

Annex One: Advice provided to Wellington City Council by MFAT officials

Dear Mayor. Regarding the Palestinian flag question. The Divisional Manager of MFAT's Middle East and Africa Division has provided the following response:

This is for the Nakba (catastrophe) anniversary, which marks the end of the British mandate in Palestine, and for Palestinians the displacement of their people and s6(a) – and the creation of the state of Israel, which was declared in 14 May 1948. Our consistent message to councils who have been lobbied to fly the Palestinian flag on 15 May is that such an act could be construed as an act of state recognition s6(a) Lighting up the Michael Fowler Centre is not flying a national flag but given that it is council property it is likely to evoke s9(2)(g)(i) criticism from the Israeli Embassy, s9(2)(g)(i) s9(2)(g)(i) and a fairly diverse group of supporters of the state of Israel. It's the Council's decision but we would recommend against s6(a)

My MEA colleagues have provided similar guidance to AKL and CHC City Councils

Best regards

s9(2)(g)(ii)

MFAT

Part I: Transcriptions of text messages regarding advice provided to Mayor Foster

s9(2)(g)(ii)

- Saturday 14 May 9:30am

s9(2)(g)(ii) - sorry to disturb your weekend. Andy Foster has just rung me about a plan to light up the Michael Fowler Centre with the Palestinian flag on Monday (for a specific anniversary). Foster is asking for our view and if it will give offence to Israeli Embassy. s9(2)(g)(i)

s9(2)(g)(ii)

s9(2)(g)(ii) Will message s9(2)(g)(ii) too.

s9(2)(g)(ii) Hi s9(2)(g)(ii) thanks - s9(2)(g)(i)

s9(2)(g)(ii) Thanks I will go back to the Mayor. s9(2)(g)(ii)

s9(2)(g)(ii) Thanks heaps!

s9(2)(g)(ii) Reply from Mayor

Thank you s9(2)(g)(ii)

That is very clear and as such very much appreciated.

I have told Wellington NZ who operate the MFC on our behalf, and the councillor who was pushing it about the advice and that that the answer is no.

Have a great weekend - thanks again.

Andy

s9(2)(g)(ii) Oh wonderful! You're a magician thank you!

s9(2)(g)(ii)

- Saturday 14 May 9:32am

s9(2)(g)(ii) Hi s9(2)(g)(ii) - sorry to disturb your weekend. Andy Foster has just rung me about a plan to light up the Michael Fowler Centre with the Palestinian flag on Monday (for a specific anniversary). Foster is asking for our view and if it will give offence to Israeli Embassy. s9(2)(g)(i)

s9(2)(g)(ii)

s9(2)(g)(ii) This is for the Nakba (catastrophe) anniversary, which marks the end of the British mandate in Palestine, and for Palestinians the displacement of their people and

s6(a) – and the creation of the state of Israel, which was declared in 14 May 1948. Our consistent message to councils who have been lobbied to fly the Palestinian flag on 15 May is that such an act could be construed as an act of state recognition s6(a) Lighting up the Michael Fowler Centre is not flying a national flag but given that it is council property it is likely to evoke s9(2)(g)(i) criticism from the Israeli Embassy, s9(2)(g)(i) and a fairly diverse group of supporters of the state of Israel. It's the Council's decision but we would recommend against s6(a)

12:53pm

s9(2)(g)(ii) Thanks so much. Have shared this with the Mayor. If he has any further questions are you happy for me to give him your number? s9(2)(g)(ii)

s9(2)(g)(ii) Yes absolutely. Thanks s9(2)(g)(ii)

6:11pm

s9(2)(g)(ii) Reply message

Thank you s9(2)(g)(ii)

That is very clear and as such very much appreciated.

I have told Wellington NZ who operate the MFC on our behalf, and the councillor who was pushing it about the guidance and that the answer is no.

Have a great weekend – thanks again.

Andy

s9(2)(g)(ii) Thanks s9(2)(g)(ii)

s9(2)(g)(ii) **to Mayor Andrew Foster - Saturday 14 May 12:51PM**

s9(2)(g)(ii) Dear Mayor. Regarding the Palestinian flag question. The Divisional Manager of MFAT's Middle East and Africa Division has provided the following response:

This is for the Nakba (catastrophe) anniversary, which marks the end of the British mandate in Palestine, and for Palestinians the displacement of their people and s6(a) – and the creation of the state of Israel, which was declared in 14 May 1948. Our consistent message to councils who have been lobbied to fly the Palestinian flag on 15 May is that such an act could be construed as an act of state recognition s6(a) Lighting up the Michael Fowler Centre is not flying a national flag but given that it is council property it is likely to evoke s9(2)(g)(i) criticism from the Israeli Embassy, s9(2) and a fairly diverse group of supporters of the state of Israel. (g)(i) the Council's decision but we would recommend against s6(a)

My MEA colleagues have provided similar guidance to AKL and CHC City Councils

Best regards

s9(2)(g)(ii)

MFAT

Andrew Foster: Thank you ^{s9(2)(g)(ii)}

That is very clear and as such very much appreciated.

I have told Wellington NZ who operate the MFC on our behalf, and the councillor who was pushing it about the guidance and that the answer is no.

Have a great weekend – thanks again.

Andy