

# North London Area Council of the Conservative Friends of Israel

R1100



**President:** The Rt. Hon. Mrs. Margaret Thatcher MP

**Vice-Presidents:** The Rt. Hon Peter Thomas, QC, MP, John Gorst MP, Sydney Chapman MP,  
Sir Hugh Rossi, MP, **M. Portillo MP**, John Marshall, MEP, Councillor John Bull, JP.

*Please reply to:*

58 Talbot Crescent,  
London NW4 4HP

27th September 1985

The Rt. Hon. Margaret Thatcher, MP  
The Prime Minister  
10, Downing Street  
London SW1A 0AA

Dear Mrs Thatcher,

As Chairman of the above Council, I am writing to you as our President as well as MP for Finchley and Friern Barnet, to express the deep concern and dismay of the members of the said Council on two points. One, the sale of arms to Saudi Arabia and Jordan, and two, the decision to invite two members of the PLO.

With the greatest respect, I cannot see how the sale of arms to two of the protagonists in the Middle East, while enforcing an embargo on the sale, not only of arms, but also of oil to the other protagonist, Israel, can aid the course of peace in the area. I would earnestly ask you, in order to maintain a balance in the Middle East and to prevent a new outbreak of hostilities, to lift the embargo. In this connection I would urge you to instruct the Foreign Office to abandon forthwith the prevailing odious system whereby the F.O. gives tacit approval of the Arab boycott by giving certification of the signatures of Notaries Public on negative certificates of origin where British commercial firms wish to trade with Arab countries. This practice is nothing less than blackmail and is eschewed by the leading E.E.C. countries and the U.S.A., in fact in the latter country, it involves offenders receiving heavy fines.

My Committee held an emergency meeting last night to discuss the whole situation. I have to tell you that we are deeply disappointed and very, very worried at the decision to invite two members of the PLO, an organisation convened to the destruction of the State of Israel. We have seen statements that they have "renounced violence". We have not seen a statement from them that they also admit the right of the State of Israel to exist behind secure borders and that they unequivocally accept

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## Conservative Friends of Israel

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**Vice-Presidents:** Baroness Airey of Abingdon, The Countess of Avon

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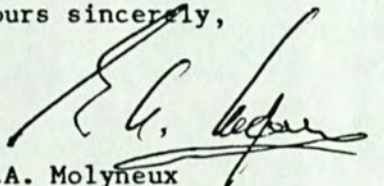


UN Resolutions 242 and 338. Just as you refuse to discuss the sovereignty of the Falkland Islands, do you not consider this to be a prerequisite of the acceptability of any delegate? We would also like to know how many Palestinians do the two men represent? If they are not delegates for an identifiable and substantial body of opinion, then their presence would be purposeless, except as the thin edge of an unacceptable wedge.

Because of our personal connection with you, we do not wish to jump to incorrect conclusions. On the contrary, the tenor of our discussion last night indicated that our members are willing to form an unprejudiced judgment, but, of course, we can only do so when in possession of essential and hitherto unpublished facts.

Therefore before attitudes begin to harden, we would be very grateful for your reply to the above points.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'E.A. Molyneux', with a stylized flourish extending from the end of the name.

E.A. Molyneux  
Chairman.