

Prime Minister



Difficult as it is
to do so, the task

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

is to steer Mrs. Shcharansky
towards a lower profile
approach. Her present tactics appear to

9 July, 1985

Dear Charles, ^{he making the Russians}
more obdurate & defiant.

Call by Mrs Avital Shcharansky

CDP 1/7.

/ The Prime Minister has agreed to see Mrs Shcharansky
/ tomorrow afternoon. I attach some points to make and a
short background note.

Mrs Shcharansky is making a round of Western capitals lobbying on behalf of her husband in the hopes that a 'final heave' by Western leaders at the Helsinki Tenth Anniversary will secure his release. Our impression from the Russians when we raised Anatoly Shcharansky's name in the margins of the Ottawa Human Rights' Meeting was that, if anything, they are more determined than ever not to be seen to be backing down in response to Western pressure on high profile cases. The Prime Minister may remember that it was for Mr Shcharansky that Mr Gorbachev (in conversation with Mr Kinnock last December) saved his strongest language. In the circumstances, it would clearly not be right to take too optimistic a line with Mrs Shcharansky.

Yours ever,

Colin Budd

(C R Budd)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
10 Downing Street



CALL ON THE PRIME MINISTER BY MRS AVITAL SHCHARANSKY:
10 JULY 1985

POINTS TO MAKE

1. Concerned about your not having heard from Mr Shcharansky.
2. No evidence we have heard to corroborate speculation that he may be being retried, though possibility cannot be ruled out.
3. Continue to raise his name at highest levels: I raised with Gorbachev December last year. Sir Anthony Williams raised with Soviet delegation at Ottawa Human Rights' Meeting. No cause for hope of any early change in Soviet position in their replies. They continue to refer to allegations that Mr Shcharansky was a US agent on the basis that he passed information to US Embassy in 1976.
4. Tenth Anniversary of CSCE in Helsinki clearly offers opportunity to raise human rights issues. Sir G Howe will be attending and will probably meet Shevardnadze. We will certainly be thinking of raising individual cases, including your husband's.
5. If efforts at Helsinki prove unsuccessful, might be worth considering lower profile approach. Problem is that Mr Shcharansky's case in danger of becoming matter of national pride to the Russians.



ANATOLY SHCHARANSKY

1. Anatoly Shcharansky was charged with treason and anti-Soviet agitation and propaganda in 1978 and sentenced to 3 years' imprisonment (backdated to January 1977) and 10 years in a strict regime labour camp. He is at present in camp number 36 in the Perm complex in Siberia. He suffers from a heart condition which has been aggravated by numerous periods of solitary confinement and several hunger strikes since his imprisonment. According to his mother, who visited him in January, Mr Shcharansky had just spent 9 weeks in hospital and his general health remained poor. The prison authorities subsequently informed Mrs Milgrom that she would not be allowed to see her son again this year. It has been rumoured recently that Mr Shcharansky is again in the punishment block.

2. Mrs Shcharansky is reported to be calling on a number of world leaders in a new attempt to bring her husband's plight to public attention in connexion with the CSCE Tenth Anniversary. She has not heard from him for some time and fears that he may be undergoing an internal trial in his labour camp which may result in him being sent back to Chistopol Prison.