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THE PRIME MINISTER

9 April 2021

Dear Stephen, Eli & Stuart,

Thank you for your letters of 10 February and 3 March, regarding your concerns about the International Criminal Court's ruling on the Palestine situation. I am pleased that you were able to meet with the Foreign Secretary on 9 March to discuss these concerns in more depth.

As you are aware, the UK is a strong supporter of the ICC in line with its founding statute. We have been working with other countries to bring about positive change at the Court; this process has been driven by our ambition to strengthen the ICC. The election of two highly qualified UK nationals, Judge Joanna Korner QC and Karim Khan QC, to the roles of Judge and Prosecutor to the ICC respectively, will help serve reform. This was a key priority for the UK, demonstrating our enduring commitment to strengthening the Court and serving international justice.

As a founder member of the ICC, we have been one of its strongest supporters and continue to respect the independence of the institutions. We oppose the ICC's investigation into war crimes in Palestine. We do not accept that the ICC has jurisdiction in this instance, given that Israel is not a party to the Statute of Rome and Palestine is not a sovereign state. This investigation gives the impression of being a partial and prejudicial attack on a friend and ally of the UK's.

I hope the discussion with the Foreign Secretary helped to assuage your concerns around the UK's position, and I note his offer to speak with the CFI to explain the UK position in detail.

Thank you, once again, for writing to me.

The Right Honourable Stephen Crabb MP, The Right Honourable The Lord Pickles  
and Lord Polak CBE