



Media Release

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Potential move of Australia's embassy to Jerusalem

Following Prime Minister Scott Morrison's recent comments concerning the Australian embassy in Israel, particularly his openness to the possibility of its relocation to Jerusalem, we wish to express our deepest concern.

We strongly urge the Morrison government to exercise caution and prudence towards this sensitive final-status issue, and to seriously consider the consequences of any such move. The short-term political gain that could be secured by moving the Australian embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem would surely be outweighed by the detriment both to Australia's international standing and in its relations with Arab and Muslim-majority countries, and with the international community more broadly. Breaking with decades-long bipartisan support and defying international law and multiple UN resolutions would make Australia an international pariah on this important foreign-policy issue. It would also erode Australia's claims that it is genuinely committed to the rules-based international order, making any future rebukes of countries that breach or show contempt for it wholly hypocritical. If this decision is made, it is difficult to see how Australia could be fair-minded and peace-focused moving forward, especially since the Israeli government considers all of Jerusalem to be its 'eternal and undivided capital'.

Specifically, the Prime Minister's assertion that the embassy move is a 'sensible proposal' is deeply disturbing. There is in fact very little sense in prejudicing the outcome of a final-status issue like Jerusalem, especially mutual agreement regarding its boundaries.

Our fear is that such a decision at this particular point in time would only embolden the Trump administration in its plan for an alternative roadmap to peace, which has so far involved taking key issues such as the status of Jerusalem and Palestinian refugees 'off the table'.

For more information, please contact:

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