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cc FCO

10 DOWNING STREET  
LONDON SW1A 2AA

THE PRIME MINISTER

10 August 1989

*Dear Chief Rabbi,*

Thank you for copying to me Mr. Wolfson's letter of 3 July to you. I have asked our Embassy in Washington to talk to the American Administration.

Although Senator Dole has apparently mentioned the problems facing Hebrew schools in the Soviet Union to the President, when our Embassy consulted the White House and the State Department they were told that no decision had been taken. According to Senator Dole's office, the prospect of a joint visit to Moscow by the Congressional leadership is remote.

This would not necessarily prevent me from raising the issue of Hebrew schools with Mr. Gorbachev (although I would want to place it firmly in the context of the wider problems still facing Soviet Jewry). But as a first step I believe the British and US Embassies in Moscow should take this up with the relevant Soviet officials. If this does not produce the desired result, I would be happy to consider making joint representations with President Bush. In any event we will keep in close touch with the Americans so that we can co-ordinate our efforts.

*Kind regards,*

*Yours sincerely*

*Nayant Shah*

The Chief Rabbi, the Lord Jakobovits

*RA*



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

7 August 1989

*Dear Candine,*

Hebrew Schools: Letter from Lord Jakobovits

Charles Powell wrote on 6 July to Bob Peirce about the Chief Rabbi's representations to the Prime Minister about the legalisation of Hebrew schools in the Soviet Union. I am sorry we have taken so long to reply, but our Washington Embassy have had some difficulty getting a clear picture of what the Americans plan.

Although Senator Dole's staff claim that he has raised this with President Bush, the White House and State Department both seem to be completely unsighted. The Embassy have commented that the possibility of early action by President Bush with Mr Gorbachev on this issue is remote.

Senator Dole has been pursuing this question with the Russians (he has written to Mr Gorbachev and has made representations to the Soviet Ambassador in Washington) but has yet to receive a substantive reply. According to Senator Dole's office however the prospect of a joint visit to Moscow by the Congressional leadership is "pie in the sky".

Against this background, the Prime Minister might write to the Chief Rabbi saying that we are happy to take this issue up with the Russians, but that we intend to reserve an intervention by the Prime Minister for a later stage (if necessary). I enclose a draft.

*Yours sincerely,*  
*Richard Gozney*

(R H T Gozney)  
Private Secretary

Miss Caroline Slocock  
10 Downing Street

FROM:  
PRIME MINISTER  
DEPARTMENT:

TEL. NO:

Reference

BUILDING:

ROOM NO:

Your Reference

## SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

Top Secret  
Secret  
Confidential  
Restricted  
Unclassified

TO:

Copies to:

*The Chief Rabbi*  
+ Lord Jakobovits  
85 Hamilton Terrace  
London Terrace  
London NW8

MRMAKF

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SUBJECT:

## PRIVACY MARKING

..... In Confidence

CAVEAT .....

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/we

Enclosures flag(s) .....

SOVIET UNION: Soviet Jewry

PT2

we will keep in close touch with the Americans so  
that we can co-ordinate our efforts.





FILE  
DATAET

10 DOWNING STREET

LONDON SW1A 2AA

*From the Private Secretary*

6 July 1989

SOVIET JEWRY

I enclose a copy of a letter to the Chief Rabbi, which has been passed on to me, asking whether the Prime Minister would be able to join President Bush in making representations to Mr. Gorbachev about the legalisation of Hebrew schools in the Soviet Union. In principle this is something which the Prime Minister would like to do. But we would need to establish first whether the Americans are indeed taking action as suggested by Senator Dole and if so through what channels. The best time for taking action would presumably be in connection with the proposed visit by the delegation mentioned in the letter to the Soviet Union. The Chief Rabbi does not yet know when that will take place: but he hopes to join it and will let us know when a date has been fixed.

There are various ways in which an intervention could be handled: a message from the Prime Minister to Mr. Gorbachev, a message to the Minister for Religious Affairs (with whom the Prime Minister spent some time when in the Soviet Union) or by Sir Roderic Braithwaite speaking to Chernayev. I should be grateful if you could arrange for the Americans to be consulted and then let me have some advice.

(C.D. POWELL)

R.N. Peirce, Esq.,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

D

*Zee W. Wolfson* ONE STATE STREET PLAZA • NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10004

July 3, 1989

*Orig. letter  
returned to  
Lord Jakobovits*

Lord Jakobovits  
85 Hamilton Ter.  
London Terrace  
London NW8, England

Dear Chief Rabbi:

It was good meeting with you in Jerusalem and I was happy to see that, thank G-d, you appear to be in good health. I am writing to you as we agreed during our brief meeting.

Several weeks ago, I arranged a luncheon at the U.S. Capitol between the top leadership of both Houses of Congress and Soviet Ambassador Dubinin. The following persons were present:

Senator George Mitchell, Democratic Leader  
Senator Robert Dole, Republican Leader  
Congressman Thomas Foley, Speaker of the House  
Congressman Robert Michel,  
Republican Leader of the House  
Albert Reichmann, of Olympia and York  
Zev Wolfson

The meeting was held for the sole purpose of intervening with the top Soviet leadership concerning the legalization of Hebrew Schools in the Soviet Union.

Albert Reichmann and myself have offered to finance the establishment and the maintenance of such schools in the Soviet Union.

Ambassador Dubinin showed great interest and even warmth in the subject matter and was very encouraging. He indicated that he would attempt to arrange for the group to meet with President

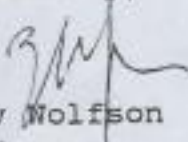
*Zev W. Wolfson*

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Gorbachev concerning the matter. Senator Dole indicated that he would involve President Bush before we visit the Soviet Union.

We would appreciate your addressing your Prime Minister, Mrs. Margaret Thatcher, requesting that she, likewise, intervene directly with President Gorbachev concerning the legalization of Hebrew Schools in the Soviet Union.

Sincerely,



Zev Wolfson  
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