Talking Points: Security
Meeting with Members of Israeli Delegation, 1/12/1999

Areas of agreement between the Palestinian and Israeli sides regarding security:

- **Successful negotiations between us require a mutual understanding of our respective concerns.**
  - P: "If we are to be successful, we must make every effort to understand the interests and concerns motivating each other's positions and to respond to them thoroughly, candidly and fairly." (¶ 1)
  - I: "For the key to successful conclusion of any negotiations is a mutual understanding by the parties of their respective concerns." (¶ 1)

- **A just, mutually acceptable peace agreement between the two sides will contribute to the security of each side.**
  - P: "We believe that peace is an essential component of security." (¶ 2)
  - I: "Peace can strengthen and support security but it cannot replace it." (¶ 3)

- **Security is comprised of both independent security abilities and security cooperation.**
  - P: "We believe that our exercise of sovereignty within the fully restored borders of 4 June 1967 is entirely compatible with the provision of arrangements for your existential security." (¶ 15)
  - I: "We view security as being comprised of two principal components. The first being independent security abilities and the second stemming from security cooperation." (¶ 4)

- **Effective security arrangements cannot exist in the absence of mutual trust, which must be nurtured and developed.**
  - P: "We ask you to recognize that mutual trust is a necessary ingredient of working security arrangements and good neighborly relations – and trust also must be built and reinforced. (¶ 5)
  - I: "Peace is an evolving process requiring the building of mutual trust and confidence between not only the leaders but also the peoples of both sides. . . . [This] can only develop and be nurtured in a supporting and stable environment that acts as an incentive for peace . . . ." (¶ 7)

- **Peace agreements between Israel, Egypt, and Jordan contribute significantly to Israel's security.**
  - P: "The tried and tested reality of peace between Israel and Egypt, and of the related security provisions, demonstrates that Israeli gains in strategic depth are major ones and alter qualitatively the defensive calculations of the past." (¶ 12)

- o I: "Peace agreements have been signed with Egypt and Jordan which we consider to be of great strategic value." (¶ 11)

- **Security arrangements must be effective, credible, and flexible.**
  - o P: "We share your conviction that security must be promoted through effective, credible, and flexible arrangements." (¶ 5)
  - o I: "From our perspective, effective, credible, and flexible security arrangements must lie at the very foundation of this agreement." (¶ 16)

- **Security arrangements must promote both objective security and both peoples' sense of security.**
  - o P: "We, too, measure security in terms of our sense of security." (¶ 14)
  - o I: "Security also operates on the psychological level in terms of the sense of security that is essential for the conduct of routine daily life."

Questions Regarding Israeli Security Concerns Presentation

1. (a) In your presentation, you described in general terms about the range of threats that you perceive to your security. Assuming that a final status agreement is concluded between the Palestinians and the Israelis, what <u>in particular</u> do you anticipate will be the continuing risks and threats to Israeli security?

   (b) From your perspective, what specific security measures are necessary to respond to each of these threats?

2. In your presentation, you refer to the geographical and temporal limitations that restrict your ability to absorb an attack and consolidate your position without dramatically compromising your national security. From your perspective, in what specific ways would the establishment of Palestinian sovereignty over the entire West Bank and Gaza Strip affect your capacity to respond to existing and envisaged threats?

3. Israel has been at peace with Egypt for 20 years. It is protected by force limitations on Egyptian presence in the Sinai, the multi-national observer forces, and the Sinai's width. The peace treaty with Jordan contains provisions that prevent the entry of any foreign forces to Jordan. Jordan therefore represents a major buffer between Israel and any enemies to the East. To what extent do these facts affect Israel's ability to defend itself from the threats that you describe in your presentation? On a similar note, in light of these facts, in what ways are the "long borders" that you mention in your presentation relevant to your security?

4. As you noted in your presentation, security is comprised not only of security cooperation, but also of independent security abilities. In your vision of security,

by what means could Palestine independently provide for its self-defense against aggression?

5. We agree that trust is a necessary component of working security arrangements. In what ways do you think we can work to build the necessary mutual trust and confidence between our two peoples?

6. The multinational observer forces were a significant aspect of your peace settlement with Egypt. What role do you envisage for third parties in promoting security arrangements between us?

7. We agree that the permanent status negotiations should resolve all of the remaining issues between us. Yet in your presentation you mention that security arrangements should contribute to the "evolving process" of building peace. What specifically do you have in mind?

8. In your presentation, you discuss the importance of promoting regional stability. To that end, is Israel willing to accede to a regional agreement banning nuclear, chemical and biological weapons?