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Prime Minister

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

Agree to see Dr.

London SW1A 2AH

Koryagin in
early November?

2 October 1987

Delivered

Dear Charles, It would be helpful in the CSCF context. to do so
CD 2/x

Visit to the UK of Dr Koryagin

Thank you for your letter of 1 October asking for advice on the suggestion from David Atkinson MP that the Prime Minister should see Dr Koryagin during his visit to the UK in December.

Dr Koryagin, a Soviet psychiatrist, has played a leading role in exposing the abuse of psychiatry in the Soviet Union. He produced a paper on the practice which was widely publicised in the West, including in "The Lancet" in 1981. Following his revelations, the Soviet Union eventually withdrew from the World Psychiatric Association (in 1983) in response to calls for their expulsion. In 1981, Koryagin was arrested, charged with "anti-Soviet agitation and propaganda" and sentenced to 7 years in a labour camp and 5 years in internal exile. He undertook hunger strikes in 1982, 1984 and 1985, when a further 2 years in camp was added to his sentence for "resisting authority".

Dr Koryagin's case aroused great concern in the West. His name figured frequently on lists of cases of Soviet abuses of human rights. Along with a number of other political prisoners, he was finally released in February this year. His son Ivan, who had also been imprisoned, was released in March. The family were allowed to emigrate to Switzerland in April.

Soviet abuse of psychiatry is a particularly pernicious practice and one which is continuing. Although fewer people have been committed to psychiatric hospitals for their beliefs since Mr Gorbachev came to power, releases have been relatively few compared to the numbers of those allowed out of prison or labour camps. Human rights organisations in the West continue to be particularly concerned about this subject.

Following her previous meetings with Dr Orlov and Natan Sharansky we think it would be appropriate for the Prime Minister to receive Dr Koryagin also. This would allow her to pay tribute to Dr Koryagin's courageous contribution to the cause of human rights in the Soviet

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Union and to assure him of our continuing concern at the abuse of psychiatry in that country. At a time when the current CSCE meeting in Vienna will be approaching its climax, a meeting would serve as a useful reminder to the Russians and others that there is no reduction in the level of our interest in and criticism of unacceptable Soviet practices.

Yours ever,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'L Parker', with a stylized flourish at the end.

(L Parker)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
10 Downing Street

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10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

5 October 1987

VISIT TO THE UNITED KINGDOM OF DR. KORYAGIN

Thank you for your letter of 2 October. The Prime Minister would like to see Dr. Koryagin and can do so at 1630 on Wednesday 4 November. You may like to ask the department to liaise with Mr. David Atkinson MP on the arrangements.

BF

(CHARLES POWELL)

Lyn Parker, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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JJA
cc AH

10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

5 October 1987

You wrote to Archie Hamilton about Dr. Koryagin's visit. The Prime Minister would very much like to see him, and could do so at 1630 on Wednesday 4 November, here at No.10 Downing Street. Could I ask you to be so kind as to convey this invitation to Dr. Koryagin.

(CHARLES POWELL)

David Atkinson, Esq., M.P.

1630

Wednesday
4th November



10 DOWNING STREET

Tessa

cd. we please
have $\frac{1}{2}$ hr. for

honzagi in
early March? (Re
exact dates were

in David
Atkinson, (etc))

CD

Dr. KORYAGIN



late SM

ccAH

10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

1 October 1987

CDP

You may like to
hang on to
this

Mr. David Atkinson MP has let us know that Dr. Koryagin will be in the UK from 2-9 December, during which time he will address the International Society on Human Rights. Mr. Atkinson suggests that the Prime Minister should see Dr. Koryagin. I should be grateful for advice in the course of tomorrow 2 October, if possible.

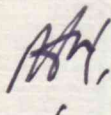
C D POWELL

Lyn Parker, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

MR POWELL

The attached request from David Atkinson
is self-explanatory.

I should be most grateful for your
comments.



ARCHIE HAMILTON

30.9.87

From: David Atkinson, M.P.



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

Tel. 01- 219 3598

The Hon Archie Hamilton MP
No.10 Downing Street
Whitehall
LONDON SW1

29th September 1987

Dear Archie,

Dr. Anatoly Koryagin will be visiting the UK during the week beginning 2nd November to address the AGM of the UK branch of the International Society on Human Rights (ISHR), of which I am President, on Wednesday evening 4th November.

As you will know, Dr. Koryagin, himself a psychiatrist, became one of the most famous names of those campaigning against the misuse of psychiatry in the treatment of political prisoners in the Soviet Union, and was finally released after a world-wide campaign on his behalf in February this year after 7 years in the Gulag.

I am sure that the Prime Minister would wish to meet Dr. Koryagin at Number 10 whilst he is here, and I wondered if this could be arranged any time during Tuesday 3rd November, Wednesday 4th November, or after Prime Minister's Question Time on Thursday 5th November, or during Friday morning 6th November.

Yours ever,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'D Atkinson'.