



Foreign &
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Department
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Clive Sheldon QC, Chair of Trustees
Adam Ognall, Chief Executive
New Israel Fund
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Dear Mr Sheldon and Mr Ognall

Thank you for your letter of 18 May, about Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPTs).


As we made clear at the UN Security Council remote meeting on the Middle East Peace Process on 20 May, we are concerned by reports that the new Israeli Government coalition has reached an agreement which may pave the way for annexation of parts of the West Bank. The UK position is clear: any unilateral moves toward annexation of parts of the West Bank by Israel would be damaging to renewed efforts to restart peace negotiations, and contrary to international law. The Prime Minister also reiterated our opposition to the unilateral annexation of territory during a call with Israeli Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, on 6 February.

Ultimately, we support a negotiated settlement leading to a safe and secure Israel living alongside a viable and sovereign Palestinian state; based on 1967 borders with agreed land swaps, Jerusalem as the shared capital of both states, and a just, fair, agreed and realistic settlement for refugees.

We continue to work closely with international partners strongly advocating a two-state solution and encouraging a return to meaningful negotiations between both parties.

We firmly believe a just and lasting resolution that ends the occupation and delivers peace for both Israelis and Palestinians is long overdue. We will continue to press

Israel and the Palestinians strongly on the need to refrain from taking actions which make peace more difficult.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of two distinct parts. The first part is a stylized, cursive 'J' followed by a few loops. The second part is a larger, more complex cursive flourish that ends in a large, rounded loop.

The Rt Hon. James Cleverly MP
Minister of State for the Middle East and North Africa