

VC 4 AMU

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PA



10 DOWNING STREET  
LONDON SW1A 2AA

THE PRIME MINISTER

23 January, 1987.

*Dear Mrs. Fridman,*

Thank you for your letter and enclosures of 6 January. I too remember our meeting in Jerusalem very well and I have been closely following your sister's campaign to be allowed to leave the Soviet Union. I very much regret that there has been no sign of movement.

We are continuing to press the Russians hard. Tim Renton, our Minister of State at the Foreign Office, was in Moscow from 13-16 January and explained to the Soviet authorities the strength of feeling here about the pathetically low level of Jewish emigration. He drew particular attention to your sister's case.

I shall be speaking forcefully about this issue when I go to Moscow. In doing so, I will have your sister's case very much in mind. We must do everything we can to get the Russians to stick by their Helsinki commitments so that you and your sister and the many other families divided in this way can be reunited.

As you will know, I asked our Ambassador to look at the film about your sister on my behalf. I look forward to seeing his report.

*Yours sincerely*  
*Raymond Halliday*

Mrs Elena Fridman

ls



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

22 January 1987

Dear Charles,

Thank you for your letter of 13 January enclosing a letter from Mrs Elena Fridman about her sister, Ida Nudel. I enclose, as requested, a draft reply for the Prime Minister to sign.

Yours ever,

*L Parker*

(L Parker)  
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq  
10 Downing Street

DSR (Revised Sept 85)

DRAFT: minute/letter/teleletter/despatch/note

TYPE: Draft/Final 1 +

FROM:

Reference

PM

DEPARTMENT:

TEL. NO:

Your Reference

BUILDING:

ROOM NO:

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

Top Secret

Secret

Confidential

Restricted

Unclassified

PRIVACY MARKING

..... In Confidence

CAVEAT .....

TO: Mrs E Fridman  
POB 1110  
76 110 Rehovot  
ISRAEL

Copies to:

*Handwritten:* HCFAMH  
CIA

SUBJECT:

Thank you for your letter and enclosures of 6 January. I too remember our meeting in Jerusalem very well and I have been closely following your sister's campaign to be allowed to leave the Soviet Union. I very much regret that there has been no sign of movement.

We are continuing to press the Russians hard. Tim Renton, our Minister of State at the Foreign Office, was in Moscow from 13-16 January and explained to the Soviet authorities the strength of feeling here about the pathetically low level of Jewish emigration. He drew particular attention to your sister's case.

*Handwritten:* slh  
I ~~will~~ will be speaking forcefully about this issue when I go to Moscow. In doing so I will have your sister's case very much in mind. We must do everything we can to get the Russians to stick by their Helsinki commitments so that you and your sister and the many other families divided in this way can be reunited.

Enclosures flag(s) .....

/As

As you will know, I asked our Ambassador to look  
at the file~~s~~ about your sister on my behalf.

I look forward to seeing his report.

Elena FRIDMAN  
20/1



FILE  
DA

10 DOWNING STREET

LONDON SW1A 2AA

*From the Private Secretary*

13 January 1987

I enclose a copy of a letter to the Prime Minister from Mrs. Fridman who is the sister of Ida Nudel. I should be grateful for a draft reply which the Prime Minister herself will want to sign. I know that it is our policy not to give a commitment in advance to raise specific names and cases with the Soviet authorities. But in this instance, I think that the Prime Minister will at least want to say that she will have Ida Nudel's case very much in mind when she meets Mr. Gorbachev. It may also be possible to make a reference to the film which HM Ambassador in Tel Aviv is going to see on the Prime Minister's behalf (and about which I wrote to you separately).

(Charles Powell)

Lyn Parker, Esq.,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

✓

R12 / 1

P.O.B. 1119  
76 110 Rehovot, Israel  
January 6, 1987

The Prime Minister  
Mrs. Margaret Thatcher  
10 Downing Street  
London, England

Dear Madame Prime Minister:

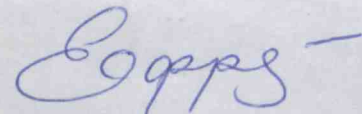
Our meeting in Jerusalem last May is still very fresh in my mind. I have had the opportunity of sharing your great personal concern and sincere best wishes with my sister, Ida Nudel, who, as you well know, is still, after 15 years, struggling to gain her exit visa from the Soviet Union. Friends in London have informed me of your continuing efforts on her behalf with various Soviet officials.

Ida has recently learned of your plans to visit Moscow shortly and to speak personally with Mr. Gorbachev. She has asked me to share with you her conviction that your personally raising her request with Mr. Gorbachev directly constitutes her best chance of finally being reunited with me in Israel. She asked that I forward to you a copy of her "Open Letter" of October 30, 1986 in the hope that you will agree to deliver it on her behalf.

Enclosed, along with the "Open Letter," are copies of two documents which will serve to bring you up to date in her continuing odyssey.

Thank you for your ongoing efforts.

Yours sincerely,



Elena Fridman

EF:pk  
Encl.

ГЕНЕРАЛЬНОМУ СЕКРЕТАРЮ Ц.К. КПСС  
ГРАЖДАНИНУ ГОРБАЧЕВУ М.С.

ОТКРЫТОЕ ПИСЬМО

Не в первый раз я обращаюсь к Вам, гражданин Генеральный секретарь, но ответа никогда не получала, если не считать ответом цепь незаконных и противоправных действий со стороны властей по отношению ко мне.

На протяжении 15 лет я добиваюсь разрешения на выезд в Израиль.

Более 10 лет история моего исхода находится под непрерывным наблюдением людей доброй воли.

15 лет моя сестра обивает пороги международных организаций, форумов, парламентов, как советских, так и стран участниц Хельсинкского соглашения.

Начиная с июня 1978 года, со времени моего ареста, моё имя и мои фотографии красуются на улицах многих городов мира, особенно в дни приезда туда советских делегаций.

В последний год моё имя склоняется во время подготовки и проведения всех Ваших встреч, но никогда Ваши помощники не только не давали согласия на мой выезд, но и не давали вразумительного ответа о причине такого длительного насильственного моего задержания в Советском Союзе.

Если в начале 1976 г. на вопрос о причине этого они заявляли: "Страшную тайну знает эта женщина", то в последнее время на вопрос обо мне ответом является просто смех. И они правы. Вразумительный ответ дать невозможно, но как говорит русская поговорка: "Всё это было бы смешно, когда бы не было так грустно".

Мне лично смеяться не от чего. Не так давно, 23 октября 1986 г., когда я хотела поехать в Москву, меня за руки и за ноги выволокли из автобуса два здоровенных милиционера. На мой наивный вопрос: "Почему, на основании какого закона? Ведь я свободный человек", мне было сказано: "В ваших интересах".

Поверьте, мне было совсем не смешно.

Мне было совсем не смешно, когда 25 апреля 1986 г. зам. начальника городского отделения милиции Орехов вышвырнул меня из автобуса, дав мне под зад коленом. А ведь я свободный человек и, в соответствии с советскими законами, могу выезжать из города когда и куда хочу, так как под следствием официально не нахожусь.

Мне было совсем не смешно, когда 24 апреля 1986 г. меня как воровку отловили в Кишиневском аэропорту и, отняв паспорт и авиабилет, вышвырнули из здания аэропорта.

У Ваших помощников нет вразумительного ответа на запрос обо мне, и они смеются при упоминании моего имени. Однако, как Вы сами можете себе представить, жить в обстановке, которую создало вокруг меня КГБ, мне совсем не смешно: моя квартира прослушивается и просматривается; за мною ходят молодчики, один вид которых вызывает дрожь. А если они приложат ко мне кулак, или камень, или палку, или "случайно" столкнут меня с тротуара под машину, или мало ли что взбредет в голову этим "милым" паренькам?

Вся моя почта перлюстрируется, даже телеграммы мне доставляют только те, которые разрешает КГБ.

Я уже не говорю о том, что у меня противозаконно отняли мою кооперативную квартиру в Москве; что меня осудили в 1978 г. по сфабрикованному обвинению... да разве возможно перечислить всё в таком письме?

Я не могу поверить умом (да и кто может?), что такое могучее государство как СССР считает возможным терроризировать человека только за то, что он не желает жить в этом государстве и открыто об этом заявляет.

Я ищу рациональную причину такого злодейского отношения ко мне:

Месть за открытую позицию в деле защиты права евреев на репатриацию?

Потребность иметь знаменитого мученика, которого можно было бы обменять на провалившегося шпиона?

Потребность иметь знаменитого мученика, которого при



случае можно продать или обменять на ценное оборудование?

Потребность иметь знаменитого еврейского мученика для рекламной роли при решении вопроса о репатриации евреев?

Потребность иметь знаменитого еврейского мученика для оказания давления на Израиль?

В голову приходят мысли одна страшнее другой: какова же рациональная причина такого поведения? Почему мне не дают визу? Почему власти считают для себя выгодным создавать скандальные истории? Кому в Советском Союзе выгодно, чтобы на встречах представителей самого высокого уровня, на Ваших личных встречах с главами государств склонялось моё имя и моя мучительная судьба обсуждалась вновь и вновь?

Если невозможно найти рациональный ответ, приходится искать ответ иррациональный. Если обратиться к иррациональному объяснению, тогда вся моя ужасная история приобретает глубокий смысл и стройность.

Чтобы сделать понятной людям трагедию еврея, страстно мечтающего жить на своей родине, нужен был человек, который был бы способен не только глубоко чувствовать, но и страстно выражать своё стремление жить в Израиле. Обладая от природы определенными качествами души и характера, будучи наделена от природы определенными качествами психики, я и являюсь тем человеком, судьба которого служит иллюстрацией трагедии советского еврея, желающего выехать в Израиль.

Я прохожу на виду всего мира по пути мучений и издевательств, символизируя собою еврейский народ и его страдания.

Ида Нудель  
30.10.1986  
Бендеры

(translation)

To: The Secretary General of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, Mr. M. C. Gorbachev,

AN OPEN LETTER:

It is not for the first time that I apply to you, Mr. General Secretary, but I have never received any answer except for a series of unlawful and illegal actions on the part of authorities towards me.

For fifteen years I have been trying to get an exit visa to Israel. For more than ten years, the story of my attempts to gain exit has been under constant scrutiny by people of good will.

For fifteen long years my sister has been visiting international organizations, meetings and parliaments, meeting Soviet as well as other representatives — all signatories of the Helsinki Agreements.

Starting in June, 1978, from the time of my arrest, my name and my photographs have been seen on the streets of many towns in the world, especially when Soviet delegations visited those places.

During the past year my name has been mentioned constantly during the preparation of your summit meetings as well as at the actual time of these meetings. Your assistants have not only denied me permission to immigrate, they have failed to give a satisfactory reason for my being held forcibly in the Soviet Union for so long.

If in the beginning of 1976 they would reply to this question by saying that this woman knows "great and terrible secrets," lately the only answer they give is just laughter. And they are right. It is impossible to give a reasonable answer. As a Russian saying goes, "it would be very funny if it were not so sad."

For me it is not funny. Not long ago, on the 23rd of October this year when I wanted to go to Moscow, I was taken by my hands and feet by two big militiamen and thrown out of the bus. To my naive question why — on the basis of what law? After all, I am a free person -- I was told, it's in your interest. Believe me, it was not funny to me.

Similarly, it was not funny to me when on the 25th of April, 1986, the assistant commander of the local militia, Orehov, threw me off a bus. This in spite of my being a free person who, according to Soviet laws, can leave his town whenever he likes, since no official investigation of me is being held.

It was not funny to me when on the previous day, the 24th of April, 1986 I was picked up like a thief at Kishinev airport, my passport and ticket were taken away, and I was thrown out of the terminal.

Your assistants have no reasonable answer to questions about me and they laugh when they hear my name mentioned. But, as you can realize yourself, to live under these circumstances created by the KGB is not funny at all. My apartment is under visual and audio surveillance. Young fellows whose very appearance causes me to shiver, follow me wherever I go. What if they decide to hit me with their fists or with a stone, or "by chance" push me from the sidewalk

under a passing car, or God knows what else could enter the heads of these "sweet" young men?

All my letters are read and photographed, and I receive only those telegrams which the KGB allows me to receive.

I shall not go into the matter of being unlawfully robbed of my cooperative apartment in Moscow; and that the charge against me in 1978 was prefabricated. It is impossible to mention all my troubles in this letter.

I cannot believe — who can — that such a mighty country as the Soviet Union could possibly terrorize a person simply because he does not desire to live in this country and declares it openly.

I am seeking a rational explanation for this beastly attitude towards me:

Is it revenge for my open position on the matter of defending Jews' rights of repatriation?

Is it the necessity to create a famous martyr who could be exchanged for a spy caught red-handed?

Is it the desire to have a famous martyr who could be exchanged for valuable equipment?

Is it the necessity to have a famous Jewish martyr for publicity while deciding on the problem of Jewish repatriation?

Is it the necessity to have a famous Jewish martyr to exert pressure on Israel?

All kinds of terrible thoughts come to my mind. What is the rational reason for this behavior? Why don't they give me an exit visa? Why do the authorities think it worthwhile to create scandalous situations? Who in the Soviet Union thinks it profitable that at meetings of international representatives at the highest level, at personal meetings with heads of countries, my name and my fate must be discussed again and again?

If no rational answer can be found, then one has to look for an irrational answer. Perhaps, then, my terrible story acquires a deeper meaning of unjust proportion.

In order <sup>to</sup> illuminate the tragedy of the Jew who passionately desires to live in his motherland, there was a necessity to find someone who could not only feel deeply but also express dramatically his desire to live in Israel.

I have become that person, whose fate serves as an illustration of the tragedy of the Soviet Jew who desires to immigrate to Israel.

I am made to be seen ~~seen~~ by the whole world as walking along the path of martyrdom and humiliation, symbolizing the Jewish people and its sufferings.

Ida Nudel  
October 30, 1986  
Bendery

To the Procurator, Bendery City  
Citizen Melnik B.B.

From Nudel Ida Yaakovlevna

who lives at the address Bendery 278100, Sovietskaya Street 69/2

#### A COMPLAINT

On 23rd October 1986 I bought a bus ticket and I sat in the seat assigned on the ticket (the ticket is attached). Within a few minutes, two militiamen entered the bus and announced to me that I must get off the bus. To my question, why, they answered that it was in my interest to do so. Because it was certainly not in my interest to get off but to continue on the bus line, I refused. They continued to insist that it is in my interest to get off. I saw they were seriously intent on getting me off the bus. I asked them, do you have a certificate from the procurator to carry this out? In answer they began to laugh and to threaten me and said they would take me off the bus by force. I announced to them that I have a passport and that according to the constitution I alone decide when and where to travel. They then ordered the bus driver to open the back door of the bus, and dragged me by my hands and feet from the bus, throwing me to the ground. Meanwhile a police van arrived and they put me into it. All this happened around 8 a.m. at the central bus station in the city of Bendery, in the presence of a large crowd of townspeople as well as the bus dispatcher on the platform, who let the bus leave.

After about half an hour, the chief of police, Bordinuk B.B., informed me that he had no legal basis to have ordered his men perform this thing, but that it is in my interest not to leave the city. Otherwise, he cannot guarantee that I will stay alive. In addition, Bordinuk B.B. stated that he is opening a criminal file against me because I refused to submit to a representative of the authorities.

I demand an immediate investigation of the occurrence and a report to me, viz:

1. On the basis of which law or decision of the authorities which pertains to the lives of the citizens of the Soviet Union was I subjected, on 23 October 1986, to an act of violence by government officials responsible for law and order in the state?

2. Does the verbal declaration forbidding me to leave the city mean it is legal?

How valid is the threat to my life?

If the deeds that were performed by the employees of the police were against the law, I demand to criminally prosecute the individual who gave the order and those who carried out the violence against me.

Because I was not shown any documents giving the police the right to do anything against me, and because the police did not write any report at the

time they took me by force to the police station, I fear that the militiamen will deny it all. They could either put me in an insane asylum or kill me. Therefore I demand the immediate intervention of the procurator, and hold him responsible for my life and liberty.

Ida Nudel  
29 October 1986  
Bendery

To: Procurator Melnik B.B.  
Bendery City

On the 30th of October 1986 your assistant, Doderage L.D. stated to me that there was no legal basis for the police manhandling of me but that he does not intend to give me an explanation in writing. To my question of what your responsibilities are, according to the laws of the prosecution, if you must answer a complaint, he said that complaints must be answered in writing, but to you it will be sufficient to answer what I have answered orally, I asked, what guarantee do I have that the militia won't manhandle me again. Doderage answered that no one will harrass me and that I can leave the city. I demanded this answer in writing because if, by chance, they again want to do with me what they did before, I would be able to show them the paper which will prevent them from again performing illegal acts. In answer, Doderage demanded that I leave his office.

1. Because the answer I received from your first assistant does not satisfy me, and because his oral statement cannot protect me from illegal acts by the militia, I request that you give me a written document that will protect me, besides the constitution of the SSSR which was, in my case, not legally binding and which did not protect my freedom of movement in and outside the city of Bendery.

2. Because the acts of the militia were illegal, I demand to open a criminal file according to the following items of the criminal law:

a. Molesting a citizen.

b. Exceeding of authority on the part of the militia.

Ida Nudel  
October 30, 1986  
Bendery

Jewish Refuseniks in Moscow urgently awaiting exit visas  
to Israel out of desire to live fully Jewish lives there:

Igor Briskman  
Str Michailova 2-6-31  
Moscow

Igor Fainbain  
Str Planernoya 18-1-260  
Moscow

Igor Levin  
Str Rublevskoe 97-1-21  
Moscow

Vladimir Levitan  
Str Sivtzev-Vrazek 12-11  
Moscow

Bella Stayngardt  
Str Shermetevskaya 69 9 23  
Moscow

Valentina Slobodinskaya  
Str Demiana Bednogo 23 1 20  
Moscow

Eva Faigenbaum  
Str Narodnogo Opolchenija 25-42  
Moscow

Ludmila Koganova  
Slaviansky Bulvar 9 1 43  
Moscow

Mark Feldman  
Str Zgegulevskaya 12 2 4  
Moscow

Aleksandr Feldman  
Str Zgegulevskaya 12 2 4

Julian Chasin  
Str 26 Bakinskich  
Kommissarov 11 -19  
Moscow

*Joseph Bernstein - KIEV*

Igor	Brickman	MOSCOW	1
	str	Michailova 2-6-31	
Igor	Fainbain		2
	str	Panernaya 18-1-260	28
Igor	Levin		3
	str	Rublevskoe 97-1-21	
Vladimir	Levitan		4
	str	Sivtzev-Vrazek 12-11	
Stayngardt	Bella		5
	str	Sheremetevskaya 699 23	
Slobodinskaya	Valentina		6
	str	Demiana Bednogo 23-1-20	1/2
Faingenbaum	Eva		7
	str	Narodnogo Opolchenija 25-42	
Koganova	Ludmila		8
		Slaviansky Bulvar 9-1-43	
Feldman	Mark		9
	str	Zegulevskaya 12-2-4	
Feldman	Aleksandr		10
	str	Zegulevskaya 12-2-4	
Chasin	Julian		11
	<del>Bulvar</del> str	26 Bakinskich kommissarov 11-19	

Jewish Refuseniks in  
 Moscow urgently awaiting exit visas to Israel out of desire  
 to live fully Jewish lives there