



# Likud-Herut UK

P.O Box 35531  
London NW4 4WB

Tel : +44 20 8732 8900  
Email: info@Likud-Herut.org.uk

## PRESS RELEASE – 18<sup>TH</sup> March 2010

We sincerely regret the unpleasantness which has arisen between the US and Israeli governments over the grant of Jewish building permits in East Jerusalem. Like all modern countries the planning directorates in Israel work to their own timetables and cannot be expected to schedule hearings or grant consents to suit an ever-changing diplomatic diary of visits and summits.

Prime Minister Netanyahu has apologised for the unfortunate timing of that announcement and any embarrassment caused to Vice President Biden and his government's genuine efforts to broker a peace agreement in the region.

Beyond this, it is important to state very clearly that Jerusalem has been the capital of the Jewish people for 3,000 years. After first being crowned in Hebron, it is in Jerusalem that King David established his kingdom and his heir King Solomon built the first Jewish temple. Irrevocable proof of our national title can be found as clearly in the Bible and millions of historic texts as it can be unearthed in many hundreds of archaeological sites all over Israel and indeed Jews have been a majority in Jerusalem ever since a census was taken (over 150 years).

When the State of Israel was created in 1948, there were 100,000 Jews in Jerusalem as compared with 65,000 Arab residents. Jews only disappeared from the capital through ethnic cleansing by the invading Arab armies, just as Jews were wiped out of Hebron in the Arab pogrom of 1929.

Jerusalem is ours; plain and simple. Jews do not require the permission of the United States or any other terrestrial power to build homes in their own country. If a Palestinian state arises out of a genuine peace agreement with Israel, it will be on territories that the Jewish people have elected to gift to the new state as a price of peace and a means of saving more young lives from being lost in endless wars.

No country in history has made more efforts or taken more risks in the pursuit of peace with its neighbours than Israel.

The land is ours. We are willing to share it with genuine partners in peace.

*Eric Graus – President*