

למען אחי ורעי



המועצה הציבורית למען יהודי ברית המועצות
THE ISRAEL PUBLIC COUNCIL FOR SOVIET JEWRY

12 January 1987

The Rt. Margaret Thatcher
10 Downing street
London S.W.1
England

Dear Mrs. Thatcher,

We have come to England from our Homeland Israel to ask for your help. We are well aware of your efforts on behalf of Soviet Jewry and would welcome your support on behalf of our families who are still in the USSR.

We sincerely appreciate the fact that you were willing to fit us into your busy schedule. As a mother, we feel you will understand our anguish.

We represent 200 mothers in Israel separated from their children because they are still refuseniks in the Soviet Union; for some of us it is more than fifteen years since we last had the joy of seeing those children that we brought into the world. We ask only to be reunited with them, a basic human right.

Our loss cannot be measured in years - the time that has passed since we were last with our children is immeasurable and can never be replaced. Nothing can fill the void we feel at not being allowed to share in the joy of a child's marriage, a grandchild's first steps, his first day at school.

We are elderly women, many of us are ill, some are dying, and some have died here in Israel without ever being reunited with their loved ones who remain in the Soviet Union.

The concept of family reunification receives in our case a direct expression that cannot be paralleled; your agreeing to meet us demonstrates that you as one of the most prominent leaders of the Free World are aware that the purpose of statesmanship and public policy is to make it possible for people to enjoy the basic family right to live together.

We are broken women. Not a day or an hour goes by when we can erase the thought of our children and their suffering from our minds. Not only are our children hostages, but so are we. There can be no normalcy in our lives until we are reunited with our loved ones still trapped behind the Iron Curtain.

We are sure that you will do all in your power to help us and to publicize our situation. Please remember our fate and the fate of our children when you are in Moscow. People of the Free World cannot remain silent in the face of such a personal tragedy, and our meeting with you has given us renewed hope and strength to carry on our struggle in the knowledge that we have your sympathy, your understanding and your support.

Yours Faithfully,

Mothers for Freedom