

s22(1)(a)(ii)

From: Internet Publishing
Sent: Monday, 17 October 2022 10:07 AM
To: s22(1)(a)(ii)
Subject: RE: Removal of content from DFAT website [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Hi s22(1)(a)(ii)

Page updated as requested:

[Israel country brief | Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade \(dfat.gov.au\)](#)

Please press CTRL+F5 to force the page to refresh and reflect the new changes.

If you have any further questions regarding this request please don't hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards,

s22(1)(a)(ii)

Assistant Director | Digital Communications Section
Communications Branch | Executive Division (EXD)
P s22(1)(a)(ii)

From: s22(1)(a)(ii)
Sent: Monday, 17 October 2022 8:38 AM
To: Internet Publishing s47E(d)
Subject: Removal of content from DFAT website [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Good morning publishing team,

Grateful for your assistance in removing the below from the Israel country brief webpage ([Israel country brief | Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade \(dfat.gov.au\)](#)).

Bilateral relations

Australia has a warm and close relationship with Israel, which is supported strongly by Australia's active Jewish community. The relationship has a strong historical dimension, dating back to the First World War when Australian forces fought in the Sinai-Palestine campaign alongside their Allied counterparts against the Ottomans, including the iconic charge of the Australian Light Horse's during the Battle of Beersheba. Australia was the first country to vote in favour of the 1947 UN partition resolution, which ultimately led to the creation of Israel as a nation state. Australia established diplomatic relations with Israel in 1949 and in the same year presided over the vote admitting Israel to the United Nations.

Australia is committed to a two-state solution in which Israel and a future Palestinian state co-exist, in peace and security, within internationally recognised borders. ~~Consistent with this longstanding policy, in December 2018, Australia recognised West Jerusalem as the capital of Israel, being the seat of the Knesset and many of the institutions of the Israeli government. Australia looks forward to moving its Embassy to West Jerusalem when practical, in support of, and after the final status determination of, a two state solution.~~

Thanks in advance,

s22(1)(a)(ii)

s47E(c)

Middle East Branch | Middle East, Africa, and Afghanistan Division
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

P s22(1)(a)(ii) | **M** s22(1)(a)(ii)

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From: Media
To: s47F(1)
Cc: Media
Subject: **FMO action – media enquiry** s47F(1) | Australian Embassy in Israel [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Date: Monday, 17 October 2022 11:00:14 AM

OFFICIAL

Good Morning s47F(1) and s47F(1)

s47F(1) has followed up on this enquiry.
Could you please review the response drafted?

Thanking you,
s22(1)(a)(ii)

From: Media <media@dfat.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 13 October 2022 11:47 AM
To: s47F(1) s22(1)(a)(ii)
Cc: Media <media@dfat.gov.au>; s22(1)(a)(ii)

Subject: **FMO action – media enquiry** s47F(1) | Australian Embassy in Israel [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

MEDIA ENQUIRY [FOR CLEARANCE]

JOURNALIST DEADLINE: 5pm 13/10

JOURNALIST/OUTLET: s47F(1)

DFAT POC: Gemma Huggins, Assistant Secretary – Middle East Branch, s22(1)(a)(ii)

Dear s47F(1)

Grateful your consideration of the below proposed response to s47F(1)

s47F(1) followed up on an response provided to s47F(1) last week regarding the status of the Australian Embassy in Israel.

//

Attributable to a Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade spokesperson:

No decision has been taken to reverse the 2018 decision.

//

Regards,
s22(1)(a)(ii)

Media Liaison Section
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
T s22(1)(a)(ii) | E media@dfat.gov.au

Note to media: Unless otherwise specified, the information contained in this email is for background only.

From: s47F(1)
Sent: Wednesday, 12 October 2022 3:26 PM
To: Media <media@dfat.gov.au>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: Questions re Israel + embassy - s47F(1) [SEC=OFFICIAL]

CAUTION: This email originated from outside the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender.

Hi s22(1)(a)(ii)

Apologies for the delay in getting back to you.

Follow-up questions, on record:

1. I acknowledge the comment is "The Australian Government continues to consider the final status of Jerusalem as a matter to be resolved as part of any peace negotiations". But that is not explicit about whether or not the Government has reversed the recognition of West Jerusalem as Israel's capital and whether Australia has communicated this decision to Israel. Are you able to clarify?

2. The Israel country brief on the DFAT website (<https://www.dfat.gov.au/geo/israel/israel-country-brief>) still includes the phrase: "Consistent with this longstanding policy, in December 2018, Australia recognised West Jerusalem as the capital of Israel, being the seat of the Knesset and many of the institutions of the Israeli government. Australia looks forward to moving its Embassy to West Jerusalem when practical, in support of, and after the final status determination of, a two-state solution." This was the very announcement that Senator Wong promised to reverse in government (<https://twitter.com/SenatorWong/status/1073843049715752962>). Why does this language still appear on the DFAT website and do you plan to update it to reflect the current Government's position?

Seeking answers by 5pm tomorrow (Thurs) please.

Thanks,
s47F(1)

s47F(1)

Mobile/Signal/WhatsApp: s47F(1)

Email: s47F(1)

Twitter: s47F(1)



s47F(1)

On Sat, 8 Oct 2022 at 12:26, s47F(1)

wrote:

Hi s22(1)(a)(ii)

Thank you for the general response.

The answer to question 2 is clear. But given the first question is not directly answered in the response, we are holding over the story until early next week.

I will call/email on Monday morning for clarity.

Thanks,

s47F(1)

On Friday, 7 October 2022, Media <media@dfat.gov.au> wrote:

OFFICIAL

Good afternoon s47F(1)

Thank you for your enquiry.

Please see below a response from the Department.

//

Attributable to a Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade spokesperson:

The Australian Government continues to consider the final status of Jerusalem as a matter to be resolved as part of any peace negotiations.

Any decision to relocate the British embassy is a matter for the United Kingdom.

//

Warm regards,

s22(1)(a)(ii)

Note to media: Unless otherwise specified, the information contained in this email is for background only.

Media Liaison Section

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

P s22(1)(a)(ii)

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From: s47F(1)

Sent: Friday, 7 October 2022 6:45 AM

To: s47F(1)

Cc: Media <media@dfat.gov.au>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Questions re Israel + embassy - s47F(1)

CAUTION: This email originated from outside the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender.

Hi s47F(1) and s47F(1) (+DFAT Media),

I am seeking on-the-record responses to the following questions re Israel. This issue is topical in light of Liz Truss' review. Would a response by tonight be achievable, or is Monday more realistic? Please let me know.

Questions:

1. Senator Wong was highly critical of Mr Morrison's handling of the review into the location of the Australian embassy in Israel, and then of the December 2018 announcement that Australia "now recognises West Jerusalem ... is the capital of Israel". She tweeted after the latter announcement: "Labor does not support unilateral recognition of Jerusalem as the capital of Israel and in Government would reverse this decision." As of today, has the Government reversed the recognition of West Jerusalem as Israel's capital? How/when Australia communicated this decision to Israel?
2. The UK has confirmed that Prime Minister Liz Truss is considering relocating the British embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. Would Australia support the UK making such a move, or would you view it as counterproductive? Are you encouraging the UK to maintain the current arrangements?

Thanks,

s47F(1)

s47F(1)

Mobile/Signal/WhatsApp: s47F(1)

Email: s47F(1)

Twitter: s47F(1)



s47F(1)

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s47F(1)

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s47F(1)

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s22(1)(a)(ii)

s33(a)(iii) and s33(b)

From: s47F(1)

Sent: Monday, 17 October 2022 4:32 PM

To: Gemma Huggins <Gemma.Huggins@dfat.gov.au>; s47E(d)

Cc: Marc Innes-Brown <marc.innes@dfat.gov.au>

Subject: The Guardian: Australia quietly drops recognition of West Jerusalem as capital of Israel [SEC=UNOFFICIAL]

FYI: [Australia quietly drops recognition of West Jerusalem as capital of Israel | Australia news | The Guardian](#)

s47F(1)

Adviser to the Minister for Foreign Affairs

Senator the Hon Penny Wong

T : s47F(1)

| M: s47F(1)

| E : s47F(1)

| W : www.dfat.gov.au

From: [Internet Publishing](#)
To: [Greg Wilcock](#)
Subject: FW: Removal of content from DFAT website [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Date: Tuesday, 18 October 2022 9:45:00 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

OFFICIAL

FYI

From: s22(1)(a)(ii)
Sent: Monday, 17 October 2022 8:38 AM
To: Internet Publishing s47E(d)
Subject: Removal of content from DFAT website [SEC=OFFICIAL]

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s22(1)(a)(ii)

s47E(c)

Middle East Branch | Middle East, Africa, and Afghanistan Division
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

P s22(1)(a)(ii) | **M** s22(1)(a)(ii)

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From: [Foreign Minister Media](#)
To: [Media](#)
Subject: FOREIGN MINISTER PENNY WONG - MEDIA RELEASE - REVERSAL OF RECOGNITION OF WEST JERUSALEM
- TUESDAY, 18 OCTOBER 2022 [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Date: Tuesday, 18 October 2022 11:20:08 AM

OFFICIAL



SENATOR THE HON PENNY WONG
LEADER OF THE GOVERNMENT IN THE SENATE
MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS

MEDIA RELEASE

REVERSAL OF RECOGNITION OF WEST JERUSALEM

Today the Government has reaffirmed Australia's previous and longstanding position that Jerusalem is a final status issue that should be resolved as part of any peace negotiations between Israel and the Palestinian people.

This reverses the Morrison Government's recognition of West Jerusalem as the capital of Israel.

Australia's embassy has always been, and remains, in Tel Aviv.

Australia is committed to a two-state solution in which Israel and a future Palestinian state coexist, in peace and security, within internationally recognised borders.

We will not support an approach that undermines this prospect.

The Albanese Government recommits Australia to international efforts in the responsible pursuit of progress towards a just and enduring two-state solution.

Australia will always be a steadfast friend of Israel. We were among the first countries to formally recognise Israel under Labor Prime Minister Ben Chifley. This Government will not waver in its support of Israel and the Jewish community in Australia.

We are equally unwavering supporters of the Palestinian people, providing humanitarian support every year since 1951 and advocating for resumed peace negotiations.

I regret that Mr Morrison's decision to play politics resulted in Australia's shifting position, and the distress these shifts have caused to many people in the Australian community who care deeply about this issue.

Media Contact

s47F(1)

Ministerial Office: +61 2 6277 7500

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OFFICIAL

s22(1)(a)(ii)

s47E(d)

Title: Jerusalem announcement
MRN: s47E(d) 18/10/2022 12:40:40 PM ZE10
To: FAF Posts
Cc:
From: Canberra
(CHCH/DFAT/MAD/MEB)
From File:
EDRMS
Files:
References: The cable has the following attachment/s -
Media release - reversal of recognition of West Jerusalem.docx
Response: Routine, Information Only

Summary

On 18 October 2022, Foreign Minister Wong announced a reversal of the decision to recognise West Jerusalem as the capital of Israel. The decision is consistent with Australia's longstanding position that Jerusalem is a final status issue that should be resolved as part of peace negotiations. The media release, which posts can draw on in response to questioning, is attached.

text ends

Sent by: s22(1)(a)(ii)
Prepared by: s22(1)(a)(ii)
Approved by: AS MEB
Topics: INTERNATIONAL SECURITY/Strategic Policy, POLITICAL-ECONOMIC/Domestic Political
▼ New Distribution

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SENATOR THE HON PENNY WONG
LEADER OF THE GOVERNMENT IN THE SENATE
MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS

MEDIA RELEASE

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Australia is committed to a two-state solution in which Israel and a future Palestinian state coexist, in peace and security, within internationally recognised borders.

We will not support an approach that undermines this prospect.

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We are equally unwavering supporters of the Palestinian people, providing humanitarian support every year since 1951 and advocating for resumed peace negotiations.

I regret that Mr Morrison's decision to play politics resulted in Australia's shifting position, and the distress these shifts have caused to many people in the Australian community who care deeply about this issue.

Media Contact

s47F(1)

Ministerial Office: +61 2 6277 7500

From: [Media](#)
To: s47F(1)
Cc: s22(1)(a)(ii) [Media](#)
Subject: *FMO attention - transcript** - FOREIGN MINISTER PENNY WONG - PRESS CONFERENCE - CANBERRA - 11:15AM - TUESDAY, 18 OCTOBER 2022 *** [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Date: Tuesday, 18 October 2022 1:23:38 PM
Attachments: [Transcript_Senator_Wong_Press_Conference_18102022.docx](#)

OFFICIAL

Good afternoon s47F(1)

Please find attached a draft transcript from this morning's press conference.

Regards,
s22(1)(a)(ii)

Media Liaison Section
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
T s22(1)(a)(ii) | E media@dfat.gov.au

Note to media: Unless otherwise specified, the information contained in this email is for background only.

From: Foreign Minister Media <noreply@dfat.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 18 October 2022 10:53 AM
To: Media <media@dfat.gov.au>
Subject: *** MEDIA ALERT - FOREIGN MINISTER PENNY WONG - PRESS CONFERENCE - CANBERRA - 11:15AM - TUESDAY, 18 OCTOBER 2022 *** [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL



SENATOR THE HON PENNY WONG
LEADER OF THE GOVERNMENT IN THE SENATE
MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS

The Minister for Foreign Affairs, Senator Penny Wong, is in
Canberra today and will hold a press conference.

TIME:
11:15AM AEDT
TUESDAY, 18 OCTOBER 2022

LOCATION:
BLUE ROOM
PARLIAMENT HOUSE
CANBERRA

Media Contact

s47F(1)

Ministerial Office: +61 2 6277 7500

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SENATOR THE HON PENNY WONG

LEADER OF THE GOVERNMENT IN THE SENATE
MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS

TRANSCRIPT

**E&OE TRANSCRIPT
PRESS CONFERENCE
ABC NEWS
TUESDAY, 18 OCTOBER 2022**

Subjects: *Greater Sunrise, Timor-Leste, Jerusalem, Israel, Australian Embassy in Tel-Aviv.*

PENNY WONG, FOREIGN MINISTER: Thanks very much for coming. I will try and be prompt, take a few questions, but just so you know I have got Minister Balakrishnan for a bilateral shortly. Can I start by acknowledging all those who are affected by the devastating floods and note that in particular the Prime Minister and Minister Watts have been trying to deal with this issue?

There are two announcements I would like to make this morning. The first is the appointment of Steve Bracks as Australia's special representative on Greater Sunrise. For those of you who might recall, in my visit to Timor-Leste I had a discussion with the President, Ramos-Horta, about how we might unstick the Greater Sunrise project which the Australian Government is not a party to but is critical to the financial and economic viability of Timor-Leste going forward. So, I'm very pleased that not only has Mr Bracks agreed to do it, but that the President and Prime Minister of Timor-Leste have also agreed to his appointment.

Secondly, I want to make an announcement in relation to Jerusalem. Today, the Government has reaffirmed Australia's previous and longstanding position that Jerusalem is a final status issue, and a final status issue that should be resolved as part of any peace negotiations between Israel and the Palestinian peoples. This reverses the Morrison Government's recognition of West Jerusalem as the capital of Israel. Australia's embassy, of course, has always been and remains in Tel-Aviv. The Australian Government remains committed to a two-state solution in which Israel and a future Palestinian state can coexist in peace and security within internationally recognised borders. We will not support an approach that undermines this prospect.

I would say I realise this is an issue of great interest to some parts of the Australian community and I would say this: we are committed to international efforts in the responsible pursuit of progress towards a just and enduring two-state solution. I also wish to say to the members of the Jewish community: Australia will always be a steadfast friend of Israel. We were amongst the first country to formally recognise Israel under Labor Prime Minister Ben Chifley and we remain. We will not waver in our support of both Israel and the Jewish community in Australia. We are equally unwavering in our support of the Palestinian people including in the provision of humanitarian support.

I would say that Mr Morrison's decision to play politics – and it was no more than that because we all know where the embassy remained – resulted in Australia shifting position. I know that this has caused conflict and distress and concern in parts of the Australian community and today the Government seeks to resolve that.

JOURNALIST: Can you just clarify, Minister Wong, what you said last night that [indistinct] made by the Government. Can you clarify was the decision made this morning made by the Cabinet or [indistinct] –

FOREIGN MINISTER: Yes. Yes. And it is consistent just so people – I know people might not recall this because you probably weren't paying that much attention to what I was saying in Opposition. It is consistent with what I was saying in Opposition in 2018.

JOURNALIST: The 20th Party Congress is meeting today in Beijing. What would a new term involving Xi Jinping mean for Australia's foreign policy?

FOREIGN MINISTER: Well, I think Australia's foreign policy is predicated on our interests. As I made clear to Foreign Minister Wang Yi in both meetings that we have had, Australia's interests have not changed. Our strategic policy settings have not changed.

JOURNALIST: Minister, can you just expand, please, on what you said were the consequences of the decision [indistinct] cause complications for certain communities in Australia, but also internationally partnerships, what sort of [indistinct]?

FOREIGN MINISTER: Well, look, I think we all know, and we saw some of it publicly that the 2018 decision put Australia out of step with the majority of the international community and was received with great concern by members of the international community, and I think it is a matter of public record that concerns were expressed by Indonesia, amongst others. But I would make the point – I can accept that the Coalition and the Labor Party can disagree on matters of foreign policy. You know what this was, though? This was a cynical play, unsuccessful, to win the seat of Wentworth in a by-election. And what the people saw was the Prime Minister of the day trying to play foreign policy in order to win votes in a seat. For that reason, I made clear at the time we affirmed our view that Jerusalem is a final status issue. What do those words mean? It means that it has to be resolved through negotiation between the parties.

JOURNALIST: Minister, if the decision was only made by Cabinet this morning and announced by yourself, why was the department – why did the department change the [indistinct]? Whose advice were they acting on?

FOREIGN MINISTER: Look, I think obviously, updating the website occurred ahead of Government processes. That happens sometimes. You know, there's – there was no – I'm not going to blame anybody for that. That happens. That's why I'm also here today making sure I am clear on our position, and I want to make clear the website did reflect the position that I had articulated in Opposition.

JOURNALIST: On a more substantive issue though, at the time in 2018 there was speculation or warning that the change that Mr Morrison announced would provoke protests, possibly violence in Gaza and [indistinct] that, you know, with the passage of time do you think that that decision did incite any –

FOREIGN MINISTER: Violence is always unacceptable and as a way to resolve conflict we encourage peaceful negotiations. I want to make that very clear. But this goes to matters of principle. If you believe, as Julie Bishop did, and as I think every Australian Government since 1948 has believed, that these are issues to be resolved between the parties, hence the longstanding position of an Australian Government has been to locate the embassy in Tel-Aviv, then you take the position that I've outlined today.

JOURNALIST: Foreign Minister, just two things very briefly. Do you have any information about where Sean Turnell is at the moment?

FOREIGN MINISTER: Not that I will share with you.

JOURNALIST: And, secondly, you are heading to the Pacific again.

FOREIGN MINISTER: I am.

JOURNALIST: Will you outline where you are going?

FOREIGN MINISTER: French Polynesia, Niue, and the Cook Islands, but possibly not in that order, I think. I'm happy to give you the release on that shortly, Stephen. You're the only person who asked me that question. Andrew Tillett.

ANDREW TILLET: Thanks, Minister. The appointment of Mr Bracks, what will he actually have to do in terms of – is there an opportunity to perhaps play a mediator an independent arbiter-type role?

FOREIGN MINISTER: Thank you. That's a good question because they're different models. He's not been appointed as an arbiter. Those can be appointed. In fact, the boundary issue historically was resolved in a context where you could go to arbitration. This is an envoy for us, our representative. But what I want him to do – and Steve is the best person for this because he has good relations with senior people on the Timor-Leste side and he has been a supporter of independence and their development for decades – is to have very granular discussions between the

parties. It was very clear to me that people are at the moment stuck in their positions and, as I said to President Ramos-Horta, we need to unstick it. Andrew.

ANDREW PROBYN: Just further on the Steve Bracks appointment, as you say, he's got a very good relationship with the Timor-Leste leadership and given that he is your representative what attitudes do you have when it comes to the processing of the gas, as this is one of the issues that's been hotly contested?

FOREIGN MINISTER: I think that is the key issue, isn't it, and I'm not pre-empting – I don't want to pre-empt any of those discussions, but I would make this very important point: we are not a party to the joint venture. The parties don't include the Australian Government. The decision to invest, which obviously would include the sorts of decisions that you avert to, would be made by the joint venture parties.

JOURNALIST: Senator, given Labor was, or telegraphed, this position in relation to the embassy in Opposition, and there has been media reporting obviously over the last 24 hours about this decision by my excellent colleague –

FOREIGN MINISTER: I enjoy the camaraderie.

JOURNALIST: – did the Australian Government receive any representations from the Israeli Government or other parties to desist from the decision that you have made this morning?

FOREIGN MINISTER: Well, I don't think it's reasonable for me as Foreign Minister to disclose all the interactions I or my office might have with stakeholders. You would anticipate we have a lot of representations on issues from counterparts, from community members. It is not – I think you would know, and I'll let the Israeli Government speak for themselves, but I think you would know the range of views in relation to this issue.

JOURNALIST: Has the Government had any correspondence with the Singaporean delegation about the Optus hack given the company is owned by a Singaporean –

FOREIGN MINISTER: No. Well, correspondence – I don't know what's occurred at official level, but I haven't – there are other matters that I wanted to discuss over dinner last night with Minister Balakrishnan. Obviously, we have a bilateral now and the leaders meeting shortly after where there will be, I think, media present for some of it. Thank you very much.

ENDS

s22(1)(a)(ii)

From: Gemma Huggins <Gemma.Huggins@dfat.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 18 October 2022 5:44 PM
To: s47F(1)
Cc: Marc Innes-Brown <marc.innes@dfat.gov.au>; s22(1)(a)(ii)
Subject: West Jerusalem draft media TPs [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

s47F(1)

We've draft the attached TPs (pasted below too for ease of reference) to help respond to media enquiries.

Let us know if any comments. Happy to put in the database.

s47E(d)

Cheers
Gemma

s47C(1)

