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UN Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process

Press Release

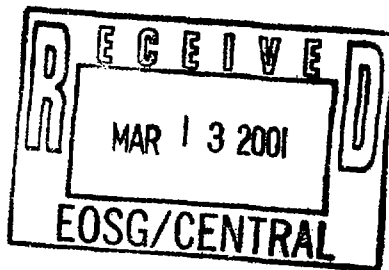
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Gaza- 12 March 2001- UNSCO- The UN Special Coordinator issued a statement today saying that it had not been possible, as a result of security concerns, to facilitate a planned meeting today between Israeli and Palestinian ministers to address the humanitarian impact of the recent tightening of the closures and internal restrictions, with particular reference to the situation in and around Ramallah.

Terje Roed-Larsen, who has just returned to the region, said that he appreciated the willingness of the Israeli government and Minister of Regional Cooperation, Tzipi Livni, to agree to meet Palestinian representatives. He reiterated his conviction that only through dialogue could the security and humanitarian situation be eased.

Mr. Roed-Larsen met yesterday and today with Palestinian Minister of Health Riyad Zanon and other senior Palestinian officials in Gaza both yesterday and today. He will meet in Tel Aviv tomorrow with Israeli Minister for Regional Cooperation Tzipi Livni to discuss the best ways to address the growing hardship caused by the ongoing closures and internal restrictions.

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