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10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

29 May 1981

Mr Brian

Thank you for your letter of 19 May enclosing a copy of one you sent to the President of the USSR Academy of Sciences about the plight of Anatoly Shcharansky.

I saw Mrs Shcharansky on 29 April and Peter Blaker saw her on 27 April. I enclose a copy of a statement issued after Peter Blaker's interview with Mrs Shcharansky.

I remain concerned about the plight of Mr Shcharansky. His case has been raised on numerous occasions, most recently in Plenary and Working Group sessions of the current CSCE Review Conference in Madrid, where our delegation has taken the lead in pressing for a searching examination of the Soviet human rights record. A large number of other Western Governments have also given their fullest support.

In your letter you say that immediate pressure is necessary to halt further decline in Shcharansky's condition. We will continue to do all we can to work for Mr Shcharansky's release or, at the very least, for an improvement in the appalling conditions he faces. Although our bilateral efforts and moves through the CSCE process may not bring results as quickly as we would like, they force the Soviet authorities to defend their policies before a large and critical audience and that in itself focusses attention on the plight of Anatoly Shcharansky and others.

/I hope

285

I hope that official representations combined with the support on Mr Shcharansky's behalf shown by his fellow scientists such as yourself will lead the Soviet authorities to bring about an improvement in the conditions faced by Mr Shcharansky and the many others suffering from human rights abuses in the Soviet Union.

Y.
Louswer
Playa
—



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

PRSA
20/5
26 May 1981

Type for PM's signature

Paul

Dear Willie,

Thank you for your letter of 21 May enclosing a copy of one from Lord Flowers to the Prime Minister about Anatoly Shcharansky.

I enclose a draft reply from the Prime Minister.

yours ever
Roderic Lyne

(R M J Lyne)
Private Secretary

Willie Rickett Esq
10 Downing Street

DRAFT: minute/letter/teleletter/despatch/note

TYPE: Draft/Final 1+

FROM:

Reference

Prime Minister

DEPARTMENT:

TEL. NO:

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

TO:

Your Reference

- Top Secret
- Secret
- Confidential
- Restricted
- Unclassified

The Lord Flowers, FRS

Imperial College of Science and Technology

Copies to:

LONDON SW7 2AZ

PRIVACY MARKING

SUBJECT:

.....In Confidence

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CAVEAT.....

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Enclosures—flag(s).....

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