

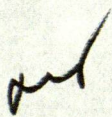
ATKINSON .
MP

_13th May 1980

Thank you very much for your letter of 8th May with which you enclosed a translation of a letter dated 15th April which you had received from Alexander Solzhenitsyn.

I have shown his letter to the Prime Minister.

I shall be most interested to hear about your visit to Leningrad.



Ian Gow MP
Parliamentary Private Secretary

David Atkinson Esq MP

From: David Atkinson, M.P.



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA
Tel. 01-219 3598

27th October 1980.

Dear Prime Minister,

You will recall our chat about inviting Solzhenitsyn to address the CPC meeting at this year's Party Conference.

I have now received a reply - in the negative. I will have another try next year.

I enclose the original of his letter (it copies badly) because it contains a message for you.

Whilst writing, I wanted to let you know that I am making a private visit to Leningrad this weekend to discuss with contacts the degree of public awareness of Afghanistan, oppression of the regime, the Olympic Games and similar matters. The Chief Whip and Peter Bleker are aware of my visit.

With best wishes

Yours
David

April 15, 1980
Vermont

To David Atkinson
Member of the British Parliament

Dear Sir:

I thank you for the honor bestowed on me by your invitation to the annual Conference of the Conservative Party in Brighton for 1980.

Unfortunately, the circumstances of my work do not permit me to travel, even less so across the ocean. For this reason I will not be at all able to take advantage of your invitation. If I were at your conference, however, I would express myself in a manner similar to what has been printed recently in my article in the journal "Foreign Affairs" (Spring, 1980), Misconceptions About Russia Are A Threat To America. Although it was written to be specifically applicable to America, its main positions are relevant to the entire West -- and even all the more pointedly the closer the country (in this case, England) is located in the sphere of clashes with the USSR or its anticipated appetites.

I would say that England has lived through a phase of self-destructive oblivion and misunderstanding of the world situation. With the advent of Mrs. Thatcher to the office of Prime Minister (to whom I would be happy to convey through you my admiration and best wishes) your country received the opportunity to correct many of its former errors and to proceed on a more solid path. These errors, however, are much more many-sided, deeper and of longer standing than it would seem at first glance. Alas, a great hostility existing as far back as Pre-revolutionary Russia, which carried over into the Soviet period a complete misunderstanding of the interests of the Russian people, today threatens primarily England itself with irreversible consequences. I have already spoken many times about these grave events of the preceding two thirds of this century, and also in England itself. In 1918-20 the preponderance of attraction to the "socialistic" side hindered England from helping the nationalistic forces of Russia, its recent war Ally, equipt with small forces in the very beginning, to cope with the contagion of world Communism. This same blindness (the inability to distinguish the Russian people from Communism) incited England and her Allies to hand over to the Communists for reprisal, in 1945-46, more than a million of their opponents, among

whom many were armed and who represented at that time the only firm anti-Communist force in the world. And if today, England, along with the whole world, finds herself under extreme peril, and if her insular position seems to face imminent drowning -- then England herself made one of the main contributions to the present world situation. And when your politics today incline towards union with another communist superpower -- then this is yet another short-sighted step to the final destruction of the world. The continuation of hostility towards National Russia and towards Russian national feelings only increases the threat for England, since it pushes the Russian people away from the position of an Ally of the West -- towards the hopeless surrender to Communism -- and menacingly increases the number of your enemies. The salvation of the West in its present extreme position can be found only in the insight that World Communism is extremely dangerous for all and will never stop of its own volition, that the West no longer has the strength to stop Communism, does not have sufficient strength without an alliance with all peoples enslaved by Communism, and with the Russian people foremost. This will require the profound and urgent restructuring of the politics of Western countries.

In particular, and even especially, the Russian section of the BBC, which I also mention in my article, shares in this entire defect of misunderstanding; it is insensitive to the spiritual needs of the people in whose language it broadcasts, and by that very fact harms Great Britain herself first and foremost, or wastes its broadcast hours in vain.

In your letter you mention the proposed Conference in Madrid. I would not undertake to speak about it in any serious tone: with the present decline of spirit and egoism of the West it will be the same unworthy and lost spectacle as was the Belgrade Conference -- as even the Helsinki Agreement itself actually did not contain anything other than an acknowledgement of the Communist conquests in Europe. (I had already warned about this in 1975.)

You, Mr. Atkinson, also serve as U.K. Chairman of Christian Solidarity International, an organisation which aims to help those who are persecuted in Eastern Europe for their Religious beliefs. In connection with this I express my special wishes for success. I hope that you will take account of the present situation of the Church in the USSR and of Communism's fear of undestroyed Christianity (this is all clearly expressed in the secret document of the Central Committee of the Communist Party printed in the journal "Messenger of the Russian Christian Movement" No. 130, Paris -- and by the fact that a new Brezhnev

onslaught against the Christian faith has begun). My fellow countrymen will be especially grateful to you for the effective widespread defense of the arrested priests, Fr. Dimitri Dudko and Fr. Gleb Yakunin.

You may consider this letter a non-personal one and may use it at your discretion.

With sincere respect,

Alexander Solzhenitsyn