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

Dear Lord Grocott,

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.

You are absolutely right to point out the gross anomaly of a situation in which the Palestinians seeking membership of international institutions should be upbraided for purportedly endangering an already fragile peace process, while Israel's announcements of further expansion of illegal settlements in the West Bank and East Jerusalem should attract no similar rebuke for its threatening the future of an independent, viable and sovereign Palestinian state.

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