

PRIME MINISTER

Holocaust Memorial

The long delayed meeting on the Holocaust Memorial has been arranged for 0930 tomorrow.

I attach:

Flag A - the letter we wrote to the Departments concerned setting out the issues;

Flag B - the response from Lord Carrington's office saying that he still has difficulties with a memorial on Crown land;

Flag C - the draft letter which the Home Secretary proposed that Mr. Heseltine should send to Mr. Janner back in February;

Flag D - a letter from Mr. Heseltine's office commenting on two points that you raised on the draft letter to Mr. Janner. They still maintain that St. James's Park should contain relatively few flower areas, and that this is an argument against having the memorial there. The other point they make is that the design of the memorial might perhaps best be left until the site has been chosen.

I think you will want to start off by inviting Lord Carrington to explain his objections of principle. He will probably press his view that the Board of Deputies of British Jews should be encouraged to buy or lease their own site in London and either to erect a memorial, or preferably to create a park or playing field.

If it can be agreed that the Memorial should be on Crown land, you will want to decide whether the draft letter to Greville Janner at Flag C is on the right lines. I would have thought the

/ letter ought

letter ought to set out, as it does, the possible sites for the memorial, perhaps with a strong hint in favour of the Hyde Park site, and then go on to suggest that the designers of the memorial might reconsider their designs to fit the chosen site.

CWRN

11 November 1981



2 MARSHAM STREET
LONDON SW1P 3EB

My ref: H/PSO/17682/81

Your ref:

- 6 OCT 81

Dear Michael, ^{WR} ^{7/10}

HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL

Thank you for your letter of 11 September. I have also seen the Foreign Office's response of 16 September, and I understand that Ministers will be meeting to discuss the matter on 12 November.

Perhaps I could comment now on the detailed points in your letter. St James's Park is in our view essentially a historical landscape Park. Apart from the Guards memorial flowerbed, the Rose Walk in honour of the Queen Mother, the traditional flowerbeds around the Queen Victoria Memorial, and a limited area by Birdcage Walk, there is little colour generally in the Park. Historically there should not be further flower areas and indeed we have recently removed a number of flowerbeds by the lake edge. In any case this particular memorial would surely be inappropriate so close to Buckingham Palace.

If agreement were reached on siting the memorial in Hyde Park, the designer would have to consider the possibilities of whatever specific site were chosen. The original drawing which the Prime Minister has seen was very appropriate for a memorial in front of a building; it would in our view look odd in the middle of an open space. It would no doubt be possible to produce a garden effect, with public access, while retaining some of the features of the earlier design.

The Home Office will no doubt comment on the extent to which Hyde Park can be effectively policed by the Metropolitan Police to prevent vandalism.

Copies to David Omand (Defence), John Halliday (Home Office) and Francis Richards (Foreign Office).

Yours sincerely,
Helen Ghosh

MRS H GHOSH
Private Secretary
Michael Scholar Esq



1 MARCH 1984
LONDON, ENGLAND

Mr. J. H. ...
Your ...

11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31
E-7 OCT 1984

I am pleased to hear that you have received the ...
The ... of the ... is ...

The ... of the ... is ...
The ... of the ... is ...

Michael ...

BF



10 DOWNING STREET

Paul

Michael -

Caroline

to see

12

195

Mr average. (Same

Minister, as before ^{of}
after ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~Caravan~~ ^{Caravan}).

12

averaged for

1000 on 12 Nov.

Ed.

13/9

1. *Caroline 7th time lucky.**B*

2

2. *Prime Minister*

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

*It looks as if we
will have to have a
meeting after all. I
will fix up for end-
October.*

London SW1A 2AH

16 September 1981

*Dear Tim,**12. 16/9*
Holocaust Memorial

Thank you for your letter of 11 September to Francis Richards.

The Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary hopes there is no misunderstanding about his own position, which is based on general public policy rather than foreign policy considerations. He finds it entirely fitting and right that memorials to the Holocaust should have been erected after the war in Germany, in other continental countries from which the victims came and of course in Israel. But he notes that no such memorial was put up in Britain at the time or since, and he considers that it is for the sponsors to show why such a memorial is appropriate now, rather than for him or others to show why it is not.

He is distinctly uneasy at the suggestion for a substantial memorial in one of the Royal Parks or elsewhere on Crown land in the heart of London. It raises questions of general policy which should be considered with a due sense of responsibility towards both the past and the future. Lord Carrington is therefore unwilling to regard the matter as settled without the meeting of Ministers which has been so often postponed. So far as he is aware, the question is not one of particular urgency. He therefore hopes that a suitable time can be found for the matter to be fully discussed between the Ministers concerned, and that meanwhile it can continue to be handled without publicity.

I am copying this letter to David Edmonds (Dept of the Environment), David Omand (Ministry of Defence) and John Halliday (Home Office).

Yours ever
[Signature]

(B J P Fall)
Private Secretary

T Lankester Esq.
10 Downing Street



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

11 September 1981

Holocaust Memorial

You are aware that we have made a number of unsuccessful attempts to set up a meeting on the Holocaust Memorial. The correspondence rests with Jeff Jacobs's letter of 13 January, your letter of 26 January and Stephen Boys-Smith's letter of 5 February.

The issue is not whether there should be a holocaust memorial in the UK. None of the Ministers concerned has objected to a memorial in principle. The issue is where the memorial should be, and whether it should be on crown land.

The Secretary of State for the Environment has proposed two preferred sites, one in Hyde Park, the other in Green Park. He also suggested the river frontage of Lambeth Palace, and a possible site in Victoria Gardens. The Home Secretary favoured the Hyde Park site on security grounds, since a site within the Park and close to a police station would be easier to protect from vandalism.

The Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary has, however, raised a point of principle. He considers that crown land in London should not be used for a memorial to events which did not take place on British territory, or involve a large part of the British population; and that such a memorial could well be offensive to the FRG. He has suggested that the Jewish community should be encouraged to buy or lease their own site in London and either to erect a memorial, or preferably create a park or playing field.

The Prime Minister has considered these views. She shares the Home Secretary's concern that a site should be found which can be easily protected from desecration. She feels a site on crown land is most likely to meet this concern. She is not convinced that the Government will face criticism at home or overseas simply for making crown land available. She therefore hopes that Lord Carrington will be able to agree that Mr. Heseltine should write to Mr. Greville Janner, MP on the lines of the draft letter attached to Stephen Boys-Smith's letter of 5 February to Jeff Jacobs.

The Prime Minister feels, however, that this draft needs some redrafting: for example, she does not think it is correct to say that St. James's Park contains "relatively few flower areas".

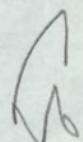
/ There is also

There is also a point of substance in the draft which she is not altogether happy with: she does not think we can insist on merely a plaque among flower beds, and she feels that the original drawing for the memorial was very appropriate.

I am copying this letter to David Edmonds (Department of the Environment), David Omand (Ministry of Defence) and John Halliday (Home Office).

L. P. LANKESTER

Francis Richards, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.



PRIME MINISTER

Holocaust Memorial

*Mr M
R*

We were unsuccessful in setting up a meeting to discuss this before the Recess. It is now unlikely we will be able to do so before the second half of October.

Would you consider agreeing that I should write to departments in an attempt to resolve this issue?

If so, I attach at Flag A a draft letter with two alternative endings. The first plays down the foreign relations objections that Lord Carrington has raised to any association between HMG and the Memorial. The second asks Mr. Heseltine whether he could live with Lord Carrington's suggested course of action.

If you agree that I should write, which version would you prefer?

WPR

*We must clear
it with Lord C
first.
ms*

4 September 1981

A

HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL

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/ Either

Either (in a letter addressed to the FCO)

✓ The Prime Minister has considered these views. She shares the Home Secretary's concern that a site should be found which can be easily protected from desecration. She feels a site on crown land is most likely to meet this concern. She is not convinced that the Government will face criticism at home or overseas simply for making crown land available. She therefore hopes that Lord Carrington will be able to agree that Mr. Heseltine should write to Mr. Greville Janner, M.P. on the lines of the draft letter attached to Stephen Boys-Smith's letter of 5 February to Jeff Jacobs. (at Flag B)

[This letter needs a bit of reworking. I don't think we can impose on them much, a plaque would be better. (eds.)]

Or (in a letter addressed to DOE)

The Prime Minister has considered these views. She shares the Home Secretary's concern that a site should be found which can be easily protected from desecration. But she recognises that that is largely a question of providing the necessary physical protection measures. She sees the force of Lord Carrington's arguments, and agrees with him that there would be some advantage in distancing the Government from the decision by the Board of Deputies of British Jews to erect a memorial. She would therefore welcome Mr. Heseltine's and Mr. Whitelaw's comments on the suggestion that the Board of Deputies should be encouraged to buy or lease their own site, and create a park or a playing field.

I am copying this letter to as necessary.

Memorials.



10 DOWNING STREET

please file

OK. et. 22/6

MR. RICKETT

hm 22/6

Defence have asked to be exempt from the Holocaust Meeting on Thursday as the memorial is not going to be outside their building.

et.

22 June, 1981.