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10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

10 March 1986

I enclose a copy of a letter from the Prime Minister about a village for deprived children in Israel. The writer suggests that the Prime Minister might find time to visit it during her short stay in Israel in May. I doubt that this is possible but you might like to pass on the suggestion to those preparing the programme.

(C.D. Powell)

Robert Culshaw, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

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10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

10 March, 1986.

The Prime Minister has asked me to thank you for your letter of 6 March about the Youth Aliyah village for deprived children on Mount Carmel. She was very pleased to hear of this, and of the happy atmosphere at the school.

I have noted your suggestion that the Prime Minister might visit the village during her short stay in Israel, though I have to say that she will be there for such a short time that it may well not be possible to include it. But it was very kind of you to put forward the idea.

The Prime Minister has asked me to send you her best wishes.

(C.D. Powell)

Mr. and Mrs. R. Thornton

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6.3.86.

Dear Mrs Thatcher,

My wife and I have just returned from a very remarkable experience. We have spent two weeks at the Youth Aliyah Village at Yemin Orde on Mount Carmel Israel. About three hundred deprived children are being educated there - many have suffered very traumatic experiences - many are Ethiopians and unrooted. There are children from Panama (on a short visit) France, Germany, Roumania,

etc: In spite of past bad experiences
the children look very happy, have
spontaneous good manners and are very
friendly due no doubt to the dedicated
& loving care of the staff from a
charming Headmaster Chaim Perri and
his wife through all the staff to
domestics and even the Arab gatekeeper.

The project is mainly financed by Jews
in England. My wife and I are not
Jewish - but I went as part of a scheme
to supply Dental care by volunteers who
do two week stints throughout the year.
We were deeply impressed by the atmosphere
of relaxed & spontaneous happenings which is
not always noticeable in a group of
teenagers - We were also impressed by the
ex-students who have come back to visit & to
work there. Part of their policy is to train them
to give, in return for what they have received
and in this way to break the vicious cycle
of deprivation.

I write to tell you of this visit
in the hope that you may be able
to visit Yemin Orde on your
forthcoming visit to Israel in May.

If it was possible for you to
do so, I believe you, like us
would feel greatly rewarded, by
sharing a few hours of the life
of this community.

With best wishes

Yours sincerely,

Bob and Helen Howatt.