

PRIME MINISTER

VISIT TO ISRAEL

I attach the draft programme for your visit to Israel together with a commentary.

Assuming that you are content with the general drift of it, you will want to consider the following points:

- |   | <u>Yes</u>                          | <u>No</u>                |
|---|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| - the Israel Museum is very boring and not essential in protocol terms. Agree to visit the British War Graves Cemetary instead?   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| - you have to make a choice between Beersheva and Ashkelon. The former is more interesting but the latter heavily supported by British Jewry, who are very keen for you to go. Agree to Ashkelon? <i>(So long as I can also go to the Weizmann Inst.)</i> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| - agree to supper for prominent Palestinians in the Consulate-General in East Jerusalem on the Monday evening?  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| - there are no speeches in the programme (though you are meeting the Knesset Foreign Affairs Committee and a group of Editors). I imagine you will welcome this. Agree no speeches? <i>Yes</i>  | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/> |

*C.D.P?*

*Finicky is worried with Ramat Gan - is there time to pay that small town a brief visit?  
not*

CDP

25 March 1986

BM2AGU



## 10 DOWNING STREET

26 March 1986

From the Private Secretary

Dear Robert,

## PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT TO ISRAEL: PROGRAMME

Thank you for your letter of 25 March enclosing the Israeli draft outline programme for the Prime Minister's visit to Israel.

By and large the Prime Minister is content with this. She would not want to visit the Israel museum on 25 May and would prefer to go to the British War Graves Cemetery in Jerusalem.

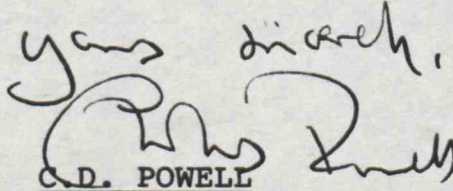
As regards the choice between Ashkelon and Beersheva, the Prime Minister thinks that on balance she ought to go to Ashkelon; but she would wish to maintain her visit to the Weizmann Institute as well. Incidentally, you will recall earlier correspondence suggesting that the Prime Minister might lay the foundation stone for a major new project in Ashkelon. This would be worth pursuing.

The Prime Minister is content with the proposal to have supper with prominent Palestinians at the Consulate-General in East Jerusalem on the Monday evening.

The Prime Minister has one further suggestion to make. Her constituency of Finchley is twinned with Ramat Gan. She would like to pay a brief visit to Ramat Gan if this can possibly be fitted into the programme on Monday.

Finally, the Secretary of State for Employment has mentioned that the Prime Minister might visit an ORT school in Israel. I think that she would like to do so if it can be fitted in.

You ask for advice on Mr. Thatcher's programme. I think that he will wish to follow the Prime Minister's programme on Monday 26 May, though there may be scope for him to make separate engagements between 1530 and 1730 that day. Otherwise his strong preference is to pay a number of commercial visits, particularly to British firms or firms with strong British connections. I should be grateful if you could let me have some suggestions for this.

Yours sincerely,  
  
 C.D. POWELL

R.N. Culshaw, Esq.,  
 Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

GRS 150

**CONFIDENTIAL**

CONFIDENTIAL  
FM TEL AVIV  
TO PRIORITY FCO  
TELNO 113  
OF 101435Z APRIL 86  
INFO ROUTINE JERUSALEM

MIFT: PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT: PROGRAMME

1. THE ISRAELIS HAVE MADE NO PROBLEMS OVER ANY OF THE CHANGES SUGGESTED IN YOUR TELNO 57. THE ISRAEL MUSEUM IS DROPPED, AS IS BEERSHEVA IN FAVOUR OF ASHKELON.
2. THE ISRAELIS SUGGEST THAT MRS THATCHER DELAY HER DEPARTURE ON 27 MAY TO ALLOW TIME FOR A VISIT TO RAMAT GAN (YOUR TELNO 57). WE HOPE THAT WE CAN AGREE TO THIS: THERE IS NO OTHER POINT IN THE PROGRAMME WHERE A TRIP TO RAMAT GAN CAN BE EASILY FITTED IN.
3. ANY VISIT TO AN ORT SCHOOL MUST TAKE PLACE ON 25 OR 26 MAY (27 MAY IS A JEWISH HOLIDAY WHEN SCHOOLS ARE CLOSED). THE ISRAELIS SUGGEST STARTING THE PROGRAMME ON SUNDAY 25 MAY ONE HOUR EARLIER (0700 INSTEAD OF 0800), GIVING TIME TO CALL AT AN ORT SCHOOL IN JERUSALEM BETWEEN THE CEREMONIES AT MOUNT HERZL AND MOUNT SCOPUS.
4. PLEASE SEE MIFT ON SUGGESTED ARRANGEMENTS FOR CEREMONY AT MOUNT SCOPUS. WE HOPE TO TELEGRAPH TOMORROW WITH SUGGESTIONS FOR MR THATCHER'S PROGRAMME.

Agree?  
Yes

Agree?  
Or is this too early?

Too early.  
= =

mt

SQUIRE

LIMITED  
NENAD  
PROTOCOL D.  
NEWS D.  
PS  
PS/MR RENTON  
PS/PUS  
MR FERGUSSON  
SIR D. MIERS

COPIES TO:

PS/NO. 10 DOWNING ST

THIS TELEGRAM  
WAS NOT  
ADVANCED

**CONFIDENTIAL**

CONFIDENTIAL



10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Private Secretary*

12 April 1986

**PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT TO ISRAEL**

I have seen a copy of Tel Aviv telegram No. 113 raising a couple of points about the Prime Minister's programme in Israel.

The Prime Minister will delay her departure on 27 May sufficiently to allow time for a visit to Ramat Gan. She will not however want to begin her programme on 25 May at 0700. We shall have to try to squeeze in the ORT school at some other point in the programme or, if this is really impossible, drop it. But I should be reluctant to do this.

**C D POWELL**

R. N. Culshaw, Esq.,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

CONFIDENTIAL



SHALOM!



## THE FRIENDS OF RAMAT GAN

*President* : The Worshipful the Mayor of the London Borough of Barnet

*President of Honour* : The Mayor of the Municipality of Ramat Gan

PLEASE REPLY TO :-

Your Ref: The Rt. Hon. Mrs. Margaret Thatcher, M.P.,  
The Prime Minister,  
Our Ref: 10, Downing Street,  
London, S.W.1.

43, Chandos Avenue,  
Whetstone,  
London,  
N20 9EE  
29.5.'86

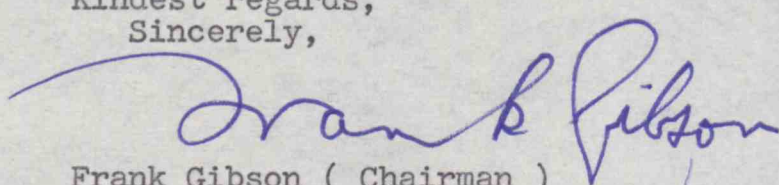
Dear Prime Minister,

You may well be writing to the Mayor of Ramat Gan ( Mr. Uri Amit ), to thank him for his City's welcome and the " Allenby" shell-case gift.

May I draw your attention to the fact that the Deputy Mayor Mrs. Tamar Shachar was given the main responsibility some months beforehand to mastermind all the preparations and security etc. for your visit.

If you think that protocol could be stretched a point by your sending her a short letter of thanks, I know that it would be enormously appreciated by her and all her Staff and the Police. Of course I have not discussed this with her - or anyone.

Kindest regards,  
Sincerely,

  
Frank Gibson ( Chairman )



10 DOWNING STREET

*file  
ap*

THE PRIME MINISTER

30 May 1986

*Dear Mr. Mayor.*

The reception which I received from the people of Ramat Gan during my visit on Tuesday is a memory which will stay with me for the rest of my life. I do not think that I have ever experienced such warmth and spontaneity, which are matched on my own part by feelings of friendship and affection for Israel and its people. I am most grateful to you for having arranged the visit and given me the chance to see something of your beautiful and thriving community. May I also thank you for the 1916 brass Shell Case which I shall keep as a reminder of a very happy occasion.

With warm best wishes to you and to all the people of Ramat Gan.

*Yours sincerely  
Margaret Thatcher*

Mayor Uri Amit.

*6*



10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

3 June 1986

Dear Frank,

Thank you for your letter and for the very kind remarks which you made at Ramat Gan. It was a marvellous occasion and an unbelievable welcome. I shall never forget it.

I have written to Mrs. Shachar. Thank you for suggesting it.

Yours  
Yours

Margaret  
—

Councillor Frank Gibson, O.B.E.

ech



10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

3 June 1986

Dear Mrs. Shachar,

I should like to thank you most warmly for all the work which I know you put into the arrangements for my visit to Ramat Gan. It was hugely enjoyable and I was sorry that I did not have more time to spend with you all.

Please pass on my warm thanks to the police of Ramat Gan and to all those concerned with the arrangements.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely  
Margaret Thatcher

---

Mrs. Tamar Shachar

BM

CC PC  
D.C.

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

25 March 1986

*Dear Anwar,*Prime Minister's Visit to Israel: Programme

I enclose an Israeli draft outline programme for the Prime Minister's consideration. It takes account of our own ideas (your letter of 17 February) including adequate time for a meeting with Palestinians. The draft looks an acceptable framework.

Saturday 24 May

Sabbath considerations and Mr Peres' strong wish to welcome the Prime Minister personally rule out an earlier arrival time. Supper with Mr Peres would be late, but this would be 8 pm British time and would add considerably to the visit's initial media impact.

Sunday 25 May

Yad Vashem and the Herzl Memorial are standard items for prominent visitors. The Israel Museum is interesting but not essential and could well be replaced by a visit to the British War Graves Cemetery in Jerusalem (on Mount Scopus: ie not in 'Arab' Jerusalem) if the Prime Minister does not visit the Commonwealth War Graves Cemetery at Beersheva on Monday.

Monday 26 May

The Israelis have not recommended a visit to Ashkelon, a development town supported by the British/Jewish community, but would be happy to include this instead of Beersheva if we so wish. The arguments are finely balanced: Beersheva is marginally more interesting, but the British/Jewish community are lobbying hard for a visit to Ashkelon. In the evening we would envisage a British reception at the King David Hotel from 1830-2000, followed by a supper for prominent Palestinians at the Consulate-General in East Jerusalem at 2030. The Palestinians would be unable to accept hospitality before dusk because of Ramadhan, so it is not practicable to fit them in before the reception.

/Tuesday



Tuesday 27 May

The Israelis do not wish the Palestinian element to be the last engagement of the Prime Minister's visit. A round-up meeting with Mr Peres would lead naturally into the pre-departure press conference.

Mr Thatcher's programme

Would Mr Thatcher wish to accompany the Prime Minister on her Monday programme and follow a separate programme on Sunday including commercially orientated visits and sightseeing?  
/ I enclose some ideas put forward by our Ambassador in Tel Aviv. The Israelis have not yet focused on Mr Thatcher's programme. It would be helpful to have an indication of his preferences as a basis for discussion with them.

*Yours ever,*

*R N Culshaw*

(R N Culshaw)  
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq  
PS/10 Downing Street

CONFIDENTIAL

PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT TO ISRAEL

Saturday 24 May

2000 Arrive Ben-Gurion airport, Tel Aviv. Met by Mr Peres.  
Welcoming ceremony.

This is the earliest time possible to allow Mr Peres to leave Jerusalem after dusk (end of the Sabbath). It would have to slip by a further hour if, as is possible, a decision is taken next month despite current religious objections, to adopt one hour's summer time.

2020 Depart Airport.

2100 Arrive King David Hotel, Jerusalem.

2200 Informal supper at Mr Peres' residence: 15-20 people including academics, authors, etc.

Sunday 25 May

0800 Breakfast with Foreign Minister, Mr Shamir, at King David Hotel.

0930 Visit Yad Vashem (Holocaust Memorial)

1045 Lay wreath at the Herzl Memorial (Herzl the founder of Modern Zionism)

1130 Call by Mayor Kollek at Hotel. Visit to the Israel Museum (exhibits include the Dead Sea scrolls) or to  British War Graves Cemetery, Jerusalem.

1300 Lunch (for 20) hosted by President Herzog.

1530 Tete-a-tete meeting with Mr Peres in his office.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

- 1615 'Plenary' meeting with Mr Peres
- 1730 Return to hotel
- 1800-1900 Call by 'editors committee' (20-30 top Israeli editors of all media except TV).
- 2030 Dinner hosted by Mr and Mrs Peres.

Monday 26 May

- 0730 Breakfast with Defence Minister, Mr Rabin, at King David Hotel.
- 0900 Helicopter to Sde Boker, to lay wreath on Ben-Gurion Memorial and visit his Kibbutz home.
- On to Beersheva: meet personalities and lay wreath at Beersheva Commonwealth War Graves. Followed by visit to Weizmann Institute. Or Visit to Ashekelon.
- Lunch At the Weizmann Institute.
- 1445 Return to Jerusalem by car.
- 1530 Welcoming ceremony outside Knesset followed by meeting with Speaker.
- 1600 Attend Knesset session in Strangers' Gallery to hear formal greeting by Speaker.
- 1615 Meeting with Knesset Foreign Relations and Security Committee (chaired by Abba Eban).
- 1730 Return to Hotel.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

Evening Free for return hospitality at King David Hotel  
and meeting with Palestinians at Consulate General,  
East Jerusalem.

Tuesday 27 May

0730 Breakfast and round-up tete-a-tete with Mr Peres (at  
his home?)

0900 Press Conference at hotel

0945 Departure for Ben-Gurion Airport. Farewell ceremony.

1030 Take-off.

CONFIDENTIAL

MR THATCHER'S PROGRAMME

Saturday 24 May

As for Prime Minister.

Sunday 25 May

Possible elements:

(a) Visit to Haifa by car: courtesy call on Mayor; major Israeli companies (high-tech?); lunch with Chamber of commerce; visit to Haifa Technion (Science Park). Sightseeing stop at Caesarea (impressive Roman and Crusader ruins) on return to Jerusalem.

(b) Visit to Tel Aviv: call on Mayor; visit to firms (high-tech?); Diaspora Museum (very impressive); Embassy/British Council offices, sightseeing in Old Jaffa.

Monday 26 May

As for Prime Minister in morning. Afternoon visit to Israel Museum (Dead Sea Scrolls) in Jerusalem, or private sightseeing with HM Consul General in Old City/Bethlehem.

Tuesday 27 May

No engagements.

PM TOURS Unit to Israel 2/86