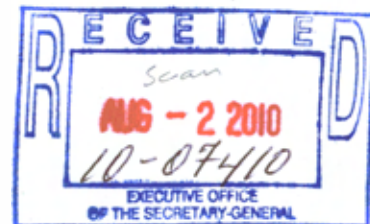


Egypt
Middle East Q



**PERMANENT MISSION OF THE ARAB REPUBLIC OF EGYPT
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

304 East 44th Street
New York, N.Y. 10017
Tel No. (212) 503-0300 Fax No. (212) 949-5999

URGENT

NOTION Mr. Padoe
COPY VN
NH

CHAN/473/10/AE

2 August 2010

Excellency,

I have the pleasure to attach herewith a verbal message addressed from H.E. Mr. Ahmed Aboul Gheit, the Foreign Minister of Egypt, to H.E Mr. Ban Ki-Moon, the Secretary General of the United Nations related to the ongoing efforts to bring both Palestinian and Israeli sides to start direct negotiations and the estimated role of the Quartet in this regard. I shall be grateful if you could transmit this message to its high destination.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Yours Sincerely,

M. F. EDREES

Mohamed Edrees
Charge d' Affairs, a.i.

H.E. Mr. Vijay K. Nambiar
Chef de Cabinet of the Secretary-General
Under-Secretary-General
The United Nations



- " I am sure you are following the recent contacts taking place with a view to bringing the Palestinian and the Israeli sides to start direct negotiations over the final status issues. The situation in this regard is delicate and merits your attention.
- While the Israeli side, supported by the US, is insisting on the immediate and 'unconditional' start of those negotiations, the Palestinians still maintain – and rightfully so – that for any direct negotiations to be successfully conducted they should be based, *inter alia*, on clear political terms of reference and have a clear agenda. This is creating a near impasse.
- The Arab Follow-up Committee has supported the Palestinian position during its deliberations in Cairo on July 29th. It has not put restrictions on Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas and at the same time understood well his concerns and endorsed his requests.
- The Palestinians have, for most of the past two decades, been negotiating DIRECTLY with the Israelis, up until the latest Israeli Government headed by PM Olmert, unfortunately to little result. The question, therefore, is not whether they agree on the principle of Direct negotiations or not, but rather on how to engage in successful, well-structured, serious and credible negotiations that can be truly characterized as the Final negotiations to end the conflict.
- Egypt believes there is room for Quartet action here. As the body that has been for the most part of this decade guiding peace efforts, the Quartet should be able to interfere at this stage, at the highest level, in order to enable the parties to bypass this situation. The Palestinians repeatedly declared that they look forward to such a role based on the Quartet recent statements.
- We hope that the Quartet examines the situation during this month, and expresses a strong position that would enable both parties to declare their readiness to engage swiftly in direct negotiations."