



10 DOWNING STREET  
LONDON SW1A 2AA

MS2AH  
atf  
9 April 1987

*From the Private Secretary*

Thank you for your letter of 16 March to the Prime Minister about Soviet women refuseniks.

The Prime Minister was very sorry to hear that you were prevented from visiting the Soviet Union last month, but she took the opportunity of her own visit to Moscow to press home some of the points you were unable to make yourselves. As you will be aware, she was also able to meet some long term refuseniks, including Rosa Ioffe, to hear of their concerns at first hand. She regarded this meeting as an important element in her programme. The refuseniks made a point of stressing the importance to them of the support of organisations like your own.

During her talks with Mr Gorbachev, the Prime Minister expressed the hope that Soviet Jews would be allowed to emigrate if they so wished. Mr Gorbachev said that the Soviet Government considered all humanitarian cases very carefully and would continue to deal with them attentively, with positive results where possible.

The Foreign Secretary also raised this question with the Soviet Foreign Minister and handed him a list of cases of Soviet citizens refused exit visas, about whom the Government have received representations over the last few months. Mr Shevardnadze undertook to look into the cases listed, which included many long term women refuseniks.

The Government have welcomed the recent releases of prisoners of conscience and hope they will continue. They are also aware of recent reports that the Soviet authorities may be preparing to allow large numbers of refuseniks to leave. Certainly the March figure for Jewish emigration, at 470, was a considerable improvement over February (146) and January (92). These are encouraging signs.

The Prime Minister, therefore, very much hopes that we shall see genuine and sustained progress in the coming months and that exit visas will be forthcoming for the long term refusenik women whom you mention, their families and others like them.

Charles Powell

Mrs Susan Dykes

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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

9 April 1987

Dear Charles,

JAP.

Thank you for your letter of 18 March enclosing one to the Prime Minister from Mrs Susan Dykes about long term refusenik women.

Mrs Dykes is the Chairman of "Parliamentary Wives for the Release of Soviet Jewry". She, her husband Hugh Dykes MP and other members of the group were, as she says, recently refused visas to visit the Soviet Union, when they had hoped to meet refusenik women. They had written to the Prime Minister about their plans: I enclose a copy of your reply of 5 March.

I attach a draft reply for your signature.

Yours ever

(L Parker)  
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq  
No 10 Downing St

SOVIET UNION:

Womens Campaign Soviet

Texas Pt 2





DSR 11 (Revised Sept 85)

DRAFT: ~~xxxxxx~~/letter, ~~xxxxxx~~/letter, ~~xxxxxx~~/despatch, ~~xxxxxx~~/note

TYPE: Draft/~~xxxxxx~~ +

FROM: PS/<sup>P</sup>M

Reference

DEPARTMENT:

TEL. NO:

Your Reference

BUILDING:

ROOM NO:

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

- Top Secret
- Secret
- Confidential
- Restricted
- Unclassified

TO:

Copies to:

Mrs Susan Dykes  
 1 Glenilla Road  
 London NW3

*10 copies*

SUBJECT:

PRIVACY MARKING

..... In Confidence

Thank you for your letter of 16 March to the Prime Minister about Soviet women refuseniks.

CAVEAT.....

The Prime Minister was very sorry to hear that you were prevented from visiting the Soviet Union last month, but she took the opportunity of her own visit to Moscow to press home some of the points you were unable to make yourselves. As you will be aware, she was also able to meet ~~with~~ some long term refuseniks, including Rosa Ioffe, to hear of their concerns at first hand. She regarded this meeting as an important element in her programme. The refuseniks made a point of stressing the importance to them of the support of organisations like your own.

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Enclosures flag(s).....

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The Government have welcomed the recent releases of prisoners of conscience and hope they will continue. They are also aware of recent reports that the Soviet authorities <sup>maybe</sup> ~~are~~ preparing to allow large numbers of refuseniks to leave. Certainly the March figure for Jewish emigration, at 470, was a considerable improvement over February (146) and January (92). These are ~~all positive~~ and encouraging signs.

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Ch







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10 DOWNING STREET  
LONDON SW1A 2AA

*From the Private Secretary*

ask/

18 March 1987

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

I should be grateful if you could provide a draft reply for Private Secretary signature, to reach me by 1 April.

C D POWELL

R. N. Culshaw, Esq., M.V.O.,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

SH

*File for diary ref*

# PARLIAMENTARY WIVES FOR THE RELEASE OF SOVIET JEWRY



16th March, 1987

**CHAIRMAN**  
.....

Susan Dykes

**MEMBERS**  
.....

Miff Archer

Marjorie Blackburn

Lady Bottomley

Marjorie Brown

Valerie Cocks

Mary Cormack

Oiwen Howells

Myra Janner

Caroline Latham

Gloria Lawrence

Jan Leadbitter

Lady Lever

June McKay

Leslie McWilliam

Mary Mikardo

Renee Miller

Dora Prag

Colleen Rees

Edith Rifkind

Susie Sainsbury

Lady Stone

Carolyn Sumberg

Mrs Susan Dykes,  
1, Glenilla Road,  
LONDON NW3.

Dear Prime Minister,

Thank you so much for your letter of good wishes and support for our visit to Moscow.

Unfortunately our visas were refused. Although Tim Renton from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office spoke with Leonid Zamyatin, his efforts could not persuade the Russian authorities to change their minds

In preparing for our visit, we had asked if we might meet Mrs Gorbachev and subsequently Mrs Zoiya Puchova, the Chairman of the Soviet Women's Committee. We had planned to meet some of the 200 long-term refusenik women who on February 5th had written to Mr Gorbachev to plead with him to allow them to leave for Israel to join their families. As they had had no response from him by March 5th, the women, from 9 cities throughout the USSR marked International Women's Day by going on a hunger strike for three days.

They are law abiding women who have struggled to bring up their children according to Russian law, and their own religious principles. Disillusioned and fearful of the future, many of their sons are now approaching military service.

Our group and many groups like us would be so grateful if during your visit to Moscow you could bring up the subject of the plight of these divided families, and of these troubled women.

I wish you much success with your forthcoming visit.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Susan Dykes".

Susan Dykes



SOVIET UNION

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PTZ

RELEASE OF SOVIET UNION