

DOCUMENTS AND SOURCE MATERIAL

INTERNATIONAL

A1. EUROPEAN MEMBERS OF UN SECURITY COUNCIL, JOINT STATEMENT ON JERUSALEM, NEW YORK, 20 DECEMBER 2011

After a closed-door consultation and informational briefing on 20 December, the Nonaligned Movement, the Arab group, the group of emerging powers including India, Brazil, and South Africa, and the European Union members of the UN Security Council delivered separate statements condemning the lack of progress toward resolving the Israel-Palestine conflict. The move, described by Russian UN Ambassador and Security Council President Vitaly Churkin as "historic," was widely seen as a rebuke of U.S. Middle East policy by 14 members of the council (all except the United States). Below is the EU delegation joint statement read by the British Ambassador to the UN Mark Lyall Grant, obtained from the UK mission to the UN website (<http://ukun.fco.gov.uk/en/news/?view=PressS&id=708021082>).

"We have just heard a briefing from Mr Fernandez-Taranco about the situation in Israel and the Occupied Palestinian territories. One of the themes that emerged was the severely damaging effect that increased settlement construction and settler violence is having on the ground and on the prospects of a return to negotiations. The UK, France, Germany, and Portugal are dismayed by these wholly negative developments.

Israel's continuing announcements to accelerate the construction of settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territories, including East Jerusalem, send a devastating message. We call on the Israeli government to reverse these steps. The viability of the Palestinian state that we want to see and the two-state solution that is essential for Israel's long-term security are threatened by the systematic and deliberate expansion of settlements. Settlements are illegal under international law and represent a serious blow to the Quartet's efforts to restart peace negotiations. All

settlement activity, including in East Jerusalem, must cease immediately.

We condemn the disturbing escalation of violence by settlers including the burning of the Nebi Akasha mosque in West Jerusalem and the Burqa mosque in the West Bank. It is clear that these deliberately provocative attacks on places of worship were designed to aggravate tensions. We welcome the condemnation of these attacks by Israeli leaders, and call on the Israeli government to fulfill its commitment to bring the perpetrators to justice and to put an end to impunity. The package of measures announced by Prime Minister Netanyahu in response to settler violence goes in the right direction. We look forward to seeing the results of these measures, and to seeing those behind the violence punished to the full extent of the law.

A bold demonstration of political will and leadership is needed from both sides to break the current impasse. We call the parties to present as soon as possible to the Quartet comprehensive proposals on territory and security, following its statement of September 23rd. We look to both parties to return to negotiations as soon as possible. We remain ready to contribute to achieving the goal of successful negotiations.

We continue to be seriously concerned about the current stalemate in the Middle East peace process. Our primary goal remains a just and lasting resolution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. We are committed to working to turn this ambition into reality: the creation of a sovereign, independent, democratic, contiguous, and viable Palestinian State living in peace and security side by side with Israel.

For those negotiations to be successful, they will need to achieve four things:

- An agreement on the borders of the two states, based on 4 June 1967 lines with equivalent land swaps agreed between the parties.
- Second, security arrangements that respect Palestinian sovereignty and show that the occupation is over, and that protect Israeli security,

preventing the resurgence of terrorism and dealing effectively with new and emerging threats.

- Third, a just, fair, and agreed solution to the refugee question.
- And fourth, fulfillment of the aspirations of both parties for Jerusalem. Through negotiations, the status of Jerusalem as the future capital of both states must be resolved.

We believe that Israel's security and the realization of the Palestinians' right to statehood are not opposing goals. On the contrary they are mutually reinforcing objectives. But they will not be achieved while settlement building and settler violence continues."