



CABINET OFFICE

70 Whitehall, London SW1A 2AS Telephone 01-233 -7665.

A.S.C. $\frac{21}{5}$
f-a-

31 May 1983

Dear Private Secretary

ELECTION BUSINESS COMMITTEE

1. I enclose some guidance material, prepared by the Conservative Research Department, for issue to Conservative candidates on Arab/Israeli relations.

I should be grateful if you could let us know as soon as possible, and certainly within 24 hours, whether your Minister

- (a) approves the draft, or wishes to amend it or offer a new one;
- (b) considers that the draft should be approved by the Election Business Committee.

2. (a) If you have no comments, or small amendments, please telephone:-

	<u>Federal</u>	<u>233 Ext.</u>
✓ Miss J A Lewis-Jones	3006	7665 or 7272
Mr R Watson	2359	7251 or 8276

- (b) More extensive amendments should be marked on the enclosed copy.

- (c) If you propose a new draft, please send us two copies on plain (unheaded) paper.

3. Copies of this letter go to the Private Secretary to the ~~following~~ ~~Ministers~~ Prime Minister

Yours sincerely

Janet Lewis-Jones

R. WATSON

The Private Secretary to the

Secretary of State for Foreign & Commonwealth Affairs

Rec'd 9.20, 31/5

Conservative Research Department

32 Smith Square Westminster SW1P 3HH Telephone 01-222 9511

Director: PETER CROPPER

30.5.83

Dear Miss Lewis-Jones,

The National Zionist Council has asked for comment on the Arab/Israeli conflict from the Prime Minister. A draft reply for the Prime Minister has been prepared here. I would be grateful if you could now seek comments upon our draft from the FO.

Yours,

Alistair Cooke

ALISTAIR COOKE

Draft Reply to National Zionist Council

In your letter to Mr. Andrew Thompson of 26th May, you ask for my views on 5 aspects of the Arab/Israeli conflict.

First of all, I would like to reiterate my strong, personal support and admiration for the state of Israel. Both Britain and Israel are committed to the defence of democratic principles. Although we may differ from time to time on matters of policy, I am confident that the values which we share will always ensure a close friendship between the peoples of Israel and Britain.

- 1) The Conservative Government does not accept the PLO's claim to be the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people and does not accord the organisation or its London representative any official status. But we and our partners in the European Community believe that the PLO will have to be associated with negotiations, because of the support they enjoy among the Palestinian people. It has been Government policy for many years to maintain contacts with the PLO. I have, however, for some time drawn a distinction between contacts at Cabinet minister level and contacts at a lower level.
- 2) The status of Jerusalem has been in question for many years. It would not be appropriate to move the British Embassy, until the status of Jerusalem has been settled by international agreement.
- 3) I cannot agree with you that there is an unconditional right for Jews to settle on the West Bank and Gaza. I have to say that the present expansion of such settlements in the West Bank is a grave impediment to the peace process.
- 4) It is the policy of the Conservative Government that some form of Palestinian self-determination is an essential part of an eventual peace settlement. What form this self-determination would take and what relation it would have with Jordan must be a matter for the negotiating process.

5) The Camp David Agreement was an historic achievement. However, for all Camp David's success in laying the foundations for the Israeli/Egyptian Peace Treaty, it does not appear likely in itself to lead to a solution of the wider problem. So far as the present state of negotiations is concerned, President Reagan's initiative of last September remains the only practical starting point.

RT/RDO 30th May 1983



NATIONAL ZIONIST COUNCIL

OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND

2b, GOLDERS GREEN ROAD, LONDON NW11 8LH



SK/CB

GENERAL SECRETARIES:

Simon C. Kritz
Paul Cohen

26 May 1983

Mr Andrew Thompson
Campaign Headquarters
212 Ballards Lane
LONDON N3

Dear Mr Thompson

Further to our telephone conversation of May 24th, explaining that the Prime Minister could not hold a public meeting in her constituency, due to the pressure of her programme, you were good enough to inform me she would be prepared to answer questions that would have been put to her had a public meeting taken place.

The National Zionist Council consists of the three major Zionist organisations in this country representing the majority of active Zionists.

We have had letters and requests from many members up and down the country, asking us to obtain a policy declaration from Mrs Thatcher.

The great majority of the Jewish people are united about the following issues:-

1. The PLO is a terrorist organisation whose avowed aim is the destruction of the State of Israel. Any contact between the British Government and PLO officials at any level, is not acceptable and would be an affront to the Jewish Community in this country and certainly not in keeping with the democratic tradition of Great Britain.
2. Jerusalem is the undivided and eternal capital of the State of Israel, and we therefore expect that the embassies of friendly countries be located in Jerusalem.
3. The right for Jews to settle in all parts of the land of Israel is inalienable and this includes Judea, Samaria and Gaza. Under no circumstances can settlements in these areas be termed illegal.

This in no way inhibits the Government of Israel to negotiate in the course of a full peace agreement the final borders of Israel with any neighbouring country.
4. No second Palestinian Arab State (there is one already in

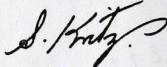
existence called Jordan in over three-quarters of Mandatory Palestine with a majority population of Palestinian Arabs).

5. The Camp David Agreement is the only basis for lasting peace in the Middle East.

We have mentioned here five points about which there is a consensus in the Jewish community and which we consider as being essential for the continued existence of Israel and also of vital importance to the Western democracies.

The Prime Minister is well-known as a friend and supporter of Israel and in view of the impending General Election, we would be grateful for her comments on the points raised. We do so with special regard to some of the statements which have been made by senior Foreign Office officials and which statements have been, to put it mildly extremely disturbing to the Jewish community of this country.

Yours Faithfully



SIMON G KRITZ
General Secretary

31 MAY 1983

