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PRESS RELEASE 29th June 2005

ANGLICAN CONSULTATIVE COUNCIL

Commenting on the ACC's consideration of the Israel-Palestinian issue arising from the Anglican Peace and Justice Network report last Friday, the Chief Rabbi Sir Jonathan Sacks said:

"I am distressed by the vote and the mood it represents within the worldwide Anglican community. I acknowledge, however, the interventions of the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Dean of St Paul's, who objected to the original resolution and helped to soften its tone.

"To be a credible force for peacemaking in the Middle East, the Churches must understand why the State of Israel came into existence, why it must continue to exist, and why it must have the right to exercise self defence against terror and suicide bombings."

ENDS