



The Israeli Delegation
to the
Gaza Strip and Jericho Area Negotiations

Jerusalem, January 2, 1994

Dear Dr. Sha'ath,

The two faxes that you sent us on December 30th indicate that you misunderstood our position. This was especially apparent, in Chairman Arafat's reservations which we reject. In light of this, the Prime Minister has asked me to convey to you his position on the central issues that are still outstanding in the negotiations between us. Mr. Rabin reiterates Israel's commitment to the Declaration of Principles signed September 13th 1993 in Washington, its annexes and the Agreed Minutes in its entirety, as the agreed basis for the current negotiations between us.

As you are well aware, Israel has invested much effort since the commencement of the negotiations on the Gaza Strip and Jericho area, in an attempt to reach an agreement at the earliest possible date. We have spared no efforts in our endeavor in this direction, and we have taken more than a few risks upon ourselves, guided by a sincere desire to guarantee security and prosperity to both sides.

The Prime Minister wishes to emphasize that our current negotiations aim solely at bringing about the realization of the first phase of an interim agreement as stipulated in the Declaration of Principles that we both agreed upon. This Declaration postponed an array of issues pertaining to the permanent status, to the negotiations that are scheduled to begin no later than the end of the second year of the interim period. It is also worth noting in this regard that according to the Declaration of Principles, during the interim period, Israel will retain the overall responsibility for external security and internal security and public order of the settlements and Israelis.

Following are additional comments by the Prime Minister regarding the main issues outstanding in the negotiations:

a. External Security:

In order to exercise Israeli responsibility for external security, the IDF will continue to be deployed and conduct the necessary activities throughout the entire length of the Jordan River and the Dead Sea. In the Gaza Strip, along the Egyptian border, the IDF will conduct the activities stemming from its responsibility for external security in the security perimeter, as indicated in the maps which have been submitted to your delegation.



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b. International Passages:

- 1) Since the international passages are an integral part of the border, and due to the need to supervise, for security reasons, the traffic through these passages, Israel will retain overall responsibility for the border and its passages. Movement of persons from the border to the point of entry to the territory under the Palestinian Authority's jurisdiction, will therefore take place in an area that is solely under Israeli responsibility. The terminal itself will consist of two wings. The first wing will serve Israelis and tourists to Israel, and will be under independent and exclusive Israeli management and control. The second wing, which will be located in another part of the terminal, will serve Palestinian residents of the Gaza Strip and West Bank and visitors to these areas.
- 2) A Palestinian policeman and flag will be posted at the entrance to the wing serving Palestinian residents of the Gaza Strip and West Bank and their visitors. Persons entering this wing will place their luggage on a conveyor belt which will pass through a Palestinian inspection area and an Israeli inspection area. Each side will be able to inspect personal belongings or any other luggage, and if necessary these will be opened for inspection in the presence of their owners.
- 3) Persons entering this wing will pass through a magnetic gate. A Palestinian policeman and an Israeli policeman will be posted on each side of this gate. In the event of suspicion, each side will be entitled to demand a physical inspection which will be conducted in inspection booths to be located adjacent to the gate. The Palestinians and their visitors will be inspected by a Palestinian police officer in the presence of an Israeli police officer, who will be entitled to direct the inspection. Accompanying personal belongings may also be inspected at this point.
- 4) Having completed the above phase, persons entering the wing serving Palestinians will pass through either of two lanes. The first lane will serve Palestinian residents of the Gaza Strip and West Bank, whereas the second lane will serve visitors and tourists to these areas. In the first stage, Palestinian residents of the Gaza Strip and West Bank will pass through a Palestinian counter, after which they will continue through an Israeli counter. The two counters will be separated by an opaque glass and a revolving door. If



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necessary, persons passing through the Israeli counter will be questioned by Israelis. If the Israeli side finds it necessary to apprehend a person due to security reasons, that person will be apprehended, and this will be reported to the Palestinian side in the terminal. The Palestinian side will also report to the Israeli side regarding persons apprehended by it. Inspection of suspicious luggage belonging to Palestinians may be carried out on the Israeli side, by Israelis only. At the conclusion of the Israeli inspection, Palestinians will continue to the customs area, where the procedures to be agreed upon in Paris will be carried out.

- 5) An identical procedure will apply to visitors and tourists entering the Gaza Strip and West Bank. However, such persons will first pass through the Israeli counter, and then continue through the Palestinian counter.
- 6) Both sides will have the authority to veto the entry of Palestinian residents of the Gaza Strip and West Bank and their visitors. This authority will only apply in the wing serving Palestinians and their visitors.
- 7) Persons leaving the terminal will pass through a gate where Israeli soldiers will be posted. Israeli responsibility will extend over the area between the border and the territory under the Palestinian Authority's jurisdiction.
- 8) The principles of the arrangements presented above will apply, with necessary adjustments, to all the relevant international passages currently in existence, and to those which will be agreed upon in the future.
- 9) Exit arrangements of a similar nature will need to be discussed and concluded later in the negotiations.

c. The Jericho area:

The Jericho area will include the town of Jericho, the refugee camps Aqbat Jaber and Ein Al Sultan, and the villages Noimeh, Ein Duyuk and Auja. Between the town of Jericho and the Auja village there will be a connection which will pass west of the existing Valley Road. The road crossing Auja from north to south and the road from Auja to the settlement of Yitav will be under Israeli responsibility. The Karantal monastery will also be included in the Jericho area.



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Responsibility for the religious affairs of Nebi Musa will be under the auspices of the Palestinian Authority. During religious events that take place several times a year, pilgrims will be able to reach the Baptism monastery (Maratas) under a Palestinian flag. The Jericho area will extend until the eastern line of the built up area of the Musa Alami farm as will be delineated in the map to be submitted to you later on.

- d. The Gaza Strip:
The settlement area, including its security perimeter, is as indicated on the map previously submitted to your delegation.
- e. The Lateral Roads:
The three lateral roads connecting the Israeli settlements in the Gaza Strip with Israel, including the adjacent areas upon which the security of traffic along these roads is dependent, will be under Israel's security responsibility.
- f. Additional security arrangements will be instituted as required.

The detailed arrangements listed above include issues that are currently at the heart of the negotiations. Additional important issues will also have to be discussed prior to the signing of the Gaza and Jericho Agreement.

The Prime Minister expresses his belief that a conclusion of the negotiations may be reached through a diligent observation of the Declaration of Principles in its entirety and hopes that this will indeed be the case. As stated before, Israel is ready, on its part, to do its utmost to bring the negotiations soon to a successful end.

Sincerely,

Amnon Lipkin Shahak