

Conservative Friends of Israel

45B Westbourne Terrace, London W2 3UR, England Telephone 01-262 2493



*Prime Minister
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9th October 1985.

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

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My Dear Margaret

Many thanks for your kindness in receiving the official CFI National Delegation at No. 10 last Thursday evening 3rd October and for the courtesy you extended to us in enabling us to convey to you the anxieties and concern which I outlined in my letter to you dated 23rd September last.

Immediately following that meeting at No. 10 we issued the Press Release, copy of which I enclose herewith.

I do hope I shall be receiving from you very soon the further letter you promised with regard to your attitude vis-a-vis the PLO.

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keep
here*

Meanwhile we are all looking forward to seeing you at the Reception immediately preceding our CFI Top Leadership Lunch in the Imperial Hotel, Blackpool on Conference Thursday, 10th October.

Looking forward to hearing from you and with every good wish,
I am,
Yours very sincerely,

Michael Fidler, JP
National Director.

Founder Patron: The Late Rt. Hon. The Earl of Avon, KG, MC

National:

President: The Rt. Hon. Peter Thomas, QC, MP
Vice-Presidents: Baroness Airey of Abingdon, The Countess of Avon
Sir Edward Brown, MBE, JP, Baroness Elliot of Harwood, DBE
Sir Nigel Fisher, MC, The Rt. Hon. Baroness Hornsby-Smith, DBE
The Lord Sieff of Brimpton
Chairman: Sir Charles Johnston, TD
Treasurer: Victor Lucas

Parliamentary Group:

Chairman: Michael Latham, MP
Vice-Chairmen: Sir John Biggs-Davison, MP
Hugh Dykes, MP
Hon. Treasurer: Dr. John G. Blackburn, MP
Hon. Secretary: Ivan Lawrence, QC, MP

National Director: Michael Fidler, JP
National Projects Director: Sylvia Sheff, JP, BA

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

8 p.m. THURSDAY, 3rd OCTOBER 1985

PRESS RELEASE

NATIONAL CFI DELEGATION MEETS PRIME MINISTER AT NO. 10

A National Delegation of the Conservative Friends of Israel called this evening on the Prime Minister, The Rt. Hon. Mrs. Margaret Thatcher, MP at No. 10 Downing Street in order to convey to her the great disquiet felt by CFI members throughout the United Kingdom following her invitation to Mr. Milhem and Bishop Khoury to visit London to meet with the British Foreign Secretary, The Rt. Hon. Sir Geoffrey Howe, MP, as part of the 4 man delegation including also two members of the Jordanian Government.

The CFI Delegation pointed out that Mr. Milhem and Bishop Khoury were Executive Officers of the PLO, and this invitation appeared to be an invitation to PLO members to meet with a Senior Minister of H.M. Government which would represent a complete change from the Prime Minister's previously declared policy.

The Prime Minister gave the Delegation a full and frank explanation of her motives during the meeting which lasted for nearly one hour. The Prime Minister wished to get the momentum towards peace talks moving again and had been assured that Mr. Milhem and Bishop Khoury would renounce terrorism as well as recognise U.N. Resolutions 242 and 338, when they were in London. She emphasised that Mr. Milhem and Bishop Khoury were coming in their individual capacities and not as representing the PLO.

The Delegation came away convinced and assured that the Prime Minister's attitude towards the PLO remained unchanged, in that they could have no part in the peace making process unless and until they renounced terrorism and recognised the State of Israel and the U.N. Resolutions 242 and 338. Her invitation to the Jordanian/Palestinian Delegation to see the Foreign Secretary in London was with the intention of achieving such development.

The National CFI Delegation comprised:-

The Rt. Hon. Peter Thomas, QC, MP, (CFI National President)
Sir John Biggs-Davison, MP, (Vice-Chairman, CFI Parliamentary Group)
Victor Lucas, (CFI, National Treasurer).
Michael Fidler, JP, (CFI, National Director).
Sylvia Sheff, JP, BA, (CFI, National Projects Director)
Eddie Molyneux, (Chairman, CFI North London Area Council)

ENDS

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