

Written evidence submitted by Peter Hall (IPC0078)

**IN RESPONSE TO C'TEE 3486. Q2 : WHAT CAN
BE LEARNED FROM THE RECORD OF**

UK GOV POLICIES TO DATE ?

MY PERSONAL DETAILS My name is Peter Hall. I was born in 1948 and grew up here in London.

Both parents were Holocaust Survivors. In 1967 aged 18, I enlisted in the Israeli army. So I consider that I'm able to empathize with both the English and Israeli cultures and able to verify the inner dynamics of each to the other. In later years with some experience of UK media / political issues, I'm interested in the influences and pressures involved.

Of course there are very many people with similar backgrounds to myself and far better qualified to testify. Nevertheless, I'm here and wanting to give my personal take on UK policy towards the Israel / Palestine conflict.

SUMMARY

* Past performance of this c'tee in relation to

official gov policy and HoC debates.

- * The implications of that performance for the relationship between the c'tee and the deepstate.

- * The deepstate and the mainstream media.
(MSM)

- * Relevance to this c'tee of the latest protest by BBC journalists (november 2024) towards BBC editorial management re the Gaza war.

- * The rise of social media & Youtube as more accurate and reliable than the MSM. The relevance of that to this c'tee.

- * In particular, a youtube in-depth eyewitness to IDF connivance with Israeli settler sabotage of aid convoys to Gaza by US journalist Jeremy Loffredo. He was later arrested and imprisoned in Israel and eventually deported.

- * Picking up on a comment by Prof. Sassoli in his oral witnessing at the end of Q94. "You have to deduce genocidal intent from the conduct on the ground." One implication in particular of healthcare destruction in Gaza.

- * Conclusions as to the significance of the c'tee in the public discourse via the MSM.

para 1. **PAST PERFORMANCE**. What can be seen from the public version of UK foreign policies towards the Middle East is its complete failure to have any influence on facts on the ground re the present Gaza war. The question then is whether this c'tee is happy with that or whether it actually wants to influence the situation.

2. **IMPLICATIONS OF THAT PAST PERFORMANCE** There is a huge and utter disconnect

between UK official policies and the reality of very deep UK - and USA - ties with Israeli military, security, economic and hence Israeli 'Deep State' political imperatives. At the same time, the UK deepstate itself profits by that relationship and exerts pressure on every part of UK policy to preserve those interests.

3. By 'deep state' is meant the network of interests that result in an unspoken set of assumptions between the elites of that society. Its logical that the relationship between Israel, the USA, and the UK, now results in one single deep state. Of course it doesn't look like that on the surface. Public policies of each state seem very different. But policies consisting of words alone are almost useless and really only propaganda fodder for public consumption.

4. It seems clear to me that this c'tee represents only the 'words' part of UK policy-making that has no influence at all on the deepstate interests of the various players and events on the ground.

5. That seems perfectly demonstrated by the public exchange of letters between David Cameron (Foreign Secretary) and Alicia Kearns of this c'tee in March 2024. It referred amongst other things to sabotage of aid convoys to Gaza and seemed designed to precisely accept the status quo as established fact without any intention to seriously challenge the situation. That, at any rate, was the result. Ms. Kearns's letter had reiterated the claim by Mr Eylon Levy (Israeli spokesman) that Israel doesn't impede aid convoys. Mr Cameron's response acknowledges that position without any great disagreement with it and hence in effect signed off on the situation.

6. So, any real wish to change facts on the ground has to acknowledge the 'real' interests and the logical intentions behind acts on the ground.

7. **THE DEEPSTATE AND THE MAINSTREAM MEDIA (MSM)** It seems clear from the

foregoing that the function of government public pronouncements

- including those of this c'tee - is to disguise their disconnect from the real motivations behind the exercise of power on the ground. On from that, the role of the MSM must be to sanitize that exercise of power and present it as the result of benign government policy. An example of this sanitization is the agreement within the UK MSM (and probably the whole of the European Broadcasting Union) to never show any recognizable dead bodies. The ostensible reason for this is to not unduly upset the viewing population. The result, though, is to insulate most of that population from feeling directly involved with the horror of those events. And hence political apathy is encouraged both from below and above towards the cause of those events.

**8. BBC JOURNALISTS PROTEST
(NOVEMBER 2024) AGAINST BBC EDITORIAL
CONTROL RE GAZA WAR COVERAGE.** |

hope by now to have shown the need to acknowledge internal deepstate pressures and therefore their relevance to this c'tee's deliberations. The c'tee may be aware of a letter by 100 BBC journalists last november to their senior management challenging the status and impartiality of the Middle Eastern news editor Mr Raffi Berg. There's a long history of BBC journalists' unhappiness at pro-Israel bias and editorial (and hence political) control re Israeli / Palestinian issues. This latest attempt to force

internal debate and change is likely to be serious enough to give this c'tee good reason to ask the Home Affairs C'tee to ask the BBC to make that letter and management response available to public scrutiny.

9. **THE RISE OF SOCIAL MEDIA AND YOUTUBE.** The c'tee may be aware of the rising

proportion of the population saying they have more confidence in the accuracy and reliability of news on youtube and social media generally. I myself am one of those people. Certainly there's a great need to be aware of misinformation and how it is spread. However, these issues also apply to mainstream media - and arguably have greater effect, due to the mainstream media having greater access (for the present) to information technology.

10. I find that there's a greater range of hard news content on youtube than mainstream media.

Simply because there's no censorship or editorial control by the platform, biases of the uploader are more likely to be obvious and explicit. This enables the viewer to quickly judge the honesty of the material on offer. For myself, I have more respect for the potential authenticity and motivations behind the content on youtube than the MSM.

11. **A PERFECT EXAMPLE** of this authenticity is an in-depth eyewitness account on youtube of

IDF connivance in Israeli settler sabotage of Gaza-bound aid convoys at the Kerem Shalom crossing between Israel / Egypt / Gaza. (Link att'd.) It was filmed by the US journo Jeremy Loffredo. Apart from the actual physical events, interviews and conversations with the Israeli participants show us their mindset aided and abetted by IDF military. Loffredo was arrested and imprisoned by the Israeli government and eventually deported back to the USA.

12. **THE RELEVANCE OF THIS CLIP TO THE C'TEE** is the background information it offers to

literally the whole world. It would never be shown by the mainstream media in the western world due to the western alliance with Israeli interests. Without youtube, governments and deepstate interests would be more easily able to ignore the terrible injustices perpetrated all over the world. The question for this c'tee is whether it wishes to continue past practice or to acknowledge the real facts on the ground and a consequent pressure to act on them.

13. **PROF SASSOLI'S LAST COMMENT** in his oral witnessing to this c'tee Q 94 was "you deduce genocidal intentions from actions on the ground".

There's ample evidence already of the use by Israel of white phosphorus and cluster bombs in Gaza. Both of these weapons are forbidden by

international treaty. So war crimes proveability on that alone are a distinct possibility.

14. But one of the results of the Israeli destruction and denial of healthcare facilities in Gaza is to make it impossible to collate information on the effects of air strikes on the population. The number and kind of fatalities, injuries etc. There's no way in the Gaza Strip right now to make any measurements at all of the population or their situation. So how can deductions be made without any information to base deductions on? Might it be one of the intentions of Israeli actions to prevent any deductions at all and thereby to create deniability? Logically, the answer would have to be yes.

15. **CONCLUSION** I've tried to answer the question 'What can be learned from the record of UK policies to date?' by showing the impotence of words and policies that ignore the reality of deepstate motivations on the ground. That impotence is what I at least have learned and what I would invite the c'tee to reflect on. I do apologise for the brutality of the abstract reasoning behind this submission. Real truth is always painful.

<https://youtu.be/LqRzfb2oMaM?si=5NT6NyWzdcYA1aO->

31st December 2024

