Troubling precedent in Palestinian vote

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Deep divisions between the Prime Minister and the Foreign Minister over Australia's stance on the United Nations vote on Palestine has cast a pall of uncertainty over Australia's imminent ascension to the UN Security Council.

The Foreign Minister's appears to have lobbied his Cabinet and Caucus colleagues to roll the Prime Minister who advocated a No vote.

This makes it impossible for other nations to have confidence in any stance taken by the Prime Minister on any of the many serious matters that regularly come before the Security Council.

The Foreign Minister should immediately reveal any commitment he personally provided to other nations about Australia's vote on this matter prior to the vote on Australia's candidacy for the UNSC.

The Coalition remains disappointed in the Government's decision to abstain from the vote on Palestine's status at the UN and would have provided bipartisan support for a No vote.

I am concerned that this decision may delay a peaceful resolution of the conflict as the Palestinian leadership, which includes Hamas, take their cause to the international courts rather than resolve the situation through direct negotiations.

The path to peace is for the Palestinian leadership to officially recognise Israel's right to exist, return to the negotiating table and to renounce all forms of violence including missile, mortar and other attacks.

The Coalition has been a strong supporter of the two-state solution and the right of the Israeli and Palestinian peoples to live peacefully and safely within internationally recognised borders.

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