an initial period of 12 months on an exceptional basis with no restrictions on their taking employment. This would enable them to receive some social benefits, including access to the National Health Service. But we would expect arrangements to be made for them to be accommodated privately for up to 12 months and for any additional needs that they may have to be met from private sources. Much, of course, will depend on how able and willing Mr Rykov and Mr Khlan are to adapt to their new life but we would not expect that the support required from the sponsors should extend for longer than 12 months.

I appreciate that making the arrangements for sponsorship is not easy, but I understand that you judge you have identified sponsors who will meet our requirements. I suggest that you also approach the British Refugee Council, which may be prepared to offer some assistance. The Council is, of course, a very responsible organisation and very experienced in matters of this kind. You may like to contact the Council through Bernard Braine, who is a member of their Executive Committee.

If you are content with the terms of sponsorship I have outlined, we will proceed to interview Mr Rykov and Mr Khlan.

I am grateful to you for treating the matter in confidence. I am sure that premature publicity at this stage would be unhelpful.

I would have no objection to your passing a copy of this letter to Mr Marcetic, which perhaps he would take as replying also to his letter to me of 4 April.

Law,
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Afghanistan

PTG Internal Situation

If you are content with the form of something I have outlined,
we will proceed to interview Mr. Rytov and Mr. Khrushchev.

I am grateful to you for treating the matter in confidence. I am
sure that pressure publicity at this stage would be unhelpful.

I would have no objection to your passing a copy of this letter to
Mr. Khrushchev, which perhaps he would take as reply to a letter
to me of 11 April.

4 APR 1961

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