

# YAD VASHEM

THE HOLOCAUST MARTYRS' AND HEROES'  
REMEMBRANCE AUTHORITY  
HAR HAZIKARON, JERUSALEM



# יד ושם

רשות-הזיכרון  
לשואה ולגבורה  
הר הזיכרון ירושלים

Jerusalem, June 1st, 1986

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Mr. Nigel L. Wicks  
Principal Private Secretary  
Prime Minister's Office  
10 Downing St.  
London

*Prime Minister*

*no*

*I think you  
said 120,000 a week, in  
one interview at least.*

*CDP  
4/6*

Dear Mr. Wicks,

I had the honor of conducting Mrs. Thatcher on her visit to Yad Vashem. Unfortunately it seems that the Prime Minister either misunderstood some of my explanations, or-which is more likely - I made a mistake.

I am referring to the number of Jews being killed in the six death-camps. I pointed out that towards the end of the war the capacity of the six death-camps reached 20-25,000 a day, or 120,000 a week, and emphasized that had the war continued for another year the Nazis would have succeeded in murdering the remaining 5 million Jews.

It is most likely that instead of saying "120,000 a week" I erroneously said "120,000 a day" thus inadvertently misled the Prime Minister into mentioning the figure of "120,000 a day" in her TV interview. You can easily figure out, that had the Nazis succeeded in killing Jews at a rate of 120,000 a day it would not take a year to reach the figure of 5 million.

While we cannot undo what was said and written during Mrs. Thatcher's visit, I would hate to think that through no fault of hers, she would continue using the wrong figure.

I shall be most grateful if you will kindly bring the content of this letter to the attention of the Prime Minister with my profound appologies.

Thanking you in advance,

Sincerely yours,

Reuven Dafni  
Vice Chairman

London, June 1st, 1988

Mr. Nigel L. Wick  
Principal Private Secretary  
Prime Minister's Office  
10 Downing St.  
London



I had the honor of conducting Mrs. ... on her visit to Yad  
Vashem. Unfortunately, it seems that the Prime Minister either  
misheard or took some of my explanations - or which is more likely -  
I made a mistake.

I am referring to the number of Jews being killed in the six  
death-camps. I pointed out that towards the end of the war the  
capacity of the six death-camps reached 20-25,000 a day, or  
150,000 a week, and emphasized that had the war continued for  
another year the Nazis would have succeeded in murdering the  
remaining million Jews.

It is most likely that instead of saying "150,000 a week" I  
unintentionally said "150,000 a day" - thus inadvertently misled the  
Prime Minister into mentioning the figure of "150,000 a day" in  
his interview. You can easily figure out that had the Nazis  
succeeded in killing Jews at a rate of 150,000 a day it would not  
take a year to reach the figure of 2 million.

While we cannot undo what was said and written during Mrs.  
Thatcher's visit, I would hate to think that through no fault of  
hers, she would continue using the wrong figure.

I shall be most grateful if you will kindly bring the content of  
this letter to the attention of the Prime Minister with my  
sincere apologies.

Thanking you in advance,

Sincerely yours,

Reuben Dahn  
Vice Chairman