Margaret Thatcher and the Middle East

*Margaret Thatcher and the Middle East* examines Thatcher’s policy on the Middle East, with a spotlight on her approach towards the Israeli–Palestinian conflict. It questions claims that she sought to counter the Foreign Office Middle East policy, and maintains that the prime minister was actually in close agreement with the Whitehall bureaucracy on the Arab–Israeli conflict. In particular, the volume argues that Thatcher’s concerns over Soviet ambitions in the Middle East encouraged her to oppose the policies of Israel’s Likud governments, and to work actively for an urgent resolution of the conflict. Furthermore, while Thatcher was strongly pro-American, this was not translated into automatic support for Israel. Indeed, the Thatcher government was very much at odds with the Reagan administration over the Middle East, as a result of Washington’s neglect of the forces of moderation in the region.

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Margaret Thatcher and the Middle East

AZRIEL BERMANT
For my father Chaim Bermant 1929–1998

and

my sister Evie Bermant 1966–2001
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Acknowledgements

I would like to thank the Hebrew and Jewish Studies Department at UCL for its support while I pursued my doctorate upon which this book is based, and to thank my principal supervisor, Dr Neill Lochery, for giving me the opportunity to take up the doctorate. I am grateful to the late Professor John Klier who provided encouragement and reassurance at an early stage of my research and, particularly, Professor Ada Rapoport-Albert, the former head of the department. A special debt of gratitude is owed to Professor Michael Berkowitz, my second supervisor, who has provided invaluable advice and support both during the writing of my PhD and through the process of turning it into the book. Appreciation is also due to my doctoral examiners Professor Efraim Karsh and Dr James Renton for their insights and observations and, in particular, to Dr Renton for reviewing the first section of the manuscript, and for his suggestions at the outset of my work. I am grateful to the anonymous reviewers who read and commented on my manuscript. I have very much valued the knowledge and insights of Peter Halban on the publication process and the helpful advice of Professor Colin Shindler at the various stages of my research and writing.

At this point, I must mention Andrew Riley and Christopher Collins who have both provided assistance and advice. Andrew, the archivist of the Thatcher papers at Churchill College, was very helpful when I first began studying the Thatcher papers as a doctoral student. Since then, as well as providing assistance with a number of the illustrations that are featured in this work, he has provided counsel and guidance on a number of questions. I am also indebted to Christopher Collins, the founder and editor of www.margaretthatcher.org, the Margaret Thatcher Foundation website.
Acknowledgements

Christopher has provided support in accessing documents, and I cannot overstate the value of the Margaret Thatcher Foundation website as a resource for the study of Mrs Thatcher’s speeches, letters and conversations. The writing and research for this book has certainly benefited as a result.

My thanks are due to Sir Trevor Chinn for his financial support and to the Ian Karten Charitable Trust through which I was fortunate to obtain a scholarship during my doctoral research. I would also like to thank our dear friends, Andrew and Veronique Berman and family for their kind support. I am grateful to Edward Roman and Norman Leinster at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office for their readiness to accommodate my requests while I conducted my PhD research, and Helena Vilensky at the Israel State Archive for her kind dedication and assistance. In addition, I am grateful for the help given by Stuart Polak at Conservative Friends of Israel and Lisa Jones at the Reagan Presidential Library.

Also, I want to thank Amos Yadlin at the Institute for National Security Studies and Eliav Benjamin at Israel’s Foreign Ministry for their assistance, as well as Professor Geoffrey Alderman for his helpful suggestions when I first started out on my doctoral research. My appreciation is owed to those many people who gave up their time to be interviewed or who provided informal advice.

I had the privilege to be able to interview many former officials and statesmen as part of my research. These interviews are quoted in the notes and are mentioned in my bibliography, with the exception of interviewees who asked to remain anonymous. In particular, though, I would like to express my gratitude to Charles Powell (Lord Powell of Bayswater) who has been particularly helpful with his insights and recollections, Douglas Hurd (Lord Hurd of Westwell) who kindly shared some excerpts from his diary and the late Yehuda Avner who sadly passed away in March 2015. As Israel’s ambassador in London between 1983 and 1988, Avner was uniquely positioned to comment on the complexities of Anglo-Israeli relations, and I was glad to have the opportunity to meet with him on several occasions to hear his perspectives on this fascinating topic.

Finally, I would like to express my gratitude to Lewis Bateman, senior editor at Cambridge University Press, for his encouragement and support in bringing my book to publication. In addition, Claudia Bona-Cohen has been on hand to answer my many enquiries, and David Mackenzie has guided my book through the various stages.

On a personal note, my mother Judy gave me her material and practical support throughout my research, and here, I must also mention my late father Chaim: as well as an author, he was the leading authority on
Anglo-Jewry, and an outspoken commentator on Israel and the Jewish world. As a teenager, I recall that he covered the visit of Margaret Thatcher to Israel in 1986 (a visit that is covered in Chapter 8 of the book). He has been an inspiration to me throughout my work. I also want to mention my late sister Evie: a talented writer (and a perfectionist), I have no doubt that she would have had her criticisms, but I am certain that both my father and Evie would have been happy with the end result. I would also like to thank my sister Aliza and my brother Danny.

Above all, I owe a big debt to my wife Zoe for her patience and devotion, both during my doctorate and also during the writing of this book. I could not have completed this project without her. This book is dedicated to Zoe, Jonah Chaim and Evie Abigail Rachel Bermant.