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CONFIDENTIAL FILE

PRIME MINISTERS MEETING WITH THE BOARD OF
DEPUTIES OF BRITISH JOSS

PRIME MINISTER

OCTOBER 1979

Referred to	Date	Referred to	Date	Referred to	Date	Referred to	Date
11.1.89							
14.9.89							
6.12.89							
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18.10.91							
18.11.91							
19.11.91							
25.3.93							

PREM 19/4361

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cc AB
b/p

Foreign &
Commonwealth
Office

London SW1A 2AH

25 March 1993

Dear Rodeni,

attached

BOARD OF DEPUTIES OF BRITISH JEWS

Thank you for your letter of 25 March asking for a briefing letter on the Arab boycott.

There is no objection to national legislation against the Arab boycott on foreign policy grounds. There would be some advantage in terms of our relations with Israel, the US and our EC partners, especially Germany. Some Arab states might object, but this would be manageable.

The DTI's objection to legislation is on practical grounds. The question was considered at length by the House of Lords Select Committee on the Foreign Boycotts Bill in 1978. The Committee concluded that national legislation was not appropriate because it would be extremely difficult to enforce, and would disadvantage UK firms seeking business in the Middle East. Contact with industry indicated that firms did not wish to see such legislation enacted. These factors remain valid.

A Private Members' Bill banning compliance with any boycott not authorised by the EC or the UN was introduced into the Commons with all party support on 9 December to coincide with Prime Minister Rabin's visit. Second reading has been set for July. Copies of the Bill are not yet available.

Anti-boycott legislation was adopted in the United States in 1976. It is effective, relying extensively on the vigilance of Jewish organisations in America. France and the Netherlands have passed legislation, but it is not enforced in either country. German legislation will come into force in May, after a delay caused by representations from German industry. The German government has already secured the agreement of the Saudi government, and possibly other GCC states, not to require references to the boycott in export documents. The Saudis assured the President of the Board of Trade during his visit in January that this concession would also apply to the UK.



In response to EC demarches in September 1992, the Gulf states indicated privately that they had decided not to make additions to the boycott blacklist and to break off contacts with the Central Boycott Office in Damascus.

The Germans are now keen to secure a harmonised EC policy towards the boycott, but it is not clear that there is a common view on the issue. The Commission take the view that the boycott is a matter where subsidiarity applies. The DTI would support the introduction of anti-boycott legislation as part of a concerted EC policy.

The DTI encourages exporters to pursue business in Israel and not to be put off by the boycott. There are indications that companies which have previously been reluctant to consider business in Israel are now willing to do so.

I am copying this letter to Peter Smith (Department of Trade and Industry) and Melanie Leech (Cabinet Office).

*Yours ever,
Christopher Prentice*

(C N R Prentice)
Private Secretary

Roderic Lyne Esq CMG
10 Downing Street



PRIME MINISTER

①

MR. I spoke to Mr. Nagler as at (X)
He said that the Chronicle
must have deduced what the
PM said from the agenda items

You may wish to be aware of the enclosed cutting from a recent
edition of the Jewish Chronicle which gives details of your
meeting with the Board of Deputies of British Jews.

which
Mr N.
listed
to them!
WEC
9/12.

You made it quite clear to the Board that the meeting was
private. Someone at the Board has obviously gone beyond what it
is acceptable to tell the press about a private meeting.

The article's reference to the PLO is:

a. inaccurate: You were very careful to say that Yasir
Arafat had been sidelined (and not, by implication, the
PLO); and

b. it has already provoked protests from the PLO
representative. The FCO are concerned that the leak will
not make it any easier for us to persuade the PLO to
cooperate in the Middle East peace talks - where our
influence behind the scenes has been significant. Nor will
it help in our dealings with the supporters of the
Palestinian cause in this country - which includes many
government backbenchers.

You could write to Judge Fineststein expressing your
disappointment. I think, however, this would be rather heavy
handed. It might be preferable for me to have a word with the
Secretary to the Board, Neville Nagler, to let him know of your
disappointment that a private meeting was reported in such detail
to the Chronicle.

(X)

Content for me to pursue this latter course?

YES

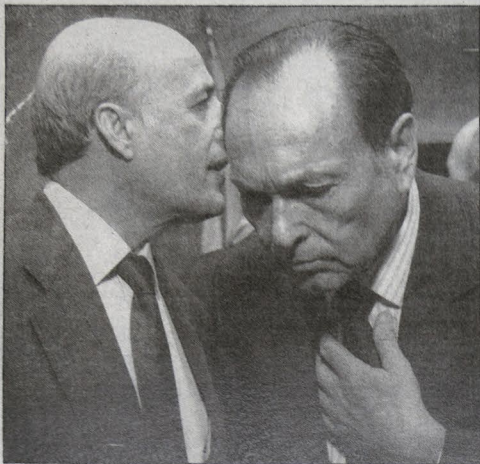
WEC

WILLIAM E CHAPMAN

3 December 1991

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Call for more British investment in Israel



Industrialist Sir David Alliance (left) in close conversation with Israeli Finance Minister, Mr Yitzhak Modai, in London this week

Israel's gross national product increased by six per cent in the past year, making the country one of the few growth economies in the world, according to Mr Yitzhak Modai, the Israeli Finance Minister.

Speaking this week to more than 250 business people at the British-Israel Chamber of Commerce luncheon in London, he

argued for greater investment in Israel. Its economy had a skilled labour force, minimal government intervention, and the best laws in the world to encourage investment, he said.

Israel had grown as much as Japan and South Korea in the past 12 months, and three times the European Community average, he added.

Major tells Board delegation that PLO has been sidelined

By JOSEPH FINKLESTONE, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR, AND JULIAN KOSSOFF

Prime Minister John Major and Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd have decided not to upgrade Britain's relations with the Palestine Liberation Organisation, at least for now.

In an hour-long private meeting with a Board of Deputies delegation this week, Mr Major said the PLO had been sidelined in the Middle East equation and that the "Government intends to keep it that way."

Britain formally reduced its relations with the PLO from ministerial level when Yasir Arafat backed Saddam Hussein in the Gulf War.

There have been meetings between senior members of the PLO and Foreign Office officials. These meetings are continuing.

The delegation also raised the

issue of anti-Semitic literature, handing the Prime Minister the latest example, a booklet entitled "Four Small Candles."

The Prime Minister promised that those responsible for this type of material would be prosecuted.

He also reaffirmed the Government's commitment to bring alleged war criminals to justice and said that war crimes investigators were co-operating with authorities abroad in the search for evidence.

But he explained that finding sufficient evidence to bring prosecutions remained a problem.

The delegation also discussed Syria's accumulation of arms, especially long-range missiles, and pointed out that Syria was continuing to make threats against Israel.

Mr Major said that Britain's plan for limiting the sale of weapons to

the Middle East would include Syria.

On Soviet Jewry, the Prime Minister said Britain was willing to raise individual cases of human rights abuse if supplied with details.

The delegation, led by Board president, Judge Israel Finestein, included the two vice-presidents, Mr Aubrey Rose and Mrs Rosalind Preston, the treasurer, Mr Ron Shelley, and chief executive, Mr Neville Nagler. They said the talks at Downing Street had been "amiable and constructive."

Mr Nagler added: "It certainly was not a waffling session. It was a genuine and worthwhile dialogue."

■ The Foreign Secretary, in Parliament this week, turned down a call by Labour MP Ron Brown to recognise the PLO as a "government in exile, with its own embassy in London."

Jubilee 'gifts' are a lifeline for IJA

By ANNA MAXTED

The Institute of Jewish Affairs raised more than £225,000 at a dinner marking the organisation's 50th anniversary this week.

The occasion, which was hosted by Lord and Lady Rothschild, also honoured the IJA's former president, Lord Goodman.

The generous response followed the organisation's recent shake-up in a bid to overcome financial difficulties.

When Mr Antony Lerman was appointed executive director earlier this year the IJA needed to raise £190,000 to survive.

Former Home Secretary Lord Jenkins of Hillhead, who presented Lord Goodman with the IJA's Golden Jubilee award, praised his devotion to many causes, dubbing him "a saviour of reputations and institutions."

Lord Goodman said he was delighted to be "the pretext for raising such a lot of money," adding that

the IJA had done extremely well, as "institutions with academic pretensions are not always popular among rich Jews."

The evening, at the new Langham Hilton Hotel in London, was concluded with a vote of thanks by the institute's chairman Mr William Frankel.

He said: "This is a threefold celebration not only marking the 50th anniversary, and honouring our institute, but celebrating the re-birth of the institute."

Food for thought as

Familiarity on

Wonderful shopping opportunities

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FILE

Filed on: /Home/Jan 2

10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

19 November 1991

The Prime Minister met officers of the Board of Deputies of British Jews this morning. The Board was represented by Israel Finestein (President), Aubrey Rose (Senior Vice President), Rosalind Preston (Vice President), Ronald Shelley (Treasurer) and Neville Nagler (Chief Executive). Thank you for the briefing which you sent.

Part of the discussion concerned domestic policy, about which I have written separately to Heather Wilkinson at the Home Office.

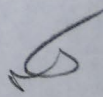
Judge Finestein made it clear that the Board regarded the meeting as private and that they would not talk to the Press afterwards.

Judge Finestein expressed delight at the release of Terry Waite and Tom Sutherland. The Board greatly appreciated the Government's stand on terrorism and applauded the successful work which had resulted in the naming of two suspects in the Lockerbie case. He hoped that some way would be found to bring the suspects to trial. The Prime Minister confirmed that that was the Government's hope too.

Judge Finestein expressed appreciation of the Government's decision to keep Fred Leuchter out of the country. The Board was of course concerned about the activities of M. Le Pen. Whenever Le Pen visited a foreign country, as in Spain recently, he stirred up fascism in his wake. He hoped that the Government would encourage other European Governments to take a common line.

The Prime Minister expressed his concern over the rise of fascism in parts of Europe. Apart from refusing entry to fascists and anti-semites the Government had to be concerned to pursue policies likely to discourage the growth of extremism. Having a sensible immigration policy was one example. The Government could not allow the European Commission to become the arbiter of its immigration policies. Race relations had improved considerably over the last 20 years; they should not slip back.

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Judge Finestein thanked the Prime Minister for the United Kingdom's stand in the Gulf War. The Board had noted the Government's commendation of Israel for its restraint during the conflict. It was perhaps unfortunate that Saddam Hussein was still in power.

The Prime Minister referred to various episodes of the War and, in general terms, his conversations with Mr. Shamir. He outlined the difficulties which prevented the Alliance from toppling Hussein at the end of the War.

Mrs. Preston welcomed the Madrid Peace Conference but expressed concern at reports that the Government intended to upgrade its relations with the P.L.O.

The Prime Minister thought that there had been a lot of misunderstanding about this. Yasser Arafat had done himself enormous harm during the Gulf War and the only reason that he could still present himself as Leader of the Palestinians was because no other leader was yet available. The very successful Peace Conference had further sidelined him. The Government wanted to talk to moderate Palestinians and to keep Arafat sidelined if at all possible. The Government would not develop undesirable relationships with Arafat but they did want a relationship with the Palestinians to encourage them to negotiate and reach agreement with Israel.

Mrs. Preston welcomed the initiative on the Register of Arms Sales. However, Syria had reportedly increased its armed capability since the War and might take the place of Iraq in the region. Further European support for Syria should be linked to humanitarian or welfare measures. Mr. Rose pointed out that the 4,000 Jews in Syria had no right to leave the country and were discriminated against.

The Prime Minister explained that linkage was already Government policy. For example, the Government would not provide long-term aid for the countries of the Soviet Union while they continued their current levels of military spending. The same principle applied to Syria and other countries. The Government detected some changes in attitude in Syria although they were not blind to the element of self-interest behind the changes. It was important not to isolate Syria to such an extent that it was cut off from the main stream of international opinion. The Prime Minister briefly outlined the arms sales initiative and its purposes.

Mrs. Preston urged the Prime Minister to reconsider the Government position on the Arab trade boycott.

The Prime Minister explained that the G7 countries saw the questions of the boycott and Israeli settlements in the occupied territories to be linked. The Prime Minister made the other points in your supplementary briefing.

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Judge Finestein explained that the Board might feel it necessary to approach the Government again on this issue. They wanted to see increased trade between the European Community and Israel. The Board had taken great pleasure in the Government's support for striking out the U.N. declaration equating Zionism with racism.

Judge Finestein explained that the Jewish community greatly welcomed all the efforts made by the Government on behalf of refuseniks in the Soviet Union over the years. A small number of refuseniks were still denied the right to leave. If the Board passed any information it had to the Government, would the Foreign Office pursue the cases?

The Prime Minister confirmed this: the Government would continue to raise refusenik cases with the central authorities and the individual republics.

Finally, Judge Finestein expressed great appreciation for the Government's support for greater human rights. They also greatly appreciated Foreign Office help in cases involving Jews.

WILLIAM CHAPMAN

Christopher Prentice, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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Filed on:



10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

19 November 1991

Dear Heather,

The Prime Minister met officers of the Board of Deputies of British Jews this morning. Thank you for the briefing.

I am writing separately to Christopher Prentice at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office about the foreign affairs element of the discussion.

Those present from the Board were Israel Finestein (President), Aubrey Rose (Senior Vice President), Rosalind Preston (Vice President), Ronald Shelley (Treasurer) and Neville Nagler (Chief Executive).

Judge Finestein made it clear that the Board regarded the meeting as private; the members present would not talk to the Press afterwards.

Judge Finestein expressed appreciation of the Government's decision to keep Fred Leuchter out of the country. The Board was of course concerned about the activities of M. Le Pen. Whenever Le Pen visited a foreign country, as in Madrid recently, he stirred up fascism in his wake. He hoped that the Government would encourage other European Governments to take a common line.

The Prime Minister expressed his concern over the rise of fascism in certain countries abroad. Apart from refusing entry to fascists and anti-semites the Government had to be concerned to adopt policies likely to discourage their views. Having a sensible immigration policy was one such example. The Government did not wish the European Commission to become the arbiter of our immigration policies. He was concerned that race relations, which had improved greatly over the last 20 years, should not be allowed to slip back.

Mr. Rose echoed this sentiment strongly, explaining his position as a Commissioner on the Commission for Racial Equality. The United Kingdom had more comprehensive laws on race relations than any other country in Europe. The Government should urge similar legislative provisions on other countries.

The Prime Minister acknowledged this as a possibility. Judge Finestein raised the question the Asylum Bill. The Board was concerned that the rights of innocent people should not be prejudiced.

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The Prime Minister explained that the Government was concerned to maintain the rights of genuine asylum seekers but that the right of asylum was being abused by economic migrants. The Government was concerned to find effective but fair arrangements. Our mind was not closed to possible amendments to the Asylum Bill. Our concern was to preserve the authority of the system so that genuine asylum seekers' rights would be preserved.

Judge Finestein expressed the Board's gratification at the settlement of the dispute between Police Constable Brown and the Metropolitan Police and expressed the hope that a principle was now established.

Mr. Shelley explained that the whole Jewish community was now undertaking its own security arrangements for synagogues and schools, for example. This did not involve vigilantes and was done in co-operation with the police. The police were very co-operative at every level. Following on from the recent award of £20,000 to a policeman for racial abuse, the Board was concerned that police should remain aware of the sensitivities of minorities.

The Prime Minister agreed that the police should be aware, and referred to the successful outcome of the case involving P.C. Brown. A good deal of police training was aimed at ensuring that police were at one with the communities they served. The Government saw no need currently to change the training procedures but if evidence was produced they would consider doing so. He was keen to see more members of cultural and ethnic minorities in public appointments and throughout the public services.

Mr. Rose expressed the Board's concern about dangerous anti-semitic literature. This was always passed on to the Attorney General whenever it came into the Board's possession. (I enclose examples given to the Prime Minister at the meeting). It came not only from right-wing groups but from Moslem extremists as well. The Board was considering some proposals for strengthening the law in this area which they hoped to send to the Home Secretary and the Attorney General.

The Prime Minister agreed on the dangers which such literature posed. It was sometimes difficult to track down the people responsible but the police attempted to do so and to prosecute. The Government would be very happy to look at the Board's proposals.

Judge Finestein expressed the Board's appreciation for the War Crimes Act. He hoped that investigations would be completed speedily and that there would soon be some news on whether prosecutions were likely.

The Prime Minister explained that over 200 cases were currently being investigated but that it would inevitably take time to establish evidence and there were particular difficulties

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to be resolved over, for example, identification after so many years. But he recognised the need to proceed as quickly as possible. Care would need to be taken that the prosecution was valid and could not be seen as being undertaken for its own sake.

Mr. Shelley mentioned the new body being established under Robert Keys' chairmanship with the Church of England. He noted that other faiths were intended to be brought into it in due course.

The Prime Minister explained that he welcomed opportunities to exchange views with the various religious bodies. He had good relations with the Archbishop of Canterbury, the new Chief Rabbi and Lord Jakobovits, which he hoped to maintain.

I am copying this to Richard Shaw at the Department of the Environment because of the last point.

*Yours sincerely,
William.*

WILLIAM E. CHAPMAN

Ms. Heather Wilkinson,
Home Office.

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BRIEFING FOR THE PRIME MINISTER'S MEETING WITH THE BOARD OF DEPUTIES OF BRITISH JEWS

ANTI-SEMITIC LITERATURE

Line to Take

- Condemn wholeheartedly those that produce and distribute anti-semitic literature.
- Recognise the fear and damage caused within the Jewish community by such publications.
- Welcome the work being done by the Metropolitan Police to establish an index of such material, and the attempts by the police service to tackle this particularly unpleasant phenomenon.
- Recognise that it can be extremely difficult to identify the perpetrators, which therefore makes it impossible to prosecute them.
- Note the recent successful prosecution of Lady Birdwood.

Background Note

Representatives of the Board met with officials and officers from the Metropolitan Police in July to discuss their concerns. These are chiefly threats of violence and the growing problem of anti-semitic literature, both in scale and sheer nastiness. There is evidence that such material is being imported from America, and the Board strongly considers that its distribution contributes to violence.

The Metropolitan Police is establishing an index of anti-semitic literature, and is aware that material is coming from America. The major obstacle in prosecuting perpetrators is the difficulty of identifying them, particularly if material is distributed by post. Furthermore, there are many cases where the originator is identifiable but the material, although extremely distasteful, would not actually warrant a prosecution under the provisions of the Public Order Act, which requires there to be proof that the material is intended to stir up racial hatred.

Lady Birdwood was recently convicted on charges of possessing and distributing anti-semitic leaflets intended to stir up racial hatred. She was given a conditional discharge for two years.

ACTION BY THE POLICE

Line to Take

- Pleased that police forces around the country ensure that they sustain regular contact with Jewish communities.
- This is particularly important when those communities consider that they are under threat of violence, or when the distribution of anti-semitic literature creates an atmosphere of tension and unease.
- Understand that the Board meets regularly with the Association of Chief Police Officers, and am pleased that these meetings are helpful for both parties.

Background Note

At their meeting in July with officials, representatives of the Board acknowledged the value of their meetings with ACPO, and also of contact with forces on a local basis. They also recognised that despite the threat posed by the Gulf War, the action that had been taken by the police service had averted incidents.

Background Note

It is the practice of the Board of Deputies to forward to the Attorney General, through its solicitors, any law-abiding document that comes into its possession. It expects, however, that the Attorney General can do little until a police investigation is brought to a successful conclusion.

In June 1990, the then Secretary General of the Board of Deputies wrote to the Attorney to complain about the failure to bring prosecutions in respect of the 19 publications which over the previous three years had been submitted to him by the Board.

The Attorney General has very recently consented to a prosecution of Colin Jordan.

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DISTRIBUTION OF ANTI-SEMITIC LITERATURE IN THE UNITED KINGDOM

Lines to Take

Criticism that there have been very few prosecutions for incitement to racial hatred

Decisions concerning prosecutions are taken not by the Government but by the Attorney-General acting in an independent capacity.

In 1990 an analysis of the 19 publications forwarded to the Attorney-General by the Board over three years revealed that in only seven instances were decisions taken by the Law Officers or the CPS that a prosecution should not be brought. In five cases the police had been unable to trace publishers or distributors or had decided not to refer a file to the CPS. The remaining six were under consideration or investigation.

Thereafter the list of cases under investigation increased considerably because during 1990 there was a considerable increase in the amount of anti-semitic literature being produced and distributed. Most police investigations reached a dead end because the police were unable to trace a publisher or distributor, but in a few cases a potential defendant was identified and in each of these a prosecution has resulted. A schedule of prosecutions is attached.

Background Note

It is the practice of the Board of Deputies to forward to the Attorney General, through its solicitors, any new anti-semitic document that comes into its possession. It accepts, however, that the Attorney General can do little until a police investigation is brought to a successful conclusion.

In June 1990, the then Secretary General of the Board of Deputies wrote to the Attorney to complain about the failure to bring prosecutions in respect of the 19 publications which over the previous three years had been submitted to him by the Board.

The Attorney General has very recently consented to a prosecution of Colin Jordan.

cc 3/6/91 F

ANTI-SEMITISM IN EASTERN EUROPE

Jewish populations in eastern Europe are now relatively small (pre-war figures are given in parenthesis). In Poland there are some 15,000 (3.3 million), in Romania 19,000 (1 million), Hungary 85,000 (820,000), Czechoslovakia around 12,000 (370,000), Bulgaria 5,000 (24,000) and under 10,000 in Yugoslavia.

There have, with the political changes, been a number of anti-Semitic incidents. In Poland a number of extreme right-wing parties expressing anti-Semitic views emerged - but polled insignificantly - in the May 1990 local elections. There were anti-Semitic undertones to the Presidential campaign in December 1990, and in the general election last month, the Confederation for an Independent Poland, a right-wing nationalist party with a tradition of anti-Semitism, did relatively well. President Walesa has, however, taken steps to counter these manifestations and appointed a Council for Polish-Jewish relations. During a visit to Israel in May he asked for forgiveness for wrongs done to Jews by Poles.

In Czechoslovakia, Romania and Hungary there have been instances of vandalism and/or desecration of Jewish cemeteries. In Romania anti-Semitic articles have been published in the Press. We have raised the latter with the Romanian government, who subsequently made several statements criticising them. In Hungary there have been allegations that the leading party in the governing coalition, the Hungarian Democratic Forum, is anti-Semitic. But evidence suggests that, although it attracts anti-Semitic support, it is not itself anti-Semitic.

The Prime Minister might say:

- A freer atmosphere in eastern Europe has unfortunately led to more open expression of nationalist extremism, including anti-Semitism.
- But governments in most countries have taken steps to try to check any rise in anti-Semitism. We ourselves raised the issue with the Romanian government in July.

The "Anthony Gecas" case

1. Although allegations have not been made against many persons in Scotland (a total of 11 so far), the case against Anthony Gecas, who lives in Edinburgh, was the strongest of all those considered by the Chalmers-Hetherington Inquiry. This case has received the most publicity, was one of the main reasons for the public debate about Britain being a haven for war criminals and is now generally regarded internationally as a leading contender for prosecution.
2. Gecas, formerly Antanas Gecevicus, was a member of a Lithuanian Auxiliary Police Battalion, which in 1944 was subordinated to the German Police and Military and was used as a reserve of manpower by the Nazis to carry out their systematic extermination of the Jews and other sections of the population in Lithuania and Byelorussia. Gecevicus was an officer commanding a platoon of NCOs and men in the 12th Battalion. Gecas has effectively admitted that he is Gecevicus but maintains that he was only involved in genuine anti-partisan warfare.
3. Criminal enquiries in Scotland are strictly confidential and no public statement has yet been made confirming that Gecas is under investigation, although it must be perfectly obvious. The reason for caution is the fear that further publicity before charges are brought would damage the prospects of a fair trial before a jury.
4. At this stage of the investigation it is not clear whether any prosecution will take place, although the intention is to have the investigation completed by the summer of 1992. Despite the impression which may exist in some quarters that all the evidence was assembled by the Simon Wiesenthal Centre, it is far from true that a ready-made case was presented and there are considerable legal obstacles in the way of any prosecution.
5. Other countries, notably Australia, Canada and the USA have War Crimes Units who have 12th Battalion suspects. All the units have met and agreed to co-ordinate their efforts as far as possible. Priority for the Gecas case has been agreed and the Scottish and Australian units will jointly undertake the bulk of the outstanding 12th Battalion work.

IN CONFIDENCE

6. The Jewish community is likely to be aware of recent developments, since much attention has been focused on the announcement by the Lithuanians that many persons convicted by the Soviets were to be pardoned and compensated. This will not involve persons guilty of genocide or mass murder and the Procurator General of Lithuania has been at pains to make this policy clear. At a television and press conference following the recent visit of the heads of the Scottish and Australian units he announced publicly that the Scots were there to investigate the Gecas case and he stressed the co-operation which his office would provide to bring war criminals to justice.
7. Until very recently progress was affected by the political situation in the Soviet Union.
8. With the formal breakaway of the Republics these problems have disappeared.

POLICE WAR CRIME INVESTIGATIONS

Line to Take

- The Police War Crimes Unit was established by the Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police and is funded entirely by the Home Office.
- The cost of the Unit is estimated to be approximately £900,000 in 1991-92 and could be in the order of £1.3 million in 1992-93.
- The money is being spent on investigations by police officers in this country and abroad.
- Just over 200 allegations ^{in the UK} to be investigated. Many individuals need to be traced before allocating time to further research. Others have been traced and research is being undertaken into the details of the allegations against them.
- Full co-operation has been given by the police war crimes units of Australia, Canada and the US.
- The Head of the Police War Crimes Unit is visiting Latvia with the CPS to arrange the methodology of investigation in Latvia with that state's Procurator General.
- Everyone recognises need to proceed as quickly as possible with these investigations.

*... must change if the Baltic states
and other areas will aid investigations.*

IN CONFIDENCE

BRIEFING FOR THE PRIME MINISTER'S MEETING WITH THE
BOARD OF DEPUTIES OF BRITISH JEWS

WAR CRIMES INVESTIGATIONS IN SCOTLAND

Line to Take

1. When the Simon Wiesenthal allegations were received in 1987 it was accepted as a matter of principle that any war criminal found to have settled in Scotland should be dealt with under Scots law.
2. Jurisdiction was, therefore, conferred on courts throughout the United Kingdom with the result that criminal proceedings for murder and culpable homicide may be brought in the Scottish courts against persons residing in Scotland.
3. A separate war crimes investigation unit has now been set up by the Lord Advocate in the Crown Office in Edinburgh. Because of the traditional role of the Scottish public prosecutor in the investigation as well as in the prosecution of crime, the staff involved were drawn from the Procurator Fiscal Service. The unit has recently expanded, however, to include historians, linguists and police officers.
4. Hope that ^{the} recent changes in the Baltic states and Soviet Union will aid investigations.

GOVERNMENT AND MEDIA ATTITUDES TOWARDS ISRAEL

The bilateral relationship improved during the Gulf crisis, when there were frequent ministerial exchanges. The Prime Minister might say:

- Despite some differences (eg over settlements, and the Israeli presence in Lebanon) the state of bilateral relations is good;

- he welcomes his own contacts with Mr Shamir and the good relationship between the Foreign Secretary and Mr Levy.

The Board of Deputies may raise the arms embargo, and the Arab boycott.

If so, the Prime Minister might say:

- we imposed restrictions on defence sales to Israel in 1982 in direct response to Israel's invasion of southern Lebanon.

- these restrictions have remained in place, since Israel has failed to withdraw in accordance with UNSCR 425. There has been no change in UK policy.

- we deplore the Arab boycott, but we leave individual companies to make their own commercial decisions and do not propose to enact anti-boycott legislation.

- that we hope that the Israelis will seriously consider the offer from the Gulf states to suspend the boycott in return for a freeze on Israeli settlements in the Occupied Territories. This exchange of confidence-building measures was endorsed by the London G7 Summit in July; and would encourage progress in the Peace Congress.

(Supplementary briefing on the boycott, requested by Stephen, is attached.)



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done this. But the Foreign Secretary believes that the time is not right for a resumption of Ministerial contacts. Mr Baker has made clear that the Americans would oppose this, and there are UK political constraints before the election. There is no strong argument in favour of a move before next spring/summer. But the Prime Minister will not wish to give an open-ended commitment to the Board of Deputies that we will not resume contacts. He might say that:

- no decision has been taken to restore Ministerial contacts with the PLO, but
- we keep this policy under regular review and would not rule out an upgrading of contacts when we believe that this would help the peace process.

Arab Boycott

We have long opposed domestic anti-boycott legislation. The experience of other countries is not encouraging. It functions most effectively in the United States, but is expensive to administer. In the European Community, the Benelux countries and France have introduced some kind of legislation. But there is no evidence that it has been effective. We have long held that the introduction of such legislation would be inconsistent with our commitment to deregulation. The London Economic Summit called for the Arab world to end the boycott in return for the suspension of Israeli settlement activity in the Occupied Territories. We

/believe

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believe that such a trade-off would be a valuable confidence-building measure for both sides and significantly improve the atmosphere for peace talks. The Arabs have indicated their willingness to fulfil their half of the bargain. We are encouraging Israel to reciprocate.

The Prime Minister might say that:

- We believe that companies should be free to act according to their own commercial judgement.
- It is not at all clear that this position has damaged our trade with Israel, which is the second-largest market in the Middle East for British exporters.
- Hundreds of British companies trade with Israel and with Arab markets without problems.
- We are in step with the majority of our EC partners.

Yours ever,

Christopher Prentice

(C N R Prentice)

Private Secretary

Stephen Wall Esq
10 Downing Street

RESTRICTED

MEETING WITH THE ELECTED OFFICIALS OF THE BOARD OF DEPUTIES OF
BRITISH JEWS: TUESDAY, 19 NOVEMBER

You are meeting tomorrow the President, Vice-Presidents, Treasurer and Chief Executive of the Board of Deputies of British Jews. (Brief biographies are at Flag A.) The Board is, of course, the representative body for the Jewish community in Britain. It is elected and Government Departments regularly consult it. The officers want to acquaint you with the feelings of the Jewish community on a number of topics listed below.

There will be a short photo-call at the beginning (in the Ante Room outside the Cabinet Room).

You may wish to open by saying how much you welcome your first meeting with the Officials of the Board as Prime Minister. You may also wish to refer to your meetings with the new Chief Rabbi and Lord Jakobovits (although, of course, the Board is not representative of Jewry as a religious body).

You may then wish to propose that you take the topics in the order in which they are raised in Mr. Nagler's letter attached at Flag B. Briefing is arranged as follows:

- C - distribution of anti-semitic literature in the UK;
- D - anti-semitic groups and holocaust revisionist "historians" (sic) - this includes a piece on the Board's proposals on group defamation;
- E - progress in investigating war criminals in Britain;
- F - the growth of anti-semitism in Eastern Europe;
- G - Jewry in the Soviet Union;
- H - Government and ^{media} attitudes towards Israel;
- J - the Middle East peace process and US pressure on Israel;

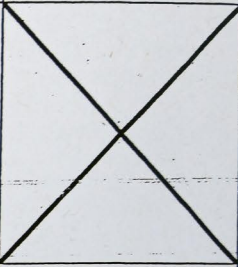
In addition the following topics may be raised:

- K - asylum;
- L - the recent case of the Jewish policeman granted exemption from working on the Sabbath;
- M - the Attorney General's recent speech on the rule of law to the Association of Jewish Ex-Servicemen;

If the Board asks for regular meetings with you, you should be cautious. You do not want to get locked into regular bilaterals with representative organisations of different parts of the community. You will therefore want to sound sympathetic and say that you would rather meet them when they have specific, topical concerns to raise.

WEC

WILLIAM E. CHAPMAN
18 NOVEMBER 1991

DEPARTMENT/SERIES <p style="text-align: center;"><i>PREM 19</i></p> PIECE/ITEM (one piece/item number) <p style="text-align: center;"><i>4361</i></p>	Date and sign
Extract details: <i>attachment to minute from Chapman to the Prime Minister dated 18 November 1991</i>	
CLOSED UNDER FOI EXEMPTION	
RETAINED UNDER SECTION 3(4) OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS ACT 1958	
TEMPORARILY RETAINED	<p style="text-align: right;"><i>11/6/18</i></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>[Signature]</i></p>
MISSING AT TRANSFER	
NUMBER NOT USED	
MISSING (TNA USE ONLY)	
DOCUMENT PUT IN PLACE (TNA USE ONLY)	

Instructions for completion of Dummy Card

Use black or blue pen to complete form.

Use the card for one piece or for each extract removed from a different place within a piece.

Enter the department and series,
eg. HO 405, J 82.

Enter the piece and item references, .
eg. 28, 1079, 84/1, 107/3

Enter extract details if it is an extract rather than a whole piece.
This should be an indication of what the extract is,
eg. Folio 28, Indictment 840079, E107, Letter dated 22/11/1995.
Do not enter details of why the extract is sensitive.

If closed under the FOI Act, enter the FOI exemption numbers applying to the closure, eg. 27(1), 40(2).

Sign and date next to the reason why the record is not available to the public ie. Closed under FOI exemption; Retained under section 3(4) of the Public Records Act 1958; Temporarily retained; Missing at transfer or Number not used.

IN CONFIDENCE

PRIME MINISTER'S MEETING WITH THE BOARD OF DEPUTIES OF BRITISH
JEWS ON 19 NOVEMBER 1991

Threat posed by Anti-Semitic Groups in the UK

Threat to Jewish Interests

Line to Take

The Metropolitan Police Special Branch assess the threat to Jewish interests as low. *we continue to monitor the position.*

Background

Extreme right-wing organisations are not thought to pose a significant threat at this time because their attention and activities are focused more on localised racial issues and their long-term opposition to coloured immigrants into the UK.

Threat to Israeli Interests

Line to take

There is no intelligence to suggest any current specific threat to Israeli interests from any foreign non-Irish terrorist group. The terrorist threat in the UK has diminished since the end of the Gulf War, and the threat of Iraqi or Palestinian-inspired terrorism in the UK is assessed as low.

Background

Events at the Madrid Conference could change this position, but MPSB has said that any incident would be more likely to occur in the Middle East or the Mediterranean Littoral than in the UK.

18Nov-5

The main anti-semitic organisations which have come to our attention are:

The Centre for Historical Review (Holocaust News)
British National Party
National Front
League of St George
British Backlash
Save Our Nation
The Gentile Self-Defence League
British Voice
Association of British Ex-Servicemen

the event. Leuchter would not be excluded because he holds
British and British citizenship, and as a British citizen
he has the right in law to visit the United Kingdom.
It is stated that Leuchter should be
excluded on grounds that his
presence would not be conducive to the public good.

ACTION AGAINST REVISIONIST HISTORIANS

Line to Take

The Home Secretary may personally direct that an individual be excluded from the United Kingdom if his presence is deemed not to be conducive to the public good. This power is used very sparingly and only after the arguments in support of free speech have been very carefully weighed against those on the undesirability of giving a platform to objectionable views and the risk of public disorder. In the recent case of Leuchter the Home Secretary felt it would cause grievous offence both to the Jewish and non-Jewish community if he was admitted to the UK and, therefore, decided that he should be excluded.

There is a particular policy objection to using the exclusion powers merely to suppress the voicing in the United Kingdom of views that are offensive, but not unlawful. There are a number of occasions on which the Home Secretary is asked by various pressure groups to ban the visit of a foreigner because it is felt that one or another section of society will be offended by his visit. It would be very undesirable if the Home Secretary were put in the position of repeatedly having to defend a decision either to exclude or not to exclude particular individuals on the basis of their views alone. There are good grounds, therefore, for confining the use of the exclusion powers to those circumstances where clear objective factors can be adduced in support of exclusion, such as risks to public order or a previous criminal background which makes an individuals presence in the United Kingdom undesirable.

RECENT CASES

Background Note

Earlier this year, the Home Secretary received representations from the Board and from Sir John Wheeler MP about the proposed visit to this country by Fred Leuchter and Robert Faurisson, two exponents of "holocaust revisionism" invited to the UK by the British historian, David Irving, to address private meetings in London, Manchester and Scotland.

The Board of Deputies of British Jews and the Conservative Friends of Israel objected to the visit because of the offence which it will cause to British Jewry. In addition, they are concerned that the UK may become the focal point for holocaust revisionism because of its being outlawed in other European countries and because the American revisionist organisation, The Institute of Historical Review, is facing financial problems.

1 the event, Faurisson could not be excluded because he holds dual French and British citizenship, and as a British citizen he has an unimpeded right in law to visit the United Kingdom. However, the Home Secretary decided that Leuchter should be excluded from the United Kingdom on the grounds that his presence here would not be conducive to the public good.

Line to take

Some Office officials have looked carefully at the Board's report on group defamation and other related legal issues.

The Board's report recognises some of the difficulties.

Defamation of a group rather than an individual is inherently difficult - who is to say whether defamation has occurred?

A wide offence would be a substantial reduction of free discussion and debate.

The Government strongly doubts whether this is workable either as a civil or criminal remedy.

18nov-5

GROUP DEFAMATIONLine to take

Home Office officials have looked carefully at the Board's report on group defamation and other related legal issues.

- The Board's report recognises some of the difficulties. Defamation of a group rather than an individual is inherently difficult - who is to say whether defamation has occurred?
- A wide offence would be a substantial reduction of free discussion and debate.
- The Government strongly doubts whether this is workable either as a civil or criminal remedy.

18nov-5

Background Note

The Board of Deputies of British Jews appointed a committee some time ago to consider the whole area of group defamation. It recommended changes to a number of areas of the law (the Public Order Act 1986, and the Malicious Communications Act 1988); but the major recommendation is that there should be a new criminal offence of group defamation.

The proposed new offence is favoured by the authors of the Report, though they recognise it would not be acceptable to public opinion or the Government. Since the Report considers this proposal in the context of racial groups, it is difficult to see what it adds to their proposals on extending Part III of the Public Order Act 1986. An offence of defaming any group of people, not tied to racial groups, would be a very extensive (and therefore unacceptable) invasion of the right of free speech, and would seriously hamper political debate and most other forms of discussion. There is also a problem over who represents the group concerned, and what happens when only some members feel they have been defamed, and also problems about what constitutes defamation of a group. These difficulties are recognised in the Report, particularly in the context of a civil action for group defamation, which the authors reject as unworkable and indeed counter-productive.

MR RONALD BRADLEY: PRESIDENT

Qualified as Chartered Accountant 1951. Senior Partner Shelley Stock Butter, London W1. Chairman, Central Jewish Lecture and Information Committee of Board of Deputies, 1983-91. Board delegate to CEM. National Chairman of Association of Jewish Ex-Servicemen and Women, 1975-77. Member, Barnet Race Equality Council.

A

WILLIAM BAKER: Chief Executive

BACKGROUND DETAILS ON MEMBERS OF THE DELEGATION

HIS HONOUR ISRAEL FINESTEIN, QC: President

QC since 1970. Mental Health Review Tribunal President since 1983. Appointed Crown Court Judge 1972. Retired as Senior Crown Court Judge 1987. Member of the Board of Deputies from 1945 - 1972; Vice President 1988-1991; President 1991 -

AUBREY ROSE, OBE: Senior vice President

Admitted as solicitor, 1952. OBE 1986. Freeman of the City of London. Senior Partner, London Solicitors, from July 1991.

Member of the Board of Deputies since 1956.

First Jewish Commissioner, Commission for Racial Equality.

Law Society Race Relations Committee. Advocate,

Scarman Tribunal.

MRS ROSALIND PRESTON

Deputy representing Stanmore United Synagogue since 1983. Vice President, National Council of Women of Great Britain. World WIZO^{*} - representative accredited at United Nations. Executive Committee, National Council for Voluntary Organisations. Vice-Chairman, Foreign Affairs Committee of Board of Deputies. Co-ordinator for Community Action: Gulf War 1990.

* Women's International Zionist Organisation.

MR RONALD SHELLEY: Treasurer

Qualified as Chartered Accountant 1951. Senior Partner Shelley Stock Hutter, London W1. Chairman, Central Jewish Lecture and Information Committee of Board of Deputies, 1985-91. Board delegate to CRE. National Chairman of Association of Jewish Ex-Servicemen and Women, 1975-77. Member, Barnet Race Equality Council.

NEVILLE NAGLER: Chief Executive

HOUSE OF LORDS
LONDON SW1A 0PW

Chief Executive since summer 1991. Previously Civil Servant - Treasury; Private Secretary to Chancellor of the Exchequer (Anthony Barber). Joined Home Office 1975; Police Department, Race Relations and Equal Opportunities Division, Drugs and Extradition Division, Finance Division. Chaired Council of Europe's drug co-operation group. Represents Pinner on Council of the United Synagogue.

Dear William,

MEETING WITH THE BOARD OF DEPUTIES OF BRITISH JEMS : 12 NOVEMBER

You copied to me your letter to Paul Page of 18 October, asking for my contribution I might have on war criminals. I have asked the appropriate division to find me some briefing on this but, in the meantime, it might be helpful if I give you some background briefing from our Judicial Appointments Group on Sir Isaac Isaac Feinstein QC.

Feinstein was born in 1921 and educated at Kingston High School, Hull and at Trinity College, Cambridge, where he took a first class degree in History. He was a temporary civil servant from 1943-1946. He was called to the Bar in 1953 and served as pupil to Maurice Boga (as he then was) and John Leonard. He developed a mainly criminal law practice, including some divorce and crime. He was appointed a Circuit Judge in 1972. He had a high reputation as a judge. From 1975, he has been authorized to deal with various types of High Court work and in the final years of his career he was the Resident Judge (that is the senior judge, responsible for the judicial administration of the court) at Acton Crown Court. He retired in 1987 and, at the Lord Chancellor's invitation, has continued to sit from time to time in his retirement as a Deputy Circuit Judge. He also assists senior members of the Lord Chancellor's staff in interviewing potential candidates for judicial office. In his retirement he has resumed his interest in historical studies and has done a great deal of work for the Jewish community. He is a man of total integrity whose rather solemn and deliberate manner does not always conceal a very pleasant, gentle humour.

The notes that we have on war criminals will follow as soon as possible.

Yours,

Fiona

Fiona Sedell

CFO



HOUSE OF LORDS,
LONDON SW1A 0PW

4 November 1991

William Chapman
10 Downing Street
LONDON
SW1

Dear William,

leaf

MEETING WITH THE BOARD OF DEPUTIES OF BRITISH JEWS : 19 NOVEMBER

You copied to me your letter to Paul Pugh of 16 October, asking for any contribution I might have on war criminals. I have asked the appropriate division to find me some briefing on this, but, in the meantime, it might be helpful if I give you some background briefing from our Judicial Appointments Group on His Honour Israel Finestein QC.

Finestein was born in 1921 and educated at Kingston High School, Hull and at Trinity College, Cambridge, where he took a first class degree in History. He was a temporary civil servant from 1943-1946. He was called to the Bar in 1953 and served as pupil to Quintin Hogg (as he then was) and John Leonard. He developed a mainly common law practice, including some divorce and crime. He was appointed a Circuit Judge in 1972. He had a high reputation as a judge. From 1975, he has been authorised to deal with various types of High Court work and in the final years of his career he was the Resident Judge (that is the senior judge, responsible for the judicial administration of the court) at Acton Crown Court. He retired in 1987 and, at the Lord Chancellor's invitation, has continued to sit from time to time in his retirement as a Deputy Circuit Judge. He also assists senior members of the Lord Chancellor's staff in interviewing potential candidates for judicial office. In his retirement he has resumed his interest in historical studies and has done a great deal of work for the Jewish community. He is a man of total integrity whose rather solemn and deliberate manner does not always conceal a very pleasant, gentle humour.

The notes that we have on war criminals will follow as soon as possible.

Yours,

Fiona.

Fiona Sandell

M: Jews oct 7 1951



HOUSE OF LORDS
LONDON SW1A 0PW



1 November 1951

William Croft
10 Downing Street
LONDON
SW1

John Williams

MEETING WITH THE BOARD OF DEPUTIES OF BRITISH JEWS : 10 NOVEMBER

You copied to me your letter to Paul Page of 10 October, asking for any contribution I might have on war criminals. I have asked the appropriate division to find me some material on this, but in the meantime, it might be helpful if I give you some background material from our Judicial Appointments Group on Sir Horace Liddell, 17th Street DC.

Liddell was born in 1881 and educated at Kingdon High School, Hill and at Trinity College, Cambridge, where he took a first class degree in History. He was a temporary civil servant from 1903-1904. He was called to the Bar in 1908 and served as pupil to Gwynne Lloyd (as he then was) and John Liddell. He developed a mainly common law practice, including some divorce and crime. He was appointed a Circuit Judge in 1912. He had a high reputation as a judge. From 1918, he has been authorized to deal with various types of High Court work and in the final years of his career he was the Resident Judge for the senior judge, responsible for the judicial administration of the court at Aston Green Court. He retired in 1947 and at the Lord Chancellor's invitation, was appointed to sit from time to time in his retirement as a Deputy Circuit Judge. He also sat as a member of the Lord Chancellor's Court in his retirement and has resumed his interest in historical studies and has done a great deal of work for the Jewish community. He is a man of total integrity whose calm and deliberate manner does not always conceal a very pleasant, gentle humor.

The notes that we have on war criminals will follow as soon as possible.

John Williams
John Williams

cc Blop 9
JEWIS IN THE SOVIET UNION

The Soviet delegation to the CSCE Conference on the Human Dimension in Moscow in September made clear that the shift in power from the centre to the republics has left responsibility for human rights primarily with republican leaderships. We are urging the centre and republican authorities to live up to all their international commitments to human rights, including minority rights.

The Prime Minister might say:

- Failure of coup provides unprecedented opportunity for Soviet authorities to show that they have broken with the past.
- Rights of minorities must be respected. Relations with republics will depend heavily on their respect for democratic principles, including their human rights performance.
- We are developing contacts with republican authorities to encourage them to respect human rights.

We are urging the Soviet authorities to remove from the emigration law passed on 20 May the restrictive caveats to free travel. Over 400,000 people emigrated from the Soviet Union in 1990, including over 180,000 Soviet Jews to Israel. In the past few years we have successfully raised refusenik cases such as that of Solomon Smolyar and his wife Anna who flew to Israel on 27 October. The total number of people actively applying to leave and being refused is probably several thousand. A list of cases attracting British parliamentary and public interest is handed over regularly to the Soviet authorities. We are in touch regularly with UK organisations who campaign on behalf of Soviet Jewry such as the National Council for Soviet Jewry.

The Prime Minister might say:

- Pleased that growing numbers of Soviet Jews are allowed to leave but remain concerned at those still refused permission.
- Continue to raise refusenik cases with Soviet authorities.

- Delighted at the recent reunion of Anna and Solomon Smolyar with their sons in Israel.

Jews, as well as other religious groupings, have benefited considerably from the increased freedom to practice religion. However, various Russian nationalist organisations have gained publicity for their inflammatory and racist views. The authorities have made few moves to try to combat the problem. There is fear among Jewish organisations that Soviet Jews will be made scapegoats for the Soviet Union's economic problems. Anti-Semitic literature is openly on sale in St Petersburg. President Gorbachev has signed the Paris Charter of the CSCE which requires states to combat determinedly anti-Semitism.

Members of the All Party Parliamentary Committee for Soviet Jewry, led by Mr Janner QC MP visited St Petersburg from 3-6 October to study anti-Semitism: they will call on Mr Hogg on 11 December to discuss their findings.

The Prime Minister might say:

- Deplore anti-Semitism and have made views clear to Soviet authorities.

- Your views on extent of the problem?

CAL 2/08 J

THE MIDDLE EAST PEACE PROCESS AND US PRESSURE ON ISRAEL

The Middle East Peace Conference took place in Madrid from 30 October to 1 November. The 3-day plenary was completed without major incident, although there were some predictably sharp exchanges, particularly between Israel and Syria.

The first round of bilaterals (Israel-Syria, Israel-Lebanon, Israel-Palestinian/Jordanian delegation) took place as scheduled on 3 November. The Americans expect that the next round will take place in Washington at the end of November and that multilateral groups (discussing regional development arms control etc) will meet next month. But there remain unresolved procedural difficulties (eg venue) on both tracks.

Madrid was successful in various respects. Although the Syrian performance was disappointing, the Israeli/Palestinian discussions got off to a bright start.

The Prime Minister might wish to say that:

- The conference was a success. Testimony to the skill and patience of President Bush and Secretary Baker.
- Clear opportunity now for Israel to find a way to live in peace within secure borders, and for the Palestinians to achieve just solution.
- If the Arabs give a commitment to peace which is credible in Israel this could induce changes in Israeli public opinion. Some signs already of increased public support for "land for peace".
- (if raised) No decision has been taken to resume Ministerial contacts with the PLO. We have maintained contact at official level in order to influence the Palestinian approach to these negotiations.

(supplementary briefing on the PLO, requested by Stephen, is immediately beneath this.)



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Foreign &
Commonwealth
Office

London SW1A 2AH

18 November 1991

Dear Stephen,

Call on the Prime Minister by the Board of Deputies
of British Jews, 19 November

You asked for further briefing on our contacts with the PLO and on policy on the Arab boycott, to supplement my letter of 15 November.

Contacts with the PLO

We were in regular contact with the PLO at Ministerial level from early 1989 until September 1990. These contacts began after the PLO adopted an unprecedentedly moderate platform at the 1988 Algiers Palestine National Council - recognition of Israel, a commitment to a negotiated solution to the Arab-Israel dispute, and a renunciation of terrorism. The Foreign Secretary suspended them in September 1990 as a mark of our disapproval of the policy adopted by the PLO during the Gulf crisis.

We have never made public any particular conditions for the resumption of Ministerial contacts. As the Baker initiative gathered pace in the summer, we told the PLO in private that they should allow a non-PLO Palestinian delegation to participate in the Madrid Conference and give their support to the Baker initiative. They have

/done

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done this. But the Foreign Secretary believes that the time is not right for a resumption of Ministerial contacts. Mr Baker has made clear that the Americans would oppose this, and there are UK political constraints before the election. There is no strong argument in favour of a move before next spring/summer. But the Prime Minister will not wish to give an open-ended commitment to the Board of Deputies that we will not resume contacts. He might say that:

- no decision has been taken to restore Ministerial contacts with the PLO, but
- we keep this policy under regular review and would not rule out an upgrading of contacts when we believe that this would help the peace process.

Arab Boycott

We have long opposed domestic anti-boycott legislation. The experience of other countries is not encouraging. It functions most effectively in the United States, but is expensive to administer. In the European Community, the Benelux countries and France have introduced some kind of legislation. But there is no evidence that it has been effective. We have long held that the introduction of such legislation would be inconsistent with our commitment to deregulation. The London Economic Summit called for the Arab world to end the boycott in return for the suspension of Israeli settlement activity in the Occupied Territories. We

/believe

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RD1/90 626/801

From: THE PRIVATE SECRETARY

~~Mr. Powell~~
~~Mr. Henry~~

HOME OFFICE
QUEEN ANNE'S GATE
LONDON SW1H 9AT

K (H)

24 OCT 1991

23 October 1991

cc Ms. Rae
~~Mr. Sisson~~
Mr. Sanderson
Mr. Truscott
Mr. Wrench



Dear Neville,

The Home Secretary has asked me to thank you for your letter of 11 October about the Government's proposals to reform asylum procedures. The Home Secretary considers the Board of Deputies may have misunderstood the Government's proposals, as set out in the Home Secretary's statement of 2 July and earlier statements, and he is glad of the opportunity to set the record straight.

As the Home Secretary has said on a number of occasions, the Government remains fully committed to its obligations under the 1951 Refugees Convention, and nothing in the Government's proposals conflict with that commitment. The Home Secretary recognises the contribution which refugees have in the past made to the life of this country, and will continue to make.

There is, however, a major problem throughout Europe and the United Kingdom of people claiming asylum as a means of circumventing other immigration controls. They do this because they know that asylum procedures in most European countries are now so overwhelmed that it will often be several years before their claims are considered, during which time they have a right to remain in that country. In the United Kingdom asylum applications have increased by ten times since 1988, and only a small minority of applications considered during that time have been found to be substantiated. Over this period the average time taken to decide a claim has risen from a few months to over 16 months at present, and there is now a backlog of more than 60,000 applications. This state of affairs works to the disadvantage of the genuine refugee who has to wait to have his status recognised and to the benefit of those who are misusing the asylum process.

The Government is therefore taking the following steps:

- it is increasing staff in the asylum determination process from about 60 in 1988 to over 550 by the middle of next year. These staff are now being recruited and trained at the rate of 30 every three weeks. They will ensure that applications will in due course be able to be resolved promptly and fairly.
- it proposes to introduce a right of appeal before removal for all those refused asylum in the United Kingdom. At present a right of appeal exists only for those who are already lawfully here, for example, as visitors or students. Resources will be committed to ensure that asylum appeals are not subject to the delays which exist elsewhere in the appellate system.

Neville Nagler Esq
Chief Executive
The Board of Deputies of British Jews
Weburn House
Tavistock Square
London WC1H 0EZ

MISS J. WILKINSON

it proposes that all appeals shall be subject to a leave procedure, so that where a claim is plainly unfounded - for example because the applicant is to be returned to a safe country in which he does not claim to fear persecution - the appeal adjudicator may refuse leave on the papers and so avoid the unnecessary delay of a full oral hearing. But I must emphasise that this procedure is at the appeal stage. All determinations will be made only after an oral interview.

it is increasing the funding of the Refugee Unit of the United Kingdom Immigrants Advisory Service by £1.4 million so that it may provide free representation for asylum seekers on appeal. In common with all Tribunals legal aid has never been available for representation before the Immigration Appellate Authorities, and the Government's proposals about the availability of legal aid for advice in immigration cases are an entirely separate matter.

it is proposing to require asylum seekers to provide fingerprints as a means of identification. This step has been made necessary by the growing number of asylum applicants making multiple claims for asylum as a means of obtaining multiple social security benefits. A number of asylum applicants have been convicted and others are awaiting prosecution. A large number of suspected cases are under investigation. This abuse undermines the institution of asylum and works to the detriment of the law abiding refugee, whose case is delayed by the nugatory work involved in processing multiple applications.

Recently the Government increased the charges payable under the Immigration (Carriers' Liability) Act 1987 by airlines who bring to the country improperly documented passengers. The Government does not accept that this provision prevents refugees escaping persecution. There are few circumstances in which it is necessary for a genuine refugee to take an inter-continental flight in order to escape persecution. The Government cannot accept that the well established procedures for the orderly conduct of international travel and immigration should be abandoned in order to facilitate the arrival of asylum applicants.

The Government expects its full proposals to be published shortly and the Home Secretary believes that they are proper response to the present levels of misuse of asylum, while providing additional safeguards for the genuine refugee.

With Warm regards,

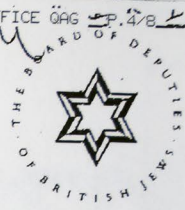
Heather

MISS H J WILKINSON

17 OCT 1991

The Board of Deputies of British Jews

Woburn House, Tavistock Square, London, WC1H 0EZ. Telephone: 071-387 3952, 071-388 7651.
Telex: 262666 BOD G. Fax: 071-383 5848.

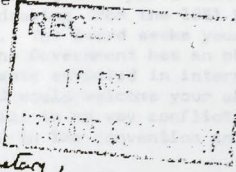


Mr. Adcock

11 October, 1991

Rt. Hon. Kenneth Baker MP
Home Secretary
Home Office
50 Queen Anne's Gate
LONDON SW1H 9AT

Mr. Sandersen
for draft reply (785)
please yw 16x



- Mr. Rae
- Mr. Langdon
- Mr. Platt
- Mr. Fries
- Mr. G. G. G.
- Mr. S. S.
- Mr. Massey
- Mr. Kerpel
- Mrs. Fawcett

Dear Home Secretary,

The Board of Deputies, which is the representative body for the Jewish community in this country, has viewed with mounting concern reports that the Government is planning changes in the law which will make it more difficult for refugees to claim asylum in the United Kingdom. We well understand the case for ensuring that the right to asylum is not abused, but we are extremely troubled that the reported changes will have an adverse impact upon genuine political refugees who face persecution or ill-treatment in their own countries.

2. In the face of increasing oppression and cruelty practised in many regimes around the world, it is only to be expected that the number of people claiming a well-founded fear of persecution is increasing, and thus the number of those seeking asylum in Britain. Throughout the centuries, this country has had a proud record of admitting refugees; as a society, we have greatly benefitted from their presence and the contributions they have made. On grounds of self-interest alone, quite apart from humanitarian or ethical considerations, it must be right to continue this tradition of granting asylum to those at serious risk of persecution, torture or worse throughout the world.

3. From the press reports which we have seen, it would appear that the Government has it in mind to introduce new controls which would discourage airlines from carrying refugees without proper travel documents (which, by definition, will be virtually impossible to obtain in their country of origin); would give refugees less scope to put their case properly with the benefit of help and advice; would withdraw legal aid, thereby depriving refugees of access to independent legal representation; and would give asylum-seekers fewer opportunities to appeal orally and in person against removal. If correctly reported, these measures would make major inroads into the rights of refugees to have fair treatment on arrival in this country. The test of any system for fairness must be that a refugee whose claim for asylum is turned down should have the right to appeal at an oral hearing within the country, with the provision of independent help and legal advice; no-one should be returned from this country until he has had an opportunity to appeal against an initial refusal of asylum.

- President
His Honour Israel Feinstein, Q.C.
- Vice Presidents
Aubrey Rose, Q.B.E.
Ronald Preston
- Treasurer
Ronald Shelley, F.C.A.
- Chief Executive
Needie Nagler, M.A.

Rt. Hon. Kenneth Baker MP

- 2 -

11 October, 1991

4. The Board has also seen reports that the Government may even be contemplating withdrawing from the 1951 United Nations convention on the status of refugees. The Board seeks your assurance that there is no truth in this report. The Government has an obligation in international law to honour the commitments embodied in international conventions to which it is a party. The Board would welcome your assurance that the Government's proposed changes will in no way conflict with or derogate from the provisions embodied in the convention and any subsequent protocols.

5. The proposed measures, if correctly reported, would give no assurance that basic rights of natural justice would be applied in the case of a group of people whose need for independent help is substantial. The price of a wrong decision may be torture or death; but that price will be paid by the victims of such a decision, not by its perpetrators.

With kindest personal regards,

Neville Nagler

Neville Nagler
Chief Executive

M

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S SPEECH TO THE ASSOCIATION OF JEWISH EX-SERVICEMEN AND WOMEN ON 20TH OCTOBER

Background

1. The Attorney General chose to speak on the subject of "Conflict and the Rule of Law". A very large proportion of his speech concerned the law on incitement to racial hatred. Judge Finestein was in the audience.
2. In making his speech the Attorney General had a number of objectives. First, he wished to reassure the Jewish population that he understands their point of view, and their reasons for sensitivity concerning the question of prosecutions. Second, he wished to make quite clear that prosecutions would only be brought when justified by law, and to alert Jewish people to the danger attaching to public campaigns designed to induce the prosecuting authorities to bring proceedings. The result of any such campaign might well be a claim that a prosecution brought subsequent to such pressure was a consequence of the campaign rather than a consequence of the defendant's conduct. Finally, he wished to explain the processes by which decisions are reached, in order to make quite plain that great care is taken in arriving at decisions.
3. The speech was very well received, and the Attorney General believes that he had some success in achieving his objectives.
4. They also feel that there is a case for a law to protect a racial group or ethnic minority against defamatory or disparaging statements or written material, even if this was unlikely to cause breaches of the peace and absent any proof of incitement to racial hatred.
5. They therefore argue that there is a cogent case to be made in principle for an anti-defamation law, but consider that would constitute a radical innovation which will not receive Government or public support at the present time.

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ANNEX K

REPORT OF A SUB-COMMITTEE OF THE LAW AND PARLIAMENTARY
COMMITTEE OF THE BOARD OF DEPUTIES ON GROUP DEFAMATION

Background

1. The Board feel that there have been very few prosecutions for incitement to racial hatred under Part III of the Public Order Act. They feel that it does not penalise or outlaw racist words, behaviour or material as such, however insulting or offensive, but only penalises or outlaws such conduct to the extent that it is intended to foment hatred against a racial group and so may affect public order.

2. In order to strengthen and render more effective the existing law against incitement to racial hatred, they recommended detailed amendments to Part III of the Public Order Act 1986. These amendments provide, inter alia, that a person who uses words or behaviour or displays any written material or who publishes or distributes such material is guilty of an offence if he intends thereby to stir up ill-will, hostility, prejudice or contempt against any racial group or if, having regard to all the circumstances, ill-will, hostility, prejudice or contempt may be stirred up against any racial group.

3. They also recommend a number of amendments to the Malicious Communications Act 1988: that the printer of the material should be liable; that the wording should be altered to "offensive" material rather than "grossly offensive"; that there should be an alternative imprisonment for offences under the Act; and that it should include the sending of material where the purpose is the causing of fear, alarm, affront or insult.

4. They also feel that there is a case for a law to protect a racial group or ethnic minority against defamatory or disparaging statements or written material, even if this was unlikely to cause breaches of the peace and absent any proof of incitement to racial hatred.

5. They therefore argue that there is a cogent case to be made in principle for an anti-defamation law, but consider that would constitute a radical innovation which will not receive Government or public support at the present time.



HOME OFFICE
QUEEN ANNE'S GATE
LONDON SW1H 9AT

18 November 1991

file
fax copy
rec'd yesterday
18.11.91

Dear William,

.... As requested, I enclose supplementary briefing for the Prime Minister's meeting with the Board of Deputies of British Jews on 19 November as follows:

- Annex A List of anti-semitic organisations;
- Annex B Copy of Neville Nagler's Letter of 11 October to the Home Secretary;
- Annex C Briefing provided by the Metropolitan Police on the case of PC Nigel Brown;
- Annex D Group Defamation (supplements Annex K).

You also asked for clarification on the following points in the previous submission:

"WIZO" (Annex A under Mrs Rosalind Preston) stands for Women's International Zionist Organisation.

All the 200 allegations to be investigated (referred to in Annex C of previous briefing) are against individuals believed to be in the United Kingdom.

"the Society" referred to in Annex D, paragraph 6, in the "Anthony Secas case" is a typing error, and should read "the Soviets".

You may also wish to note that the Law Officers' Department has now written to Colin Jordan about the charges against him.

Yours,

Heather

MISS H J WILKINSON

William Chapman, Esq.
No 10 Downing Street
LONDON, S.W.1.

ANNEX A

The main anti-semitic organisations which have come to our attention are:

The Centre for Historical Review (Holocaust News)
British National Party
National Front
League of St George
British Backlash
Save Our Nation
The Gentile Self-Defence League
British Voice
Association of British Ex-Servicemen

17 OCT 1991

RD140 62616011

Mrs Dem...

Mrs Brau...

Annex B 205

The Board of Deputies of British Jews

Woburn House, Tavistock Square, London, WC1H 0EZ. Telephone: 071-387 3952, 071-388 7651.
Telex: 262666 BOD G. Fax: 071-383 5848.



Mr. Adcock

11 October, 1991

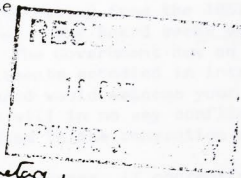
Rt. Hon. Kenneth Baker MP
Home Secretary
Home Office
50 Queen Anne's Gate
LONDON SW1H 9AT

Mr Sandersen

*for draft reply (7Ps)
please yw 16 x*

cc Mrs Rae

- Mr Langdon*
- Mr Platt*
- Mr Fris*
- Mr. Cohen*
- Mr. Shost*
- Mr Massey*
- Mr Kerpel*
- Mrs Fair*



Dear Home Secretary,

The Board of Deputies, which is the representative body for the Jewish community in this country, has viewed with mounting concern reports that the Government is planning changes in the law which will make it more difficult for refugees to claim asylum in the United Kingdom. We well understand the case for ensuring that the right to asylum is not abused, but we are extremely troubled that the reported changes will have an adverse impact upon genuine political refugees who face persecution or ill-treatment in their own countries.

2. In the face of increasing oppression and cruelty practised in many regimes around the world, it is only to be expected that the number of people claiming a well-founded fear of persecution is increasing, and thus the number of those seeking asylum in Britain. Throughout the centuries, this country has had a proud record of admitting refugees; as a society, we have greatly benefitted from their presence and the contributions they have made. On grounds of self-interest alone, quite apart from humanitarian or ethical considerations, it must be right to continue this tradition of granting asylum to those at serious risk of persecution, torture or worse throughout the world.

3. From the press reports which we have seen, it would appear that the Government has it in mind to introduce new controls which would discourage airlines from carrying refugees without proper travel documents (which, by definition, will be virtually impossible to obtain in their country of origin); would give refugees less scope to put their case properly with the benefit of help and advice; would withdraw legal aid, thereby depriving refugees of access to independent legal representation; and would give asylum-seekers fewer opportunities to appeal orally and in person against removal. If correctly reported, these measures would make major inroads into the rights of refugees to have fair treatment on arrival in this country. The test of any system for fairness must be that a refugee whose claim for asylum is turned down should have the right to appeal at an oral hearing within the country, with the provision of independent help and legal advice; no-one should be returned from this country until he has had an opportunity to appeal against an initial refusal of asylum.

- President*
His Honour Israel Feinstein, Q.C.
- Vice Presidents*
Aubrey Rose, O.B.E.
Rosalind Preston
- Treasurer*
Ronald Shelley, F.C.A.
- Chief Executive*
Neddie Nagler, M.A.

11 October, 1991

4. The Board has also seen reports that the Government may even be contemplating withdrawing from the 1951 United Nations convention on the status of refugees. The Board seeks your assurance that there is no truth in this report. The Government has an obligation in international law to honour the commitments embodied in international conventions to which it is a party. The Board would welcome your assurance that the Government's proposed changes will in no way conflict with or derogate from the provisions embodied in the convention and any subsequent protocols.

5. The proposed measures, if correctly reported, would give no assurance that basic rights of natural justice would be applied in the case of a group of people whose need for independent help is substantial. The price of a wrong decision may be torture or death; but that price will be paid by the victims of such a decision, not by its perpetrators.

With kindest personal regards,

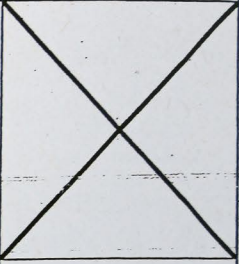
Neville Nagler

Neville Nagler
Chief Executive

NUMBER NOT USED

REASON (TNA USE ONLY)

DOCUMENT PUT IN PLACE (TNA USE ONLY)

DEPARTMENT/SERIES <p style="text-align: center;"><i>PREM 19</i></p> PIECE/ITEM (one piece/item number) <i>4361</i>	Date and sign
Extract details: <i>attachment to letter from Wilkison to Chapman dated 18 November 1991</i>	
CLOSED UNDER FOI EXEMPTION	
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TEMPORARILY RETAINED	<i>11/6/198</i> <i>Miller</i>
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Instructions for completion of Dummy Card

Use black or blue pen to complete form.

Use the card for one piece or for each extract removed from a different place within a piece.

Enter the department and series,
eg. HO 405, J 82.

Enter the piece and item references,
eg. 28, 1079, 84/1, 107/3

Enter extract details if it is an extract rather than a whole piece.

This should be an indication of what the extract is,

eg. Folio 28, Indictment 840079, E107, Letter dated 22/11/1995.

Do not enter details of why the extract is sensitive.

If closed under the FOI Act, enter the FOI exemption numbers applying to the closure, eg. 27(1), 40(2).

Sign and date next to the reason why the record is not available to the public ie. Closed under FOI exemption; Retained under section 3(4) of the Public Records Act 1958; Temporarily retained; Missing at transfer or Number not used.

GROUP DEFAMATION

Line to take

Home Office officials have looked carefully at the Board's report on group defamation and other related legal issues.

- The Board's report recognises some of the difficulties. Defamation of a group rather than an individual is inherently difficult - who is to say whether defamation has occurred?
- A wide offence would be a substantial reduction of free discussion and debate.
- The Government strongly doubts whether this is workable either as a civil or criminal remedy.

Background Note

The Board of Deputies of British Jews appointed a committee some time ago to consider the whole area of group defamation. It recommended changes to a number of areas of the law (the Public Order Act 1986, and the Malicious Communications Act 1988); but the major recommendation is that there should be a new criminal offence of group defamation.

The proposed new offence is favoured by the authors of the Report, though they recognise it would not be acceptable to public opinion or the Government. Since the Report considers this proposal in the context of racial groups, it is difficult to see what it adds to their proposals on extending Part III of the Public Order Act 1986. An offence of defaming any group of people, not tied to racial groups, would be a very extensive (and therefore unacceptable) invasion of the right of free speech, and would seriously hamper political debate and most other forms of discussion. There is also a problem over who represents the group concerned, and what happens when only some members feel they have been defamed, and also problems about what constitutes defamation of a group. These difficulties are recognised in the Report, particularly in the context of a civil action for group defamation, which the authors reject as unworkable and indeed counter-productive.

BF to DEC 18/11

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cc Blue
fe

Foreign &
Commonwealth
Office

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London SW1A 2AH

15 November 1991

Dear William,

Your letter of 16 October asked for briefing for the Prime Minister's meeting with the Board of Deputies on 19 November.

GOVERNMENT AND MEDIA ATTITUDES TOWARDS ISRAEL

The bilateral relationship improved during the Gulf crisis, when there were frequent ministerial exchanges. The Prime Minister might say:

- Despite some differences (eg over settlements, and the Israeli presence in Lebanon) the state of bilateral relations is good;
- he welcomes his own contacts with Mr Shamir and the good relationship between the Foreign Secretary and Mr Levy.

The Board of Deputies may raise the arms embargo, and the Arab boycott.

If so, the Prime Minister might say:

- we imposed restrictions on defence sales to Israel in 1982 in direct response to Israel's invasion of southern Lebanon.

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- these restrictions have remained in place, since Israel has failed to withdraw in accordance with UNSCR 425. There has been no change in UK policy.
- we deplore the Arab boycott, but we leave individual companies to make their own commercial decisions and do not propose to enact anti-boycott legislation.
- that we hope that the Israelis will seriously consider the offer from the Gulf states to suspend the boycott in return for a freeze on Israeli settlements in the Occupied Territories. This exchange of confidence-building measures was endorsed by the London G7 Summit in July; and would encourage progress in the Peace Congress.

THE MIDDLE EAST PEACE PROCESS AND US PRESSURE ON ISRAEL

The Middle East Peace Conference took place in Madrid from 30 October to 1 November. The 3-day plenary was completed without major incident, although there were some predictably sharp exchanges, particularly between Israel and Syria.

The first round of bilaterals (Israel-Syria, Israel-Lebanon, Israel-Palestinian/Jordanian delegation) took place as scheduled on 3 November. The Americans expect that the next round will take place in Washington at the end of November and that multilateral groups (discussing regional development arms control etc) will meet next month. But there remain unresolved procedural difficulties (eg venue) on both tracks.

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Madrid was successful in various respects. Although the Syrian performance was disappointing, the Israeli/Palestinian discussions got off to a bright start.

The Prime Minister might wish to say that:

- The conference was a success. Testimony to the skill and patience of President Bush and Secretary Baker.
- Clear opportunity now for Israel to find a way to live in peace within secure borders, and for the Palestinians to achieve just solution.
- If the Arabs give a commitment to peace which is credible in Israel this could induce changes in Israeli public opinion. Some signs already of increased public support for "land for peace".
- (if raised) No decision has been taken to resume Ministerial contacts with the PLO. We have maintained contact at official level in order to influence the Palestinian approach to these negotiations.

ANTI-SEMITISM IN EASTERN EUROPE

Jewish populations in eastern Europe are now relatively small (pre-war figures are given in parenthesis). In Poland there are some 15,000 (3.3 million), in Romania 19,000 (1 million), Hungary 85,000 (820,000), Czechoslovakia around 12,000 (370,000), Bulgaria 5,000 (24,000) and under 10,000 in Yugoslavia.

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There have, with the political changes, been a number of anti-Semitic incidents. In Poland a number of extreme right-wing parties expressing anti-Semitic views emerged - but polled insignificantly - in the May 1990 local elections. There were anti-Semitic undertones to the Presidential campaign in December 1990, and in the general election last month, the Confederation for an Independent Poland, a right-wing nationalist party with a tradition of anti-Semitism, did relatively well. President Walesa has, however, taken steps to counter these manifestations and appointed a Council for Polish-Jewish relations. During a visit to Israel in May he asked for forgiveness for wrongs done to Jews by Poles.

In Czechoslovakia, Romania and Hungary there have been instances of vandalism and/or desecration of Jewish cemeteries. In Romania anti-Semitic articles have been published in the Press. We have raised the latter with the Romanian government, who subsequently made several statements criticising them. In Hungary there have been allegations that the leading party in the governing coalition, the Hungarian Democratic Forum, is anti-Semitic. But evidence suggests that, although it attracts anti-Semitic support, it is not itself anti-Semitic.

The Prime Minister might say:

- A freer atmosphere in eastern Europe has unfortunately led to more open expression of nationalist extremism, including anti-Semitism.

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- But governments in most countries have taken steps to try to check any rise in anti-Semitism. We ourselves raised the issue with the Romanian government in July.
- We shall continue to voice our concern over any manifestations of anti-Semitism in the region.

JEWS IN THE SOVIET UNION

The Soviet delegation to the CSCE Conference on the Human Dimension in Moscow in September made clear that the shift in power from the centre to the republics has left responsibility for human rights primarily with republican leaderships. We are urging the centre and republican authorities to live up to all their international commitments to human rights, including minority rights.

The Prime Minister might say:

- Failure of coup provides unprecedented opportunity for Soviet authorities to show that they have broken with the past.
- Rights of minorities must be respected. Relations with republics will depend heavily on their respect for democratic principles, including their human rights performance.
- We are developing contacts with republican authorities to encourage them to respect human rights.

We are urging the Soviet authorities to remove from the emigration law passed on 20 May the restrictive caveats to free travel. Over 400,000 people emigrated

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from the Soviet Union in 1990, including over 180,000 Soviet Jews to Israel. In the past few years we have successfully raised refusenik cases such as that of Solomon Smolyar and his wife Anna who flew to Israel on 27 October. The total number of people actively applying to leave and being refused is probably several thousand. A list of cases attracting British parliamentary and public interest is handed over regularly to the Soviet authorities. We are in touch regularly with UK organisations who campaign on behalf of Soviet Jewry such as the National Council for Soviet Jewry.

The Prime Minister might say:

- Pleased that growing numbers of Soviet Jews are allowed to leave but remain concerned at those still refused permission.
- Continue to raise refusenik cases with Soviet authorities.
- Delighted at the recent reunion of Anna and Solomon Smolyar with their sons in Israel.

Jews, as well as other religious groupings, have benefitted considerably from the increased freedom to practice religion. However, various Russian nationalist organisations have gained publicity for their inflammatory and racist views. The authorities have made few moves to try to combat the problem. There is fear among Jewish organisations that Soviet Jews will be made scapegoats for the Soviet Union's economic problems. Anti-Semitic literature is openly on sale in



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St Petersburg. President Gorbachev has signed the Paris Charter of the CSCE which requires states to combat determinedly anti-Semitism.

Members of the All Party Parliamentary Committee for Soviet Jewry, led by Mr Janner QC MP visited St Petersburg from 3-6 October to study anti-Semitism: they will call on Mr Hogg on 11 December to discuss their findings.

The Prime Minister might say:

- Deplore anti-Semitism and have made views clear to Soviet authorities.
- Your views on extent of the problem?

*Yours ever,
Christopher Prentice.*

(C N R Prentice)
Private Secretary

William Chapman Esq
10 Downing Street

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~~William,~~

~~RIST~~

as requested

Stuart

With the Compliments of
the Attorney-General

→ Cf

The Legal Secretariat to the Law Officers
Attorney General's Chambers
9 Buckingham Gate
London SW1E 6JP

071-828 1884

M put
with the briefs
for the entry with
The British Board of Directors as follows.

SIR GEORGE BEAN LECTURE: ROYAL AERONAUTICAL SOCIETY,
4 HAMILTON PLACE, W.1.

INTRODUCTION

It is no mere formality for the speaker to express on this occasion his sense of being honoured by the invitation he has received.

Sir George Bean was for all too short a time the Head of my Chambers. But his fine qualities made him a natural for the Bench, where he continued to be the friend of all of us until illness so tragically cut short his life.

He joined our Chambers when he took Silk, and made the move to London that was in those days obligatory at that stage in your career if you practised from chambers in Liverpool. We were at that time small in size, and without a Silk following the appointment of our former Head to the High Court Bench. He was therefore very welcome for the heavyweight practitioner he was: but in a very short time he had made himself even more welcome for the man he was.

Perhaps I should have used the plural, for George seemed to be at least two men. The first I knew was the strictly disciplined professional or stern address, steely economy of phrase, and frugal habit. The second was the devoted lover of his family, of music, of poetry, and of the causes of the underdog. Possibly there were more complicated facets. He was certainly in sympathy with the Labour Party but he could be highly conservative. Wearing a bowler hat himself, he once objected quite warmly to a less orthodox hard hat of my own, one of Churchillian

proportions recently purchased from Locke's, that I was wearing on our way to court together. When I later told him that my small son had put his foot through it he was unstinting in his congratulations to the boy.

He had been a fine wartime soldier, meeting in the 8th Army the exacting and, it must sometimes be said the capricious standards of its ever victorious Commander Lord Montgomery. That he became under that eagle eye a Lieutenant Colonel decorated with the OBE, Military Division, tells its own story.

His work in peacetime with this Association, which does such good work for ex Service people and which now so happily each year recalls his memory, it would be superfluous for me to mention, I know it was very close to his heart. But it is right to say that in peace he became as fine and practical a lawyer and advocate as he had been a soldier in time of war. He was that very English and very Jewish mixture, a man of peace formidable in war. Perhaps it was his experience of the horrors of armed conflict and its aftermath that led him to develop an expertise in identifying ground upon which all parties to a dispute could stand. His temperament led him to try to find other ways through a conflict rather than knocking the opposition flat, and he could often succeed where others would certainly have failed. Yet he was a doughty opponent in court if he could not get a settlement on terms he thought were reasonable.

You can see, therefore, why I feel it such an honour to be asked to deliver this commemorative lecture, and to do so in the delightful presence of Szdenka and David. Perhaps you will think that the subject I have chosen - "Conflict and the Rule of Law" - might not have been uncongenial to him.

where racial ***** had increasing
influence recently. So do we all. But it is dimly true
that in our own country we have proved not to be immune from this
seemingly indestructible virus. One thinks of attacks carried
out on Jewish people and property, and vandalism perpetrated with
In choosing this topic I was mindful of the genesis of your
invitation to me. Last year Sir Peter Imbert, whom we all
rejoice to see here today looking so well, was asked about lack
of prosecutions for incitement to racial hatred. The subsequent
press reports of his answer failed to do justice to the fair and
careful balance that was inherent in his reply. He said that his
men could feel frustrated at the failure to bring prosecutions.
But Sir Peter had said that he knew that the Attorney General
gave real consideration to each of these cases. Subsequently his
Deputy, Sir John Dellow wrote to The Times to say that he, too,
knew that due and proper consideration is given, and that cases
are prosecuted where there is a sufficiency of evidence. No
Subsequent correspondence confirmed my awareness that there were
misgivings within the Jewish community about the commitment of
prosecuting authorities to taking criminal proceedings in what
I may for convenience call racial hatred cases. Ity group, should
be vigilant against any perceived hanging back on the part of the
There probably still are such misgivings. As you may well
imagine, and as some of you will recall, I both took and created
opportunities at that time to say that those misgivings were
groundless, as I believe is still the case. But at all events I
feel sure that I owe this very welcome invitation to the
anxieties I have described. true extent of the horror that had
been perpetrated upon Jewish people was revealed. I have
Let me therefore say at this point how readily and
sympathetically I understand them. I know that you look
anxiously at France, and Germany, among other European countries,

where racial intolerance and hostility have gained increasing influence recently. So do we all. But it is dismayingly true that in our own country we have proved not to be immune from this seemingly indestructible virus. One thinks of attacks carried out on Jewish people and property, and vandalism perpetrated with devastatingly distressing effect upon Jewish cemeteries. One thinks of a surge in crudely anti Jewish publications. These have occurred amidst worryingly renewed manifestations of hostility towards other minority groups, and one knows from history that as long as that form of sickness continues to present itself in any community, so long will the Jewish people especially continue to be at risk.

For this reason I think it very wise as well as commendable that your own organisation, in seeking as it does to identify and counter racist prejudice and oppression, does not limit its interests only to activities that are directed against Jews. No man, and no race, is an island.

I also think it entirely legitimate that bodies representing Jewish people, and bodies representing any minority group, should be vigilant against any perceived hanging back on the part of the authorities in the enforcement of the law.

That is your right, and for my part I would accept that it also is your duty. For I am old enough to remember the staggering sense of shock and revulsion that we all felt when, at the end of the second world war, the true extent of the horrors that had been perpetrated upon Jewish people was revealed. I have subsequently experienced, when serving as a soldier myself, the overpowering aura of the death camp at Belsen - only one among so many.

In Jerusalem, I have visited YAD VASHEM ("They shall have a place and they shall have a name"), and the Holocaust Museum, from which one emerges speechlessly moved and made freshly aware of the evil of which all mankind is capable.

I hope, therefore, that I have made it clear that it causes me no surprise, and it certainly arouses in me no resentment, that what I may inadequately call the sensitivities of Jewish people should give rise in them, on occasion, to gnawing doubts and forebodings of the kind that I have mentioned.

I think it is really necessary to make that clear, because it is always very easy, where emotional forces are so intense, for frustration to engender distrust. It is tempting to attribute a refusal to prosecute a particular case to indifference or something worse. And yet a people distinguished by their intellect no less than by their sense of history recognise, I know, that in a just and democratic society even so emotive a conflict as this can only be addressed by means consistent with the rule of law.

Otherwise one abuse is liable to be replaced only by another. Those who act to correct the first abuse themselves become tarnished by their own unlawfulness. They then are brought down in public esteem towards the level of those who offended in the first place. Sometimes they are seen to sink below that level. In every instance the vitally important climate of legality is damaged, and a vicious continuum of unlawful action and reaction, tit for tat, can all too readily be established. Look at the sectarian killings, for example, in Northern Ireland.

to the denial of freedom to others. And I shall describe to you how the prosecution authorities with responsibilities in that

It is of critical importance to public order and to justice, and therefore to freedom and the other fundamental rights of humankind, that wrongdoing should indeed be contained, but only by means that are patently justified by law. Internationally, that is the rule by which the United Nations at the outset pledged themselves to work for. Domestically, it is the rule by which this country lives.

It seemed to me, therefore, that the apposition to each other of conflict and the rule of law might be a topic not unworthy of this occasion.

It is easier to describe how you can recognise the rule of law than to define it. That phenomenon never deters us in this country, and it is where I shall begin.

Next I shall ask you to consider its application to international conflict, and in particular to Iraq's invasion of Kuwait.

Then I shall describe how the rule of law prevails in our own country's response to the obdurate and bloody conflict in Northern Ireland.

Lastly, I shall come to the area of domestic racial conflict which I have already mentioned. I shall identify the extent to which Parliament thought it right to make inroads upon absolute freedom of expression, in order that the exercise of that freedom by some, in stirring up racial hatred, for example, may not lead to the denial of freedom to others. And I shall describe to you how the prosecution authorities with responsibilities in that

field go about their work. This is consequently achieved between the opposing concepts of individual liberty and public order.

The Rule of Law

The rule of law consists, of course, in much more than having enough policemen to get on top of the job of deterring or detecting crime. It is characterised by the subjection of everyone, including the Government itself, to the ordinary law of the state. In a state which is subject to the rule of law you will find procedures available to the people to test the legality of Government action. You will find laws that protect the weak from the vulnerability that is inherent in their weakness, as you will find laws that regulate the strong in exploiting their very strength. You will find laws which provide the citizen with remedies against the wrongful action of the state. You will find that the criminal law is enforced by a police service that is impartial, and one which together with the prosecuting authorities and the judiciary is totally independent of any partisan or otherwise improper influence. Above all you will find a people that are determined to uphold the climate of legality, and to uphold also the institutions of democracy.

The Law of Nations

From the earliest times, although by no means consistently, law has been used to serve the interests of fairness and has thus served to prevent the stronger man from having his way rather than to smooth the path before him. "Thence comes the gift of law, lest the strong man get away with everything", said Ovid over 1,900 years ago. No country can properly claim that it is subject to the rule of law if its laws are not characterised by fairness. One application of that is found in the limitation by law of the liberty of the individual, as well as the guaranteeing

of it, and in the balance that is consequently achieved between the opposing concepts of individual liberty and public order.

It is in times of conflict that the reality of the rule of law is put to the test.

In times of conflict the promptings of expediency at the expense of principle will always be seductive, and never perhaps more than when the interests of whole nations, or alliances of nations, are engaged. But for the rule of law to prevail universally among nations would be the greatest blessing that could be conferred upon their peoples, as the history of this century alone so plainly shows.

That quest may fairly be described as a sacred one, and it is one that must be pursued patiently, step by step. It will be much better to proceed cautiously than to lose ground that has been patiently gained.

The Law of Nations

If it is hard to secure the rule of law within a nation state, it is vastly more difficult to secure it within the community of nations that populate this planet. Yet that was the purpose of the nations whose representatives met together in San Francisco in 1945 and who in June of that year set in place the Charter of the United Nations. In the very first article they adopted the purpose of taking collective measures to uphold the principles of justice and of international law. They did so in furtherance

of their determination, expressed in the wording of the preamble,

"To save succeeding generations from the scourge of war, which twice in our lifetime has brought untold sorrow to mankind".

Tragically, but perhaps not surprisingly, the United Nations organisation became almost at once discredited, and for many years remained so. It is unnecessary here to examine the reasons, which amounted to a failure of corporate will. I cannot, however, resist observing that it did not enhance its credibility when in 1975 it adopted the Resolution equating Zionism with racism. I am therefore very glad that the Prime Minister has this week in a letter to Mr Greville Janner MP deplored that Resolution, and pledged our support for the American proposal to secure its repeal.

The Conflict in the Gulf

But now consider how the United Nations responded to the armed conflict that began on 2nd August 1990 when Iraq invaded Kuwait.

In the weeks following the invasion and annexation of Kuwait the Security Council passed a unique and comprehensive series of resolutions condemning the illegal acts of Saddam Hussein and putting pressure on him to withdraw. The failure of Saddam Hussein to comply with these resolutions eventually led on 30 November to the adoption of Security Council Resolution 678 which allowed Iraq one final opportunity, as a pause of goodwill, to comply with the previous resolutions. If Iraq failed to do so on or before 15 January 1991, the member states co-operating with the Government of Kuwait were authorised to use "all necessary

means to uphold and implement" these resolutions "and to restore international peace and security in the area". Iraq again refused to comply. The coalition forces then acted to remove Saddam from Kuwait by force, entirely covered by the full authority of the United Nations under Resolution 678. If they had not done so, not only would the suffering of the Kuwaiti people have continued but the international rule of law would have been seen to be a broken reed.

Here is the point: just as in the immediate aftermath of the invasion certain countries, including our own, in helping Kuwait stayed scrupulously within the confines of the international law of collective self defence, so during the conflict itself the coalition forces stayed scrupulously within the limits of the authority of the Security Council, and no less scrupulously observed the rules of international law which apply to the conduct of war.

Thus coalition commanders had instructions to attack only military targets or facilities supporting Iraq's illegal occupation of Kuwait.

Great care was taken throughout to minimise the risk of civilian casualties.

The tactics chosen for attacking targets, and the use where appropriate of precision-guided weapons, took account of the need to minimise collateral damage.

If pilots were unable to identify their designated targets clearly, they were under instructions to return to base without dropping their bombs.

Allied air crews were also briefed on the locations of Islamic holy places and sites of historical importance, and coalition operations avoided them.

Amidst the clash of arms the laws are not silent and it is the duty of nations to see to it that they are heard.

It is understandable, especially in the light of what Saddam has since been doing, that some people wish the coalition had gone on and taken him out. Some think that that is what it should have been done. Paradoxical as it may seem, I am glad we did not. For to have done so would have been to depart - and for the first time - from what the Security Council had authorised. It would, moreover, have been doing what we had said we would not do. Had we done so, from that moment onwards the debate would have moved away from Saddam's hideous crimes. It would have focussed thereafter on claims that the actions of the coalition had moved from being lawful to unlawful. It is to be questioned whether the coalition itself would have survived. From there it would have been a short and predictable step to the accusation that the removal of Saddam had from the outset been the prime objective, the hidden agenda of the West. It was better therefore, in my belief, not to dissipate its ability to claim that it had acted only with unquestionable legal authority; not to lose ground patiently gained, enhancing for the future the authority of the United Nations.

There has been a price, as there always is, and one not paid by us. Saddam has consistently broken the terms of the formal ceasefire incorporated in Resolution 687 of 3 April. But last

month (on 27 September) the Foreign Ministers of the Permanent Five members of the Security Council collectively reaffirmed their determination to secure Iraq's full and scrupulous compliance with Resolution 687, and all other relevant Resolutions, in order to secure the Council's objective of restoring international peace and security in the area. That is what international law requires. Slowly, inch by inch, he is being compelled to comply. The future credibility of the UN, and of the enforceability of international law, will depend on his being made to complete the task.

Now let me take you to our own country's affairs.

Northern Ireland

For over twenty years terrorists in Northern Ireland have been seeking to break the will of the Government and the people by the use of force. In the ferocity of their attacks upon judges and upon the staff of the courts in Northern Ireland you may agree that there is indeed proof of the terrorists' determination to subvert the rule of law. Since 1972 five judges and magistrates have been murdered. 11 others have suffered attacks by bombing or other violent means. Virtually all court buildings have come under attack, and their staff live under constant threat.

Amid this how does the law stand? The fact is that there are no special privileges or immunities for the police, the Army or the prosecuting authorities, and the function and role of the judiciary remain unchanged.

There is no specially created anti terrorist agency. Investigations are carried out by the Royal Ulster Constabulary.

There is no special unit for prosecuting terrorism: acts of terrorism are prosecuted by the DPP for Northern Ireland in exactly the same way as acts of petty theft, and by the application of identical standards. The DPP acts entirely independently, and the independence of the judiciary in Ireland is unquestioned.

One does not need to look far in the Northern Ireland Law Reports to find examples of instances in which judges have reached decisions which are very adverse to the immediate interests of the Executive.

The province is still governed under the rule of law. In the response to terrorism it has indeed been necessary in some respects to change the laws. But they are far from silent, and they continue to speak the same language. Underlying each change has been the purpose not of denying justice to anyone but of ensuring that in the face of terrorism justice can continue to be administered.

Were it ever able plausibly to allege that there is one law for the security forces and there is another for everyone else, the IRA would be in possession of a bigger advantage than any they could possibly gain through any terrorist outrage, however cruel and callous. That is an advantage that we will continue to deny them.

Racial Conflict

I have reached my third and final field of conflict, and it is one with which you are most immediately concerned.

The engendering of racial hatred is an act which strikes mortally at freedom and justice. A State which has no rules to contain such an abuse of freedom of expression is one which will tolerate blameless citizens being put in fear and misery. Where hatred can be stirred up with impunity, consequences are likely to ensue of which the Jewish community are all too well aware. All societies are liable to succumb to hysteria, and our own is not excepted. To our shame there was an ugly epidemic of that nature at the outset of the first world war, when innocent people with any perceived connection at all with Germany were allowed to be treated abominably.

It is important the Jewish and other minority communities have confidence in laws which are designed to protect them from the evil of racial hatred. Equally important, though, is the need for others, including those whose views you may despise, and detest, to have confidence that the laws are fairly and impartially applied.

An offence of incitement to racial hatred has been around in some form or another since 1965. The Race Relations Act 1965 created an offence of deliberately stirring up racial hatred by circulating written matter or using words in public which were (a) threatening, abusive or insulting and (b) likely to stir up such hatred. Significantly, and symbolically, the offence was in 1976 taken out the race relations legislation, and placed where it truly belongs as part of our public order law. Another major change was made at the same time. It was made unnecessary for the prosecution to prove any deliberate intention to stir up hatred.

decisions whether or not to prosecute under the Act are taken not by the Government, but by us as Attorney General acting in an independent capacity and with no regard to partisan considerations. No Attorney General would survive for long if

A further and important reform of the law took place in 1986, when the single offence of incitement to racial hatred was broken up into a number of different offences. For these purposes, the most significant point to make is that the scope of the offence was widened. As before, it is necessary to show that words were spoken or published which were threatening, abusive or insulting. But now the second limb of the offence is satisfied if it is shown either that the person involved intended to stir up racial hatred, or that the words used were likely to stir up racial hatred - an objective test.

In 1988 a further measure was introduced: the Malicious Communications Act 1988 makes it an offence to send to another person a letter or other article which conveys a grossly offensive message where one of the purposes of the sender is to cause distress or anxiety to the recipient. This Act would, for instance, catch anyone who sent a grossly offensive message to a Jewish person intending to cause him distress as such .

A prosecution under the Public Order Act requires the consent of the Attorney General. I have been criticised in the past for a dearth of prosecutions since 1986. The question has been asked: is there a hidden agenda? Is the Government paying mere lip service to the legislation? Does it take the view that these things are best left under the carpet?

In answer to these I wish to make two points.

First, decisions whether or not to prosecute under the Act are taken not by the Government, but by me as Attorney General acting in an independent capacity and with no regard to partisan considerations. No Attorney General would survive for long if

Parliament, and I include members of his own party, believed that he was persuaded by partisan motives to bring or to refuse prosecutions. A scandal involving a former Attorney General who was said to have been influenced by such considerations led to the downfall of the Government in 1924.

Second, in my time as a Law Officer no decision has been taken on public interest grounds not to prosecute a case of incitement to racial hatred. When I have made or endorsed such a decision it has always been on evidential grounds. I must also add by way of parenthesis that since 1986 there have been few cases indeed that have reached the stage of a concluded police investigation. It should not be a matter of much surprise that material of the most virulent kind is perpetrated by people who are remarkably adept at going to ground when their activities are investigated. Legislation cannot combat that particular problem.

So over all these years it has been quite rare for such a case to come to me, although as you will know there are a number of prosecutions currently in being, and one which was concluded last week, as to which I must not of course make any comment at all.

You may wish to know, however, how these cases are treated. Are decisions taken by some junior official in my name? Do I even get to hear of these complaints?

Let me answer the second question first. I most certainly do hear of these cases, not least because members of the Jewish community are properly vigilant to ensure that I am made aware of any new leaflet or publication which is circulated. In fact at that stage there is little I can do, and my practice is always to refer such letters to the police in the first instance,

because before a prosecution can be begun a full investigation is, of course, necessary. I encourage people now to write directly to the police.

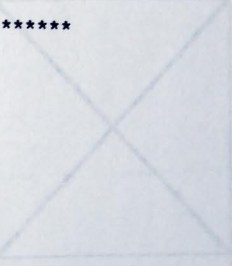
If the police are successful in identifying an individual who is said to be responsible for the publication or distribution of something which may amount to an offence under part 3 of the Public Order Act then a file is sent to a specialist division in the Crown Prosecution Service HQ, which over the years has built up much experience in this area. A lawyer there will liaise with the police and give advice as to any further work that may be required to complete the investigation.

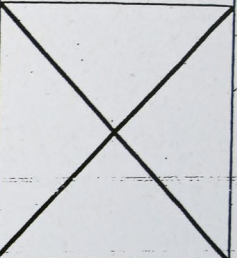
When that stage is reached the CPS apply themselves to the questions that all prosecutors must ask themselves when considering a potential prosecution for any offence at all. They are set out in the Code for Crown Prosecutors, which is a published document. They are these:

1. Is there a realistic prospect of securing a conviction having regard to the test which a jury or a bench of Magistrates must apply, namely that they must be satisfied beyond reasonable doubt that an offence has been committed?
2. Is a prosecution required in the public interest?

Almost invariably they seek the advice of one of my senior Treasury counsel on the evidential question. All the papers including counsel's advice will then be sent to me. I wish you to know that I personally examine them with great care, and often I meet all the lawyers involved in the case to discuss the evidence. It bears repeating that in every case in which I have

T

DEPARTMENT/SERIES <i>Rem 17</i> inadequately commemorate, but with whose doubtless humorous approval I venture to think they would have met.	Date and
SUBJECT (including titles and numbers) Extract volume <i>Extract volume the NCO dated 15</i> *****	
CLOSED UNDER FOIA EXEMPTION	
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Instructions for completion of Dummy Card

Use black or blue pen to complete form.

Use the card for one piece or for each extract removed from a different place within a piece.

Enter the department and series,
eg. HO 405, J 82.

Enter the piece and item references, .
eg. 28, 1079, 84/1, 107/3

Enter extract details if it is an extract rather than a whole piece.

This should be an indication of what the extract is,

eg. Folio 28, Indictment 840079, E107, Letter dated 22/11/1995.

Do not enter details of why the extract is sensitive.

If closed under the FOI Act, enter the FOI exemption numbers applying to the closure, eg. 27(1), 40(2).

Sign and date next to the reason why the record is not available to the public ie. Closed under FOI exemption; Retained under section 3(4) of the Public Records Act 1958; Temporarily retained; Missing at transfer or Number not used.

ccc B'WA GKR
NITCF B

The Board of Deputies of British Jews

Woburn House, Tavistock Square, London, WC1H 0EZ. Telephone: 071-387 3952, 071-388 7651.
Telex: 262666 BOD G. Fax: 071-383 5848.



14 October 1991

Mr. William E. Chapman
Private Secretary
10 Downing Street
LONDON SW1A 2AA

Dear Mr Chapman,

The Prime Minister wrote to the President of the Board, Judge Finestein, on 2 October about a meeting with the newly-elected Officers of the Board. We are very pleased that the Prime Minister is able to meet us, and I understand that this occasion will take place at 9.30 am on 19 November.

The Board will be represented at the meeting by the four Honorary Officers and myself, namely:

President: His Honour Israel Finestein QC
Vice Presidents: Aubrey Rose, OBE
Mrs. Rosalind Preston
Treasurer: Ronald Shelley FCA
Chief Executive: Neville Nagler

The subjects which we would like to raise with the Prime Minister are the following:

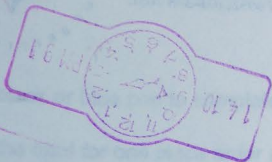
1. The distribution of anti-Semitic literature in this country;
2. Anti-Semitic groups in this country and Holocaust revisionist "historians";
3. Progress in investigating alleged war criminals in this country;
4. The growth of anti-Semitism in Central and Eastern Europe;
5. The plight of Jews in the Soviet Union;
6. Government and media attitudes towards Israel;
7. The Middle East peace process and United States pressure on Israel.

We very much look forward to meeting the Prime Minister on 19 November.

*Yours sincerely,
Neville Nagler*

Neville Nagler
Chief Executive

The Board of Deputies of British Jews



1. The Board of Deputies of British Jews is a body of laymen and women, elected by the Jewish community in Great Britain, and is the representative body of the Jewish people in this country.

2. The Board of Deputies of British Jews is the only body which is representative of the Jewish people in this country, and is the only body which is recognized by the Government of Great Britain as the representative body of the Jewish people in this country.

3. The Board of Deputies of British Jews is the only body which is recognized by the Government of Great Britain as the representative body of the Jewish people in this country, and is the only body which is recognized by the Government of Great Britain as the representative body of the Jewish people in this country.

14th Nov 1931
The Board of Deputies of British Jews



More inf from H/O/AS
Com. LEE 15/11

(H/O)

CC Backup
CCP/1

HOME OFFICE
QUEEN ANNE'S GATE
LONDON SW1H 9AT

covering CONFIDENTIAL

13 November 1991

Dear William

CF
M M 15/11
LEE

Page 2

... As requested in your letter of 16 October, I enclose briefing for the Prime Minister's meeting with the Board of Deputies of British Jews on 19 November. This is as follows:

- Annex A - Background notes on the Board's representatives.
- Annex B - Threats posed by Anti-Semitic Groups in the United Kingdom.
- Annex C - Police War Crimes Investigations.
- Annex D - War Crimes Investigations in Scotland.
- Annex E - Anti-Semitic Literature and Action by the Police.
- Annex F - Distribution of Anti-Semitic Literature in the United Kingdom.
- Annex G - Action against revisionist historians.
- Annex H - Publications on the Holocaust by revisionist historians.
- Annex I - Home Secretary's letter of 23 October to Mr Nagler on asylum procedures.
- Annex J - Note on the Attorney-General's speech to the Association of Jewish Ex-Servicemen and Women: conflict and the rule of law.
- Annex K - Note on the report of the sub-committee of the Law and Parliamentary Committee of the Board of Deputies on Group Defamation.

William Chapman Esq
Private Secretary
10 Downing Street
London SW1

The background note to Annex F has been prepared on the basis that summonses have been served on Colin Jordan. At the date of writing, however, this has not been done and the information that he is to be prosecuted must remain confidential unless it is confirmed by telephone with Stephen Parkinson of the Law Officers' Department before the meeting.

→ (This can be made public now.)
WLL

yours

Paul

PAUL PUGH

Judith

→ CF
M file

LAC
- - - 28/11/71

BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF BRITISH JEWS.

You may wish to be

aware of this meeting
(see attached)
and the topics. Do

you wish to make

any contribution?

↳ Not unless you have at
least some info - my input

would merely be

not a group to be

upset because of

party lines.

William

18/11

Judith



NA

A: Jews v12

10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

cc JC

From the Private Secretary

16 October 1991

The Prime Minister has agreed to meet the President, Vice-Presidents, Treasurer and Chief Executive of the Board of Deputies of British Jews on 19 November. I should therefore be grateful for briefing and lines to take on the following issues which the Board wish to raise: Government and media attitudes towards Israel; the Middle East peace process and U.S. pressure on Israel; the growth of anti-semitism in Eastern and Central Europe; and the position of Jews in the Soviet Union.

I should be grateful for briefing by close of business on 14 November.

WILLIAM CHAPMAN

C. N. R. Prentice, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

ST



WB

A:/Pugh WB

10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

ccjc

From the Private Secretary

16 October 1991

I should be grateful for briefing on the distribution of anti-semitic literature in this country; anti-semitic groups in the U.K.; the attitude of the authorities towards holocaust revisionist historians (sic), including those who seek to enter the United Kingdom from other countries and progress in investigating alleged war criminals in the U.K. This is in preparation for a meeting between the Prime Minister and the Board of Deputies of British Jews on 19 November. I should be grateful for briefing and lines to take by close of business on 14 November.

Any information you have on the Board's representatives might be useful. They will be:

President:	His Honour Israel Finestein, Q.C.
Vice Presidents:	Aubrey Rose, O.B.E., Mrs. Rosalind Preston
Treasurer:	Ronald Shelley, F.C.A.
Chief Executive:	Neville Nagler

I am copying this letter to Fiona Sandell (Lord Chancellor's Office) for any contribution she might need to make on war criminals.

WILLIAM E. CHAPMAN

Paul Pugh, Esq.,
Home Office.

SP

Sawyer William
Honor supported
Tuesday, 19 Nov
at 0930 or 1000am.

When the Braut has ^{for abs.} max. of
45 min.
contacted you, could

(They will confirm time + let
us have list of those attending
+ suggested agenda). S 8/10



10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

THE PRIME MINISTER

2 October 1991

Dear Judge Finstein,

Thank you for your letter of 5 September, suggesting a meeting with the newly elected officers of the Board of Deputies of British Jews. I should be delighted to meet you and have asked my Diary Secretary to contact your office to find a suitable date.

I have noted the specific matters which you wish to discuss and I understand that there may be some others which you would like to add to the agenda. I should be grateful if you would let me know what these other issues are before the meeting.

*Yours sincerely,
John Major*

*Tuesday 19 Nov.
at 0930 or 1000 for
maximum of 45 mins.
S8/10*

His Honour Israel Finstein QC



10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

18 September 1991

Dear Judge Finstein,

I am writing on behalf of the Prime Minister to thank you for your letter of 5 September.

This is receiving attention and a reply will be sent to you as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely,
William Chapman

WILLIAM E CHAPMAN

His Honour Israel Finstein QC

N.S.
(He is a circuit Judge)

Mr Chapman

cc Mr Wall

My understanding is that the Board of Deputies of British Jews is representative of the Jewish community in terms of political and public policy thinking rather than of Jewry as a religious body (though the two are never entirely separable). Prima facie, this proposal is for the sort of ad hoc meeting which the PM can usefully have when serious issues arise affecting a particular part of the body politic of significant size and properly represented. The emphasis should be on the ad hoc (among the other criteria): what the PM needs to avoid is getting locked into regular bilaterals with representative religious organisations (of which there are huge numbers) which amount to a great tour d'horizon and the trotting out of all the pet hobby horses of the current office-holders (many of which change annually).

It is mainly for Mr Wall to say whether the agenda proposed for this meeting would qualify: I imagine that it does. The Board itself is certainly kosher, and it could be about time for the PM to have this contact.

RC
11/9

Mr Hall (or)

My feeling is that the
P.M. should see the Board
of Deputies sometime this year.
But ~~what~~ do you think?

CR
① Ach^{18/9}

WEL

1/9.

② → WEL (25/9)

WEL

1/9.

comments attached.

DC
11/9

Mr Catford

cc Mr Wall.

Would this attached request
for a meeting, from the President
of the Board of Deputies of British
Jews, provide the opportunity
for a formal Jewish event

which you are seeking for the
PM? (The ref. 15 Private Office is
home - Mr Mayler says in the dog
days and I think I said the PM would
William. be sympathetic to the
idea of a meeting).
W/S.

R7

The Board of Deputies of British Jews

Woburn House, Tavistock Square, London, WC1H 0EZ. Telephone: 071-387 3952, 071-388 7651.
Telex: 262666 BOD G. Fax: 071-383 5848.



FROM THE PRESIDENT

5 September 1991

Rt. Hon. John Major MP
Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
LONDON SW1A 2AA

Dear Prime Minister,

I write to you as the newly-elected President of the Board of Deputies of British Jews. The Board is the representative body for the Jewish community in this country. It is democratically elected and is regularly consulted by Government departments on matters affecting the Jewish community.

It is some time now since the previous Honorary Officers of the Board had discussions with your predecessor against the background of the momentous events which have taken place over recent years. The newly-elected Officers of the Board would very much welcome the opportunity of a meeting with you.

At such a meeting, there is a number of major issues which are of concern to the community and which we would like to raise with you, so that you and your colleagues in Government can be acquainted with the feelings of the Jewish community on these topics. The matters which I have in mind include, but are not confined to, such questions as the distribution of anti-Semitic literature in this country; the attitude of the authorities towards holocaust revisionist "historians" (including those who seek to enter the United Kingdom from other countries in order to publicise their odious views); Israel and media attitudes towards that country; the growth of anti-Semitism in the former communist countries of central and eastern Europe; and the plight of Jews in the Soviet Union, particularly following the events of the last few weeks.

The Board's Chief Executive has been in touch with your Private Office, who have intimated that it should be possible to arrange a meeting along the lines proposed. I hope therefore that you would be willing to hold such a meeting. We realise of course the pressures on your diary, and are at your disposal for any convenient date which your office can suggest.

I greatly look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

Israel Finestein

President
His Honour Israel Finestein, Q.C.
Vice Presidents
Aubrey Rose, O.B.E.
Rosalind Preston
Treasurer
Ronald Shelley, F.C.A.
Chief Executive
Neville Nagler, M.A.

PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL



10 DOWNING STREET

LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

file

*(c:1 foreign
Pinner, das)*

bc: PC

22 January 1990

Thank you for your letter of 17 February about the arrangements for the Prime Minister's attendance at the Plenary Meeting of the Board of Deputies on 18 February. This all seems to be going well. Unfortunately Mr Thatcher will be abroad at the time and will not be able to accompany the Prime Minister. It is very kind of you to invite my wife: she would very much like to attend.

Thank you also for the suggestions about points to be carried in the Prime Minister's speech: they are very helpful.

C. D. POWELL

Hayim Pinner, Esq., O.B.E.

PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL

men

MRS. PONSONBY

Charles
B.T. only returns
from America that
morning. He will
not accompany the

I attach a letter about the Prime Minister's
meeting with the Board of Deputies of British
Jews on 18 February. I should be grateful if
you could establish whether Mr. Thatcher will
want to attend.

CBP

(CHARLES POWELL)

19 January 1990

P.S. Please let me have the
letter back

CF

Please look out the Stemborg
Centre speech re what Mr.
Dennis. letter refers. CJP.



10 DOWNING STREET

Alauke,

Mr. Sumner, Secretary General
of the Board of Deputies of British
Jews informed about their invitation
to the Prime Minister to address
them on 18 January. They
would now like to propose
a read venue - the London
Press Centre (off Fleet Street).

Patricia

4 January 1990.

FILE
DA

SUPERINTENDENT BUTLER

**PRIME MINISTER'S ADDRESS TO THE BOARD OF
DEPUTIES OF BRITISH JEWS: 18 FEBRUARY**

Mr. Pinner, Secretary-General of the Board of Deputies has told me that they propose to change the venue to the London Press Centre (off Fleet Street) rather than the Connaught Rooms as they had originally proposed. I have told them to go ahead. They accept that if the recce shows that changes have to be made then so be it.

(DOMINIC MORRIS)

4 January 1990

CONFIDENTIAL

FILE 802
etc

SUPERINTENDENT BUTLER

The Prime Minister has agreed to address the Board of Deputies of British Jews on Sunday 18 February. She will attend a meeting of the Board starting at 1200 that day which will be followed by lunch. Since the Board expects some 350-400 people to turn up, they propose to hold the event in the Connaught Rooms. Could you very kindly let me know whether this is acceptable on security grounds?

I have agreed with the organisers that they may announce on 9 January that the Prime Minister will be addressing the Board on 18 February. But they will not say anything about the venue. They want to know how long it would be acceptable to announce the venue. I have suggested two weeks. Is this all right? Or would you prefer even shorter notice?

CDP

(C. D. POWELL)

6 December 1989

a:\foreign\Butler.srw

CONFIDENTIAL

File

MRS. PONSONBY

BOARD OF DEPUTIES OF BRITISH JEWS

I have had Dr. Kopelowitz on the telephone again asking whether the Prime Minister has yet reached a decision on whether she could meet the Board of Deputies of British Jews on 18 or 25 February. I imagine this is a victim of the decision not to have a diary meeting yet on 1990. Perhaps we should put it to her as a discrete decision. They need to know soon because of the difficulty of getting everyone to come.

e d d

C. D. POWELL

14 September 1989

SL2AXN

Re: JEWISH



file
to

10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

11 September, 1989.

I write to thank you for your letter of 9 September in which you ask the Prime Minister to meet Mr. Edgar Bronfman on 18 or 19 October.

I much regret that I have to send a disappointing reply, as Mrs. Thatcher will be in Kuala Lumpur at that time, attending the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting. I am so sorry.

(Mrs. Amanda Ponsonby)

Mr. Barry Shenker

to

INSTITUTE OF JEWISH AFFAIRS
in association with the World Jewish Congress
11 Hertford Street, London W1Y 7DX

TELEPHONE: 01 491 3517
FAX: 01 493 5838 FAX 8 22643

9 September 1989

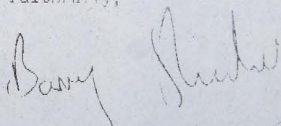
The Diary Secretary
Prime Minister's Office
Downing Street
London
SW1

Regret
PM will
be in
KL
attendance
CHOGM.
21 FAX
// so sorry

Dear Madam,

I am writing on behalf of Mr Edgar Bronfman, President of the World Jewish Congress. Following previous meetings between Mr Bronfman and the Prime Minister, Mrs Thatcher, it is our hope to meet with her again. Mr Bronfman is now in a position to report to the Prime Minister about his meetings with Soviet Foreign Minister Shevardnadze and with Argentine President Menem. He will be in London late Wednesday 16 October and early Thursday 19 October. We would be most grateful if you could arrange a meeting for him with the Prime Minister on either of those times.

Yours faithfully,



Barry Shenker Ph.D
General Manager



INSTITUTE OF JEWISH AFFAIRS
in association with the World Jewish Congress
11 Hertford Street, London W1Y 7DX

TELEPHONE: 01 491 3517
FAX: 01 493 5838 TELEX: 21634

9 September 1989

The Diary Secretary
Prime Minister's Office
Downing Street
London
SW1

Regret
PM will
be in
KL
attendance
CHOGM.
BY FAX
// so sorry

Dear Madam,

I am writing on behalf of Mr Edgar Bronfman, President of the World Jewish Congress. Following previous meetings between Mr Bronfman and the Prime Minister, Mrs Thatcher invited him to meet with her again. Mr Bronfman is now in a position to report to the Prime Minister about his meetings with Soviet Foreign Minister Shevardnadze and with Argentine President Menem. He will be in London late Wednesday 18 October and early Thursday 19 October. We would be most grateful if you could arrange a meeting for him with the Prime Minister at either of those times.

Yours faithfully,

Barry Shenker Ph.D
General Manager

National Council for Soviet Jewry

of the United Kingdom
College House
4a New College Parade
Finchley Road
London NW3 5EP
Tel: 01-586 5742/3



Rita Rivin

NB/pb NB.105

MBS

CB

Rt Hon Mrs Margaret Thatcher MP
Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
London
SW1 2AA

17th May 1989

Dear Prime Minister,

You will recall that when Edgar Bronfman and I met you almost a year ago, you mentioned how important it is, while remaining steadfast in our dealings with the Soviet Union, to acknowledge progress when, in fact, it does take place.

In this context, I am delighted to enclose a copy of a resolution adopted unanimously last Sunday at the Plenium of the Board of Deputies. As you have quite rightly said, much progress has been made, although the Soviet Union still has a long way to go in the field of individual human rights.

Yours sincerely,

Neil Bradman

Neil Bradman

enc.

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DEPUTIES OF BRITISH JEWS

The Board of Deputies takes note that 4,557 Jews left the USSR last month (the fourth highest monthly figure since the modern State of Israel was founded). It further notes that according to Israeli Government representatives 97% of Soviet Jews, applying for the first time, currently receive permission to leave.

It registers its profound regret that notwithstanding the foregoing over 2,000 refuseniks known to us, who applied to leave before 1st January 1987 and have reapplied since, are still retained against their will.

Conscious that the first meeting of the Conference on the Human Dimension of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (the Helsinki accord) will open in Paris on 30th May 1989, the Board of Deputies of British Jews calls upon the USSR to (a) allow all existing refuseniks to leave without delay, (b) enact legislation enshrining the right to leave in law.

The USSR should also permit all Soviet Jews to teach, learn and practise their religion and culture.

14th May 1989



10 DOWNING STREET

LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

15 July 1988

Subject a meeting

PRIME MINISTER'S MEETING WITH THE BOARD OF DEPUTIES
OF BRITISH JEWS

The Prime Minister had a meeting this morning with a group representing the Board of Deputies of British Jews led by Dr. Kopelowitz. The group was accompanied by Mr Edgar Bronfman, President of the World Jewish Congress and Rabbi Singer, also of the World Jewish Congress.

Mr Bronfman gave an account of his visit to the Soviet Union in May in the course of which he had met Mr Shevardnadze and Mr Kharchev. His discussions had covered both Jewish emigration and Jewish cultural rights. Shevardnadze had handed over a three page memorandum of proposals which the Soviet Union intended to make in the CSCE. These had conceded virtually everything that the World Jewish Congress were asking, including total freedom of religious and cultural activity. Virtually everything which Bronfman had sought in the subsequent discussion had also been granted: for instance he was assured that permission would be given to bring rabbis into the Soviet Union and for Russian rabbis to go to the US for training. He had been promised a building for a Jewish Cultural Centre and intended to return to Moscow in October to settle the details of this. His conclusion was that anything which was good for glasnost was now acceptable. Mr Bronfman admitted that so far this was all mainly words, but he was optimistic that they would be translated into action.

The Prime Minister asked about the position on Jewish emigration. Mr. Bronfman said that numbers had risen to about 1,500 a month. More than 90 per cent of these did not go to Israel. While the need for any Jew wishing to emigrate to have an invitation from first degree relatives abroad was still technically applied, in practice it was not being enforced. There also seemed to be a prospect of some relaxation of the rules governing emigration of those involved in classified work, with the waiting period reduced in most cases to five years. In answer to a question from the Prime Minister, Mr Bronfman said that the reason so few Soviet Jews went to Israel was that they did not really think of

themselves as Jews, having been deprived of the right to worship for 70 years. The reason that they emigrated was that they were persecuted.

The Prime Minister said that she was encouraged by this account. We must clearly praise any indication of improvement in the Soviet performance on these issues while continuing to press for more. For instance emigration ought to be allowed to rise to the rates achieved in the late 1970s. Mr Bronfman said that he believed some 250,000 Jews probably wanted to leave the Soviet Union. He thought that the Soviet authorities could probably cope with an annual rate of 30/50,000.

I am copying this letter to Philip Mawer (Home Office).

Charles Powell

Lyn Parker Esq
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

PRIME MINISTER

MEETING WITH DELEGATION OF JEWISH REPRESENTATIVES

You are to see a small delegation of Jewish representatives tomorrow. They are:

- Dr. Kopelowitz, Chairman of the Board of Deputies of British Jews.
- Mr. Edgar Bronfmann
- Rabbi Singer, World Jewish Congress.
- Mr. Neil Bradman, Board of Deputies.

They want to give you an up-to-date account of the position of Jews in the Soviet Union and report on Mr. Bronfmann's recent visit there.

ed? ml
C. D. POWELL
14 July 1988

KAYAIP

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14 July 1988

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C. D. POWELL

14 July 1988

KAYAIP

The Board of Deputies of British Jews

afro

WOBURN HOUSE, TAVISTOCK SQUARE, LONDON, WC1H 0EP.

Telex: 262666 BOD G Telegrams: DEPUTIES, LONDON, WC1 Telephone: 01-387 3952 or 388 7651

FROM THE PRESIDENT

(4)

23rd March, 1987

Charles Powell Esq
Private Secretary to the Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
LONDON SW1

ms

Dear Mr. Powell

I write this short note to thank you most warmly and to express my appreciation for your help in setting up the delegation from the Board of Deputies to meet the Prime Minister last Thursday.

I would ask you to convey to the Prime Minister our grateful thanks for all her help in this regard.

The British Jewish community wishes her every success in her forthcoming visit to the Soviet Union.

Vaynshteyn
Lionel Kopelowitz

(Dr.) Lionel Kopelowitz JP

PS: You will recall that among the items left with you, was a list of six Jewish prisoners. I am pleased to inform you that Yaakov Levin, Marc Nepomnyashchy and Leonid Volvovsky have been released during the past few days and that our list now consists of three names, viz: Josef Berenshtein, Yuli Edelshtein and Aleksei Magarik.



FILE
DA
etc

SUBJECT

10 DOWNING STREET

LONDON SW1A 2AA

CC MASTER

From the Private Secretary

19 March 1987

Dear Lynn,

PRIME MINISTER'S MEETING WITH THE BOARD OF DEPUTIES
OF BRITISH JEWS

The delegation from the Board of Deputies of British Jews came to see the Prime Minister this evening to discuss her visit to Moscow. The delegation was led by Dr. Kopelowitz who was accompanied by Mr. Pinner, Mrs. Jacobs, Mr. Bradman and Mr. Lobenstein.

The delegation had very little to add to the memorandum which it had presented in advance. They suggested that the Prime Minister's two priorities, in raising the subject of Jews in the Soviet Union, should be:

- i) to get permission for the bulk of refuseniks, probably numbering about 10,000, to leave quickly. There was some ground for hope in recent Soviet Government statements that this would be agreed;
- ii) to press for Jews who remained in the Soviet Union to be granted their basic human rights including their right to worship and observe Jewish customs and practices.

The delegation left various documents which are enclosed with this letter. They are:

- a list of Jewish prisoners in the Soviet Union. There are, apparently, only six and their sentences expire either this year or next;
- a memorandum from the Agudas Israel Organisation;
- a copy of a statement by a group who participated in a 3-day hunger strike;
- a note about the case of Andrea Wine and Victor Faermark;
- correspondence between the National Council for Soviet Jewry and the Soviet Ambassador;

dg

- and a compilation of public statements by Soviet officials on Jewish emigration from the Soviet Union.

gens di arch
Chris Zee

(C.D. POWELL)

Lyn Parker, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

18 March 1987

Dear Charles,

Board of Deputies of British Jews

Thank you for your letter of 11 March about the Prime Minister's meeting with the delegation from the Board of Deputies of British Jews on 19 March.

The delegation have said that they wish to express their concern about the position of Jews in the Soviet Union. I attach a copy of the note they have prepared on the plight of Soviet Jewry. The assessment in the note accords with our own information.

In view of the Prime Minister's familiarity with this subject, we are not suggesting any detailed points for her to make. She might, however, seek the delegation's views on the prospects for Jewish emigration in 1987 in the light of the new Soviet emigration rules, and indications from the Russians (eg during Mr Renton's visit to Moscow in January) that they are prepared to contemplate a significant increase in the number of exit visas issued. The figures for February (146) show an increase on those for previous months (January - 92); but it is not yet clear whether this is the beginning of a new trend.

The delegation may also draw attention to the restrictive nature of the new Soviet regulations governing emigration which came into force on 1 January 1987. (Their note refers to these.) It is true that the new legislation restricts the right of emigration to those having immediate relatives abroad; but it also provides for the Soviet Government to override this in exceptional circumstances. In our view, the future trend of emigration will be determined more by wider political considerations than by the specific provisions of these regulations.

The Prime Minister has asked that time be found during her programme in Moscow for a meeting with a small number of refuseniks. Arrangements for this are likely to be made at the last minute, and it would be advisable therefore not to give any advance commitment to the Board of Deputies. Advance publicity would not be helpful.

/We

Ce/AC
✓ Blup



We shall be briefing the Prime Minister to raise not only the denial of exit visas, but also the wider issue of discrimination against the Soviet Jewish community, eg shortage of synagogues and imprisonment of Hebrew language teachers. The Prime Minister discussed these issues with the Chief Rabbi on 11 March.

Yours ever,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read 'L. Parker'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal flourish at the end.

(L Parker)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
PS/10 Downing Street

אגודת ישראל באנגליה

כ"ה

AGUDAS ISRAEL ORGANISATION

OF GREAT BRITAIN

(AFFILIATED TO THE AGUDIET WORLD MOVEMENT)

THE UNION OF UNIVERSALLY ORGANISED INDEPENDENT ORTHODOX JEWRY

97, STAMFORD HILL,
LONDON, N.16.

In your reply please quote

1

MEMORANDUM TO THE RIGHT HONOURABLE MRS MARGARET THATCHER THE PRIME MINISTER

RELIGIOUS PROBLEMS IN THE USSR

FEBRUARY 1987

INTRODUCTION

It is our contention that under both the Helsinki agreements and Russia's own constitution, Jews wishing to do so should be free to practice every aspect of their religion without interference. Essential religious requisites and foods should be easily available, and present restrictions on their sale or despatch by post should be lifted. Furthermore, the religious infrastructure - places to pray, study and practice their religion - should be available without distinction or hinderance. Jews should not be forced to attend work, college or school on Saturdays (the Jewish Sabbath). Finally, besides repatriation and reunification of families, Jews should also have the right to migrate to wherever they can study and practice their religion fully.

BACKGROUND

Before World War I, Russian Jewry was the largest Jewish community in the world. For centuries until the 1917 Revolution the Jews were cruelly persecuted under the Tsar's antisemitic policies. Nevertheless religious communal life and institutions flourished and many religious leaders in England as elsewhere were educated there. The subsequent Communist regime has virtually destroyed the former religious life and organisation of the Jewish communities. After the Second World War these same policies were extended to Lithuania, Latvia, and other eastern countries.

Recent spokesmen - official and unofficial - have alleged that Jews are being adequately catered for in both cultural and religious fields and claimed that "Hebrew can be studied in the U.S.S.R. ... and is also studied at religious schools and synagogues of which there are about one hundred in the Soviet Union ...". Unfortunately, even these minimal claims are not substantiated by the facts.

HEBREW STUDY

Though the Hebrew alphabet is fundamental to Jewish prayer, the only known place where Hebrew is officially taught is to a few hand-picked students at the Moscow Central Synagogue. In fact the study of Hebrew in the U.S.S.R. is treated as an "anti-Soviet activity" as shown in the persistent K.G.B. harassment of unofficial Hebrew teachers and students - even leading to their imprisonment (usually now on transparently trumped up criminal charges). Mr Gorbachev has not broken with the Andropov doctrine that the Communist Part's aim is to merge the nations of the U.S.S.R. which indicates a strong assimilationist or Russification policy. On average one Jew per month has been imprisoned since Mr Gorbachev came to power - 70 per cent of those jailed for studying Judaism were incarcerated in the last two years.

RELIGIOUS INSTITUTIONS

Whereas other major religions - Russian Orthodox, Greek Orthodox, Islam and Buddhism - each have central co-ordinating bodies; Jews have no central organisation nor even a federation of congregations. Effectively there is no Jewish community in the formal sense.

Islam has four training centres, the Orthodox Church has two academies and eight seminaries but the Jews are allowed only one single Talmudic College in Moscow with five to ten students.

Actually there are only seventy-four registered synagogues (less than under Stalin) mostly impoverished and obscure to serve an estimated two million Jews as against one thousand synagogues in 1926. Moreover, these synagogues are often staffed by Party appointees who report regularly to the K.G.B.

The building or repair of ritual baths essential for religious married life are blocked. Since 23-6-75, in a move apparently custom-designed against Jews (who have to rely heavily on minyans/quorums in private flats) special permission is required for each occasion "a religious service is held in the apartments or houses of believers". These rules also apply to prayers at the

flat of a mourner (who should stay at home during the seven days shiva) or attending a circumcision ceremony. Private religious study circles are regularly broken up.

RELIGIOUS FULFILLMENT

Despite all the bland official assurances, Matzot, Etrogim, Kosher food, Passover food, door Mezuzot, phylacteries, prayer shawls and tzitzit are not widely available throughout the Soviet Empire. The "People of the Book" are deprived of almost all religious literature and no Hebrew Bible has been authorised since 1917. During the fourth biennial International Book Fair held in Moscow, "fifteen books on Jewish religious holidays in Russian" were banned from the stand of a New York publisher as "inappropriate". Most of the 119 national groups in the U.S.S.R. have their own publishing houses, but Jews - the twelfth largest group - have none.

Groups wishing to study recent and ancient Jewish history have come under attack from the K.G.B.'s Jewish Affairs Department. (The last Jewish history book printed in Russia was in 1930.) Those wishing to celebrate Purim or Passover together have been harassed and warned off" and Jews attending New Year or Simchat Torah at the Moscow Central Synagogue have to face being openly filmed by K.G.B. cameramen to be marked down for possible future harassment.

Nowhere near sufficient numbers are trained as scribes or clergy or in religious animal or poultry slaughter and circumcision to serve two million people spread across a vast area.

POSTAL INTERFERENCE

In a selfless humanitarian gesture private individuals abroad have been sending small parcels to relatives and friends. These were primarily to help families who had lost their breadwinner in the Nazi holocaust as well as older citizens now tragically alone with only a small pension. These parcels were also useful in making up shortfalls in seasonal religious articles. A Russian authorised agency operated for this purpose from 1945-84 with the duty being paid in the country of despatch.

However in 1977 the despatch of matzot, prayer books and other religious articles was cruelly banned entirely. Moreover, administrative changes were introduced in August '84 whereby duty now had to be paid by recipients. Nevertheless the despatch and receipt of humanitarian parcels continued.

On 22 August 1986 the situation deteriorated further when the Russian Authorities returned almost all the packages on the pretext that "these parcels were sent by an organisation." In the Prime Minister's constituency of Finchley, hundreds of Jews who sent parcels had them returned.

CONCLUSIONS

The Soviet Authorities be urged:

1. Not to confine their emigration policy to the limited category of "re-unification of families", but to allow any person who so wishes to emigrate to the country of his/her choice so as to enable them to lead a life conducive to their religious belief.
2. That those Jews who wish to remain in the Soviet Union be provided with facilities to conduct a religious life, such as synagogues, ritual baths, freedom to practice their religion including teaching of the Hebrew language, prayers and religious literature.
3. That as there are no Jewish scribes in the Soviet Union to write Torah scrolls, phylacteries and Mezuzot (small scrolls affixed to the doorposts of Jewish homes) such items shall be allowed to be imported to the Soviet Union free of charge.
4. (a) As there are only very few qualified Shochetim (slaughterers to provide Kosher meat) in the Soviet Union, a rota of qualified Shochetim from other countries shall be allowed to visit the USSR for periods of say six months so that Kosher meat shall be available for Soviet Jews.
(b) The same applies to Mohelim (i.e. persons qualified to perform religious circumcsions).
5. That Jews in the Soviet Union shall be allowed to receive postal parcels from individuals outside the U.S.S.R. which include:
 - a) Matzot for the Passover festival (as was the rule until 1977).
 - b) General parcels (which were allowed until 1986).
 - c) Religious requisites such as prayer books, Hebrew Bibles, Hebrew literature and appurtenances (which were inexplicably never allowed).
6. Jews shall be exempt from working on the Jewish Sabbath and religious Holy days. Jewish children and students shall be similarly exempt from attending schools and colleges on the Jewish Sabbath and Holy days.

APPENDIX I

EXTRACT FROM CONSTITUTION OF THE U.S.S.R.

(Adopted at the Seventh [Special] Session of the Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R. Ninth Convocation, on October 7, 1977.)

ARTICLE 34. Citizens of the USSR are equal before the law, without distinction of origin, social or property status, race of nationality, sex, education, language, attitude to religion, type and nature of occupation, domicile, or other status. The equal rights of citizens of the USSR are guaranteed in all fields of economic, political, social, and cultural life.

ARTICLE 45. Citizens of the U.S.S.R. have the right to education by the opportunity to attend a school where teaching is of the native language; and by the provision of facilities for self-education.

ARTICLE 52. Citizens of the U.S.S.R. are guaranteed freedom of conscience, that is, the right to profess or not to profess any religion, and to conduct religious worship or atheistic propaganda. Incitement of hostility or hatred on religious grounds is prohibited.

ARTICLE 56. The privacy of citizens, and of their correspondence, telephone conversations, and telegraphic communications is protected by law.

ARTICLE 57. Respect for the individual and protection of the rights and freedoms of citizens are the duty of all state bodies, public organisations, and officials.

Citizens of the USSR have the right to protection by the courts against encroachments on their honour and reputation, life and health, and personal freedom and property.

APPENDIX II

Some Religious Jews Under Attack

... also threatened was 18 year old Mikhail, a student of computer science, who has become deeply religious - on this account Mikhail has been threatened with expulsion from his college ... Yacov, who had joined a small group studying Hebrew and religious practice was arrested on August 10th ... the Tbilisi authorities plan to pull down the Ashkenazi Synagogue in Ulitsa Leselidze, in order to build a new square. Tbilisi has only two synagogues, a Georgian and an Ashkenazi ... Leonid is suffering from bleeding gums due to bad and inadequate food because he insists on keeping kosher, he does not eat any meat, and this reduces his energy intake ... no fewer than forty orthodox Jews have signed a letter to the Supreme Soviet, to the Procurator General of Uzbekistan and to the Procurator of the city of Samarkand, urging them to quash the sentence. "A legal mistake has occurred", they say. "If it is not corrected Soviet Jews will see it as religious persecution"... two highly orthodox Moscow Jews, Vladimir and Piotr were called in by separate authorities, and warned that their religious activities were in breach of Soviet criminal law. Piotr was specifically warned by the Moscow procurator of the Kirovsky district, that any further "violation" rendered him liable to instant arrest. Piotr (Pinchas) replied that his guests were wearing hats and one of them was wearing a "tales-cotton", because he is an officially registered member of the Moscow Religious Congregation, and his guests were fellow members who always wore hats as a religious observance. Though Evgeny's (his friend) guests were reading religious books that did not in itself constitute a religious meeting and his reading of Talmud after morning prayers in the Marina Roshcha Synagogue, is according to Jewish custom... Boris was visited at his place of work and warned not to attend the Seder, Tatiana, who arrived from Riga to attend the Seder, was picked up by the police in the street, pushed into a car, and sent back to Riga...

APPENDIX III

Repatriation, in contrast to deportation, expulsion and resettlement, is understood in the U.S.S.R. as the voluntary return of ethnic groups and individuals to countries and territories considered to be their homeland. Also, Soviet practice in regard to repatriation has permitted different interpretations of the concept of 'homeland' according to specific situations. 'Homeland' has been defined as a country whose citizenship a given group or individual had held in the past, or is holding at present; it has been defined as the country in which the main ethnic body of a given national minority is bound by emotional and historic ties and traditions.

"From the point of view of Soviet practice, the return to the U.S.S.R. of the so-called 'displaced persons' who found themselves outside its borders as a result of the vicissitudes of World War II was *voluntary repatriation*. In cases of persons officially declared to be collaborators, the U.S.S.R. fought for their forced extradition in order to punish them on their return. However, the resettlement in Soviet Armenia of all Armenians living outside the U.S.S.R., a right granted in 1946, is also considered repatriation by the Soviets. It is significant in this context that Soviet Armenia is viewed as the historic homeland of all Armenians no matter where they are born, where they live, or what citizenship they hold. On July 10, 1957 an agreement came into force for the repatriation from the U.S.S.R. to Poland of persons of Polish nationality, an agreement signed and ratified earlier by the governments of Poland and the U.S.S.R. Such examples can be multiplied by recalling that Spaniards, Greeks and other national minorities living in the U.S.S.R. who moved to their respective countries were also considered repatriates. Therefore, the right to repatriate to Israel, which Soviet Jews seek to realize, corresponds completely with Soviet emigration theory and practice, and from the legal point of view is automatically an aspect of legitimate free choice. This by no means replaces the question of the reunification of families; in emphasis to the national plane.

COUNCILLOR H. J. LOBENSTEIN MBE

27 FAIRHOLT ROAD
LONDON N16 5EW

TEL HOME: 01-800 4746
OFFICE: 01-800 4384

HJL/JY

The Rt. Hon. Mrs. Margaret Thatcher,
FRS., MP.,

The Prime Minister,
10, Downing Street,
London, S.W.1.

25th February, 1987.

Dear Prime Minister,

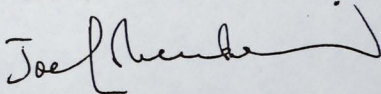
Thank you for the message which you kindly passed on to me via Hartley Booth, that you are pleased to receive a memorandum from me - on behalf of the Orthodox Jewish Community - in regard to the plight of Soviet Jewry, and that you will use this as background information during your forthcoming meeting with Mr. Gorbachov in Moscow.

I now have pleasure in submitting the enclosed memorandum on behalf of the Agudas Israel Organisation of Great Britain, and would point out that I have purposely kept it as brief as possible in order not to impose unduly on your very valuable time.

Should there be any further information that you require on this subject, please be assured that I am always available. I shall be grateful to hear from you upon your return.

Meanwhile, please accept my best wishes for a successful journey and safe return.

Yours sincerely,



P.S. The Agudas Israel Organisation of Great Britain is the British branch of the Agudas Israel World Organisation which, for the past 75 years, has been actively engaged in the protection of religious rights of Jews throughout the world.



10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

27 February 1987

Dear Councillor Lobenstein,

Thank you very much for sending me the memorandum about the plight of Soviet Jewry. I find it very useful to have this before my visit to Moscow and will indeed take it there with me. I cannot promise to be able to go into the sort of detail envisaged in the memorandum in my discussions with Mr. Gorbachev but the general points will be very much in my mind.

It was kind of you to send your best wishes for the success of my mission. I do not at all under-estimate the difficulties but shall do my best.

Yours sincerely
Raymond St. Clare

Councillor H.J. Lobenstein, M.B.E.

PRIME MINISTER

You agreed to see a deputation from the Board of Deputies of British Jews very briefly to enable them to raise the plight of Soviet Jewry.

The delegation will consist of Dr. Kopelowitz, Mr. Pinner, Mr. Jacobs, Mr. Bradman and Mr. Lobenstein.

I attach a note by the Foreign Office. You are very familiar with the subject but will want to hear their particular concerns and make clear that you have studied carefully their note (in the folder), as well as that by Mr. Lobenstein (also in the folder). You will not wish to commit yourself to raising any specific names but will want to assure the delegation that you will make the most effective possible use of any opportunities to raise the problem of Jews, both the treatment of those who wish to stay in the Soviet Union and the right of others to emigrate. Your past experience shows that the most effective representations are those which are made privately rather than with a great deal of public fuss.

C D P

(C. D. POWELL)

18 March 1987

SRW(61)

P.S. You should not
mention your proposed
meeting in Russia
with refuseniks. The
Russians might create
difficulties if news of
the meeting leaked in
advance.

File

8/12

CRAWFIE

Could you let David know
that the Prime Minister
will be seeing representatives
of the Board of Deputies of
British Jews at the House
of Commons next Thursday,
19 March at 1615-1645.

TESSA

13 March 1987



c/c

shw

10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

11 March 1987

BOARD OF DEPUTIES OF BRITISH JEWS

BF // The Prime Minister has agreed to a brief meeting with a delegation from the Board of Deputies of British Jews on 19 March at 1615. The delegation wish to express their concern about the position of Jews in the Soviet Union and obstacles put in the way of immigration. I should be grateful for a short brief by 17 March. I think that I have already sent you the note prepared by the Board of Deputies on the position of Jews in the Soviet Union which will no doubt be the basis for their representations.

(C. D. POWELL)

Lyn Parker, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

shw

19 16 15 / 1965

①

PRIME MINISTER

BOARD OF DEPUTIES OF BRITISH JEWS

As you know, we have been firmly resisting applications by various Jewish organisations to come to see you before your Moscow visit, asking them to put their points in writing. Most of them agreed to do this and some useful papers have resulted. In fending off requests for meetings, we have pointed out that you could not conceivably manage to satisfy all the requests: that there is no doubt that you will be very well briefed on the Jewish emigration issue and will have it very much in mind; and that your past record of championing the rights of Soviet Jews to emigrate (and to be allowed their religious practices and observances within the Soviet Union) left no doubt of your commitment to this cause.

I nonetheless continue to come under strong pressure from Dr. Kopelowitz of the Board of Deputies of British Jews to bring a small delegation to see you for half an hour.

This would be difficult in diary terms; and make it harder to exclude others who have asked to see you on the same subject. Sir David Wolfson's advice is that you should not see the Board of Deputies on this occasion. Nonetheless, I would not discount them making a bit of a fuss if you do not do so, unreasonable at it would be.

My preference would be to continue to fend off a meeting. But I feel that we have reached a point where I need your direct authority for this. If you agree, I would propose to ask David Wolfson to explain to them again all the reasons why it is difficult for you to see them this time.

Agree?

It will not be possible to fend off a meeting. Thursday evening? any time thereafter? not

C.D.P.

CDP

10 March 1987

JA2ALR

file

BM

MRS. RYDER

Dr. K^opelowitz, Chairman of the Board of Deputies of British Jews, telephoned to consult me about a proposal to hold a celebration to mark the Chief Rabbi's 20 years in office next year. The Jewish community very much hoped that the Prime Minister would attend. The celebration would extend to all groups and denominations and not just involve Jews. The dates which they had in mind were either 10 or 17 May.

I should be grateful if you could arrange for this matter to be brought before an early diary meeting.

C.D. POWELL

22 December 1986

BM2BBT

CFPC



HOME OFFICE
QUEEN ANNE'S GATE
LONDON SW1H 9AT

(2)

10 January 1986

Prime Minister
CSP
"11"

Dear Charles,

ms

attach

I am sorry that you have not had an earlier response to your letter to Ivor Llewelyn on 20 November about the Prime Minister's meeting with the Committee of the Board of Deputies of British Jews.

The Prime Minister has asked that the Home Office should look again at the long title of the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Bill to make sure that there is no risk that provisions relating to ritual slaughter could be added to it.

The scope of the Bill is as its title indicates - to make new provision for the protection of animals used for experimental or other scientific purposes. This rules out amendments about how to kill animals for food. We shall not be able to stop people, if they insist, from urging in debate that a ritual method of slaughter must (or must not) be used for experimental or scientific purposes. But they will not be able to talk about the use of ritual slaughter of animals for food. I am glad to say there has been no hint of any interest in this in the proceedings on the Bill so far.

Mr Greville Janner has written to the Home Secretary on this issue and is wholly satisfied that the drafting of the Bill's title is such as to ensure that an amendment to ban schehita could not be added.

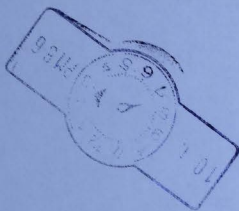
your sincerely
Clare Pelham

MS C PELHAM

Charles Powell, Esq.

PM 10/79

MEETING WITH BOARD OF JSWS



MRS. RYDER

When the Prime Minister received the new Committee of the Board of Deputies of British Jews this morning, their President invited her to attend a celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Public Order Act on a date to be determined next year. The celebration would be held in London. It was left that the Secretary-General would get in touch with me to discuss possible dates.

You may wish to put this on the agenda of a future diary meeting but I am bound to say that the Prime Minister committed herself rather firmly.

CHARLES POWELL
20 November 1985

Subject
cc Master

hle

ELBASG.

ech



bc PC

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

20 November 1985

PRIME MINISTER'S MEETING WITH THE COMMITTEE OF THE BOARD OF DEPUTIES OF BRITISH JEWS

I should record that the Prime Minister held a meeting this morning with the new Committee of the Board of Deputies of British Jews. One of the subjects which they raised was that of ritual slaughter. They pressed the Prime Minister strongly to support the continuance of existing arrangements.

The Prime Minister said she was aware that views were being ascertained on the recent report from the Animal Welfare Council and as far as she knew there was no likelihood of any early decisions. She herself was sympathetic to the continuance of the existing arrangements. She advised the Board of Deputies to stand on the fact that existing arrangements were carefully licensed and supervised. She would also ask her colleagues to look again at the long title of the Experiments on Animals Bill to make sure that there was no risk that provisions relating to ritual slaughter could be added to it.

The Prime Minister authorised the Board to say in any public comment that they had received a sympathetic hearing from her on this point.

I should be grateful if the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food could look again at the long title of the Experiments on Animals Bill in the terms suggested by the Prime Minister.

I am copying this letter to Michael Stark (Cabinet Office).

NB - chose MF with Home Off

(Charles Powell)

Ivor Llewelyn, Esq.,
Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

do



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

18 November 1985

Dear Charles,

Board of Deputies of British Jews

I enclose as requested in your letter of 17 November supplementary speaking notes for the Prime Minister's meeting with the new committee of the Board of Deputies on 20 November.

Yours ever,

Peter Ricketts

(P F Ricketts)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
10 Downing Street



PRIME MINISTER'S MEETING WITH THE BOARD OF DEPUTIES OF BRITISH JEWS,
20 NOVEMBER 1985

SUPPLEMENTARY SPEAKING NOTES

ARAB BOYCOTT

UK Policy. The Government's opposition to the Arab boycott is well known. Our policy is to encourage trade with both Israel and the Arab states and we deplore any attempts by third parties to place restrictions on our trade with Israel. Policy thoroughly considered. No intention to change it.

Authentication. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office practice of authenticating the signatures of solicitors and notaries public on a wide range of documents is a standard legal procedure. It does not imply approval of the contents of a document, but merely confirms that the signature is valid. A note to this effect is issued with each document authenticated.

Legislation. Not appropriate to legislate against the boycott. Believe each individual company should decide in the light of its own commercial interests what attitude to take. Companies are well aware of the government's opposition to the boycott. The Department of Trade and Industry are willing to advise companies about its operation.

- Trade with Israel flourishing. Total volume of bilateral trade may reach £900 million in 1985. Exports increased by 17% January - August, compared with same 1984 period.

NORTH SEA OIL

- We expect companies to sell North Sea Oil to our partners in the European Community and International Agency and to certain other countries with whom we have a close energy relationship (Finland

and one or two Caribbean destinations). These guidelines reflect the importance which we attach to co-operation on energy matters with these countries. The primary purpose is to ensure continuity of supply to EC and IEA partners.

- Not correct to describe this as an embargo against Israel.

Guidelines not directed specifically against Israel.

- (if raised): Sun Oil v Bulk Oil. Consideration by European Court of Justice postponed sine die. Matter still sub judice: we cannot comment.

ARMS SALES TO ISRAEL

- We imposed restrictions in June 1982 in direct response to the Israeli invasion of Lebanon.

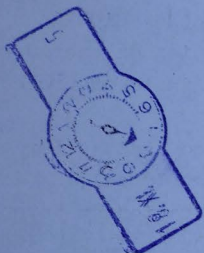
- Welcomed decision of Israeli Unity Government to withdraw Israeli forces, but disappointed by residual Israeli presence in South Lebanon and establishment of 'security zone'. We continue to urge Israel to complete the withdrawal process and allow UNIFIL to deploy to the border in accordance with wishes of the Lebanese and the international community.

- Restrictions kept under close review. Remedy is in the hands of Israeli government.

P. M

MEETING WITH
BOARD DEPUTIES OF BRITISH JEWS

OCT 79



FILE

DA

etc



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

17 November 1985

BOARD OF DEPUTIES OF BRITISH JEWS

Thank you for your letter of 15 November enclosing briefing for the Prime Minister's meeting with the Board of Deputies of British Jews. As I said in my letter of the same date, it would be helpful to have fuller speaking notes on the Arab boycott, oil sales and the arms embargo.

(Charles Powell)

Peter Ricketts, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

15 November 1985

Dear Charles,

Board of Deputies of British Jews

I enclose briefing for the Prime Minister's meeting on 20 November with the new Committee of the Board of Deputies as requested in your letter of 6 September.

Yours ever,

(P F Ricketts)
Private Secretary

Peter Ricketts

C D Powell Esq
10 Downing Street



PRIME MINISTER'S MEETING WITH NEW COMMITTEE OF BOARD OF DEPUTIES OF
BRITISH JEWS, 20 NOVEMBER 85

Our Objectives

- To reaffirm readiness to contribute to peace process, where appropriate. Stress importance of balanced approach.
- To reassure committee of value we attach to constructive dialogue with Israel and Mr Peres' peace moves.

Arguments

- Useful discussion with Mr Peres in New York on 23 October. Look forward to receiving him in January 1986.
- State of flux in peace process. Considerable activity, eg Jordan/Syria talks. Continue to support King Hussein's courageous efforts. Welcome hint in Peres' UNGA speech of 21 October of flexibility over international cover for peace negotiations. For participants to decide suitable international forum. Will continue to support all realistic initiatives.

Tactical Arguments

- Strength of Arab moderates, especially Hussein, in interests of all, including Israel.
- PLO/Palestinians: vital to include interlocutors who count. Hussein convinced that he needs Arafat, trying to push him in right direction.

Their Objectives

- Seek positive reaction to Peres' moves.
- Urge HMG to dismiss whole of PLO as a terrorist group which should not participate in negotiations.
- Perhaps urge legislation against Arab Boycott, lifting of our restrictions on arms sales and the supply of North Sea Oil to Israel.

Our Response

- Cautious welcome for Peres' ideas.
- Failure of Jordan/PLO delegation visit a disappointment and a



setback. But it was right to try. Essential that PLO should show commitment to peaceful solution by renouncing terrorism and recognising Israel's right to exist.

- Policy on Arab Boycott thoroughly considered. No intention to change policy. Trade with Israel flourishing.

- Israeli forces have not yet completed withdrawal from Lebanon. Restrictions on defence sales kept under review.

- Expect companies to sell oil to EC and IEA members and certain traditional markets. Guidelines designed to ensure security of supply to these partners. Not directed against Israel. Substantial oil supplies available on open market.

BACKGROUND

1. In a speech to the UNGA on 21 October, Peres called for direct talks with Jordan or a Jordanian/Palestinian delegation which might take place within the context of an international forum. Hussein held talks with Arafat on 28/29 October in Amman where they reiterated their commitment to the agreement of 11 February. Hussein has, however, asked the PLO to rethink its position on the renunciation of violence and the recognition of Israel. On 7 November, Arafat made a speech in Cairo which denounced acts of violence outside Israel and the Occupied Territories. This is a position which Fatah have held since 1974. Since October, Jordan has renewed high level contacts with Syria. As a consequence, of this and the refusal of the US to agree to Palestinian nominations for a joint delegation, attention has been increasingly focussed on moves towards holding an international conference without the initial steps earlier envisaged by King Hussein.

2. The option of legislating against the Arab Boycott has been exhaustively studied. A House of Lords Select Committee recommended against legislation in 1978 and concluded that our interests were best served by leaving individual firms to use their commercial judgement. The FCO practice of authenticating boycott documents is a standard legal procedure and does not imply approval of the contents. Our restrictions on arms sales to Israel, imposed in 1982 in direct response to the Israeli invasion of Lebanon, were reviewed last month. Sir Geoffrey Howe concluded that there should be no change for the time being; the Prime Minister agreed. The European Court of Justice has postponed sine die consideration of the Sun Oil v Bulk Oil case, which is a legal test of our oil supply guidelines.

Near East & North Africa Department

15 November 1985



10 DOWNING STREET

Prime Minister

I attach some
briefing notes for this
meeting. Despite the
long agenda they
have proposed, this is
supposed to be only a
courtesy call lasting
half-an-hour.

C.D.P.

FILE

DA



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

15 November 1985

**COURTESY CALL BY NEW COMMITTEE OF BOARD
OF DEPUTIES OF BRITISH JEWS**

The Prime Minister is seeing the New Committee of Board of Deputies of British Jews on 20 November. They are proposing to raise:

- the Arab Boycott
- the Arms Embargo
- sale of oil.

Could I please have speaking notes on all three points by 5.00 pm on 19 November.

(Charles Powell)

Peter Ricketts, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

MR POWELL

cc Sir David Wolfson

COURTESY CALL BY NEW COMMITTEE OF BOARD OF DEPUTIES OF
BRITISH JEWS

They are coming at 11 o'clock for half an hour on Wednesday
20 November.

The following will be present:

President, Dr Kopelowitz
Vice-President, Mr Eric Moonman
Vice-President, Mr Victor Lucas
Treasurer, Mr J Pinnick
Secretary-General, Mr H Pinner

They wish to discuss the following subjects:

- i. Law and order and race relations
- ii. Farm animal reform and Shechita
- iii. Soviet Jewry
- iv. Issues in the Middle East:
 - Peace process
 - Arab boycott
 - Arms embargo
 - Sale of oil

I warned Mr Pinner who I spoke to on the telephone that this
was only a courtesy call by the new Committee!

Any briefing required?

ck.

CAROLINE RYDER

15 November 1985

SLHAHU



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

6 September 1985

BOARD OF DEPUTIES OF BRITISH JEWS

The Prime Minister is to see the new Committee of the Board of Deputies of British Jews on 20 November. I should be grateful for a short, up-to-date brief on Middle East affairs by 18 November.

Charles Powell

Peter Ricketts Esq
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

B. H.

Charles

Misc? or yours?

MEAT 579

MR SHERBOURNE

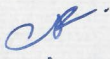
None
agr

BOARD OF DEPUTIES OF BRITISH JEWS

You will remember before you went on holiday that you asked me to ask the Prime Minister if she would agree to see the newly appointed Committee. She agreed and I contacted Mr. Pinner accordingly.

I have offered them a short call on Wednesday, 20 November at 11 am.

Will you deal with this one or will Charles Powell?



5 September, 1985

PRIME MINISTER

BOARD OF DEPUTIES OF BRITISH JEWS

The Chairman and Committee of the above are now newly appointed and have asked if they could come and pay you a courtesy call. I have taken advice from Nigel Wicks who says it is difficult to refuse them, although it is not urgent. Charles Powell says you should see them if possible.

Shall I find a suitable slot in late November?

Yes not

CR.

CAROLINE RYDER

2 September 1985

Difficult to repair, tho' possibly
not urgent.

N.L.V.
23-7.

- 1) MR. WICKS ✓
- 2) MR. POWELL ✓

Advice on the attached please.

CP

Caroline

The PR should
certainly see them
when possible.
C.D.P.

(Caroline Ryder)

23 August 1985

MRS. RYDER

cc. Mr. Powell

Board of Deputies of British Jews

A telephone request came via Ivan Lawrence MP to the Private Office asking if the Prime Minister could meet the Board of Deputies. I spoke to the Board's official, Mr. Pinner (01-387 5708) who said that the Prime Minister had met the Board's officials some time ago when they had been newly appointed. The Chairman and committee are now newly appointed /^{again} and they hoped that the Prime Minister might be able to see them in the same way as before - rather like a courtesy call on the Prime Minister. Mr. Pinner also hoped that such a meeting would take place before the Prime Minister's forthcoming visit to Egypt and Jordan.

In reply I told Mr. Pinner:-

1. Because of the Prime Minister's diary it was extremely unlikely that such a meeting could be arranged before her Middle East visit; and he understood.
2. That I would relay the general request for a meeting to the Prime Minister on her return.
3. That somebody from the Private Office would get back to Mr. Pinner after the Prime Minister's return from holiday.

Could I ask you to take this on and reply to Mr. Pinner in due course?

S.S.
STEPHEN SHERBOURNE

20.8.85

The Board of Deputies of British Jews

2.
Prime Minister

WOBURN HOUSE, UPPER WOBURN PLACE, LONDON, WC1H 0EP.

Telegrams: DEPUTIES, LONDON, WC1.

Telephone: 01-387 3952 or 388 7651

The Rt. Hon. Margaret Thatcher, M.P.,
House of Commons
SW1

28th November, 1979

p30

My dear Prime Minister -

It was very kind of you so readily to receive my fellow Honorary Officers of the Board and myself on Monday. We appreciated the opportunity of discussing with you so many matters of concern to the Jewish community with informality and frankness. We look forward to welcoming you to the Board before too long and meanwhile I send you our warmest appreciation.

Yours sincerely,
Greville

orb

Greville Janner, Q.C., M.P.
President



File
Copied to
Joan Porter
PM
10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

28 November 1979

Dear Greville,

I was very pleased to be able to exchange views with you and your colleagues on the delegation of the Board of Deputies of British Jews.

I am writing now to thank you for presenting to me copies of Golda Meir's autobiography and Martin Gilbert's book on The Holocaust. As I told you, I propose to add these to the Library at Chequers, where I and Prime Ministers of the future will be able to dip into them from time to time during the pleasant moments of relaxation which the Chequers environment offers.

Yours ever

MT

The Hon. Greville Janner, Q.C., M.P.

jfh

copy to Israel: oil
for Israel: NOV 1979.



PM

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

27 November 1979

The Prime Minister today met a delegation from the Board of Deputies of British Jews. There was some discussion of the scope for Israeli purchases of North Sea oil. The Prime Minister declined to give any indication that there might be North Sea oil available on the commercial market for Israel in the foreseeable future. She emphasised that she did not have detailed information to hand, and suggested that the discussion should be pursued with Mr. Howell.

I am sending copies of this letter to Paul Lever (Foreign and Commonwealth Office) and Martin Vile (Cabinet Office).

M. A. PATTISON

SP

W.J. Burroughs, Esq.,
Department of Energy.

27 November 1979

The Prime Minister today met a delegation from the Board of Deputies of British Jews. There was some brief discussion on immigration matters, and I enclose an extract of our record for your information.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Martin Vile (Cabinet Office).

M.A. PATTISON

SH

J.A. Chilcot, Esq.,
Home Office.

27 November 1979

The Prime Minister today received a delegation from the Board of Deputies of British Jews.

Mrs. Thatcher agreed with Mr. Janner that the meeting should be treated as private. Mr. Janner said that the Board of Deputies would simply publish the fact of the meeting and a list of the topics discussed.

You may nevertheless find it helpful to have a copy of the record of the discussion, as some of the points made by the Prime Minister in discussion may well end up being quoted at some time in the future.

I am sending a copy of this letter and enclosure to Martin Vile (Cabinet Office).

M.A. PATTISON

Sl

paul Lever, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

Prime Minister
Mr Wolfson

Prime Minister
MISS STEPHENS

PRIME MINISTER'S MEETING WITH THE BOARD OF DEPUTIES OF
BRITISH JEWS: 27 NOVEMBER 1979

I sense that the Delegation calling on the Prime Minister tomorrow may want to seek publicity for their meeting. I have been asked for guidance by their Public Relations Officer, Mr Corney, on what use they can make of the photograph to be taken on arrival of the Prime Minister with the Delegation. I said that I understood that the Board of Deputies wanted the photograph for the 'Jewish Chronicle' but it was, of course, up to them to decide on a distribution. Mr Corney said that they would probably only give the photograph to the 'Jewish Chronicle'.

2. Mr Corney also asked for advice on what the Delegation could say to the press after the meeting. I said that we would simply confirm that the Prime Minister had met the Delegation, as was traditional when a new Government took office, to discuss topics of mutual interest. I added that we would not expect to go into any detail with the press on specifics as this might only inhibit the frankness of the Prime Minister's discussions.

3. Mr Corney said that the Delegation would therefore brief in a similar way, but the Prime Minister might like to remind the Delegation when she meets them tomorrow that we do not plan to say much to the press afterwards about the meeting.

4. I attach an excerpt from a reference book about the Board of Deputies of British Jews, from which you will see that the Board's terms of reference give it a fairly wide mandate to raise a variety of subjects.

Charles A

CHARLES ANSON
PRESS OFFICE

26 November 1979

Location of Offices Bureau, continued

¶ Annual Report.

Moving your Office. Free; revised annually.

Office Decentralisation: a Handbook for the Intending Mover. 1972; £1.50.

Office Relocation: Facts and Figures: LOB Statistical Handbook. 1975; £1.50.

LOB Research Papers:

No 2. Offices in a Regional Centre: a Study of Office Location in Leeds. 1968; £1.50.

No 3. Offices in a Regional Centre: Follow up Studies. 1969; £0.75.

No 5. Office Development in Croydon. 1971; £1.00.

No 7. The Local Impact of Decentralised Offices. 1973; £1.75.

Note: In a speech in the House of Commons on 17 May 1977, the Secretary of State for the Environment spoke of the terms of reference of the Location of Offices Bureau, and said: "This remit clearly needs revision. In particular I propose to give it two new tasks: attracting international concerns so that they locate office employment in Great Britain, including London; and giving particular attention to the promotion of office employment in inner urban areas, including London as well.

"This involves broadening the Bureau's terms of reference to promoting the better distribution of office employment throughout the country. I shall shortly lay before the House a draft Order in Council to give effect to this change".

London Committee of Deputies of the British Jews. (Board of Deputies of British Jews).

Woburn House, 4th Floor, Upper Woburn Place, London WC1H 0EP. 01-387 3952.

E Established in 1760. The present Board consists of 452 members, who are duly elected representatives of 223 synagogues in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, synagogues in Commonwealth countries, and 38 Jewish institutions.

President: Lord Fisher of Camden, JP, FCIS.

Clerk: David Massel, BA.

R The Board is the representative body of British Jewry, and its constitution provides that it shall (a) take note of all proceedings relative to legislative and municipal enactments, and shall use such means as it may deem requisite in order that no infraction of the religious rights, customs and privileges of the Jewish community may ensue therefrom; (b) watch over the interests of the Jews in the British Commonwealth and take such action as may be deemed by the Board to be conducive to their welfare and calculated to improve their general condition, and (c) when it deems its intervention desirable, to use its influence and exertions in favour of Jewish communities or individuals in other countries.

• The Board's committees include the Jewish Defence Committee and the Central Jewish Lecture Committee.

¶ Annual Report.

Improving Race Relations: a Jewish Contribution. 1969; gratis.

Studies in Anglo-Jewish Statistics. (Series of 7 reprints from the Jewish Journal of Sociology). 1967-72; gratis.

Light on Soviet Jewry. 1969; gratis.

Jews in an Inner London Borough: a Study of the Jewish population of the London Borough of Hackney, by B A Kosmin. 1975; £1.00.

Steel City Jews: a Study of Ethnicity and Social Mobility in the Jewish Population of the City of Sheffield, by B A Kosmin. 1976; £1.00.

London Conference on Overseas Students. (LCOS)

■ 11 Portland Place, London W1N 4EJ. 01-636 6888.

E Established in 1950, as the Conference of Voluntary Societies on the Welfare of Colonial Students. In 1955 the Conference's responsibilities were widened to include overseas students of all nationalities and in 1959 it was renamed the London Conference on Overseas Students. The Conference consists of representatives of 140 organisations, the secretariat being provided by the British Council.

Chairman: Dr J Topping, MSc, PhD, DIC, FInstP, FIMA.

Secretary: Mrs P M Green, BSc(Econ).

R To provide a means of joint consultation and liaison between organisations and institutions in the Greater London area concerned with the well-being of overseas students.

Meetings of the full Conference take place 3 times a year. There are periodic special conferences, and

Working Parties may also be appointed to look at specific problems. The Executive Committee of 15 members meets at least 4 times a year.

¶ Reports and minutes to members; annual Chairman's Letter on the cost of living in London.

c9) Master set
2) Immigration Rules OK
3) Middle East situation
4) ISRAEL: Oil (or ISRAEL: NOIL)
79.

RECORD OF A MEETING WITH A DELEGATION OF THE BOARD OF DEPUTIES OF
BRITISH JEWS HELD AT 10 DOWNING STREET AT 1000 HOURS ON TUESDAY
27 NOVEMBER 1979

Present:

Prime Minister
Mr. David Wolfson
Mr. Charles Anson
Mr. Mike Pattison

The Hon. Greville Janner
(President)
Dr. Lionel Kopelowitz
(Senior Vice President)
Mr. Martin Savitt
(Junior Vice President)
Mr. Victor Lucas
(Treasurer)
Mr. Stuart Young
(Appeals Treasurer)
Mr. Hayim Pinner
(Secretary General)

* * * * *

In thanking the Prime Minister for her courtesy in receiving the delegation, Mr. Janner emphasised that the Board of Deputies were a non-party apolitical body representing the British Jewish community. The most difficult of the issues they wished to raise with the Prime Minister was immigration. The British Jews were an immigrant community. They accepted the responsibility of Government to control immigration, but viewed with anxiety the proposed different treatment of people not born in the United Kingdom. The Prime Minister said that she could go no further than recent statements by the Home Secretary. She had spoken on this issue in the election campaign. There was a major problem over fiances, who had no previous links with the country. The problem extended to their dependants. Her own constituency experience, where she had a substantial community of Asians from East Africa and the sub-continent, showed that the existing Asian community provided little opposition to the Government's proposals. There would always be compassionate exceptions to the new regulations and the problem of refugees from tyranny would also require different / solutions.

solutions. The Government had said how it proposed to handle immigration matters, and she would stand by that absolutely. There could be no perfect solutions in this difficult field. There would, of course, be a debate in the House of Commons to confirm the regulations before these were brought into force. Mr. Pinner said that Jews who had arrived in Britain in the mid-30s could be affected by these proposals. The Board of Deputies recognised what the Government was trying to do. Mr. Savitt asked the Prime Minister to bear in mind their representations whilst the Government finalised its intentions. The Prime Minister said that she could offer no hope of changing the Government's approach, although the views expressed would of course be considered.

Mr. Janner thanked the Prime Minister for the Government's agreement to the site for the Holocaust Memorial. The Prime Minister said that she had had no direct part in the decision, but was happy to accept the credit for her colleagues.

Mr. Janner expressed thanks for the Government's quiet assistance on the problems of Soviet Jews. In addition, Mr. Blaker's public comments in the House had been more forthright than those of his predecessor. The Prime Minister said that the Government would continue to do what it could, whilst endeavouring to avoid making life more complicated for East European Jews.

Mr. Janner said that the Jewish community were disappointed that the Government was not prepared to do better than their predecessors over the authentication of documentation required under the Arab boycott. Lord Byers had started movements to change the position in the House of Lords, but had withdrawn under commercial pressure. The Board of Deputies had asked the Government to disassociate itself from the authentication process and leave this to others, but last week the Government had announced that it would continue previous policy. The Prime Minister said that she could not promise movement, but she recognised the delegation's wish to register their strong views on the subject. Mr. Pinner said that discrimination under the boycott now applied to Egypt as well as Israel. The Prime Minister said that, as in

the case of Rhodesia, the sooner a settlement was achieved in the Middle East, the better for all parties concerned.

Mr. Janner asked whether there might be some quiet Government move on oil supplies for Israel. Her difficulties were much greater now than the last fields had been handed back to Egypt. The Prime Minister doubted whether there could be any developments here. Britain had responsibilities both as part of the EEC and as a member of the International Energy Agency. The 5% shortage created by the Iranian situation had been bad enough. If the 7% shortage were to be reached, triggering the IEA sharing arrangements, there would be an entirely new situation. Politics had taught her never to extrapolate from trends. In respect of oil supplies there had been few predictions of the Yom Kippur war and recent Iranian events, both of which had had a dramatic impact. Those monitoring developments had been alarmed by the Mecca Mosque attack whose ultimate meaning was not yet clear. It was still proving impossible to get the consumer countries and OPEC countries together. In Western countries faced by the alternative of massive unemployment, Governments were getting their oil where they could. This created a volatile spot market. The Prime Minister could not blame Governments who took this action. The UK was not yet up to self-sufficiency. If future developments did create shortages above the 7%, i.e. the trigger point, there would be major international activity because of the crippling economic effect: the long-term implications could not be properly assessed. It was not in the Arab interest to create such a disturbance. Mr. Janner said that Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and some other producers had an interest in stability, but it was not true of all. The Prime Minister said that it was in the interest of some major Arab states to keep the Western economies functioning. Dr. Kopelowitz said that the delegation were asking whether the Israeli oil companies could obtain commercial supplies from the North Sea companies. The Prime Minister said that North Sea production was committed for some time ahead. About half our exports were already going to Europe. Mr. Janner said that the Board of Deputies understood that there had been approaches to the

British Government in connection with the Egyptian/Israeli peace process. The Prime Minister responded that she was not in a position to comment on detailed possibilities. The Board of Deputies should pursue this with the Secretary of State for Energy.

Mr. Janner asked about the Government's attitude to the PLO. The Prime Minister emphasised that the Government had never recognised the PLO. The Foreign Secretary had not done so in his recent speech. He had, correctly, said that there must be discussions with the Palestinian people. Mr. Lucas commented that the Prime Minister must mean the Palestinian Arabs. The Prime Minister said that the PLO was linked with terrorism. Mr. Young said that the Board of Deputies believed there were links with the IRA. They had been unable to produce evidence. They hoped to be able to do so in the future. The Prime Minister said that she had an intellectual problem when she spoke of no recognition of the PLO. People asked why she was negotiating with Messrs. Mugabe and Nkomo. Her answer was this was essential to stop a war. She had had to derogate from her absolute stand on terrorism to pursue peace in Rhodesia. This was a practical problem. Lord Carrington's whole speech should be considered. It was a very balanced presentation. There was a major problem in the Middle East. For this reason the Prime Minister could not say that she would never, never, deal with the PLO. This might be necessary to get a settlement, as in Rhodesia. The representatives of all people involved would have to participate. King Hussein had told her that he was working on Yasser Arafat, to get him to cut down terrorist activity. He believed that Arafat was becoming more moderate. Mr. Janner said that the Board of Deputies appreciated the Government's stand in respect of the PLO within Europe and within the EEC. It mirrored the position that Mr. Callaghan had taken in the past, in the teeth of strong opposition, especially from the French. The Board of Deputies would not disagree with the Prime Minister's view about the possible need for contacts in the future. They well understood the reasoning. Mr. Savitt said that the problem in talking to moderate Palestinian Arabs was their difficulties with the PLO.

/ The Prime Minister

The Prime Minister said she did not know how effective King Hussein's contacts with Arafat were proving. She believed that he was having quite an influence.

Dr. Kopelowitz asked how the Prime Minister saw the future of the West Bank. The Prime Minister said she had no definitive answer to this question which was frequently put to her. There were a range of possibilities. She did not believe that the problem had yet been thought through with proper intellectual clarity. But, whatever perfect solution might be devised, it could not be imposed on the various inhabitants of the area who had their own strong ideas. A loose federation with Jordan seemed perhaps the most likely outcome. Mr. Savitt asked whether the position would not be eased if King Hussein would declare himself and join the peace negotiations. The Prime Minister said that this might seem the case to the British, but it was not for the British Government to do anything which might weaken Hussein's internal position. Mr. Janner agreed, but asked for the Prime Minister's assessment of the likelihood of his joining the peace discussions. The Prime Minister said that she did not see much likelihood of further changes in the current groupings over the peace process. Mr. Janner said that in Israel King Hussein was seen as having made the wrong choices, first in 1967, again in 1973 and now over the peace process. Mr. Pinner said that the peace making process lacked encouragement in the United Kingdom, especially in the media and in the universities. He would not wish to extend his criticism to the Government. The Prime Minister stressed that everybody had to work for a comprehensive solution. It would be to the advantage of everyone in the area, and of all Western countries. Only the Soviet group could benefit from maintenance of the problem. She found it surprising that this reality was not universally recognised. But reason did not always work in politics. Mr. Janner commented that this was particularly true in the case of Israel, a democracy with groups publicly expressing positions which were difficult to reconcile. Dr. Kopelowitz commented that November was a sensitive month for the Jewish community, and included the anniversary of the Balfour

/ Declaration.

Declaration. The Board of Deputies asked Her Majesty's Government to do all possible at the highest level to assist the peace process. The Prime Minister noted that there was probably very little prospect of movement during the build-up to the United States election.

In concluding, the Prime Minister agreed with Mr. Janner that the meeting should be regarded as totally private. Mr. Janner said that the Board of Deputies would be putting out a press release noting that the meeting had taken place and listing the topics touched upon. There would be no further comment.

The meeting concluded at 1050.

19.11
PRIME MINISTER

Your Meeting with a Delegation of the Board of Deputies
of British Jews: 1000, Tuesday, 27 November

1. Mike Pattison will be present at the meeting to take a record.
2. Charles Anson will be present also as they want to issue a press release at the end.
3. They wish to discuss with you race relations, discrimination, public order, denominational education, PLO, Middle East peace, and Arab Boycott. You will remember that I asked you if you required any briefing, and you replied that "They make representations - we do not discuss".
4. Those attending will be:

The Hon. Greville Janner:	President
Dr. Lionel Kopelowitz :	Senior Vice-President
Mr. Martin Savitt :	Junior Vice-President
Mr. Victor Lucas :	Treasurer
Mr. Stuart Young :	Appeals Treasurer
Mr. Hayim Pinner :	Secretary General

es.

26 November, 1979.

Weekend Box



(F)

10 DOWNING STREET

PRIME MINISTER

As the delegation of Board of Deputies of British Jews wish to put out a press release following their meeting with you next Tuesday 27 November would you agree to a member of the Press Office being present at the meeting?

Yes and

20 November 1979



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

Prime Minister.

Do you have
any objection to the
Board of Deputies of
British Jews bringing a
photographer with them next
week. I have spoken to
David & he says it wd
probably appear in the
Jewish Chronicle &
no harm wd be done.

Rego
approved
copy OK

13/11

14/11

David's

CP.

The Board of Deputies of British Jews

WOBURN HOUSE, UPPER WOBURN PLACE, LONDON, WC1H 0EP.

Telegrams: DEPUTIES, LONDON, WC1.

Telephone: 01-387 3952 or 388 7651

Miss Caroline Stephens,
Private Secretary to the Prime Minister,
10 Downing Street,
London, SW1

5th November 1979

RB

Dear Miss Stephens,

Thank you for your letter of 1st November addressed to Mr. Greville Janner in which you confirm our meeting with the Prime Minister on Tuesday, 27th November at 10.00 a.m.

Our delegation will comprise the President of the Board of Deputies, The Hon. Greville Janner, Q.C., M.P., the Senior Vice-President, Dr. Lionel Kopelowitz, J.P., the Junior Vice-President, Mr. Martin Savitt, the Treasurer, Mr. Victor Lucas, the Appeals Treasurer, Mr. Stuart Young, F.C.A., and the Secretary General, Mr. Hayim Pinner.

We are very much looking forward to meeting the Prime Minister.

Yours sincerely,

Hayim Pinner

Hayim Pinner

Secretary General

JS



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

1 November 1979

Further to your letter to the Prime Minister of 24 October, I am writing to confirm that the Prime Minister is very much looking forward to seeing you all on Tuesday 27 November at 1000.

I would be grateful if you could kindly let me have a list of the people you will be bringing with you.

JS

The Hon. Greville Janner, QC, MP.

JS

(F) 1

PRIME MINISTER

The Board of Deputies of British Jews are coming to see you for half an hour on Tuesday 27 November at 1000. They wish to discuss race relations, discrimination, public order, denominational education, PLO, Middle East peace and Arab Boycott. Obviously this is a far too long agenda for 30 minutes but in the event that the latter subjects will probably be raised, shall I get the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary to attend and possibly Mr. Whitelaw as well? Naturally I shall request briefing on all these subjects.

es.

30 October 1979

They note
specialist + we
do not discuss!

The Board of Deputies of British Jews

WOBURN HOUSE, UPPER WOBURN PLACE, LONDON, WC1H 0EP.

Telegrams: DEPUTIES, LONDON, WC1.

Telephone: 01-387 3952 or 388 7651

The Rt. Hon. Margaret Thatcher, MP.,
Prime Minister,
10 Downing Street,
London, SW1

24th October 1979

R30

My dear Margaret -

Many thanks indeed for your letter of 22nd October, which I greatly appreciated. We shall look forward to the meeting - and I will ask our Secretary General to contact Caroline Stephens to fix a mutually convenient time and date.

The sort of topics we would like to discuss with you are: Race Relations, Discrimination, Public Order, Denominational Education, PLO, Middle East Peace and Arab Boycott.

Yours sincerely,
Pinner

Mrs. C. Brewster
Brewster

HL

cc Press Office

22 October 1979

Dear Greville,

Thank you very much for your letter of 12 October and I would be delighted to receive the officers of the Board of Deputies of British Jews. Perhaps your secretary could contact Caroline Stephens on 930 4433 to arrange a mutually convenient time and date. Could you kindly let me have a note please of the sort of topics you would like to discuss.

With best wishes.

Yours sincerely,

(signed) M.T.

The Hon. Greville Janner, O.C., M.P.

TMW

PRIME MINISTER

I am attaching a letter from Greville Janner, the President of the Board of Deputies of British Jews. Apparently it is tradition for this organisation to pay a courtesy call on the Prime Minister. I have had a word with David Wolfson and he does not have any strong feelings about this Board. He did say that if you agreed to see them this would not have to be done for some time.

QJ.

They must come
out.

16 October 1979

R15

The Board of Deputies of British Jews

WOBURN HOUSE, UPPER WOBURN PLACE, LONDON, WC1H 0EP.

Telegrams: DEPUTIES, LONDON, WC1.

Telephone: 01-387 3952 or 388 7651

The Rt. Hon. Margaret Thatcher, M.P.,
Prime Minister,
10 Downing Street,
London SW1

12th October, 1979

My dear Margaret,

It has become a happy tradition that the Honorary Officers of the Board of Deputies - as the elected leaders of the British Jewish community - should pay a courtesy call on the Prime Minister - and successive Prime Ministers have been good enough to receive us and to discuss with us matters of mutual concern. My colleagues and I would be delighted if you would be good enough to allow us to meet with you. If you are agreeable in principle, then I will ask our Secretary General to make the appropriate arrangements with your staff.

Hoping that you are well and with warmest good wishes,

*Yours sincerely,
Greville*

Greville Janner, Q.C., M.P.
President