

REMARKS: DEPARTURE STATEMENT FOR PM SHAMIR VISIT

DIPLOMATIC ENTRANCE, WHITE HOUSE

APRIL 6, 1989

02481955
00074
THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN

04/06/89

PRIME MINISTER SHAMIR AND I HAVE HAD A VERY PRODUCTIVE MEETING. MY MESSAGE TO HIM, AND THROUGH HIM TO THE GOVERNMENT AND THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL, WAS CLEAR. WE ARE FRIENDS, STRATEGIC PARTNERS, AND ALLIES. THE MUTUAL INTERESTS THAT BIND TOGETHER THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES AND ISRAEL ARE BROAD AND DEEP.

- 2 -

THE PRIME MINISTER AND I DEDICATED OURSELVES TO MAINTAINING AND WHERE POSSIBLE IMPROVING THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES. BOTH OF US ARE COMMITTED TO THIS GOAL.

THROUGHOUT THE WORLD, OLD ENEMIES ARE FINDING WAYS TO TALK TO ONE ANOTHER AND TO END CONFLICTS IN A MANNER THAT PRESERVES THE BASIC INTERESTS OF ALL CONCERNED. THIS CAN AND MUST HAPPEN IN THE MIDDLE EAST. THE ARAB-ISRAEL CONFLICT CAN BE RESOLVED.

PEACE, SECURITY, AND POLITICAL RIGHTS CAN BE ATTAINED THROUGH DIRECT NEGOTIATIONS. THE STATUS QUO SERVES THE INTERESTS OF NO ONE.

IN THIS SPIRIT, I REITERATED TO PRIME MINISTER SHAMIR THE RESOLVE OF THE UNITED STATES TO ASSIST THE PARTIES OF THE MIDDLE EAST IN THEIR PURSUIT OF A COMPREHENSIVE SETTLEMENT OF THE ARAB-ISRAEL CONFLICT.

OUR RESPONSIBILITY, AS FRIENDS AND PARTNERS IN THE SEARCH FOR PEACE, IS TO HELP DEVELOP APPROACHES THAT ENHANCE PEACE PROSPECTS. PROBLEMS DO NOT RESOLVE THEMSELVES; LEADERS ACTING WITH COURAGE AND VISION SOLVE PROBLEMS. MENACHEM BEGIN AND ANWAR SADAT DEMONSTRATED THIS TRUTH A DECADE AGO AT CAMP DAVID; TODAY'S LEADERS CAN AFFORD TO DO NO LESS.

I REASSURED THE PRIME MINISTER THAT THE FUNDAMENTAL BASIS OF OUR APPROACH TO A MIDDLE EAST SETTLEMENT HAS NOT CHANGED. THE UNITED STATES IS COMMITTED TO A COMPREHENSIVE PEACE ACHIEVED THROUGH DIRECT NEGOTIATIONS BASED UPON UN SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS 242 AND 338. THIS REMAINS THE BUILDING BLOCK FOR A VIABLE NEGOTIATION AND FOR A DURABLE SETTLEMENT. THIS IS OUR GOAL.

WITH REGARD TO FINAL STATUS ISSUES, I REAFFIRMED TO THE PRIME MINISTER THAT WE DO NOT SUPPORT AN INDEPENDENT PALESTINIAN STATE NOR ISRAELI SOVEREIGNTY OVER OR PERMANENT OCCUPATION OF THE WEST BANK AND GAZA.

TO MOVE THE PEACE PROCESS FORWARD, I DISCUSSED WITH THE PRIME MINISTER -- AS I HAD EARLIER THIS WEEK WITH PRESIDENT MUBARAK -- AN AMBITIOUS BUT REALISTIC APPROACH.

PROGRESS WILL REQUIRE MEANINGFUL STEPS TO REDUCE TENSIONS, POLITICAL DIALOGUE BETWEEN ISRAEL AND PALESTINIANS, AND CLEAR INDICATIONS THAT ALL CONCERNED ARE PREPARED TO THINK CREATIVELY ABOUT KEY SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES. ISRAEL HAS AN OBLIGATION TO CONTRIBUTE TO THIS PROCESS, BUT IT CANNOT BE EXPECTED TO ASSUME THE ENTIRE BURDEN. THE PALESTINIANS, THE ARAB STATES, AND OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES MUST DEMONSTRATE THAT THEY TOO ARE WILLING TO MAKE PEACE A REALITY.

I STRESSED THAT NO PEACE PROCESS CAN SUCCEED IN A POLITICAL VACUUM. I BELIEVE IT IS IN ISRAEL'S INTEREST TO ENGAGE IN A SERIOUS DIALOGUE WITH PALESTINIANS THAT ADDRESSES THEIR LEGITIMATE POLITICAL RIGHTS. THE UNITED STATES BELIEVES THAT ELECTIONS IN THE TERRITORIES CAN BE DESIGNED TO CONTRIBUTE TO A POLITICAL PROCESS OF DIALOGUE AND NEGOTIATION. WE URGE ISRAEL AND THE PALESTINIANS TO ARRIVE AT A MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE FORMULA FOR ELECTIONS.

AND WE PLAN IN THE DAYS AND WEEKS AHEAD TO WORK TOWARD THAT END.

IN NEGOTIATIONS, ISRAEL UNDERSTANDS THAT PALESTINIANS WILL BE FREE TO BRING THEIR OWN POSITIONS AND PREFERENCES TO THE BARGAINING TABLE. THE PRIME MINISTER ASSURED ME THAT ISRAEL IS COMMITTED TO NEGOTIATING AN AGREEMENT ON FINAL STATUS THAT IS SATISFACTORY TO ALL SIDES.

HE MADE IT CLEAR THAT INTERIM ARRANGEMENTS ON PALESTINIAN SELF-RULE ARE NOT THE END OF THE ROAD BUT ARE DIRECTLY LINKED TO A BROADER POLITICAL PROCESS THAT INCLUDES NEGOTIATING AND CONCLUDING AN AGREEMENT ON FINAL STATUS. I AM ENCOURAGED BY THE PRIME MINISTER'S ASSURANCE THAT ALL OPTIONS ARE OPEN FOR DISCUSSION.

- 11 -

THE PRIME MINISTER AND I AGREED THAT OUR GOVERNMENTS WOULD REMAIN IN CLOSE TOUCH TO ENSURE THAT EVERYTHING POSSIBLE IS BEING DONE TO PROMOTE THE PROSPECTS FOR PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST. SPEAKING FOR MYSELF AND FOR THE AMERICAN PEOPLE, I WANT TO ASSURE EVERYONE THAT THE UNITED STATES IS COMMITTED TO PROMOTING THIS GOAL.

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~~draft Apr 5/1830~~April 6, 1989

By President Bush

DEPARTURE STATEMENT FOR PM SHAMIR VISIT

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN

4/5/89

Prime Minister Shamir and I have spent a productive two hours together. My message to him, and through him to the government and the people of Israel, was clear. We are friends, strategic partners, and allies. The mutual interests that bind together the people of the United States and Israel are broad and deep. The Prime Minister and I dedicated ourselves to maintaining and where possible improving the relationship between our two countries. Both of us are committed to this goal.

Throughout the world, old enemies are finding ways to talk to one another and to end conflicts in a manner that preserves the basic interests of all concerned. This can and must happen in the Middle East. Yes, the Arab-Israel conflict can be resolved. Peace, security, and political rights can be attained through direct negotiations. The status quo serves the interests of no one. ~~the occupation should be ended.~~

In this spirit, I reiterated to Prime Minister Shamir the resolve of the United States to assist the parties of the Middle East in their pursuit of a comprehensive settlement of the Arab-Israel conflict. Our responsibility, as friends and partners in the search for peace, is to help develop approaches that enhance peace prospects. Problems do not resolve themselves; leaders acting with courage and vision solve problems. Menachem Begin and Anwar Sadat demonstrated this truth a decade ago at Camp David; today's leaders can afford to do no less.

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I reassured the Prime Minister that the fundamental bases of our approach to a Middle East settlement have not changed. The United States is committed to a comprehensive peace achieved through direct negotiations based upon UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. ~~It is our continuing belief that the essential principles guiding such negotiations must include security for Israel, a recognition that the people of Israel are at home in the Middle East, and political rights and dignity for Palestinians.~~ ^{This remains the} ~~These are~~ building blocks for a viable negotiation and for a durable settlement. This is our goal. With regard to final status issues, I reaffirmed to the Prime Minister that we do not support an independent Palestinian state or either Israeli sovereignty or permanent ^{occupation of} ~~control over~~ the West Bank and Gaza.

To move the peace process forward, I discussed with the Prime Minister -- as I had earlier this week with President Mubarak -- an ambitious but realistic approach. Progress will require meaningful steps to reduce tensions, political dialogue between Israel and Palestinians, and clear indications that all concerned are prepared to think creatively about key substantive issues. Israel has an obligation to contribute to this process, but it cannot be expected to assume the entire burden. The Palestinians, the Arab state, and other interested parties must demonstrate that they too are willing to make peace a reality.

I stressed that no peace process can succeed in a political vacuum. I believe it is in Israel's interest to engage in a serious dialogue with Palestinians. The United States believes that elections in the territories can ^{contribute to a political process} ~~be designed to provide~~ ^{step} ~~Palestinians with the opportunity to freely select their own~~

~~representatives so that such a~~ ^{of} dialogue and negotiations, ~~could occur.~~ We urge Israel and the Palestinians to arrive at a mutually acceptable formula for elections.

In negotiations, Israel understands that Palestinians will be free to bring their own positions and preferences to the bargaining table. The Prime Minister assured me that Israel is committed to negotiating an agreement on final status that is satisfactory to all sides. He made it clear that interim arrangements on Palestinians self-rule ~~are~~ ^{are} not the end of the road but ~~form part of a larger~~ ^{are ~~directly~~ linked to a broader political} process that includes negotiating and concluding an agreement on final status. I expressed the U.S. view that ~~such a process should from the outset include credible assurances for the Palestinians that final status negotiations will address legitimate political rights.~~

The Prime Minister and I agreed that our governments would remain in close touch to ensure that everything possible is being done to promote the prospects for peace in the Middle East. Speaking for myself and for the American people, I want to assure everyone that the United States is committed to promoting this goal.

I am encouraged by the Prime Minister's ~~assurance~~ assurance that all ^{options} ~~are~~ are open for discussion.

REMARKS: DEPARTURE STATEMENT FOR PM SHAMIR VISIT
DIPLOMATIC ENTRANCE, WHITE HOUSE
APRIL 6, 1989

CONFIDENTIAL

Prime Minister Shamir and I have had a very productive meeting. My message to him, and through him to the government and the people of Israel, was clear. We are friends, strategic partners, and allies. The mutual interests that bind together the people of the United States and Israel are broad and deep. The Prime Minister and I dedicated ourselves to maintaining and where possible improving the relationship between our two countries. Both of us are committed to this goal.

Throughout the world, old enemies are finding ways to talk to one another and to end conflicts in a manner that preserves the basic interests of all concerned. This can and must happen in the Middle East. The Arab-Israel conflict can be resolved. Peace, security, and political rights can be attained through direct negotiations. The status quo serves the interests of no one; the occupation status should be ended.

Print?

In this spirit, I reiterated to Prime Minister Shamir the resolve of the United States to assist the parties of the Middle East in their pursuit of a comprehensive settlement of the Arab-Israel conflict. Our responsibility, as friends and partners in the search for peace, is to help develop approaches that enhance peace prospects. Problems do not resolve themselves; leaders acting with courage and vision solve problems. Menachem Begin and Anwar Sadat demonstrated this truth a decade ago at Camp David; today's leaders can afford to do no less.

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not
center

I reassured the Prime Minister that the fundamental basis of our approach to a Middle East settlement has not changed. The United States is committed to a comprehensive peace achieved through direct negotiations based upon UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. ^{with no imposed solution} It is our continuing belief that the essential principles guiding such negotiations must include security for Israel, a recognition that the Middle East is home to the people of Israel, and political rights and dignity for Palestinians. These are building blocks for a viable negotiation and for a durable settlement. This is our goal. With regard to final status issues, I reaffirmed to the Prime Minister that we do not support an independent Palestinian state nor Israeli sovereignty or permanent control over the West Bank and Gaza. ?

To move the peace process forward, I discussed with the Prime Minister -- as I had earlier this week with President Mubarak -- an ambitious but realistic approach. Progress will require meaningful steps to reduce tensions, political dialogue between Israel and Palestinians, and clear indications that all concerned are prepared to think creatively about key substantive issues. Israel has an obligation to contribute to this process, but it cannot be expected to assume the entire burden. The Palestinians, the Arab states, and other interested parties must demonstrate that they too are willing to make peace a reality. ?

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7pm

Brent

draft departure

Statement for

Shamir

(RH)

9:13^{415 pm} - Call by TWS to do hard
Band. done

Chris needs to
get these changes
made By Gen Scowcroft;
NSC did a hard Band for us
to send in to the Pw/his

schedule this evening. (Speech-
writers had already gone)

Jim wants cards prepared 1st

thing in the A.M. If there are
any changes made By the P., we
will let speechwriters know
ASAP. -- But get cards done
anyhow!!

Shirley

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1989 APR -5 PM

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to one another and to end conflicts in a manner that preserves
the basic interests of all concerned. This can and must happen
in the Middle East. ~~Yes,~~ the Arab-Israel conflict can be
resolved. Peace, security, and political rights can be attained
through direct negotiations. The status quo serves the interests
of no one; the occupation ^{status} should be ended.

In this spirit, I reiterated to Prime Minister Shamir the
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East in their pursuit of a comprehensive settlement of the Arab-
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The Prime Minister and I agreed that our governments would remain in close touch to ensure that everything possible is being done to promote the prospects for peace in the Middle East. Speaking for myself and for the American people, I want to assure everyone that the United States is committed to promoting this goal.

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NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20506

MEMORANDUM FOR CHRISS WINSTON

FROM: G. PHILIP HUGHES

SUBJECT: Departure Statement for PM Shamir

Attached is the final version of the departure statement for President Bush.

Attachment

Tab A Departure Statement

cc: James W. Cicconi

(4/6/89, 9:00 a.m.
version)

DEPARTURE STATEMENT FOR PM SHAMIR VISIT
REMARKS FOR PRESIDENT BUSH

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Throughout the world, old enemies are finding ways to talk to one another and to end conflicts in a manner that preserves the basic interests of all concerned. This can and must happen in the Middle East. The Arab-Israel conflict can be resolved. Peace, security, and political rights can be attained through direct negotiations. The status quo serves the interests of no one.

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WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUMDATE: 04/05/89 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: ----SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: DEPARTURE STATEMENT FOR PM SHAMIR
(NSC - 9:45 p.m. draft 04/05/89)

	ACTION FYI			ACTION FYI	
VICE PRESIDENT	☐	☒	MCCLURE	☐	☐
SUNUNU	☐	☒	NEWMAN	☐	☐
SCOWCROFT	☒	☒	PORTER	☐	☐
DARMAN	☐	☐	STUDDERT	☐	☐
BATES	☐	☐	UNTERMAYER	☐	☐
BREEDEN	☐	☐	WINSTON	☐	☒
CARD	☐	☒	ROGERS	☐	☒
CICCONI	☐	☒	_____	☐	☐
DEMAREST	☐	☒	_____	☐	☐
FITZWATER	☐	☒	_____	☐	☐
GRAY	☐	☒	_____	☐	☐
HAGIN	☐	☐	_____	☐	☐

REMARKS:

The attached has been forwarded to the President.

RESPONSE:

James W. Cicconi
 Assistant to the President
 and Deputy to the Chief of Staff
 Ext. 2702

REMARKS: DEPARTURE STATEMENT FOR PM SHAMIR VISIT
DIPLOMATIC ENTRANCE, WHITE HOUSE
APRIL 6, 1989

1989 APR -5 PM 10:00

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In negotiations, Israel understands that Palestinians will be free to bring their own positions and preferences to the bargaining table. The Prime Minister assured me that Israel is committed to negotiating an agreement on final status that is satisfactory to all sides. He made it clear that interim arrangements on Palestinian self-rule are not the end of the road but form part of a larger process that includes negotiating and concluding an agreement on final status. I expressed the U.S. view that such a process should from the outset include credible assurances for the Palestinians that final status negotiations will address legitimate political rights.

The Prime Minister and I agreed that our governments would remain in close touch to ensure that everything possible is being done to promote the prospects for peace in the Middle East. Speaking for myself and for the American people, I want to assure everyone that the United States is committed to promoting this goal.

THE NOTE BELOW WAS ORGINALLY ATTACHED TO THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENT

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REMARKS: DEPARTURE STATEMENT FOR PM SHAMIR VISIT
DIPLOMATIC ENTRANCE, WHITE HOUSE
APRIL 6, 1989

Prime Minister Shamir and I have spent a productive two hours together. My message to him, and through him to the government and the people of Israel, was clear. We are friends, strategic partners, and allies. The mutual interests that bind together the people of the United States and Israel are broad and deep. The Prime Minister and I dedicated ourselves to maintaining and where possible improving the relationship between our two countries. Both of us are committed to this goal.

Throughout the world, old enemies are finding ways to talk to one another and to end conflicts in a manner that preserves the basic interests of all concerned. This can and must happen in the Middle East. Yes, the Arab-Israel conflict can be resolved. Peace, security, and political rights can be attained through direct negotiations. The status quo serves the interests of no one; the occupation should be ended.

In this spirit, I reiterated to Prime Minister Shamir the resolve of the United States to assist the parties of the Middle East in their pursuit of a comprehensive settlement of the Arab-Israel conflict. Our responsibility, as friends and partners in the search for peace, is to help develop approaches that enhance peace prospects. Problems do not resolve themselves; leaders acting with courage and vision solve problems. Menachem Begin and Anwar Sadat demonstrated this truth a decade ago at Camp David; today's leaders can afford to do no less.

I reassured the Prime Minister that the fundamental basis of our approach to a Middle East settlement has not changed. The United States is committed to a comprehensive peace achieved through direct negotiations based upon UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. It is our continuing belief that the essential principles guiding such negotiations must include security for Israel, a recognition that the Middle East is home to the people of Israel, and political rights and dignity for Palestinians. These are building blocks for a viable negotiation and for a durable settlement. This is our goal. With regard to final status issues, I reaffirmed to the Prime Minister that we do not support an independent Palestinian state nor Israeli sovereignty or permanent control over the West Bank and Gaza.

To move the peace process forward, I discussed with the Prime Minister -- as I had earlier this week with President Mubarak -- an ambitious but realistic approach. Progress will require meaningful steps to reduce tensions, political dialogue between Israel and Palestinians, and clear indications that all concerned are prepared to think creatively about key substantive issues. Israel has an obligation to contribute to this process, but it cannot be expected to assume the entire burden. The Palestinians, the Arab states, and other interested parties must demonstrate that they too are willing to make peace a reality.

I stressed that no peace process can succeed in a political vacuum. I believe it is in Israel's interest to engage in a serious dialogue with Palestinians. The United States believes

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PRIME MINISTER SHAMIR AND I HAVE HAD A VERY
PRODUCTIVE MEETING. MY MESSAGE TO HIM, AND THROUGH HIM
TO THE GOVERNMENT AND THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL, WAS CLEAR.
WE ARE FRIENDS, STRATEGIC PARTNERS, AND ALLIES.

THE MUTUAL INTERESTS THAT BIND TOGETHER THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES AND ISRAEL ARE BROAD AND DEEP. THE PRIME MINISTER AND I DEDICATED OURSELVES TO MAINTAINING AND WHERE POSSIBLE IMPROVING THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES. BOTH OF US ARE COMMITTED TO THIS GOAL.

THROUGHOUT THE WORLD, OLD ENEMIES ARE FINDING WAYS TO TALK TO ONE ANOTHER AND TO END CONFLICTS IN A MANNER THAT PRESERVES THE BASIC INTERESTS OF ALL CONCERNED. THIS CAN AND MUST HAPPEN IN THE MIDDLE EAST. THE ARAB-ISRAEL CONFLICT CAN BE RESOLVED. PEACE, SECURITY, AND POLITICAL RIGHTS CAN BE ATTAINED THROUGH DIRECT NEGOTIATIONS.

THE STATUS QUO SERVES THE INTERESTS OF NO ONE; THE OCCUPATION STATUS SHOULD BE ENDED.

IN THIS SPIRIT, I REITERATED TO PRIME MINISTER SHAMIR THE RESOLVE OF THE UNITED STATES TO ASSIST THE PARTIES OF THE MIDDLE EAST IN THEIR PURSUIT OF A COMPREHENSIVE SETTLEMENT OF THE ARAB-ISRAEL CONFLICT.

OUR RESPONSIBILITY, AS FRIENDS AND PARTNERS IN THE SEARCH FOR PEACE, IS TO HELP DEVELOP APPROACHES THAT ENHANCE PEACE PROSPECTS. PROBLEMS DO NOT RESOLVE THEMSELVES; LEADERS ACTING WITH COURAGE AND VISION SOLVE PROBLEMS. MENACHEM BEGIN AND ANWAR SADAT DEMONSTRATED THIS TRUTH A DECADE AGO AT CAMP DAVID; TODAY'S LEADERS CAN AFFORD TO DO NO LESS.

I REASSURED THE PRIME MINISTER THAT THE FUNDAMENTAL BASIS OF OUR APPROACH TO A MIDDLE EAST SETTLEMENT HAS NOT CHANGED. THE UNITED STATES IS COMMITTED TO A COMPREHENSIVE PEACE ACHIEVED THROUGH DIRECT NEGOTIATIONS BASED UPON UN SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS 242 AND 338.

IT IS OUR CONTINUING BELIEF THAT THE ESSENTIAL PRINCIPLES GUIDING SUCH NEGOTIATIONS MUST INCLUDE SECURITY FOR ISRAEL, A RECOGNITION THAT THE MIDDLE EAST IS HOME TO THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL, AND POLITICAL RIGHTS AND DIGNITY FOR PALESTINIANS. THESE ARE BUILDING BLOCKS FOR A VIABLE NEGOTIATION AND FOR A DURABLE SETTLEMENT. THIS IS OUR GOAL.

WITH REGARD TO FINAL STATUS ISSUES, I REAFFIRMED TO THE PRIME MINISTER THAT WE DO NOT SUPPORT AN INDEPENDENT PALESTINIAN STATE NOR ISRAELI SOVEREIGNTY OR PERMANENT CONTROL OVER THE WEST BANK AND GAZA.

TO MOVE THE PEACE PROCESS FORWARD, I DISCUSSED WITH THE PRIME MINISTER -- AS I HAD EARLIER THIS WEEK WITH PRESIDENT MUBARAK -- AN AMBITIOUS BUT REALISTIC APPROACH.

PROGRESS WILL REQUIRE MEANINGFUL STEPS TO REDUCE TENSIONS, POLITICAL DIALOGUE BETWEEN ISRAEL AND PALESTINIANS, AND CLEAR INDICATIONS THAT ALL CONCERNED ARE PREPARED TO THINK CREATIVELY ABOUT KEY SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES. ISRAEL HAS AN OBLIGATION TO CONTRIBUTE TO THIS PROCESS, BUT IT CANNOT BE EXPECTED TO ASSUME THE ENTIRE BURDEN.

THE PALESTINIANS, THE ARAB STATES, AND OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES MUST DEMONSTRATE THAT THEY TOO ARE WILLING TO MAKE PEACE A REALITY.

I STRESSED THAT NO PEACE PROCESS CAN SUCCEED IN A POLITICAL VACUUM. I BELIEVE IT IS IN ISRAEL'S INTEREST TO ENGAGE IN A SERIOUS DIALOGUE WITH PALESTINIANS.

THE UNITED STATES BELIEVES THAT ELECTIONS IN THE TERRITORIES CAN BE DESIGNED TO PROVIDE PALESTINIANS WITH THE OPPORTUNITY TO FREELY SELECT THEIR OWN REPRESENTATIVES SO THAT SUCH A DIALOGUE AND NEGOTIATIONS COULD OCCUR. WE URGE ISRAEL AND THE PALESTINIANS TO ARRIVE AT A MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE FORMULA FOR ELECTIONS.

IN NEGOTIATIONS, ISRAEL UNDERSTANDS THAT PALESTINIANS WILL BE FREE TO BRING THEIR OWN POSITIONS AND PREFERENCES TO THE BARGAINING TABLE. THE PRIME MINISTER ASSURED ME THAT ISRAEL IS COMMITTED TO NEGOTIATING AN AGREEMENT ON FINAL STATUS THAT IS SATISFACTORY TO ALL SIDES.

HE MADE IT CLEAR THAT INTERIM ARRANGEMENTS ON PALESTINIAN SELF-RULE ARE NOT THE END OF THE ROAD BUT FORM PART OF A LARGER PROCESS THAT INCLUDES NEGOTIATING AND CONCLUDING AN AGREEMENT ON FINAL STATUS.

I EXPRESSED THE U.S. VIEW THAT SUCH A PROCESS SHOULD FROM THE OUTSET INCLUDE CREDIBLE ASSURANCES FOR THE PALESTINIANS THAT FINAL STATUS NEGOTIATIONS WILL ADDRESS LEGITIMATE POLITICAL RIGHTS.

THE PRIME MINISTER AND I AGREED THAT OUR GOVERNMENTS WOULD REMAIN IN CLOSE TOUCH TO ENSURE THAT EVERYTHING POSSIBLE IS BEING DONE TO PROMOTE THE PROSPECTS FOR PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST. SPEAKING FOR MYSELF AND FOR THE AMERICAN PEOPLE, I WANT TO ASSURE EVERYONE THAT THE UNITED STATES IS COMMITTED TO PROMOTING THIS GOAL.
