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10 DOWNING STREET  
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*From the Private Secretary*

14 June 1988

*Dear Sir,*

PRIME MINISTER'S MEETING WITH IDA NUDEL

The Prime Minister met Ida Nudel (with a cast of thousands) this afternoon. Their discussion was mostly concerned with Mr. Gorbachev's reforms in the Soviet Union and the prospects. Mrs. Nudel was pessimistic: Russians were extraordinarily conservative people and would be alarmed by the disruption caused by the greater freedom of expression which was gradually being permitted, as well as the effects of economic reform on their jobs and livelihoods. She also said that this conservative backlash was already being manifested in a new wave of anti-Semitism and a resurgence of nationalism among the various ethnic groups within the Soviet Union.

*BTU*  
At the end of the meeting Mrs. Nudel handed over the enclosed details of the case of Leonid Lubman which she asked the Prime Minister to look into. I should be grateful for advice on this point.

*Yours sincerely,  
C. D. Powell*

C. D. POWELL

Lyn Parker, Esq.,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

*SR*

LEONID LUBMAN.

Leonid was born on the 5th of March 1936 in Leningrad. In 1943 he began school, and ended his studies in 1953. Between the years 1954-57 he served in the red army, and from there went on to work in industry and research institutes connected to the army. At the same time he continued his studies part time in the field of electronics, which he finished with his B.A. (electronics) Following this he went on and completed his M.A. in sociology, and found work in planning and development of industry, and automation in particular.

In 1977 he decided to emigrate to Israel after having received the necessary invitation. The decision came out of a growing awareness of the problems inherent in the soviet reality. In the end, all of the above and the presence of a Hebrew Grammar text served to accuse him of being in contact with a foreign intelligence service. In order to emigrate he had, some years before, resigned from his post in the military industry, and taken work in building - the department for planning and organizing manpower.

There the following occurred:

One of his fellow workers, Kogan, also decided to emigrate to Israel. The general meeting of the local branch of the Party had to relate to the request. The



first speaker was the local secretary, and he used antisemitic language, both in referring to Israel and to Kogan personally. He accused him of treason, and called him "an enemy of the people". Following him, Leonid asked for the floor. He addressed his fellow workers with the truth about Jewish immigration. He accused the secretary in turn of being an antisemite. He claimed that Jewish immigration to Israel was not treason, as it broke no law in the Soviet constitution. Furthermore, he claimed that the secretary had no moral right to continue in his present function, as by his actions he blackened the reputation of the soviet system.

This led to the first intervention in Leonid's life by the K.G.B. - as the protocol of the same general meeting was in turn passed on to their offices.

Leonid was interested in a wide spectrum of activities. He disagreed with the policies of the party, and in fact was totally independent. He read a lot, and published a few articles in the professional literature. During the same period he completed two books, "The Economic problems of the U.S.S.R." and "Who is Who?". In these he described the soviet Elite, with all its problems, portrayed all its corruption, and suggested brave and daring tools for changing soviet "paradise". All in all, he wrote a few hundred pages - and because there was no possibility of publishing them in the U.S.S.R. he decided to try his luck in the West. He tried to interest in

particular the popular workers union in Germany - an organization of Russian expatriots - by way of friends that immigrated before him. This organization appealed to Ms. Gabrielli of Italy, an expert in Slavic Studies, who was at the time in a seminar at Leningrad. She was asked to meet Leonid, and take copies of his writings. He gave her the works, but when she went to leave the country the signed papers were confiscated by the authorities at the border. Ms. Gabrielli was allowed to leave, but later TASS published an article accusing her of attempted smuggling of secret documents on behalf of Lubman. These contained his recommendations for the undermining of the soviet government by way of spying, sabotage, and mass propaganda. It seemed that the K.G.B. decided to make this into a "spy trial" only long after the event. Ms. Gabrielli had been allowed to leave - a most unusual event - and at the same time the K.G.B. had been preoccupied with the trial of Scharansky.

On the 27/8/1977 Leonid Lubman was arrested, and taken to the K.G.B.'s headquarters in Leningrad in Voyenov St. - where he spent the next eight months. At the end of this period he was given a secret trial of a few days in the local courts. This was not a true trial, but rather a farce bearing no relation to the carriage of justice. The hall was all of 45-50 squ. meters, outside and in surrounded by armed guards. During the trial a propaganda film was taken, and the local journalists were busy



throughout. Relatives and friends of Leonid, including his Mother and Father, were forbidden from attending. Only on the last day of the trial, for the reading of the sentence, were the parents admitted. This was a show trial, run not according to the laws of the land, but rather to the scenario written ahead of time by the K.G.B. The "defence" didn't defend, he was himself a K.G.B. employee, and by no means Leonid's representative. Leonid was left alone to face the might and power of the institutions ranged against him. He refused to plead guilty. The accused him under para.64/a of the soviet legal code - treason against the motherland, contact with the C.I.A., and contact with the popular workers union. He was also accused of betraying state secrets. This "spy trial" was entirely the creation of the K.G.B. under the direction of Rebchuk. (deputy director of investigations in Leningrad)

This then is yet another example of the U.S.S.R. breaking international agreements on the subject of Human Rights, and of course the Heisinki Agreements.

At the beginning of his investigation, Lubman was accused under para.70/a - an accusation of agitation and propaganda against the soviet authorities. During the investigation the K.G.B. wanted to "break" Leonid, and turn him into a collaborator. Rebchuk told him, "A trial is like a masquerade party - everything will be organized exactly the way we want it to be". The director of the prison, Grischen, told him that his trial was going to be a

show trial, under the total control of the K.G.B. The K.G.B. specifically determined upon a "Spy Trial" in order to maintain secrecy, and throughout the investigation they worked on Leonid with threats, a process that continued eight months. About this Rebchuk said, "We keep the prisoners 8-9 months..... and they all break eventually." Lubman was told repeatedly that his Mother had died - then a lie, and that if and when he was sent to the prison camp the other prisoners would probably kill him for being Jewish. He was also threatened with lifetime incarceration, and internment in a psychiatric hospital (where he would "meet his death"). There were also concrete offers: "Inform on Edward Kozniezov in the prison camp and you'll get only one year." "Accept a charge of a lesser crime, and receive a far easier sentence". All the above notwithstanding Leonid refused to co-operate with the authorities and become a "rat". All the decisions of the court then were based entirely on information made up by, and at the order of, Rebchuk. In his final statement at the trial, Lubman spoke of the Zionist dream: He claimed citizenship of the State of Israel, and denied the right of the judge to try him. His final words were: Shalom (peace), and "Next year in Jerusalem!"

He was sentenced to 13 years in a prison camp, under stringent conditions, and was sent to Mordovia, by the village of Lesnoyeh. There he remained until 1978. From there he was moved to camps for political prisoners in Perm.



There the conditions were even harsher. To this day Lubman is here.

Leonid opposes the cruelty of the directors of the prison, and has on several occasions announced a hunger-strike. Each time the reaction the directors is the same, Leonid is sent to isolation. His health has suffered terribly. After the move from Mordovia to Perm he sent a letter to his parents, saying that they could come and visit him for three days. With great difficulty his parents in fact made it to the place, and there they were greeted with the news that "just a few hours before" he had been moved to another camp some 20 km. away. They made there way there, and after much time and effort they were rewarded with a meeting with their son. The food that they brought with them for him was wasted, as Leonid had been treated before the visit specifically to deny him this luxury.