

AFTER THE MECCA AGREEMENT

ABBAS DEMANDS THAT ISRAEL ACCEPTS NEW TERRORIST GOVERNMENT

Two days after the Mecca deal was signed, Chairman Mahmoud Abbas demanded that Israel officially accept the power-sharing government in spite of the fact that the unity deal does not obligate Hamas or any other member of the government to recognize Israel's right to exist or renounce the use of terrorist violence.

US CONGRESS PUTS AID TO PA ON HOLD

The US Congress has put on hold the transfer of \$86 million to the PA until it can be determined whether or not the PA is going to remain a terrorist entity.

President George Bush originally ordered the transfer of funds in an effort to bolster the so-called "moderates" Mahmoud Abbas' Fatah movement.

ABBAS "A FIG LEAF FOR HAMAS"

Feb 16, 07. After Abbas brokered the power-sharing deal with the ruling Hamas terrorist organization, the US Congress correctly understood that the "Palestinian" leader was making himself a fig leaf for Hamas' violent anti-Israel positions.

While the Abbas-controlled part of the PA will hold "peace" negotiations with Israel, the Hamas-controlled half will remain dedicated to Israel's demise. - AFP.

PALESTINIANS SEEKING TO SELL THEIR NEW ANTI-ISRAEL GOVERNMENT

Feb 11, 07. The Palestinians now have a government that includes major factions that openly reject Israel's right to exist, and they want the international community to accept that and throw money at them. PA Chairman Abbas has sent out envoys to sell the power-sharing deal reached with the ruling Hamas to the international community.

Although the unity agreement does not include explicit recognition of Israel's right to exist or a renunciation of terrorist violence against the Jewish state, Abbas was confident that a world bent on forcing Israel to sign away its biblical heartland in the name of "peace" would be forgiving toward the Palestinians.

Hamas officials have already announced that those ministries controlled by their movement will continue to resist peace and will seek the demise of the Jewish state. - Associated Press

MERKEL REBUFFS ABBAS

Feb 23, 07. Mahmoud Abbas has had talks in Berlin with German Chancellor Angela Merkel, seeking Western support for the unity government of his Fatah party and its rival Hamas. He also wanted the financial boycott of the Palestinian Authority to be lifted.

As holder of the EU presidency, Merkel stressed the EU's insistence that any new Palestinian government must recognise Israel.

The Quartet - Russia, the EU, the US and UN - say they will await the formation of a the Palestinian unity government before making a decision.

FRANCE WILL HELP HAMAS/FATAH GOVERNMENT

In a boost for Mahmoud Abba, France has pledged to cooperate with the unity PA government.

“I encouraged Mr. Abbas to persevere in his efforts to quickly form a national unity government,” said Philippe Douste-Blazy, France’s Minister of Foreign Affairs, as Abbas prepared to return to the Middle East.

“If the government is formed according to the power-sharing deal worked out in Mecca, France will be ready to cooperate with it. And our country will plead on its behalf within the European Union and with other partners in the international community.”

RUSSIA IS PLEASED WITH UNITY AGREEMENT

Feb 27, 07. Russia will work to bring an end to the economic sanctions against the Hamas-led PA for its refusal to recognize Israel’s right to exist.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said his government is pleased with the new power-sharing agreement between Hamas and PLO chief Mahmoud Abbas’ Fatah, even if the new unity government fails to oppose the murder of Jews or destruction of Israel.

RICE WON’T GIVE PEACE ULTIMATUM TO PA GOVERNMENT

Feb 16, 07. Regarding the question as to whether the US would recognise the new PA unity government, Condoleezza Rice said, “We’re not going to jump the gun here. We will wait until the new (Hamas-Fatah) government is formed and then we’ll make a decision about how to deal with that government.”

Rice has denied reports that American officials had threatened that Washington would sever ties with the Palestinian Authority if its new unity government fails to recognize Israel’s right to exist and renounce terrorism. En route to the Middle East, Rice suggested the US intends to continue its relationship with the PA regardless of its platform.

America’s top diplomat appears ready to accept Abbas’ proposal that the half of the “Palestinian” government controlled by him will conduct peace talks with Israel, while the half controlled by Hamas remains dedicated to Israel’s destruction. - Source: AFP (Agence France-Presse)

Middle East envoy David Welch, on the other hand, called Abbas to warn him that the US will not recognize the new PA unity government because its leading faction, Hamas, has not recognized the State of Israel.

Hamas officials confirmed that the new government would indeed spurn those international requirements.

EHUD OLMERT: JERUSALEM WON’T CUT TIES WITH ABBAS

Feb 11, 07. Israeli officials said Abbas' new alliance with the Hamas terrorist organization had effectively blurred the lines between the so-called "moderates" and "radicals", and that Israel must re-evaluate its willingness to deal with Abbas as a result.

Some Israeli government officials threatened to cut ties with so-called "moderate" PA Chairman Abbas if he goes ahead and forges a unity government with Hamas that is not based on explicit recognition of Israel's right to exist.

Israeli opposition leader Binyamin Netanyahu told Army Radio that Israel must respond to Abbas' moving closer to Hamas, by moving further away from him. Anything else would risk legitimizing the bloody Islamic terrorist organisation, warned Netanyahu.



But PM Ehud Olmert rejected the calls to take a harder line with PLO chief and said he still had high hopes for the upcoming summit with Abbas and Condoleezza Rice, where he hoped to hear the Palestinians voice their acceptance of Israel's right to exist and their decision to disavow terrorism. - The Jerusalem Post

The summit shattered Abbas' high hopes. It was a dead loss. Neither Olmert or Abbas faced the press, and it was left to Ms Rice to report there was no tangible progress at the rare summit, and that the leaders had agreed to meet again soon.

ABBAS SAYS PEACE NOT HIS PRIORITY

Feb 21, 07. PLO chief Mahmoud Abbas the "moderate," has openly stated that his primary concern is with forwarding "Palestinian" national interests, and not necessarily with making peace with Israel.

For all the world to hear, Abbas stated that the power-sharing deal he struck with Hamas this month in Mecca was not intended to bring the terror group in line with international peace principles.

"We told Israel that this agreement was made to protect the unity of the Palestinian people and its national interests," Abbas told reporters. "The agreement is an expression of support for Palestinian interests."

The problem is that "Palestinian" interests, as expressed in the overwhelming election of Hamas, are primarily centered on the destruction of the Jewish state.

ISLAMIC JIHAD & PFLP INVITED TO JOIN GOVT.

Several key terrorist groups, in particular *Islamic Jihad*, which has been responsible for all the suicide bombings inside Israel over the past two years and most of the Qassam rocket attacks, are not signatories to the new deal.

Feb 18, 07. Hamas PM Ismail Haniyeh invited the *Islamic Jihad* to join the new unity government, but they have rejected the offer.

Haniyeh also invited the *Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine* (PFLP) to join the government. PFLP head Kayid al-Ghoul said his group was considering the offer, but refuses to commit itself to comply with demands by the international community.

BRITAIN TO DEAL WITH 'MODERATE' HAMAS ELEMENTS

The increasing blame on Israel for problems in the PA, along with the mounting pressure from Russia have contributed to a change in the policy of British PM Tony Blair, who has indicated he is prepared to deal with Hamas. "It is far easier to deal with the situation in Palestine if there is a national unity government," he said. "I hope we can make progress, including even with the more sensible elements of Hamas."

MASHAAL VISITS MOSCOW

The Quartet so far has insisted that Hamas meet international demands, but the terrorist organization seeks to drum up international support, starting with Russia. Syrian-based Hamas leader Khaled Mashaal visited Moscow at end of Feb, as Moscow continued to ignore Israeli pleas that international powers not conduct talks with leaders of Hamas.

ABBAS' UNREASONABLE CONDITIONS

Abbas, the leader of the Fatah movement, claims that the unity government is committed to meeting international conditions even though Hamas explicitly refuses to do so. Fatah has paid lip-service to the conditions, but terrorist attacks on Israel by Fatah terrorists continue almost daily. Abbas, significantly, has conditioned his "recognition of Israel" on demands that every recent Israeli government has categorically stated are unreasonable.

Abbas has said a Jewish state could be recognized **only after Jerusalem becomes the capital of a new Arab country and millions of Arabs in foreign countries are allowed to live in Israel.**

MUSLIM STATES PRESSURE QUARTET

A group of 57 Muslim countries meeting in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia has agreed to step up pressure and try to force the Quartet to lift the economic sanctions against Hamas. The Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC) also continues to accuse Israel of endangering the Al Aksa mosque by conducting archaeological operations near the Temple Mount.

RICE PUSHES FOR PALESTINIAN STATE

Recently Rice expressed: "Eventually you're going to have to get to a Palestinian government that accepts that it is to live side by side in peace with an Israeli neighbor."

WHEN "NEVER" MEANS "NOT YET"

It is becoming clear to Condoleezza Rice that "never" often simply means "wait a bit" in the PA. For example, Abbas long claimed that he would "never" join a

Hamas government that does not meet the Quartet demands - but this quickly dissolved when he signed on to the pact in Mecca.

But the Israeli PM is guilty of the same thing. Olmert often sets policy according to advice and pressure from the Bush administration. He agreed to meet with Mahmoud Abbas and Secretary Rice even though he had previously declared that no negotiations could be held so long as the PA, which now includes Hamas, does not cease terrorist attacks.

He also stated that the release of kidnapped IDF soldier Gilad Shalit is a condition to direct talks, but nevertheless met with Abbas twice in the past two months.

RAMIFICATIONS OF A PALESTINIAN STATE

A Palestinian state west of the Jordan River would be “the world’s worst nightmare,” writes Middle East analyst Emanuel A. Winston. It would be “the last link in a string of terrorist states that will not only incubate new terror groups but will also increase their linkage and operational efficiency for major strikes against America - as well as Israel.”

Michael Wise, co-author of *The 1.5-Million-Arab Population Gap*, writes that, “PA control of any part of the West Bank could result in the arrival of up to 2½ million Palestinian ‘refugees’ over the course of 3 to 5 years.”

The first to arrive would more than likely be the 400,000 who have been living in abject poverty in Lebanon, to be followed soon after by millions more from Syria, Iraq, Jordan, and elsewhere.

“The opportunity to be resettled in Palestine with enormous global financial and political support will be very attractive and immediately accepted by those refugees.”