



10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

DTSAGB
file
cc FCO

From the Private Secretary

5 March 1987

Thank you for your letter of 11 February to the Prime Minister about your forthcoming visit to Moscow with other Parliamentary wives. I understand that you have already discussed your plans with Mr Renton and that the Foreign and Commonwealth Office are in touch with our Embassy in Moscow about arrangements.

I understand also that you have not yet received Soviet visas, but that the Foreign and Commonwealth Office have spoken to the Soviet Embassy in support of your application. The Prime Minister hopes that you will be granted your visas and wishes me to convey to you her best wishes for the success of your visit. She feels very strongly about the denial by the Soviet authorities of exit visas to the thousands of Jewish citizens who, like those you mention, have been waiting for many years to emigrate. She is aware that, despite some recent encouraging developments such as the release of 140 Soviet prisoners of conscience, including Iosif Begun, there has been little progress overall; and she has noted the cases you mention. She will certainly take the opportunity of her visit to Moscow this month to make her concern on behalf of Jewish refuseniks known.

You also mentioned Victor Faemark, whose American wife, Andrea Wine, is currently living and working in the UK. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office are in regular contact with her and she called on our Consul in Moscow during a recent visit to her husband, when she was also able to see some senior Soviet officials. We have made it clear to the Russians that we have agreed that Mr Faemark may join his wife here, and we very much hope that he will soon be permitted to leave.

As you can imagine, we have had an enormous number of requests from organisations, particularly those with an interest in the fate of Jewish refuseniks, to see the Prime Minister before her visit to Moscow. Since she cannot possibly see them all, we have asked everyone to put their

views in writing instead, and several have already done so. I know that the Prime Minister would be very grateful if you were able to let her have a note of your group's visit. You know what a close interest she takes in this whole issue - which will be very much at the forefront of her mind when she visits Moscow - and in your work.

C D POWELL

Mrs. Susan Dykes



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

4 March 1987

Dear Charles,

Letter to the Prime Minister from Mrs Susan Dykes

Thank you for your letter of 12 February enclosing one to the Prime Minister from Mrs Susan Dykes, the Chairman of Parliamentary Wives for the Release of Soviet Jewry, about her forthcoming visit, with other wives, to the Soviet Union.

The group's departure date is 6 March, so a reply if it is to reach them should issue now. We held up advising on a reply pending some advice from our Embassy in Moscow and while awaiting news of the group's visas. These have yet to be granted. We have kept in close contact with Mrs Dykes, who called with her husband, Hugh Dykes MP (who will be travelling with the group) and other wives on Mr Renton on 18 February. We have also put down a marker with the Soviet Embassy about the outstanding visas: the recent Soviet decision to withhold visas from members of the All Party Committee for Soviet Jewry is not an encouraging precedent. We understand that the Soviet Ambassador has offered to see the wives after their return from Moscow; but that is no guarantee that the visas will be forthcoming.

Sir Geoffrey Howe does not think it necessary for the Prime Minister to see the group on their return. We have offered alternative language on this point, depending on whether the Prime Minister wants to and can find time.

Andrea Wine, the wife of Victor Faemark, is an American only temporarily resident in the UK and the US is also pressing hard on her behalf. She visited Moscow over Christmas and besides our Consul, was able to see Kashlev, the Head of the MFA Humanitarian and Cultural Affairs Department, and Gerasimov, Head of the Information Department. Ms Wine told us that she felt reasonably optimistic after these meetings.

Yours ever,

N. Parker

(N. Parker)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
PS/10 Downing Street

DSR 1 (Revised Sept 85)

DRAFT: minute/letter/teleletter/despach/note

TYPE: Draft/Final 1 +

FROM:

Reference

PS/No 10

DEPARTMENT:

TEL. NO:

Your Reference

BUILDING:

ROOM NO:

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

- Top Secret
- Secret
- Confidential
- Restricted
- Unclassified

TO: Mrs Susan Dykes
1 Glenilla Road
Hampstead
LONDON NW3

Copies to:

DASAB

TO ISSUE TODAY PLEASE
CD

SUBJECT:

PRIVACY MARKING

..... In Confidence

CAVEAT

Thank you for your letter of 11 February to the Prime Minister about your forthcoming visit to Moscow with other Parliamentary wives. I understand that you have already discussed your plans with Mr Renton and that the Foreign and Commonwealth Office are in touch with our Embassy in Moscow about arrangements.

I understand also that you have not yet received Soviet visas, but that the Foreign and Commonwealth Office have spoken to the Soviet Embassy in support of your application. The Prime Minister hopes that you will be granted your visas and wishes me to convey to you her best wishes for the success of your visit. She feels very strongly about the denial by the Soviet authorities of exit visas to the thousands of Jewish citizens who, like those you mention, have been waiting for many years to emigrate. She is aware that, despite some recent encouraging developments such as the release of 140 Soviet prisoners of conscience, including Iosif Begun, there has been little progress overall; and she has noted the cases you mention. She will certainly take the opportunity of her visit to Moscow this month to make her concern on behalf

Enclosures flag(s)



of Jewish refuseniks known.

You also mentioned Victor Faemark, whose American wife, Andrea Wine, is currently living and working in the UK. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office are in regular contact with her and she called on our Consul in Moscow during a recent visit to her husband, when she was also able to see some senior Soviet officials. We have made it clear to the Russians that we have agreed that Mr Faemark may join his wife here, and we very much hope that he will soon be permitted to leave.

[Unfortunately the Prime Minister's busy schedule in advance of her visit to Moscow means that she will not be able to meet with you after your visit, but she would be very grateful to receive your impressions.]

[In view of her close interest in these matters, the Prime Minister would welcome an opportunity to hear your impressions of your visit. Perhaps you would contact me after your return to arrange a time for you to call on her.]

As you can imagine we have had an enormous number of requests to see the Prime Minister before her visit to Moscow. Since she cannot possibly see them all, we have tried to ^{have} ~~had~~ asked everyone to put their views in writing instead, & several have already done so. A

I know that the Prime Minister would be very grateful if you were able to let her hear - with a visit of your own. I know what a close interest she takes in this whole issue - what will be my visit or to department of her visit - I have not seen at in your work.

from arguments, particularly those with an interest in the fate of Jewish refuseniks,

Mrs Susan DYKES

SKW

26/2

D 3/3

u.c/c/ 12 February 1987

I enclose a copy of a letter which the Prime Minister has received from Mrs. Susan Dykes.


I should be grateful if you would provide a draft Private Secretary reply which I might send to Mrs. Dykes to reach us by Thursday 26 February.

(C. D. POWELL)

Robert Boddish Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

089

A The National Archives

DEPARTMENT/SERIES <i>PREM 19</i> PIECE/ITEM <i>3186</i> (one piece/item number)	Date and sign
Extract details: <i>SUSAN DYKES TO PRIME MINISTER DATED 11 FEBRUARY 1987</i>	
CLOSED UNDER FOI EXEMPTION	
RETAINED UNDER SECTION 3(4) OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS ACT 1958	
TEMPORARILY RETAINED	<i>[Signature]</i> <i>16/11/2016</i>
MISSING AT TRANSFER	
NUMBER NOT USED	
MISSING (TNA USE ONLY)	
DOCUMENT PUT IN PLACE (TNA USE ONLY)	