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Pennie Riniker

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

I have not named the detailed cases into to you since I do not think you would wish to cite them by name. Content that Mr Blaker should do so?

Yes

mt

10 April 1981

Dear Michael,

should do so?

Print 11/4

Following my letter to you on 6 April about the personal cases raised by the Secretary of the British/Romanian Association, we have been considering what action we might usefully take during Verdet's visit.

Of the cases raised by Mr Georgescu, those of Mrs Jarca, Mr Vasilescu and Miss Sarpe do not yet seem to us to justify Government intervention. The Jarca and Sarpe cases have been active only since December and March respectively. By Romanian standards this is a very short period and the individuals involved have not yet been through all the Romanian administrative hoops, tiresome though these are. We therefore consider that for the Prime Minister to raise these cases now would be to raise the level of our representations too far too fast. In the Vasilescu case the Romanian authorities have not yet refused permission for Mr Vasilescu to leave Romania, although Mrs Vasilescu fears that they may. In our view it would therefore be premature for the Prime Minister to intervene also in this case.

We do, however, think it would be valuable to make clear to the Romanians our concern over the Domnesteanu case which has now dragged on for nearly four years. The Home Office are content for Mr Domnesteanu to come to this country and a visa authority has been sent to the Embassy in Bucharest. We would not, however, advocate that the Prime Minister should raise this case herself, but that Mr Blaker should do so in the course of his talks on 14 April with Mr Duma, his Romanian opposite number. Mr Duma has specifically asked for a discussion of CSCE matters and this will provide a good opportunity to raise the Domnesteanu case and perhaps to touch on the Vasilescu one.

Mr Blaker's briefing will also include a reference to the case of the Crisans, a Romanian evangelical family who have been subject to severe persecution because of their proselytising activities. We have received a deluge of letters from MPs and the public on this case; and we would propose that in the general context of CSCE Mr Blaker should draw to Mr Duma's attention the widespread public disquiet the case has evoked in this country. The same brief will cover the cases raised in Amnesty International's letter of 6 April to you. We shall in this way be in a

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position to say that we have taken the occasion of Verdet's visit to emphasise to the Romanians the importance we attach to the human rights provisions of the Final Act and to those which concern the handling of personal cases.

*Yours ever,*

*Francis Richards*  
(F N Richards)  
Private Secretary

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