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PRIME MINISTER

JEWISH REFUSENIKS IN THE SOVIET UNION

You will wish to know that the Russians have today decided to allow Iosif Begun, the Jewish dissident whom you met in the Soviet Union, to leave the country. You may wish to send him a message once he is out. I will provide a draft.



CDP

(C. D. POWELL)

7 September 1987

EMBASSY OF ISRAEL
2 PALACE GREEN
LONDON W8 4QB
Telephone: 01-937 8050



שגרירות ישראל
לונדון

9th April 1987

עב 9/4.

Dear Sir Geoffrey,

I have been instructed to transmit to you the following message from Mr. Shimon Peres, Vice-Premier and Minister of Foreign Affairs, communicated from Madrid on April 7, 1987:-

"Dear Secretary of State,

I am grateful for your thoughtfulness and prompt review of the talks held in Moscow by Mrs. Thatcher and yourself. It was an important occasion for West-East and British-Soviet relations. It was a moving occasion for us. We shall always remember the unprecedented gesture and touching moments of the meetings with refuseniks and the significance of the outspoken and candid expressions of principle on questions of Soviet Jewry - both their right to emigrate and, while in the USSR, their right to pursue their Jewish tradition.

Although the signals from Moscow are hesitant and the future course yet uncertain, nevertheless we have welcomed the gradual progress and, hence, we wish to join you in encouraging the transformation of "Glasnost" into a real openness and an opening for our people as well.

Your fresh impressions of the Soviet position assume added significance as they come on the eve of the important meetings with King Hussein. They can add a new dimension to the on-going assessment of the desirability of adjusting regional hopes for rapid progress to the possible gradual pace of change in Soviet policy.

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- 2 -

As I believe that we are closer than ever before to bridging remaining gaps on the road to direct negotiations supported by an international conference, I look forward to continuing our direct exchanges.

Shimon Peres
Vice Premier and
Minister of Foreign Affairs"

Respectfully

Yehuda Avner
Ambassador of Israel

The Rt. Hon. Sir Geoffrey Howe, QC, MP,
Secretary of State for Foreign
and Commonwealth Affairs,
Foreign Office,
Downing Street,
London, SW1



BRITISH EMBASSY
MOSCOW

CDP
3/4.

2 April 1987

Ken Neill Esq
Soviet Department

Dear Ken

PRIME MINISTER'S BREAKFAST WITH REFUSENIKS: DOCUMENTS

1. The substance of the Prime Minister's meeting with refuseniks has been reported by telegram. At the end of the meeting, the Beguns and Mrs Ioffe took their opportunity to pass over to the Secretary of State a number of appeals and statements by various members of the refusenik community.
2. At the Secretary of State's request I enclose all the documents for further consideration, together with as many translations as time permitted me to prepare. I would be very grateful if you would, exceptionally, arrange for further copying of the documents as necessary, to copy addressees.
3. Attached are:
 - a) A statement by Iosif Begun
 - b) A letter to the Prime Minister from 10 refusenik women, headed by Marta Badashinskaya (and including Rosa Ioffe who attended the breakfast).
 - c) A copy of a statement to the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet signed by 9 refusenik women, again including Rosa Ioffe. (The three did not make clear if this had actually been sent to the Presidium).
 - d) A copy of an open letter to Ryzhkov and Itchak Shamir (not translated) signed by a large group of refuseniks.
 - e) Letters in English to the Prime Minister from various refuseniks.

Yours ever,
Kate

Miss K S J Horner

cc C D Powell Esq, PS/10 Downing St
PS/Secretary of State
PS/Mr Renton
CSCE Unit
P S Roland Esq, RD(SS)