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10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

31 December 1982

Dear Michael,

I am very pleased to hear that a group of Parliamentarians from the Conservative Friends of Israel from the United Kingdom and European Parliaments, together with leading members of the Conservative Party, will once again be making an official visit to Israel at the beginning of next month.

The past year has been a disturbing one for Israel, the Middle East as a whole, and especially for the Lebanon. But the people of Britain and Israel remain bound by a common commitment to democracy and freedom.

We in Britain and all our partners in the European Community remain committed to a fundamental principle of Israeli policy - the security of the state of Israel. Our resolve to uphold that principle will not weaken, nor will our belief that real security must come from a just and lasting peace.

As one of the Founder Members of the Conservative Friends of Israel, let me say that I am delighted you are making this visit. I look forward to hearing how it went.

Yours sincerely
Margaret Thatcher

Michael Fidler, Esq., J.P.

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