



Foreign &
Commonwealth
Office

King Charles Street
London, SW1A 2AH

Secretary of State

13 August 2020

Your reference: ZA58464

Our reference: MC2020/14927

Rt Hon Priti Patel MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

Dear Priti,

Thank you for your correspondence of 17 July, on behalf of your constituent, Mr Colin South of (deleted home address- GDPR), about Israeli and Palestinian land disputes.

As we made clear at the UN Security Council remote meeting on the Middle East Peace Process on 24 June, 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. I reiterated our position in a call with Alternate Israeli Prime Minister Gantz on 20 May and Israeli Foreign Minister Ashkenazi on 2 June. The Prime Minister also reiterated our opposition to the unilateral annexation of territory during a call with Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu on 6 July.

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. The best way to make progress towards peace is through bilateral negotiations which take account of the legitimate concerns of both sides.

The UK continues to 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, with Jerusalem as the shared capital of both states, and a just, fair, agreed and realistic settlement for refugees.

THE RT HON DOMINIC RAAB MP