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File
RM

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

14 May 1980

Policy Towards the Middle East

I am sending Paul Lever under separate cover an account of a meeting the Prime Minister had this afternoon with a delegation of the Conservative Friends of Israel. This discussion confirmed me in the view that it would be useful to have in the near future a small meeting, along the lines of that held earlier in the year to discuss East/West relations, on the Middle East situation. I have put this idea to the Prime Minister. She would welcome it.

It is for discussion whether such a meeting would deal simply with the Arab/Israel dispute or whether it could deal more profitably with the situation in South West Asia and the Middle East as a whole. As both the Prime Minister and the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary have made clear in recent speeches, all the problems in the region are becoming increasingly intertwined.

Perhaps we could have a word about this soon.

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