



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

20 November 1981

Dear Michael,

h.a.
14.
12

Prime Minister's Speech to the
Board of Deputies of British Jews, 15 December

I enclose a draft speech, on the lines you discussed with Christopher Mallaby. It has been seen by Lord Carrington and Mr Hurd. The section entitled 'Minorities' has been cleared with Home Office and NIO officials.

The draft speech opens with a reference to a new book by Mr Greville Janner, the President of the Board of Deputies. We have found two references to Mrs Thatcher in the book. We have not picked them up in the draft speech, but I enclose a note of them in case you should want it. You will see that we have provided an alternative version of the last 2 sentences of paragraph 7 of the draft speech, in case the Prime Minister should wish to select for specific mention a few of the Jewish people who have made major contributions to British life. The reference in paragraph 5 to Lord Shinwell will have to be removed if he should unexpectedly decline his invitation to the dinner.

The draft speech does contain a passage - fairly muted - on the Middle East. But you should know that Greville Janner, who came to see Mr Hurd for a general talk this morning, suggested that the Prime Minister should say nothing whatever about the Middle East. He will be presiding, and speaking after the Prime Minister; he says that in the present circumstances he would be bound to take up and reply to any controversial points, and he is anxious not to have to do this. On balance, we feel that it would be odd if the Prime Minister said nothing at all about the Middle East; but she will no doubt wish to know of Mr Janner's position.

I am sending a copy of this letter and the enclosure to John Halliday in the Home Office and Steven Boys-Smith in the Northern Ireland Office.

Yours ever,

F N Richards
(F N Richards)
Private Secretary

M O'D B Alexander Esq
10 Downing Street