

PO Box 2278
Ilford
Essex
IG1 9XT

The Rt. Hon. Nicholas Soames MP,
House of Commons,
London SW1A 0AA.

T: 020 7330 8796
E: info@iengage.org.uk
W: www.iengage.org.uk

Friday 11th November 2011

Dear Mr Soames,

We write to thank you for the recent statement you issued in your capacity as President of the Conservative Middle East Council (CMEC) advocating that Her Majesty's Government support the UN statehood bid of the Palestinian Authority.

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.

We couldn't agree more with your assessment that the UK cannot conceivably support self-determination in countries of the MENA region while persisting to deny this same right to the Palestinians. The matter is, as you clearly argue, one of moral consistency and historic responsibility.

We would like to express our deep appreciation for your intervention on this issue and we dearly hope that the Government pays heed to the good counsel offered to it by CMEC.

Yours sincerely,

Shenaz Bunglawala
Head of Research