Subject filed on Israel May 79 Visits by UK by Begin. MINISTER'S PERSONAL MESSAGE SERIAL No. T2A/79T THE PRIME MINISTER Jerusalem, May 6, 1979 Dear Prime Minister, Please accept my warmest congratulations on your victory in the general election and upon your assumption of the high office of Prime Minister. I write to you in the knowledge of your friendship for Israel over many years, having stood by our people and country in difficult as well as in good times. It is my confident hope that this spirit of friendship will be sustained in the future. Permit me to inform you, Madame Prime Minister, that the Jewish Community of the United Kingdom has kindly invited me to indeed turning point in the Middle East. I refer, of course, to the between Egypt and Israel which has brought to an end the thirty-one

visit London on May 22 in celebration of the momentous development, signing, the ratification and the entry into force of the treaty of peace years state of war between our two countries. There is, indeed, much to rejoice about as our two nations, Israel and Egypt, build the peace and I believe will continue to work for this purpose.

I do hope, Madame Prime Minister, that during my stay in your country I will be afforded the opportunity and the pleasure of meeting with you so that I might personally inform you in detail of the current situation in our area and discuss with you issues associated with and emanating from the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty. I also trust that we might use the occasion to review the relations between the United Kingdom and Israel with a view to strengthening further our mutual ties of friendship.

I wish you, Madame Prime Minister, all success in the fulfilment of your great task as the elected leader of your nation.

Yours sincerely,

Menachem Begin

The Right Honourable Margaret Thatcher, M.P. 10 Downing Street London