

PRIME MINISTER

Mrs. Cecily Woolf of the Brighton and Hove Committee for Soviet Jewry is coming to see you at 9.30 am. The meeting should only last ten to fifteen minutes and will take place in your sitting room.

Mrs. Woolf will present you with some flowers and a letter on behalf of her Committee. The letter will urge you not to sign the declaration at present being drawn up in Vienna.

She may also raise the case of the Shoikhet family and of Mr. George Samoilovich. I attach some briefing on both these cases which Charles commissioned from the Foreign Office. You should know that you wrote to a member of the Shoikhet family last week and I attach a copy of your letter.

Mrs. Woolf asked if she could be photographed with you, and I told Christine Wall to arrange for a Press Association photographer to be at hand. I suggest the photograph is taken at the beginning of the meeting.

Nigel Wicks will sit in on the meeting.

AMANDA

12.10.88



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

6 October 1988

Dear Charles,

Thank you for your letter of 3 October enclosing one from the Brighton and Hove Committee for Soviet Jewry, and requesting briefing for the Prime Minister on the Samoilovich and Shoikhet cases.

Both are well known to us. George Samoilovich was first refused permission to emigrate in 1972 and is now one of the most longstanding refuseniks in the USSR. His latest application was refused on 23 August. He has been diagnosed as suffering from large cell lymphoma cancer of the throat by Dr Rosenblatt of the Hackensack Medical Centre, New Jersey, USA and has been offered treatment by the Centre. The Americans tell us his medical condition is serious, but not terminal. However to prevent permanent and painful damage to the tissue, treatment is required within one month. The Russians have so far refused a visa.

The Americans are in the lead on this case, since Mr Samoilovich is seeking treatment in the US. However, a campaign on his behalf has also been mounted in this country. We have expressed concern at official level on Mr Samoilovich's behalf in London, Vienna and Moscow in recent weeks. The Foreign Secretary raised the case with Mr Shevardnadze in New York on 26 September. He was told that the matter would be looked at again. Mr Samoilovich has also been added to our list of refusenik cases.

There are four members of the Shoikhet family: Mikhail (an electrical engineer); Anna, his wife; Alexander, their 17 year old son and his grandmother, Anna Dolinsky. As your correspondent says, the family were granted exit permission in June and made preparations to leave. But permission was subsequently rescinded on grounds of "secrecy", although Mikhail had not done secret work since 1971. Mr Shoikhet's brother, Anatoly, who lives in Israel, has written to the Prime Minister about the case. I sent over a draft reply on 3 October, recommending that the Prime Minister reply in person. If she has done this, she might like to give a copy of her letter to the Committee.

In filing, X
pse. send
up with
Samoilovich

/We have



We have also received other letters about the Shoikhets. The family have been added to our list. The next opportunities to hand this over will be the Supreme Soviet visit in the autumn, and Mr Waldegrave's proposed visit to Moscow shortly thereafter.

Yours ever,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'L. Parker'.

(L Parker)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
10 Downing Street