

TOM PURSGLOVE MP
CORBY & EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

10th March 2020

Jean Comfrenet,

RE: ISRAEL AND PALESTINE.

Thank you for your recent correspondence in respect of the "Peace Plan" proposed by the United States Administration; your comments upon which I have read with great interest.

The UK supports a negotiated settlement leading to a safe and secure Israel, living alongside a viable and sovereign Palestinian state, based on 1967 borders with agreed land swaps, Jerusalem as the shared capital of both states, and a just, fair, agreed and realistic settlement for refugees.

Ministers consistently call for an immediate end to all actions that undermine the viability of the two-state solution, including terrorism, anti-Semitic incitement, settlement expansion, and the demolition of Palestinian property in the West Bank. Steps to transform the situation in Gaza are also needed.

At this highly sensitive time in the region, there is an urgent need to restart the peace process between Israel and Palestine, and Ministers regularly press both parties to resume direct negotiations towards a two-state solution.

In respect of the Trump Administration's "Peace Plan", after the release of an 'Economic Framework' for peace last year, the Trump Administration published its 'Political Framework' on the 28th January. It provides a "realistic two-state solution". In the introduction it claims:

"This Vision would achieve mutual recognition of Israel as the nation-state of the Jewish people and Palestine as the nation-state of the Palestinian people—each with equal civil rights for all its citizens. The plan designates defensible borders for the State of Israel and does not ask Israel to compromise on the safety of its people, affording them overriding security responsibility for land west of the Jordan River. For Palestinians, the Vision delivers significant territorial expansion, allocating land roughly comparable in size to the West Bank and Gaza for establishing a Palestinian State. Transportation links would allow efficient movement between Gaza and the West Bank, as well as throughout Palestine. The plan does not call for uprooting any people, Arab or Jew, from their homes."



In response, the UK Foreign Secretary, the Rt. Hon Dominic Raab MP, said:

"We welcome the release of the United States' proposal for peace between Israelis and Palestinians. This is clearly a serious proposal, reflecting extensive time and effort.

"A peace agreement between Israelis and Palestinians that leads to peaceful coexistence could unlock the potential of the entire region, and provide both sides with the opportunity for a brighter future.

"Only the leaders of Israel and the Palestinian territories can determine whether these proposals can meet the needs and aspirations of the people they represent.

We encourage them to give these plans genuine and fair consideration, and explore whether they might prove a first step on the road back to negotiations."

I for one share that sentiment.

Once again, thank you for having taken the time to contact me and if I can ever be of any further assistance to you then please do not hesitate to contact me again.

With best wishes,

**TOM PURSGLOVE MP
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT
CORBY & EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE**