



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

4 August 1980

Amendment issuing a statement now. I hope it can be made in consultation with the U.S. & we have no objection.

Dear Mike,

JERUSALEM: STATEMENT BY THE NINE

As I mentioned to you on the telephone this afternoon, the French have proposed by COREU (copy attached) that the Nine issue a statement condemning the Knesset law on Jerusalem passed last week.

Our Ministers believe that we should go along with the statement. International reaction to the Knesset vote has been strong. Of the Nine, the Dutch, French, Germans and Italians have already made national statements. We have not done so, but have referred enquirers to our previous statements and votes in the Security Council in which our attitude to Israeli actions in East Jerusalem has been made quite clear. The proposed terms of the statement will come as no surprise to the Israelis. On the other hand to oppose it could lay us open to Arab accusations of failure to support their cause, since our position would probably be leaked. A statement by the Nine could also be a useful reference for our intervention in the Security Council debate.

As far as the Americans are concerned, as the Prime Minister knows, the United States share our attitude towards Jerusalem. They do /not

M A Pattison Esq
10 Downing Street

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not accept that Jerusalem is Israel's capital, nor unilateral moves^{to} change the status of the city. Since Camp David they have taken the view that the future of the city is on the agenda of the autonomy talks. The US Administration have not hidden their concern at the Knesset bill, or at the prospect of a move by Mr Begin to East Jerusalem. They have made strenuous diplomatic efforts to dissuade the Israelis from both courses. While they have not issued a formal statement, their spokesman has taken the line that the United States is opposed to unilateral actions on Jerusalem which should properly be dealt with in the autonomy negotiations and that, as far as the Administration was concerned, the Knesset vote did not change that position. Clearly they hope that the row over Jerusalem will not affect the autonomy talks and have understandably avoided public polemics with the Israelis themselves. But there is no reason to suppose that they would object to a statement by the Nine which reiterated the Nine's well-known position and is entirely consistent with their own views.

The Lord Privy Seal therefore believes that it would be appropriate to agree to a statement by the Nine, with some slight softening of the wording proposed in the French text. I attach a copy of the draft COREU telegram which should, if the Prime Minister agrees, be despatched as soon as possible. Our Resident Clerk can do this.

Yours sincerely,
Stephen Gomersall

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OUT COREU TELEGRAM

	↓	Classification DIFFUSION RESTREINTE	Precedence IMMEDIATE
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ZCZC	1	ZCZC
FM LDN C	2	FROM LONDON COREU
TO*C Pre	3	TO LUXEMBOURG COREU IMMEDIAT
INFO*Pre	4	INFO ALL COREU
CPE*ETR	5	
DATETIME	6	
CLASS	7	DIFFUSION RESTREINTE
DISTN	8	DISTRIBUTION GENERALE
	9	SUBJECT: STATEMENT BY THE NINE ON JERUSALEM
	10	REFERENCE: CPE/MUL/ETR 2775
	11	1. The UK agrees that the Nine should issue a statement. It
	12	proposes that the final sentence of the text, replacing the
	13	present last two sentences, should read as follows 'The Nine
	14	can therefore only deplore the vote by the Israeli parliament
	15	on a law making this city the unified capital of Israel, a
	16	decision which is contrary to international law and to resolutions
	17	of the Security Council.'
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File number	Dept	Distribution STANDARD NEWAD MED NAP UND EESD EUD WED
Drafted by (Block capitals)		
Telephone number		
Authorised for despatch		
Comcen reference	Time of despatch	
		EEC Embassies

Add. Distr.:
Arab/Israel Dispute