

I WOULD JUST LIKE TO ADD A FEW WORDS TO WHAT LORD TRIMBLE HAS STATED.

THAT IS TO HIGHLIGHT THE EXCEPTIONAL ACCESS; I WOULD SUGGEST UNPRECEDENTED ACCESS, WHICH I HAVE HAD AS A FOREIGN OBSERVER PARTICIPATING IN THIS ISRAELI COMMISSION.

FOR ANYONE WHO HAS FOLLOWED THE PROCEEDINGS THIS HAS INCLUDED FULL PARTICIPATION INCLUDING ASKING QUESTIONS DURING THE TESTIMONY OF THE WITNESSES.

LORD TRIMBLE HAS NOTED QUERIES WERE MADE OF THE ISRAELI ARMY ON A NUMBER OF OCCASIONS. THOSE REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION INCLUDED ISSUES I RAISED SEEKING CLARIFICATION.

THE SUBJECT MATTER OF THE GAZA NAVALBLOCKADE IS FACTUALLY COMPLEX.

THE MANDATE OF THE COMMISSION FOR THIS PART OF THE REPORT HAS LARGELY BEEN ONE OF ANSWERING LEGAL QUESTIONS: WAS THE ESTABLISHMENT AND ENFORCEMENT OF THE BLOCKADE IN CONFORMITY WITH INTERNATIONAL LAW.

THE LEGAL ISSUES HAVE INCLUDED DIFFICULT AREAS OF THE LAW SUCH AS THE ASSESSMENT OF THE IMPACT OF A BLOCKADE IMPOSED AT SEA ON A POPULATION ON LAND; AND WHAT CONSTITUTES DIRECT PARTICIPATION BY CIVILIANS IN HOSTILITIES.

JUST AS THE CONFLICT IN GAZA IS COMPLEX THERE ARE A WIDE RANGE OF OPINIONS ON THESE LEGAL ISSUES BY EXPERTS IN INTERNATIONAL LAW.

THIS REPORT SEEKS TO CLARIFY AND ANSWER SOME OF THE MOST CHALLENGING INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW ISSUES OF TODAY.

IT HAS BEEN A PLEASURE TO PARTICIPATE ON THE COMMISSION.