

PRIME MINISTER

Speech: Board of Deputies of British Jews  
15 December

Following our discussion yesterday I attach a new and extensively revised draft.

I have left the old introduction because you said you wished to consider this yourself.

You asked me to make sure that the Arab/Israel section was looked at carefully in the Foreign Office. I wrote the new draft myself but it has been cleared with senior officials in the Foreign Office. I hope to arrange for FCO Ministers to see it shortly.

Mr. Martin Gilbert is calling on me on Thursday. I will seek his views on the likely impact of the speech on the Jewish community.

It will be helpful to have your reactions to the latest draft so that I may let you have a final text to read over the weekend.

① Do we know how the Board of Deputies started? Are there any famous characters to whom we should refer. A.S.C. 9/12.

② I think we should work with our own most philosophical ideas. There is something in Jewish belief about which relates thinking of the future to present time. M.C. will know not

8 December 1981



Arab/Israel

You will expect me to say a word about the political problems of the Middle East. The fundamental principle of Israeli policy is the security of the State of Israel. We - and not just Britain but the Members of the European Community - are equally committed to that principle. Our

/ resolve



resolve that Israel should live in security and peace will not weaken. It is a central plank of our approach to the problems of the area.

↳ *Balancing sentimentality which we spoke*

One of the great achievements of Israeli foreign policy ~~in recent years is~~, clearly, the peace with Egypt - a ~~momentous~~ historical event, ~~a~~ an act of courage, ~~too~~. But more than that. Genius was at work - that special quality of genius which ~~leaps over the boundaries and~~ <sup>breaks the chains of</sup> ~~assumptions~~ ~~constraints of conventional~~ / and legend and demonstrates that the impossible is possible. Wisdom overcame hatred. The signatories recognised that force of arms alone would not ensure permanent security and that justice is an essential ingredient of lasting peace.

*We need to work on this for speaking rhythm.*

What are the prospects now? Can further steps be made towards peace in the Middle East? How can Israel's security be strengthened further? Mr. President, there are signs of hope. More Arabs seem prepared to accept co-existence with Israel as part of a peaceful settlement.

*Not right  
We cannot forget the future but we know that must be replaced by cooperation  
can bring hope for future generations*

The proposals of the Ten Members of the European Community in a balanced way are seeking/to turn the signs of hope into definite progress.

The Egypt/Israel agreement shows that progress is possible. The unthinkable can be thought. Peace in the region as a whole is possible, though there will have to be concessions on both sides.

We deeply regret the suffering of Jews and Arabs alike, over the long years of conflict. We want to see a friendly and stable Middle East and we believe that we can help bring this about. Our help can only be complementary to the

/efforts of the



efforts of the States of the area. Their concerns and efforts must be paramount. No-one must prejudice Israel's security. Our efforts to help the peace process are intended to enhance that security. Because real security can only come from a lasting peace which is recognised to be just. I can think of no greater challenge than the need for peace in the Middle East and we are determined to respond to it. The aim, I repeat, in that Hebrew word which has become international, is Shalom.

*Very much needed a repetition. We will need to work on it.*

Jews in the Soviet Union

Mr. President, the other day I received a delegation of young men from the Student and Academic Campaign for Soviet Jewry. I was so impressed by their clarity, their dedication and their determination! Yet, how sad it is that their Campaign is necessary. Jews continue to suffer discrimination and maltreatment in the Soviet Union. More Jewish people have been harrassed and brought to trial this year than in the past ten years together. There has been renewed suppression of Jewish cultural activity, including the banning of Hebrew study groups and raids on the homes of Hebrew teachers in Moscow. It is hardly surprising that the number of Jews who wish to leave is rising. But the rate of emigration, which reached 50,000 in 1979, is falling. It may be under 10,000 in 1981. The Soviet authorities are not only making life worse for the Jews within the Soviet Union, they are denying them the right to emigrate.

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