

Executive Council of Australian Jewry Inc.

הוועד הפועל של
יהודי אוסטרליה

The Representative Organisation of Australian Jewry

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Senator Kerry Nettle
Senator for New South Wales
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

21 June 2007

Dear Senator Nettle

The Australian Jewish community has asked that I write to you consequent to your moving in Parliament on 18 June, 2007:

“That the Senate-

- (a) notes that 10 June 2007 marks 40 years since the Israeli occupation of the West Bank, Gaza Strip and Golan Heights; and
- (b) calls on the Australian Government to:
 - (i) take action to ensure that Israel complies with United Nations Security Council Resolution 242 passed unanimously in 1967 that calls for a ‘withdrawal of Israel armed forces from territories occupied in the recent conflict’,
 - (ii) ensure that humanitarian relief is provided to those who need it, particularly the children in Palestine,
 - (iii) stop providing arms to Israel, and
 - (iv) play a constructive role to ensure that peace and justice can be achieved in Palestine, Israel and the Middle East.”

Our community was concerned to note that you quoted only part of Resolution 242, omitting the following (in italics):

1. Affirms that the fulfilment of Charter principles requires the establishment of a just and lasting peace in the Middle East which should include the application of both the following principles:

(i) Withdrawal of Israeli armed forces from territories occupied in the recent conflict;

(ii) *Termination of all claims or states of belligerency and respect for and acknowledgement of the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of every State in the area and their right to live in peace within secure and recognized boundaries free from threats or acts of force;*

The Australian Jewish community is committed – as are the governments of Israel and Australia – to a ‘land for peace’ resolution of this longstanding dispute. You would be aware of Israel’s withdrawal from Gaza in late 2005 which resulted not in peace, but in immediate rocket attacks at Israel’s citizens and territory which have continued to today. Our community also believes that if the entirety of 242 were accepted by all parties, the remainder of your resolutions would be redundant.

In light of your curious omission of 242 1(ii), the Australian Jewish community asks whether this means that you do not support Israel’s “*right to live in peace within secure and recognized boundaries free from threats or acts of force*”. Secondly, is this the official position of the Australian Greens?

I look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anton Block', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Anton Block
Acting President

Cc: Senator Bob Brown