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From the Private Secretary

6 October, 1982

The Prime Minister has asked me to reply to your letter of 30 August about Yuri Orlov.

As you know, following your letter to the Prime Minister of 26 January 1981, the British delegation to last June's CERN meeting tried to attract sufficient support for a formal resolution in the Council on behalf of Professor Orlov. Unfortunately, in spite of all their efforts, they were unable to obtain this support.

We will certainly draw the points you have made to the attention of our delegation. They will seek suitable opportunities to make clear our views on the plight of Professor Orlov, if possible when the extension of the CERN-Soviet collaboration is put to the Council. However, as you will recognise, such a move may not attract any more support than on earlier occasions.

We are disturbed by the deterioration in Orlov's health and the appalling conditions in which he is living. As you know, HMG take a close interest in the Soviet human rights record. We have repeatedly made clear to the Soviet authorities, both within the CSCE framework and in direct bilateral contacts, the very widespread concern which is felt in this country about the general deterioration in the Soviet human rights performance. I can assure you that we shall keep up the pressure on the Soviet Union to live up to its international commitments in the field of human rights.

A. J. COLES

Dr. John Eades