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Hon. Chrystia Freeland
Minister of Foreign Affairs
Global Affairs Canada

May 30, 2017

Dear Minister Freeland,

I am writing to you to express concerns about your refusal to answer questions about UN Security Council (UNSC) Resolution 2334 on the situation in the occupied Palestinian territories, and to seek clarity on your government's position.

This resolution, which passed in a 14–0 vote and is binding under international law, reaffirms the illegality of Israeli settlements in Palestinian territory, underlines the baseline of 1967 borders, calls for an immediate end to acts of violence against civilians and a credible peace process, and calls on involved parties to respect international law, including the Fourth Geneva Convention on the protection of civilians.

I asked you twice in the House of Commons whether your government plans to abide by this resolution, but you refused to answer directly. Your response consisted of generalities about supporting peace in the Middle East which amounts to nothing less than an evasion of the question, and therefore of your government's obligations under international law.

It is hard to see how Canada intends to campaign for a seat on the UNSC, while refusing to respect the Council's binding resolutions. If Canada truly is back on the world stage and is committed to international human rights and the rule of law, it will act on this commitment with no prejudice or exception.

For the above reasons, I respectfully request the utmost clarity on whether your government plans to abide by all of the provisions of UNSC Resolution 2334.

I look forward to your response at your earliest convenience.

Yours sincerely,

Hélène Laverdière, MP for Laurier – Sainte-Marie
NDP Foreign Affairs Critic