



MRM

cc FCO

10 DOWNING STREET

LONDON SW1A 2AA

28 February 1989

From the Private Secretary

Dear Mrs. Lagergren,

Thank you for your letter of 10 February to the Prime Minister about Raoul Wallenberg. I have been asked to reply.

We are very aware of the great heroism of Raoul Wallenberg in helping Jews to escape the Nazis in Budapest in 1944. We are also aware that the Soviet Government have still failed to give an adequate explanation about Raoul Wallenberg's fate.

We, together with like-minded governments with whom we are in touch, have never accepted the explanation that Mr. Wallenberg died of a heart attack in 1947 and have consistently supported the Swedish government in pressing the Soviet authorities for a full and detailed account of Mr. Wallenberg's death. But despite the question being raised with them repeatedly, the Soviet authorities' latest announcement on the matter two weeks ago added nothing to the response they gave in 1957.

Whether or not your brother is still alive, the Russians clearly have an obligation to explain themselves. I can assure you that we do call on the Soviet authorities to explain in detail what happened to Raoul Wallenberg and will continue to do so - even if, as they claim, it is now tragically no more than a matter of historical glasnost. He has been acknowledged the world over as an heroic figure - the Soviet Union should take the opportunity of increasing openness about Stalin's crimes to tell the world the truth about what happened to him. The CSCE process and our bilateral dialogue offer plenty of further opportunities to make this point and we shall be taking them.

Yours sincerely,

CHARLES D. POWELL

Mrs. Nina Lagergren

ECU

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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

28 February 1989

Dear Charles,

Thank you for your letter of 14 February enclosing one from Mrs Nina Lagergren. I enclose a draft reply.

Although the Swedes are aware of this, they have made it clear to us that they would strongly disapprove of any move to say this openly (thus effectively closing the case).

Yours ever,

Richard Egan
(R H T Gozney)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
10 Downing Street

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DSR 11 (Revised Sept 85)

DRAFT: minute/letter/teleletter/despatch/note

TYPE: Draft/Final 1 +

FROM:

Reference

PS/PM

DEPARTMENT:

TEL. NO:

Your Reference

BUILDING:

ROOM NO:

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

Top Secret

Secret

Confidential

Restricted

Unclassified

TO:

Copies to:

Nina Lagergren
Riddarg 10
11435 STOCKHOLM

ML

SUBJECT:

MEMATS

PRIVACY MARKING

..... In Confidence

Thank you for your letter of 10 February to the Prime Minister about Raoul Wallenberg. I have been asked to reply.

CAVEAT

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We, together with like-minded governments with whom we are in touch, have never accepted the explanation that Mr Wallenberg died of a heart attack in 1947 and have consistently supported the Swedish government in pressing the Soviet authorities for a full and detailed account of Mr Wallenberg's death. But despite the question being raised with them repeatedly, the Soviet authorities' latest announcement on the matter two weeks ago added nothing to the response they gave in 1957.

Enclosures flag(s)

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Mrs. Nina LAGERGREN

28/2



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10 DOWNING STREET

LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

A/ 14 February 1989

I attach a copy of a letter which the Prime Minister has received from Mrs. Nina Lagergren.

I should be grateful if you could provide a draft reply, to reach me by 28 February.

C D POWELL

Richard Gozney, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

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RAOUL WALLENBERG-FÖRENINGEN

Ordförande Per Anger

Sekreterare Sonja Sonnenfeld



Prime Minister
Mrs. Margaret Thatcher
10, Downing Street
LONDON, SW 1

R14/2

February 10, 1989

Dear Mrs. Thatcher,

Time is running out for the still imprisoned Raoul Wallenberg and thus for us, so desperately fighting for his release.

You care for human rights, as you care for young generations: imagine what Raoul's example means to young people - here is a man who has shown to the world what one single human being can achieve by being just human! This man, who has become a symbol and a legend, is still alive. He needs you and your will-power that resembles his own so very much.

We turn to you because of Mr. Gorbachev's esteem for you and because he listens to you. In spite of Glasnost and Perestroika, there are no changes in the Soviet position regarding Raoul Wallenberg. It is our understanding that Mr. Gorbachev himself, who wants to wipe out the dark spots in his country's past, would be more than willing to open up the files on Raoul. Why doesn't he? It sounds incredible, but according to quite reliable sources, he is neither well informed nor well advised as to Raoul Wallenberg's fate. It must be in somebody's interest to hide the facts from Mr. Gorbachev, and has been so for the past 4 years, ever since he took office. It is obvious that Mr. Gorbachev, who has nothing to lose but only to gain from wiping out this dark spot, would have found ways in his four years in power, if he had been let in on the secret of the camp of silence with prisoners since the time of Stalin.

The terror of Katyn - so far taboo - has been revealed, but the existence of such camp with 60-70 prisoners of various nationalities, mostly Polish citizens, is still taboo.

Do we KNOW that Raoul is among those prisoners? There is too much pointing to it to be ignored. Do we KNOW that people can survive 45 years in prison. Yes, we know, it's a fact. In 1987 a man was released after 45 years and now lives in the West.

The Soviet Union is planning a Human Rights Conference in Moscow. Mr. Sakharov's very official comment the other day was that he didn't approve of such a conference to take place in Moscow, since "there are no human rights in the USSR..."

Would you make the same comment and add "... as long as Raoul Wallenberg is imprisoned"? He is in desperate need of help!

Sincerely yours,

Nina Lagergren
Nina Lagergren
Raoul's sister

Per Anger
Per Anger
Ambassador

Sonja Sonnenfeld
Sonja Sonnenfeld