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5th June, 1990

The Rt. Hon. Mrs Margaret Thatcher, M.P.,
Prime Minister,
10 Downing Street,
LONDON, SW1 2AA.

Dear Prime Minister,

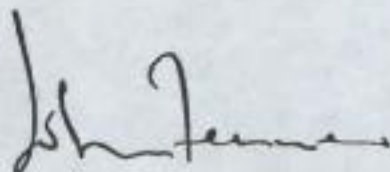
When I wrote to you in September of last year prior to your last meeting with Mr. Gorbachev, I concurred with your earlier hope that legislation would be speedily forthcoming which would enshrine the rights of individuals to leave the Soviet Union "so that they can be claimed and enforced and not given as privileges which can one day be taken away".

Despite innumerable promises, and sterling input by our own Foreign Office, this hope remains unfulfilled. Two suggested dates for the subject to be raised in the Supreme Soviet have come and gone and we are still no nearer legislation. We recently received the text of the latest draft of the proposed legislation which is a significant improvement on its predecessor. Nevertheless, a number of serious flaws remain, of which its non retro-activity is perhaps of most concern. This will mean that the many hundreds of existing refuseniks will fall outside the remit of the legislation. We submit that this loop-hole must be filled before the law is enacted. The continued existence of refuseniks will remain in complete contradiction to the USSR's international obligations and the spirit of cooperation and understanding that is rapidly being erected.

We are most concerned at the increase in anti-semitism which is causing widespread fear among Jews within and without the Soviet Union. Their fears would be somewhat allayed if Mr. Gorbachev personally, or the Soviet Government generally, were to take a resolute stand against this phenomenon. It might perhaps be appropriate for such a stand to occur in Kiev, the site of Babi Yar and of so much historic anti-semitism.

Being ever mindful of your commitment to Human Rights in the Soviet Union and your intention of hearing first-hand testimony from leading refuseniks during your forthcoming visit, may I wish you every success in your deliberations.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "John Fenner". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and "F".

JOHN R. FENNER
Chairman