



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

Prime Minister (2)

8 June 1984

To be aware.

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Joe David,

The Sakharovs

The Foreign Secretary and Mr Rifkind saw Mr and Mrs Yankelevich on 6 June.

Mr and Mrs Yankelevich had no definite news of the Sakharovs to report and were finding reliable information hard to come by now that both the Sakharovs were isolated in Gorky. While not ruling out completely the possibility that Dr Sakharov might already be dead, they thought it more likely that he was in hospital. They thought rumours of his death in the British press last weekend were the result of Soviet disinformation, possibly to probe Western reactions.

Mr Yankelevich floated two suggestions: that Mrs Gandhi be prevailed on to invite Mrs Bonner to India, and that some Western countries might threaten to withdraw from the CSCE process. We made clear that the second point was very far reaching. On the first point we gave no commitment, but we will be looking into this in consultation with Sir R Wade-Gery.

(R B Bone)
Private Secretary

D Barclay Esq
10 Downing Street



file *SSA*

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

12 June 1984

The Sakharovs

Thank you for your letter of 8 June reporting on the Foreign Secretary's meeting with Mr and Mrs Yankelevich. The Prime Minister has seen your letter and noted its contents without comment.

David Barclay

Roger Bone Esq
Foreign and Commonwealth Office