



10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Private Secretary*

21 December, 1983.

The Prime Minister has asked me to thank you for your letter of 1 December giving details of some of the recent activities of your organisation.

Mrs. Thatcher was pleased to note that as part of your lobbying exercise on 8 December you called on Malcolm Rifkind, since she knows he will have re-iterated the Government's concern for the worsening plight of Jews in the Soviet Union.

The Prime Minister has asked me to assure you that the Government will continue to apply pressure on the Soviet authorities to live up to their international commitments on human rights, and to take suitable opportunities to raise these matters with them.

David Barclay

Mr. Jonathan Arkush

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Foreign and Commonwealth Office  
London SW1A 2AH

20 December 1983

Mr David,

GR: fms please  
DMS  
21/12

Thank you for your letter of 7 December about the letter the Prime Minister has received from Jonathan Arkush of the Student and Academic Campaign for Soviet Jewry. I enclose, as requested, a draft reply.

(R B Bone)  
Private Secretary

David Barclay 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

Jonathan Arkush  
 Student & Academic Campaign  
 for Soviet Jewry  
 PO Box 217  
 LONDON WC2 A3SS

Copies to:

PRIVACY MARKING

SUBJECT:

.....In Confidence

*The PM has asked me to*  
 Thank you for your letter of 1 December giving details  
 of some of the recent activities of your organisation.

CAVEAT.....

*Mrs Thatcher*  
 I was pleased to note that as part of your lobbying  
 exercise on 8 December you called on Malcolm Rifkind,  
 since <sup>she</sup> I knows he will have re-iterated ~~our~~ <sup>the Government's</sup> concern for  
 the worsening plight of Jews in the Soviet Union.

*The PM has asked me to the Government*  
 I ~~can~~ assure you that ~~we~~ will continue to apply pressure  
 on the Soviet authorities to live up to their inter-  
 national commitments on human rights, and to take  
 suitable opportunities to raise these matters with them.

Enclosures—flag(s).....

PM : Mtg with World  
Leadership of Sweet Terry  
Terry



V

10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Private Secretary*

7 December 1983

I attach a copy of a letter the Prime Minister has received from Jonathan Arkush, on behalf of the Student and Academic Campaign for Soviet Jewry.

I should be grateful if you could provide a draft reply for the Prime Minister's signature, to reach me by Wednesday 21 December.

BU

DB

R.B. Bone, Esq.,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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Acad 7/12 85

# Student and Academic Campaign for Soviet Jewry

The Rt Hon Margaret Thatcher MP  
10 Downing Street  
London SW1

1 December 1983

Dear Mrs. Thatcher,

Almost exactly two years ago, in response to the deteriorating conditions encountered by the Jewish community in the Soviet Union, this Campaign organised a Parliamentary lobby by students to brief MP's and enlist their support. On that occasion you were good enough to receive a joint delegation from the Campaign and the Union of Jewish Students and we greatly appreciated that opportunity to convey to you the views of very many British students and their organisations as to the plight of our Soviet Jewish colleagues. I was myself among the delegation and in the course of a visit to the USSR just a few days afterwards was able to describe our meeting to many Jewish 'refuseniks' who were undoubtedly encouraged and strengthened by your support.

As I am sure you will know from your recent <sup>see file</sup> meeting with the world leaders of the Soviet Jewry campaign, the situation inside the USSR where Jews are concerned has tragically deteriorated over the last two years still further. Emigration has been cut to a trickle and those who lead the Jewish cultural movement have been threatened or, in the case of Iosif Begun, jailed for long terms in prison and exile.

In the light of these recent events this Campaign is again impelled to arrange a lobby at the House of Commons on Thursday 8th December immediately following Prime Minister's Questions. In view of your meeting with the world leaders of the campaign just a short while ago, and the many calls upon your time, the purpose of this letter is merely to convey to you our deep concern as to the present repression of Jews in the USSR and to appeal to you for Her Majesty's Government to press the Soviet Government through all possible channels to permit greater freedom for Soviet Jews to leave the country and to practice their religion and culture, in accordance with international agreements to which the USSR is party. We would find of great assistance and would appreciate any message of support which you could send in this connection, which we would publicise in conjunction with our efforts. We are indeed trying to arrange a meeting with Mr Rifkind for the day of the lobby.

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| <b>PATRONS</b><br>Professor C. Abramsky<br>The Rt. Hon. Peter Archer, Q.C., M.P.<br>- Lord Bethell<br>- Dr. Rhodes Boyson M.P.<br>Patrick Cormack M.P.<br>Arthur Davidson Q.C., M.P.<br>Professor C. Domb<br>- Hugh Dykes M.P.<br>- The Haham, Rabbi Dr. S. Gaon | Bryan Gould<br>- Rabbi Hugo Gryn<br>- The Chief Rabbi<br>Dr. Immanuel Jakobovits<br>Lord Janner<br>- Greville Janner, Q.C., M.P.<br>Miriam Karlin<br>- Professor E. Kedourie<br>- Ivan Lawrence M.P.<br>Evan Luard | John Macdonald Q.C.<br>Eric Moonman<br>Libby Morris<br>Sir Brandon Rhys-Williams Bt. M.P.*<br>Robert Rhodes-James M.P.<br>- Timothy Sainsbury M.P.<br>- Professor L. Schapiro<br>Baroness Seear<br>Lord Segal<br>Arnold Shaw | The Rt. Hon. Sam Silkin Q.C., M.P.<br>Lord Soper<br>The Rt. Hon. David Steel M.P.<br>Tom Stoppard<br>Alec Woodall M.P.<br>Professor J. Yudkin<br>Professor M. Zander |
|--|--|--|--|

\*Member European Parliament

to thank you  
May we take this opportunity/for the support you have expressed  
in the past for the activities of the Campaign to secure an  
improvement in the plight of Soviet Jewry.

Yours sincerely

*Jonathan Arkush*

JONATHAN ARKUSH  
on behalf of SACSJ



10 DOWNING STREET

- ① GOOD ALL-PARTY PATRONS.
- ② GENERAL MESSAGE PRO HUMAN  
FREEDOM AGAINST RELIGIOUS REPRESSION  
CAN'T DO ANY HARM!

With the compliments of

*David W*