

CONFIDENTIAL



KW
cl/foragn/rabbi

MASTER cc SUBJECT
Area of Middle East: Sir Pryn

10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

30 January 1991

THE GULF: JEWISH COMMUNITY

The Prime Minister saw the Chief Rabbi and Mr Greville Janner MP this afternoon, at their request, to discuss the Gulf crisis.

The Chief Rabbi said that he would shortly be visiting Israel and wondered whether there was any particular message which the Prime Minister would wish him to convey. The Prime Minister said that he should say how much Israel's restraint in the face of Iraq's SCUD missile attacks was admired and appreciated in this country. We hoped that it would be maintained. The Chief Rabbi said that he was also intending to stress the need for a debate in Israel on the future security of the region as a whole. It was important that Israelis should start to think about the situation after the present conflict. The Prime Minister said this would also be a very helpful message. We could not go back to the status quo ante. All sorts of questions would arise, depending on the precise outcome of the conflict, for instance the need for a balance between Iran and Iraq, the wish of the Gulf States for some sort of security arrangements backed by western guarantees, and the necessity of some movement on the Palestinian issue. The Chief Rabbi said that he accepted these points with one qualification. The phrase "peace conference" had a very unhappy resonance in Israel. People associated it with Versailles and Munich and saw it as a means by which a lot of not at all well-disposed countries would try to impose a settlement on Israel. It would be better to talk simply about peace negotiations. The Prime Minister pointed out that the concept of a peace conference was firmly established and it could not be eliminated from the international glossary. But he understood the sensitivity.

Mr Janner asked the Prime Minister to investigate reports that a British company trying to export computer equipment to Israel which could be of help in detecting a CW attack had been refused a license. The Prime Minister said that he knew nothing of this but would ask the Trade and Industry Secretary to inform him of any problem in the course of 31 January. I should be grateful if DTI could follow this up.

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I am copying this letter to Simon Webb (Ministry of Defence), Martin Stanley (Department of trade and Industry) and to Sonia Phippard (Cabinet Office).

CHARLES POWELL

Simon Gass Esq
Foreign and Commonwealth office

dti

the department for Enterprise

cc/c

The Rt. Hon. Peter Lilley MP
Secretary of State for Trade and Industry

Sir Charles Powell
Private Secretary to the
Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
LONDON
SW1A 2AA

Department of
Trade and Industry

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Our ref JW1243
Your ref
Date (February 1991

CDP
1/2

Dear Charles,

Thank you for your note of the meeting the Prime Minister had with the Chief Rabbi and Mr Greville Janner MP on 30 January 1991.

DTI officials have established that Zengrange has never applied for an export licence to export ZENBC chemical hazard predictor computers to Israel.

Mr Janner has been informed of the above although our official line remains that it is not our practice to discuss individual export licence applications.

Telephone conversations with the company's military sales manager, Mr John Gatehouse reveal that the company is embarrassed by the unidentifiable misquoted press report attached to your note.

Homs
Rosalind Cole

ROSALIND COLE
Private Secretary



RESTRICTED

PRIME MINISTER

MEETING WITH THE CHIEF RABBI AND MR GREVILLE JANNER, M.P.

The Chief Rabbi and Mr Greville Janner, M.P., Vice Chairman of the UK/Israel Parliamentary Group, are coming to see you tomorrow about the situation in the Gulf. This follows the pattern of your meetings with church leaders (with Greville Janner scrambling aboard).

I do not think you will experience much difficulty in convincing the Chief Rabbi that this is a just war (!) But you will want to emphasise the enormous importance hitherto of Israel's restraint in the face of provocation, our hope that it will continue, and the good it has done to Israel's reputation worldwide. We hope his influence will be used in the direction of maintaining that restraint.

You might go on to explore with the Chief Rabbi how he sees the situation after the conflict is over; and the extent to which there is scope for Israel, with one of its principal and most heavily armed opponents reduced, to be more flexible about the Palestinian problem.

The Chief Rabbi is due to retire fairly soon (indeed he has been due to retire for the better part of a year and a half). There is a large dinner for him next month at which your predecessor is speaking.

CSP

Charles Powell
29 January 1991
c: Rabbi (MJ)

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MS
c. Janner

10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

23 January 1991

To save time, I am replying on the Prime Minister's behalf to your letter of 21 January. He will be very happy to see you with the Chief Rabbi and could manage Wednesday 30 January at 1500 here at No.10, if that were convenient. Perhaps you would be kind enough to let me know.

Charles Powell

The Hon. Greville Janner, QC, M.P.

KW



10 DOWNING STREET

~~Sandra~~

Ed. you please
fix a.s.a.p.

CDD

fixed for
Wednesday 30 Jan
at 1500 at No 10.
Briefing required?

S 23/1

From: GREVILLE JANNER, Q.C., M.P.

①

21, January 1991

Personal BY HAND

Rt. Hon. John Major MP
10 Downing Street,
SW1

Charles
? 5 22/1
Re Mission

I think you
ought to do this,
since you saw the

Dear Prime Minister -

I am so glad that we have so often been at one,
during the past horrendous week. Thank you for the
stand you have taken.

Archbishop & his
conduct. Agree?

The Chief Rabbi, Lord Jacobovits, and I would be
very grateful if you could spare a few minutes to
see the two of us, on an entirely off the record
and unpublicised basis. If you would be kind enough
to agree in principle, we could leave it to our
staff to fix a time which suited you and we would
do our very best to fit in with it.

With best wishes.

Very sincerely,

Greville Janner

Yes, Agree.