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The (Rt. Hon. the) Lord Dubs,
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Monday 21st November 2011

Dear Lord Dubs,

We write to thank you for your intervention in the debate in the Lords Chamber on November 16th on the UNESCO decision to extend full membership to the Palestinian Authority.

We fully concur that the British Government's voting record on the Palestinian Authority's membership of UNESCO, and the general response to the Palestinian statehood question, has been greatly disappointing and in stark contrast to its professed support for a two-state solution.

As you rightly pointed out in your contribution to the debate last week, the present situation; with peace negotiations at a standstill and the Israeli government's recent announcements on the expansion of illegal settlements in both the West Bank and East Jerusalem, ought to have solicited a much firmer positive response from Her Majesty's Government to the UNESCO vote. To do less is to further alienate the Palestinians and diminish their faith in the international community.

ENGAGE have produced a briefing paper on the Palestine 194 campaign elucidating the many reasons why a 'Yes' vote is crucial at this critical stage in the peace process. It is enclosed here for your interest and information.

Yours sincerely,

Shenaz Bunglawala
Head of Research