



MEDIA STATEMENT

16 October 2018

Prime Minister Morrison's statements on Jerusalem, JCPOA, UN

The Executive Council of Australian Jewry, the peak representative body of the Australian Jewish community, warmly welcomes the announcements by Prime Minister Morrison regarding the status of Jerusalem, the Iran Deal and the Palestinian bid to chair a United Nations group, the G77.

It has long been the position of the ECAJ that Australia should recognise Jerusalem as the capital of Israel and consider relocating the Australian embassy, currently in Tel Aviv, to the government precinct in west Jerusalem. Every State has the right to determine where within its sovereign territory its capital should be located. Jerusalem was the capital of the Jewish state 3,000 years ago and it remains so today. Recognising this simple fact would in no way preclude a future agreement between Israel and the Palestinians and we welcome the Prime Minister's affirmation of support for a two-state solution to the conflict.

The ECAJ also supported the decision of the Trump Administration to withdraw from the JCPOA ("Iran Deal"), which did nothing to curb Iran's aggression or regional designs. We favour the imposition of sanctions on the Iranian regime until such time as a comprehensive deal can be agreed that prevents Iran from acting as the world's foremost sponsor of terrorism, and fuelling devastating conflict in Syria, Yemen, and well beyond the Middle East.

We also support the decision of the government to oppose the Palestinian bid to chair the United Nations group, the G77. For decades, the Palestinians have manipulated international bodies, not least the UN, to advance their agenda of seeking to isolate and delegitimise the State of Israel. The result has been to permanently mire the UN in the conflict, at the expense of its credibility, while also limiting its ability to support genuinely oppressed peoples throughout the world. We have seen outrageous resolutions from "Zionism is racism" to denials of the Jewishness of the Western Wall in Jerusalem. The Palestinians must not be rewarded for this and must instead be shown that the path to peace lies only through honest negotiations with Israel.

We thank the Prime Minister on behalf of the community we represent for his moral clarity on these issues.

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