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PRIME MINISTER

Board of Deputies of British Jews

I attach a further revised draft.

It incorporates:

- (a) References to the history of the Board and earlier Presidents;
- (b) A passage on the Arab/Israel dispute which Douglas Hurd has looked at carefully *(he thinks you must have a reference to the Palestinians, to avoid lack of balance)*.
- (c) A new concluding section on "trees".

You should know that Greville Janner has expressed the hope that the speech will not be used to make a political defence of the Government's policy in the Middle East. He has apparently resisted pressure to invite Harold Wilson or James Callaghan as a speaker as well. Douglas Hurd believes that you cannot ignore the subject. I very much agree. It is one of the most constant topics of discussion between the Board and the Government and omission of any reference could lead to a good deal of unfavourable Press comment, particularly in the light of Cheysson's recent behaviour. Nevertheless, I think it is possible to avoid too much of a Party political flavour and that is Greville Janner's main concern.

I believe that there will not be another political speaker and that the speakers will be as follows:

Victor Lucas, to propose the toast to the City of London;  
Bernard Waley-Cohen, to reply;  
Prime Minister, to propose the toast to the Board of Deputies;  
Greville Janner, to reply;  
One or both of the Vice Presidents to propose the Guests,  
with Edgar Bronfman, Canadian head of the largest worldwide  
Jewish Organisation, to reply.

/ I attach

I attach a list of people who will be at the top table (though it is not clear whether Lord Janner will in fact be able to attend).

Should you wish to work on this (or the Strasbourg speech) over the weekend, I shall of course be available (though Sunday would suit me better than Saturday, when I have to go to Dorset to pick up children).

A. J. W. 7/2.

11 December 1981