



CDP  
16/6

10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Private Secretary*

Prime Minister

This is what Peres' office  
told the Americans about  
his meeting with you. The  
Americans told our Embassy  
in Washington. I think  
that we have been more  
discreet.

CDP  
16/6.

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## ISRAELI RECORD OF PERES/MRS THATCHER DISCUSSIONS

1. Following is the US Embassy Tel Aviv's report of their briefing from Peres' Political Counsellor, Novik on the discussions between Peres and Mrs Thatcher during her visit to Israel.

2. First meeting: Peres began by running down his foreign policy priorities. These were:

- i. Egypt: he still had hopes of a summit
- ii. Some Gaza autonomy initiative
- iii. The four problem areas with Syria, their creep forward in the Beka'a, South Lebanon, Golan and terrorism. On terrorism Peres said that the West should keep up the pressure: Syria seemed to be responding, at least in public.

3. On UNIFIL, Peres stuck to Rabin's slightly more open formula.

4. Mrs Thatcher made a tough presentation on terrorism, indicating that she thought the Syrians had double-crossed her over the British hostages in Lebanon. They had denied any knowledge of their whereabouts, but Mrs Thatcher was certain that they knew a good deal.

5. On the peace process, Mrs Thatcher had expressed her willingness to be helpful in any way she could. She mentioned the special relationship she had with King Hussein in Amman and President Reagan in Washington: these were potentially valuable assets. Peres had said he might call on Mrs Thatcher at the appropriate time to relay messages to Hussein. (When pressed, Novik would only mention quality of life measures as the possible subject matter for such messages.)

6. Second meeting (after Mrs Thatcher had met the West Bank Palestinian delegation): Mrs Thatcher commented that she had encountered three levels of argument from the Palestinians whom she had met:

- i. The theme of the petition which they had presented was that the PLO were the only possible leadership of Palestinians.
- ii. In the general meeting, the talk had been about the need to bring Arafat and King Hussein back together.
- iii. In the smaller discussions, views had been diverse. There had been some very guarded willingness to contemplate an alternative Palestinian leadership. In this context, Mrs Thatcher asked Peres about the possibility of elections on the West Bank, noting that Rabin had earlier told her that such elections were out of the question. In response, Peres had distinguished between elections to the municipalities

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and elections to the Jordanian Parliament. He asked Mrs Thatcher to talk with King Hussein when he came to London about elections from the West Bank to the Jordanian Parliament. (The US Embassy asked Novik at this point whether this represented a considered Israeli Government position. Was Rabin on board? Novik answered that elections to the Jordanian Parliament were in the same category as the other quality of life proposals.)

7. Peres gave Mrs Thatcher an account of the fourteen quality of life measures which the Israelis intended to implement. He noted that Israel had received word of King Hussein's priorities and was now waiting for specific Jordanian ideas. Israel's priority was to help King Hussein to re-establish himself on the West Bank. Mrs Thatcher was in full agreement with this, and also agreed on the need for a new Palestinian leadership (in part, Novick thought, as the result of her experience in the Milhem/Khoury episode).

8. On the question of a UN Representative for the West Bank, Mrs Thatcher told Peres she thought it a silly idea, which the King had raised as a vacuum filler, but did not take seriously. Peres repeated Israel's opposition to the proposal.

9. Peres described for Mrs Thatcher a three-phase approach to Jordan, beginning with quality of life measures, moving on to some forum for brainstorming the peace process, and finally direct negotiations in an international conference. Peres also described the present difficulties blocking this strategy.

10. In this regard he brought up the possibility of the Summit Seven perhaps sponsoring an initiative. Mrs Thatcher was enthusiastic about this idea, noting that she had been pushing for some time for the Seven to move into the political arena.

11. Finally, Mrs Thatcher evinced herself a strong supporter of MEREP, and promised seriously to consider Peres' suggestion that Britain appoint an emissary to meet emissaries of the other Summit Seven countries as a way of getting started. (Novik noted that this was a far more positive response than the Israelis had previously heard from the FCO.)



Date: 9 June 1986

Hofe  
Minister

R/ to copy as below under comp's,  
with attachment: CWRP 9/vi.

ISRAELI RECORD OF PERES/MRS THATCHER DISCUSSIONS

1. Bill Kirby (State) has read aloud to me the US Embassy's report of Mrs Thatcher's conversations with Peres during her visit to Israel. The US account is based on briefing by Peres' Political Counselor, Novik, from the official Israeli records.

2. I attach an (almost) verbatim record of Kirby's briefing. He commented that the US were well aware that this account might be imperfect. It could represent variously what the Israelis thought they had said and heard, what they wished to have on record, or what they wanted the US to believe about the UK/Israeli exchanges (particularly the discussion of MEREP).

A 3. Kirby knew the form and didn't press me for our account (See FCO Telno 155 to Tel Aviv).

CNR Prentice

9 June 1986

C N R Prentice

I suggest cc. Mr Gaulty (personal).

I do know  
9/vi.

Yes, with the view at para 2  
about records.

My  
g (to

cc Sir D. Miers, Mr E Ferguson, Mr Nixon or.

This account must reflect a good deal of  
Israeli editing (cf para 2 above) especially  
as regards paras 4, 10 and 11.

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Affairs

13/6