

URGENT

JERUSALEM, DECEMBER 4TH 2017

TO: MR. J. GREENBLATT, THE WHITE HOUSE.

FROM: THE POLICY WORKING GROUP, ISRAEL.

RE: JERUSALEM, THE CAPITAL CITY OF ISRAEL

DEAR MR. GREENBLATT,

THE POLICY WORKING GROUP IS A TEAM OF ISRAELI ACTIVISTS WITH DIPLOMATIC, ACADEMIC, POLITICAL AND MEDIA BACKGROUND, OPERATING WITHIN THE CIVIL SOCIETY CONVERSATION IN ISRAEL AND ABROAD. WE ARE COMMITTED TO THE TWO-STATE SOLUTION, BASED ON THE FUNDAMENTAL TRANSFORMATION OF ISRAEL/PALESTINE RELATIONS FROM OCCUPATION TO PEACEFUL NEIGHBORLIHNESS BETWEEN TWO NATIONS LIVING SIDE BY SIDE IN TWO SEPARATE AND INDEPENDENT STATES, IN PEACE AND SECURITY. WE SEE THIS PARADIGM AS THE ONLY POSSIBLE AVENUE TO GENUINE RECONCILIATION BETWEEN OUR TWO NATIONS, REDRESSING THE CONSEQUENCES OF A PROTRACTED AND PAINFUL CONFLICT.

WE ARE DEEPLY CONCERNED BY RECENT REPORTS THAT PRESIDENT TRUMP IS SERIOUSLY CONSIDERING THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF HIS DECISION TO UNILATERALLY RECOGNIZE JERUSALEM AS THE CAPITAL CITY OF ISRAEL.

IT IS UNIVERSALLY RECOGNIZED THAT THE STATUS OF JERUSALEM, THE CITY THAT HOUSES THE HOLY SITES OF THE THREE PRINCIPAL MONOTHEISTIC RELIGIONS, LIES AT THE CORE OF THE ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN CONFLICT AND MUST BE DETERMINED WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF RESOLVING THAT CONFLICT. THE UNITED STATES HAS NEVER IGNORED THE FACT THAT JERUSALEM IS HOME TO TWO NATIONAL COMMUNITIES, THE ISRAELI AND THE PALESTINIAN. A DECLARATION BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES RECOGNIZING JERUSALEM AS THE CAPITAL CITY OF ISRAEL WHILE IGNORING THE PALESTINIAN ASPIRATIONS IN THIS RESPECT WOULD FURTHER DEEPEN THE ASSYMETRY BETWEEN THE TWO SIDES, SEVERELY HARM THE PROSPECTS FOR PEACE AND COULD IGNITE THE ENTIRE REGION. IT COULD SEVERELY HARM THE PROSPECTS FOR PEACE FOR GENERATIONS TO COME.

WE URGE YOU, AS THE PRINCIPAL ADVISOR TO THE PRESIDENT ON THE MIDDLE EAST PEACE PROCESS, TO ENSURE THAT SUCH A HISTORICAL MOVE ON THE PART OF THE UNITED STATES WILL COME ONLY IN THE CONTEXT OF THE TWO-STATE SOLUTION AND WILL INCLUDE RECOGNITION OF WEST JERUSALEM AS THE CAPITAL OF ISRAEL AND OF EAST JERUSALEM AS THE CAPITAL OF PALESTINE. ONLY THEN WILL JERUSALEM BE A TRUE CITY OF PEACE, OF SHALOM AND A LIGHT UNTO THE NATIONS.

SINCERELY YOURS,

AMBASSADOR (RET.) ILAN BARUCH - CHAIRPERSON



CC: AMBASSADOR DAVID FRIEDMAN, TEL AVIV

CC: CONSUL GENERAL DONALD BLOME, JERUSALEM