



Executive Council of Australian Jewry Inc.

“President Obama’s speech to AIPAC on May 22 provided some important clarifications of his announcement three days earlier. We welcome his acknowledgement that the final border in the West Bank will have to be negotiated between Israel and a future Palestinian state rather than imposed, and will differ from the pre-1967 armistice line so as to account for the changes that have taken place over the last 44 years, including the new demographic realities on the ground and the needs of both sides.

It was significant that Obama called upon the Palestinians, including Hamas, to recognize Israel as a Jewish state and the homeland of the Jewish people. This implies rejection of the so-called right of return of the 1948 Palestinian refugees and their descendants, although it would have been preferable for this, like the border issue, to be dealt with expressly.

Most welcome was the President’s assurance that the United States will stand against efforts to single Israel out at the United Nations or in any international forum, that Israel’s existence is not a matter for debate and that America’s commitment to the security of Israel is ironclad and unwavering.”

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