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PRIME MINISTER

VISIT TO ISRAEL: BRIEFING MEETING

The briefing meeting for your visit to Israel is tomorrow morning. The Foreign Secretary wants a few words privately first.

You will not have time to read the briefs tonight. This note sets out some of the issues which you will wish to raise.

Arab/Israel peace process

We need to decide what is the principal message that you want to get across both publicly and privately. The weight of advice - see attached minute from Percy Cradock - is that you will need to say stern and unpalatable things about Arab/Israel and Lebanon, if we are to avoid damage to our interests in the Arab world. But I wonder what this will really achieve. It certainly won't influence the Israelis, indeed the opposite. Nor do I think that it will greatly impress the Arabs provided you send private messages to the key Arab leaders immediately after your visit, to give them reassurance.

It seems best to focus, therefore, on the problems where there is some chance of movement. The best bet seems to be the Occupied Territories. You will want to go through the particular steps which we want the Israeli Government to take and satisfy yourself that what we shall be proposing is sensible and has a chance of being acted upon. Insofar as there is a prospect of any concrete result from the visit, it may be here. But what exactly do we want?

Other points under this heading are:

- the possible suggestion by the Israelis that the UK should sponsor proximity talks with Jordan. You will want to

treat this very cautiously: there is no evidence that King Hussein wants it.

- our intentions during our EC Presidency, on which the Israelis will want reassurance; and
- King Hussein's idea of a UN presence on the West Bank. This does not have any Israeli or US support.

Syria

There is a risk that highlighting the issue of terrorism will be misinterpreted in the Arab world, so you will not want to make too much of it. The even greater risk is that the Israelis might subsequently use your remarks to justify our attack on Syria. You will therefore need to be cautious and stress the importance of non-military measures against countries supporting terrorism.

Lebanon

You will want to pass on Perez de Cuellar's remarks about UNIFIL and the readiness of the UN to be the channel for discreet negotiations between the Israeli's and the various Lebanese groups about security in South Lebanon.

Bilateral Matters

There are a number of points you should raise:

- i. Anglo-Israeli Research Foundation. Peres proposed this to you in January and appeared to attach some importance to it. The DTI are unwilling to provide any public funds, so you will have to give a disappointing reply.
- ii. Exchange on counter-terrorism. The Israelis have taken up only partially your offer of exchanges in January. There are no grounds to expand exchanges yet.

- iii. Defence Sales. It is not the moment to relax the embargo, and the Israelis are not expecting this.

- iv. Israel/Argentina. You will want to reinforce our strong opposition to the sale of Skyhawks to Argentina (but they will of course only come back at you with Tornado for Saudi Arabia).

- v. North Sea Oil. We envisage no change in our policy on North Sea oil (and the Israelis do not seriously expect it). Anyway they have no difficulty in getting oil in the present conditions of over-supply.

Charles Powell

19 May 1986

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10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

Leviticus.

Chapter 19

Verse 34

But the stranger that dwelleth with you shall be unto you as one born among you, and thou shalt love him as thyself; for ye were strangers in the land of Egypt: I am the Lord your God.

PROGRAMME NOTES

A. Arrival Ceremony

Details in Tel Aviv Telno 197 to FCO.

B. Breakfast with Mayor Teddy Kollek

Mayor Kollek will be accompanied by:

Ambassador Shmuel Ovnat - Special Adviser
Mrs Ruth Cheskin - Director, Jerusalem Foundation
Viscount Samuel - Weizmann Institute

C. "Yad Vashem" Martyrs and Heroes Memorial

"A Wall and a Name": memorial park dedicated to victims of the Holocaust. On arrival, visitors walk along Avenue of the Righteous Gentiles to the historical exhibition of Nazi persecution of the Jewish people. Hall of Remembrance has mosaic floor inscribed with names of 21 largest death camps, and eternal flame.

The tour of the historical exhibit will be curtailed to allow Mrs Thatcher to see the new monument to Jewish fighters of WWII (unveiled last year by Mr Shultz).

Wreathlaying: while rest of party remain near entrance, Mrs Thatcher will be guided to rear of hall, where wreath will be positioned. Wreath is laid in front of eternal flame: all stand for a moment of silence, then leave the Hall.

Heads should be covered in the Hall of Remembrance.

D. ORT Vocational School, Givat Ram

The School is on the campus of the Hebrew University. It caters for 1181 students, aged 14-18, specialising in electronics, computers and data processing, and also provides teacher-training classes for 400 adults.

Mrs Thatcher will be greeted at the school entrance by a delegation of students, who will present her with an example of the school's handiwork. After a brief guided tour of the laboratories, she will sit in the school meeting room, to hear greetings from the Director of ORT International, Mr Joseph Harmetz, and the President of ORT Israel, Mr Uzi Steinberg.

E. Mount Scopus Commonwealth War Graves Cemetery

Established in 1917: predominantly a WWI cemetery. The dead are mainly from General Allenby's campaign against the Turks. The site is maintained by four Arab gardeners.

The War Memorial, which includes a small chapel, was designed by Sir Hugh Casson and completed in 1925/26. The panels list 3,382 war dead. There are 2,539 war graves: 2,178 British,
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144 Australian, 51 South African, 34 New Zealanders, and 132 others.

On arrival, Mrs Thatcher will be guided to the memorial cross where she will lay a wreath. She will then proceed to the chapel to sign the cemetery's visitors' book.

F. Meeting with Mrs Ilana Friedman

Mrs Friedman will be accompanied by her husband and, as interpreter, Mrs Raya Jaglom, President of the Women's International Zionist Organisation and of the Israeli group "Women for Ida Nudel". The Friedmans do not speak English.

G. Talks with Prime Minister Shimon Peres

Mr Peres will be accompanied by:

Dr Nimrod Novik - Political Adviser

H. Meeting with Vice-Premier Yitzhak Shamir

Mr Shamir will be accompanied by MFA officials.

I. Meeting with Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin

Mr Rabin will be accompanied by Defence Ministry officials.

J. Ben-Gurion Memorial, Kibbutz Sde Boker

Sde Boker means "Morning Field". David Ben-Gurion was a founding member of the kibbutz in 1953: he later made it his permanent home after his retirement from political life. He and his wife are buried there, on a site overlooking the Wilderness of Zin. Ben-Gurion's simple kibbutz hut has been preserved in his memory: it is now a tourist attraction. Present population of Sde Boker is 220.

Wreathlaying: on arrival, the party will travel by bus and minibus to the site of David and Paula Ben-Gurion's tombs. The Trustees of Ben-Gurion University and other spectators will be present. The VIP party will stand while a brief reading is given from Ben-Gurion's works (in English). Mrs Thatcher will then lay a wreath at the tomb. The VIP party will then reboard buses to move to:

K. The Jacob Blaustein Institute for Desert Research

Part of the Ben-Gurion University of the Negev (based in Beersheva), the Institute is a national centre for desert research, focussed on the development of the Negev. It was named in 1980 after Jacob Blaustein, an American industrialist, leader of American Jewry and personal friend of David Ben-Gurion.

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L. Project Renewal, Ashkelon

The entire party will travel by bus to the Burton Community Centre, in the centre of a "Project Renewal" slum rehabilitation area. On entering the grounds, Mrs Thatcher will receive flowers from two children (one an Ethiopian Jew). The Mayor of Ashkelon, Mr Eli Dayan, will make a short speech of welcome, present Mrs Thatcher with a small gift, and introduce a welcoming group of municipal and neighbourhood officials. There will be time (about 10 mins.) for Mr and Mrs Thatcher to view displays of British-supported social schemes in Ashkelon and meet British volunteers.

M. Henry Ronson Comprehensive School, Ashkelon

The school is scheduled to open for the 1988 academic year. It will cater for 1,400 boys and girls aged 12-18. Sited in the exact centre of Ashkelon, it will aim to draw children from all the mixed ethnic communities of the city. In addition to academic studies, the school will teach car mechanics, computer studies, data processing and applied arts.

At the school site Mr and Mrs Thatcher with a small group will enter a VIP enclosure, where Mrs Thatcher will be invited to sign a commemorative scroll (to be buried on the spot).

After introduction by Mayor Dayan, Mr Trevor Chinn will make a very short speech, and will present Mrs Thatcher with a statuette on behalf of the Joint Israel Appeal. Mrs Thatcher and Mr Ronson will speak briefly; Mrs Thatcher will then be asked to formally inaugurate the site by turning the first shovelful of earth, after which the party will depart for:

N. Weizmann Institute of Science, Rehovot

Founded in 1934 by the Sieff family: renamed in honour of Chaim Weizmann in 1944. Of international reputation in the fields of natural and life sciences.

Mr and Mrs Thatcher will be entertained at lunch as the guest of Prof Arye Dvoretzky, President of the Institute. She will be presented with two bound volumes of Chaim Weizmann's writings.

O. Knesset, Jerusalem

Parliament building, inaugurated in 1966. The party will be greeted at the main gate to the Knesset, by the Speaker, Mr Shlomo Hillel, the Secretary-General, Mr Shmuel Jacobson and the Sergeant-at-Arms. Mrs Thatcher will be invited to inspect a Guard of Honour. She will then be escorted to the memorial to the Unknown Warrior where she will lay a wreath. The party will then enter the Knesset building.

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P. Foreign Affairs and Defence Committee

Mr Abba Eban (Labour) is Chairman; Mr Michael Harish (Labour) Vice-Chairman. Other members are drawn from all major parties represented in the Knesset.

Q. Departure Ceremony, Knesset Rose Garden

Mr & Mrs Thatcher will travel with Mr and Mrs Peres from the King David Hotel (other members of the party will leave a few minutes earlier, to be in position for the Prime Minister's arrival).

On arrival, Mrs Thatcher will be conducted to a rostrum. National anthems will be played. She will then be invited to inspect a Guard of Honour.

R. Ramat Gan

"Garden Heights", founded as garden suburb of Tel Aviv in 1921. Now an indistinguishable part of the greater Tel Aviv conurbation.

On arrival, Mrs Thatcher will be greeted in Kikar Rambam by Mayor Uri Amit and will receive flowers from local children. She will be escorted to a rostrum to meet local personalities. The Deputy Mayor (Mrs Shahal) and the Mayor will make short speeches; Mrs Thatcher will reply. (Interpretation into Hebrew will be provided).

Mrs Thatcher will receive a gift from the Mayor (a vase made from a British shell-case of Allenby's campaign). The party will then move to the Municipality Building where Mrs Thatcher will be greeted by schoolchildren and dancers.

The Mayor will then accompany Mrs Thatcher on a brief car tour of Ramat Gan, taking leave of her at the municipal border.

Mayor Amit is a Labour Party member. He speaks poor English.