

Speech
(James)

Prime Minister

YOUR SPEECH TO THE BOARD OF DEPUTIES OF BRITISH JEWS

1. Herewith letter from Greville Janner, together with a copy of my reply.
2. You did not tell me that you had received a standing ovation after your speech.
3. Both Greville Janner and Ivan Lawrence sought me out yesterday to say that your speech had been extremely well received. I really think that, judging from their joint reaction, and despite your understandable feelings about a stab in the back from a Conservative, you are over-anxious about Andrew Devonshire's remarks
4. Although obviously I did not mention your concern about Andrew Devonshire to Greville, Ivan Lawrence said that he thought that your speech would only have done good and there will be nothing unfavourable in the Jewish Chronicle.
5. According to Greville, and Ivan, you were the star of the evening, and your speech will be remembered long after Andrew Devonshire's ill-chosen words have been forgotten.

18th December 1981

IAN GOW

Thatcher in a clash over Golan Heights

By JENNI FRAZER

is the security of the State of Israel. We, and not just Britain, but all the members of the European community, are equally committed to that principle. Our resolve that Israel should live in security and peace will not weaken. It is indispensable to our approach to the problems of the area. But if we demand these rights for one country and people, then we must be prepared to accept them for others."

Mrs Thatcher's words on the Arab-Israel situation were coolly received, a feeling well reflected in the relatively reserved applause she was accorded.

Mr Greville Janner, QC, MP, the president of the Board, told those gathered in Guildhall that the Prime Minister's remarks had been

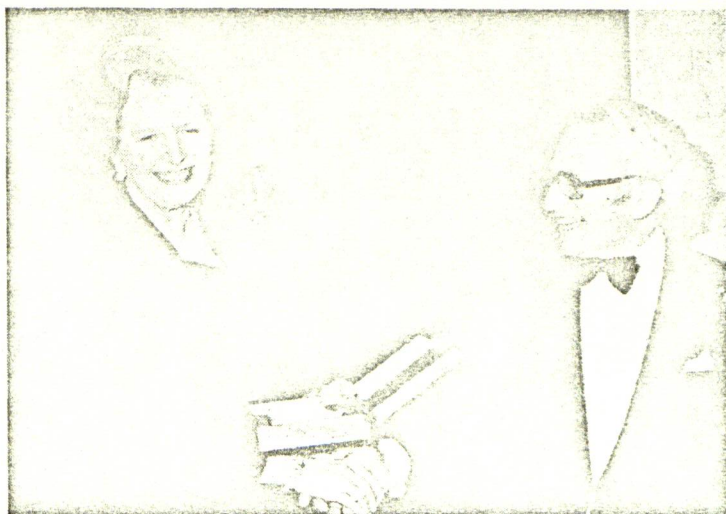
"typically and characteristically blunt and sincere."

And with reference to the recent sustained criticism within the deputies about the invitation to Mrs Thatcher, he said: "I have never understood the criticism of those who believe that we should only invite as guests those with whom we agree."

Mr Janner added that while it was the privilege of every elected government to do what was necessary for the protection of its citizens, it was also its privilege to be either right or wrong and still retain the friendship of its allies.

Aside from her remarks on the Middle East, Mrs Thatcher's long and

Continued on back page, column 3



Mrs Margaret Thatcher, the Prime Minister, receives a gift of two ancient Israeli oil lamps from Mr Greville Janner, QC, MP, the president of the Board of Deputies. The presentation was made to mark Mrs Thatcher's presence as the guest of honour at this week's 220th anniversary dinner held by the Board

Thatcher in clash over Golan

Continued from page 1

informed address was a tribute to her researchers. She made mention of other long-serving institutions, including the JEWISH CHRONICLE, whose recent 140th anniversary she noted, and referred to the origins of the Board in 1760.

She praised those members of the Jewish community who had made a contribution to British society, and she spoke seriously about the problem of racial attacks.

The Prime Minister said that the Government had been grateful for the helpful role played by the Board in the drawing up of the recent report to the Home Secretary on this problem, "a typically constructive contribution to the Government's work... I assure you, the Government takes the problem seriously."

Mrs Thatcher also dwelt at length on the problem of Soviet Jewry, and told the deputies: "We shall continue to take every suitable opportunity to reiterate our concern about abuses of human rights."

She mentioned by name a number of prominent refuseniks.

She told the 550 guests that the decision was "harmful in the search for peace. Such a situation is contrary to international law, and is, therefore, invalid in our eyes."

But it was left to the Duke of Devonshire, the president of the Conservative Friends of Israel, to reject the Prime Minister's remarks.

Replying to the toast to the guests, the Duke caused a roar of delight when he told Mrs Thatcher: "I am simply not prepared to take your words about the Golan Heights."

"Like me, you have seen the Golan Heights and how essential they are to Israel's security. Israel is the only democratic society in the Middle East, and the Golan Heights are essential for the country."

He added, to a standing ovation: "Long live Israel, long live the Golan Heights."

Mrs Thatcher prefaced her remarks about the Golan issue by saying that she recognised that not everything she said would find favour with the Jewish community "in this particularly difficult week, but you know that I have never flinched from saying what I believe."

She said that she had learnt of the annexation "with great concern," and added that "the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by war is enshrined in UN Resolution 242."

The Prime Minister, who made a point of recalling her daughter's time on a kibbutz, said that "the fundamental principle of Israeli policy

She concluded: "I end by wishing the Board of Deputies at least another 220 years of flourishing work for the good of the Jewish people of Britain, and for the good of Britain itself."

In his reply, Mr Janner told the Prime Minister how much her presence was appreciated, and reiterated the Board's determination to "fight against discrimination in all its forms, whether directed against our community or any other."

He also paid tribute to "the tradition in Britain that recognises that our Jewish community is able to give greater service to Britain by retaining its religion, its culture, its traditions, and its deep attachment to the Jewish State."

Mr Janner added that it was in the interests of the United Kingdom "to succour and to strengthen the State of Israel, which is our sole and staunch democratic ally in the Middle East."

The president's remarks were very warmly received.

Earlier, Mrs Thatcher was pleased to greet Mr Percy Cohen, who will shortly celebrate his 90th birthday. Mr Cohen worked for the Conservative

Central Office for many years, and together with Lord Janner (also present at the dinner) became a deputy in 1925. A special presentation was made to Mr Cohen.

Among those who proposed or replied to toasts were Lord Janner; Mr Michael Fidler, the director of the Conservative Friends of Israel; Mr Victor Lucas, the Board's treasurer; Alderman Sir Bernard Waley-Cohen, representing the Lord Mayor and the City of London; and the Board's joint vice-presidents, Dr Lionel Kopolowitz and Mr Martin Savitt.

The guests included the Chief Rabbi, Sir Immanuel Jakobovits, who was seated on Mrs Thatcher's right (with Mr Janner on her left), and the Israeli Ambassador, Mr Shlomo Argov, who received a tremendous ovation.

Grace before the meal was recited by Rabbi Abraham Levy and grace after the meal by the Rev Simon Hass.

Published in Great Britain by Jewish Chronicle Newspaper Ltd. at 25 Funnell Street, London E6 4A 1JT (Telephone 01-405 9252) and printed by Courier Printing and Publishing Co. Ltd. at Tundridge Wells, Kent, December 18, 1981. Registered as a newspaper at the Post Office. Jewish Chronicle Newspaper Ltd. 1981.