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10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

17 December 1987

From the Private Secretary

Thank you for your letter of 1 December to the Prime Minister on behalf of the Raoul Wallenberg Committee.

In the rather limited time available for her talks with Mr. Gorbachev, it was not possible for the Prime Minister to raise Mr. Wallenberg's case. His fate remains of concern to the Government, which has carefully noted the contents of the last Soviet statement about him. This does not go beyond the information previously supplied by the Soviet authorities in any material detail and therefore remains unsatisfactory. At the same time, we have to accept that there is no conclusive evidence that Mr. Wallenberg is still alive.

The case of Raoul Wallenberg is primarily a matter for the Swedish authorities. However, as you know, the Government have raised it with the Russians on a number of occasions in recent years. We will continue to have it in mind in future contacts with the Soviet authorities and to press them to give at last a full and frank account of Mr. Wallenberg's fate.

C.D. POWELL

Ms Claire Jordan

105

SECRET



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

17 December 1987

THIS IS A COPY. THE ORIGINAL IS
RETAINED UNDER SECTION 3 (4)
OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS ACT

Dear Charles,

attached

Thank you for your letter of 2 December enclosing one from Claire Jordan and others of the Raoul Wallenberg Committee.

Interest in Mr Wallenberg's case has revived in this country with the transmission of a TV documentary about him on 26 November and recent Soviet statements about his fate. But these have added no material facts to the longstanding assertion of the Soviet authorities that he died in prison in 1947.

Mrs Jordan last wrote to the Prime Minister in March before her visit to the Soviet Union. I enclose a copy of your reply on that occasion.

The subject of Wallenberg was not raised in the time available during the talks at Brize Norton on 7 December. However we shall be considering whether the Foreign Secretary might refer to it during his talks in Moscow early next year, as public and parliamentary interest in the case is likely to continue.

But Sir Geoffrey Howe may be able to make the point to Shevardnadze in February that it should now be possible for the Russians to say more, given glasnost and greater readiness to be open about the darker periods of Soviet history.

Clearly we cannot say any of this to Mrs Jordan but it may be worth hinting in the reply to her that there is no conclusive evidence to show that Wallenberg is still alive, any more than prove that he is dead. I attach a draft accordingly.

Yours ever

L Parker

(L Parker)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
PS/10 Downing Street

SECRET

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~~SB~~

~~DK~~
mm 27/4



10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

ra Wallenberg
Soviet Dept
~~PS~~
STB
27/4

From the Private Secretary

24 April, 1987.

Thank you for your letter of 20 March to the Prime Minister. The case of Raoul Wallenberg is, of course, very well-known to us. While it is primarily a matter for the Swedish Government, we have raised the case with the Russians on a number of occasions in recent years and pressed them to give a full and frank account of Wallenberg's fate.

The Prime Minister did not in the event raise the question of Wallenberg during her visit to Moscow. As you will appreciate, she and the Foreign Secretary had to be selective. But she did encourage Mr. Gorbachev to continue down the path of greater openness on which he has embarked, and which may eventually make it easier for the Soviet authorities to respond to the Swedish request for more information about Wallenberg's fate.

(C.D. Powell)

Mrs. Claire Jordan

DRAFT: minute/letter/teleletter/despatch/note

TYPE: Draft/Final 1+

FROM: PS No.10

Reference

DEPARTMENT:

TEL. NO:

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

TO:

Your Reference

- Top Secret
- Secret
- Confidential
- Restricted
- Unclassified

Claire Jordan
 47 Cintra Park
 Crystal Palace
 London. SE19 2LQ

Copies to:

PRIVACY MARKING

SUBJECT:

.....In Confidence

Thank you for your letter of 1 December to the Prime Minister : *on behalf of* [redacted] the

CAVEAT.....

Raoul Wallenberg Committee.

rather limited
 In the time available for her talks with Mr Gorbachev, it was not possible for the Prime Minister to raise Mr Wallenberg's case. His fate remains of concern to the government, which has carefully noted the contents of the last Soviet statement about him. This does not go beyond the information previously supplied by the Soviet authorities in any material detail and therefore remains unsatisfactory. At the same time, we have to accept that *there is* no conclusive evidence [redacted] that Mr Wallenberg is still alive.

The case of Raoul Wallenberg is ~~of course~~ primarily a matter for the Swedish authorities. However as you know the government have raised it with the Russians on a number of occasions in recent years. *we* will continue to have it in mind in future contacts with the Soviet authorities and to press them to give at last a full and frank account of Mr Wallenberg's fate.

Enclosures—flag(s).....

09.

Claire JORDON

16/12



file 9012

10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

A4/ 2 December 1987

I attach a copy of a letter the Prime Minister has received from Claire Jordan and colleagues of the Raoul Wallenberg Committee.

I should be grateful if you could provide a draft reply for Private Secretary signature. It would be helpful if this could reach me by Wednesday 16 December.

C D POWELL

Lyn Parker, Esq.
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

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Raoul Wallenberg Committee

President:

Hon. Greville Janner Q.C., M.P.

Chairman:

Maurice Samuelson, M.A. (Oxon.)

Secretary: Claire Jordan
47 Cintra Park
Crystal Palace
London SE19 2LQ

Tel: 01 538
6483 (daytime)

To: The Rt Hon Margaret Thatcher MP
10 Downing Street
SW1

1st December 1987

Dear Madame,

We are writing to you to urge you to raise the case of Raoul Wallenberg during your forthcoming meeting with Mr Gorbachev, not in a spirit of accusation but in the hope that he will be willing to act on his stated policy of clearing up historical misunderstandings and administrative errors.

Recent developments have rendered this far more urgent than might otherwise have been the case: yesterday the Soviet Ambassador to Sweden, Mr Boris Pankin, invited Wallenberg's half-sister Nina Lagergren to a meeting at which he again reiterated that Wallenberg had died in 1947 and stated that fresh investigations had confirmed this, whilst at the same time freely admitting that the Soviet Union could produce no evidence whatsoever to this effect because all those involved at the time were now dead: he seemed quite upset at the West's continued disbelief, stressing how much his government wants a good relationship with Sweden. The implication is that the campaign for Raoul Wallenberg's release has become a matter of serious concern to the Soviets, if they are prepared to go to so much trouble to defuse it, but also that they are hoping to bury the case once and for all. It is of course quite possible that Mr Gorbachev has himself been misled by incorrect information provided by his subordinates: if they admit that they have no evidence of Wallenberg's death it is difficult to imagine how they are supposed to have proved it to themselves. The actual tone (as opposed to the content) of the meeting and of a recent Tass statement on the case (enclosed) has been much less hostile than we have come to expect.

We appreciate the reasons why you may think it most productive to concentrate on human rights in general rather than on specific cases, but the situation of Wallenberg is unique. He is not a political prisoner, nor a dissident or refusenik, and there is a risk that he will be missed by broad changes of policy: both in his achievements and his subsequent fate he is unique, and needs to be remembered as such. This new statement by the Soviets makes it absolutely crucial that Western leaders act now before the matter - and the man - are indeed buried by traditional Soviet inflexibility: Mr Gorbachev's apparent willingness to be friendly and his evident respect for your opinions still provide an opportunity, if you will only make clear your deep concern for Raoul Wallenberg, to keep the case open and even, perhaps, to ensure his release before he embarks on the 44th year of his imprisonment.

Yours faithfully,

Mary Hayes

Claire Jordan
Nicholas Cornford

Saul Rhodes

Raoul Wallenberg Trust: Registered Charity No. 326273

Trustees: Greville Janner Q.C., M.P., Brian Beckman L.I.B., Maurice Samuelson M.A. (Oxon.), Colin Shindler M.Sc., M.R.S.C., C. Chem., Cert. Ed.

Nicholas Bayard

STOCKHOLM AUGUST 10 TASS - TASS CORRESPONDENT NIKOLAI VUKOLOV REPORTS:

THE SWEDISH GOVERNMENT WAS INFORMED IN 1957 AFTER INVESTIGATION THAT VALLENBERG HAD DIED IN JULY 1947 IN PRISON PROBABLY AS A RESULT OF MYOCARDIAL INFARCTION. WE UNDERSTAND THE CONCERN OF VALLENBERG'S RELATIVES AND OF ALL THOSE WHO ARE INTERESTED IN WHAT HAPPENED TO HIM. IT WOULD BE GOOD IF RUMOURS TO THE EFFECT THAT HE IS ALIVE WERE JUSTIFIED. HOWEVER, LAST YEAR ANOTHER THOROUGH INVESTIGATION INTO ALL THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE CASE WAS CONDUCTED. IT CONFIRMED THAT VALLENBERG HAD DIED IN 1947+.

THE SWEDISH PRESS GAVE LITTLE COVERAGE TO THIS STATEMENT MADE RECENTLY AT A BRIEFING IN MOSCOW BY GENNADY GERASIMOV, SPOKESMAN OF THE USSR MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, ALTHOUGH HE MENTIONED THE PROBLEM TO WHICH THE LOCAL PRESS DEVOTES SOMETIMES WHOLE COLUMNS AND EVEN PAGES.

THE EXPLANATION WAS GIVEN ABOUT THE DESTINY OF RAUL VALLENBERG, A SWEDISH DIPLOMAT, WHICH, IN ITSELF, WAS NOT ACCIDENTAL. THE THING IS THAT NUMEROUS MATERIALS APPEARED IN THE MASS MEDIA OF SWEDEN AND OTHER COUNTRIES REPEATING THE VERSION THAT VALLENBERG WAS ALLEGEDLY ALIVE AND THAT SOVIET AUTHORITIES DID NOT WANT TO SET HIM FREE. THE LEADING SWEDISH NEWSPAPERS PUBLISHED THE EXPLANATION GIVEN BY THE SOVIET SPOKESMAN. THIS STEP SEEMED TO BE PERFECTLY IMPARTIAL. HOWEVER, IT WAS NOT REALLY SO.

ALL THE NEWSPAPERS FOUND IT POSSIBLE TO PUBLISH THE EXPLANATION, CONCISE BUT MEANINGFUL, IN AN ABBREVIATED FORM. THEY RULED OUT THE PARTS OF THE EXPLANATION THAT DESERVE TO BE READ BECAUSE THEY EXPRESS UNDERSTANDING OF THE CONCERN OF VALLENBERG'S RELATIVES AND OF ALL PEOPLE IN GENERAL WHO ARE INTERESTED IN WHAT HAPPENED TO HIM. ANYONE WHO READ THE STATEMENT WOULD NOTICE AT ONCE THE TONE IN WHICH IT WAS MADE. IT EXPRESSED ONCE AGAIN THE REGRET OF THE SOVIET SIDE OVER WHAT HAD HAPPENED AND ADMITTED THAT THE CASE WAS BY NO MEANS UNIMPORTANT TO THE SOVIET UNION. THE STATEMENT SAID: +IT WOULD BE GOOD IF RUMOURS TO THE EFFECT THAT VALLENBERG IS ALIVE WERE JUSTIFIED+. THIS PHRASE NEVER REACHED SWEDISH READERS.

IT IS A PITY THAT THE SWEDISH PUBLIC DID NOT SEE THE SOVIET STATEMENT IN FULL VOLUME, BECAUSE IT IS CLEAR, CONTRARY TO WHAT IS SAID ABOUT IT IN SWEDEN, THAT THE SOVIET SIDE IS STRIKINGLY FRANK, THAT NO ONE IN THE SOVIET UNION CALLS IN QUESTION THE IDENTITY OF RAUL VALLENBERG AND HIS ACTIVITIES DURING THE WAR YEARS. IT IS CLEAR AS WELL THAT IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE POLICY OF OPENNESS PURSUED IN THIS COUNTRY, WITH THE INTENTION TO OPENLY EXAMINE ALL THE PROBLEMS, THE USSR SEEKS TO CLARIFY THIS PROBLEM AND AT THE SAME TIME TO CLEAR UP MISGIVINGS AND MISTRUST THAT SWEDEN STILL HAS OVER THIS PROBLEM. THIS STAND IS BROUGHT ABOUT BY A SINCERE DESIRE TO DEVELOP AND DEEPEN SOVIET-SWEDISH GOODNEIGHBOURLY RELATIONS IN THE INTERESTS OF BOTH COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES.

JUDGING BY STATEMENTS OF SWEDISH LEADER, THIS DESIRE IS SHARED BY SWEDEN. IN VIEW OF THIS FACT IT IS NOT CLEAR WHY THE SWEDISH PRESS GAVE SUCH LITTLE COVERAGE TO THE EXHAUSTIVE SOVIET EXPLANATION AIMED AT SETTLING THE MATTER WHICH, IN THE OPINION OF THE SWEDISH SIDE, STILL AGGRAVATES THE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES.

A SPOKESMAN OF THE SOVIET FOREIGN MINISTRY EXPLAINED THE STAND OF THE USSR AND THE LEADING SWEDISH NEWSPAPERS PUBLISHED A BRIEF VERSION OF IT. THIS COMMENTARY WOULD NOT BE NECESSARY IF THE NEXT DAY ONE OF THOSE NEWSPAPERS, SVENSKA DAGBLADET, DID NOT COME UP WITH HACKNEYED ACCUSATIONS OF THE SOVIET UNION AND DEMANDS OF EVER NEW EXPLANATIONS. THE NEWSPAPER WAS OBVIOUSLY FORGETFUL OF THE FACT THAT THE EXPLANATIONS HAD BEEN GIVEN A COUPLE OF DAYS AGO.

ITEM ENDS +++