



13 July 2017

Dear Mr. Wertheim,

Thank you for your message dated 10 July 2017. Issues of interpretation of the Geneva Conventions, as instruments of international humanitarian law, are, as a matter of law, wholly distinct from the legal and policy questions implicated by the recognition *vel non* of an entity as fulfilling the prerequisites of statehood under international law. There are therefore no consequences which necessarily follow from my opinion of 1967, by which, as you are aware from my essay in the American Journal of International Law, I continue to stand, for the separate legal question of contemporary recognition of states. My opinion addressed solely the question of legality of settlements under international law, specifically the Geneva Conventions.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Theodor Meron', written in a cursive style.

Theodor Meron  
President

Mr. Peter Wertheim AM  
Executive Director  
Executive Council of Australian Jewry  
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Transmission via e-mail