



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
US SECURITY COORDINATOR
US CONSULATE GENERAL
JERUSALEM
APO AE 09830

29 November 2006

SUBJECT: Security Working Group Executive Summary:

1. On the afternoon of 14 November 2006, the first Security Working Group meeting was opened by the United States Security Coordinator (USSC), Lieutenant General Dayton. Security Working Group (SWG) primary membership consists of representatives from Israel, the Palestinian Authority (PA), Egypt, and is chaired by the USSC. The European Union Border Assistance Mission (EUBAM) in Rafah was also represented as an observer. The membership of this SWG meeting was represented by the following primaries:

LTG Keith Dayton, United States Security Coordinator
Dr. Saeb Erakat, Head PLO Negotiation Affairs Department
MG (ret.) Amos Gilad, Director of Policy and Political-Military Affairs
MG Rafaat Shahada, Director of the Egyptian Military Delegation to Gaza
LTG Pietro Pistolese, EUBAM Head of Mission

2. The SWG facilitator (Col Rupp) opened the forum at 1405 with a quick review of the agenda to be discussed, and reference to the read ahead documents which included the procedural rules of order for the forum. At 1410 the SWG was then formally started by the Chair, LTG Dayton.


3. LTG Dayton formally began the meeting with personal remarks. He stressed the importance of the SWG, and ensuring its continued meetings into the future. He thanked all members for attending, and then offered the floor to remarks from the other primaries. Each primary gave concise opening remarks, and stated their desire for positive progress at the Rafah crossing. After opening remarks were completed, the facilitator introduced the first agenda item.

4. The Agenda consisted of six issues, with a seventh placeholder for other issues of interest if time permitted. The first issue introduced was "The EUBAM mandate six month extension." This issue was determined to be resolved, as LTG Pistolese confirmed that the extension had been approved through 25 May 2007. This was very positive news.

5. The second issue was "handling persons of concern," at Rafah crossing. The discussion revealed that this was a matter of providing an approved list of "dangerous persons" for use by security at Rafah. LTG Dayton agreed to receive a list supplied by the Israeli Ministry of Defense (MOD) representative. The initial list from the Israeli MOD is requested to be delivered to the USSC by 30 November.

6. The third issue was "handling goods of concern," at Rafah crossing. The results of the discussion revealed that detailed procedures for this were directed within the original security protocol, but that these procedures had never been produced. The SWG members agreed to that a sub-working group was required to complete these procedures, in order to resolve this issue. Mr. Denis Lefebvre of the USSC was assigned to chair this sub-working group. The Israeli, PA, and EUBAM primaries agreed to provide names of their sub-working group members. These names are expected to be provided to USSC by 30 November.

7. The fourth issue was "handling large sums of cash," at Rafah crossing. This issue provided some discussion in depth, revealing that there were currently no legal barriers to couriers bringing large legal and declared (non-Egyptian) cash sums through the Rafah crossing point into Gaza. It was finally agreed that this issue required political intervention at a higher level for resolution. Lieutenant General Dayton agreed to draft a letter to the USG Secretary of State, defining the problem, and asking the US government to lead political discourse on the issue between the involved nations (Egypt, Israel, and PA). USSC is currently staffing that letter. This issue will continue to be a follow up item for future meetings.
8. The fifth issue was "status of scanners and equipment dedicated to Rafah crossing point (RCP)." The discussion centered on the delay of getting this equipment cleared into the RCP for use. The Egyptian representative stated that Israel had not yet cleared the named equipment for entry. The Israel MOD representative agreed to check on why this equipment had not been cleared, and to try and expedite the required clearance. It was requested that EUBAM follow up on this at their 20 November CEC meeting. This issue was also marked as a follow up item for the next scheduled SWG.
9. The sixth issue was "future expansion of activities at the RCP." Specifically the PA representative pointed out three specific areas as; imports through Karem Shalom crossing, Exports at RCP, and Vehicle movement through RCP. It was determined after discussion, and insights from EUBAM and PA representatives that these items are specific to implementing the yet unsigned "Customs Protocol" between Israel and the PA. It was pointed out that the customs protocol had been agreed to, yet it required official signature to enact. The primaries agreed to resolution through a letter from LTG Dayton to the involved parties requesting formal signature of the Customs Protocol. The primaries agreed to lead this action through coordination with the appropriate agencies within their governments charged with customs responsibility. Progress on this issue will be followed up at the next scheduled SWG.
10. There was one additional issue discussed during the SWG meeting. The issue was the desire by the EUBAM to have an Egyptian liaison officer assigned to the Rafah crossing point. The Egyptian primary agreed to direct this request to his government for approval. It is requested that the Egyptian representatives inform USSC of their intentions on 30 November.
11. There were no other issues raised for discussion at this SWG. All primaries agreed to meet for the next scheduled SWG on 9 January 2007. The place and time would be forwarded in later correspondence.
12. LTG Dayton lastly gave concise closing remarks, as did the other primaries. This first formal meeting of the SWG was closed at approximately 1630, on 14 November 2006.


Keith W. Dayton
Lieutenant General, USA
US Security Coordinator