



Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade

26 June 2005

HE Silvan Shalom
Minister of Foreign Affairs
ISRAEL

Your Excellency

Thank you for your letter of 26 June 2005, concerning the activities which led in 2004 to the arrest and conviction of two Israeli citizens in New Zealand on criminal charges.

In view of your letter, and the apology and assurances it contains, New Zealand now regards this matter as being behind us and that we should move forward and resume friendly diplomatic relations.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Phil Goff'.

Hon Phil Goff MP
Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Jerusalem, 26 June 2005

Excellency,

As we discussed during your visit to Israel in 2003 and as I stated in the Knesset on 27 July of last year, Israel attaches great importance to its relationship with New Zealand, and I am pleased to reiterate our desire to continue to develop and enhance this relationship in the future.

In this context, we wish to express our regret for the activities which resulted in the arrest and conviction of two Israeli citizens in New Zealand on criminal charges and apologize for the involvement of Israeli citizens in such activities.

Israel commits itself to taking steps to prevent a recurrence of similar incidents in the future.

Yours Sincerely,



Silvan Shalom

H.E. Phil Goff
Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade of New Zealand
Wellington