



10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

THE PRIME MINISTER

10 April 1987

Dear Mr. Slepak.

Thank you for your letter of 19 March about your parents, Maria and Vladimir Slepak, who are being refused permission to emigrate from the Soviet Union. Your letter was given to me by Yuri Orlov when he called on me on 24 March.

I can well understand the pain that the enforced separation of your family must cause you and your parents. The denial of exit visas to Soviet citizens seeking only the freedom to emigrate is a subject about which I feel strongly. I was able last week to hear at first hand the views of Mr. and Mrs. Begun and Rosa Ioffe, refuseniks whose courage, like that of your parents, is an example to us all.

During my talks with Mr. Gorbachev I 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.

In addition, my colleague Sir Geoffrey Howe handed to the Soviet Foreign Minister a list of Soviet citizens who had been refused exit visas. Mr. Shevardnadze undertook to look into the cases listed, and I can confirm that the case of your parents was included on the list.

JA

We have welcomed the recent releases of prisoners and I am aware of reports that the Soviet authorities may be preparing to allow large numbers of refuseniks to leave. The latest emigration figures I have seen show a steady increase. These are encouraging signs. I very much hope therefore that we shall see genuine improvements in the coming months and that you will soon be reunited with your parents.

Yours sincerely
Nayana Shalita

Mr. Alexander Slepak



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

9 April 1987

Dear Charles,

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Thank you for your letter of 24 March reporting the call on the Prime Minister by Yuri Orlov and enclosing a letter which he had given to the Prime Minister from Alexander Slepak whose parents are being refused permission to emigrate from the Soviet Union.

As requested I enclose a draft reply from the Prime Minister. The name of Vladimir Slepak, Alexander's father, was included on the list of refusenik cases handed to Mr Shevardnadze by the Foreign Secretary.

We are retaining here the lists of prisoners handed over by Mr Orlov and enclosed with your letter.

Yours ever,

L Parker

(L Parker)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
No 10 Downing St

DRAFT: minute/letter/teleletter/despatch/note

TYPE: Draft/Final 1 +

FROM: P M

Reference

DEPARTMENT:

TEL. NO:

Your Reference

BUILDING:

ROOM NO:

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

- Top Secret
- Secret
- Confidential
- Restricted
- Unclassified

TO:

Copies to:

Mr Alexander Slepak
 449 New Gate Court C-2
 Andalusia
 PA 19020
 USA

To [handwritten initials]

SUBJECT:

SPWATY

PRIVACY MARKING

..... In Confidence

CAVEAT

Thank you for your letter of 19 March about your parents, Maria and Vladimir Slepak, who are being refused permission to emigrate from the Soviet Union. Your letter ^{it} was given to me by Yuri Orlov when he called on ^{me} ~~my~~ on 24 March.

I can well understand the pain ~~and suffering~~ that the enforced separation of your family must cause you and your parents. The denial of exit visas to Soviet citizens seeking only the freedom to emigrate is a subject about which I feel strongly. I was ~~pleased~~ ^{abv} and proud in Moscow last week to hear at first hand the ~~views~~ ^{Rosa} of Mr and Mrs Begun and ~~Irina~~ Ioffe, refuseniks whose courage, like that of your parents, is an example to us all.

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Enclosures - flag(s)

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SOVIET UNION: Human Rights Pt 2

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Ch

