TMP

GR
Thank you
2/8

file

cc: FCO
(pps in CF)

10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

2 August 1982

Dear Mrs. Kitson,

Thank you for your letter of 20 July, about the plight of Anatoly Shcharansky. As you will be aware from my letter to Mrs. Rigal of 1 February, I take a close personal interest in human rights matters in the Soviet Union. The case of Mr. Shcharansky is, sadly, one of the most notorious.

We are deeply concerned about the recent reports of the deterioration in Mr. Shcharansky's health, and find it very worrying that the authorities refuse to allow his mother, Mrs. Milgrom, to see him. We understand that his family do not plan to make any further attempt to see him until they have some official indication that it will be possible to do so.

In these circumstances, it is difficult to get reliable information about his condition. But we are keeping a close watch on developments in the case. Our Embassy in Moscow report that although the family agree that it is possible that Mr. Shchransky's physical condition has further deteriorated, it is not thought likely that he has died. Indeed, in conversations with a representative of the American Embassy recently, Mr. Shcharansky's brother said he did not give credence to such rumours. It is almost certain that, were he to die, the news would filter out through other prisoners. The absence of such news gives us hope that he is managing to survive despite the appalling conditions in which he is being held.

We shall continue to take every opportunity to raise Mr. Shcharansky's case, both in bilateral contacts with the Soviet Union and in appropriate multilateral fora. The case

/is important

BK

is important both in its own right and for what it symbolizes about the denial of human rights in the Soviet Union.

May I ask you to treat with suitable discretion the information from Mr. Shcharansky's family. It would also be helpful if you would forward to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office any further information which you may receive, particularly if it indicates a worsening in Mr. Shcharansky's condition.

Yours sincerely

Margaret Thatcher

Mrs. Rita Eker

Soviet Union

564 Finchley Road, London NW11
Tel: 01-458 7147

DC

3rd August, 1982.

A.J.C. 4/8

The Rt. Hon. Mrs. Margaret Thatcher,
Prime Minister,
10 Downing Street,
London, S.W.1.

pps Reg L.a.

Dear Mrs. Thatcher,

As Mrs. Eker is away until the beginning of September I am writing to acknowledge your letter of August 2nd concerning Anatoly Shcharansky.

Thank you very much for your reply and of course Mrs. Eker will write to you herself on her return.

Yours sincerely,

Diane Chalfen

Diane Chalfen (Mrs.),
Secretary.

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

29 July 1982

Type letter pl.

APR 29/7.

Dear John.

Anatoly Shcharansky

Thank you for your letter of 21 July which enclosed one addressed to the Prime Minister from Mrs Rita Eker of the Women's Campaign for Soviet Jewry, about the case of Mr Anatoly Shcharansky. As you will recall, the Prime Minister received a letter about this case in January from Mrs Margaret Rigal of the Women's Campaign, to which she replied on 1 February. I enclose a draft reply for the Prime Minister's signature, which includes information supplied by our Embassy in Moscow. Neither the Embassy nor Mr Shcharansky's brother believes the rumours that Mr Shcharansky has died.

You ask in your letter whether there is any further action we can take urgently to reinforce earlier representations on Mr Shcharansky's behalf. In the light of the report from the Embassy, we do not think it would be appropriate to make a special demarche to the Russians at this stage. Mr Pym does, however, intend to raise the case with the Soviet Ambassador when the latter makes his first call in September. Should there be reports of a marked deterioration in Mr Shcharansky's condition in the meanwhile, we would call in the Soviet Ambassador at once to make urgent representations. Naturally, we shall also ensure that priority is given to the case when the CSCE Review meeting reconvenes in Madrid in November.

Yours ever,

Francis Richards

(F N Richards)
Private Secretary

A J Coles Esq
10 Downing Street

DSR 11 (Revised)

DRAFT: ~~XXXX~~/letter ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~

TYPE: Draft/Final 1+

FROM:

Prime Minister

DEPARTMENT: TEL. NO:

Reference

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

Top Secret
Secret
Confidential
Restricted
Unclassified

TO:

Mrs Rita Eker
Women's Campaign for Soviet Jewry
564 Finchley Road
London NW11

Your Reference

Copies to:

PRIVACY MARKING

.....In Confidence

CAVEAT.....

SUBJECT:

Thank you for your letter of 20 July, about the plight of Anatoly Shcharansky. As you will be aware from my letter to Mrs Rigal of 1 February, I take a close personal interest in human rights matters in the Soviet Union. ~~and~~ The case of Mr Shcharansky is ~~of course~~, sadly, one of the most notorious.

We are deeply concerned about the recent reports of the deterioration in Mr Shcharansky's health, and find it very worrying that the authorities refuse to allow his mother, Mrs Milgrom, to see him. We understand that his family do not plan to make any further attempt to see him until they have some official indication that it will be possible to do so.

Enclosures—flag(s).....

In these circumstances, it is difficult to get reliable information about his condition. ~~However,~~ but we are keeping a close watch on developments in the case. ~~and~~ Our Embassy in Moscow report that although the family agree that it is possible that Mr Shchransky's

/physical

physical condition has further deteriorated, it is not thought likely that he has died. Indeed, in conversations with a representative of the American Embassy recently, Mr Shcharansky's brother said he did not give credence to such rumours. It is almost certain that, were he to die, the news would filter out through other prisoners, ~~and~~ The absence of such news gives us hope that he is managing to survive despite the appalling conditions in which he is being held.

We shall continue to take every opportunity to raise Mr Shcharansky's case, both in bilateral contacts with the Soviet Union and in appropriate multilateral fora. The case is important both in its own right and for what it symbolizes about the denial of human rights in the Soviet Union.

May I ask you to treat with suitable discretion the information from Mr Shcharansky's family. It would also be helpful if you would forward to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office any further information which you may receive. particularly if it indicates a worsening in Mr Shcharansky's condition.

RDL 28/7

File

Soviet Union

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

21 July 1982

ANATOLY SHCHARANSKY

Your letter of 5 July enclosed a draft letter summarising the recent action we have taken on behalf of the above.

I now enclose a copy of the letter which the Prime Minister has received from Mrs. Rita Eker on behalf of the Women's Committee for Soviet Jewry. You will note that Shcharansky's mother and wife now doubt whether he is still alive. In view of this and other statements in Mrs. Eker's letter, I wonder whether there is any further action that we can take urgently to reinforce the earlier representations we have made. Could you kindly let me have a draft reply to the letter for signature by the Prime Minister by Wednesday, 28 July.

A. J. COLES

Francis Richards, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

File

285

21 July 1982

I am writing on behalf of the Prime Minister to thank you for your letter of 20 July.

This is receiving attention and a reply will be sent to you as soon as possible.

J. COLES

Mrs. Rita Eker.

WOMEN'S CAMPAIGN FOR SOVIET JEWRY 35's

Co-Chairmen: RITA EKER, MARGARET RIGAL

564 Finchley Road, London NW11
Tel: 01-458 7147

RE/DC (Please note new address) 20th July, 1982.

R21

The Rt. Hon. Mrs. Margaret Thatcher, MP.,
Prime Minister,
10 Downing Street,
London, S.W.1.
- - - - - - - - - -

Dear Mrs. Thatcher,

Avital Shcharansky telephoned us over the weekend and asked us to give you the latest news of her husband.

On July 4th Shcharansky's mother, Ida Milgrom, visited Chistopol Prison in the hope of seeing her son as she believed that she was legally entitled to make a visit. She was informed by the Governor of the prison that on January 26th permission for her to see Anatoly had been officially rescinded although no one had notified her of this fact.

Mrs. Milgrom was unable to obtain any information about Anatoly's health or his present situation. She had been told that he would spend three months from the beginning of March until the beginning of June in the punishment block, but she was unable even to find out whether he had been returned to the normal prison regime. Both Ida Milgrom and Avital are desperately concerned about his health and they doubt whether he is still alive.

Ida Milgrom broke her arm earlier in the year and is now suffering acute neuralgia as the limb was not apparently set properly. In her mid-seventies she is, herself, starting to feel that her strength is giving out and Avital is now worrying about her on top of all her other concerns.

We saw Avital last month. She is continuing her campaign for her husband but she is ageing visibly and appears to be a middle-aged, unhappy woman. Anything you can do in these tragic circumstances would be particularly kind and helpful.

Yours sincerely,

Rita Eker.

Rita Eker (Mrs.).,
on behalf of
Women's Committee for Soviet Jewry.

pl ? CF

type letter

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

5 July 1982

R. Howe

Would you like to reply on the lines of the enclosed draft? A.J.C. 6/7.

Dear John,

Thank you for your letter of 29 June enclosing one from Mr Neil Thomas MP about Anatoly Shcharansky.

Thorne

I enclose a draft reply to Mr Thorne which gives a brief resume of the recent action taken on behalf of Mr Shcharansky.

Yours ever

John Holmes

for (F N Richards)
Private Secretary

A J Coles Esq
10 Downing Street

	DRAFT: minute/letter/teleletter/despatch/note	**TYPE:** Draft/Final 1+
	FROM: The Private Secretary No 10 Downing Street DEPARTMENT: TEL. NO:	Reference
SECURITY CLASSIFICATION Top Secret Secret Confidential Restricted Unclassified	TO: Neil Thorne Esq OBE TD MP House of Commons London SW1	Your Reference Copies to:
PRIVACY MARKING .....In Confidence CAVEAT.....	SUBJECT:	

Thank you for your letter of 24 June about Anatoly Shcharansky in the Soviet Union.

The Government remain deeply concerned about the persecution of Soviet Jewry and all those suffering for their beliefs in the Soviet Union. Mr Shcharansky's plight is of course well-known to us, and the Government has made its views clear on many occasions, publicly and in contacts with the Soviet authorities.

As you say, Mrs Avital Shcharansky met the Prime Minister on 29 April last year. Much of their discussion was taken up with a description by Mrs Shcharansky of the conditions in which her husband was being held and the state of his health.

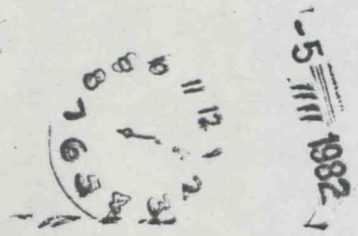
Enclosures—flag(s).....

The British delegation to the CSCE meeting in Madrid have raised Mr Shcharansky's case several times both in plenary sessions and privately with the Soviet delegation. Foreign and Commonwealth Office Ministers have also brought the case up on a number of occasions. Lord Carrington

/referred

referred to it during his Churchill Memorial lecture in October 1981 and the Prime Minister herself mentioned Mr Shcharansky in a speech to the Board of Deputies of British Jews in December 1981.

The Government will continue to give all the support it can to Mr Shcharansky's cause and to keep up the pressure on the Soviet authorities to secure his release.



Soviet Union

FILE

RM

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

29 June, 1982

ANATOLY SCHARANSKY

I enclose a copy of a letter which our Political Office has received from Mr. Neil Thorne, MP.

Could you kindly let me have a draft reply, setting out the action which we have taken on behalf of Mr Scharansky.

A. J. COLES

F Richards, Esq
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

Cl. See earlier
Mp. pl.
A.J.C. 29/6.

10 DOWNING STREET

JOHN COLES

Attached is a letter from Neil Thorne MP for Ilford South.

I am not sure whether you had arrived in this Office when Mrs Scharansky came to see the Prime Minister but I would be grateful if you could look into this case as apparently Mrs Scharansky believed that the Government would be making representations and it seems to them that nothing is happening, or at least, she has not heard that anything is happening in this respect.

Derek Howe

28th June 1982

NEIL THORNE, CBE, TD., MP.

Original letter the Political office.

HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

24th June 1982

Dear Derek,

Further to our discussion in the Members' Lobby the other day, I was approached by Mrs. Avital Scharansky, at the suggestion of Greville Janner M.P., who thought that her plea to the Prime Minister on behalf of her husband, Anatoly, would be more appropriate through me than through him.

Apparently, this lady met the Prime Minister a year or so ago and gained the impression that representations would be made to the Soviet authorities at an appropriate time. She is now most concerned about the welfare of her husband and wondered if any progress had been made.

Can you help please ?

Yours ever,

Neil

D. Howe Esq.,
Prime Minister's Office,
10 Downing Street,
London S.W.1.