

WINSTON S. CHURCHILL, M.P.



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

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9 November 1984

Dear Herr Friedrich,

Yuri Povarnitzine

I understand that Mr Povarnitzine, who had previously been among the small group of Soviet prisoners interned in Switzerland, was released in June this year and has since applied to the Swiss Authorities for political asylum.

I would very much hope, in view of the humanitarian considerations and, especially, of the fact that he has very decisively compromised his position vis-a-vis the Soviet authorities by giving interviews to Western journalists highly critical of the action of his own Government in Afghanistan. In such circumstances, under the Soviet military code, he would be likely to face death before a firing squad, were he to be returned to the Soviet Union.

In these circumstances I very much hope that the Swiss Government will feel able to grant his request for political asylum.

Yours sincerely,

Winston S Churchill

Herr Rudolf Friedrich
Minister of Justice
Bundeshaus West 3003
Berne
Switzerland

