



ISRAEL MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Communique following the meeting of the foreign ministers of Israel- Egypt- Jordan- the US Secretary of State and a PA representative

12 Feb 1995

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20. Communique following the meeting of the foreign ministers of Israel, Egypt, Jordan, the U.S. Secretary of State and a PA representative 12 February 1995.

As agreed upon in the Cairo summit, a meeting was held in Washington at the level of foreign ministers. It was hosted by Secretary of State Christopher, and was addressed by President Clinton. His presence as well as that of Vice President Gore was to underline the great importance the United States attached to the continuation of the peace process. The discussion focussed on the political, economic and human aspects of peace in the Middle East. Some progress was achieved in talks between Foreign Minister Peres and Nabil Sha'ath. All parties pledged their commitments to the peace process. Text:

On February 12, 1995, the United States hosted a follow-up meeting in Washington of the February 2, 1995 Cairo Summit of representatives from Israel, Egypt, Jordan, and the Palestinian Authority. President Clinton, accompanied by Vice-President Gore, addressed the gathering which was attended by Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Moussa, Jordanian Foreign Minister Abd al-Karim Kabariti, Palestinian Authority Minister of Planning and International Cooperation Nabil Sha'ath, Secretary of State Warren Christopher, and Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Victor Posuvalyuk who participated as an observer. The five participants acknowledged the leadership of Egypt's President Hosni Mubarak in hosting the Cairo Summit. Building on that historic meeting, the five participants reaffirmed their determination to consolidate the breakthroughs achieved in the Arab-Israeli peace process, to overcome obstacles and disputes, and to push forward toward a just, lasting and comprehensive peace in the region based on United Nations Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, thus leading to a lasting reconciliation among the peoples of the Middle East cemented by bonds of mutual respect and dignity, tolerance, cooperation, security and peaceful relations.

Toward this end, the five parties represented in Washington have joined together to act to further cooperation in support of peace. Because peace requires concerted action, the parties agreed to explore practical steps in the political, economic, security and human

dimension areas of education and culture. They also agreed to meet as necessary to consult and to coordinate action in these areas. Experts will follow up in each of these areas as appropriate.

In the political area, the parties reaffirmed their strong commitment to honoring those agreements already concluded, in letter and spirit, and to accelerate negotiations on all tracks. The Secretary of State reported on the conclusions reached between the Israeli and Palestinian delegations today. Those conclusions are attached and constitute an integral part of this communique. The participants in today's meeting welcomed the results achieved by Israel and the Palestinian Authority and pledged to do all they could to support the conclusion of the Israeli-Palestinian peace process. The parties also expressed appreciation for the continuation of the implementation of the Israeli-Jordanian peace treaty in all its aspects. They further expressed the hope that a peace agreement between Israel and both Syria and Lebanon could be reached soon, leading to comprehensive peace.

With respect to security, the parties agreed that there can be no real peace in the region without security and stability. The parties declared that they are committed to combat all acts that aim to destroy the peace process, particularly acts of terrorism and violence, and to stand staunchly against and put an end to all such acts. The parties reaffirmed the intention expressed at the Cairo Summit that within the framework of peace and reconciliation in the region, with enhanced security, economic prosperity and a higher standard of living for their people, they intend to achieve equal security and mutual confidence at lower levels of armaments, appreciating President Mubarak's disarmament proposal on weapons of mass destruction. The parties shall pursue a mutually verifiable Middle East zone free of weapons of mass destruction, nuclear, chemical and biological, and their delivery systems.

In the economic area, they reaffirmed the importance of fostering economic development and investment in the region. The parties agreed to support assistance to Palestinians and the development and strengthening of the creation of industrial zones in the West Bank and Gaza. The parties are committed to explore the removal of barriers to trade. They will also explore ways to promote liberalized trade between the parties and the United States. In this regard, the parties expressed appreciation to the United States for its proposal to extend duty free treatment to products from industrial zones to be created in the West Bank and Gaza and free trade zones that may be established in Taba, Eilat and Aqaba. The United States will consult further with the parties and the U.S. Congress on this matter. At the same time, the parties took note of progress and agreed to continue their efforts towards the establishment of a Middle East Development Bank. Such an institution would serve to fund development projects and the promotion of private sector investment.

To underscore the public-private partnership as embodied in the Casablanca Declaration, the four parties agreed to the promotion of private sector projects. The parties will work together with the private sector for the success of the Amman Economic Summit in October.

In the human dimension, the parties also agreed on the need to build bridges between peoples, to overcome barriers to understanding and to share knowledge and expertise to deal with common problems. The parties also agreed to explore the possibilities of new and more creative forms of cooperation in these areas.

Finally, the parties pledged to work to ensure that there can be no turning back in the Arab- Israeli peace process. They agreed to do all in their power to work toward the achievement of a comprehensive peace and to create a Middle East with peace, security and economic prosperity for all the people of the region. In this regard, they pledged their continued support for the efforts and contributions of the multilateral track of the peace process.

In light of our commitment to pursue a comprehensive peace, the United States will be consulting with its Russian co-sponsor, the European Union as well as with Norway, Japan and other regional participants in the peace process on ways to promote progress and reach our common goals.