

**Title:** Australia's policy on Middle East issues  
**MRN:** s 22(1)(a)(ii) 15/10/2018 10:50:59 PM ZE10  
**To:** s 22(1)(a)(ii)

**Cc:**  
**From:** Canberra (CHCH/DFAT/MAD/MEB)  
**From File:**  
**EDRMS**  
**Files:**  
**References:** s 22(1)(a)(ii)  
The cable has the following attachment/s -  
181015 Middle East Policy - TPs for posts.docx  
**Response:** Routine, Information Only

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### Summary

Prime Minister Morrison will make announcements tomorrow, Tuesday 16 October, in relation to Australia's Middle East policy. Grateful posts undertake action as requested.

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Prime Minister Morrison will make announcements tomorrow, Tuesday 16 October (Canberra time), in relation to Australia's Middle East policy. These are expected to appear in morning media.

2. The announcement follows careful consideration by the Prime Minister, in consultation with Ministers, on a number of important issues affecting Australia's interests in the Middle East, as follows:

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

### *Australia's diplomatic presence in Israel*

The Prime Minister will announce he has found the arguments put forward by Australia's former Ambassador to Israel [Dave Sharma] - that we should consider recognising

Jerusalem as the capital of Israel, without prejudice to its final boundaries, while acknowledging East Jerusalem as the expected capital of a future Palestinian state - persuasive. The Prime Minister will also say that we should be open to examining the merits of moving Australia's embassy to Jerusalem - in the context of our support for a two-state solution. Any decision will be subject to a rigorous assessment of our broader national interests.

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

3. It is important to note that Australia remains firmly committed to a two-state solution that allows Israel and a future Palestinian state to exist side-by-side, in peace and security, within internationally recognised borders. Talking points are attached. Broader whole-of-government talking points to follow in due course.

**Action on 15 October:**

4. s 33(a)(iii)

5. DFAT is currently (15 October AEST) seeking to advise the following Canberra-based Heads of Mission of the Prime Minister's announcements under embargo: s 33(a)(iii)

6. Grateful HOMs in responsible missions advise senior counterparts as appropriate, emphasising this advice is conveyed under embargo and we ask that it not be disclosed to any other parties prior to an announcement by the Prime Ministers s 33(a)(iii)

**Action on 16 October:**

7. DFAT will seek to advise the following Canberra Heads of Mission/representatives of the announcements early morning 16 October AEST: s 33(a)(iii)

Grateful HOM/HOPs or Head of Office in responsible posts/offices advise senior counterparts as soon as possible after the announcement is made public on 16 October. s 22(1)(a)(ii)

8. All other posts are asked to discuss with host governments as appropriate, following the announcement and drawing on the attached talking points. All posts are requested to report as a matter of priority on international reactions to the Prime Minister's announcements. For all posts: if any inquiries are received ahead of a formal announcement, you should draw on the attached talking points.

**Security and travel advice:**

9. All posts are requested to closely monitor the security environment and threat levels and to take appropriate security precautions, s 33(a)(i), s 37(1)(c)

10. The Department continues to monitor the international security environment closely. All posts are requested to advise if any change to the travel advice is recommended.

11. Cable prepared in consultation with PM&C. s 22(1)(a)(ii)

text ends

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**Sent by:** s 22(1)(a)(ii)  
**Prepared by:** Tony Sheehan, Deputy Secretary  
**Approved by:** Tony Sheehan, Deputy Secretary  
s 22(1)(a)(ii)

### Talking Points

- Prime Minister will be making an announcement in relation to Australia's Middle East policy on Tuesday, 16 October
    - **this is under embargo and we ask that you do not disclose to any other parties prior to an announcement by the Prime Minister.**
  - The announcement follows careful consideration by the Prime Minister, in consultation with Ministers, on a number of important issues affecting Australia's interests in the Middle East.
  - Important to emphasise no change in Australia's policy in support of peace and stability in the Middle East.
  - Government remains firmly committed to the Middle East Peace Process
    - and to a two-state solution that allows Israel and a future Palestinian state to exist side-by-side, in peace and security, within internationally recognised borders.
  - We will continue to encourage both sides to continue dialogue and negotiations towards a peaceful settlement.
- s 22(1)(a)(ii)

### Australia's Diplomatic Presence in Israel

- The Prime Minister has said he has found the arguments put forward by Australia's former Ambassador to Israel [Dave Sharma] - that we should consider recognising Jerusalem as the capital of Israel, without prejudice to its final boundaries, while acknowledging East Jerusalem as the expected capital of a future Palestinian state - persuasive
  - and that we should be open to examining the merits of shifting Australia's embassy to Jerusalem - in the context of our support for a two-state solution.
- Prime Minister Morrison has said he looks forward to further discussion on this together with Cabinet colleagues in the coming months
  - any decision will be subject to a rigorous assessment of our broader national interests.

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**From:** Kamath, Gita  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 16 October 2018 7:38 AM  
**To:** s 22(1)(a)(ii)  
**Cc:** Sheehan, Tony; s 22(1)(a)(ii)  
**Subject:** Re: out of hours contact info [SEC=PROTECTED]

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

~~PROTECTED~~

I just briefed the s 33(a)(iii) a/g HOM so no need for you to do this. s 33(a)(iii), s 33(b)

Gita

~~PROTECTED~~

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**From:** s 33(a)(iii)  
**Date:** Tuesday, 16 October 2018 at 7:24:47 am  
**To:** s 22(1)(a)(ii) <[@dfat.gov.au](mailto:@dfat.gov.au)>, s 33(a)(iii)  
s 33(a)(iii)  
**Cc:** "Kamath, Gita" <[Gita.Kamath@dfat.gov.au](mailto:Gita.Kamath@dfat.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** Re: out of hours contact info [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

s 33(a)(iii), s 33(b)

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**From:** s 33(a)(iii)  
**Sent:** Monday, 15 October 2018 22:49  
**To:** s 22(1)(a)(ii) s 33(a)(iii)  
**Cc:** Kamath, Gita  
**Subject:** Re: out of hours contact info [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

s 33(a)(iii), s 33(b)

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**From:** s 22(1)(a)(ii)  
**Sent:** Monday, 15 October 2018 20:40  
**To:** s 33(a)(iii)  
**Cc:** Kamath, Gita  
**Subject:** out of hours contact info [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

UNCLASSIFIED

s 33(a)(iii) – could we please have an out of hours contact number for either or both of you: my colleague Gita Kamath Asst Sec'y Africa Branch has urgent advice to pass to you. –s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

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**From:** Sheehan, Tony  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 16 October 2018 7:44 PM  
**To:** s 22(1)(a)(ii) Kamath, Gita  
**Cc:** s 22(1)(a)(ii)  
**Subject:** RE: call [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]  
s 33(a)(iii)

UNCLASSIFIED

Thanks s 22(1)(a)(ii)

I am speaking to s 33(a)(iii) at 1pm tomorrow.

Regards

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**From:** s 22(1)(a)(ii) @pmc.gov.au  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 16 October 2018 7:38 PM  
**To:** s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Kamath, Gita <Gita.Kamath@dfat.gov.au>; Sheehan, Tony

<Tony.Sheehan@dfat.gov.au>

**Cc:** s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

**Subject:** call [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]  
s 33(a)(iii)

**UNCLASSIFIED**

Hi all,

s 33(a)(iii), s 33(b)

I pretty much made (several times) the points PM had made in press conference and statement today re timing, s 22(1)(a)(ii) looking at merits of an Emb move. s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Regards

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

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**From:** Kamath, Gita  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 16 October 2018 10:35 AM  
**To:** s 22(1)(a)(ii)  
**Cc:** Sheehan, Tony; s 22(1)(a)(ii)  
**Subject:** RE: Middle East Announcement [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

UNCLASSIFIED

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Global Watch Office is issuing its next round up covering media commentary and reactions from countries/organisations by noon today. This will go to FMO. Grateful if you could please provide any material from countries in your patch to GWO as well for incorporation into this product, noting their noon deadline.

I'll forward you separately what they sent out this morning.

Many thanks  
gita

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**From:** s 22(1)(a)(ii)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 16 October 2018 9:47 AM  
**To:** Kamath, Gita <Gita.Kamath@dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii)  
**Cc:** Sheehan, Tony <Tony.Sheehan@dfat.gov.au>  
**Subject:** FW: Middle East Announcement [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

UNCLASSIFIED

Hi Gita, s 22(1)(a)(ii)  
Just to bring to your attention the below request from FMO. I have advised FMO that it is unlikely that we will have s 33(a)(iii) responses before QT s 33(a)(iii) I assume thought that you are working with the office on the QT briefs and any responses/reactions.  
s 22(1)(a)(ii)

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**From:** s 22(1)(a)(ii)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 16 October 2018 9:27 AM  
**To:** s 22(1)(a)(ii)  
**Cc:** s 22(1)(a)(ii)  
s 22(1)(a)(ii)  
**Subject:** Middle East Announcement [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

UNCLASSIFIED

Hi s 22(1)(a)(ii)

The PM and FM made a significant Middle East related announcement this morning.



Grateful if you could ask desks to collate third party endorsement/criticisms report covering reactions from political leaders and relevant figures/organisations across s 33(a)(iii). If all desks could monitor their respective geographical areas and leaders, and send me any relevant statements, quotes, or tweets, copying in s 22(1)(a)(ii) she will then be able to collate the report before question time. If a statement, please can you send the full statement and link, and if quotes in a media article, please attribute the outlet and include the link to the media article.

A suitable deadline would be 12pm but clearly if anything comes up between 12 and 2pm, please still send it through so that we can endeavour to pass it on (we want FM to be fully aware of any commentary and ready to respond at question time).

Kind regards

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

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**From:** Kamath, Gita  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 16 October 2018 11:02 AM  
**To:** s 22(1)(a)(ii)  
**Cc:** s 22(1)(a)(ii) Sheehan, Tony; s 22(1)(a)(ii)  
**Subject:** RE: Middle East tasking [~~SEC - PROTECTED, DLM - Sensitive~~]

~~PROTECTED~~  
~~Sensitive~~

s 33(a)(iii) just told me the s 33(a)(iii) call has now taken place.

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**From:** Kamath, Gita  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 16 October 2018 10:50 AM  
**To:** s 22(1)(a)(ii)  
**Cc:** s 22(1)(a)(ii) Sheehan, Tony <Tony.Sheehan@dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii)  
s 22(1)(a)(ii)  
**Subject:** RE: Middle East tasking [~~SEC - PROTECTED, DLM - Sensitive~~]

~~PROTECTED~~  
~~Sensitive~~

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 33(a)(iii), s 33(b)

Thanks for the update re possible s 33(a)(iii) call.

gita

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**From:** s 22(1)(a)(ii)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 16 October 2018 10:41 AM  
**To:** Kamath, Gita <Gita.Kamath@dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii)  
**Cc:** s 22(1)(a)(ii)  
**Subject:** RE: Middle East tasking [~~SEC - PROTECTED, DLM - Sensitive~~]

~~PROTECTED~~  
~~Sensitive~~

Thanks Gita – what was the reaction from the s 33(a)(iii) ?

We are in touch with s 33(a)(iii) and the call is not yet confirmed, but we will provide s 33(a)(iii) -specific points if needed. s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

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**From:** Kamath, Gita  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 16 October 2018 10:38 AM  
**To:** s 22(1)(a)(ii)  
**Cc:** s 22(1)(a)(ii)  
**Subject:** RE: Middle East tasking [~~SEC-PROTECTED, DLM-Sensitive~~]

~~PROTECTED~~  
Sensitive

Hi s 22(1)(a)(ii)

I will send you the round up issued by the Global Watch Office this morning. The s 33(a)(iii) HOMs were contacted last night.

s 22(1)(a)(ii) – Tony Sheehan mentioned that a s 33(a)(iii) heard anything about this?

might be on the cards. Have you

Regards  
gita

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**From:** s 22(1)(a)(ii)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 16 October 2018 9:58 AM  
**To:** Kamath, Gita <Gita.Kamath@dfat.gov.au>  
**Cc:** s 22(1)(a)(ii)  
**Subject:** Middle East tasking [~~SEC-PROTECTED, DLM-Sensitive~~]

~~PROTECTED~~  
~~Sensitive~~

Morning Gita

I understand you were able in the end to contact the s 33(a)(iii) read-out on the call, if possible.

last night. I'd be interested in a

Colleagues here were wondering, too, which other Canberra-based HOMs you managed to brief. s 33(a)(iii)

Many thanks  
s 22(1)(a)(ii)

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s 22(1)(a)(ii)

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**From:** Sheehan, Tony  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 16 October 2018 3:26 PM  
**To:** Kamath, Gita <Gita.Kamath@dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii)  
Frances <Frances.Adamson@dfat.gov.au>  
**Subject:** FW:s 33(a)(iii) ROC from today's call -s 33(a)(iii)  
~~DLM - Sensitive Cabinet~~

Adamson,

call ~~[SEC - PROTECTED]~~

~~PROTECTED~~  
~~Sensitive Cabinet~~

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**From:** s 22(1)(a)(ii)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 16 October 2018 3:17 PM  
**To:** s 22(1)(a)(ii)  
**Cc:** s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Sheehan, Tony <Tony.Sheehan@dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii)

**Subject:** s 33(a)(iii) ROC from today's call -s 33(a)(iii)  
~~DLM - Sensitive Cabinet~~

~~[SEC - PROTECTED]~~

~~PROTECTED~~  
~~Sensitive Cabinet~~

All,  
Please find attached the ROC from today's call.

Best regards,

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

pp. 13-14 exempt in full - s 33(a)(iii), s 33(b)

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