

**MEETING MINUTES
REDPLOYMENT COORDINATION COMMITTEE**

Date: Sunday, February 13, 2005
Location: Bet El
Time: 21:00—23:31

Participants

Israeli

Head: Brig. General Ghadi Iznakout (GI)
Brig. General Yisrael Yitzhak (YY)
Brig. General Ilan Baz (IB)
Col. Dagan 'Atar (DA)
Col. Michel Ben Baroug (MC)
Lt. Col. Mansour Al-Khatib (MK)
Lt. Col. Dani Yisraeli (YD)
Col. Tal (Shabak)

Palestinian:

Head: General Ismael Jabr (IJ)
Mr. Ziad Hab Reeh (ZHR)
Brig. General 'Ala Husni (AH)
Brig. Gen. Bashir Nafae' (BN)
Lt. Col. Haythem Nawara (HN)
Col. Jihad Jayussi (JJ)
Mr. Yaser Dajani (YD)
Col. Fahd Wehebe (FW)

Summary of Meeting

- Agreed to transfer responsibility of Jericho area to PA;
- Meeting to be held Monday, Feb. 14, between area commanders to discuss specific withdrawal of Israel, the removal of Israeli checkpoints and obstacles such as cement blocks and dirt mounds, the deployment of PA forces and checkpoints, and the framework on coordination that is needed.
- Removal of all checkpoints in the Jericho area (precise detail to be worked out Monday).
- Hot information was raised but no resolution on the exact framework. Crisis management was discussed internally. The General will decide on how to establish communication lines.
- Agreement on transfer of responsibility of areas, not cities.

- No agreement on the next area, but the General remains flexible, but proposed Bethlehem and/or Ramallah.
- 1200 police to Jericho effective immediately for training.
- Next meeting at this level to be determined after the withdrawal from Jericho—after Tuesday Feb. 15.

Minutes

GI: Welcome. We begin with good wishes so that the situation can be better for both sides. To begin with a white page, head of central command wanted to meet the Hajj. We hope to establish the rules and foundation to transfer security responsibility to the PA, in accordance with the understandings reached at the political level. We hope we can explore our cooperation to move forward, so that we can jointly address terror and prevent violence in areas you will have responsibility over. Two ways we can this: we can tell you about our instructions and the rules, or you can begin with doing the same.

IJ: You begin.

GI: Decisions came down from the political leadership as discussed between Mofaz and Dahlan to transfer responsibility to you in Jericho, for it to be the model for the coming period and then we want to hear from you regarding capacity and capability to transfer responsibility to you in the rest of the territories. This should be done in a gradual way to transfer security responsibility. Do what you can as far as security is concerned, but we want to understand that there is a hole ahead of us—we are transferring responsibility in some towns, but not all. The main question is how to prevent potential operations to come from these areas not under your jurisdiction and from area under your jurisdiction.

We are in a climate that began at Sharm El Sheikh. We want to suspend all operations in the territories and we don't want to create an atmosphere that makes things difficult to you. The cities of Nablus and Jenin remain high in terms of terror alerts. They still operate at large, many of them receiving instructions from abroad.

We agreed to transfer 1200-strong police for training including weapons training. The central point is a mutual declaration to provide security for both sides and to ensure the success of the current stage.

I will discuss the basic points which are important to us, and I am sure you will do the same. We need to move this process forward. I really want to discuss transfer of responsibility regarding all cities and town, but we have to do it step by step. We want to ensure success. There are five basic points:

1. Real security action to prevent terror in areas where security responsibility has been transferred.
2. Series of steps stopping, interrogation, trial and prison. This will take a bit of time. This is a very difficult phase. It will take time. And we have patience.
3. Collection of illegal weapons.

4. Dismantling the terror infrastructure
5. Incitement.

The basis of this stage is to advance in a positive way, with the commanders of the districts. We don't want our patrols to enter Areas A. Hot lines between the commanders of the DCO from both sides need to be established as well as the need to establish PA joint operations to collect information and to prevent attacks

As for fugitives, this will be addressed in the respective committee. But basically no more attacks on the fugitives. Based on security implementation we will examine future withdrawals.

Regarding areas where transfer will not happen, we will respect certain boundaries. In the last two weeks, the army has not entered any areas unless we really had to, based on intelligence. And these I can count on one hand.

Regarding Areas B, the villages we will allow for police work to be done in coordination with the area commander, to allow for the police to reach that area.

Reconstruction of PA buildings and institutions, whichever area you want to reach let us know and we will work to accommodate you. The movement of officials and their security there will be a special coordination done through the channels that exist.

IJ: Good evening. We are happy that this meeting is going to produce hope and for us to begin working together, and based on our political instructions these meetings are intended to return the situation to 28.9.2000. And we listened carefully and we listened to the political leadership—what happened in the meeting between MoD and Dahlan and what we heard from Sharm. Our instructions from the political leadership are to take our jobs very seriously, and you have noticed the willingness and seriousness of the political leadership. Let me say a few things about the rules. We are now dealing with five cities and surrounding areas.

I heard from the General the basic rules, but I did not hear a timetable. Do you have a timetable?

Regarding internal procedures, we have dedicated services and there will be communication between the PA and Israel—and there are five levels for this: the political level, the operational level, and this is out level, the security level, the police level and finally the civil affairs level.

From our side, we are ready to handle our responsibilities—and whoever violates the spirit of this process we will stop, interrogate, arrest, and send to prison based on the law. But we don't have prisons, detention centers. We have a center in the Hebron area and one in Nablus. We want to use the one in Nablus. Incitement, we have gone a long way to prevent it, so much so that this has reached the schools. But a lot more needs to be done.

Regarding collection of illegal weapons, this is part of the internal program. There is internal dialogue, and during this process and until we have results we will not allow anyone to violate the understandings and we will deal with them in accordance with the law.

As for joint patrols, I understand that this is not the right time for it.

We will have our own patrols and massive deployment along the perimeter, to prevent infiltration and shooting and to maintain internal law and order. And to have maximum effectiveness, I think it is good what I heard from the general regarding cooperation and exchange of information, but this means we have to reinstitute the DCO and the DCO offices. A little bit of configuration in the coordination, through the trilateral security committee. But we need to give the DCO real effectiveness.

We will assign four members from each of the services to foster exchange. As for giving up weapons and signing declarations, whatever the dedicated committee agrees to we will commit to.

We have to look into ways we can improve our cooperation. We have to deepen and operationalize our security cooperation.

We want our jurisdiction in Area B. What the general said is not acceptable. We want the police stations to be re-opened.

Regarding transfer of forces to rehabilitate them, we want to send forces from Hebron and Nablus to Jericho for training for a month to 45 days.

The forces from both sides will commence coordination. And there will be freedom of movement for leaders (heads of the forces and senior officers) and movement of forces will be done in coordination.

BN: What will happen to the fugitives in Nablus and Jenin? Will they be targeted? What about the Palestinian justice system, will Israel recognize this?

IJ: One addition point. I want to discuss the checkpoints in Bethlehem. We have prepared maps of the five districts to show you our intended deployment. Can we propose this?

ZHR: There is now joint difficulty. The will is there on the Israeli side and on our side too. If we want to ensure the success of the current phase—we need to know how we are going to deal with hot information. There is a safety valve, we need to put it on the table to discuss it. If we resume security responsibility on five areas, there needs to be close cooperation to undertake difficult missions. Even in areas not under our responsibility, we need information to deal with the situation.

AH: Provocative measures at checkpoints. Reassess the politics of checkpoints. Their purpose has to be security, and nothing else. The checkpoint has to convince people that

its presence has to have a security rationale. The second is police-related violations within the boundaries of the West Bank—and we hope that this responsibility returns to the PA. We want close coordination and cooperation—there used to be one but now it is inactive especially regarding criminals and drugs.

JJ: Regarding the tour I made in areas from which you may withdraw, I have several observations. The Palestinian checkpoints in Jericho are now overlooked by Israeli observation points. These have to go too. In addition to what the General said regarding checkpoints, there are also closed roads blocked with cement blocks. If we are going to transfer prisoners—and we want to transfer them to Jericho—we need an Israeli declaration that we can do that. Sharon's speech stipulated that the withdrawal will be from areas not cities—Jericho and Al-Ojeh, and other surrounding areas.

As for Wadi Al Nar road, entering it is only with a permit. The road towards Ojeh needs to be completely reopened. Mines from the northern West Bank, in the areas from which you will withdraw as stipulated in your unilateral plan.

GI: I will respond an answer to every question.

Regarding Jericho, the transfer can happen within 24 to 48 hours. As for the next town, this is a joint decision based on capability.

As for the prison in Nablus, you can begin to construct, in two days.

As for the DCO buildings, this is based on need. We need to see together what we can do. A meeting once a week between the commanders of the areas is necessary.

Police in areas B and B+, there are eight stations in the West Bank. Do you have presence in these areas now? Give us the precise locations of these stations, and in a few days we will look into it, based on good-will.

As for the 1200-strong police, like I said, once you take them to Jericho, and they finish the training you have our commitment that they will return to where they came from.

Regarding protection of officials, this needs to be addressed with the commanders.

Regarding fugitives, this issue will be addressed in that committee.

Allenby we will look into it.

Regarding checkpoints, all are for security. There are 12 in the West Bank. 5 around Nablus; 1 in Deir Balut, one in Zatarra, one in Kalandia, one in Wadi Nar, the DCO at Bet El, and one in Bethlehem.

IJ: With these you have closed down all the West Bank.

GI: I usually get stuck in Kalandia for over an hour.

IJ: Good. That's not enough. When will Kalandia be removed?

GI: Depending on capability. When will you be ready?

IJ: I can take over all 5 areas.

GI: Depending on the meeting between Dahlan and Mofaz, step by step.

BN: Forget the Mofaz-Dahlan meeting, we want Ramallah first plus the four cities. Move the checkpoint 20 meters towards Jerusalem. This will significantly alter the situation on the ground and open up Ramallah to many other areas.

GI: I read the minutes of the meeting between Dahlan and Mofaz, my understanding is we do this step by step. Our intention is to give you all 5 cities and areas, but we want to consider how to maximize your responsibility and how to do it in the right way.

What I propose is that in 48 hours a meeting takes place in Jericho and we announce that the transfer of security responsibility then. And then we will discuss later withdrawals.

IJ: So no timeline now for the remaining areas.

GI: With all honesty, we will begin in Jericho, and then we will discuss the next city.

IJ: I need to get organized regarding troops so that I can issue orders and to ensure that my commanders are prepared. You want to give me Jericho and later you will say that's it. This will not work. You will give me banners slogans. "You did this, you didn't, weapons, no weapons..."

Let's take two areas now, then two areas later, and then one more.

ZHR: As civilians, we rely on information. Information that Israel has. There are different power waves and external influence, and instructions from external forces. Jericho alone is not sufficient.

GI: Give us one day and we will let you know.

IJ: The discussions are not on cities, but areas.

GI: Yes, very clear. You will have an answer tomorrow night.

GI: Regarding what Ziyad said, the information comes to the Shabak to Preventive Security. A meeting was held between the police on both sides and these should continue.

Joint patrols, this will not happen but we can discuss in the context of coordination.

Regarding mines in the north, we will study the area and remove everything.

YY: Meeting with AH was successful, and we have daily meetings with the security forces. I will talk about policing. Car theft and drugs is a big problem.

IB: Coordination of prisoners. We need to address this issue and we need to take it into consideration. Regarding Allenby, there is no relationship between withdrawal and the return of Palestinian officials there. This is something that needs to be addressed in the political level. However, we are easing up the procedures there.

IJ: Please study the following three issues. Assess them from a security perspective. I have 600 from the security forces in the Gaza Strip—some are deported, while others were on vacation but never returned. I will give you the list. Study the names and let me know what you can do. I need them. They can help me do a better job regarding security. I need to transfer them to Jericho. 2. Return weapons that were confiscated. We need weapons. 3. And we need the vehicles that were confiscated. I hope we can get an answer on these issues, and I hope the answer is going to be positive.

MBB: No doubt there is some disagreement, but with some patience and some dialogue all problems will be solved. Coordination between area commanders is very important. The ability to reach Jewish holy sites in Jericho is needed. Very important to know when you will be ready to transfer responsibility over Jericho. Need to do a meeting.

IJ: Tomorrow a meeting in Jericho between area commanders to transfer Jericho.

T: I have been dealing with three agencies in the past when it comes to hot information. Is the situation going to be different now, or no difference? Will there be one address for the transfer of information such as between Shabak and one agency?

IJ: We will look into it. Meeting tomorrow at 3:00pm between area commanders, and Tuesday transfer happens in the Jericho area.

GI: Agreed.