

PRIME MINISTER

You agreed some time ago to have another brief meeting about the Holocaust Memorial, because Lord Carrington is still trying to kill the whole project. This is really not a subject which justifies two meetings at Prime Ministerial level, but the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary is unlikely to stop sniping on the subject until he has had a chance to put his views direct to you.

Papers:

- a) Mr. Heseltine's January Progress Report (you suggested a few amendments which he is, I understand, prepared to take on board);
- b) Lord Carrington's views;
- c) The Home Secretary's latest offering which includes a possible revision of the letter from Mr. Heseltine to Greville Janner.

The Home Secretary's draft is perhaps the best basis for discussion.

*MP*

*Revised for  
30 April. after cabinet. 10/4*

8 April 1981

*Rearranged for 14 May  
after Cabinet. 13/5*

BF for meeting - CS arranging

✓ MAD  
MemorialsHOME OFFICE  
QUEEN ANNE'S GATE LONDON SW1H 9AT

5 February 1981

HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL

The Home Secretary has now been able to consider your letter to me of 13 January, in the light of the views he has received from the Metropolitan Police, and following the Prime Minister's observations recorded in Mike Pattison's letter of 20 January. There will be a chance to discuss the position, but you may wish to know the Home Secretary's views.

Neither the Home Secretary nor the Metropolitan Police see any inherent objection to the siting of a memorial in a Royal Park. But any such memorial could attract the hostility of extremist vandalism and, indeed, hostile demonstrations as well as peaceful gatherings. It would, therefore, be very helpful if the Board of Deputies was willing to locate the memorial somewhere which would assist the police in maintaining order and preventing vandalism.

On this criterion, the Hyde Park site seems preferable. The Green Park site appears to be much closer to the heavily congested Hyde Park Corner and to Buckingham Palace (although the Home Secretary fully agrees that it would be improper to mention this point in correspondence). More generally, the police try to discourage public events in Green Park. The site at the Lambeth Palace frontage is not very attractive to the police from the point of view of traffic congestion and the control of crowds, and they are also worried that a site in Victoria Gardens might create difficulties for them in view of their responsibilities under the Sessional Order to ensure free passage to the Houses of Parliament.

In this light, the Home Secretary hopes that your Secretary of State would be prepared to consider giving a bit more of a steer towards Hyde Park, and away from Green Park, but recognises that he will want to offer the Board of Deputies some options. I therefore attach a redrafted letter which seeks to reflect these points and the amendments contained in Mike Pattison's letter of 20 January. The Home Secretary also hopes that from this point on officials here, and the Metropolitan Police, can be closely involved in any discussions with the Board of Deputies or indeed with site inspections.

I am sending copies of this letter and its enclosure to Mike Pattison (No. 10), Francis Richards (FCO) and David Omand (MOD).

S. W. BOYS SMITH

Jeff Jacobs, Esq.

DRAFT LETTER FROM THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT TO  
THE HON GREVILLE JANNER QC MP

Thank you for your letter of 24 November about the Holocaust Memorial.

2. You are right in recalling my suggestion that a Holocaust Memorial might be in the form of a Garden of Remembrance in a Royal Park. I am afraid, however, that I do not see St James's Park as a candidate for such a memorial. It is, as you know, a relatively small area which ought historically to contain relatively few flower areas.

*N.B. It contains quite a lot*

3. We have, however, looked closely at the other central Royal Parks and, in particular, Hyde Park and Green Park. We have identified two possible sites which are shown on the attached maps. Briefly, they are

- a. an area of Hyde Park close to Hyde Park Corner, near the bandstand, which is presently close to other bedding areas; and
- b. the corner of Green Park close to Hyde Park Corner.

4. Of these two, my own preference would tend to be for the Hyde Park site as it is further away from the crowded and heavily trafficked Hyde Park Corner.

*The original drawing was very appropriate*

5. I would not favour your idea of a flame of remembrance, purely because this would cause possible difficulties of vandalism. I have more in mind a simple plaque, placed in an area of flower beds with seats for rest and repose. I feel sure you would take a practical interest in maintaining any such garden of remembrance to a fittingly high standard.

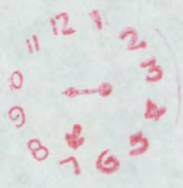
6. If these ideas appeal to you, I shall have to make one or two consultations before finally deciding. But it would be helpful for me to know whether either or both of these sites would be suitable, and what your priority rating would be.

7. Although you have mentioned Royal Park sites specifically, there are two others which you might like to consider. The first is on the river frontage of Lambeth Palace facing towards Victoria Gardens and the Palace of Westminster, and the second is in Victoria Gardens itself. Neither of these sites are without their difficulties, and I would have to talk to both the GLC and the Metropolitan Police

in detail about them if you were interested, but I thought I would offer them along with the other two.

8. If it would help to see the sites, and any other parts of these Parks, my Office would be very happy to make the necessary arrangements.

F - 5 - 15 1981



File

DSG

28 January 1981

Thank you for sending me a copy of your letter of 26 January to Jeff Jacobs about the proposed Holocaust Memorial.

The Prime Minister would be content to have a further word with those involved, and Caroline Stephens will be in touch to arrange a suitable time.

M. A. PATTISON

Francis Richards, Esq.,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.



BF 11-2-81

10 DOWNING STREET

MISS STEPHENS

Brief meeting (15 minutes?) required with Mr. Heseltine and Lord Carrington: Mr. Nott and Mr. Whitelaw invited but not necessarily essential. Best if it can be arranged after Cabinet or some other meeting.

*MAD*

Arranged for after  
Cabinet on 12 Feb.  
all Ministers coming

28 January 1981 ask MP.

re Briefing

No briefing.

Meeting folder will consist  
of latest Heseltine + Carrington letters  
29/1/81  
*MAD*

RESTRICTED

B



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

26 January 1981

*M. Pattison*

*Dear Jacobs,*

London Memorial to Nazi Victims

Thank you for copying to us your letter of 13 January to Stephen Boys-Smith about the proposed Memorial to Nazi Victims. We have since seen Michael Pattison's letter of 20 January reporting the Prime Minister's views.

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office Secretary continues to have very considerable reservations about the proposed memorial. You will recall that he first expressed his doubts in his minute to Mr Heseltine of 9 May last year, and that this was followed up by Paul Lever's letter to Mike Pattison of 18 August. The removal of the memorial from Richmond Terrace to one of the London parks, and its transformation from a monument into a Garden of Remembrance, do not remove his doubts. It is by no means self-evident that Crown land in London should be used for a memorial to events which did not take place on British territory or involve a large part of the British population. In addition, a long time has passed since the events which the proposed Garden would seek to commemorate.

Furthermore, as Paul Lever pointed out in his letter of 18 August 1980, the main target of the criticism implied in the memorial would be Germany and the Federal Republic might wonder why HMG needed to be party to the construction of a memorial that would generally be taken as condemning a country which is now one of our closest allies and would sharpen memories of tragic events which many Germans have since the war themselves been foremost in condemning.

The Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary would therefore greatly prefer it if the Jewish community could be encouraged to buy or lease their own site in London to erect a memorial there or to create a park or playing field (which he would consider far more appropriate) according to their own wishes.

/Lord Carrington

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2

Lord Carrington is well aware of the various conflicting elements involved in deciding on this proposal; he would be happy to have a word with the Prime Minister and Mr Heseltine if that were a way of resolving the issue without further correspondence.

I am copying this letter to Mike Pattison at No 10 and to the Private Secretary to the Secretary of State for Defence.

*Yours ever,*

F N Richards  
(Private Secretary)

J Jacobs Esq  
Department of the Environment  
2 Marsham Street  
London SW1P

RESTRICTED



cc MO  
MOP  
FCO

HL

Neuman

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

20 January 1981

BF 29.1.81

Holocaust Memorial

The Prime Minister was interested to see a copy of your letter of 13 January to Stephen Boys Smith, about progress over the Holocaust Memorial.

She believes that the drafting of your Secretary of State's proposed letter to Mr. Janner could be slightly improved. She suggests that the final sentence of the second paragraph should be deleted, as this might be open to misinterpretation. She has also suggest a reformulation of paragraphs 3 and 4 on the following lines:

"I would not favour your idea of a flame of remembrance, purely because this would cause possible difficulties of vandalism. I have more in mind a simple plaque, placed in an area of flower beds with seats for rest and repose. I feel sure you would take a practical interest in maintaining any such garden of remembrance to a fittingly high standard.

If these ideas appeal to you, I shall have to make one or two consultations before finally deciding. But it would be helpful for me to know whether either or both of these sites would be suitable, and what your priority rating would be."

Secondly, the Prime Minister was attracted by the design of the Memorial as previously proposed. She has asked whether it would be possible to preserve that idea but locate it in the river front alternative amongst the sites mentioned or possibly in Victoria Gardens itself.

I am sending copies of this letter to Stephen Boys Smith (Home Office), David Omand (Ministry of Defence) and Francis Richards (Foreign and Commonwealth Office).

M. A. PATTISON

Jeff Jacobs, Esq.,  
Department of the Environment.

HL



2 MARSHAM STREET  
LONDON SW1P 3EB

Prime Minister

This is now moving  
in a sensible  
direction.

My ref:

Your ref:

13 January 1981

Dear Steph

MAF 16/

HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL

You will recall the previous correspondence at Private Office level about the proposed Holocaust Memorial, and in particular No 10's letter of 1 August to me recording the conclusion of a discussion between Ministers and my Secretary of State's agreement to reopen with the sponsors of the memorial the question of finding an alternative site.

My Secretary of State has now talked to Mr Greville Janner. Mr Janner entirely accepts the considerable problems attaching to the Richmond Terrace site, and I am glad to say that he and his colleagues are prepared to drop that proposal. You should however see the attached copy of a letter which he has sent my Secretary of State in which he asks whether there are possible sites within Royal Parks for a "garden of remembrance". My Secretary of State is attracted to that possibility, and I attach the draft of a possible response which he is minded to send to Mr Janner in which he puts forward two possible Royal Parks sites and also one other possibility for consideration.

Before my Secretary of State writes, he would like to be sure that colleagues are content with the way in which he now proposes to proceed. I should be grateful therefore for any comments which you or other recipients of this letter might wish to make, both on the concept of a memorial and on the sites which are now being considered for it.

I am copying this letter to the Private Secretaries to the Secretary of State for Defence and the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and also to No 10 for information.

Yours sincerely  
J. H. Jacobs

J JACOBS  
Private Secretary

① I think the letter as at present drafted is a little insensitive in parts.

② I thought the design of the memorial was rather boring. It is possible for it to be placed in the grounds near front side or in Victoria Gardens.

1. Thank you for your letter of 24 November about the Holocaust Memorial.

2. You are right in recalling my suggestion that a Holocaust Memorial might be in the form of a garden of remembrance in a Royal Park. I am afraid, however, that I do not see St James's Park as a candidate for such a memorial. It is as you know a relatively small area, which ought historically to contain relatively few flower areas. [It is also intimately connected with Buckingham Palace.]

*I think I should have said out that sentence.*

*It could be considered that the Palace is not indicated in such a garden. Such a construction would be most unfortunate.*

3. We have, however, looked closely at the other central Royal Parks, and in particular Green Park and Hyde Park. We have identified 2 possible sites, which are shown on the attached maps. Briefly, they are:-

- a. the corner of Green Park close to Hyde Park Corner
- b. an area of Hyde Park close <sup>to</sup> Hyde Park Corner, near the bandstand and which is presently close to other bedding areas.

I would not favour your idea of a flame of remembrance, purely because this would cause possible difficulties of vandalism. I

*or a small sculpture?*  
have more in mind a simple plaque, placed in an area of flower beds with seats for rest and repose. ~~Such a facility would I think fill a real need in the Parks. We would, I hope, be able to look to you for a contribution in perpetuity towards the maintenance of any such garden of remembrance~~ *to a fittingly high standard.*

*We are not looking for such a memorial as a way of relieving us of providing such a facility.*

*I shall have to*

4. If these ideas appeal to you, ~~it would be necessary for me to~~ make one or two consultations before ~~going firm~~ <sup>finally deciding</sup>. But it would be helpful for me to know whether either or both of these sites would be suitable, and what your priority rating would be.

5. Although you have mentioned Royal Parks sites specifically, there is one other site which you might to consider, namely on the river frontage of Lambeth Palace, facing towards Victoria Gardens and the Palace ~~of~~ Westminster. This is not a site within my direct gift, and I would have to talk to the GLC if you were interested in it. But I thought I would float along with the other two.

6. If it would help you to see the sites, and any other parts of these parks, with my officials, my office would be very happy to make the necessary arrangements.

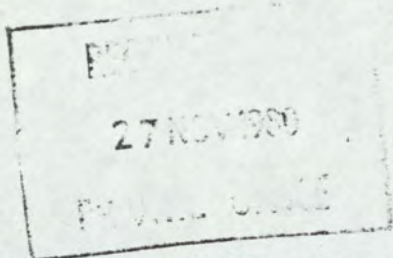
MICHAEL HESELTINE

①  
The Board  
of Deputies  
of British Jews

WOBURN HOUSE, UPPER WOBURN PLACE, LONDON, WC1H 0EP.

Telegrams: DEPUTIES, LONDON, WC1.

Telephone: 01-387 3952 or 388 7651



FROM THE PRESIDENT

24th November, 1980

The Rt. Hon. Michael Heseltine, MP.,  
Secretary of State for the Environment,  
Department of the Environment,  
Marsham Street,  
London, SW1



Adv pl. Mr Heseltine  
cc Mr Mendelsohn

Dear Michael

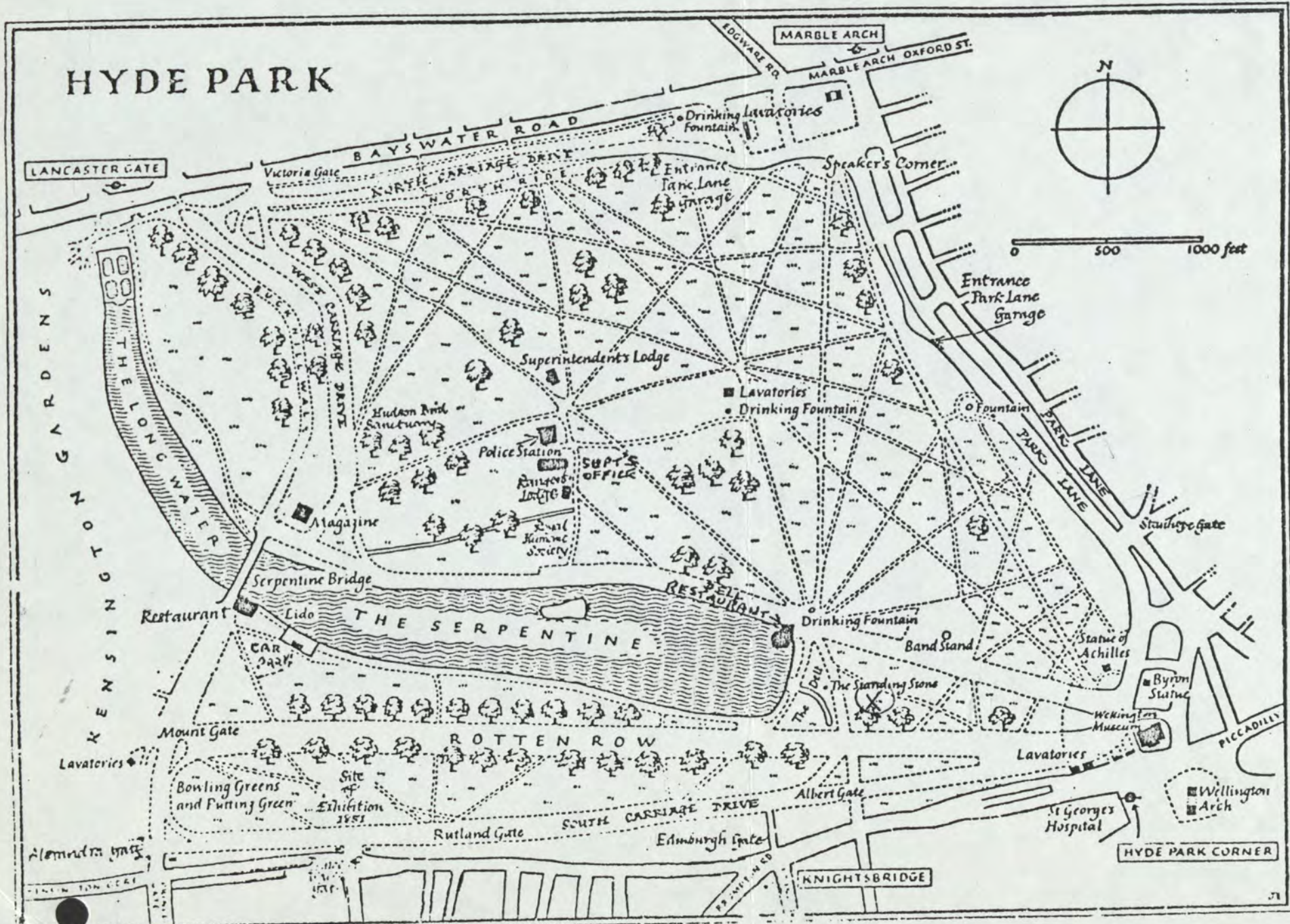
Thank you for seeing me - and for doing all you can to ensure the success of the Holocaust Memorial project - you know its importance for the Jewish community and we all appreciate your approach. I have talked to my fellow honorary officers and we fully understand the impossibility of the proposed site - hence we are discussing the other possibilities. The suggestion of a Garden of Remembrance for the six million Jews killed in the holocaust met with immediate favour - provided that my recollection was correct that you said that this might well be sited in one of the royal parks. I wonder whether you could let me know as soon as possible whether, in principle, such a site might be available in St. James's Park? Like you, we would have in mind a small and modest area, perhaps with a plaque or small stone memorial, maybe with a ~~claim~~ of remembrance.

With renewed thanks, and looking forward to hearing from you.

Yours truly  
Greville Janner

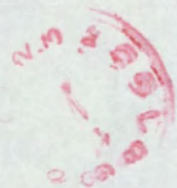


# HYDE PARK



(X) Possible site





MR



✓ MRP  
Memorials

2 MARSHAM STREET  
LONDON SW1P 3EB

My ref: H/PSO/16159/80

Your ref:

21 AUG 80

Dear John

You have received a copy of Mike Pattison's letter of 1 August about the Holocaust Memorial. This suggests that there might be some police objections to the traffic generated by a memorial of this kind in the Richmond Terrace site. If such objections exist Mr Heseltine would wish to take account of them and I would be grateful if you could arrange for the views of the Commissioner of Police to be sought.

I am sending copies of this letter to Mike Pattison, David Omand and Paul Lever.

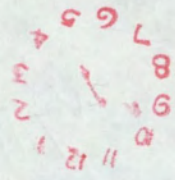
Yours sincerely

Paul Bond

JJ

J JACOBS  
Private Secretary

John Halliday Esq



21 AUG 1980