

19th Aug. 1993

Exc. Mr Holst

Exc. Mr Perez

Mr Uri

Ladies and Gentlemen

Mr Holst.

I would like to confirm that we are indebted to Norway, to you personally and to all the women and men who contributed to this great historical breakthrough. Indeed it is our obligation towards your friendly country and towards you personally to recognize here your courage, wisdom and persistence and outstanding role in this back channel.

Mr Perez.

*Welcome,*  
I have keenly followed up your declarations, statements and writings which confirmed to us your care to achieve a just, permanent and comprehensive peace. In the name of the Palestinian delegation and its leader Yassir Arafat I would like to welcome you and to congratulate you on your 70th birthday, *hoping you all*  
*Success for the Great battle of Peace*

We start today a new journey towards a new future, in a world whose final form has not yet been shaped and which is open to all sorts of change. The future which we look for will not materialize unless we both together overcome the fears of the past and learn from the past lessons for our future.

Mr Savir, Mr Singer, Mr Hirschfeld and Mr Pundik please permit to thank you all for your understanding and for your co-operation in overcoming the difficulties we faced related to our complicated conflict. *despite of there toughness in negotiations*

I would like to thank also Mr Egeland for his role and contribution including the follow up of the negotiations right from the beginning and staying with us even beyond the small hours.

*Ms Mond and*  
The efforts of Mr Rød Larsen definitely speak louder than words of gratitude and appreciation, for *there* ~~his~~ remarkable tireless and numerous efforts including ~~his~~ traveling to both of us, and his close follow up of our work until its success. *Thanks to them & to Mona the name I like as a symbol*

*the name I like*  
Ms Mona Juul has been with us like a symbol of peace. This is to mention her dedication and commitment to the success of our work. *Thanks for*

*May you allow me to greet and thank our friend Mariana who supported our efforts*

Thanks to Mr Pedersen for his assistance and the Security men who spent days and nights with us.

Mr Holst

Mr Perez

Mr Uri

Ladies and Gentlemen

Today we have finished the first chapter of the task that lies ahead, and as I speak I recall a long history of events full of pain from which our people and yours suffered since the beginning of this century. Our people have endured wars, exile, deprivation and injustice, but they have not lost their hope and remained loyal to their goal of achieving for themselves and for others a just permanent and comprehensive peace.

Today we have embarked with courage and good spirit on the first step of opening the doors of peace, and on striving to achieve co-operation, reconstruction, development and welfare for our peoples. We do not want the victims of war to become the orphans of peace and we regard signing this D.o.P as a new chapter of hope for them, and as a new important page of our history.

Our world is like a little village and our size in it is well known, we can become bigger through co-operation, mutual respect and recognition of rights, and success in the fields of a reconstruction development and scientific innovation. Both our people and your people have enough potential and efficient human resources if real peace takes place and co-operation and

stabilization materialize, and they should.

We are happy for our achievement of today, but tomorrow we will face the real challenge of the implementation of this agreement and the other chapters of our work.

- We have to sell successfully our agreement to our public opinion
- We have to complete all the required agreements on the Gaza Strip and Jericho area, the Interim agreement, etc.
- We should create a base of trust to pave the way for a successful negotiation of the permanent status.

Tomorrow we will face the test of the implementation of our agreement in Gaza and Jericho. What elements and bases we should create ? The following elements should be correctly addressed:

1. Trust: trust is not merely a key to success, it is also a safety valve, and we have to create it among ourselves and our people through different arrangements and actions.
2. Co-operation: co-operation and enmity do not co-exist. Co-operation must be based on equity but not domination, it is one of the keys of trust. We should start the process of co-operation to create trust. It is much better than military forces and safer than the presence of foreign ones.

3. Doubts and fears: both of us have inherited and cultivated doubts and fears that they become national qualities. It is our task today to clear all of that and replace it by confidence, trust and co-operation.

4. Mistakes: to err is human, and the implementation stage should be marked by co-operation and good understanding to overcome unpredictable problems or mistakes and minimise their impact. It is a joint responsibility.

5. Economic development and security: the occupied territories suffer from a very serious deterioration in the economic, social and security fields which pose a threat as well as a challenge. We believe that we have to join hands in mobilizing the needed resources from the international community and its relevant bodies and organs for the implementation of the required reconstruction development and stabilization programme. Economic and social development is a pre-requisite for stability and security.

6. Parties to peace: We have been parties to conflicts and we are now parties to peace. This fact should come in the open hopefully very soon to support our efforts of creating confidence, trust and co-operation, and speed up our steps. The representatives of the Israeli government and the PLO should deal with each other openly and negotiate directly as they are the official and real representatives of their respective people. This is the fact.

peace and the revolutionary step towards it.

7. Equality: both our peoples are equal regardless of the differences in their material means. As much as our co-operation is based on equality and respect as much as we will be able to overcome the barriers of doubts and fear which accumulated over decades, and our relations must reflect this equality.

I hope that our future work, actions, policies and relations will address, among other things, those points something which is essential for passing the test of the interim period, moving smoothly to the final status negotiations and achieving the desired goal.

Once again on behalf of our leader Yassir Arafat, and the leadership of the PLO, and in the name of our Palestinian people, I would like to thank you all and to thank Mr Holst and Mr Perez for their participation in this <sup>historical</sup> occasion. We can say now that the battle of peace has started today, we are for it, and it must be won by both of us.

Thank you.



Yassir Arafat