

● Prime Minister

It would be a very nice gesture if I could send a reply back on your behalf thanking him for the message & praising his fortitude.

London SE1

6 September 1985

Dear Charles

CJP  
6/9.

HETMAN

1. As I mentioned to you HETMAN was told on the evening of 4 September of the Prime Minister's decision not to pursue any further the attempt to secure the release of his family.

2. His response was amazingly robust. While obviously disappointed he has assured us that he fully understands the reasons behind the Prime Minister's decision. To prove the point, he has drafted a message to her, which I forward as an attachment to this letter.

3. I should perhaps explain the somewhat elliptical reasoning in his third paragraph. HETMAN has adapted his thinking to the reality of the situation and now hopes that a firm stance by HMG will, in the long run, work in his favour. His thought is that, faced with the disadvantages of a hard British line, the Soviet authorities will be prompted to offer up his family as part of some general package of measures aimed at improving Anglo-Soviet relations. It would of course be wrong to discourage him at this stage from clinging to this, admittedly slender, hope.

Yours ever  
Colin

Colin McColl

C D Powell Esq  
10 Downing St.

MESSAGE TO PRIME MINISTER

I should like you to know how deeply grateful I am for the concern and effort which you and other Ministers and officials have given to the problem of trying to save my family. I also appreciate that to set aside normal procedures and to allow the unofficial approach to go forward was a unique act of great generosity and humanity.

Although I had prayed for an early reunion with my wife and children, I fully accept and understand the reasons for taking decisive action in response to the insulting statement passed through Mr Rubinski. Indeed, I am proud to have been able to work for a country which shows no fear in dealing resolutely with such threats and bullying tactics.

I must, however, go on hoping that some way can be found to secure the release of my family as, without them, my life has no meaning. The firmness and scale of the action which Britain is preparing to take and the increasing success of the West in exposing the activities and agents of Soviet and other Communist intelligence services may provide the means whereby my fervent hope can be fulfilled.

Meanwhile, I will continue to do everything I can to help in strengthening the cause of freedom and democracy and the security of Great Britain.