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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

17 April 1986

*Dear Charles,*Prime Minister's Visit to Israel

Our Embassy have completed a further round of programme discussions in Israel based on the guidance in your letter of 26 March. I enclose the latest draft programme for the Prime Minister and Mr Thatcher. We are grateful for the advice in your letter of 12 April on the timing of the proposed Ramat Gan and ORT school visits, and should welcome further comments, particularly on the proposals for Mr Thatcher's programme. You may wish to focus particularly on the points below.

Prime Minister's programme

In addition to the items already listed in the programme, the Prime Minister may wish to consider brief contacts with:

(a) Ex-Ambassador Argov. Following the attempt on his life in London in June 1982, Mr Argov remains paralysed and incapable of speech or writing. A private telephone call to Mrs Argov or a word with her at the British reception would be appropriate.

(b) A refusenik. We could arrange a brief meeting with for example the sister of Ida Nudel, whose case the Prime Minister has publicly supported. This would underline our continuing concern over Jewish emigration from the Soviet Union.

These contacts would attract considerable positive publicity.

British reception.

In your letter of 8 April you asked us to explore an alternative host for the proposed reception on 26 May. Our Embassy report that there is no suitable organisation based in Israel which could take this on. London-based bodies such as the British-Israel Chamber of Commerce would have access to the necessary funds. But it might attract adverse publicity if they or any group other than HMG were to host the reception. We therefore support our Ambassador's conclusion that there is no easy or dignified way to avoid

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offering return hospitality with the Prime Minister or Mr Squire as host, and his recommendation that he should be authorised to negotiate the best deal possible with the hotels.

Mr Thatcher's programme.

The Embassy have recommended a visit to Neve Shalom, a mixed Arab/Jewish community dedicated to the furtherance of intercommunal relations (recent press coverage attached) which is firmly supported by Lord Sieff and President Herzog. We believe that the site is on pre-1967 no-man's land between Israel and Jordan: it is conceivable that there might be Arab objections. We are inclined to play safe and omit the visit but would not oppose it if Mr Thatcher were eager to go. Mr Thatcher may of course have his own suggestions. One possibility would be to replace Neve Shalom by a visit to an ORT school, if time does not permit the Prime Minister to do this.

*Yours ever*

*R N Culshaw*

(R N Culshaw)  
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq  
PS/10 Downing Street

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London SW1A 2AH

14 May 1986

Dear Charles

Prime Minister's Visit to Israel

/ I enclose as requested in your letter of 9 May a draft reply from the Prime Minister to a letter from Mrs Brenda Katten (British WIZO) proposing that during her visit to Israel the Prime Minister should meet Ilana Friedman, the sister of Mrs Ida Nudel. Our Embassy in Tel Aviv are already planning a meeting with Mrs Nudel's relatives at the King David hotel after lunch on 25 May.

Yours ever

(R N Culshaw)  
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq  
PS/10 Downing Street

Brenda KATTEN

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10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Private Secretary*

ACK 9 May 1986

I attach a copy of a letter the Prime Minister has received from Brenda Katten, Chairman of the British WIZO.

I should be grateful if you could provide a draft reply, for the Prime Minister's signature, as soon as possible.

CHARLES POWELL

C. R. Budd, Esq.,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

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