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January 30, 2020

The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, P.C., M.P.  
Prime Minister of Canada  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6  
[Justin.Trudeau@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Justin.Trudeau@parl.gc.ca)

**RE: Please denounce the United States' "Peace Plan for the Middle East"**

Dear Prime Minister Trudeau:

Greetings to you from The United Church of Canada.

We write today to urge Canada to maintain a principled policy position in accordance with international law, and to strongly oppose the Trump Administration's "Middle East peace plan" for Israel and Palestine, announced on January 28th, 2020. We further call on Canada to urge other international leaders to denounce the notion that this "plan" could offer a framework through which peace could be negotiated.

On 12 December 2019, The United Church of Canada wrote to Minister Francois-Philippe Champagne to thank Canada for its vote at the UN General Assembly affirming the right of the Palestinian People to self-determination. This vote, consistent with international law, demonstrated Canada's commitment to principled leadership.

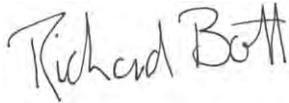
I deeply lament that President Trump's plan is far from being a "win-win" in advancing peace for Israelis and Palestinians. Palestinian and Israeli partners tell us that this plan offers nothing to Palestinians but a perpetual state of occupation. They see it as rewarding illegal land grabbing, and affirming those who promote occupation, annexation, and dispossession; while completely discounting and ignoring Palestinian rights and aspirations. Peace cannot come at the expense of justice, and this "plan" does not offer any sort of even playing field as a starting point for negotiations.

Being a true friend of Israel means that Canada must continue to support negotiations based on international law, consistent with our stated foreign policy for the region, to lead to a just outcome for both Israelis and Palestinians.

The United Church of Canada commends and encourages your government's "commitment to a safe and secure homeland for the Jewish people, and to a lasting peace between all peoples in the Middle East." We urge the Canadian government to reinvigorate efforts to bring a peaceful end to the occupation as part of your commitment to a lasting peace.

We look forward to your response. I hope that you will feel free to be in touch if we can assist in any way on these complex matters.

Grace and peace to you in the important leadership you give.



The Right Rev. Richard Bott  
Moderator  
The United Church of Canada/L'Église Unie du Canada

C.c.:

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