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Summary

Trump's recognition of Jerusalem as Israel's capital and plans for Embassy relocation hailed by Israeli politicians as both historic and inevitable. Netanyahu leads tributes, and calls on others to follow the US lead. Israel increases its security presence in the OPTs in expectation of Palestinian unrest. [Redacted]

1. Trump's recognition of Jerusalem as the capital of Israel and instructions to move the US Embassy have been met with widespread praise and gratitude from Israeli leaders.
2. PM Netanyahu hailed Trump's "courageous and just decision". This reflected the US President's commitment to an "ancient but enduring truth, to fulfilling his promises and to advancing peace". President Rivlin added that recognition of Jerusalem was a "fitting and beautiful gift" as Israel approached the 70th anniversary of its independence.
3. Leading members of the governing coalition also praised the decision. Education Minister Bennett (Jewish Home) commended Trump for resisting domestic and international pressure. Justice Minister Shaked (Jewish Home) declared that the rules of the game had changed, and warned Palestinian leaders "not to test Israel's patience with terror threats".
4. Most of Israel's opposition parties also welcomed the announcement, with Leader of the Opposition Herzog (Zionist Union) labelling it a "historic rectification". Yesh Atid Chairman Lapid called any questioning of the decision "absurd". Former Foreign Minister Livni encouraged the Government to "pick up the gauntlet thrown down by the US President and produce a political horizon, with support for the principle of two states as a basis for negotiations".
5. Israel's Arab community reacted with disappointment. Head of the Joint List Odeh said he wished Trump had recognised West Jerusalem as Israel's capital, alongside East Jerusalem as the capital of Palestine. Trump was a "pyromaniac who could ignite the whole region".
6. Netanyahu is now focussing his energies on encouraging other countries to follow the American example, arguing that "there is no peace that does not include Jerusalem as the capital of the state of Israel". This morning he claimed to be in contact with partners looking to issue "a similar recognition". Officials told the media they expected the Czech Republic (following its overnight recognition of West Jerusalem) and the Philippines to be first in line.
7. Israeli security forces have moved to high alert and reinforced police and military presence in the OPTs following Palestinian declarations of 'days of rage', strikes, closures, and in the case of Hamas, a new intifada. There have been some clashes between Palestinian protesters and Israeli forces today.
8. Marking Israeli concern that the Temple Mount/Haram al-Sharif could again be a flashpoint, both Netanyahu and Defence Minister Lieberman stressed that the status quo remained unchanged and freedom of worship would be preserved. [Redacted]
9. [Redacted]

COMMENT

10. [Redacted]

11. *[Redacted]*

12. *[Redacted]*

QUARREY

Authorised
David Quarrey | HMA | *[Redacted]*

Contact
[Redacted]

Action
[Redacted]

Email chain, “For Comment Draft FS Statement on Jerusalem”

From: *British Embassy Tel Aviv*

Sent: 06 December 2017 15:47

To: David Quarrey; [Redacted]

Cc: [Redacted]

Subject: FW: For Comment Draft FS Statement on Jerusalem

FI – Jerusalem statement now going from No10, but final version held until after we’ve seen the speech.

[Redacted]

From: *Near East Department*

Sent: 06 December 2017 17:43

To: *British Embassy Tel Aviv*

Subject: FW: For Comment Draft FS Statement on Jerusalem

[Redacted] We’re arranging for a FS tweet to link to PM statement.

From: *Number 10*

Sent: 06 December 2017 14:19

To: [Redacted]; David Quarrey; [Redacted]; Philip Hall; [Redacted]; Karen Pierce; [Redacted]

Cc: Martin Longden; [Redacted]; Neil Crompton;

Subject: RE: For Comment Draft FS Statement on Jerusalem

[Redacted]

“Our position on the status of Jerusalem is clear and long-standing: it should be determined in a negotiated settlement between the Israelis and the Palestinians, and Jerusalem should ultimately form a shared capital between the Israeli and Palestinian states.”

[Redacted] To have the best chances of success, the peace process must be conducted in an atmosphere free from violence. We call on all parties to work together to ensure calm.”

[Redacted]

Attachment: UK Statement on Jerusalem v2_TA comments**FS Statement on Jerusalem UK Statement on Jerusalem v2_TA comments***[Redacted]*

In line with relevant Security Council Resolutions, we regard East Jerusalem as part of the Occupied Palestinian Territories. *[Redacted]*

We share President Trump's desire to bring an end to this conflict. We welcome *[Redacted]* today to a two state solution negotiated between the parties, and that the final status of Jerusalem *[Redacted]*

We encourage the US Administration to *[Redacted]* now, *[Redacted]*, detailed proposals for an Israel-Palestinian settlement, *[Redacted]*. To have the best chances of success, the peace process must be conducted in an atmosphere free from violence. We call on all parties to work together to maintain calm.

From: *Near East Department***Sent:** 06 December 2017 13:45**To:** *[Redacted]*; David Quarrey; *[Redacted]* Phillip Hall *[Redacted]* Karen Pierce**Cc:** Martin Longden; *[Redacted]*; Neil Crompton; *[Redacted]*; *[Redacted]***Subject:** RE: For Comment Draft FS Statement on Jerusalem

All

Thanks for the quick comments on this. Latest draft attached consolidating comments from Jerusalem, Tel Aviv and FCO press office. Copying more widely to No 10 and Cabinet Office for further views.

Thanks

*[Redacted]***From:** *British Consulate General Jerusalem***Sent:** 06 December 2017 13:26**To:** *[Redacted]* David Quarrey *[Redacted]* Philip Hall *[Redacted]* Karen Pierce *[Redacted]***Cc:** Martin Longden; *[Redacted]* Neil Crompton**Subject:** RE: For Comment Draft FS Statement on Jerusalem

Quick comments from Jerusalem (having seen *[Redacted]* good simplification):

- *[Redacted]*

Thanks,

*[Redacted]***From:** *Near East Department***Sent:** 06 December 2017 15:02**To:** David Quarrey; *[Redacted]*; Philip Hall; *[Redacted]*; Karen Pierce *[Redacted]***Cc:** Martin Longden; *[Redacted]* Neil Crompton**Subject:** For Comment Draft FS Statement on Jerusalem**Importance:** High

Hi All

Please see attached draft FS statement on Jerusalem. Grateful for comments ASAP.

Many Thanks

[Redacted]

Email chain, "Statement"

From: Martin Longden
Sent: 06 December 2017 12:47
To: *Near East Department*
Cc: *[Redacted]* Neil Crompton
Subject: RE: Statement
Importance: High

Some further amendments, *[Redacted]*

Martin

[Redacted]

From: Martin Longden
Sent: 06 December 2017 12:12
To: *Near East Department*
Cc: *[Redacted]* Neil Crompton
Subject: FW: Statement
Importance: High

Thanks *[Redacted]*. I've played with this just a bit.
[Redacted]

Do you want to take a look and, if we're all happy, then circulate for comment – including to seniors and *[Redacted]* at No 10.

Martin

[Redacted]

From: *Near East Department*
Sent: 06 December 2017 11:29
To: *[Redacted]* Martin Longden
Subject: RE: Jerusalem: demarche by USUN & request that we amplify US messaging

So this is my first stab at a statement drafted as if for the FS to deliver *[Redacted]*

[Redacted]

From: *Cabinet Office*
Sent: 06 December 2017 09:08
To: *Near East Department*
Cc: *[Redacted]*
Subject: FW: Jerusalem: demarche by USUN & request that we amplify US messaging

[Redacted] - to see in case not yet made its way to you

[Redacted]

Email chain, "Developments on Jerusalem"

From: [Redacted]
Sent: 06 December 2017 13:17
To: [Redacted]
Cc: [Redacted]
Subject: Re: Developments on Jerusalem

[Redacted]

On 6 Dec 2017, at 12:44, [Redacted] wrote:

[Redacted]

'JERUSALEM ISSUE WON'T BE SOLVED BY IGNORING THE TRUTH'

Trump to recognize Jerusalem as capital, plan embassy move, White House confirms
Officials say transferring mission from Tel Aviv could take years, so president will sign waiver to avoid penalty; may back 2-state solution if both sides agree

By **ERIC CORTELLESA** Today, 4:00 am 5

WASHINGTON — US President Donald Trump will announce in a speech on Wednesday that he is formally recognizing Jerusalem as Israel's capital, while asking the State Department to formulate a plan for moving the US embassy there from Tel Aviv, White House officials confirmed Tuesday evening.

The recognition of Jerusalem, widely expected to anger the Arab world and cast a shadow over US-led peace efforts, will also be accompanied by Trump committing to support a two-state solution should both Israel and the Palestinians back it, the officials said, in a likely bid by the administration to balance the announcement seen as heavily favoring Israel.

"On December 6, 2017, President Trump will recognize that Jerusalem is the capital of Israel," one official said, confirming a series of reports on Trump's planned speech from the White House, slated for 1 p.m. Wednesday (8 p.m. in Israel). The officials spoke on the condition of anonymity.

The White House repeatedly referred to the recognition and embassy move, which will likely take years, as "acknowledging a reality," noting the city's role as the seat of Israel's government but disregarding Palestinian claims there.

"He views this as a recognition of reality, both historic reality and modern reality," one official said.

“While President Trump recognizes that the status of Jerusalem is a highly sensitive issue, he does not think it will be resolved by ignoring the truth that Jerusalem is home to Israel’s legislature, it’s Supreme Court, the Prime Minister’s residence, and as such, it is the capital of Israel,” one of the officials said.

The announcement will mark a major milestone for Israeli efforts to gain international legitimacy for their claim on Jerusalem. Israel calls Jerusalem its undivided capital, but the international community has refrained from recognizing it as such pending final status negotiations with the Palestinians, who claim the eastern half of the city as their own seat of power.

Trump’s recognition of Jerusalem as Israel’s capital could be viewed as America discarding its longstanding neutrality and siding with Israel at a time that the president’s son-in-law, Jared Kushner, has been trying to midwife a new peace process into existence. Trump, too, has spoken of his desire for a “deal of the century” that would end the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

US officials, along with an outside adviser to the administration, said they expected a broad statement from Trump about Jerusalem’s status as the “capital of Israel.” The president isn’t planning to use the phrase “undivided capital,” according to the officials.

The officials added that Trump “recognizes that the specific boundaries of Israeli sovereignty in Jerusalem are subject to final-status negotiations for such an agreement.”

They also added that this action does not change the “status quo of the Temple Mount/Haram al-Sharif.”

New embassy to be built in Jerusalem

Two days after the president missed a deadline to sign a waiver postponing the embassy’s relocation, which is mandated under a 1995 law, Trump will sign that waiver, while officials develop a plan for how, where and when the embassy will be moved.

“The president has instructed the State Department to develop a plan for moving the US embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem with the minimal additional burden on American taxpayers,” one official said.

“There is no facility they can move into in Jerusalem, as of today,” appended another official. “It will take some time to find a site, address security concerns, design the new facility, fund the new facility, and build it so that this is not an instantaneous process.” Trump will not, however, “specify a timetable” for that process, he added.

“It will be a matter of some years, it won’t be months, it’s going to take time,” an official said.

The officials did not specify a location for the facility.

Analysts had previously predicted the US might simply change the name of a consulate building in the Arnona neighborhood of the city straddling the pre-1967 ceasefire line.

The US also has a plot of land on the west side of the Jerusalem ceasefire line near the capital’s Armon Hanatziv neighborhood leased starting in 1989 for the purpose of housing an embassy. However the plot, known as the Allenby Baracks, is controversial due to its disputed ownership. Trump’s signing the waiver, the White House said, is to avoid funds being frozen to the State Department required by a Congressional mandate if the embassy is not relocated.

Under the law, if the waiver is not signed, then at the beginning of the next fiscal year, 50 percent of the funds earmarked to the State Department specifically for “Acquisition and Maintenance of Buildings Abroad” would be withheld until the United States Embassy in Jerusalem had officially opened.

“The president will sign the waiver in order to avoid fairly significant cuts to the State Department’s funding that the law requires,” one official said.

Trump, as a presidential candidate, repeatedly promised to move the US embassy. However, US leaders have routinely and unceremoniously delayed such a move since President Bill Clinton signed a law in 1995 stipulating that the United States must relocate its diplomatic presence to Jerusalem unless the commander in chief issues a waiver on national security grounds.

In the briefing, one administration official said the president believes that not moving the embassy had not resulted in an agreement between the sides, thus justifying the transfer.

“President Trump remains committed to achieving a lasting peace agreement between Israelis and Palestinians and is optimistic that peace can be achieved,” he said. “Delaying the recognition to Jerusalem as the capital of Israel has done nothing to achieve peace for more than two decades.”

‘President committed to peace’

An official said Trump was likely to incorporate language backing a two-state solution into his speech on Wednesday, marking a shift for an administration that has mostly avoided the formulation accepted by the rest of the international community.

“President Trump is prepared to support a two-state solution to the dispute between Israelis and Palestinians, if that’s what’s agreed to by the two parties,” the official said.

It’s not clear if both parties would agree to it. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu declared his support for the two-state solution in a landmark 2011 speech, but has mostly walked back from the idea of Palestinian statehood since Trump took office.

The two-state solution language is likely be meant to soften the blow of the Jerusalem announcement. A senior administration official indicated that the final language was still being formulated and advised against reacting immediately.

“The president will reiterate how committed he is to peace. While we understand how some parties might react, we are still working on our plan which is not yet ready. We have time to get it right and see how people feel after this news is processed over the next period of time,” the official said.

Nonetheless, reports that Trump would recognize Jerusalem as the capital and move the embassy over the last several days have been met with a chorus of condemnation condemnations and warning from world leaders that the move could spark violent protests and mark a major setback for peace efforts.

In calls to Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas and Jordan’s King Abdullah II, Trump delivered what appeared to be identical messages of intent to move the embassy.

Both leaders warned Trump that moving the embassy would threaten Mideast peace efforts and security and stability in the Middle East and the world, according to statements from their offices. The statements didn’t speak to Trump’s plans for recognizing Jerusalem as Israel’s capital.

Any US declaration on Jerusalem's status ahead of a peace deal "would harm peace negotiation process and escalate tension in the region," Saudi Arabia's King Salman told Trump Tuesday, according to a Saudi readout of their telephone conversation. Declaring Jerusalem as Israel's capital, the king said, "would constitute a flagrant provocation to all Muslims, all over the world."

Trump also spoke to Netanyahu and Egyptian President Abdel-Fatah al-Sissi.

The Israeli leader did not release a statement but the White House said in all five calls, Trump "underscored the importance of bilateral cooperation with each partner to advance peace efforts throughout the region" and "also discussed potential decisions regarding Jerusalem."

The mere consideration of Trump changing the status quo sparked a renewed US security warning on Tuesday. America's consulate in Jerusalem ordered US personnel and their families to avoid visiting Jerusalem's Old City or the West Bank, and urged American citizens in general to avoid places with increased police or military presence. Israeli troops were also girding for possible violence, sources said, after Palestinian factions called for a "day of rage" over the announcement.

Morocco's King Mohammed VI, writing as head of the 57-member Organisation of Islamic Cooperation's Al-Quds Committee, also expressed his "deep personal concern" and "the great concern felt by Arab and Muslim states and peoples" over the moves in a letter to Trump Tuesday.

"The current step is likely to negatively impact the prospects of a just and comprehensive solution to the Palestinian-Israeli conflict," the letter said.

The king urged Trump to avoid anything that could "exacerbate feelings of frustration and disappointment, which are the basis of extremism and terrorism."

The dovish Israel lobbying group J Street also blasted Trump's plans as "an unhelpful step with no tangible benefits, only serious risks."

White House spokesperson Sarah Huckabee Sanders said Tuesday that Trump was unlikely to be swayed.

"The president, I would say, is pretty solid in his thinking at this point," she said.

The Associated Press and AFP contributed to this report.

[Redacted]

From: *British Embassy Tel Aviv*
Sent: 06 December 2017 15:41
To: *[Redacted]*
Cc: *[Redacted]*
Subject: Re: Developments on Jerusalem

Quick comment from Boris this morning in case of interest;

Speaking to reporters as he arrived for a Nato summit in Brussels, Mr Johnson made clear that the UK has no intention of following Mr Trump's lead by moving its own embassy from Tel Aviv.

"Let's wait and see what the president says exactly, but we view the reports that we have heard with concern, because we think that Jerusalem obviously should be part of the final settlement between the Israelis and the Palestinians, a negotiated settlement that we want to see," said Mr Johnson.

"We have no plans ourselves to move our embassy."

From: *[Redacted]*
Sent: 06 December 2017 15:41
To: *[Redacted]*
Cc: *[Redacted]*
Subject: Re: Developments on Jerusalem

[Redacted]

Thanks, *[Redacted]* for the transcript: quite interesting on sovereignty, boundaries, etc.

[Redacted]

Email chain, "Jerusalem etc"

From: British Embassy Tel Aviv
Sent: 06 December 2017 07:44
To: David Quarrey; [Redacted]
Subject: Jerusalem etc

All,

FI - these were NED's proposed lines in Monday's Jerusalem note;

Press lines: In-line with our historic position on Jerusalem we recommend:

What is UK position on [rumoured] US recognition of Jerusalem as Israel's capital?

[Top line] [Redacted] A final determination must be sought as part of a negotiated settlement between Israelis and Palestinians, whereby Jerusalem forms a shared capital of the Israeli and Palestinian states.

[Detail] The UK position has remained constant since April 1950, when the UK extended *de jure* recognition to the State of Israel, but withheld recognition of sovereignty over Jerusalem pending a final determination of its status. We recognise Israel's '*de facto* authority' over West Jerusalem. But in line with Security Council Resolution 242 (1967) and subsequent Council resolutions, we regard East Jerusalem as under Israeli military occupation.

What does the UK think about a US Embassy move to Jerusalem?

The UK position is that a final determination of the status of Jerusalem should be sought as part of a negotiated settlement between Israelis and Palestinians. It must ensure Jerusalem is a shared capital of the Israeli and Palestinian states. In line with Security Council Resolution 242, we regard East Jerusalem as under Israeli military occupation.

The British Embassy to Israel is based in Tel Aviv and we have absolutely no plans to move it. The location of the US Embassy is a matter for the US government.

[Redacted]

From: David Quarrey
Sent: 06 December 2017 09:40
To: British Embassy Tel Aviv
Subject: Jerusalem etc

Below is a message from [Redacted] in No10 about the lines they are using and which will be briefed out this morning. [Redacted]

[Redacted]— could you check in with [Redacted] when London opens?

[Redacted]

"These are the lines we are using (which will be briefed out at lobby this morning ahead of PMQs):

[Redacted]

- Our position is clear and long-standing: the status of Jerusalem should be determined in a negotiated settlement between the Israelis and the Palestinians, and Jerusalem should ultimately form a shared capital between the Israeli and Palestinian states.

[Redacted]

David Quarrey *[Redacted]*

'The British Embassy promotes Britain's security, prosperity and well-being, and regional peace, through partnership with Israel'

Email chain, "To review: Jerusalem paper and statement"

From: *British Embassy Tel Aviv*

Sent: 06 December 2017 15:20

To: [Redacted] David Quarrey; Philip Hall; Martin Reynolds [Redacted] Karen Pierce [Redacted] Neil Crompton [Redacted] David Whineray; Jonathan Allen [Redacted] Kim Darroch [Redacted]

Cc: Martin Longden; [Redacted] David Frost; David Blair [Redacted]

Subject:

[Redacted],

Thanks, especially for pulling together so quickly. Some quick suggestions tracked in from Tel Aviv.

[Redacted]

Thanks,

[Redacted]

From: *Near East Department*

Sent: 06 December 2017 14:21

To: David Quarrey [Redacted] Philip Hall [Redacted] Martin Reynolds [Redacted] Karen Pierce [Redacted] Neil Crompton; David Whineray; Jonathan Allen [Redacted] Kim Darroch [Redacted]

Cc: [Redacted]

Subject: RE: To review: Jerusalem paper and statement

Now copying in [Redacted]...as the author!

And please see updated statement containing comments from Tel Aviv.

Please reply to this chain.

From: *Near East Department*

Sent: 06 December 2017 14:14

To: David Quarrey [Redacted] Philip Hall [Redacted] Martin Reynolds; Karen Pierce [Redacted] Neil Crompton [Redacted] David Whineray; [Redacted] Jonathan Allen [Redacted] Kim Darroch [Redacted]

Subject: To review: Jerusalem paper and statement

Colleagues,

Please see the below on behalf of [Redacted].

Email, "US/MEPP: US Recognition of Jerusalem: Initial Israeli reactions"**From:** *British Embassy Tel Aviv***Sent:** 06 December 2017 21:56**To:** *[Redacted] David Quarrey; Neil Crompton [Redacted]***Cc:** *Kim Darroch; Patrick Davies [Redacted] Samantha Job [Redacted] Martin Longden; Martin Reynolds; Ben Gascoigne [Redacted] Karen Pierce (Sensitive); Simon Collis [Redacted] Edward Oakden; John Casson; [Redacted] Chris Rampling; Paul Johnston; [Redacted] Karen Pierce [Redacted] Stephen Hickey; [Redacted] Richard Moore; [Redacted] David Frost; [Redacted] Jonathan Allen; Matthew Rycroft***Subject:** US/MEPP: US Recognition of Jerusalem: Initial Israeli reactions**Trump's announcement greeted with gratitude and euphoria by the Israeli government. Netanyahu leads tributes, and calls on all countries to follow the US lead.**

1. Following Trump's recognition of Jerusalem as the capital of Israel, there has been an immediate outpouring of emotion and gratitude from the Israeli government.
2. PM Netanyahu led the praise of Trump's "historic decision". "We're profoundly grateful to President Trump for his courageous and just decision to recognise Jerusalem as the capital of Israel and prepare for the opening of the US Embassy here." "The Jewish people and the Jewish state will be forever grateful."
3. Netanyahu called on all countries to follow the US example and move their Embassies to Jerusalem. He argued that "there is no peace that does not include Jerusalem as the capital of the state of Israel."
4. Netanyahu's views were echoed across the political spectrum here (with the significant exception of the Arab community, and some in the far left). President Rivlin said that "There is no more fitting or beautiful gift, as we approach 70 years of the State of Israel's independence. Jerusalem is not, and never will be, an obstacle to peace for those who want peace."
5. Leading members of the government coalition have been quick to hail the decision. Finance Minister Kahan (Kulanu) said "Trump said the obvious – united Jerusalem is Israel's capital." Education Minister Bennett said that "it is a shining day for the Jewish people."

Comment

6. We will report further tomorrow but that initial reactions from most of the political spectrum are pretty euphoric.

Best regards,

[Redacted]