Rt Hon Alex Salmond MSP
First Minister of Scotland

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The Scottish Government

Mr Michael Napier
Scottish Palestine Solidarity Campaign
c/o Peace & Justice Centre
2 Princes Street
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19th July 2008

Dear Mr Napier

I am writing in relation to the new edition of *Scotland's Jews* for which I provided a foreword.

It has been brought to my attention that the version of *Scotland's Jews* released at the launch meeting on 22nd June contains comments relating to the Scottish Palestine Solidarity Campaign (SPSC) which have been interpreted by the SPSC as potentially libellous.

As you will be aware in my position as First Minister I am often asked to provide forewords to publications. Earlier this year I did so for *The Thistle and the Crescent* and more recently for *Scotland's Jews* because it is important to celebrate the contribution of our diverse communities to Scottish society. The foreword which I provided for *Scotland's Jews* was based on a text which did not contain the references which are now the subject of concern. Whilst, of course, the provision of a foreword does not indicate an endorsement of every comment that is contained within such publications, I am disappointed that comments which may be construed as offensive were contained in the version of *Scotland's Jews* which accompanied the launch meeting.

This is also the position of the Minister for Communities and Sport, Stewart Maxwell. At the launch of the publication Mr Maxwell was unaware of the additions which had been made to the text. Therefore, please take this letter as a reply to the letter of 1st July from Bannatyne, Kirkwood, France & Co to Mr Maxwell on the subject.

As you rightly note, the publication, Scotland's Jews, contains a great deal of valuable information about the longstanding role of the Jewish community in Scottish society. As we discussed, I hope with goodwill this matter can be brought to a constructive solution between the parties involved.

I am copying this letter to Mr Ephraim Borowski.

Yours Scotland
Alex Salmond

ALEX SALMOND