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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

19 May 1986

Dear Charles

Prime Minister's Visit to Israel

I set out below details of the official welcoming ceremony on the arrival of the Prime Minister at Ben Gurion Airport, Israel, on 24 May.

a) Steps and a red carpet will be set up to the VIP exit (front) door of the VC10. The Chief of Protocol will board the aircraft and escort the Prime Minister and Mr Thatcher down the steps, where they will be greeted by Mr and Mrs Peres, HM Ambassador and the Israeli Ambassador in London. The party then proceeds along the red carpet, between a small Honour Guard, to a rostrum with microphones. Only Mr Peres, Mr & Mrs Thatcher and the Chief of Protocol will mount the rostrum. Mr Peres will make a short speech in welcome. Mrs Thatcher will reply. The four will then move to a receiving line of other Ministers, senior government officials, etc from where they will board the motorcade to Jerusalem.

b) Once Mr & Mrs Thatcher have moved to the rostrum other members of the party can leave the aircraft by the same door. They should proceed directly to the waiting cars (with any cabin-loaded baggage). (Baggage of Prime Minister and Mr Thatcher will be put into boots of their respective cars.)

c) Press travelling on the aircraft who wish to cover the arrival statements should disembark by port centre door, and proceed directly to the press enclosure. From there they can board the press transport to Jerusalem.

I shall write separately about the transport arrangements from Ben Gurion Airport to Jerusalem.

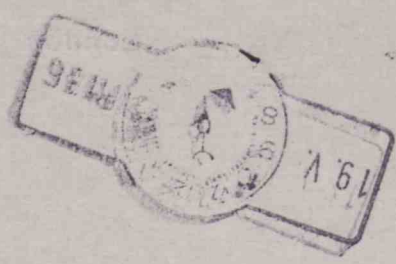
Yours ever

(R N Culshaw)
Private Secretary

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