



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

The Rt Hon Boris Johnson MP
Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs
Foreign & Commonwealth Office
King Charles Street
London
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8th December 2017

Dear Foreign Secretary

President Trump's decision to recognise Jerusalem as the capital of Israel

We are writing to express our grave concern regarding US President Donald Trump's decision to recognise Jerusalem as the capital of Israel and his intention to move the US embassy to the city. We ask you to ensure UK leadership in the pursuit and facilitation of a just and sustainable peace between Israel and Palestine with Jerusalem as a shared capital of both states.

Decades of international consensus and UK Government policy maintain that the final status of Jerusalem must be determined by negotiations between Palestinians and Israelis as equal partners. International law has also affirmed the illegality and non-recognition of Israel's annexation of occupied East Jerusalem. We believe that President Trump's unilateral actions not only risk pre-empting any future discussion or agreement on the final status of the city and any peace deal, but that they also significantly jeopardise existing consensus on and progress towards a two-state solution. All this at a time when international efforts should be focussed on reducing tension and upholding existing agreements, resolutions and international law.

We were glad to see the Prime Minister's restatement of the UK's long-held position on the status of Jerusalem and commitment to the two-state solution, as we are with the many similar statements from national leaders and eminent statespersons, including UN Secretary-General António Guterres. This continuing consensus demonstrates that opportunities still exist to pursue the path of peace. However, we are fast approaching two years since the UN Middle East Quartet reported that "continuing on the current course will make this prospect [of a two-state solution] increasingly remote". The current circumstances make those warnings even more urgent.

In July, Minister Alistair Burt stated that the UK was "[looking] forward to working with President Trump and his advisers for a peace deal that meets the requirement of both



parties." You have also recently spoken of your hope that the US will lead progress on the Middle East Peace Process. This week's events have undermined those hopes as well as the ability of the US to act credibly and reliably as an intermediary and honest broker to facilitate fair negotiations and any potential resolution. Continuing to 'wait and see' how US policy unfolds under the Trump administration is no longer a credible approach to the region and will only lead to further deterioration and instability.

The UK continues to hold both an historic responsibility toward the region, and the necessary political influence to take leadership in the pursuit of peace. We therefore ask you to redouble the UK's efforts in the pursuit of peace through our bilateral relations with Israel and Palestine, as well as multilateral engagement with the broadest possible cohort of partners. In our deeds as well as in words, the UK must demonstrate that respect for international law and a commitment to equal rights for both Palestinians and Israelis must be cornerstones of a new UK proactivity and leadership to achieve peace. As part of that, we believe it is in the best interests of pursuing peace, for the UK to now recognise the State of Palestine, in line with the decision of the House of Commons as expressed on 13th October 2014.

Yours sincerely,

Richard Burden MP

Chair, Britain-Palestine All-Party Parliamentary Group

Lord Ahmed
Lord Alderdice
Heidi Alexander MP
Rushanara Ali MP
Jonathan Ashworth MP
Clive Betts MP
Baroness Blackstone
Paul Blomfield MP
Crispin Blunt MP
Ben Bradshaw MP
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