

ISRAEL - SPAIN - DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS\*JOINT STATEMENT

In accordance with the principle of universal relations among States, and bearing in mind the profound historical bonds that link the Spanish people and the Jewish people, the two Governments have decided to establish diplomatic relations between Spain and Israel from today. Consequently, Embassies will be opened in Tel Aviv and Madrid and their respective Ambassadors appointed. The status of Spain's Consulate General in Jerusalem will not be affected by this fact.

On the occasion of the establishment of diplomatic relations, the Government of Spain has presented to the Government of Israel a declaration with its position on the situation in the Middle East and the search for peace in the area. On its side, the Government of Israel has reiterated its own positions as they are stated in the basic lines of action of the Government of national unity and set forth by Prime Minister Shimon Peres in his speech to the United Nations General Assembly, on October 14th, 1985.

The Hague, January 17th, 1986

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\*[This text of this Joint Statement and the Declaration of the Government of Spain, were provided by the Embassy of Spain, Canberra ]

DECLARATION OF THE GOVERNMENT  
OF SPAIN

Today, the Spanish Government, inspired by its policy of universal diplomatic relations and by its friendly feelings towards the Jewish people -whose contribution is a part of Spain's historical and cultural heritage-, has decided to establish diplomatic relations with Israel.

In doing so, the Spanish Government wishes to emphasize that it will maintain its traditional policy of friendship and solidarity towards the Arab world, closely linked to Spain by shared bonds of history and culture.

Especially, the Spanish Government reaffirms the validity of the prohibition of resorting to the threat or use of force, which forbids, in particular, to recognize any territorial acquisition affected by such means. Consequently, the Spanish Government reiterates the non-recognition by Spain of any measures directed towards the annexation of Arab territories occupied since 1967, or towards the unilateral change of the nature or status of the city of Jerusalem, where free access must always be open for all. In this framework, Spain rejects the policy of building settlements in the occupied territories, and calls for their dismantling as a first step towards the devolution of those territories.

The Spanish Government considers that the legitimate rights and aspirations of the Palestinian people, and specifically the right to self-determination, must be recognized and guaranteed. Simultaneously, the right to peaceful existence for all States in the region, within secure and internationally recognized boundaries, must be guaranteed.

Consequently, Spain states its belief that all parties involved should accept, and abide to, the relevant United Nations resolutions, and particularly Security Council resolutions 242 and 338, that must form the basis for the search of a peaceful, just and lasting solution to the

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... Arab-Israel conflict. On this basis, and in order to reach this solution, it is necessary to open a negotiation process between the interested parties -under appropriate international auspices-, with the participation of the Palestinian Liberation Organization, as representative of the Palestinian people.

After joining the European Community, Spain is confident that it will be able to contribute more actively to open the way to a comprehensive, just and lasting solution to the conflict, and is ready not to spare any effort towards this end. Therefore, the Spanish Government declares its willingness to work in the framework of the Community and other international fora and with the interested parties in favour of these principles and lines of action.

Finally, the Spanish Government trusts that the establishment of diplomatic relations with Israel will constitute a new favourable element in the road towards peace, and is also firmly convinced that it is possible to face the future in the expectation that a just peace for all is an attainable goal.

The Hague, January 17th, 1986