



Foreign &  
Commonwealth  
Office

**Near East Group  
Foreign and Commonwealth  
Office  
London  
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Mr Andrew Sanger  
Lawyers for Palestinian Human Rights  
C/O Smita Shah  
Garden Court Chambers  
57-60 Lincoln's Inn Fields  
London WC2A 3LS

Dear Mr Sanger,

Thank you for your letter of 11 September to the Foreign Secretary concerning the British Embassy in Tel Aviv. We have been asked to reply. Apologies for our delayed response.

There is an internal process under way looking at potentially relocating the British Embassy in Tel Aviv. We are considering a number of options. However, at this stage in the process no decision on a site has been taken and no leases have been signed.

Should we decide to relocate the Embassy, we will make clear the intended location once a decision has been reached.

The government has made its position on illegal Israeli settlements very clear; we believe that settlements contravene international law and are a significant impediment to progress on the peace process.

The Middle East Peace Process remains at the top of the Prime Minister's agenda. He and the Foreign and International Development Secretaries are all focused on supporting the Roadmap and Annapolis processes, which offer the best opportunity of establishing a broadly supported and sustainable solution to the conflict, and they will continue to do everything they can to help the parties make progress.

We believe that our position, as a friend of both Israel and the Palestinians, gives us scope to exert influence and encourage both sides to take the steps needed for progress through close engagement and ongoing dialogue. The Palestinians must take steps to improve security. Israel should cease settlement expansion and take measures to improve the humanitarian situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territories.

We have made clear our commitment to helping all Palestinians. We believe that the suffering of Palestinians on the one hand, and the fear and insecurity felt by many Israeli citizens on the other, need to be addressed together.

Yours sincerely,

*Near East Group  
Middle East & North Africa Directorate*