

CONFIDENTIAL

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FILE TITLE:

Prime Minister's meeting with the Chief Rabbi

SERIES

PRIME MINISTER

PART:

1

PART BEGINS:

November 1988

PART ENDS:

1st May 1997

CAB ONE:

~~Series closed~~

PREM 19/6210

CONFIDENTIAL

PRIME MINISTERS MEETINGS

CHIEF RABBI

DATE	FROM	TO	SUBJECT	S/TS
1.2.91	PS/DTI	PS/Powell	Zengrange export licence	
28.6.94	Appoint' Secretary	PS/HO	(M) PM's discussion with the Chief Rabbi, 14 June	
30.8.94	HA/PS	PPS	Lord Jakobovits	
6.10.94	Lord Jakobovits	PM	Apologies for missing appointment	
19.3.96	Appoint' Secretary	C.Rabbi	Meeting with standing Committee of European Rabbis - 1 May 10:30 - 11:00	
20.3.96	C.Rabbi Office	PM	Delegation of the Conference of European Rabbis	

PI IE MINISTERS MEETINGS

CHIEF RABBI

DATE	FROM	TO	SUBJECT	S/TS
22.11.88	PS/Powell	PM	Chief Rabbi requests for meeting and invitation to Gorbachev dinner	
22.11.88	C. Rabbi office	PS/Powell	Thankyou for passing on requests	
24.11.88	PS/Powell	C.Rabbi office	Date for meeting-19 December 12:00	
28.11.88	C.Rabbi office	PS/Powell	Meeting is convenient	
21.1.91	Janner MP	PM	Arrange meeting with Chief Rabbi, Janner and PM	
23.1.91	PS/Powell	Janner	Meeting arranged for 30 January 15:00	
29.1.91	PS/Powell	PM	Briefing for meeting with C. Rabbi and Janner	
30.1.91	PS/Powell	PS/FCO	The Gulf : Jewish Community	

OFFICE OF
THE CHIEF RABBI

735 High Road London N12 0US
Telephone: 0181-343 6301 Fax: 0181-343 6310

R25/3

1. cc: ~~Tom Howard~~ PPS → AW 15/3
2. P. for a meeting later

The Prime Minister
Mr John Major
10 Downing Street
London, SW1A 2AA

20th March, 1996

Dear Prime Minister,

I was today informed by my office that you have most kindly accepted the joint request of Lord Jakobovits and myself to greet the official Delegation of the Conference of European Rabbis at the beginning of May.

I wanted to formally thank you for making the time available to the fifteen Chief Rabbi's across Europe. As I indicated to you in my previous letter, it will be a most auspicious and significant event for the European Communities in general and for Great Britain as the host in particular.

On behalf of my colleagues I want to thank you and look forward indeed to seeing you in May.

Yours, with warmest good wishes,

2 continued success & blessings in all your work,

Jonathan

Chief Rabbi Dr Jonathan Sacks





10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

Ref
ms
+
H.H.
10 1/3

From the Secretary for Appointments
J H Holroyd CB

19 March 1996

Dear Jonathan,

The Prime Minister has asked me to thank you for your letter of 4 March and to send his best wishes to you. As you will know from Jonathan Kestenbaum, he has responded to your letter by suggesting that the Standing Committee of the Conference of European Rabbis, led by you and Lord Jakobovits, might come to see him here from 1030-1100 on Wednesday 1 May. This was the day mentioned in your letter and we very much hope that the time is convenient.

Jonathan Kestenbaum has promised to send me briefing in advance of the meeting. I am sure that this will not need to cover a wide array of topics, given that the purpose of the encounter is for the Standing Committee to pay its respects to the Prime Minister.

Kind regards,

Yours

JH

J H HOLROYD


Chief Rabbi Dr Jonathan Sacks



P. Fre

10 DOWNING STREET

Alex 1: Arabella
Yes. Wait
till he raises it
again.

We agreed to 

Keep Tarsonitz

on hold - events

have outlasted since

the last time he

was due in (not

ask to get here) -

Shan I pm leave

hit MFA? \triangle 17/13.



10 DOWNING STREET

Prime Minister

Arabella
(I've kept
a/cle memo)

I'm afraid I think Alex
this is bonkers, though
no doubt well-intentioned.

Alex

Yes - but I'd

|| better see him when he
returns from Moscow
A.

→ Alex



R 8/10

The Rt. Hon. The Lord Jakobovits

51 Shirehall Park
London NW4 2QN

IN STRICTEST CONFIDENCE

6 October 1994

My dear Prime Minister,

I am profoundly upset that to-day's Underground strike, which ruined the best-laid plans of mice and men (it's time we had Compulsory arbitration for public utilities!), prevented me from reaching Downing St. for our appointment this morning. (A cab I had ordered for 7.50 am did not arrive until an hour later). Once again, my most sincere apologies.

I know next week you are at Conference, while I am due to preside at a meeting of the Conference of European Heads in Moscow. I would be delighted if you very kindly agreed to some new arrangements thereafter.

Meanwhile, though I had meant to avoid this I am sending herewith, for your eyes only, an Aide-Memoire I had prepared for my own use this morning.

Very best wishes for next week - I am sure you will triumph again.

Yours as ever
Harman

From: Mark Adams
Date: 30 August 1994

MR ALLAN ✓

CF/ p the
MFA

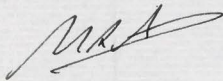
LORD JAKOBOVITS

I took a call last week from Lord Jakobovits, the previous Chief Rabbi. He was very keen to speak to the Prime Minister on a "personal matter of great privacy and delicacy".

(A)

Although he was extremely coy, resisting suggestions of mine such as sending me a sealed letter for the Prime Minister's eyes only, I eventually managed to elicit from him the fact that the subject he wished to discuss was the Royal Family. His call came in the immediate aftermath of the story about telephone calls to Oliver Hoare. He had an important suggestion to put to the Prime Minister, which he felt would be extremely helpful. I promised to put it to the Prime Minister "on his return to London".

Do you wish to take this forward? You might like either to check with the Prime Minister or alternatively speak to Lord Jakobovits yourself.


MARK ADAMS
30 August 1994

PJak.MRM

DOUBLE Arabella
Groan! The Prime Minister
will see Lord J.* Please fix
up a 15 minute meeting
sometime. [+ me] Alex

(* I volunteered to go to see Lord J myself, to no avail)

SUBJECT
MASTER

Filed on:



10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

file

h/rabbi as

bc JHolroyd

From the Appointments Secretary

28 June 1994

Jonathan Sachs.

**PRIME MINISTER'S DISCUSSION WITH THE CHIEF RABBI,
14 JUNE**

As the Prime Minister has already mentioned to the Home Secretary, he and the Chief Rabbi met on 14 June in one of the Prime Minister's regular encounters with religious leaders. The discussion was enjoyed by both parties.

The Prime Minister opened by talking of the need to resume the debate which he had sought to get going within the theme of Back to Basics. The Chief Rabbi said that in his view the moment for a renewed debate of this sort would reappear, since people were becoming ready for it, though possibly not just yet. Timing would, however, be of critical importance and the ground would need to be very well prepared.

His own analysis was that social and political attitudes go in cycles. The late 1950s had been a time of disillusion. After the relief and relaxation with the ending of the war new problems had arisen and new solutions had not been easily forthcoming. However, in the 1960s, Harold Wilson had hit a number of sympathetic chords with his stress on the role of the state as provider and the importance of scientific advance (also state-inspired) as a stimulant in modernising society. Cynicism again predominated in the 1970s, when it was clear that the state could not do all that it was claimed to do and often did things worse. This disillusion was followed by the search for a new vision, which in the event became Mrs. Thatcher's vision of the primary place of the individual, with the steady reduction in government and handing back to the citizen increased scope for choice and responsibility. This has led in the 1980s to over-emphasis on the rights, as opposed to the duties, of the individual. As a result in the 1990s we were in the position of believing in the absolute virtue neither of the state nor of the individual and as yet with no middle way in sight. In the Chief Rabbi's view, the present mood of disenchantment is predictable and has little to do with government. It is shared in many different countries with quite different governments.

The Chief Rabbi's prediction was that the next great concept would be that of "the third sector mid-way between the state and the individual". This would take the form of "little platoons" which in their own area of interest and own community were powerful in bringing together people to work for the common good and thus to establish key concepts in society, such as the family, civic duty and responsibility.

One important role for Government would be to encourage this activity and give it a framework. It was particularly important to time initiatives correctly and to "get the rhetoric right", by which the Chief Rabbi meant the right language and tone. The language must be visionary, forward-looking and positive: it must not suggest that the past can be recovered. It must address widely-felt anxieties and must chart a cogent route beyond them which would provide a translation of the philosophic themes into practice.

The Chief Rabbi said that not much new thinking about this area had been published in Britain. Some valuable books were beginning to appear in the USA: in particular Michael Novak's *The Spirit of Democratic Capitalism*, James Q. Wilson's *The Moral Sense*; Robert Bellah's *The Good Society*; Charles Murray's *In Pursuit of Happiness*; and Amitai Etzioni's *The Spirit of Community*. The one book of this sort that had received attention in Britain was Osborne and Gaebler's *Reinventing Government*. The Chief Rabbi had also sought to cover some of the same ground in his Reith Lectures on *Religion, Morality and Society in a Secular Age*. We shall be getting hold of these books.

The Prime Minister and the Chief Rabbi also talked about the value to society of the continued willingness of many people to give liberally their time and resources to assisting others and about the need to encourage this. The Chief Rabbi argued that there would be considerable advantage in getting together a group of national figures with an interest in this area to elaborate a national approach. Sir Harry Djanogly, Sir Harry Solomon and Professor Charles Handy were mentioned as possibles. They should be charged with constructing a national campaign to encourage the formation and growth of charities and voluntary organisations. Particular emphasis should be placed on local groups, meeting real and local needs. The Chief Rabbi suggested that such a campaign might include a new Awards Scheme for work in the voluntary sector and perhaps some system for matching funds to stimulate action. These ideas would match the general philosophic ideas that he had set out earlier in the discussion and the launch of a fresh national initiative should coincide with the launch of the wider political debate.

The Prime Minister drew attention to the work set in hand by the Government at national level this year to encourage voluntary activity, e.g. under the Make a Difference initiative, but said that he valued the Chief Rabbi's thinking and would want to follow through these ideas with those concerned in Government and see what more should be done. (At one point the Prime Minister suggested that in due course it might be worth getting together a small group of people who were thinking authoratively in this general area to Chequers for a day's seminar as a contribution to restarting the debate that had been begun by Back to Basics.)

Meanwhile, the Prime Minister would be grateful for any comments that the Home Secretary may have on the general issues and would like to be kept informed of progress in setting up the advisory group of voluntary activity in connection with the *Make a Difference* initiative.

JOHN HOLROYD

Miss Joan MacNaughton,
Home Office.

dti

the department for Enterprise

cc/c

The Rt. Hon. Peter Lilley MP
Secretary of State for Trade and Industry

Sir Charles Powell
Private Secretary to the
Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
LONDON
SW1A 2AA

Department of
Trade and Industry

1-19 Victoria Street
London SW1H 0ET

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071-215 5000

Telex 8811074/5 DTHQ G
Fax 071-222 2629

Direct line 071 215 5623
Our ref JW1243
Your ref
Date

(February 1991

CDP
1/2

Dear Charles,

Thank you for your note of the meeting the Prime Minister had with the Chief Rabbi and Mr Greville Janner MP on 30 January 1991.

DTI officials have established that Zengrange has never applied for an export licence to export ZENBC chemical hazard predictor computers to Israel.

Mr Janner has been informed of the above although our official line remains that it is not our practice to discuss individual export licence applications.

Telephone conversations with the company's military sales manager, Mr John Gatehouse reveal that the company is embarrassed by the unidentifiable misquoted press report attached to your note.

Homs
Rosalind Cole

ROSALIND COLE
Private Secretary



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KW
cl/foragn/rabbi

MASTER cc SUBJECT
Area of Middle East: Sir Pryn

10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

30 January 1991

THE GULF: JEWISH COMMUNITY

The Prime Minister saw the Chief Rabbi and Mr Greville Janner MP this afternoon, at their request, to discuss the Gulf crisis.

The Chief Rabbi said that he would shortly be visiting Israel and wondered whether there was any particular message which the Prime Minister would wish him to convey. The Prime Minister said that he should say how much Israel's restraint in the face of Iraq's SCUD missile attacks was admired and appreciated in this country. We hoped that it would be maintained. The Chief Rabbi said that he was also intending to stress the need for a debate in Israel on the future security of the region as a whole. It was important that Israelis should start to think about the situation after the present conflict. The Prime Minister said this would also be a very helpful message. We could not go back to the status quo ante. All sorts of questions would arise, depending on the precise outcome of the conflict, for instance the need for a balance between Iran and Iraq, the wish of the Gulf States for some sort of security arrangements backed by western guarantees, and the necessity of some movement on the Palestinian issue. The Chief Rabbi said that he accepted these points with one qualification. The phrase "peace conference" had a very unhappy resonance in Israel. People associated it with Versailles and Munich and saw it as a means by which a lot of not at all well-disposed countries would try to impose a settlement on Israel. It would be better to talk simply about peace negotiations. The Prime Minister pointed out that the concept of a peace conference was firmly established and it could not be eliminated from the international glossary. But he understood the sensitivity.

Mr Janner asked the Prime Minister to investigate reports that a British company trying to export computer equipment to Israel which could be of help in detecting a CW attack had been refused a license. The Prime Minister said that he knew nothing of this but would ask the Trade and Industry Secretary to inform him of any problem in the course of 31 January. I should be grateful if DTI could follow this up.

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I am copying this letter to Simon Webb (Ministry of Defence), Martin Stanley (Department of trade and Industry) and to Sonia Phippard (Cabinet Office).

CHARLES POWELL

Simon Gass Esq
Foreign and Commonwealth office

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PRIME MINISTER

MEETING WITH THE CHIEF RABBI AND MR GREVILLE JANNER, M.P.

The Chief Rabbi and Mr Greville Janner, M.P., Vice Chairman of the UK/Israel Parliamentary Group, are coming to see you tomorrow about the situation in the Gulf. This follows the pattern of your meetings with church leaders (with Greville Janner scrambling aboard).

I do not think you will experience much difficulty in convincing the Chief Rabbi that this is a just war (!) But you will want to emphasise the enormous importance hitherto of Israel's restraint in the face of provocation, our hope that it will continue, and the good it has done to Israel's reputation worldwide. We hope his influence will be used in the direction of maintaining that restraint.

You might go on to explore with the Chief Rabbi how he sees the situation after the conflict is over; and the extent to which there is scope for Israel, with one of its principal and most heavily armed opponents reduced, to be more flexible about the Palestinian problem.

The Chief Rabbi is due to retire fairly soon (indeed he has been due to retire for the better part of a year and a half). There is a large dinner for him next month at which your predecessor is speaking.

CSP

Charles Powell
29 January 1991
c: Rabbi (MJ)

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10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

MS
c. Janner
23 January 1991

To save time, I am replying on the Prime Minister's behalf to your letter of 21 January. He will be very happy to see you with the Chief Rabbi and could manage Wednesday 30 January at 1500 here at No.10, if that were convenient. Perhaps you would be kind enough to let me know.

Charles Powell

The Hon. Greville Janner, QC, M.P.

KW



10 DOWNING STREET

~~Sandra~~

Ed. you please
fix a.s.a.p.

CDD

fixed for
Wednesday 30 Jan
at 1500 at No 10.
Briefing required?

S 23/1

From: GREVILLE JANNER, Q.C., M.P.

①

21, January 1991

Personal BY HAND

Rt. Hon. John Major MP
10 Downing Street,
SW1

Charles
? 5 22/1
Re Mission

I think you
ought to do this,
since you saw the

Dear Prime Minister -

I am so glad that we have so often been at one,
during the past horrendous week. Thank you for the
stand you have taken.

Archbishop & his
conduct. Agree?

The Chief Rabbi, Lord Jacobovits, and I would be
very grateful if you could spare a few minutes to
see the two of us, on an entirely off the record
and unpublicised basis. If you would be kind enough
to agree in principle, we could leave it to our
staff to fix a time which suited you and we would
do our very best to fit in with it.

COO

With best wishes.

Very sincerely,

Greville Janner

Yes, Agree.

A.

CCPC

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF RABBI

TELEPHONE: 01-387 1066
FAX: 01-383 4934
CABLES: CHIRABINAT LONDON WC1

ADLER HOUSE.
TAVISTOCK SQUARE.
LONDON. WC1H 9HN

New Fax No.383 4920

28th November, 1988

Tenz 11/12
CAB 30/11

Mr. Charles Powell,
Private Secretary,
10 Downing Street,
London, SW1A 2AA.

Dear Mr Powell.

Thank you for your letter of the 24th
November, 1988.

The Chief Rabbi looks forward to meeting with
the Prime Minister at 10 Downing Street on
the 19th December at 12 noon.

I am most grateful to you for the
consideration you have given to my earlier
note and I look forward to hearing further
from you.

Yours,
Suzanne Cohen.

PM: Matrye wtl
Chief Rabbi

Nov 88



PRIME MINISTER

cc Mrs. Gaisman

The Chief Rabbi has been in touch with two requests:

- could be possibly have half an hour of your time at some point in the next month or so? I am sure you will want to agree. *Yes*
- he wonders whether he might be included in one of the meals for Mr. Gorbachev, so that he could at least make himself known? I imagine that you would want him either at No.10 or at the Palace lunch.

→ Yes

CDI

(C.D. POWELL)

22 November 1988

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF RABBI

TELEPHONE: 01-387 1066
 FAX: 01-383 4934
 CABLES: CHIRABINAT LONDON WC1

ADLER HOUSE.
 TAVISTOCK SQUARE.
 LONDON. WC1H 9HN

22nd November 1988

Dear Mr. Powell,

Thank you for giving of your time on the telephone earlier today and too for giving consideration to my two requests. I look forward to hearing from you further, soon.

I was sorry that you were unable to be with us at cocktails last week as I have been looking forward to meeting you for a long time. I would greatly value such an opportunity. Perhaps something could be arranged.

In the meantime, my best wishes and personal thanks,

Yours,

Simon Cohen,

—



SW

10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

24 November 1988

Thank you for your letter of 22 November. The Prime Minister would very much like to see the Chief Rabbi. She could manage 12 noon on 19 December if that were convenient for the Chief Rabbi.

We have not yet drawn up guestlists for various functions during President Gorbachev's visit but we shall have the Chief Rabbi's interest very much in mind.

I am so sorry that I was unable to get to Lady Jakobovits's cocktails, and even sorrier that I have not written before to apologise. But as you surmised it was swallowed up - like a good deal else of my life - in some sudden crisis. I do hope she will forgive me.

Mr. Shimon Cohen

(C. D. POWELL)