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The Rt Hon Boris Johnson MP
Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs
Foreign & Commonwealth Office
King Charles Street
London
SW1A 2AH

Our Ref: JR12024

Dear Secretary of State,

I write to ask that you condemn Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas's antisemitic speech to the Palestinian National Council on Monday.

During the speech, Abbas claimed that the Holocaust was not the result of antisemitism, but because of Jews "social behavior, [charging] interest, and financial matters." Together with his attempt to deny the Jewish people's connection with the land of Israel, this is antisemitism pure and simple and must be condemned as such.

It has been reassuring to see the international community – including the US, Germany and the European Union – provide such condemnation. Her Majesty's government must now add its voice to state loudly and clearly that the speech was antisemitic and does not help the cause of peace in the Middle East.

I urge you to condemn this antisemitic speech as a matter of upmost importance.

Yours sincerely,

Rt. Hon Joan Ryan MP
Chair, Labour Friends of Israel