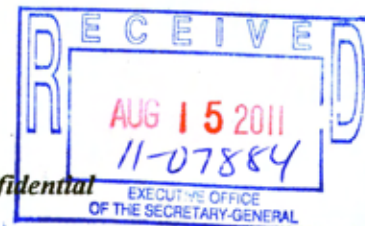


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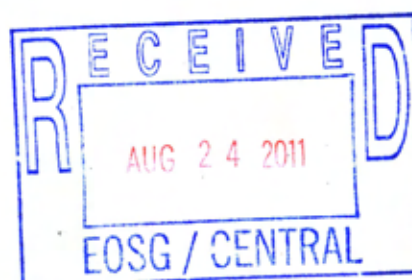
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Note to Mr. Nambiar

DRAFT QUARTET STATEMENT

1. The Government of Israel recently announced a series of settlement expansion:
 - On 4 August, the Government of Israel approved the construction of 900 units in East Jerusalem (Har Homa), which prompted separate statements by the Secretary-General and other Quartet members.
 - On 11 August, the Government of Israel announced that it will proceed with the construction of 4,225 housing units in East Jerusalem. These include 1,600 units in Ramat Shlomo originally made public during US Vice President Biden's visit in March 2010 which had prompted a strong international rebuke.
 - Today, Israel announced approval for the building of 277 houses in the West Bank settlement of Ariel, which is unprecedented under the current Netanyahu Government.
2. Special Coordinator Serry has been actively pushing for a united stance by the Quartet in reaction to these announcements, which undermine the ongoing efforts to bring the parties back to negotiations and to shape a more constructive scenario for September. A Quartet statement on settlement now would also make it easier to progress on finding common language for a larger Quartet statement to provide a basis for the resumption of talks, as it would then be less necessary to address the settlement issue in such strong terms in that framework.
3. Mr. Serry has been consulting Quartet envoys over the weekend, and has now circulated to other Quartet members the draft attached below, **with the aim of issuing it tomorrow morning by 9 am in New York if other Quartet members confirm their approval.** It is not yet guaranteed that the US will accept it, but the Special Coordinator is hopeful. In order to be in a position immediately to issue it tomorrow morning if other Quartet members confirm their agreement by then, we would be grateful for your securing the approval of the Secretary-General.


B. Lynn Parcoe
15 August 2011



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Draft Quartet statement

[Embargo until 16 August 9 am, to be issued only if confirmed]

"The Quartet is greatly concerned by Israel's recent announcements to advance planning for new housing units in Ariel and East Jerusalem. The Quartet reaffirms that unilateral action by either party cannot prejudge the outcome of negotiations and will not be recognized by the international community. Jerusalem in particular is one of the core issues that must be resolved through negotiations between the parties, which underscores the urgent need for the parties to resume serious and substantive talks. This comes at a critical juncture with Quartet efforts ongoing to resume negotiations which are the only way to a just and durable solution to the conflict."

New York, 16 August 2011