



The Hague Statement Of Jurists On The Israel-Palestine Conflict

The Hague Statement Of Jurists On The Israel-Palestine Conflict - Extended Edition

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Extended Edition

June 2019

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ABOUT

This paper

The original version of The Hague Statement of jurists on the Israel-Palestine conflict was released on 31st October 2017. It is available on the website www.thinc.info. This paper is an extension of the original version, including maps and transcripts of (excerpts from) external and historic documents.



THE HAGUE INITIATIVE FOR INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

The Hague Initiative for International Cooperation (*thinc.*) is an initiative to study the relationship between Israel and the nations to promote international peace and security, friendly relations amongst nations, and peaceful resolution of conflicts based on the principles of justice and international law.

www.thinc.info



THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE FOR TRUTH, JUSTICE AND PEACE

The International Conference for Truth, Justice and Peace (ICTIP) is a foundation that aims for peace between Israel, Palestinians and their neighbors. The initiators share the vision that peace can only be achieved when justice is done to all parties on the basis of international law.

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PREFACE

And now, O Kings, be wise; be disciplined, O judges of the earth (Psalm 2:10)

Peace Palace, The Hague, 25th June 2019

Desire for peace is deeply rooted within people, but why is peace so far away for many?

A society without laws and rules is unthinkable. Without an authority that implements and enforces laws, a society is doomed to be lost.

Unfortunately, many do not recognize these laws; rather they choose their own insights and also choose to proclaim them as legally valid.

An example of this is the opinions and statements that are made worldwide with regard to the situation of Israel and its geographic borders. Many parliaments of different nations and the United Nations declare that Israel is occupying the country illegally. Many people accept these claims without investigating the evidence.

When a house is sold, it is important for the buyer to know who the rightful owner is. Could it be the seller, or is it a bank or another party? That is why a thorough research is first carried out to ascertain the rightful owner of the property.

A similar situation also applies to the country of Israel.

Who is its rightful owner?

In the Bible, the prophet Zechariah speaks in chapter 8: “These are the things that you should do: Speak the truth with one another; and in your gates judge with truth, justice, and peace.”

A sage explained these words as follows: “The world is sustained on three pillars: truth, justice and peace. But why are there just three pillars and not two or four? If you have a table with four legs and you remove one, the table will still stand. But if you remove one leg from a table with three legs, the table will fall. And so it is with societies in the world. If one of the three pillars is missing, that society will collapse.”

The Hague is the official capital of international law in the world. The city of Peace and Justice. The question is: where is the third pillar, the pillar of truth? Truth is a condition for being able to judge justly and only then can true peace follow.

For this reason, a group of international lawyers and legal experts met on 28th and 29th June 2017 to investigate international law regarding the truth about Israel's territorial rights. UNSC-resolution 2334 emphasized that reason.

Is it true, under international law, that Israel unlawfully occupies East Jerusalem and / or the settlements? Is what, for example the UN says, correct or not?

Therefore I involved The Hague Initiative for International Co-operation (*thinc.*) in organizing a conference to investigate Israel's legal territorial rights. Is Israel the rightful owner of the land and of Jerusalem? According to the Bible, the land is owned by the people of Israel, but then we wanted to know and establish what international law is actually saying.

For the very first time in history, a large number of specialized lawyers and legal experts from various backgrounds and different countries, gathered in the Peace Palace to discuss this particular question. Research has been conducted into the various legal visions over a broad period of time. Many arguments and points of view were extensively discussed and refuted under the guidance of four moderators. This historic conference was ultimately about establishing the 'truth' as described in international law.

This book contains the result of the conference: "The Hague Statement of jurists on the Israel-Palestine conflict". This statement expertly discusses and argues the relevant legal grounds with 9 legal propositions.

For a peaceful solution to the Israel-Palestine conflict, an understanding and acceptance of truth-based legitimate rights to the land is indispensable. This statement makes clear to whom those rights belong under international law and can therefore be a valuable contribution to peace.

To promote and encourage peace, courage is needed to potentially exchange own views and opinions for the findings in this legal statement. For this reason, I pray for wisdom for every reader.

And now, O Kings, be wise; be disciplined, O judges of the earth (Psalm 2:10)

Jack van der Tang

Director

International Conference for Truth, Justice and Peace, The Hague

INTRODUCTION

On 23rd December 2016, the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) adopted Resolution 2334 which contains a number of statements of law and fact concerning Israel, the "two-State solution" and "the Palestinian territory occupied since 1967". In particular, the Security Council -

- referred to "the obligation of Israel, the occupying Power, to abide scrupulously by its legal obligations and responsibilities under the Fourth Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12th August 1949";
- condemned "all measures aimed at altering the demographic composition, character and status of the Palestinian Territory occupied since 1967, including East Jerusalem, including, *inter alia*, the construction and expansion of settlements, transfer of Israeli settlers, confiscation of land, demolition of homes and displacement of Palestinian civilians, in violation of international humanitarian law and relevant resolutions";
- reaffirmed "that the establishment by Israel of settlements in the Palestinian territory occupied since 1967, including East Jerusalem, has no legal validity and constitutes a flagrant violation under international law", and demanded that Israel "immediately and completely cease all settlement activities" in these territories and "fully respect all of its legal obligations in this regard";
- denied any "recogni[tion] to changes to the 4th June 1967 lines, including with regard to Jerusalem, other than those agreed by the parties through negotiation";
- affirmed that Israel's establishment of settlements is "a major obstacle to the achievement of the two-State solution and a just, lasting and comprehensive peace", stressed that "cessation of all settlement activity is essential for salvaging the two-State solution", and called upon the parties to demonstrate "through policies and actions a genuine commitment to the two-State solution"; and
- called upon all States "to distinguish, in their relevant dealings, between the territory of the State of Israel and the territories occupied since 1967".

The Security Council referred specifically to the 2004 Advisory Opinion of the

International Court of Justice (ICJ) on “The Legal Consequences of the Construction of a Wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory” (“the Advisory Opinion”) as support for these assertions.

On 28th and 29th June 2017, twenty-four (24) international lawyers and experts in the field of international law from twelve nations convened in the Peace Palace in The Hague at the invitation of The Hague Initiative for International Cooperation (*thinc.*) and the International Conference for Truth, Justice and Peace (ICTIP) to discuss the legal implications of UNSC Resolution 2334 (“the Meeting”). They examined the extent to which this resolution and the Advisory Opinion should be considered to have resolved the long-standing dispute about sovereignty in these territories, and whether extant legal doctrine and practice support the conclusions of the Security Council and ICJ in the event their pronouncements could not be considered to have resolved these issues. During the Meeting, the participating jurists and other participants in the discussion investigated the interpretation and use of international law by the UNSC and ICJ, and examined the role that international law plays and should play in facilitating a peaceful resolution of the Israel-Palestine dispute.

The Meeting was conducted under Chatham House Rules. The participants agreed to the issuance of a statement by the conveners of the meeting which summarized the conversation and the conclusions reached (the “Statement”). They agreed that the summary would represent the sense of the Meeting, while not binding any participant to the Statement.

The jurists whose names are listed in the appendix have all participated in the Meeting. Other experts in international law, who did not participate in the discussion, have since endorsed this Statement.

The participating jurists strongly urge a review of the legal issues raised by the ICJ Advisory Opinion and Security Council Resolution 2334. They found that - for various reasons - the processes leading to the 2004 Opinion and Resolution 2334 fell short of an open, balanced and thorough consideration of all the relevant factual and legal issues. This resulted in legal findings that did not adequately take into account the legal, historical, political and military complexities

of these territories and peoples. This is reflected, for example, in the remark of Judge Higgins in her Separate Opinion, that “the law, history and politics of the Israel-Palestine dispute is immensely complex ... Context is usually important in legal determinations ... I find the ‘history’ as recounted by the Court ... as neither balanced nor satisfactory”.

It is the firm view of the participating jurists that such a review is necessary in order to achieve, in accordance with the UN Charter, a peaceful settlement of the Israel-Palestine conflict based on the principles of international law.

The Hague, 31st October 2017

A.E.L. Tucker, Director

P.J. Hoogendoorn, Secretary

GUIDING PRINCIPLES AND LEGAL PROPOSITIONS

Guiding Principles

The analysis of the status of Jerusalem and the territories captured by Israel in 1967, and any legal pronouncements on the status of those territories, should be guided by the following principles of international law:

1. The international law principle of the sovereign equality of states requires (a) that all states be treated equally, and (b) that legal rules be formulated and applied equally to all equivalent states and conflicts.
2. The rule of law requires a clear distinction to be made between international law and policy. Resolutions of the UN General Assembly or Security Council do not necessarily reflect a true and accurate statement of the law.
3. UN institutions (including the General Assembly, the Security Council and the International Court of Justice) do not have the jurisdiction or authority to resolve disputes between states *inter se* or between a state and another international actor without their consent.

Legal Propositions

In the view of the participating jurists, applying these Guiding Principles and other principles of international law to the Israel-Palestine dispute, there is *prima facie* evidence for the validity of the following propositions regarding the status of the territories mentioned above under international law:

1. The 1949 Armistice Lines (often referred to as “the 1967 lines”, “the 1967 borders,” “the 4 June lines,” or “the Green Line”) have never acquired the status of international borders under international law. They therefore should not be, directly or indirectly, referred to as the borders of the State of Israel or any prospective “State of Palestine”.
2. Pursuant to the Mandate for Palestine, which was created further to the deci-

sion of the Principal Allied Powers in April 1920 and approved by the League of Nations in 1922, in order to reconstitute “a Jewish homeland in Palestine”, the Jewish people obtained certain legal rights to settle in Palestine - which included the Gaza Strip and what has later become known as the “West Bank”, including Jerusalem.

3. International law establishes the borders of new states emerging from Mandates or colonies on the basis of territorial frontiers at the time of independence. Application of this doctrine (known as *uti possidetis juris*) to the Mandate for Palestine means that the State of Israel has a legitimate claim of sovereignty up to the territorial frontiers of the Palestine Mandate as of May 1948 when Israel became an independent state, inclusive of Jerusalem, the Gaza Strip and the “West Bank”.
4. Although Israel has, since June 1967, chosen voluntarily to apply the terms of the international humanitarian law of belligerent occupation in the “West Bank” and the Gaza Strip, it is arguably not obliged to do so, as it is far from certain that the “West Bank”, including East Jerusalem, and the Gaza Strip qualify as “occupied” territories under the international law of belligerent occupation.
5. As international law forbids discrimination against persons on the basis of race or ethnicity, it forbids the exclusion of Jews from the “West Bank”, the Gaza Strip and Jerusalem on the basis of their Jewish identity.
6. There are many examples of territories in the world that could be regarded as “occupied” (in the meaning of international law), and where movements of population from without have taken place, such as Turkey’s practices in Northern Cyprus, Russia’s in Crimea, or Morocco’s in Western Sahara. The principle of sovereign equality requires Israeli settlement policies to be treated no differently than equivalent settlement practices in other allegedly occupied territories.
7. International law arguably supports a Palestinian right of self-determination but it leaves to the affected parties the choice of agreed-upon means to fulfill

that right. The means of fulfilling the Palestinian right of self-determination are, therefore, ultimately a matter of policy rather than law.

8. The Oslo Accords, negotiated between Israel and the PLO between 1993 and 2000, remain the only agreed-upon framework for the negotiation of Palestinian self-determination. The witnessing parties are legally bound to refrain from encouraging breach of the Oslo agreements, and not to take other steps that may prejudice the permanent status negotiations.
 9. Pending *inter alia* the achievement of a Palestinian entity that can effectively and independently govern the relevant territory, “Palestine” does not yet satisfy the criteria of statehood under international law.
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CLARIFICATIONS

Guiding Principles

Guiding Principle 1: The international law principle of the sovereign equality of states requires (a) that all states be treated equally, and (b) that legal rules be formulated and applied equally to all equivalent states and conflicts.

The principle of the sovereign equality of states finds expression in article 2(1) of the UN Charter. It has been described by the International Court of Justice as “one of the fundamental principles of the international legal order” which is “to be viewed together with the principle that each State possesses sovereignty over its own territory and that there flows from that sovereignty the jurisdiction of the State over events and persons within that territory”¹. Respect for sovereign equality requires not only uniformity in the *statement* of rules, but also uniformity in the *application* of rules.

A number of statements in Resolution 2334 and in the 2004 Advisory Opinion on the application of international law to the Israel-Palestine dispute appear to stem from an understanding of the rules of international law that is at variance with the common understanding of those rules in other contexts. In particular, the statements that all Israeli settlements infringe international law, that the “4th June 1967 lines” are the *de facto* borders of Israel, and that the “two-State solution” is mandated by international law, are types of statements that are not made in relation to other territories that qualify as “occupied” under international law, such as Russia/Crimea, Morocco/Western Sahara and Turkey/Northern Cyprus. Israel has the right to be treated in the same way as other states, and therefore care needs to be taken to formulate as objectively as possible the rules and principles of international law, and also to apply them in a uniform fashion, rather than adopting and applying rules and interpretations solely in relation to Israel/Palestine.

¹ Jurisdictional Immunities of the State (Ger. v. It.: Greece intervening), Judgment, Feb. 3, 2012, para 57.

Guiding Principle 2: The rule of law requires a clear distinction to be made between international law and policy. Resolutions of the UN General Assembly or Security Council do not necessarily reflect a true and accurate statement of the law.

It is a foundational principle of international law that not all international expressions of norms take on the character of binding law. For instance, legal opinions articulated by the UN General Assembly or the Security Council do not in and of themselves constitute international law, and only constitute evidence of customary international law to the extent to which they reflect the common practice of states, as well as the universal opinion of states that such practice is dictated by the norms of international law (the technical term for this is “*opinio juris*”). The international legal system recognizes the possibility of policy statements which are not legally binding, and this is an important tool for diplomats, who can make pronouncements of commitment without being thought to have created legal obligations. Statements of policy, some of which may be called “soft law”, include “normative provisions contained in non-binding texts”² and may be found in a wide range of instruments³. Although such statements may have some political consequences, they are by their very nature not legally binding or enforceable. Although statements of policy may express noble aspirations, and may, over time, become recognized as reflecting customary international law, or

² D. Shelton, *Commitment and Compliance: The Role of Non-binding Norms in the International Legal System* 292, Oxford University Press (ed. 2000).

³ A.T. Guzman, T.L. Meyer, *International Soft Law*, Journal of Legal Analysis, p.173, Volume 2, Number 1: Spring 2010.

⁴ Justus Reid Weiner, *The NGOs, demolition of illegal building in Jerusalem, and international law*, 2005, published by Jerusalem Centre for Public Affairs (JCPA) www.jcpa.org.

See further on the distinction between soft law and hard law the references cited by Weiner: *Book review and note, Commitment and compliance: the role of non-binding norms in the international legal system*, Dinah Shelton (ed), (2000), American Journal of International Law, Vol. 95 (2001), 709; Judgment of the Permanent Court of International Justice in S.S. Lotus (France v. Turkey), 1927 PCIJ (ser A) No. 10 p. 18; H.L.A. Hart, *Positivism and the separation of laws and morals*, Harvard Law Review 71 (1958), 593, 606-615; Hans Kelsen, *Pure Theory of Law*, transl. Max Knight (Berkeley, University of California Press, 1967); Ian Brownlie, *The Rights of Peoples in Modern International Law*, in James Crawford (ed); *The Rights of peoples*, Vol. 1 (London, Oxford University Press, 1988).

even stimulate sovereign states to promulgate or negotiate legislation or conventions, by definition ‘soft law’ lacks authority to bind states⁴.

Many UN General Assembly and Security Council Resolutions referring to the Israel-Palestine conflict are examples of soft law. UN Security Council Resolution 242 is a good example. This Resolution was a non-binding recommendation by the Security Council issued in response to the Israel-Arab Six Day War in June 1967. This Resolution emphasized the necessity of negotiations and suggested guidelines for the parties to consider during their negotiations. Another example is UN General Assembly Resolution 194 (1948), which is relied on for the assertion that Palestinian refugees have a “right of return.” Rather than being a binding instrument, this resolution was no more than an expression of policy in relation to refugees resulting from the 1947-1949 Israel-Palestine conflict.

The statement or inference that the “two-State solution” is mandatory or necessary in order to achieve a just, lasting and comprehensive peace, is a statement of policy, not law.

Guiding Principle 3: UN institutions (including the General Assembly, the Security Council and the International Court of Justice) do not have the jurisdiction or authority to resolve disputes between states *inter se* or between a state and another international actor without their consent.

International law provides a number of ways to reach binding resolutions of legal disputes. First, and foremost, parties in conflict may determine a resolution, and then encapsulate that agreement in a binding legal form, such as a treaty. Second, the parties may refer the dispute to a binding judicial resolution, or a binding legal arbitration. None of the UN institutions (including the General Assembly, the Security Council and the International Court of Justice) has the jurisdiction or authority to definitively resolve disputes between states or between a state and another international actor without their consent.

The UN Security Council has been entrusted with the primary responsibility, on behalf of the UN member States, for the maintenance of international peace and security. The Council has power under Chapter VII of the UN Charter to make

resolutions binding on other states. Resolution 2334 was a recommendation of the Council adopted under Chapter VI, not Chapter VII, of the Charter. It is not binding on the parties to the dispute and other UN Member States, except to the extent that it repeats obligations that are otherwise binding.

The International Court of Justice, being the “principal judicial organ” of the United Nations, plays an extremely important role in the maintenance of international peace and security. Under the UN Charter and the Statute of the International Court of Justice, the ICJ has two roles. First, it has jurisdiction to settle disputes of a legal nature that are submitted by states (“contentious cases”). Second, it has jurisdiction to issue Advisory Opinions on legal questions at the request of organs of the United Nations (“advisory jurisdiction”). The 2004 “Wall” Advisory Opinion was given at the specific request of the General Assembly as set out in Resolution 10/14 of 8th December 2003. The 2004 Advisory Opinion is not binding on UN Member States because Advisory Opinions are by their nature advisory only.

Legal Propositions

Legal Proposition 1: The 1949 Armistice Lines (often referred to as “the 1967 lines”, “the 1967 borders,” “the 4th June lines,” or “the Green Line”) have never acquired the status of international borders under international law. They therefore should not be, directly or indirectly, referred to as the borders of the State of Israel or any prospective “State of Palestine”.

The 1949 Armistice Lines were the lines separating territory governed by Israel from the territory controlled by its neighbors (Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon and Syria) following the 1948-1949 Arab-Israeli war (also known as Israel’s War of Independence). The armistice lines were established in four agreements (the separate armistice agreements signed between Israel and each of its four neighbors) and reflected, with minor variations, the position of forces at the end of fighting. The Arab states, insisted that these lines would not establish legally binding borders. Specifically, Article II.2 of the Armistice Agreement between Israel and Transjordan states that “no provision in this agreement shall in any way prejudice the rights, claims and positions of either party hereto in the ultimate

peaceful settlement of the Palestine question” and Article VI.9 provides that “[t]he Armistice Demarcation Lines defined in articles V and VI of this Agreement are agreed upon by the Parties without prejudice to future territorial settlements or boundary lines or to claims of either Party relating thereto.”

Further, to give these lines the status of borders would be to approve the use of aggressive force by foreign states against the Jewish people and (after 14th May 1948) the territorial integrity of the State of Israel by Israel’s Arab neighbors in the first Arab-Israeli war (1948-1949), and therefore conflicts with the prohibition under international law of the use of force to acquire territory. In the course of the first Arab-Israeli war, Egypt took control of the Gaza Strip, while Jordanian and Iraqi forces occupied Judea, Samaria and East Jerusalem (including the Old City). Jordan subsequently annexed Judea and Samaria illegally. This purported annexation was only officially recognized by three other states (the UK, Iraq and Pakistan – and the latter did not recognize Jordan’s annexation of East Jerusalem), and was rejected by the Arab League. Jordan’s occupation and subsequent annexation of the “West Bank” was clearly in breach of international law, its control of the area having been obtained by force following an act of aggression, and therefore having no effect on the entitlement to sovereignty of the State of Israel over these territories upon its independence in 1948 (the issue of Israeli sovereignty over the “West Bank”, including Jerusalem, and the Gaza Strip is discussed more fully in Legal Proposition 3 below).

The prohibition on the acquisition of territory through the use of force is linked to the principle of “territorial integrity”, which in turn is part of the foundation of the Westphalian State system, and has long been established in the contemporary system of international law on the use of force. The concept of territorial integrity is expounded upon in a number of declarations of the UN General Assembly, including the Friendly Relations Declaration⁵ and the Definition of Aggression⁶.

⁵ See UN General Assembly Resolution 2625 (XXV) 24th October 1970 “Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Co-operation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations” A/res/25/2625.

⁶ See UN General Assembly Resolution 3314 (XXIX) 14th December 1974 “Definition of Aggression” A/res/29/3314.

Israel's right as a sovereign state to territorial integrity is reflected in Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, which encouraged the parties to negotiate a peace agreement based on "[t]ermination 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."

***Legal Proposition 2:* Pursuant to the Mandate for Palestine, which was created further to the decision of the Principal Allied Powers in April 1920 and approved by the League of Nations in 1922, in order to reconstitute "a Jewish homeland in Palestine", the Jewish people obtained certain legal rights to settle in Palestine - which included the Gaza Strip and what has later become known as the "West Bank", including Jerusalem.**

The Mandate system was a creation of the Supreme Allied Powers following World War I that intended to create a new kind of "trust" governance for territories of the defeated Central powers. The Mandate system was formally defined in the Covenant of the League of Nations, and first implemented with respect to certain German Colonies in the Treaty of Versailles in 1919. The allocation of Mandates for territories of the Ottoman Turkish empire was agreed upon by the Supreme Allied Powers in the San Remo resolution in 1920, and the individual Mandates were then approved by the Assembly of the League of Nations in the following years.

Clearly, certain territorial rights and obligations were created and recognized by the Mandate instruments. While the exact nature of the rights conferred under the Mandate for Palestine has been the subject of much discussion, the language of the Mandate shows that, with respect to the territory then known as "Palestine", the Jewish people were the main beneficiaries of those rights. By incorporating the Balfour Declaration in the Preamble to the Mandate (in which "His Majesty's Government view with favor the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people, and will use their best endeavors to facilitate the achievement of this object, it being clearly understood that nothing shall be done which may prejudice the civil and religious rights of existing non-Jewish

communities in Palestine, or the rights and political status enjoyed by Jews in any other country"), the Mandate clearly confirmed the right of the Jewish people to self-determination in the territory then known as Palestine.

The rights and interests recognized and/or granted under these instruments have never been waived or abrogated. Specifically, Article 80 of the UN Charter ensured that the rights granted by the Mandate for Palestine continued, notwithstanding the withdrawal of Great Britain (the Mandatory) and the replacement of the League of Nations by the United Nations.

***Legal Proposition 3:* International law establishes the borders of new states emerging from Mandates or colonies on the basis of territorial frontiers at the time of independence. Application of this doctrine (known as *uti possidetis juris*) to the Mandate for Palestine means that the State of Israel has a legitimate claim of sovereignty up to the territorial frontiers of the Palestine Mandate in May 1948 when Israel became an independent state, inclusive of Jerusalem, the Gaza Strip and the "West Bank".**

International law contains several principles upon which legally enforceable borders can come into existence. These include: effective control; historical title; and treaties. In recent years, many legal judgments, including the rulings of the International Court of Justice regarding border disputes in Asia and Africa, and examinations by lawyers regarding issues such as the borders of the new states emerging from Yugoslavia and the former Soviet Union, have emphasized that the most persuasive principle for determining the borders of new states is the doctrine known as *uti possidetis juris*. The borders of the state of Israel, no less than those of other states, are subject to this doctrine.

Uti possidetis juris is one of the main principles of customary international law intended to ensure stability, certainty and continuity in the demarcation of boundaries. The principle acts to clarify and determine the territorial boundaries of newly emerging states by providing that states emerging from decolonization or mandates shall presumptively inherit the colonial administrative borders that existed at the time of independence. In effect, the principle of *uti possidetis juris*

transforms the colonial and administrative lines existing at the moment of the birth of the new State into national borders. The principle applies to the State as it is [at the moment of independence], i.e. to the 'photograph' of the territorial situation then existing.

In 1947 Britain decided to terminate her stewardship of the Mandate for Palestine and notified the United Nations accordingly. It should be noted that *the Mandate itself was not terminated* but only Britain's stewardship of it. Applying the principle of *uti possidetis juris* to the borders of the State of Israel (the only state to emerge in Palestine upon the withdrawal of Great Britain), the administrative boundaries of the Mandate for Palestine on 14th May 1948 became the borders of the State of Israel that came into existence upon the proclamation of its independence on that date. On 15th May 1948, Great Britain, the Mandatory for Palestine, officially departed. The eastern boundary of the Mandate on 14th May 1948 was the Jordan River, and a line extending south from the Dead Sea (into which the Jordan River empties) to the Red Sea near Aqaba. (The Mandate had originally included the territory of Transjordan, but Transjordan was administratively separated from Palestine in 1922, with the approval of the League of Nations, and granted its independence by Britain in 1946.)

It is generally understood that the principle of *uti possidetis juris* operates retrospectively to the moment of independence, without reference to the territories actually controlled by the new state. Thus, even though the State of Israel, upon its creation, did not have effective control over all of the area previously covered by the Mandate for Palestine, it acquired the borders of the Mandate.

The administrative boundaries of the Mandate for Palestine remained effective right up to the proclamation of the State of Israel on 14th May, 1948. It is important to note that the November 1947 UN "Partition Plan", recommended by General Assembly Resolution 181, never went into effect. Its primary objective was to partition the remaining Israel territory (already reduced - as a result of the separation of Transjordan in 1922 - by approximately 78% of the originally mandated territory) to create independent Jewish and Arab states, which were to work together in an economic union. The principal reason the Plan was never implemented was that the Arabs rejected it in its entirety⁷ and chose instead to

engage in war, thereby destroying any possibility of the cooperation necessary to realize the economic union and precluding any subsequent attempt to revive the resolution. Owing to the Arab rejection and subsequent military aggression, counter to the UN Charter, the Security Council, even though asked by the General Assembly, took no action to implement the resolution. Likewise, Britain took no action to implement the resolution and it refused to facilitate the Palestine Commission's attempts to do so.

Finally, it is strongly arguable that nothing that has happened since May 1948 has altered the legal status of those borders. Specifically, neither the 1949 Armistice Agreements, the 1994 Israel-Jordan Peace Treaty, the PLO's claims since 1988 to the existence of a "State of Palestine", nor the Oslo Agreements, have been legally effective to alter the borders of the State of Israel as they existed in May 1948. Moreover, Article 3.1 of the peace treaty between Israel and Jordan recognized that the "international boundary between Israel and Jordan is delimited with reference to the boundary definition under the Mandate" which is significant since it comports fully with the application of *uti possidetis juris*.

Legal Proposition 4: Although Israel has, since June 1967, chosen voluntarily to apply the terms of the international humanitarian law of belligerent occupation in the "West Bank" and the Gaza Strip, it is arguably not obliged to do so, as it is far from certain that the "West Bank", including East Jerusalem, and the Gaza Strip qualify as "occupied" territories under the international law of belligerent occupation.

Israel has, since 1967, referred to these territories (with the exception of East Jerusalem) as "occupied", and (although it has consistently denied that the law of belligerent occupation applies *de jure*) has voluntarily undertaken, as a matter of Government policy, to comply with the provisions of international humanitarian law applicable to occupied territories, in particular the Fourth Geneva Convention. There are, however, strong arguments (supported by leading inter-

⁷ A July 1949 working paper of the UN Secretariat entitled "The Future of Arab Palestine and the Question of Partition" notes that: "The Arabs rejected the United Nations Partition Plan so that any comments of theirs did not specifically concern the status of the Arab section of Palestine under partition but rather rejected the scheme in its entirety." UN document A/AC.25/W.19.

national lawyers) that the territories over which Israel (re)gained control in June 1967 do not fall under the classic definition of military (belligerent) occupation at all since there was no prior sovereign other than Israel over those territories (see discussion of *uti possidetis juris* in prior section); thus, the Fourth Geneva Convention is not obligatory on Israel as a matter of law.

Jordan illegally controlled the “West Bank” between 1949 and 1967, having acquired control as a result of an illegal act of aggression. Its subsequent purported annexation of this territory was not sufficient to give it rights over this territory. In other words, Jordan had no territorial sovereignty over the “West Bank” between 1948 and 1967. As a result, when Israel defeated the Jordanian forces and regained control of this territory in June 1967, it was not a question of Israel taking control of “the territory of a High Contracting Party” [i.e. another State] within the meaning of the Fourth Geneva Convention. Professor Julius Stone, a foremost authority on the Geneva Conventions and the obligations of States in times of war, expressed the following:

“[B]ut the Convention itself does not by its terms apply to these territories. For, under Article 2, the Convention applies ‘to cases of . . . occupation of the territory of a High Contracting Party, by another such Party.’ Insofar as the West Bank at present held by Israel does not belong to any other State, the Convention would not seem to apply to it at all. This is a technical, though rather decisive, legal point.”⁸

Professor Stone’s argument applies with equal measure to the Gaza Strip as well.

The Fourth Geneva Convention in 1949 changed the focus of the international law of belligerent occupation by giving greater attention to the rights of the population of the occupied territory; however, it did not change the notion of “occupation” itself. Notwithstanding the opinion of the ICJ expressed in the 2004 Advisory Opinion, there is support for the view that the law of occupation is not intended to apply in situations where there is no sovereign power that has been

⁸ Lacey, I. (ed), *International Law and the Arab-Israel Conflict—extracts from Israel and Palestine—Assault on the law of nations* by Julius Stone, second edition, with additional material and commentary updated to 2003.

“ousted” from the territory. As Benvenisti has stated, “The foundation upon which the entire law of occupation is based is the principle of inalienability of sovereignty through the actual or threatened use of force... From the principle of inalienability of sovereignty over a territory spring the constraints that international law imposes on the occupant.”⁹ The purpose of the law of belligerent occupation is not only to protect civilians from the occupying army, but it is also (and perhaps primarily) to “safeguard the reversionary rights of the ousted sovereign.” In situations (like the “West Bank” and the Gaza Strip) where there was no “ousted sovereign”, there can accordingly be no question of “occupation” within the meaning of international humanitarian law. In fact, to the extent that there was anyone who could claim legal sovereignty, it was Israel, as a result of the Mandate. Pursuant to *uti possidetis juris*, Israel, the rightful sovereign, was merely reasserting its legitimate sovereign rights over its own territories.

Further, it is worth noting that, as former President of the ICJ Professor Rosalyn Higgins has stated, “[t]here is nothing in either the Charter or general international law which leads one to suppose that military occupation pending a peace treaty is illegal”¹⁰. The law of belligerent occupation simply means that any State that, as a result of war or conflict, takes control of neighboring territory belonging to (or claimed by) another State is required to administer that territory temporarily until the conflict has been terminated and a peace treaty has been negotiated. In the meantime, the “occupier” is subject to certain strict obligations that are primarily directed at protecting the civil population in that territory. But the occupation itself is not illegal, nor does it impose a mandatory obligation to withdraw all citizens of the occupying power from those territories.

Another argument against there being a *de jure* state of occupation in the “West Bank” is the fact that there is a peace treaty between Israel and Jordan. As Professor Higgins’ remarks suggest, there can be no belligerent occupation following a peace treaty.

⁹ Eyal Benvenisti, *The International Law of Occupation* (1993), pages 5-6. Cited by Avinoam Sharon, “Why is Israel’s Presence in the Territories still called “Occupation”?”, Jerusalem Centre for Public Affairs.

¹⁰ Rosalyn Higgins, “The Place of International Law in the Settlement of Disputes by the Security Council,” 64 *Am.J.Int’l.L.* (1970) 1-18, at 8.

Legal Proposition 5: As international law forbids discrimination against persons on the basis of race or ethnicity, it forbids the exclusion of Jews from the “West Bank”, the Gaza Strip and Jerusalem on the basis of their Jewish identity.

The statement in Resolution 2334 that Israel’s establishment of settlements is “illegal”, together with the insistence on the “June 1967 lines”, suggests that a condition of the proposed “two-State solution” will be the removal of Israeli settlements from the “occupied Palestinian territories”. This is in accord with the terms of the Palestinian National Charter, and the demands of the Palestinian Authority, to the effect that Jews will not be allowed to live in a “State of Palestine”.

The requirement that all Israelis must be evacuated out of East Jerusalem and the “West Bank” discriminates against Jews. Supporting the exclusion of Jews from any part of the world is illegal and breaches UN Charter principles. Moreover, exclusion of Jews from parts of the “West Bank” and Jerusalem also conflicts with the obligations entered into by the member states of the League of Nations that approved the establishment of the Mandate for Palestine in 1922.

The right of Jews to live in the “West Bank” and Jerusalem stems not only from the Mandate, but from the right of persons to acquire and maintain their home under international human rights law as found in, for example, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

It is often argued that the removal of “settlers” from the Territories is justified because the *existence* of Israeli citizens in these territories “threatens to make a two-State solution impossible.”¹¹ It is difficult to see how the mere existence of Jewish persons or enterprises in the Territories can - in and of itself - threaten the creation of a Palestinian state. Just as the existence of Arabs in the territory of Israel does not make a Jewish State of Israel impossible, in the same way, the

¹¹ See “Statement on the publication of tenders to expand Israeli settlements in Ramot and Pisgat Ze’ev” by the High Representative of the EU for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy on 8th November 2012 (A 497/12).

existence of Jews in the “Occupied Territories” does not threaten or prevent the existence of a Palestinian Arab state on those territories.

Moreover, apart from the fact that such a policy would breach the rights of settlement of the Jewish people deriving from the Mandate for Palestine, any policy that directly or indirectly requires Jews to be removed from “Palestine” conflicts with UN Charter principles, in particular:

- respect for human rights ‘(...) for all without distinction as to race (...) or religion.’¹²
- the dignity and worth of the human person, in the equal rights of men and women and of nations large and small;
- the establishment of conditions under which justice and respect for the obligations arising from treaties and other sources of international law can be maintained;
- to practice tolerance and live together in peace with one another as good neighbors; and
- to ensure, by the acceptance of principles and the institution of methods, that armed force shall not be used, save in the common interest.

Legal Proposition 6: There are many examples of territories in the world that could be regarded as “occupied” (in the meaning of international law), and where movements of population from without have taken place, such as Turkey’s practices in Northern Cyprus, Russia’s in Crimea, or Morocco’s in Western Sahara. The principle of sovereign equality requires Israeli settlement policies to be treated no differently than equivalent settlement practices in other allegedly occupied territories.

There are many cases of occupation that fall within the scope of the Fourth Geneva Convention. These include: East Timor, Western Sahara, Northern Cyprus, Nagorno-Karabakh (Armenia/Azerbaijan), Abkhazia, and Crimea. Israeli settlement activity has been criticized by UN bodies for violating article

¹² See UN Charter Article 1 (3) on the Purposes of the UN.

49(6) of the Fourth Geneva Convention, while similar critique is applied by no international actor or body to these other settlement contexts where there is *prima facie* evidence of (state-sponsored) migration of persons into the occupied territory.

The claim that Israel's "establishment of settlements" is illegal rests entirely on Article 49(6) of the Fourth Geneva Convention, which provides that "[t]he Occupying Power shall not deport or transfer parts of its own civilian population into the territory it occupies."¹³ With the possible exception of military outposts, all Israelis who have moved into these areas since 1967 have done so voluntarily - they have not been coerced or forced to do so by the Israeli Government.

Labelling all settlements in East Jerusalem and the "West Bank" as "illegal" both misinterprets and grossly oversimplifies the spirit and letter of Article 49(6) of the Fourth Geneva Convention.¹⁴ Moreover, it contradicts Article 6 of the Mandate for Palestine which encouraged Jewish settlement throughout Palestine, and it is wholly inapplicable based on Israel's claim to sovereignty pursuant to *uti possidetis juris*.

The international community imposes a standard under Article 49(6) on Israel which it does not apply to other alleged cases of occupation. The participating jurists noted the remarks of Professor Kontorovich in a recently published article¹⁵ on State practice concerning occupation:

"Clear patterns emerge from this systematic study of state practice. Strikingly, the state practice paints a picture that is significantly inconsistent with the prior conventional wisdom concerning Art. 49(6). First, the migration of

people into occupied territory is a near-ubiquitous feature of extended belligerent occupations. Second, no occupying power has ever taken any measures to discourage or prevent such settlement activity, nor has any occupying power ever expressed *opinio juris* suggesting that it is bound to do so. Third, and perhaps most strikingly, in none of these situations have the international community or international organizations described the migration of persons into the occupied territory as a violation of Art. 49(6). Even in the rare cases in which such policies have met with international criticism, it has not been in legal terms. This suggests that the level of direct state involvement in "transfer" required to constitute an Art. 49(6) violation may be significantly greater than previously thought. Finally, neither international political bodies nor the new governments of previously occupied territories have ever embraced the removal of illegally transferred civilian settlers as an appropriate remedy."

Legal Proposition 7: International law arguably supports a Palestinian right of self-determination but it leaves to the affected parties the choice of agreed-upon means to fulfill that right. The means of fulfilling the Palestinian right of self-determination are, therefore, ultimately a matter of policy rather than law.

The right of peoples to self-determination under international law is notoriously complex and uncertain. In the context of a people seeking self-determination in relation to a territory to which an existing state claims sovereignty, the nature of the autonomy to which that people is entitled is to be determined by means of negotiation with the state concerned. That autonomy may be expressed in a variety of ways, which could include, for example, a federation of autonomous entities such as in Switzerland or Bosnia. But that is to be sorted out by the people claiming self-determination in negotiation with the state from which they desire to attain autonomous control of territory. This is basically a political question; beyond ensuring that the right to self-determination may not conflict with the legitimate territorial and political rights of existing states, international law does not mandate any particular form of autonomy.

¹³ Article 49 of the Fourth Geneva Convention.

¹⁴ See e.g. Professor James Crawford SC in his Opinion on Third Party Obligations with respect to Israeli Settlements in Palestinian Occupied Territories, January 24th, 2012, available at: <http://www.tuc.org.uk/sites/default/files/tucfiles/LegalOpinionIsraeliSettlements.pdf>.

¹⁵ Kontorovich, Eugene, Unsettled: A Global Study of Settlements in Occupied Territories (September 7th, 2016). Northwestern Public Law Research Paper No. 16-20. Available at SSRN: <https://ssrn.com/abstract=2835908> or <http://dx.doi.org/10.2139/ssrn.2835908>

Despite the suggestion in Resolution 2334 and many General Assembly resolutions to the contrary, the right to self-determination, even if it does apply here, does not confer an automatic right to statehood. Whether or not it leads to statehood will depend on a variety of factors.

As is reflected in UNSC Resolutions 242 and 338, for example, international law does not allow the self-determination of a people to conflict with the sovereign rights of an existing state, including its rights to territorial integrity, political independence and secure and defensible borders. In this context, assuming the “Palestinians” are a people for the purposes of international law, the scope of their right to self-determination depends on the scope of Israel’s legitimate claims to territorial sovereignty. If, pursuant to *uti possidetis juris*, all of the territory covered by the Mandate for Palestine in May 1948 became the sovereign territory of the State of Israel, then Palestinian self-determination will necessarily be limited to a form of autonomy that does not conflict with that sovereignty.

Further, in determining the nature and scope of implementation of the Palestinian Arab right to self-determination, it is important to note that the international community has already significantly accommodated Arab self-determination desires by creating the wholly Arab state of Jordan out of approximately 78% of the territory of the original Mandate for Palestine. Further, Israel has recognized the desire of the Arabs living in territory west of the Jordan rift valley for a state of their own and has acted in good faith to determine whether the Arabs seriously desire peace with Israel by withdrawing their armed forces from the Gaza Strip and by granting a significant amount of self-rule in Areas A and B of the “West Bank”. Nonetheless, with respect to Israeli sovereignty over the “West Bank”, including east Jerusalem, and the Gaza Strip, Israel has yet to cede its sovereign rights over any portion of those territories. Formal relinquishment of Israeli sovereignty, if it occurs, will take place pursuant to good faith, bilateral negotiations between the parties.

Finally, the means of fulfilling the Palestinian right of self-determination are to be determined through negotiations between the State of Israel and the Palestinian Arab people - unless the parties decide otherwise.

Legal Proposition 8: The Oslo Accords, negotiated between Israel and the PLO between 1993 and 2000, remain the only agreed-upon framework for the negotiation of Palestinian self-determination. The witnessing parties are legally bound to refrain from encouraging breach of the Oslo agreements, and not to take other steps that may prejudice the permanent status negotiations.

Israel and the PLO have chosen to negotiate the terms of Palestinian self-determination under the terms and conditions set out in the Oslo agreements. Those agreements remain in force, and therefore provide the agreed framework within which the self-determination of the Palestinian people is to be determined. “Jerusalem” and “settlements” are amongst the issues which Israel and the PLO have agreed will be resolved in permanent status negotiations. Seeking “unilateral” recognition of Palestinian statehood arguably breaches the terms of the Oslo Agreements. Although the interim period has expired and no final status agreement has been reached, the Oslo Agreements are still valid and binding on the parties involved.

The complex arrangements made under the Oslo Agreements, dividing the territories into Areas A, B and C, have arguably resulted in a special legal regime (*lex specialis*) in relation to the “post-1967” territories. As instruments of international law, they impose a complex matrix of mutual rights and obligations, limiting the application of general principles of law. Given that Israel retains all “residual” powers not transferred to the Palestinian Council, it is arguable that - pending final agreement - the Oslo Agreements do not affect Israel’s underlying claims to territorial sovereignty with respect to the “West Bank”, including East Jerusalem, and the Gaza Strip.

The Interim Agreement (1995) prohibits both parties from initiating “any step that will change the status of the “West Bank” and the Gaza Strip pending the outcome of the permanent status negotiations.” The future status of these territories and the nature of an independent Palestinian entity can only be settled through negotiations reflecting a balance of competing interests. Provided the parties act in good faith, no specific solution to these issues can be imposed without the mutual consent of both Israel and the Palestinian Arab people, and any attempts to have such a solution imposed would be in breach of the Oslo

Accords. For this reason, the actions of the PLO to seek recognition of Palestine within the UN - based on the so-called “pre-1967 borders” are arguably in breach of the Oslo Accords. The “pre-1967 borders” were not borders at all, they were simply - *at Arab insistence at the time* - armistice lines and never to be construed as, or even to “prejudice”, future national boundaries. Equally, recognition of “Palestine” by the EU (or its Member States), Russia, the USA, Egypt, Jordan, or Norway - all witnesses to the Oslo Accords - in such a way as to compromise Israel’s claims to territorial sovereignty with respect to the “West Bank” and the Gaza Strip, would arguably breach their obligations under the Oslo Accords.

It is often argued that construction in Jerusalem or other parts of the “West Bank” constitutes a “step” that will “change the status of the “West Bank” pending the outcome of permanent status negotiations.” However, it is difficult to see how construction or expansion of physical buildings in these territories could change the status of the “West Bank”. The question of the settlements is an issue explicitly reserved for permanent status negotiations, together with “Jerusalem, refugees, security arrangements, borders, relations and cooperation with other neighbors and other issues of common interest.” Pending successful negotiation on those issues, Israel retains full power and responsibility within Area C (including Jerusalem). This includes zoning and planning responsibilities. As demonstrated in the Camp David negotiations in 2000, Israel has repeatedly indicated that it is willing, as part of a final agreement, to give up control over large parts of the “West Bank” that include Israeli settlements.

Finally, it is noteworthy that, by explicitly incorporating Resolutions 242 and 338 into the Declaration Of Principles (DOP) and the Interim Agreement, Israel and the Palestinians recognize that any outcome of the negotiations must comply with the criteria set out in those resolutions. Specifically, they recognize that Israel is not required to withdraw from all of the “post-1967” territories.

Legal Proposition 9: Pending *inter alia* the achievement of a Palestinian entity that can effectively and independently govern the relevant territory, “Palestine” does not yet satisfy the criteria of statehood under international law.

Under international law, an entity only constitutes a state if it satisfies a number of well-known and accepted criteria. One of those criteria is the existence of a governing authority capable of exercising authority over a defined territory. At this time, the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO - which claims to be the “sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people”) does not exercise effective authority over the territories it claims constitute the “State of Palestine”. The fact that many states have officially “recognized” the “State of Palestine” does not mean that this state exists. Recognition is not a criterion for statehood.

Under the Oslo Accords, in the “West Bank” the Palestinian Authority only has rights approaching independent authority in Areas A, and even there Israel retains ultimate responsibility for security and external relations, residual power, and authority over Israelis, and in Areas B and C Israel retains responsibility for security and external relations. The Palestinian Authority has a right to deploy its police force in area A, but in area B it may only do so in coordination with Israel, and in area C it may not deploy the police force at all. In areas A and B, the Palestinian Authority has authority over legal matters concerning territory (such as land use) but Israel retains such powers in area C. For these reasons the current regime in the “West Bank”, as far as it has been implemented under the Oslo agreements, can best be described as a form of incipient Palestinian autonomy under the supreme authority of the State of Israel. The fact that the Gaza Strip is controlled by Hamas limits the capacity of the Palestinian Authority to govern there.

There is another reason why the alleged “State of Palestine” also does not and cannot exercise sufficient sovereign control over a territory as required under international law. Much - perhaps even all - of the “West Bank” (including Jerusalem) and the Gaza Strip are - on the basis of the arguments discussed earlier - part of Israel’s inviolable territory, the integrity of which must be respected under the doctrine of territorial sovereignty. In other words, it is not possible for a state to come into existence on the territory to which an existing state legitimately claims territorial sovereignty, without the latter’s consent, as that would fundamentally infringe the territorial inviolability of the latter state - a fundamental right as reflected in the UN Charter.

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ON 28th AND 29th JUNE 2017**

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ADDITIONAL SIGNATORIES OF THE HAGUE STATEMENT OF JURISTS ON THE ISRAEL-PALESTINE CONFLICT

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Dr. István Laszlo Mészáros

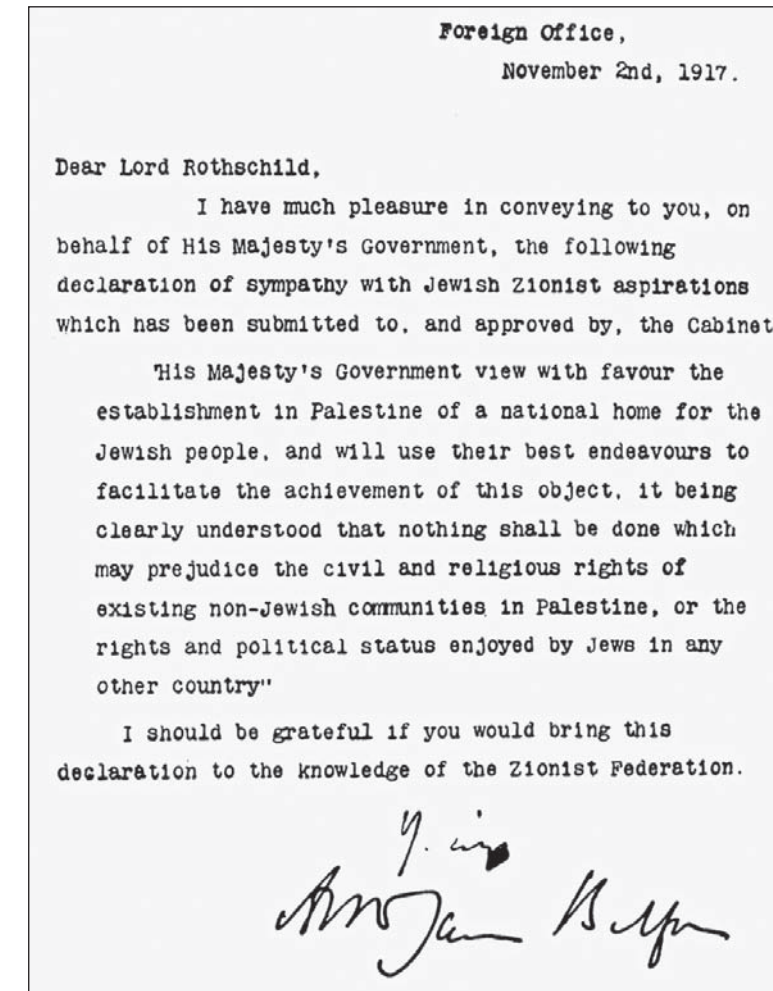
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APPENDICES

1. The Balfour Declaration – November 2nd, 1917



2. Article 22 of the Covenant of the League of Nations

– June 28th, 1919

To those colonies and territories which as a consequence of the late war have ceased to be under the sovereignty of the States which formerly governed them and which are inhabited by peoples not yet able to stand by themselves under the strenuous conditions of the modern world, there should be applied the principle that the well-being and development of such peoples form a sacred trust of civilisation and that securities for the performance of this trust should be embodied in this Covenant.

The best method of giving practical effect to this principle is that the tutelage of such peoples should be entrusted to advanced nations who by reason of their resources, their experience or their geographical position can best undertake this responsibility, and who are willing to accept it, and that this tutelage should be exercised by them as Mandatories on behalf of the League.

The character of the mandate must differ according to the stage of the development of the people, the geographical situation of the territory, its economic conditions and other similar circumstances.

Certain communities formerly belonging to the Turkish Empire have reached a stage of development where their existence as independent nations can be provisionally recognized subject to the rendering of administrative advice and assistance by a Mandatory until such time as they are able to stand alone. The wishes of these communities must be a principal consideration in the selection of the Mandatory.

Other peoples, especially those of Central Africa, are at such a stage that the Mandatory must be responsible for the administration of the territory under conditions which will guarantee freedom of conscience and religion, subject only to the maintenance of public order and morals, the prohibition of abuses such as the slave trade, the arms traffic and the liquor traffic, and the prevention of the establishment of fortifications or military and naval bases and of military

training of the natives for other than police purposes and the defence of territory, and will also secure equal opportunities for the trade and commerce of other Members of the League.

There are territories, such as South-West Africa and certain of the South Pacific Islands, which, owing to the sparseness of their population, or their small size, or their remoteness from the centres of civilisation, or their geographical contiguity to the territory of the Mandatory, and other circumstances, can be best administered under the laws of the Mandatory as integral portions of its territory, subject to the safeguards above mentioned in the interests of the indigenous population.

In every case of mandate, the Mandatory shall render to the Council an annual report in reference to the territory committed to its charge.

The degree of authority, control, or administration to be exercised by the Mandatory shall, if not previously agreed upon by the Members of the League, be explicitly defined in each case by the Council.

A permanent Commission shall be constituted to receive and examine the annual reports of the Mandatories and to advise the Council on all matters relating to the observance of the mandates.

3. The San Remo Resolution – April 25th, 1920

It was agreed –

(a) To accept the terms of the Mandates Article as given below with reference to Palestine, on the understanding that there was inserted in the proces-verbal an undertaking by the Mandatory Power that this would not involve the surrender of the rights hitherto enjoyed by the non-Jewish communities in Palestine; this undertaking not to refer to the question of the religious protectorate of France, which had been settled earlier in the previous afternoon by the undertaking given by the French Government that they recognized this protectorate as being at an end.

(b) that the terms of the Mandates Article should be as follows:

The High Contracting Parties agree that Syria and Mesopotamia shall, in accordance with the fourth paragraph of Article 22, Part I (Covenant of the League of Nations), be provisionally recognized as independent States, subject to the rendering of administrative advice and assistance by a mandatory until such time as they are able to stand alone. The boundaries of the said States will be determined, and the selection of the Mandatories made, by the Principal Allied Powers.

The High Contracting Parties agree to entrust, by application of the provisions of Article 22, the administration of Palestine, within such boundaries as may be determined by the Principal Allied Powers, to a Mandatory, to be selected by the said Powers. The Mandatory will be responsible for putting into effect the declaration originally made on November 8, 1917, by the British Government, and adopted by the other Allied Powers, in favour of the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people, it being clearly understood that nothing shall be done which may prejudice the civil and religious rights of existing non-Jewish communities in Palestine, or the rights and political status enjoyed by Jews in any other country.

4. The Mandate for Palestine – July 24th, 1922 (Relevant Provisions)

Whereas the Principal Allied Powers have agreed, for the purpose of giving effect to the provisions of Article 22 of the Covenant of the League of Nations, to entrust to a Mandatory selected by the said Powers the administration of the territory of Palestine, which formerly belonged to the Turkish Empire, within such boundaries as may be fixed by them; and

Whereas the Principal Allied Powers have also agreed that the Mandatory should be responsible for putting into effect the declaration originally made on November 2nd, 1917, by the Government of His Britannic Majesty, and adopted by the said Powers, in favour of the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people, it being clearly understood that nothing should be done which might prejudice the civil and religious rights of existing non-Jewish communities in Palestine, or the rights and political status enjoyed by Jews in any other country; and

Whereas recognition has thereby been given to the historical connection of the Jewish people with Palestine and to the grounds for reconstituting their national home in that country; and Whereas the Principal Allied Powers have selected His Britannic Majesty as the Mandatory for Palestine; and Whereas the mandate in respect of Palestine has been formulated in the following terms and submitted to the Council of the League for approval; and Whereas His Britannic Majesty has accepted the mandate in respect of Palestine and undertaken to exercise it on behalf of the League of Nations in conformity with the following provisions; and

Whereas by the afore-mentioned Article 22 (paragraph 8), it is provided that the degree of authority, control or administration to be exercised by the Mandatory, not having been previously agreed upon by the Members of the League, shall be explicitly defined by the Council of the League of Nations;

Confirming the said mandate, defines its terms as follows:

Article 1 - The Mandatory shall have full powers of legislation and of administration, save as they may be limited by the terms of this mandate.

Article 2 - The Mandatory shall be responsible for placing the country under such political, administrative and economic conditions as will secure the establishment of the Jewish national home, as laid down in the preamble, and the development of self-governing institutions, and also for safeguarding the civil and religious rights of all the inhabitants of Palestine, irrespective of race and religion.

Article 3 - The Mandatory shall, so far as circumstances permit, encourage local autonomy.

Article 4 - An appropriate Jewish agency shall be recognised as a public body for the purpose of advising and co-operating with the Administration of Palestine in such economic, social and other matters as may affect the establishment of the Jewish national home and the interests of the Jewish population in Palestine, and, subject always to the control of the Administration, to assist and take part in the development of the country.

The Zionist organisation, so long as its organisation and constitution are in the opinion of the Mandatory appropriate, shall be recognised as such agency. It shall take steps in consultation with His Britannic Majesty's Government to secure the cooperation of all Jews who are willing to assist in the establishment of the Jewish national home.

Article 5 - The Mandatory shall be responsible for seeing that no Palestine territory shall be ceded or leased to, or in any way placed under the control of, the Government of any foreign Power.

Article 6 - The Administration of Palestine, while ensuring that the rights and position of other sections of the population are not prejudiced, shall facilitate Jewish immigration under suitable conditions and shall encourage, in co-operation with the Jewish agency, referred to in Article 4, close settlement by Jews, on the land, including State lands and waste lands not required for public purposes.

5. Article 80 of the United Nations Charter – June 26th, 1945

Except as may be agreed upon in individual trusteeship agreements, made under Articles 77, 79, and 81, placing each territory under the trusteeship system, and until such agreements have been concluded, nothing in this Chapter shall be construed in or of itself to alter in any manner the rights whatsoever of any states or any peoples or the terms of existing international instruments to which Members of the United Nations may respectively be parties.

Paragraph 1 of this Article shall not be interpreted as giving grounds for delay or postponement of the negotiation and conclusion of agreements for placing mandated and other territories under the trusteeship system as provided for in Article 77.

6. UN Security Council Resolution 242 – November 22nd, 1967

November 22nd, 1967

The Security Council,

Expressing its continuing concern with the grave situation in the Middle East,

Emphasizing the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by war and the need to work for a just and lasting peace in which every State in the area can live in security,

Emphasizing further that all Member States in their acceptance of the Charter of the United Nations have undertaken a commitment to act in accordance with Article 2 of the Charter,

1. *Affirms* that the fulfillment 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;
2. *Affirms further* the necessity –
 - (a) For guaranteeing freedom of navigation through international waterways in the area;
 - (b) For achieving a just settlement of the refugee problem;

- (c) For guaranteeing the territorial inviolability and political independence of every State in the area, through measures including the establishment of demilitarized zones;
3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to designate a Special Representative to proceed to the Middle East to establish and maintain contacts with the States concerned in order to promote agreement and assist efforts to achieve a peaceful and accepted settlement in accordance with the provisions and principles in this resolution;
 4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the Security Council on the progress of the efforts of the Special Representative as soon as possible.

UN Security Council Resolution 2334 – December 23rd, 2016

The Security Council,

Reaffirming its relevant resolutions, including resolutions 242 (1967), 338 (1973), 446 (1979), 452 (1979), 465 (1980), 476 (1980), 478 (1980), 1397 (2002), 1515 (2003), and 1850 (2008),

Guided by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, and reaffirming, *inter alia*, the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by force,

Reaffirming the obligation of Israel, the occupying Power, to abide scrupulously by its legal obligations and responsibilities under the Fourth Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949, and *recalling* the advisory opinion rendered on 9 July 2004 by the International Court of Justice,

Condemning all measures aimed at altering the demographic composition, character and status of the Palestinian Territory occupied since 1967, including East Jerusalem, including, *inter alia*, the construction and expansion of settlements, transfer of Israeli settlers, confiscation of land, demolition of homes and displacement of Palestinian civilians, in violation of international humanitarian law and relevant resolutions,

Expressing grave concern that continuing Israeli settlement activities are dangerously imperilling the viability of the two-State solution based on the 1967 lines,

Recalling the obligation under the Quartet Roadmap, endorsed by its resolution 1515 (2003), for a freeze by Israel of all settlement activity, including “natural growth”, and the dismantlement of all settlement outposts erected since March 2001,

Recalling also the obligation under the Quartet roadmap for the Palestinian Authority Security Forces to maintain effective operations aimed at confronting

all those engaged in terror and dismantling terrorist capabilities, including the confiscation of illegal weapons,

Condemning all acts of violence against civilians, including acts of terror, as well as all acts of provocation, incitement and destruction,

Reiterating its vision of a region where two democratic States, Israel and Palestine, live side by side in peace within secure and recognized borders,

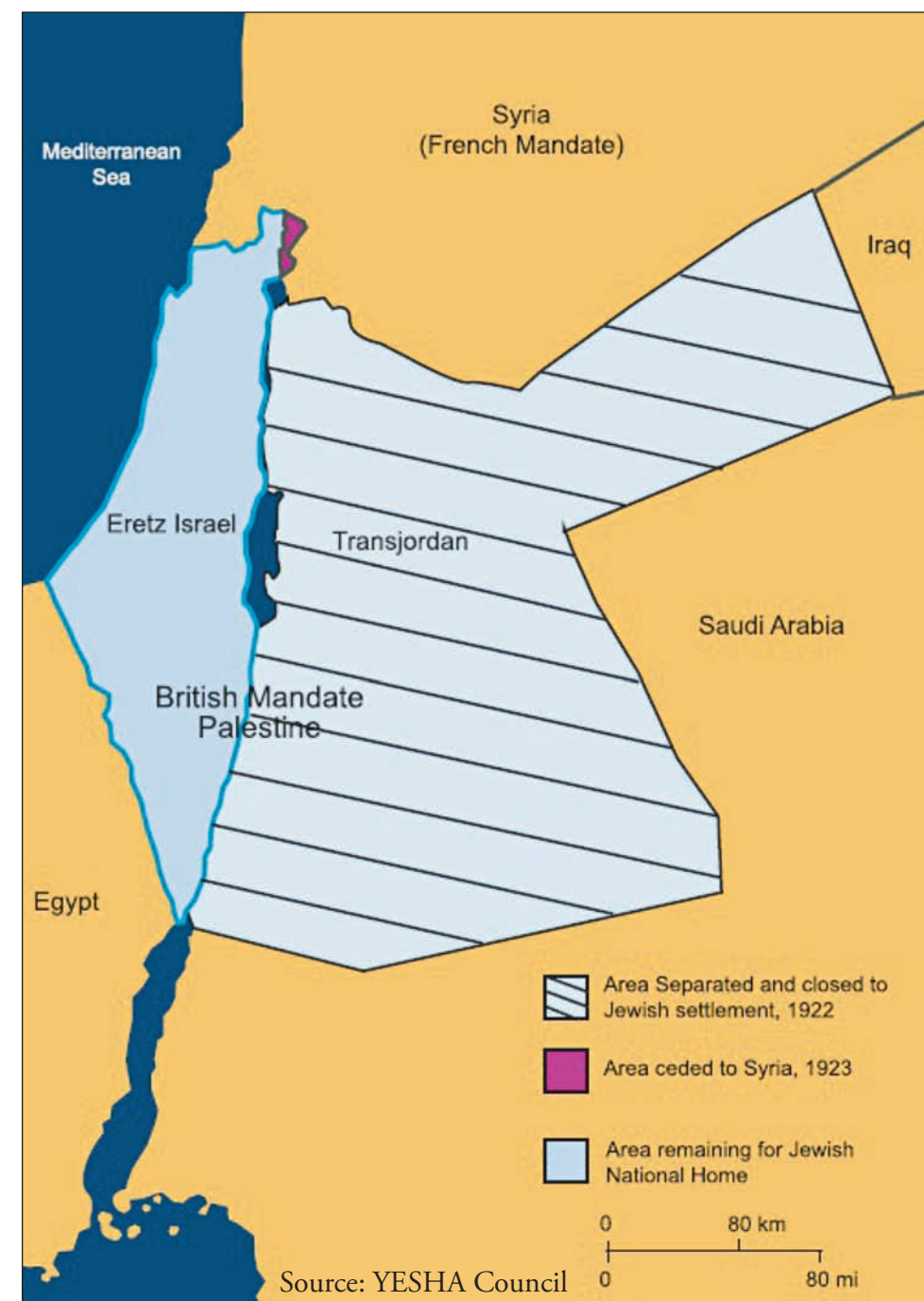
Stressing that the status quo is not sustainable and that significant steps, consistent with the transition contemplated by prior agreements, are urgently needed in order to (i) stabilize the situation and to reverse negative trends on the ground, which are steadily eroding the two-State solution and entrenching a one-State reality, and (ii) to create the conditions for successful final status negotiations and for advancing the two-State solution through those negotiations and on the ground,

1. *Reaffirms* that the establishment by Israel of settlements in the Palestinian territory occupied since 1967, including East Jerusalem, has no legal validity and constitutes a flagrant violation under international law and a major obstacle to the achievement of the two-State solution and a just, lasting and comprehensive peace;
2. *Reiterates* its demand that Israel immediately and completely cease all settlement activities in the occupied Palestinian territory, including East Jerusalem, and that it fully respect all of its legal obligations in this regard;
3. *Underlines* that it will not recognize any changes to the 4 June 1967 lines, including with regard to Jerusalem, other than those agreed by the parties through negotiations;
4. *Stresses* that the cessation of all Israeli settlement activities is essential for salvaging the two-State solution, and calls for affirmative steps to be taken immediately to reverse the negative trends on the ground that are imperilling the two-State solution;

5. *Calls* upon all States, bearing in mind paragraph 1 of this resolution, to distinguish, in their relevant dealings, between the territory of the State of Israel and the territories occupied since 1967;
 6. *Calls* for immediate steps to prevent all acts of violence against civilians, including acts of terror, as well as all acts of provocation and destruction, calls for accountability in this regard, and calls for compliance with obligations under international law for the strengthening of ongoing efforts to combat terrorism, including through existing security coordination, and to clearly condemn all acts of terrorism;
 7. *Calls* upon both parties to act on the basis of international law, including international humanitarian law, and their previous agreements and obligations, to observe calm and restraint, and to refrain from provocative actions, incitement and inflammatory rhetoric, with the aim, *inter alia*, of de-escalating the situation on the ground, rebuilding trust and confidence, demonstrating through policies and actions a genuine commitment to the two-State solution, and creating the conditions necessary for promoting peace;
 8. *Calls upon* all parties to continue, in the interest of the promotion of peace and security, to exert collective efforts to launch credible negotiations on all final status issues in the Middle East peace process and within the time frame specified by the Quartet in its statement of 21st September 2010;
 9. *Urges in this regard* the intensification and acceleration of international and regional diplomatic efforts and support aimed at achieving, without delay a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in the Middle East on the basis of the relevant United Nations resolutions, the Madrid terms of reference, including the principle of land for peace, the Arab Peace Initiative and the Quartet Roadmap and an end to the Israeli occupation that began in 1967; and *underscores* in this regard the importance of the ongoing efforts to advance the Arab Peace Initiative, the initiative of France for the convening of an international peace conference, the recent efforts of the Quartet, as well as the efforts of Egypt and the Russian Federation;
 10. *Confirms its determination* to support the parties throughout the negotiations and in the implementation of an agreement;
 11. *Reaffirms* its determination to examine practical ways and means to secure the full implementation of its relevant resolutions;
 12. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the Council every three months on the implementation of the provisions of the present resolution;
 13. *Decides* to remain seized of the matter.
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MAPS

Map 1: The British Mandate



Map 2: The Partition Plan (1947)



Map 3: Israel after the 1949 Armistice Agreement



Map 4: Israel after the Six-day War (June 10th, 1967)



Source: YESHA Council

Map 5: Israel after the peace treaty with Egypt (1982)



Map 6: The Oslo Agreements (1993)



Map 7: The Jerusalem Municipal Boundary (after the Six-day War)



NOTES