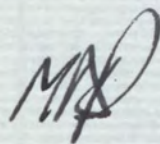


PRIME MINISTER

You agreed to see Messrs Heseltine, Pym and Whitelaw after Cabinet tomorrow about the Holocaust Memorial. This follows a request from Mr. Heseltine to have a word with you on the subject.

I attach letters from all three. Mr. Heseltine (Flag A) has a strong public commitment to the Richmond Terrace site for the Holocaust Memorial. Mr. Pym (Flag B) finds the Richmond Terrace site wholly inappropriate, and indeed possibly offensive. He had proposed this as a suitable site for the Mountbatten Memorial, no doubt primarily to overrule the Heseltine proposal, but that alternative is no longer available. Mr. Whitelaw (Flag C) also has doubts about a Whitehall site for the Holocaust Memorial. I understand that Lord Carrington, who is of course abroad, is a firm supporter of the line taken by Messrs Pym and Whitelaw.

You also have reservations about the Richmond Terrace site. You will therefore want to use the meeting to explore with Mr. Heseltine how he, perhaps with assistance from other Ministers, can get himself out of this particular blind alley.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'MJD', is located in the lower right quadrant of the page.

30 July 1980

1.

PRIME MINISTER

I attach exchanges of correspondence between Messrs. Pym, Whitelaw and Heseltine about the Holocaust Memorial.

I mentioned this argument to you when we were looking at sites for Mountbatten. I think you were sympathetic to Mr. Pym's objections to siting this right outside the Ministry of Defence. You will see from Mr. Heseltine's letter that he would now like to have a word with you about this. Although this is a relatively small issue, I really think that you have to see all or none of those with a leading interest. Would you like to suggest that the three Ministers primarily concerned have a word with you after Cabinet next Thursday?

Yes not

MAD

25 July 1980



2 MARSHAM STREET
LONDON SW1P 3EB

My ref:

Your ref:

24 July 1980.

Dear Mike

You will have seen copies of the Secretary of State for Defence's letter of 24 June and the Home Secretary's letter of 1 July about the proposal to erect a memorial to commemorate the Nazi Holocaust. As you will have gathered, these letters follow consultations initiated by my Secretary of State on the proposal and I enclose a copy of his original letter seeking colleagues' views.

As you will doubtless appreciate, the response from Ministerial colleagues raises difficult questions about the likely public impact of any proposal now to relocate the memorial elsewhere. My Secretary of State has therefore had discussions with both the Foreign Secretary and the Secretary of State for Defence. Lord Carrington is now prepared to agree to the project on the site proposed, provided that it does indeed commemorate the victims of the Nazi Holocaust and that it does not bear references to Dresden, Warsaw and Hiroshima (see Mr Pym's letter of 24 June). But Mr Pym's objections are more sustained in that he is both doubtful about the appropriateness of having the memorial at all and is also strongly opposed to its location in front of Richmond Terrace for reasons which are essentially the concern of the Ministry of Defence.

Notwithstanding these objections, my Secretary of State has on record a very strong public commitment to this site for the Holocaust memorial; and the Jewish Community would undoubtedly be extremely offended if we were to go back on it now. Moreover, while my Secretary of State well understands the concern expressed by Ministerial colleagues about the memorial, the Prime Minister will no doubt wish to be aware that there has in fact been no adverse public reaction at all to the proposal.

In these circumstances, my Secretary of State would welcome the opportunity of having a brief word with the Prime Minister about this whole issue.

Yours sincerely
Jett Jacobs

J JACOBS
Private Secretary

M. Pattison Esq

CONFIDENTIAL

Royal Family

✓ MAF



QUEEN ANNE'S GATE LONDON SW1H 9AT

1 July 1980

MEMORIAL TO HOLOCAUST VICTIMS

You sent me a copy of your letter of 24th June to Michael Heseltine about the proposed memorial in London to the victims of the Nazi holocaust.

I must say that, like you, I have strong reservations about the erection in Whitehall of such a memorial. I am responsible for the arrangements at the Cenotaph on Remembrance Sunday and I share your disquiet about the possibility of such a memorial becoming a focus for disorders, perhaps even during the Cenotaph service. I am also puzzled about the purpose of the memorial. If it is indeed to commemorate victims of Nazism it seems quite inappropriate to mention Dresden and Hiroshima.

My Department has also had responsibility for collecting ideas about a possible memorial to Lord Mountbatten. It appeared that a statue to him was the type of memorial that had most support. I agree with you that the Richmond Terrace site might well be appropriate for this.

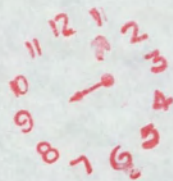
I am sending copies of this letter to the Prime Minister, Peter Carrington and Michael Heseltine.

WW

CONFIDENTIAL

The Rt. Hon. Francis Pym, M.C., D.L., M.P.

2 - JUL 1980





Subject filed at Royal Family
Sept 79: Memorial to Lord Mountbatten

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2HB

TELEPHONE 01-218 9000
DIRECT DIALLING 01-218 2111/3

MO 27/5/1

24th June 1980

Dear Michael,

MEMORIAL TO HOLOCAUST VICTIMS

I was most grateful to you for explaining more fully in our recent talk the background to the proposal for a memorial in London to the victims of the Nazi holocaust which you described in your letter of 24th April. While, however, I recognise your commitment to the Board of Deputies of British Jews, and that it could be difficult to go back upon your support for the memorial, I think that I must repeat that I see serious objection to the selection of the north face of Richmond Terrace as a site.

I would not wish to place too much weight on the possibility that the memorial might become a focus for National Front or anti-Nazi demonstrations, although it cannot be ruled out. More important is that it would be rather a strange newcomer to a part of London where the existing memorials - whether one thinks of the Cenotaph itself or of the military leaders commemorated in Whitehall or around the Ministry of Defence Main Building - relate very much to the British national tradition and to our own victories and sorrows.

Indeed I am afraid that I am still not entirely clear what is the object of the proposed memorial. I had understood initially that it was to commemorate the victims of the Nazi holocaust; but in the sketch which you showed me the only three words legible along the front of the monument are Dresden, Warsaw, and Hiroshima. It is a legitimate subject for debate whether the monument should refer by implication to the victims of Allied bombing, but it is one which certainly

The Rt Hon Michael Heseltine MP



needs to be discussed. And, more immediately, I am concerned that the evocative names of Hiroshima on a memorial facing my Ministry would gratuitously provide ammunition for the anti-nuclear lobby who are showing signs of renewed activity in the context of our decision on GLCM basing and may be expected to be very much more active if we announce a decision on a strategic nuclear successor system.

The memorial to the victims of the holocaust is of course not the only one about which we have to think at present; there is also the prospective memorial to Lord Mountbatten. As I reflect upon this I am increasingly attracted to the thought that a statue of Lord Mountbatten outside Richmond Terrace would both fit in admirably with the other memorials in the neighbourhood and commemorate his own association with Richmond Terrace when he was Chief of Combined Operations in wartime. I should like to urge you to consider carefully whether this might not be the most appropriate solution for Richmond Terrace, even although it would mean asking the Board of Deputies to consider an alternative site for the holocaust memorial. Should we have another talk?

I am copying this letter to the Prime Minister in view of my reference to a Mountbatten memorial; and also to Willie Whitelaw and Peter Carrington.

Francis Pym

2 MARSHAM STREET
LONDON SW1P 3EB

My ref:

Your ref:

24 April 1980

J. P. K.

LONDON MEMORIAL TO HOLOCAUST VICTIMS

The Board of Deputies of British Jews are seeking to erect a memorial to those of all faiths who died in the Nazi Holocaust, a project that has the support of the Council of Christians and Jews. I have had discussions with the President of the Board of Deputies, Greville Janner, and officials have met other representatives. The site favoured by the Board is in front of the north face of Richmond Terrace. Their representatives are conscious that any memorial there must be restrained in design to avoid any visual clash with the Cenotaph and have in mind a landscaped area on grass, with possibly one or two trees, on which a memorial in the form of a few pieces of stone would stand. No firm decisions have been taken on the design, which would eventually have to be approved by the Royal Fine Arts Commission and the local authority.

Present plans envisage that the new office accommodation provided under the first phase of the Richmond Terrace redevelopment scheme would be occupied by officials of your Department. I therefore feel that before I agree to a site in front of the building being used for this memorial I should seek your views. I should also of course be grateful for your comments on any wider political or diplomatic implications that the proposal might have.

I am also writing to Francis Pym.

yes

MHE

MICHAEL HESELTINE



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24 JUL 1980