

**ELECTION COORDINATION MEETING**

NOTE TO FILE

22<sup>ND</sup> DECEMBER 2004

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Participants

Israeli: Prime Minister's Office, IDF Coordination and Legal, Legal Advisor to Communications Ministry, Post Office, Ministry of Defence, Police.

Palestinian: Dr. Saeb Erekat, Saeb al Ajaz, Haj Ismail Jaber, Jamil Tarifi, Bashir Nafaa, Salah al Ayan, Amar Dwaik, Anwar Darkazally.

Overall Framework

It was agreed that the Presidential elections on 9<sup>th</sup> January 2005 would be held according to the framework of the 1995 Agreement and the arrangements put in place in 1996. This was agreed previously between Weissglass and Dr. Saeb.

Joint Operations Room

A joint operations room was agreed for Bet El, another one for Erez is to be discussed. It was proposed that each joint operations room be composed of 2 Palestinian and 2 Israeli officers, from District Coordination and Civil Affairs.

It was agreed that empowered decision makers participate in the joint operations room and have the ability to make instant decisions.

The Israeli side agreed to revert on the second operations room.

Ballot Boxes

The ballot boxes from Denmark are still frozen at the airport. It was agreed that their arrival in Ramallah would be expedited by the Israeli side.

Palestinian Security

It was stated that the Palestinians need armed security for the entire election process to ensure its safety. The arrangements agreed were that in Area A Palestinian security may carry rifles, in Area B may be uniformed and armed with pistols. It was requested that there be armed uniformed presence in Area C.

The Israeli side agreed to revert on this request within 24 hours.

Freedom of Movement

There was a request for full freedom of movement from 25 December to 13 January. The removal of dirt blocks and some fixed checkpoints was made.

The roads requested will be examined in detail between Haj Ismail and Israeli General Mishlib.

Generally, it was agreed that there would be freedom of movement between the closed zone areas for 8 and 9 January. It was also agreed that there would be a list of names provided for Mawasi and for CEC vehicles to be admitted to these difficult areas.

CEC will provide a list of names to the Israelis to coordinate movement in these areas.

### Security

General Zeev agreed to a "tremendous reduction" in Israeli military activity up until 8-10 January when there would be a full withdrawal from Palestinian towns. From 26<sup>th</sup> December it was stated that there would be a significant reduction in Israeli military presence. Israeli stated that they would respond to any attack within Israel even on election day itself.

It was agreed that from 8-10 January the same security arrangements would be in place as during President Arafat's funeral, ie that Palestinians would be in sole charge of the security for Palestinians, Israelis and foreigners.

### Candidates

It was agreed that candidates and up to ten staff would be allowed permits to move freely around the West Bank, including East Jerusalem. Two candidates, Shbeer and Barakeh are still without permits and it was agreed that Minister Tarifi would send the names and details so that they could be issued permits immediately.

### International Observers

It was agreed that there would be coordination on the passing on of lists of international observers received by either side to the other side for its accreditation process. There will be 200 observers from the EU, 80 from the NDI and some from the UN.

CEC will forward logos to be put on cards, cars and jackets to Israeli side for recognition. The question was raised as to whether the CEC would create a Palestinian plate to be used by international observers traveling from Israel to Gaza.

### Local Observers

It was agreed to provide a list of 2 representatives from each of the 150 NGO's doing local observation in order to issue permits. These permits must be issued from 26<sup>th</sup> December in order to allow the observers to witness every and any aspect of the process that they choose.

### International Access

Rafah cannot be opened according to the Israelis.

The Allenby Bridge will be opened from 8am to midnight every day until the election period when it will be reviewed whether there is a need to keep the bridge open 24 hours a day.

#### Prisoners

The Israelis have refused to allow participation of prisoners in the elections. This is because there was no precedent in 1996, but appeared due to political sensitivity.

#### Jerusalem

To be conducted according to the 1996 elections. The Israelis refused to pass over the voter lists on the basis that this would infringe their privacy law. This does not appear to be legally correct. We are in the process of preparing the argument to refute this.

Canvassing has been agreed to, beginning at noon on 26<sup>th</sup> December. Voting with ID's will also be allowed.

#### Statement for Jerusalemites

The Israeli government proposal will include a preamble stating that the participation will not prejudice their rights. This government statement will then be distributed broadly.

#### Post Offices

The East Jerusalem Post offices will be used as voting venues. Currently they are: Mount of Olives, Salah ad Din, Jaffa Gate, Shaufat and Sur Baher.

The Post Office will see whether it is possible to reopen the Beit Hanina Post Office and to expand the number of receptacles in the Salah ad Din Street office.

#### East Jerusalem Security

Security in Post Offices will consist of the usual civil security guards employed all year around in the offices. There are 2 guards in Salah ad Din and 1 in every other branch. Israeli police will only take care of security outside the Post Offices. There will be no photographing or videotaping of voters or staff. There will be no further notices sent to CEC staff demanding their attendance at the Police Headquarters. This was apparently previously due to confused messages sent by the Israeli government.

Transportation of ballot boxes will occur as last time with Post Office vehicles being escorted by Israeli police and international observers up to the municipal border in Ar Ram. The boxes will then be sorted and counted in the Ar Ram District Electoral Office.

#### Conclusions

Answers on security questions will be given 23 December.

**NEGOTIATIONS SUPPORT UNIT**

**NEGOTIATIONS AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT**

Security matters will be discussed between Haj Ismail, Minister Tarifi and General Mishlib.