



Amman,

2nd October 1994

Dear Prime Minister,

It was indeed a source of great pleasure for me to have seen you looking so well during your last visit with me in Aquaba.

I felt it was long overdue for us to get together and review the progress of our negotiating colleagues.

I particularly valued our last private meeting and look forward with anticipation to our next one.

I have thought of our conversation long and hard and felt it important to write to you this personal letter to clarify our position beyond any ambiguity. It is being conveyed to you by hand by a trusted messenger and for your eyes only. In this I am driven by the desire and determination to avoid any possible misreading of our respective positions or misunderstanding between us.

My friend, on the four subjects we addressed during our meeting:-

- A- The boundary.
- B- Water.
- C- Security.
- D- Refugees.

I feel it imperative to reemphasise that on the border demarcation and delineation, we are addressing an issue of Jordan's international boundaries with Israel defined clearly in relevant documents since the very establishment of the state of Jordan. The basis of the current negotiations are and can only be the British Mandate borders between Jordan and Palestine. Now between Israel and Jordan.

Historically, the definition of this border preceded the events of the forties which witnessed the creation of the State of Israel and all the subsequent developments. Indeed your government is in the process of negotiating an Israeli Palestinian settlement over what once was our area of responsibility in the West



Bank under Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. Israel is negotiating with the P.L.O. recognised by us since the Rabat Summit of 1974 as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian People in accordance with Palestinian and Arab consensus. This has been a development which we have welcomed and supported. You will recall however, my friend, that when the West Bank was our direct responsibility our position never altered in demanding the return of all territories occupied by Israel in June 1967 including Arab Jerusalem which then could be an undivided City in the context of Peace and the Beacon of Peace between us all the Sons of Abraham. We were additionally open to discuss border rectification of the original cease fire line in terms of minor rectifications on a reciprocal basis subject to our mutual agreement based on the pre-June 1967 cease fire line. My government and I consistently refused to bargain over an inch of Palestinian territory or an iota of Palestinian rights throughout the period of our direct responsibility over the West Bank.

Most recently in Washington at the White House and before the international media and before President Clinton and myself you outlined Israel's position on the Lebanese territories under the control of Israeli forces and committed yourself and your government to total withdrawal from all Lebanese territories to the International border provided that Lebanon was able to assert its authority over its land and provide Israel with the security of its territories and people within the context of a Peace Treaty.

I recall your emphasising that Israel had no interest in an inch of Lebanese territory or a cubic meter of Lebanese water. I welcomed your clear, courageous and responsible statement then and have often quoted you since, lauding your commitment to a comprehensive viable and just peace.

My government and I, since the ratification of the Washington Declaration, have done everything in our power with total commitment to implement its provisions and to sensitise people to the dawning of peace between our peoples and nations. We have done everything in our power to speed up the negotiations on every issue outlined in our ratified Common Agenda so that once our



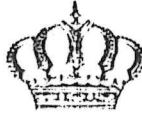
joint effort of negotiations is successfully concluded to our mutual satisfaction, we move to crown our endeavours by ratifying the Jordanian / Israeli long sought Peace Treaty.

We have and continue to seek the establishment of a warm peace between our countries and peoples and have faced up to the skeptics with faith, confidence and optimism. We have, at the same time, committed ourselves publicly and repeatedly to the recovery of every inch of our territory occupied since 1967 by Israel and to reach an acceptable resolution of our rights and needs in water.

This, then, is our position which we have committed to before our people and their representatives in this Democracy which Jordan in good faith. The bottom line my friend, is that neither my government nor I can alter these realities. We, historically adopted this very position regarding the occupied West Bank, then our responsibility and have and will do no less regarding occupied Jordanian land. We cannot and will not cede an inch of Jordanian land because we have no right to do so either constitutionally, ethically or legally. Were we to do so for any reason or under any form of pressure, we would be destroying our credibility within Jordan, the region and the world and with it any prospect or ability to establish and shape the warm peace between us which our peoples fully deserve and expect.

Now, here we are at this most critical juncture having raised hopes in both Jordan and Israel and through our joint commitment to resolve all problems directly between us as neighbours and friends and to show all others that this is the ideal way to the resolution of issues between friends and neighbours. The question that has caused me sleepless nights since one last meeting is; are we facing an insurmountable crisis that could destroy all we have done and worked for over so long a period of time ???

Is this to be the tragic end of our joint efforts which we have exerted with moral courage, faith and determination to achieve peace between us??? Are we to be denied the chance to leave behind us the established legacy of peace, security and human dignity that



our future generations deserve ??? Are we facing the failure which the skeptics predicted because we are unable to realise the long term interests of all our people ???

All these questions can be answered by you my friend when we next meet and until then I shall endeavour to keep my worries, deep anguish and concerns to myself.

In all of this, I am addressing the issues as they confront us, the shepherds of our Peace Process, as they relate to Wadi Araba. Our position on Baqura has been fully explained by our delegation to their Israeli counterparts in terms of our insistence on regaining complete sovereignty over Baqura whence the claimants to land will be satisfied in terms of their claims and future under Jordanian sovereignty, laws, jurisdictions and regime.

Returning to Wadi Araba again and the suggestion of possible land trade-offs, and since the border has not yet been finally established on the ground, i.e I feel that we have a possibility to explore options provided they address the problems based on minor rectifications on an equal and reciprocal basis in terms of the quantity and quality of lands to be exchanged. I further put across to you the suggestion of exploring the possibilities of creating Trans-national parks where both Israel and Jordan may agree to earmark specific limited and equal pieces of land on either side of the International border for that purpose.

Mr. Peres, a long time ago, had my answer to the question of possible lease of Jordanian land within the context of a Peace Treaty and it was and still is in the negative. This does not, of course, mean that after the ratification of a mutually satisfactory Peace Treaty, nationals of both countries would be denied the opportunities of establishing themselves in each others territories particularly in the Valley of Peace in



accordance with suitable and subsequent agreements to that effort in the context of peace. Finally, I feel that it is imperative that we do all in our power to satisfactorily resolve all the problems wherever they exist between us at the outset. I see no good purpose served by delay or deference of issues to arbitration or any future legal procedure.

I believe that nothing could adversely effect the warm peace we seek to establish in terms of popular perceptions and feelings than to contemplate following such a course.

Secondly, regarding water in terms of its quantity and quality, our bottom line is an anticipated quantity well in excess of one hundred MCM. It is hoped that in the future and in the context of peace, the regional water shortages will be addressed.

Thirdly, in regard to security, I see no problems that cannot be overcome.

Forthly, and in regard to refugees, I believe the subject was covered adequately during our talks and I hope that satisfactory language can provide us jointly with the means to address this issue as it affects countless people and their rights to a secure and dignified life of promise without the risk to either of us facing undesirable pitfalls.

I felt it imperative to send you these thoughts reemphasising the need for us to address these fundamental issues urgently as we approach, God willing, the conclusion of our negotiations and the ratification of a Peace Treaty between our two countries and peoples. As is the case in Israel, we have our public opinion and our constituency as you do which must be on the side of peace for it to be viable. Jordan, thus, looks forward to the establishment of an honourable, worthy and lasting peace between us. It is I believe imperative that we each know at this and all times where we stand and what is possible or otherwise impossible for either of us to contemplate.



I look forward to our next meeting, my friend.
God bless you and accept with my highest esteem my warm
wishes.

I am,

Your sincere friend,

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin
State of Israel.