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בלמס/בהול לבוקר

אל: לש-מנכ"ל-בהול לבוקר

דע: תפוצת תקשורת-מייד

קונכ"לים צפ"א-מייד

מאת: תקשורת, וושנגטון

הנדון: מזכ"ר המדינה-בעקבות החלטת מועבי"ט

PRESS CONFERENCE CONCERNING U.N. SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION ON MASSACRE OF PALESTINIAN WORSHIPERS AT MOSQUE IN HEBRON, BRIEFER: WARREN CHRISTOPHER, U.S. SECRETARY OF STATE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON, DC FRIDAY, MARCH 18, 1994

SEC. CHRISTOPHER: I HAVE A RELATIVELY SHORT STATEMENT. I'LL TAKE A FEW QUESTIONS. AND THEN THERE WILL BE SOME BACKGROUNDING.

AS YOU KNOW, THE UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL IS JUST ABOUT TO CONCLUDE ACTION ON A RESOLUTION DEALING WITH THE TRAGIC EVENTS IN HEBRON ON FEBRUARY 21ST -- 25TH. YOU'VE JUST HEARD AMBASSADOR ALBRIGHT ADDRESS OUR POSITION IN HER EXPLANATION OF VOTE. I WOULD LIKE TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO PUT THOSE VIEWS IN CONTEXT AND TO EXPLAIN HOW OUR ACTIONS ARE RELATED TO OUR EFFORTS TO GET THE PEACE PROCESS BACK ON TRACK.

SEVERAL FACTORS LED US TO CONCUR WITH THE ADOPTION OF THIS RESOLUTION BUT TO ABSTAIN ON TWO PARAGRAPHS ON THE PREAMBLE THAT CONTAINED LANGUAGE WE COULD NOT SUPPORT. FIRST, IT WAS IMPORTANT THAT THERE BE A RESOLUTION BY THE COUNCIL CONDEMNING THE HORRIBLE AND TRAGIC MASSACRE OF THE PALESTINIAN WORSHIPERS AT THE MOSQUE IN HEBRON. WE NEEDED TO SEND A STRONG SIGNAL TO THE EXTREMISTS FROM ANY QUARTER WHOSE OBJECTIVE IS TO KILL THE PEACE PROCESS AND THE HOPE THAT IT CAN BRING. WE CANNOT ALLOW THOSE WHO OPPOSE PEACE TO PREVAIL.

AT THE SAME TIME, IT IS IMPORTANT THAT THE ACTION TAKEN BY THE SECURITY COUNCIL NOT PREJUDICE OR PREJUDGE THE NEGOTIATIONS WE WANT TO PROMOTE. THE UNITED STATES CANNOT SUPPORT TWO PARAGRAPHS IN THE PREAMBLE TO THE RESOLUTION BECAUSE THEY INJECT SENSITIVE

ISSUES IN A WAY THAT COULD PREJUDICE HOW THOSE ISSUES MAY BE RESOLVED IN THE FINAL STATUS NEGOTIATIONS. THESE ISSUES MUST BE RESOLVED BY THE PARTIES IN THOSE NEGOTIATIONS, NOT BY OUTSIDERS IN ADVANCE OF THE NEGOTIATIONS THEMSELVES. WE NEEDED TO MAKE A CLEAR STATEMENT THAT WHATEVER PAST PRACTICE MAY HAVE BEEN, IT IS ESSENTIAL TO AVOID LANGUAGE OF THIS SORT IN THE FUTURE.

IT IS ALSO ESSENTIAL THAT THIS RESOLUTION BE PART OF THE PROCESS THAT LEADS TO THE RESUMPTION OF NEGOTIATIONS. WE'VE BEEN INVOLVED IN INTENSIVE EFFORTS WITH THE PARTIES TO ADDRESS THE ISSUES OF PALESTINIAN SECURITY IN THE AFTERMATH OF THE HEBRON MASSACRE AND TO TRY TO SET THE STAGE FOR RESUMPTION OF NEGOTIATIONS. THESE NEGOTIATIONS MUST QUICKLY RESOLVE THE OUTSTANDING ISSUES THAT STAND IN THE WAY OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GAZA-JERICO ACCORDS. BASED UPON INTENSIVE CONTACTS IN RECENT DAYS, THERE ARE SEVERAL DEVELOPMENTS THAT I WANT TO REPORT TO YOU THAT MOVE US TOWARD THOSE OBJECTIVES.

FIRST, THERE HAVE BEEN INTENSIVE ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN CONTACTS AT THE HIGHEST LEVELS TODAY, INCLUDING A TELEPHONE CALL FROM -- BETWEEN PRIME MINISTER RABIN AND CHAIRMAN ARAFAT. SECOND, A SENIOR-LEVEL MEETING BETWEEN ISRAEL AND THE PLO WILL TAKE PLACE SOON AND WILL BE ANNOUNCED BY THE PARTIES. FINALLY, AFTER INTENSIVE CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN PRESIDENT CLINTON, PRESIDENT ASSAD, KING HUSSEIN, AND BETWEEN MYSELF AND PRIME MINISTER HARIRI, THE ARAB STATES HAVE AGREED TO RESUME THEIR BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS WITH ISRAEL IN APRIL. WE ARE CONSULTING WITH OUR RUSSIAN CO-SPONSOR ABOUT PRECISE DATES. IN ADDITION, DENNIS ROSS AND OUR TEAM WILL BE TRAVELING TO THE REGION IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS FOR ADDITIONAL CONSULTATION WITH THE PARTIES. WE BELIEVE THAT THESE INTENSIVE CONTACTS AND DISCUSSIONS WILL MOVE US TOWARD PUTTING THE WHOLE PEACE PROCESS BACK ON TRACK. INDEED, IT IS THE EXPECTATION THAT THESE DISCUSSIONS WILL LEAD TO EARLY RESUMPTION OF NEGOTIATIONS TO IMPLEMENT THE DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES.

THE UNITED STATES IS PREPARED TO ASSIST THE PARTIES IN THESE EFFORTS BECAUSE IT IS CONVINCED THAT ONLY THROUGH IMPLEMENTATION CAN REALITIES ON THE GROUND BE CHANGED. ONLY IN THAT WAY CAN PALESTINIAN AND ISRAEL SECURITY BE GUARANTEED, AND ONLY IN THAT WAY CAN PROGRESS BE MADE TOWARD THE LASTING PEACE THAT WE ALL SEEK.

I'LL BE GLAD TO TRY TO TAKE --

Q MR. SECRETARY, COULD YOU TELL US IF THIS WAS A DIFFICULT DECISION TO TAKE? ALMOST CONSISTENTLY THE UNITED STATES HAS USED ITS VETO TO BLOCK UNBALANCED RESOLUTIONS OR RESOLUTIONS THAT IT CONCLUDES IS PREJUDICIAL TO ONE PARTY OR THE OTHER. THERE HAVE BEEN EXCEPTIONS, VERY FEW. WAS THIS A MATTER OF PRAGMATISM OVERTAKING -- WHAT? -- PRINCIPLE?

SEC. CHRISTOPHER: IT CERTAINLY WASN'T THAT. IF THE SENSITIVE LANGUAGE THAT PREJUDGES MATTERS HAD BEEN IN THE OPERATIVE CLAUSES, WE WOULD HAVE VETOED IT, BUT SINCE IT WAS -- SINCE THEY'RE ONLY IN A PREAMBLE AND SINCE A PROCEDURE WAS DEVELOPED ON WHICH WE COULD ABSTAIN AND EXPRESS OUR DISAVOWAL OF THE LANGUAGE, WE FELT THAT WE WERE CONSISTENT WITH OUR -- THE POLICIES WE'D LAY DOWN IN THE FUTURE.

I MIGHT ALSO SAY THAT IT WAS VERY IMPORTANT FOR THE UNITED STATES TO BE ABLE TO SUPPORT A RESOLUTION THAT CONDEMNED THE MASSACRE AT HEBRON. I THINK IT WAS NECESSARY FOR US TOO SO IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN OUR CREDIBILITY IN THE NEGOTIATIONS AS AN HONEST BROKER, A PARTY THAT IS SPONSORING THE NEGOTIATIONS BUT ALSO FACILITATING THEM.

Q MR. SECRETARY, CAN I UNDERSTAND FROM THE ABSTENTION ON THE ISSUE OF JERUSALEM AS PART OF THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES THAT YOU STILL -- THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT BELIEVES THAT THE ISSUE OR THE FUTURE OF JERUSALEM IS TO BE DECIDED BY -- THROUGH NEGOTIATIONS BY THE PARTIES CONCERNED, THE EARLIER POSITION THAT HAS BEEN ADVANCED THROUGHOUT THE YEARS BY THE UNITED STATES ADMINISTRATIONS?

SEC. CHRISTOPHER: WELL, THE UNITED STATES BELIEVES THAT THE ISSUE OF JERUSALEM, AN EXTREMELY SENSITIVE ISSUE, WILL BE DECIDED IN THE FINAL STATUS NEGOTIATIONS, JUST AS IS SET FORTH TO THAT EFFECT IN THE DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES ITSELF. THE UNITED STATES HAS NOT CHANGED ITS POSITION ON THE UNDERLYING ISSUE, BUT WE BELIEVE THAT THE PARTIES THEMSELVES, IN THE FINAL STATUS NEGOTIATIONS, SHOULD RESOLVE THAT ISSUE.

Q MR. SECRETARY, DO I UNDERSTAND CORRECTLY, THOUGH, THAT THE ISRAELI AND PALESTINIANS WHO GET TOGETHER NEXT WEEK ARE NOT GOING TO ACTUALLY RESUME PEACE TALKS, THEY'RE JUST GOING TO TALK ABOUT RESUMING PEACE TALKS?

SEC. CHRISTOPHER: YES, I DON'T WANT TO SET THE EXACT DATE WHEN THEY GET TOGETHER; THEY GET TOGETHER QUITE SOON. AND WHEN THEY GET TOGETHER I WOULD SAY THEY'LL BE FOCUSING ON TWO THINGS; FIRST, SECURITY MEASURES IN THE WEST BANK, AS WELL AS THE POSSIBLE RESUMPTION OF THE NEGOTIATIONS AT AN EARLY TIME.

Q WELL AREN'T YOU DISAPPOINTED THAT YOU HAVEN'T GOTTEN WHAT THE PRESIDENT AND YOURSELF HAD WANTED, WHICH WAS EARLY NEGOTIATIONS HERE IN WASHINGTON?

SEC. CHRISTOPHER: WELL, WE THINK THAT WE HAVE ACHIEVED A GREAT DEAL TO BRING ABOUT THE NEGOTIATIONS. FIRST, THE THREE ARAB COUNTRIES WHO ARE PART OF THE NEGOTIATIONS, LEBANON, SYRIA AND JORDAN, ARE COMING BACK TO THE NEGOTIATIONS IN APRIL.

SECOND, WE THINK WE HAVE SET IN MOTION A MECHANISM THAT WILL

BRING THE PALESTINIANS AND THE ISRAELIS BACK TO THE TABLE AT AN EARLY TIME. SO I THINK THAT WE HAVE ACHIEVED WHAT WE SET OUT TO HERE, TO GIVE A VERY STRONG IMPETUS TO BRING THE PARTIES BACK TO NEGOTIATIONS. THE PLACE WHERE THEY NEGOTIATE IS NOT NEARLY AS IMPORTANT AS THE FACT OF THE NEGOTIATIONS, AND WE THINK THAT THIS PROCESS OVER THE LAST WEEK, THESE INTENSIVE NEGOTIATIONS HAVE PRODUCED A MOMENTUM WHICH WILL BRING THE PARTIES BACK TO THE TABLE IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

Q MR. SECRETARY, IS IT YOUR UNDERSTANDING THAT THE COUNTRIES, THE ARAB STATES, WILL RETURN TO NEGOTIATIONS REGARDLESS OF ANY DECISION BY THE PLO?

SEC. CHRISTOPHER: YES, THE DECISION OF THE THREE COUNTRIES IS INDEPENDENT OF THE DECISION OF THE PLO. HAVING SAID THAT, LET ME EMPHASIZE THAT I BELIEVE THE DECISION OF THE THREE ARAB COUNTRIES TO RETURN IS A STRONG IMPETUS TO THE PLO TO RETURN, AND WILL MAKE IT CONSIDERABLY EASIER FOR THE PLO TO RETURN.

Q MR. SECRETARY, ON THE CONTINUING TENSIONS IN KOREA, HAS A DECISION BEEN MADE ON OPERATION TEAM SPIRIT?

SEC. CHRISTOPHER: NO, NO DECISION HAS BEEN MADE. AS YOU KNOW, THERE WILL BE MEETINGS IN KOREA TOMORROW, TOMORROW THE 19TH. WE'LL AWAIT THE OUTCOME OF THOSE TALKS AT PANMUNJON, BEFORE ANY FINAL DECISIONS ARE MADE IN THAT REGARD.

Q MR. SECRETARY, THERE ARE REPORTS TODAY THAT MADELEINE ALBRIGHT, IN BRIEFING THE SECURITY COUNCIL, TALKED ABOUT A LARGE TROOP REINFORCEMENT BY THE IRAQIS UP NEAR THE AREA WHERE THE KURDS ARE OPERATING. IS THIS SOMETHING THAT THE UNITED STATES IS CONCERNED ABOUT?

SEC. CHRISTOPHER: I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING FOR YOU ON THAT.

Q THANK YOU.

SEC. CHRISTOPHER: THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

END

תפוצה: שהח, סשהח, @ (רהמ), @ (שהבט), מנכל, ממנכל, תכנון,  
מצב, סמנכלתקשורת, תקשורת, לעמ, סמנכלשלום,  
ר/מרכז, ממד, @ (רם), @ (אמן), אומן, @ (דוצ),  
@ (וחו'ב), צנזורצבאי, הדרכה, מצפא, בייץ, ארבל2, יועמש, משפט