

# Carrington stands firm over PLO

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From Christopher Walker, Jerusalem, March 31

The first day of the controversial visit to Israel by Lord Carrington, the British Foreign Secretary, highlighted the deep differences in the European and Israeli approach to the Middle East and Israel's flat rejection of outside criticism of its recent crackdown in the occupied West Bank.

After several hours of talks, British officials made clear tonight that Israeli arguments had done nothing to alter Britain's Middle East policy. This was restated publicly at a dinner in Jerusalem when Lord Carrington called for the association of the Palestine Liberation Organisation in peace negotiations in exchange for its recognition of Israel's right to exist in peace and security.

Earlier, Mr Menachem Begin, the Israeli Prime Minister, had again categorically stated Israel's refusal to consider such an approach. During a 60-minute meeting with Lord Carrington, Mr Begin made a pointed reference to Northern Ireland stating that the British would not tolerate terrorism there.

During the day, the recent violence on the West Bank cast its shadow over all the meetings held between Lord Carrington and senior Israeli ministers. Tonight, the British Foreign Secretary said bluntly in a speech not likely to win them many new friends in Israel: "The urgent need for a comprehensive solution has been graphically illustrated by the deeply disturbing events on the West Bank and Gaza Strip, about which we and many other

governments have expressed our concern and dismay".

In private talks, Mr Yitzak Shamir, the Israeli Foreign Minister, expressed "dismay and disappointment" at the strong condemnation of Israel's actions in the West Bank issued yesterday in Brussels. Mr Begin described himself as "pained" by the EEC statement.

Only minutes before Lord Carrington began his first meeting with Mr Shamir, he was alerted by a senior aide of a sharp attack just issued by the Israeli Foreign Ministry in response to the European denunciation of Israel's moves against the Palestinians.

The Israeli communiqué stated forcibly: "Israel expresses its dismay regarding the declaration of the European council which ignores the reality in Judea and Samaria, and which disregards completely the incitement to violence initiated by the PLO that led to the recent events.

"This incitement aims at preventing any progress towards a peaceful settlement in the area. Israel sees the declaration as distorting the true facts, and therefore totally rejects it."

□ Tel Aviv: A West Bank villager was injured in a car bomb blast today in the first attempted political murder since the Jordanian Government gave warning on March 9 that Palestinian Arabs cooperating with Israeli-supported village leagues will be prosecuted for treason, a capital offence (Moshe Brilliant writes).

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