

# WOMEN'S CAMPAIGN FOR SOVIET JEWRY

Co-Chairmen: RITA EKER, MARGARET RIGAL

35's (Women's Campaign for Soviet Jewry)  
Please note address from 1977/84:  
755A Finchley Road, London NW11  
Telephone numbers are still: 01-458 7148/9

MR/RE

13th December 1984

The Rt. Hon. Mrs. Margaret Thatcher  
Prime Minister  
10, Downing Street  
London S.W.1.

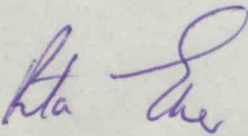
Dear Mrs. Thatcher,

We always find new reasons for thanking you. Really and truly we are overcome with gratitude at your kindness for allowing us to deliver to No. 10 Downing Street our sack of postcards addressed to Mr. Gorbachev.

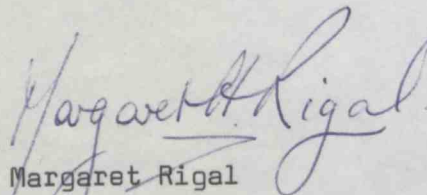
We know that the Soviet Embassy would never accept these cards from us, but we trust that they will hesitate to refuse them if they come from Downing Street. We have distributed 30,000 postcards within the last fortnight, the great majority of which will be arriving by post at the Embassy in the next few days. However, the impact of cards coming from your office will not only increase the effect, but add enormously to the public interest in our campaign for Soviet Jews.

We can only thank you once again and hope that 1985 will be a successful and happy year for you, for this country and for our many friends in the Soviet Union.

Yours sincerely,



Rita Eker



Margaret Rigal

on behalf of  
Women's Campaign for Soviet Jewry

JK

Handwritten scribbles and marks

13~~th~~ December 1984

The Prime Minister has asked me to thank you and Mrs Rigal for your letter of 13 December.

Mrs Thatcher was most grateful for your kind words and has asked me to pass on her best wishes to the Women's Campaign for Soviet Jewry.

(TIM FLESHER)

Mrs Rita Eker

Handwritten signature

# WOMEN'S CAMPAIGN FOR SOVIET JEWRY

Co-Chairmen: RITA EKER, MARGARET RIGAL

35's (Women's Campaign for Soviet Jewry)  
Please note address from 19/7/84:  
755A Finchley Road, London NW11  
Telephone numbers are still: 01-458 7148/9

RE/DC

12th December, 1984.

RIS

The Rt. Hon. Mrs. Margaret Thatcher,  
Prime Minister,  
10 Downing Street,  
London, S.W.1.

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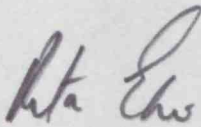
Dear Mrs. Thatcher,

We are sending you our calendar for 1985 in the hope that it will be a better and a happier year for all who are suffering persecution throughout the world and in particular for our friends in the Soviet Union.

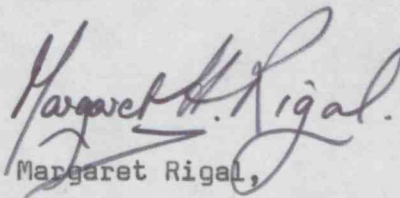
May we take this opportunity of thanking you once more for your sympathy and concern. As you know, Soviet Jews rely on you to champion their cause in international circles and your name brings comfort and security to them.

With every good wish from us all,

Yours sincerely,



Rita Eker and



Margaret Rigal,

Co-Chairmen,  
Women's Campaign for Soviet Jewry.

Enclosure

APPEAL from Mark NEPOMNIASHCHY which reached us 4.12.84  
dictated by Mark to friends the day before his arrest.

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I ask the people and the Government of Israel and all people of goodwill, to help Jacob Levin and many of us who signed the letter for repatriation to Israel.

We consider ourselves the citizens of Israel and we think that the Israeli Government has to send a lawyer to the trial of Jacob Levin, especially as it is not a trial but a reprisal. We think that International lawyers organisations must send their representatives too because our appeal for repatriation was not addressed only to Israel.

I ask for help not only for Jacob Levin but for all the Prisoners of Zion, for all the Jews of the USSR. Save us! Help us to depart from here! Help those of us who stay here to be able to study our culture, our language, our history!

I ask all the Jews in the world to make a special day for the Defence of Soviet Jewry. Let everyone help us according to his or her ability and ways; with prayers; with fasting and with demonstrations.

I ask you to help me too. If legal actions are taken against me I will ask for the same help which I asked for Jacob Levin because I signed the same letter for repatriation and because I am a citizen of Israel too. I would like you to demand the presence of an Israeli lawyer and the representatives from international lawyers organisations. I would like you to demand the revision of the cases of all Prisoners of Zion, because they were imprisoned only because they either wished to leave the USSR or to study Hebrew, Jewish culture, Jewish history and traditions, to know and to pass the knowledge to others. This was their real guilt, though they were imprisoned under various pretexts. Our hands are tied. We cannot do anything; we cannot publish anything in newspapers; we have no approach to broadcasting; we cannot demonstrate; we cannot even demand answers to our letters, so we ask you to demand from the Soviet Government answers to our appeals such as the letter for repatriation, or the denial of the statement of Anti-Zionist Committee that no Jews wish to leave the USSR. We have endangered ourselves signing these letters. Everyone of us can be arrested tomorrow on some false pretext, as was in the case of Jacob Levin who, during three years was persecuted by the KGB because of his strictly Jewish activities and now suddenly is charged with Anti-Soviet activities. It is just because there is no paragraph in Soviet laws charging a person with the desire to be a Jew, to study and to teach how to be a Jew.

I appeal to former Prisoners of Zion, to the relatives of those who are locked up here, to all who were lucky to depart from here. I ask you to explain to the world that people are sentenced here just because their desire to be Jews.

I ask you to stop this shameful reprisal. I ask for help. It is already five years that my family tries to be repatriated to Israel. We have suffered a lot because of the actions of the KGB. Our home was searched on three separate occasions. We were taken for interrogation more than once. We were commanded to stop the teaching of Hebrew, the observance of our holidays and Shabbath. The Chief of the Jewish Department of the Odessa KGB, Col. Krasnov, promised me to introduce me to Shcharansky, i.e. to imprison me the same place. There were a lot of harsh threats from the KGB. For example, when they knew that Jacob Levin was going to marry my daughter, they told him: "He will not marry her. We shall put him in a cell with homosexuals, and we shall put her in a cell with criminals who will rape her before your eyes. Can I be prudent in such a situation? Can I lie low when my daughter is deprived of the right to marry the man she loves? Have I to wait for my kin to become extinct? Perhaps this appeal is our only defence. PLEASE HELP MY DAUGHTER TO COME TO ISRAEL. PLEASE HELP HER BRIDEGROOM TO GET FREE. PLEASE HELP THEM TO BE MARRIED AND TO LIVE IN ISRAEL.

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10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Private Secretary*

18 December 1984

In the absence of the Prime Minister who, as you know, left yesterday for a visit to China, Hong Kong and Washington, I am writing to thank you and Mrs Rigal for your letter of 12 December and for the calendar which you enclosed with your letter.

I know the Prime Minister would wish me to thank you most sincerely for the nice things you say and would also wish me to send you all her best wishes for next year.

(Mrs Caroline Ryder)

Mrs Rita Eker

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