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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

29 May 1986

CC Blue
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PRESS

Prime Minister

COF
29/5.

Dear Charles

Call on the Prime Minister by Mrs E Bonner: 30 May

I understand that the meeting between the Prime Minister and Mrs Bonner has now been fixed for 9.30 am on 30 May.

I attach a short background note giving details of recent contacts with members of the Sakharov family and official action taken on Dr Sakharov's behalf.

There are reports that, at her meetings with M. Chirac, Mme Weil and M. Leotard in Paris yesterday, Mrs Bonner expressed "terrible fears" about her husband's well being, and the hope that European governments would press for him to be allowed to return to Moscow.

The Prime Minister will no doubt wish to enquire about the current state of health and situation of both Mrs Bonner and Dr Sakharov and to reassure her that we will continue to voice our concern with the Soviet authorities about Dr Sakharov's plight at every suitable occasion. (One such high level occasion could be the eventual visit of the Soviet Foreign Minister, Shevardnadze.)

The Prime Minister might like to ask Mrs Bonner whether she believes that the fact of her return could make it more likely that the Soviet authorities will let Dr Sakharov return to Moscow. (We have picked up some rumours in Moscow that the Sakharovs' flat has recently been refurbished in Mrs Bonner's absence; and this could conceivably be a sign that the couple will be allowed to return to Moscow.) Mrs Bonner has said publicly on a number of occasions that her latest visit abroad was personally sanctioned by Gorbachev. It would be interesting to know whether she puts greater hopes on him than on his predecessors.

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The Prime Minister should also be aware that the President of the Royal Society, Sir George Porter, who is calling on her this afternoon will be visiting the Soviet Union on 30 May for talks with the Royal Society's opposite numbers in the Academy of Sciences. He has told us that he will again be asking for permission to see Dr Sakharov though he does not expect this to be granted. He may be talking to Mrs Bonner in the course of today.

Yours ever

R N Culshaw

(R N Culshaw)

C D Powell Esq
PS/10 Downing Street

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CALL BY MRE E BONNER

BACKGROUND NOTE

1. Academician Andrei Sakharov is perhaps the best known of all Soviet dissidents. An outstanding nuclear physicist, he has been active in the defence of human rights in the Soviet Union since 1970. He was winner of the Nobel Peace Prize in 1975. Since March 1980, he has been in exile at Gorky, about 250 miles east of Moscow. In late 1985 Mrs Bonner was allowed to travel once again to the West for medical treatment after repeated hunger-strikes by Dr Sakharov (who has remained in Gorky).
2. Over the years, we and other Western governments have taken a close interest in the Sakharovs' case and have made many demarches to the Soviet authorities. The Prime Minister personally raised Dr Sakharov's case with Mr Gorbachev in December 1984. In January 1984 she met Dr Sakharov's stepdaughter, Tatiana Yankelevich.
3. At Ministerial level, the Sakharovs' case was most recently raised with the Soviet authorities by Mr Rifkind during his Moscow meeting with Mr Kornienko in July 1985, and subsequently by the Secretary of State during his meeting with Mr Shevardnadze in Helsinki in August 1985. The Secretary of State and Mr Rifkind also met Mr and Mrs Yankevelich on 6 June 1984.
4. At Official level, Dr Sakharov's case has been raised many times in the CSCE context. Most recently it was raised by the Head of the UK Delegation to the CSCE Experts Meeting on Human Contacts in Berne in a bilateral session with his Soviet opposite number in early May. The latter did not respond.

R E S T R I C T E D



5. On the occasion of Dr Sakharov's 65th birthday, President Reagan recently proclaimed May 21 1986 Andrei Sakharov Day in the US.

U13AAL

R E S T R I C T E D

MR POWELL

PRIME MINISTER

Prime Minister

Agree to photograph
in the garden?

CDM

You have agreed to meet Mrs Yelena Sakharov tomorrow at 09.30 hours. The press have shown considerable interest in your meeting and we should have a good turnout of photographers and television.

If the weather is nice tomorrow morning, I suggest we arrange the photocall in the garden which will offer a less formal setting for the pictures. If not, we can have the pictures taken in the Blue Room.

Content, weather permitting, to meet Mrs Sakharov in the garden?

Yes mb

Michael Horne.

MICHAEL HORNE
PRESS OFFICE

29 May 1986

~~Don't ask.~~

scpc ✓



With the compliments of
~~RUSSELL DIXON~~
~~THE PRIVATE SECRETARY~~

This press cutting is
relevant to ~~ATTACHED~~
Robert Wishaw's letter
of 29 May concerning
Mrs Bonners call on
The PM.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE
SW1A 2AH

28 MAY 1986

Soviet
WED

'Ordeal by camera' awaits Mrs Bonner back in Russia

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cc RUSIA
LION

By MICHAEL FIELD in Paris

MRS YELENA BONNER, wife of Dr Andrei Sakharov, the dissident Russian scientist, yesterday told friends in Paris of the ordeal she expects to undergo on her return to Russia on Monday.

Mrs Bonner, who flies to Britain today to meet Mrs Thatcher, yesterday saw President Mitterrand and M. Chaban-Delmas, President of the French National Assembly.

She has cut out a planned visit to Oslo. She said she was too tired, but London and Rome remain on her itinerary before the flight to Moscow.

Mrs Bonner underwent multiple by-pass surgery for a heart condition while in America, where surgeons told her she should return for examination within two years.

"When I get out of the train at Gorki and kiss Andrei, my husband, the KGB will be filming us. When we go home, they will still be there. It is an unbearable feeling," Mrs Bonner said.

The shock of seeing so many false films and pictures of herself and her husband since she has been in the West seems to have decided her to sue any organisation using new films or photographs reaching the West after her return to the Soviet Union.

"How is it that Western doctors do not react when they see the way their Soviet colleagues violate medical secrecy and allow the KGB to film Sakharov in hospital?" she asked.

Mrs Bonner said that in 5 years she had only once noticed being filmed. It was when she



Mrs Yelena Bonner

was shopping in the market. She admitted the films were cleverly faked and sometimes found it difficult to see how the montages had been done.

She ironically called the films "anti-Soviet" since they gave away the fact that she and her husband were being constantly bugged and filmed, which was a violation of Soviet law.

Mrs Bonner's immediate, unchanged, aim is for Dr Sakharov to return with her to their Moscow apartment where, in spite of their absence, two militiamen still stand guard day and night.

She said Dr Sakharov's position was "doubly illegal" because he had not been condemned by a court but exiled to Gorki without trial. He had also been there since 1980 and according to the penal code, citizens could not be assigned to residence for more than 5 years.

When she appealed against her own internal exile, the Supreme Court had itself gone to Gorki so as not to attract the attention of foreign journalists and Sakharov's friends in Moscow. This was "unprecedented in the annals of Soviet justice," she said.

KGB rumours

Mrs Bonner did not know if she would be allowed to stay a few days in Moscow where she wanted to see a few friends and go shopping.

"There's neither butter nor margarine but sometimes cheese. When there is meat or fish, huge queues form. Vegetables at the collective farm market came from the Ukraine. Now, after the Chernobyl accident, what?"

But she was most concerned about her husband's health and the danger of his total isolation at Gorki.

After his bad heart attack, which left him very weak, rumours had circulated in the West that Dr Sakharov had died. "These rumours were doubtless put out by the KGB to test the effect of the news on Western public opinion," she said.

"I undertook not to give press conferences and interviews. I have honoured that promise. But when journalists ask me questions at an airport I can reply to them," she said.

Ordeal by camera awaits Mrs Bonner back in Russia

By MICHAEL FIELD in Paris

MRS YELENA BONNER, wife of Dr Sakharov, the dissenting Russian scientist, is expected to return to Paris of the ordeal she is expected to undergo on her return to Russia on Monday.

Mrs Bonner, who dies in Britain today to meet Mrs Thatcher yesterday saw President Mitterrand and Mr Charles De Gaulle, President of the French National Assembly.

She has not yet a planned visit to Paris, she said, and she was to head off to London and Paris for the ordeal on her return to Paris on Monday.

The paper's report says that Mrs Bonner's return to Paris is a heart-rending scene in America.

Some sources told her she should return for examination



UNIVERSITY OF GLASGOW

DEPARTMENT OF
SLAVONIC LANGUAGES
AND LITERATURES



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EXT. 255

24 - 5 - 1986

Mr. Charles Powell,
10, Downing Street,
London SW1.

Dear Mr. Powell,

Mrs. Andrei Sakharov (Elena Bonner)

LCF
ed. ym pluss
refuse Dr. Wynn
e say ok. for the son
e daughter to come
CDP 2070

Now that I am - briefly - back at my base I should like to thank you most warmly for your help and cooperation over Mrs. Sakharova's imminent visit to the Prime Minister on May 30th.

I should add that Mrs. Sakharova intends to come to the U.K. with her son (Aleksey Semyonov), who will interpret at the meeting in Downing Street unless, of course, the Prime Minister prefers to rely on her own Russian interpreter. I have heard that Mrs. Sakharova's daughter (Tatyana Yankelevich) may also be flying into Britain on Thursday. It is almost unnecessary to add that everyone realizes it is for the Prime Minister to decide how many visitors she wishes to receive.

The person to contact about any details of the arrangements is, as hitherto, Dr. Allan Wynn, 1, Doyley Street, London SW1X 9AQ. His telephone number is 730-0923.

Yours faithfully,

Martin Dewhurst

(Martin Dewhurst)



VB

10 DOWNING STREET
London SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

14 May 1986

The Prime Minister has asked me to thank you for your letter of 9 May about the proposed visit of Mrs. Sakharov. This is simply to confirm that the Prime Minister will be delighted to see Mrs. Sakharov at 0930 on Friday, 30 May at 10 Downing Street. We shall be in touch nearer the time about press arrangements.

CAROLINE RYDER

Martin Dewhirst, Esq.

dfg

R1215 AB

FIFTH INTERNATIONAL SAKHAROV HEARING

Prime Minister ①
Agreed to
see Mr. Sakharov?
CDP
12/5

Address for correspondence:
Dr. A. Wynn, Apartment 5, 1 Doyley Street,
London SW1X 9AQ,
Tel: 01-730 0923

9 May, 1986

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* Dr. Andrei Sakharov's
personal representative.

** President, Andrei Sakharov
Institute, USA.

The Rt. Hon. Margaret Thatcher, P.C., F.R.S., M.P.,
10, Downing Street,
London, SW1.

0930 - 9412h

Dear Prime Minister,

Elena Bonner (Mrs. Andrei Sakharov)

I think it was at the beginning of 1984 that you kindly
agreed to see Mr. and Mrs. Efrem Yankelevich, the son-in-law
and daughter of the wife of Academician Sakharov. Mrs. Sakharov
will shortly be returning to Europe after medical treatment in
the U.S.A., and I have just been informed in the strictest
confidence that she would apply for permission to visit the U.K.
between May 26 and May 29, provided that you were able and
willing to meet her at some point during that period.

Yes no

May I ask you to inform the family of your response via Dr.
Allan Wynn (address and telephone number as above)?

We wish in any event to thank you for your continuing
interest in the human rights situation in the U.S.S.R.

Yours faithfully,

Martin Dewhurst

(Martin Dewhurst)

939-313