



ROYAL MINISTRY  
OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

*Minister of Foreign Affairs*

Oslo, 5 January 2006

*Dear Condi,*

I wish to share with you a copy of a letter that I have sent to our Israeli colleague Silvan Shalom today. The letter is sent to eliminate any possible misrepresentation of Norway's policy towards Israel due to a statement made by Finance Minister Kristin Halvorsen concerning the issue of a consumer boycott of Israel. The statement was made in her capacity as party leader of SV, one of the two parties that form the Norwegian Government together with the Labour party.

I share the copy with you to make you aware of the issue in case the matter is brought to your attention. The short version is the following: It has never been and it will never be the position of the Norwegian Government to advocate any such policy towards Israel. Norway is a friend of Israel based on long historic ties. On this basis we will continue to support the peace process and be available to the parties in the Middle East to help bring the process forward.

Yours sincerely *— warm regards*

Jonas Gahr Støre

The Honorable Condoleezza Rice  
Secretary of State  
Washington



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Dear Colleague, - *Dear Silvan,*

I assume you might be aware of a statement in which Ms. Kristin Halvorsen, member of the Cabinet and leader of the Socialist Left Party, supports her party's position on a consumer boycott of Israel. I would like to take this opportunity to reiterate the Norwegian Government's position on this issue in order to make it absolutely clear.

A consumer boycott against Israel is not the position of the Norwegian government, which has never discussed or considered such a boycott.

Norway is a friend of Israel. We enjoy close bilateral relations based on long-standing historical ties. Norway actively supports the right of Israel to live in peace and security within defensible borders. We also support the right of the Palestinian people to independence and security. We highly commend the Israeli government on the active and courageous steps it has recently taken towards a two-state solution.

The Socialist Left Party has advocated a consumer boycott for many years. This was not, however, an issue during the negotiations on a government platform for the Stoltenberg Government last autumn. The Labour Party and the Centre Party are firmly opposed to any kind of boycott of Israel. Thus, this is, and will remain, the policy of this government.

Let me also add that during a meeting with the Prime Minister today, Finance Minister Kristin Halvorsen confirmed that a boycott of Israel is not the policy of this government.

Yours sincerely

Jonas Gahr Støre

H.E. Mr. Silvan Shalom, MK  
Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs  
The State of Israel