

EMBASSY OF ISRAEL
COPENHAGEN



שגרירות ישראל
קופנהגן

Mrs. Sus Ulbæk
Head of Department for Africa, Asia
America and the Middle East.

The Royal Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Asiatisk Plads 2
1448 Copenhagen K

The Embassy of Israel presents its compliments to the Royal Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the other recipients of this letter and has the honour to communicate the following:

Complaints have been made to this embassy following the visit to Gaza of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Folketing regarding three incubators which Israel allegedly has prevented from reaching their destination in Gaza, as well as a complaint about a donation of toys from "LEGO".

Responding to these complaints, an investigation of these two issues was conducted by the relevant authorities in Israel, and following are the findings, as they were related to this Embassy by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Israel:

1. The three incubators, which are part of a project managed by the Danish Representative Office in Ramallah, were delivered at their destination on November 1, 2009. It should be emphasized that the issue of the incubators, which was handled by a private company hired by the DRO in Ramallah, "Intermed Pal", was never brought to the attention of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Israel, and neither was the delivery marked as "humanitarian". It is our understanding that even the Embassy of Denmark in Israel was not aware about this issue until the parliamentary delegation was already in Tel-Aviv.
2. The issue of the "LEGO" donation is of a similar nature. Part of the toys were distributed in schools in the West Bank in the spring of 2008, and the rest of the shipment was supposed to be transferred to Gaza. At no point was the shipment branded a "humanitarian" delivery. The DRO maintains that there was no answer from the Israeli authorities regarding the request to allow the shipment to enter Gaza. Only in September 2009 the DRO turned to UNRWA, which recommended to the DRO to file a request



directly to the Israeli authorities in accordance with the procedures which are very well-known to the DRO. We would like to recommend that the DRO will file this request accordingly.

Permit me to express some puzzlement that the DRO left these two issues for almost a year to be handled by private agencies and, furthermore, did not find it necessary to define the shipment as "humanitarian", when the DRO knows fully well that items of a humanitarian category receive high priority by the Israeli authorities. Also, we wonder why the DRO brought the issue to the forefront only when the parliamentary delegation came to the region, and not much before. I am sure that a simple notification of these issues to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Israel would have prevented any misunderstandings, since the Government of Israel never had and does not have any intention to prevent humanitarian shipments from reaching their destination.

The Embassy of Israel avails itself the opportunity to renew to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the other recipients of this letter the assurance of its highest consideration.

Copenhagen, November 5, 2009

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Arthur Avnon', written in a cursive style.

Arthur Avnon
Ambassador of Israel

Cc: Mr. Ib Petersen, State Secretary, the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Mr. Michael Lund Jeppesen, Head of the Middle East and North Africa
Department
The members of the Foreign Affairs Committee