

PRIME MINISTER

MR. AND MRS. SHARANSKY

I told you recently that Mr. and Mrs. Sharansky would be in London to see the Prince and Princess of Wales on 26 March. I pointed out that it was just before your departure for Moscow, and an exceptionally busy time for you; also that, since the main purpose of the visit was to meet the Prince and Princess of Wales, it might be better for you not to be involved this time.

You said, however, that you had better see them.

Could I ask you to reconsider? Your diary really is very full at that time: you will be meeting the Sakharovs and refusenik representatives in Moscow which makes it less urgent to see similar people outside the Soviet Union, and you normally try to avoid overlapping events with the Royal Family.

Agree not to see the Sharanskys on this occasion, but to send a warm message?

CDP

4 March, 1987.

JD18