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Model United Nations

23-2-15

United Kingdom Israel-Palestine Policy Paper

Although the land that makes up Israel was set aside by the UN in 1947 to be a Jewish state, the United Kingdom believes that the Palestinian refugees should have a right of return, not to Israel, but to a separate Palestinian state using the 1967 borders with the removal of any illegal Israeli settlements.

According to the BBC article “Why are Israel and the Palestinians fighting over Gaza?” “After World War II and the Holocaust in which six million Jewish people were killed, more Jewish people wanted their own country. They were given a large part of Palestine, which they considered their traditional home but the Arabs who already lived there and in neighboring countries felt that was unfair and didn't accept the new country. In 1948, the two sides went to war. When it ended, Gaza was controlled by Egypt and another area, the West Bank, by Jordan. They contained thousands of Palestinians who fled what was now the new Jewish home, Israel,” (Why). Basically, the Palestinians and Israelis both believe that the land that makes up Israel rightfully belongs to them. The Israel-Palestine Conflict is still a major world issue even after 67 years of unrest. Currently there are over 5 million Palestinian refugees living in overcrowded, undersupplied, filthy refugee camps. As stated in the “Palestinian Employment in Lebanon Facts and Challenges,” fifty percent of Palestinian refugees that work make about thirty-three US dollars. As shown, the situation of the Palestinian refugees is desperate. Although as stated by the United Kingdom Government website, “The UK has provided US $26.6 million in humanitarian support to people in Gaza this summer, supporting a range of essential services provided by UNRWA, the World Food Programme, the International Committee of the Red Cross and local NGOs,” (UK), this support is still not enough for the refugees. Not only do the Palestinians have to deal with these poor living conditions, but also there is almost constant violence between the Israelis and Palestinians. Since the breakdown of the U.S. peace talks in April 2014, the violence between the Israelis and Palestinians has become more heated. In addition, the Israeli government is continuing to develop more illegal settlements on land claimed by the Palestinians. According to the Jerusalem Post article “Britain’s House of Commons votes 274-12 in favor of symbolic motion that stands as initial stage of UK recognition of a Palestinian state,” "that this House believes that the Government should recognize the state of Palestine alongside the state of Israel as a contribution to securing a negotiated two-state solution," (British). The United Kingdom believes that a two state solution is a fair resolution to the Israel-Palestine Conflict despite the fact that the land was designated to be a Jewish state by the UN in 1947.

The United Kingdom believes that dividing the state of Israel into separate Palestinian and Israeli states using the 1967 borders is a reasonable solution to the Israel-Palestine conflict. All illegal Israeli settlements on Palestinian land will be removed. The UN will provide aid for resettlements. Because sites with religious significance, such as Judea are a main part of the conflict, people will be allowed to travel freely to holy sites. Violence of any kind between the Israelis and Palestinians will not be tolerated. If violence breaks out between Israelis and Palestinians, sanctions will be placed on the offending party that started the conflict. Military action would only be used as a last result, if sanctions have no effect on the offending party. The military action would include peace keeping forces. A two state solution, which could create peace between the Israelis and Palestinians, would not only reduce the unrest in the Middle East, but would also make the international community a safer place.

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