

SG's trip

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TO/A: Mr. Martin Nesirky, Spokesman's Office				
CC: Mr. Vijay Nambiar, Chef de Cabinet				
THROUGH/WISE PAR:				
FROM/DE: B. Lynn Pascoe, USG, DPA				
Date: 15 March 2010	Ext: 3-5055	Room No. - No de bureau: NL-02060		
FOR ACTION		POUR SUITE A DONNER		
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SUBJECT/MESSAGE:

As requested by EOSG and the Spokesman, please find attached broad messaging for the Spokesman's Office to use for the Secretary-General's trip to Moscow, Israel and oPt. It was fully consulted with UNSCO. The messaging is preliminary, and will be adjusted as events develop.

[Handwritten signatures and initials]

→ NH

19/03

Messaging for Trip of the Secretary-General to Israel/oPt

March 2010

Quartet [To Be Added Following Moscow Meeting]

Peace Process/Negotiations

- Israeli-Palestinian peace is *necessary, urgent and achievable*. *Necessary* – because it is the only route to securing long-denied Palestinian rights and to Israel's lasting security and acceptance in the region. *Urgent* – because people are losing faith that the territorial basis for a settlement still exists and that a settlement would genuinely bring an end to the conflict. And *achievable* – because of the consensus that the only solution is two States and that the only way to achieve it is negotiations combined with building the institutions from the ground up. The window for two States will either open soon, or it could close for good.
- I am committed to achieving the goal of the two-state solution as the only solution that will bring peace to both sides, guaranteeing the security of the state of Israel and the creation of an independent and viable Palestinian state. The framework for peace remains unchanged: the establishment of two states living side by side in peace and security, on the basis of the principle of land for peace and a just and comprehensive regional peace consistent with resolutions 242 and 338.
- I want to stress the importance of doing everything possible to ensure that negotiations lead in a clear timeframe to an agreement resolving all final status issues, including Jerusalem, borders, refugees, security, settlements and water.
- There are undoubtedly challenges to be overcome with the indirect talks. Expectations are not high. However, it would be a mistake to write-off peace talks before they have even begun. Standing by and accepting the status quo is not an option.
- In the U.S. there is an active mediator willing to take steps to help bridge the gaps between the parties. This is positive and the U.S. efforts have my support. We must now push for significant progress from talks in the coming months and a transition to direct negotiations.
- Any peace process that will yield results calls for tough and courageous decisions. I urge both the Palestinian and the Israeli leadership to rise above their domestic agendas and interests, and to take advantage of the opportunity provided by negotiations. Their children and future generations deserve to live in peace, stability and prosperity.

[Israel Press Conference: I note the steps the government has taken in affirming Israel's commitment to the two State solution, in restraining settlements and easing movement

restrictions in the West Bank. At the same time, other recent decisions have sent the wrong signal and undermined trust. Israel has the power to demonstrate that it is genuinely prepared to negotiate a final status agreement on all core issues.

Additionally: I know how much Israelis aspire to live in peace and security and the two state solution is the best way of achieving that. But the window to reach that goal is closing – time is running out. Israel has to make tough and courageous decisions if it wants to achieve its goals and secure its future. I am convinced that Israel has committed and able partners in Ramallah and needs to capitalize on this opportunity.]

[Palestinian Press Conference: I understand Palestinian apprehensions regarding entering negotiations without a full settlement freeze. Settlements are illegal and continued settlement activity violates Israel's Roadmap obligations and prejudices negotiations. This continues to be the united position of the international community. At the same time, I believe that Palestinians will best serve their interests by testing the intentions of the Israeli government in negotiations.

It is vital that a sovereign State of Palestine is achieved. This should be on the basis of the 1967 lines, with agreed land swaps, and a just and agreed solution to the refugee issue -- a state that lives side-by-side in peace with Israel within secure and recognized borders, as envisaged in the resolutions of the Security Council.]

West Bank

- The state-building agenda of the Palestinian Authority is the indispensable bottom-up complement to negotiations. It has the full political and financial backing of the UN.
- I note positively certain measures that Israel took to improve movement in the West Bank, facilitate economic activity and boosting the tourism sector. There is also progress on security cooperation with the Palestinian Authority.
- Nevertheless, the cumulative impact of the Barrier, closures, settlement expansion, demolitions and evictions and restrictions on Palestinian activity in Area C continue to fragment Palestinian life in the West Bank, and undermine Palestinian hopes for a viable state.
- I urge Israel to build on previous steps with a range of further and more far-reaching measures. This should include a reduction of incursions into Palestinian areas, facilitation of Palestinian development in Area C, and a further easing of closures.
- [Palestinian Press Conference: The Palestinian Authority has made significant advances in institutional reform and security. I have witnessed the results of these efforts here today. Despite the occupation, impressive results have been achieved. I fully support the agenda of the Palestinian Authority government to complete preparations for the institutions of statehood within two years from the launch of the programme last August. I want to encourage the Palestinian Authority to continue to

make every effort to improve security and deliver the rule of law, effective social services and economic opportunities for the Palestinian people.]

Settlements

- I have said that the Israeli Government's announcement on settlement restraint is a step beyond earlier positions. In the context of the start of indirect talks between Israelis and Palestinians, I hoped that it would contribute to forward movement.
- However, restraint is not enough in view of Israel's obligations under the Roadmap to freeze all settlement activity, which is illegal under international law, and to dismantle outposts erected since March 2001. I was deeply troubled by the announcement to advance plans for 1,600 new units last week. This sent a very negative signal about Israel's intentions and has been condemned around the world.
- I am also dismayed that settlers, some of them very radical, are being allowed to move into Palestinian neighbourhoods like Silwan and Sheikh Jarrah, bringing new tensions and further undermining trust.
- My strong appeal to Israel is to continue and extend the restraint policy into a comprehensive freeze, including in East Jerusalem, beyond the current 10-month period. This would be a real demonstration of commitment to the Roadmap.
- Israel must refrain from taking steps which have the potential to prejudge negotiations and create tensions. Unilateral actions on the ground prejudicing final status issues will not be recognised by the international community.

Settler violence

- I am concerned at continued settler violence. I believe that the Government of Israel must do more to impose the rule of law on violent settlers. Those responsible for serious incidents and acts of violence must be sought out and brought to justice.

Palestinian violence

- Important progress has been made in security in the West Bank. There continue to be isolated incidents and I always deplore violence and killing. I think it is very important that all Palestinians continue to pursue their struggle for statehood peacefully. This will be morally powerful and politically effective.

Heritage sites (Palestinian press conference)

- I have expressed my deep concern at the inclusion of the holy sites of Rachel's Tomb/Bilal mosque in Bethlehem and the Ibrahimi Mosque/Tomb of the Patriarchs in Hebron on an Israeli Government heritage site list.

- The sites are holy for both Jews and Muslims and they are located in occupied Palestinian territory. The United Nations urged Israel not to take any steps which undermine trust or could prejudice negotiations, and we called for restraint. I noted that Israeli leaders provided some clarifications and stated they intended to respect religious freedom. But more care and respect is needed in respect of such sensitive issues.

The Barrier

- The barrier significantly restricts Palestinian access to East Jerusalem, key social services and agricultural land. Furthermore, it deviates significantly from the 1967 line into the occupied Palestinian territory, which is contrary to the advisory ruling of the International Court of Justice. The areas of the barrier that deviate significantly from the 1967 line should be rerouted

Jerusalem

- I am very concerned at the continued tensions in the city as well as at the importance of finding a political settlement that includes Jerusalem.
- It is vitally important that the religious sensitivities of all faiths are respected. I am concerned when I see extremists from any side whipping up tensions by asserting exclusivity to places that are holy to many.
- For Muslims, Jews and Christians, for Israelis and Palestinians, and for peoples around the world, Jerusalem represents a place of faith and a sacred space that must be open to all. As we are constantly reminded, events in Jerusalem can undermine trust on the ground and be felt in distant lands. It is for this reason that we must ensure that the holy city becomes a true symbol of peace, bringing people together and marking a new, more positive era for the whole region.
- Israel should refrain from taking steps which have the potential to prejudice negotiations and create tensions. This is particularly important in East Jerusalem, where settlement infrastructure is being expanded and consolidated while Palestinian residents are subjected to evictions, demolitions and revocation of residency rights. I also remind Israel that the international community does not recognize its annexation of East Jerusalem.
- I call on Israel to cease such actions in East Jerusalem, which send precisely the wrong signal as negotiations restart, and to meet its Roadmap obligation to reopen Palestinian institutions in the City. As has long been agreed between the parties, Jerusalem is a core issue that must be resolved through negotiations.
- I believe that a way should be found, through negotiations, for Jerusalem to emerge as the capital of two States, with arrangements for the holy sites acceptable to all. We should all want to see Jerusalem as a symbol of harmony, tolerance and peace.

Gaza

- I am gravely concerned at unsustainable and unacceptable situation in Gaza. It has brought a sense of hopelessness for the civilian population, more than half of whom are under eighteen.
- The current counterproductive policy hurts ordinary people and moderate forces in Gaza, and it needs to change. It is empowering smugglers and militants while destroying legitimate commerce and hurting the innocent. People in Gaza are being deprived of hope and a dignified life.
- I call on Israel to end the blockade, facilitate economic activity and civilian reconstruction, and to fully respect and uphold international law. I call on Hamas to bring an end to violence and fully respect and uphold international law. There has been a significant reduction in rocket firing at Israeli civilians but such acts of terrorism do continue and must stop.
- Security Council resolution 1860 (2009) must be fully implemented and all crossings re-opened as envisaged by the 2005 Agreement on Movement and Access. The blockade should be lifted with appropriate measures in place to safeguard Israel's legitimate security concerns.
- Notwithstanding certain discrete steps, I am disappointed that my practical proposal to kickstart Gaza's civilian recovery has not been accepted by Israel. I will continue to press on this matter and will not take no for an answer.
- The UN cannot sit back and passively witness the impoverishment and suffering of over a million civilians.
- [Israel Press Conference: I have always advocated for all sides to fully respect international law. For Palestinian militants this means an immediate end to rocket fire and all violence directed against civilians, which I have repeatedly condemned. Gilad Shalit should be given full rights as a prisoner of war and immediately released on humanitarian grounds.]

Palestinian Unity

- I call on the leaders on both sides to rise above their partisan interests and work together for the greater good of the Palestinian people. I have heard a clear message from ordinary Palestinians that this internal divide must end. All Palestinians should work for unity and elections within the framework of the legitimate Palestinian Authority and consistent with the PLO's commitments.

- The United Nations fully supports Egypt's important efforts to bring about Palestinian unity. The UN will work with a united Palestinian government encompassing Gaza and the West Bank under the leadership of President Abbas.

Goldstone Report/Human Rights

- I believe that international humanitarian law needs to be fully respected and civilians must be protected in all situations and circumstances. I hope that the Goldstone report and its follow-up have served to encourage domestic investigations into the conflict that are independent, credible and in conformity with international standards. I have repeatedly called for such investigations myself.

Q: What are the next steps on Goldstone report? If there is no progress, will the matter be referred to the ICC?

- Decisions on further action, if any, remain with the General Assembly and UN member states. The initial recommendation of the Goldstone report was that the parties conduct credible domestic investigations into the conduct of the conflict. This is the area that the General Assembly focused upon in its recent Goldstone resolution.

[Israel Press Conference: I am aware of Israel's objections to the Goldstone Report but believe that the report has generated a genuine and healthy debate with Israeli society on the adequacy of investigations into Cast Lead. The debate demonstrates the vibrancy of Israel's democracy.]

Q: What is your own assessment of the Israeli and Palestinian investigations conducted so far? Why did you not make an assessment in your report?

- At this point it is clear that the investigative processes initiated by Israel and the Palestinian side remain ongoing. It is important that these efforts continue and be as genuine and credible as possible.

Lebanon

- The situation between Israel and Lebanon remains a priority for the United Nations. We deployed one of our most robust peacekeeping operations, UNIFIL, to maintain the calm along the Blue Line, and I am investing a lot of my personal diplomacy to advance peace and security there.
- Resolution 1701 has been a tremendous success in that no one has died in confrontations between Israel and Lebanon since it was adopted. Incidents are dealt with in the context of a mechanism bringing together Israel, Lebanon and the United Nations, and a state of general calm prevails along the Blue Line.
- However, there is still a lot of work to do, and the parties must do more to meet their obligations under resolution 1701. For Lebanon – militias must disarm. The current

situation poses a threat to the country itself and the region. I hope that the National Dialogue among Lebanese leaders can help in this respect.

- Additionally Israel must to cease its overflights of Lebanese airspace and withdraw from northern Ghajar.
- Another issue is the border between Lebanon and Syria. It is essential that its management is improved so as to enforce the embargo on arms. In turn, this also requires cooperation between Syria and Lebanon to better define where the border is better control it and cease smuggling. I am encouraged by recent progress in this regard.
- Recent incidents show that there are unauthorised weapons in south Lebanon. This is of real concern to me. I can assure you that UNIFIL will continue to do its best to patrol the area and will take action whenever there is information about a potential violation of resolution 1701.
- I have expressed my concern at statements, in Lebanon, in Israel and elsewhere in the region that point to the possibility of renewed conflict. I call on all to refrain from making these statements which dangerously exacerbate existing tensions, and instead work with me to continue implementing the mechanisms that we have for dealing with the situation, and improving them in order to achieve a permanent ceasefire between Israel and Lebanon.

Regional peace

- Any peace must be comprehensive and regional to be sustainable. This has been the vision of the United Nations for peace in the Middle East since the adoption of resolutions 242 and 338 by the Security Council. I support the resumption of negotiations between Israel and Syria, according to whatever modalities are agreeable to the parties.

Iran

- Threats against the existence of the State of Israel are absolutely unacceptable and I condemn them. The State of Israel was established in the wake of the Holocaust following the murder of six million Jews. Questioning the truth of these terrible events is intolerable and must not go unchallenged.
- I believe there is now an international consensus on the need to address the Iranian nuclear issue. I have consistently urged Iran to implement all relevant Security Council resolutions, and to fully cooperate with the IAEA. United diplomatic action is a powerful weapon if followed fully and must be pursued.

- I am also aware of the broader threats from arms and support to militants along Israel's borders. The threat of missiles against Israel is very worrying. Again I urge caution by all to ensure that tensions are contained and not exacerbated
- Israel's regional security concerns must not be allowed to distract from the importance of advancing towards a two state solution. Resumed indirect negotiations are a vital first step towards a two-state solution backed also by the US and its Quartet partners.