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Ian Gow, Esq., M.P.,
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28th January, 1981

*Assumed with FCO.
(re my earlier letter to
Mr Richards)*

Mr. Norris

Dear Ian,

Re. Raoul Wallenberg

Many thanks for your note of 26th January.

The Swedish Ambassador phoned this morning to say that Norwegian Nobel Committee (who control the Peace Prize only) accept nominations only from individual parliamentarians not from Governments.

The announcement of the Chairman of the Stockholm Conference on 16th January that the Swedish Government per se had made the nomination for 1981 misled everyone including the press.

The position is that any individual British parliamentarian wishing to endorse the nominations made by the individual members of the Swedish government and parliament would have to cable the Norwegian Nobel Committee c/o The Storting, Oslo, Norway, by 1st February to add their names.

Yours sincerely

Norris

Vain quest for remedies by closed-shop victims

SIR—The Prime Minister has declared herself "appalled" by the way in which Sandwell Metropolitan Council, West Midlands, is imposing a closed shop (report, Jan 24).

By Jan. 28, when the deadline for six more victims expires, she will have cause to be even more appalled.

No victim of the council's "join or be sacked" diktat has yet been able to resist and the reason is plain. The "remedy" which they are being exhorted to use under Mr Prior's new Employment Act is both futile and illusory.

To qualify for compensation an employee has to undergo an inquisition by council members and officers who are judges in their own cause. Then he is put on a short dead-line for dismissal.

Unless he surrenders he is liable to be dismissed and suffer unemployment for months before appearing before an industrial tribunal. Furthermore to hire a lawyer to represent him does not qualify for legal aid hence costs are likely to be prohibitive.

If a dismissal is confirmed as "unfair" (as it would be under the Act) there is then only a derisory basic award of one or one-and-a-half weeks pay for each completed year of service.

If the employer exercises his right under the Act to decline to obey a reinstatement order the victim gets an "enhanced" award.

Reinstatement is itself no remedy when, as in Sandwell, the council's ruling group has served notice that re-instated employees could expect to be top of any list for future redundancies.

Having fought 23 closed-shop cases over five years the Freedom Association must concur with Mrs Thatcher's view, reported by you a month before Royal Assent of the Employment Act in July, 1980, that "further legislation will have to be considered."

NORRIS McWHIRTER
Vice-Chairman, Freedom Assn.
London, W.C.2.

Th. McWhirter
Raoul Wallenberg

10/2

Ask about progress
on this?

27 January 1981

We have had a letter in reply
to this: presumably with C/F.

I enclose copies of two self-explanatory letters which Ian Gow has received from Norris McWhirter about Raoul Wallenberg.

As you will see Mr. McWhirter is proposing that HMG should endorse the nomination of Mr. Wallenberg for the Nobel Peace Prize which the Swedish Government have put forward. If it is the case, as Mr. McWhirter claims, that we have argued in Madrid in favour of the release of Mr. Wallenberg, you may wish to consider whether or not we should find some way of associating ourselves with the Swedish Government's nomination. Clearly this would have to fall a long way short of a formal endorsement.

MODBA

Francis Richards, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

JS

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Ian Gow, Esq., MP.,
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23rd January, 1981

Dear Ian

Re Hero of the Holocaust, Swedish Diplomat Raoul Wallenberg
A Prisoner in USSR since 1945

Further to my letter of 12th January, copy attached, I am delighted to say that the Swedish Government announced in Stockholm on 16th January that they are officially nominating Raoul Wallenberg for the 1981 Nobel Peace Prize, in absentia. Both the UK and US Governments supported Sweden at the Madrid Conference on this issue, so the decision now is whether or not they would wish to endorse this nomination.

Yours sincerely

Norris

NORRIS McWHIRTER



10 DOWNING STREET

14th January, 1981

RAOUL WALLENBERG.

Thank you so much for your letter of 12th January.

I will, of course, pass on your recommendation to the Prime Minister who, as you know, will be visiting Washington at the end of next month.

I quite understand the reasons which prompted you to write as you did, and I am most grateful to you for having done so.

Ian Gow

Norris McWhirter, Esq.

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12th January, 1981

Dear Ian

My wife and I were invited to the Nobel Prize ceremonies in Stockholm on 10th December by Nina, sister of Raoul Wallenberg. Her husband is the Chamberlain of the Royal Household. Raoul, as a young Swedish diplomat was arrested in January in Budapest by the USSR where he was instrumental in saving the lives of 30,000 Jewish men, women and children from the Nazi "Arrow" extermination squads. The statue raised to him was pulled down by the Red Army and he is now facing his 35th winter in a located Soviet prison camp.

Last April a £1,000 bequest from Ross's Memorial Fund was given to the Wallenberg Committee in Sweden. The cheque was publicly accepted on the Committee's behalf by the present Swedish Ambassador in London. The Prime Minister has been a sponsor of Ross's Memorial Fund since this was formed in December, 1975.

At the Human Rights Conference in Madrid the UK Government along with the USA, Swedish and Swiss governments demanded the release of this great and most selfless hero of our times.

There is now only one remaining chance of achieving his release, now aged 68, from his inhuman fate

If in advance of the February meeting with President-Elect Reagan in Washington, the UK and the US Governments could formally come to agreement to nominate Raoul Wallenberg in absentia for the 1981 Nobel Peace Prize then he might be freed in the three or four days of instability following the now imminent demise of Brezhnev, whose revivification on cortigone cannot be very much longer extended.

As was shown by the 1979 award to Sister Therese of the Calcutta slums, this Prize, though named for Peace, is awardable for acts of great humanity. Any contention that it can only be awarded to people who can travel to receive it, was dispelled by the posthumous award to Dag Hammarskjold in 1961 and by the award of the literature prize to Boris Pasternak in 1958.

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