

010  
Prime Minister



We shall need to make sure  
near the time that the  
text is still appropriate  
but subject to that do you  
agree?

A.S.C.  $\frac{11}{3}$ .

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

10 March 1982

I think the proposed  
message would do  
more harm  
than good  
not

Dear John,

Lord Carrington's visit to Israel:

Message from the Prime Minister

As you know, Lord Carrington is due to visit Israel from  
30 March to 1 April 1982.

Lord Carrington hopes that the Israelis will take his  
visit as evidence of our desire to improve relations. But the  
Israelis continue to be extremely sensitive about the Ten's  
Middle East policy and were particularly suspicious of what  
they saw as Britain's leading role in its formulation during  
our Presidency. Mr Begin is unpredictable and there is a risk  
that the Israelis will try to turn Lord Carrington's visit into  
an occasion for a public and damaging row.

We have been considering how best to insure against this  
risk. One idea is that Lord Carrington should take with him to  
Israel a message from the Prime Minister to Mr Begin. The  
purpose of the message would be to reassure Mr Begin of our  
genuine desire to see an improvement in Anglo/Israeli relations.  
There is no escaping the fact that some Israeli policies are  
harmful to our interests and to peace, and the message will  
need to avoid implying that we are about to abandon any part of  
the Ten's Middle East policy. But we need to improve our  
dialogue with the Israelis and avoid the misunderstandings which  
have soured our relations in recent months.

Lord Carrington therefore recommends that he should take  
with him a message from the Prime Minister to Mr Begin along  
the lines of the enclosed draft. I should be grateful to know  
whether the Prime Minister is content.

Yours ever

(J E Holmes)  
Private Secretary

John Holmes

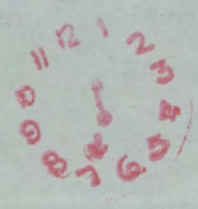
A J Coles Esq  
10 Downing St

## MESSAGE FROM PRIME MINISTER TO MR BEGIN

I am taking the opportunity of Lord Carrington's visit to send you my warmest good wishes. I well remember my own visit to Israel in 1971 and our meeting here in London in 1979.

He and I are both <sup>Carrington</sup> ~~conscious~~, ~~as I am sure you are~~, that recently relations between our two countries have not been as warm and close as they should be. If it is inevitable that we should have a different perspective on some important issues, then our natural friendship should be strong enough to understand those differences and take account of them. I personally feel sure that we can restore our relationship to reflect more closely the fundamental values and interests which we both share. I look forward to hearing from <sup>Lord Carrington</sup> ~~him~~ ways in which you think this might be done.

10 MAR 1982



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