

Mrs. Thatcher Tells Presidents Conference Leaders Britain Will Oppose Any Move At The UN To Recognize The PLO As A State; She Endorses Israel's Election Plan



THE CHAIRMAN AND THE PRIME MINISTER — In London, Seymour D. Reich, chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, met recently at 10 Downing Street with British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher. Mrs. Thatcher declared that a Palestinian state does not exist and said her government would fight any effort at the United Nations by the Palestine Liberation Organization to seek recognition as a state. During the meeting, which Mr. Reich described as "warm, friendly and open," Mrs. Thatcher also rejected the concept of a government-in-exile, representing "Palestine." Such an entity can come into being only when a government already exists — and there is no state of Palestine, she said. On the Middle East peace process, Mr. Reich reported, Mrs. Thatcher supported the concept of free elections in the territories, as proposed by the Israeli unity government in its peace initiative, and expressed satisfaction at Israel's acceptance of the five-point plan of U.S. Secretary of State James A. Baker III, calling it an important step.

LONDON — Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher says that a Palestinian state does not exist and that her Government will fight any effort at the United Nations by the Palestine Liberation Organization to seek recognition as a state.

The British leader made her statement during a 40-minute meeting recently at 10 Downing Street with Seymour D. Reich, chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations. The Conference of Presidents is an umbrella group that represents 50 national Jewish secular and religious bodies.

Mr. Reich was accompanied by Malcolm Hoenlein, executive director of the Conference, and Daniel S. Mariaschin, director of international and public affairs of B'nai B'rith International. Mr. Reich is president of B'nai B'rith International.

During the meeting, which Mr. Reich described as "warm, friendly and open," Mrs. Thatcher also rejected the concept of a government-in-exile representing "Palestine." Such an entity can come into being only when a government already exists — and there is no state of Palestine, she told the Jewish leaders.

On the Middle East peace process, Mr. Reich reported, Mrs. Thatcher supported the concept of free elections in the territories, as proposed by the Israeli unity government in its peace initiative, and expressed satisfaction at Israel's acceptance of the five-point plan of U.S. Secretary of State James A. Baker III, calling it an important step. She also voiced understanding of Israel's difficulties in dealing with the intifada, with special reference to the damage done to Israel's image as a result of TV coverage of the uprising, according to Mr. Reich.

Mrs. Thatcher told the American Jewish leaders that she would like to see King Hussein of Jordan return to a more active role in the peace process at an appropriate time. She also expressed concern over the strong showing in Jordan's recent election by Islamic fundamentalist candidates.

The Presidents Conference chairman said he was "deeply impressed" by Mrs. Thatcher's interest in and knowledge of the situation confronting the Jews of the USSR. He said the British

leader recognized that despite glasnost and perestroika, impediments affecting the right of emigration and cultural and religious freedom for Soviet Jews remain.

Mrs. Thatcher told the group it was her impression that anti-Semitism in the Soviet Union was increasing, noting the recent daubings of synagogues in the USSR. She said it was ironic that, when Jews feel free to attend religious services for the first time in many years, synagogues are coming under attack by anti-Semitic bands. Mrs. Thatcher disclosed that the issue of resurgent anti-Semitism in the USSR came up during her recent talks at Camp David, Mr. Reich reported.

Another subject raised by the Jewish group was the continuing Arab boycott of Israel and cooperation in it by private British companies. Mrs. Thatcher noted that the British Foreign Office no longer issues negative certificates of origin, which attest that goods sold to Arab countries are not made in Israel. The Prime Minister said she would read with interest a memorandum that Mr. Reich offered to send her on further steps the British government might take to discourage British firms from participating in the boycott.

Mrs. Thatcher was accompanied at the meeting by Charles Powell, a senior foreign affairs adviser. The talks in London followed a visit by Mr. Reich and Mr. Hoenlein to Israel, where they met with Prime Minister Shamir and other Israeli government officials. In Israel Mr. Reich received an honorary degree from Tel Aviv University.

Mr. Reich, Mr. Hoenlein and Mr. Mariaschin also met with members of the Board of Deputies of British Jews, including its president, Lionel Kopelwitz, and executive director, Haim Pinner, and with leaders of B'nai B'rith in the United Kingdom.

LOS ANGELES (JTA) — The Simon Wiesenthal Center, which is establishing a Holocaust photo archive for its new Museum of Tolerance, is seeking photographs of survivors and victims.

Photos may be sent to Adaire Klein, Library Archives, Simon Wiesenthal Center, 9760 West Pico Blvd., Los Angeles, Calif. 90035.

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