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February 22, 1987

The Prime Minister
Mrs. Margaret Thatcher
10 Downing Street
London SW1A 2AA, England

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Dear Madame Prime Minister:

Your letter of January 23 which was handed to me personally by your ambassador at his home in Ramat Gan serves as noble and ongoing testimony to your concern and activity on behalf of my sister, Ida Mudel. Unfortunately, while I deeply appreciate the efforts of your Minister of State at the Foreign Office, Mr. Tim Renton, in pleading Ida's case with his Soviet counterparts during his recent visit to Moscow, I am now, more than ever, convinced that only you, personally, stand a chance of receiving a satisfactory response.

Anticipating your upcoming visit to Moscow, and knowing how much you want to help achieve Ida's freedom, allow me to share with you my apprehension that the Soviet leaders will, once again, try to further prolong this terrible struggle by claiming "state security reasons related to previous employment."

I beg you, Madame Prime Minister, not to let them make this claim again without your offering a convincing response to this ridiculous charge. The facts related to this case are as follows.

Never during her years of employment as an economist, before or after she was dismissed from her job in 1971 for having applied to emigrate, has my sister been in possession of any state secrets. In 1974, when this reason was officially given her for the ongoing refusal, Ida personally visited the Director of Personnel at the institute in Moscow where she had worked. He said to her that no inquiry had ever been made of him regarding the nature of her employment and he reaffirmed that she had not, indeed, had any access to state secrets. This had obviously been fabricated by outside KGB sources intent on retribution for Ida's humanitarian support of Jews in jails, work camps, and exile serving sentences for their wish to emigrate to Israel.

Furthermore, the Soviet authorities have themselves acknowledged that the time frame for this refusal on grounds of "state interests" continued only "until January 1977." In 1980, the then Soviet Ambassador to Canada Alexander Yacovlev, acknowledged this to a group of Canadian parliamentarians and further stated that the only thing then holding back Ida's emigration visa was the fact that she was currently serving a four-

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year sentence of internal exile in Siberia.

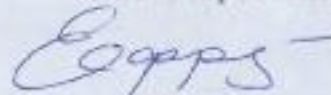
You are well aware, Madame Prime Minister, that over the years, many persons of consequence have made representations to the Soviet leaders on Ida's behalf. Incredibly, according to the reports I have received about such meetings, none of them seem to have had either the strength of conviction, character or perhaps the facts of the case in these confrontations to refute the totally unacceptable and insulting response of "state security." What could my sister possibly know that would constitute a danger to that great country if she were allowed to emigrate? And after 16 years, this claim becomes progressively more ridiculous by the day.

This has, of course, been a source of increasing frustration and pain for me and Ida. Last week, this frustration overcame me and forced me to place a phone call from Rehovot, here in Israel, directly to Mr. Genadie Gerasimov in his office at the Foreign Ministry in Moscow.

Surprisingly, Mr. Gerasimov himself spoke with me for over 15 minutes on Thursday and gave me the opportunity of relating all of the above and to share with him my conviction that a terrible bureaucratic error had escalated into unbelievable proportions. He agreed that I call him again within a week, so that he may have the opportunity of discussing this possibility with his colleague, the Head of the Interior Ministry - Ovir, Mr. Kuznetsov.

Armed with the above information, I pray you will soon be able to effect a positive conclusion to this tragedy, as the opportunity will certainly present itself during your upcoming talks in Moscow.

Yours respectfully,



Elena Fridman

EF:pk

SOVIET UNION: Women's Campaign
Soviet Jews Pt 2



SM

10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

25 February 1987

I enclose a copy of a letter the Prime Minister has received from Mrs. Elena Fridman.

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I should be grateful for a suitable draft reply to send to Mrs. Fridman, to reach me by 11 March please.

(C.D. Powell)

Lyn Parker, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

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