



10 DOWNING STREET  
LONDON SW1A 2AA

*From the Principal Private Secretary*

12 October 1988

Dear Lynn,

**PRIME MINISTER'S MEETING WITH MRS. WOOLF OF THE  
BRIGHTON AND HOVE COMMITTEE FOR SOVIET JEWRY**

Mrs. Woolf, Secretary of the Brighton and Hove Committee for Soviet Jewry, had a 15 minute discussion this morning with the Prime Minister. She handed over the letter attached.

After general discussion of refusenik cases, particularly the Shoikhet family and Mr. George Samoilovich, Mrs. Woolf said that a Mr. Shifter (if that is his spelling) was coming from the US to persuade the Prime Minister not to follow President Reagan's lead in acceding to the Final Document at Vienna. (We have no record of such a visit in the diary.) She hoped that the Prime Minister would ensure that the British kept to their present position. Her information was that the Soviets so wanted agreement on the document that they would be willing to make concessions themselves. We should stand fast. President Reagan was motivated by a wish to leave office on a high point with an important agreement with the Soviet Union. The Prime Minister expressed surprise to hear that President Reagan was ready to compromise on an issue concerning human rights. He had done so much for that cause in the Soviet Union.

There was then some general discussion about the level of refusenik emigration from the Soviet Union. Mrs. Woolf said that Mr. Gorbachev had successfully persuaded many people that refusenik emigration was now proceeding at a rapid pace. Emigration was still only one-fifth of its level in the Brezhnev period. The Soviet authorities were also having recourse to devices, like conscription which could put a bar on emigration for 10 years.

It was agreed that Mrs. Woolf would tell the press that particular refusenik cases had been discussed and that the Prime Minister would send her a considered reply to her letter attached.

I should be grateful if you could let Charles Powell here have a draft reply for the Prime Minister to send to Mrs. Woolf in answer to her letter below. There would be advantage, I think, in despatching this by Wednesday 19 October.

Yours  
sincerely

Nigel Wicks

(N.L. WICKS)

Lyn Parker, Esq.,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

Brighton and Hove Committee for Soviet Jewry  
Incorporating the 35's (Women's Campaign for Soviet Jewry)

---

Mrs. C. Woolf,  
12, Wilbury Gardens,  
Hove, E. Sussex BN3 6HY.

c/o The Rt. Hon. Margaret Thatcher, M.P.,  
Conservative Party Conference,  
Brighton.

12th October, 1988.

Dear Mrs. Thatcher,

Re: Helsinki Review: Final Document at Vienna.

Many thanks for kindly allowing me to present you with this letter and the flowers, which are a token of appreciation for all your help in the past.

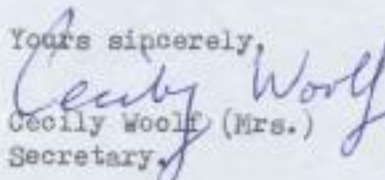
As you know, it is now harder than ever to leave the U.S.S.R. 'Secrecy' restrictions hold for an indefinite period, sometimes 20 years; financial waivers from relatives are withheld because of KGB pressure; and conscription is used as a further 10 years delay. Despite glasnost, we now learn that a new law makes demos virtually impossible with penalties for dissidents of long imprisonment.

On behalf of all Soviet Jewry groups in this country, we therefore beg you not to sign the Final Document at Vienna unless it is linked with unconditional emigration and full human rights. This is a crucial bargaining counter for our oppressed brethren.

Like Sharansky, whom you helped to freedom, we believe that the Soviet Union cannot be trusted to keep future agreements until they have first fulfilled their obligations under the U.N. Declaration of Human Rights.

We applaud the British delegation's present refusal to compromise on these issues and hope that no pressure from the United States will succeed in changing this policy.

Yours sincerely,

  
Cecily Woolf (Mrs.)  
Secretary.

SOU. UNION: Soviet Jewry  
p. 2