



Rice Minister
CD 28/4

(a)

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The Rt Hon Mrs Margaret Thatcher, MP
10 Downing Street
London SW1

27th April 1987

Dear Margaret,

at trap PT1

I just thought I should let you know that I spent most of yesterday with Dr Anatoli Koryagin in Lucerne, Switzerland, where he will be spending the next few months after leaving the Soviet Union last Friday. He particularly asked me to thank you for the letter that you addressed to him on March 31st.

For some strange reason your letter was delivered to the Koryagins' flat in Kharkov only last Thursday morning, a few minutes before the whole family left to catch a train to Moscow and a flight to Zurich the following day. We may, I suppose, speculate on the reasons why it took the Soviet postal services 23 days to convey your letter from Moscow to Kharkov.

Nevertheless Dr Koryagin was, he said, extremely touched by your letter and he will be replying to you as soon as possible. I have written something about him which should appear in The Times tomorrow.

I hope that you will also allow me to say, as I mentioned to Charles Powell, that I thought your trip to Moscow went fantastically well. I have already heard a fair amount of positive feedback from your television interview and I am delighted that you emphasised, as did Dr Orlov, the link between Soviet human rights performances and East-West relations generally, including multilateral disarmament.

Agreements on arms reduction can, it is true, make war less likely, but lasting peace requires the building of confidence between the Soviet Union and the West. And before we feel fully confident of Soviet goodwill, their human rights record must be made considerably better.

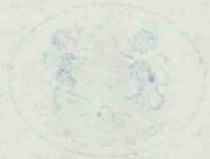
Thank you again for allowing Dr Orlov and me to come and see you before your visit. I send you my best wishes for the weeks ahead.

Yours ever,

Nicholas

Lord Bethell

SOVIET UNION: PM TOURS 'PTZ'



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