

Expressing concern about planned Israeli settlements, UN urges return to negotiations

1 February 2017 – The recent announcement by the Israeli Government to advance 5,000 settlement units in the occupied West Bank could be an “obstacle” to peace, the spokesperson for the United Nations Secretary-General today said.

In a statement, Stéphane Dujarric, reiterated that unilateral actions threaten to unravel plans for a two-State solution between Israelis and Palestinians.

“We once again warn against any unilateral actions that can be an obstacle to a negotiated two-state solution,” Mr. Dujarric said.

He added that the UN calls on both parties to return to “meaningful negotiations” based on relevant Security Council resolutions and in accordance with international law, and is ready to support that process.

Joint Press Communique- India and Srilanka

The immediate release of the fishermen presently in custody was announced following the ministerial level talks.

Rashtrapati Nilayam gardens to open for public viewing from January 3 to 10, 2017

The Gardens at Rashtrapati Nilayam, Bolarum, Secunderabad will open for public viewing from January 3, 2017 to January 10, 2017 from 1000 hrs to 1700 hrs.

Achievements of Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare

About 309 lakh farmers of 23 states had been covered under Fasal Beema during previous Kharif Season 2015 in which 294 lakh farmers were lonee and 15 lakh farmers were non-lonee. During Kharif 2016, however, 366.64 lakh farmers have been covered out of which 264.04 lakh farmers are lonee and 102.60 lakh farmers are non-lonee. Pradhan Mantri Fasal Beema Yojana has been implemented by 21 states during Kharif 2016.

Follow up on flooding

I am pursuing the issues of whether the following actions would help reduce local flood risk. This includes asking the authorities what progress they have made on the possible projects beneath. I would be interested in local comment on what is needed.

1. Bund water containment on flood plain by the Emm
2. Emm deepening and widening of water course in Wokingham and Winnersh
3. Dredging of River Loddon at Loddon Bridge
4. Containment of Loddon with higher banks at Loddon bridge roundabout
5. Raising of road at Loddon bridge roundabout
6. Increased water retention capacity in safe areas in Shinfield and Arborfield
7. Further measures around Emmbrook School
8. Measure to contain water which currently can reach homes in Earley
9. Larger measures being considered for the course of the Loddon more generally