



QUEEN ANNE'S GATE LONDON SW1H 9AT

17 October 1984

Dear Geoffrey,

SOVIET PRISONERS OF THE AFGHAN RESISTANCE

Thank you for your minute of 17 September outlining the efforts being made to foster co-operation on the resettlement of Soviet soldiers between our allies and EC partners.

I am sure it is right that co-operation should be pursued to encourage burden sharing on the resettlement of Soviet soldiers. As you know, however, the current efforts on that front are not the first and it seems likely that any agreement will take time to emerge. In the meantime we are faced with the applications recently lodged by Mr Sandy Gall which now have the support of Count Tolstoy's organisation. While we can defer consideration of those for some time, it is difficult to do so for a long period given our previous deferral of consideration of two cases raised by that organisation earlier this year, our stated concern for such cases on humanitarian grounds and our previously expressed readiness to examine them on their individual merits.

We have been in touch with Mr Miller, who has said that Naumov, one of the three Soviet prisoners put forward by Sandy Gall, is in fact one of the two he raised earlier this year. He believes that the other, Chukin, is almost certainly dead. We cannot, however, reasonably defer consideration on the pretext of urging him to make more efforts to seek resettlement for them in other Western countries since it is apparent from our conversation with him that considerable efforts have already been made. His group have been using the Russian emigre communities in North America in close co-operation with the Russian Orthodox Church to raise funds and provide sponsorship for Soviet prisoners. In addition, in June, Count Tolstoy wrote to all NATO Governments asking them to co-operate in relieving the plight of the soldiers. So far only the French and Italians have replied. Both have indicated a cautious willingness to accept Soviet prisoners on an individual basis. Miller himself has been to Europe on visits to Belgium, France, Germany and Holland to raise funds and stimulate interest amongst the Russian communities there.

As you know, a reply to Sandy Gall is still outstanding and against the background I have outlined I do not think we can offer, as you suggest, a reply which relies on the outcome of Western response to co-operation and the successful resettlement of Rykov and Khlan. In particular, it would not stand easy with our humanitarian stance and stated policy of considering applications on their individual merits. Even if we started to process the applications now it would take time before we were in a position to reach a decision, particularly given your understanding of the Pakistanis' current reluctance to co-operate. In consequence, to defer all action on the applications pending progress on Western co-operation would, whatever the outcome, leave us with a considerable delay to explain. I therefore think it important that we should take some preliminary steps to prepare the way for the processing of the applications and the first of these would be to obtain a clearer idea from the Pakistanis as to what their current attitude is to further cases. In the meantime we would explain to Mr Gall that, whilst the applications are being considered, it is not possible

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..... at this stage to say when the results will be known. I attach a copy of a draft reply for No 10 to send to Mr Gall.

As for Rykov and Khlan, I am sure that the sponsorship arrangements made in their cases have proved their value and that sponsorship should be a requirement in any future cases we agree to admit. For the reasons given in your minute I agree that Lord Bethell should be told frankly that we cannot support Rykov and Khlan's applications to the Canadians. In a recent letter to me Lord Bethell expressed considerable pessimism about the outcome of the applications.

I should in due course be grateful to know the outcome of your Department's approach to the Pakistanis.

I am copying this letter to the Prime Minister and Sir Robert Armstrong.

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— uw,
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DRAFT LETTER

ADDRESSEE'S REFERENCE

TO	ENCLOSURES	COPIES TO BE SENT TO
<p>S Gall Esq</p> <p>(FULL POSTAL ADDRESS)</p>	<p style="text-align: center; color: red;">DRAFT</p>	<p>1 Home Office</p> <p>2 Foreign & Commonwealth Office</p> <p>(FULL ADDRESSES, IF NECESSARY)</p>

LETTER DRAFTED FOR SIGNATURE BY C D Powell
 (NAME OF SIGNATORY)

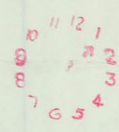
Last month you passed the Prime Minister a letter from three Soviet soldiers, Mr Naumov, Mr Busov and Mr Plotnikov, who are prisoners of the Afghan Resistance and seek asylum in the United Kingdom.

The letter was passed to the Home Office, which has responsibility for deciding such applications, and is being considered there. As you will appreciate, however, the circumstances of the applicants raise a number of difficult issues and I understand that at this stage it is not possible to say when a decision will be reached.

Afghanistan: Internal Situation Pt 6.

DRAFT LETTER

ADDRESSEE'S REFERENCE

COPIES TO BE SENT TO 1. New Office 1. Foreign & Commonwealth Office	ENCLOSURES 18 OCT 1984 	TO 1. Civil Serv
(FULL ADDRESS, IF NECESSARY)		(FULL POSTAL ADDRESS)

LETTER DRAFTED FOR SIGNATURE BY C D Powell

(NAME OF SIGNATORY)

Last month you asked the Prime Minister a letter from the
 Soviet Embassy in London, Mr. Powell and Mr. [unclear] was
 the presence of the Afghan Embassy and was kept in the
 United Kingdom.

The letter was passed to the New Office, which has responsibility
 for dealing with applications, and is being considered there.
 you will appreciate however the circumstances of the application
 were a number of different issues and I expected that at this
 stage it is not possible to say what a decision will be reached.