

6 June

Dear Prime Minister

Not very long ago I heard that you had raised with M Gorbachev the question of reuniting my family and that this was done with your characteristic skill and tact. I should like to say that I am deeply grateful for an action which seems to me to be an expression of solidarity, loyalty, friendship and compassion - the great and enduring qualities of the British nation.

What you did has sustained and strengthened my hope that my wife and children will be restored to me. I can only repay this generous gesture by continuing to work to promote the security and independence of Great Britain. I see in this too a pledge that one day, God willing, freedom will be restored to the people of Russia.

I followed all your speeches and statements while you were in the USSR and I would like to express my sincere admiration for what you were able to achieve. The lesson in freedom, democracy, human dignity and independence of mind which you gave both rulers and ruled has no precedent in all the seventy years of communist tyranny.

As a small token of my gratitude, I enclose a souvenir which will, I hope, remind you of your very successful visit.

As one who is for ever in your debt, I wish you success in all you undertake.

Yours sincerely

O GORDIYEVSKIY

PS Following the election results, I should like to congratulate you most warmly on a splendid, well-deserved and entirely logical victory.