

✓ MR. Memorials



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

18 August 1980

Dean Miller,

Memorial to Nazi Victims

The Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary was away when the Prime Minister discussed the Holocaust Memorial project with the Home Secretary and the Secretaries of State for Defence and the Environment. He has now seen your letter to Jacobs of 1 August.

Lord Carrington gave his views in a minute to the Environment Secretary on 9 May, which I am now copying to you and the Home Office. As you will see, he believes, like the Defence Secretary, that any monuments in the area concerned should be of a British national character. Incidentally the Richmond Terrace site is of direct interest to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office given the possibility that some of our departments may be housed in the reconstructed block.

Lord Carrington has also considered the possible foreign reactions. Although he would not wish to put too much weight on these, he thinks that our friends in the Federal Republic of Germany might wonder why, after this lapse of time, the British Government should decide to allow old wounds to be kept open in perpetuity in the heart of Whitehall; and that some Arabs might see the monument as endorsing Mr Begin's point that the fate of the European Jews in the 30s and 40s should influence British policy on the Arab/Israel question in the 80s.

The Foreign Secretary greatly hopes that the Environment Secretary will be successful in persuading the Board of Deputies of British Jews to choose an alternative site, preferably not on Crown land. He wonders also whether an even more enlightened solution would not be that the monument should take the form of a park, playing field or other useful amenity.

I am sending copies of this letter to John Halliday (Home Office), David Omand (Ministry of Defence) and Jeff Jacobs (Dept of the Environment).

Yours Wm

Paul

(P Lever)
Private SecretaryM A Pattison Esq
10 Downing Street



M. Laming
D. M. P.
12/5

WED
cc PS
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12 MAY 1980	
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SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

London Memorial to Nazi Victims

1. Thank you for your letter of 24 April about the proposal by the Board of Deputies of British Jews to erect a memorial in Richmond Terrace to those who died as a result of Nazi oppression.

2. I understand that your officials are still engaged in discussions about which Government Departments should occupy the office accommodation provided under the first phase of the Richmond Terrace redevelopment, and that it is still far from certain that FCO officials will occupy space there. But, on more general grounds, I think that it would in any case be inappropriate to allow the erection of a memorial of this sort on that particular site. It is surely an area which, facing the Ministry of Defence, near the Cenotaph and across the road from Downing Street itself, should be reserved for British national monuments. I hope therefore that the Board of Deputies can be persuaded to think in terms of a site elsewhere.

3. I am sending a copy of this letter to the Defence Secretary. I imagine that you may in due course want to consult the Home Secretary about the site of any such memorial, in view of the possible public order implications, and perhaps also the Prime Minister in view of her recent interest in the question of the memorial to the victims of Yalta.

(CARRINGTON)

9 MAY 1980

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

M. L.
12/5

19 AUG 1980

