



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

12 January 2007

SUBJECT: Security Working Group Executive Summary:

1. On the afternoon of 10 January 2007, the second 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
General Bohan Hammud, 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 1300 with a quick review of the agenda to be discussed. At 1305 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 clarified the complementary, but distinct, roles of the SWG and the EUBAM's Coordination and Evaluation Committee (CEC): the SWG addresses policy issues which cannot be resolved within the CEC's oversight of technical issues at the Rafah Crossing. LTG Dayton 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 follow-up issues from the 14 November 06 SWG meeting, with the addition of three new issues. The first issue addressed was the current status of "The Customs Protocol," between Israel and the Palestinians. LTG Dayton reiterated that he had sent letters to GOI's Ministries of Defense and Finance requesting that the signing of the Protocol be expedited. Both the Israeli and Palestinian representatives indicated that the issue was being positively coordinated between both sides. Dr. Saeb Erekat, the senior Palestinian representative, stated that in response to legitimate Israeli concerns that no monies be transferred to HAMAS entities within the Palestinian Authority, President Abbas had set up a "Crossings Administration," had assigned a specific administrator from his staff, and a bank account for "Crossings and Borders" in the Palestine Bank. This account is strictly controlled by President Abbas' office. The Israeli senior representative, MG Amos Gilad replied that this final detail would expedite Gol signatures on the Protocol, "likely within a matter of days." This issue was determined to be largely resolved, and both parties will report the final outcome at the next meeting of the SWG.

5. The second issue was "status of scanners and equipment dedicated to Rafah crossing point (RCP)." The 14 November 06 discussion centered on the delay of getting this equipment cleared into the RCP for use. The delay was obtaining agreement between Egypt and Israel for

the equipment to be transited across the border to RCP. The Israeli representative reported that since the last SWG meeting, Israel had cleared the equipment and that the matter was now an internal Egyptian Customs one. The Egyptian representative stated that the problem was a matter of "customs' paperwork," and promised that he would resolve the matter with Egyptian Customs in the coming weeks. The Palestinian and EUBAM representatives urged the Egyptian delegation to expedite the matter as the equipment and scanners were imperative for efficient functioning of the Crossing. The Egyptian representative agreed to press for the matter to be resolved prior to the next SWG meeting, and would report progress at that time.

6. The third issue was "transit of large sums of cash," at Rafah crossing. This issue prompted in depth discussion during the 14 November 06 meeting which revealed that there were currently no legal barriers to couriers bringing large legal and declared (non-Egyptian) cash sums through the Rafah crossing point. It was agreed by LTG Dayton that this issue required political intervention at a higher level for resolution. He agreed to initiate this resolution by drafting and sending a letter to the USG Secretary of State, defining the problem, and asking for political discourse on the issue between the involved nations (Egypt, Israel, and PA). LTG Dayton relayed that per the request of the SWG, he had sent the letter to the Secretary on 5 December 06. In response, LTG Dayton stated that the State Department has proposed a new initiative to the Government of Israel and the Palestinians, which will be shared with the EUBAM and the Government of Egypt once Israel and the Palestinians have concurred. The Israeli representative, MG Gilad expressed reservations about the proposal because of his belief that it lacks a mechanism for implementation. Dr. Erakat first thanked the GoE for their cooperation during the recent events in December. He then expressed strong feelings that the current mechanisms were adequate, but require trust between all parties represented at the SWG. Dr. Erakat then asked MG Gilad, if the PA were to concede to an agreed prescriptive solution, would the GoI then agree to normalization at the crossing? MG Gilad did not give specific assurances on that, however both parties agreed to seriously review the issue, and the current USG recommendation. LTG Dayton stated that once they had reviewed the provided recommendation, and come to agreed conclusion on the solution, the reviewed/revised proposal would then be available for the other members to review. Additionally, the GoE representative stated that although there was no guarantee that any of their current laws on this issue would be changed, that indeed his government was actively reviewing ways of potentially amending the existing laws to assist in resolving this issue. This issue will be re-addressed at the next meeting of the SWG.

7. The fourth issue centered on the issue of the "list of persons of concern." The 14 November 06 discussions revealed that this was a matter of providing an approved list of "dangerous persons" for use by security at Rafah. LTG Dayton agreed to take the list supplied by the Israeli Ministry of Defense (MOD) representative, who agreed to provide that list, and vet it as requested by the PA representative through the US government. The PA representative agreed that the USG vetted list would then be accepted for use at the crossing. For internal Israeli-Palestinian reasons, this list was never passed. In response to a suggestion by LTG Dayton during this 10 January 07 meeting of the SWG, all representatives agreed to the creation of a sub-working group on "persons of concern," to be chaired by a senior member of the USSC. LTG suggested that in the event of a failure to resolve the issue via the working group, the issue would be returned to the Israelis and Palestinians to work out bi-laterally. USSC will schedule this sub-working group, and invite action officers from the GoI and PA staffs as soon as possible. This issue will continue to be followed up at future SWG meetings.

8. The fifth follow up issue was the desire by Israel, the PA and the EUBAM to have an Egyptian liaison officer assigned to the Rafah crossing point. The Egyptian primary agreed 14 November 06 to direct this request to his government for approval. This issue has remained

open since the last SWG gathering. The Egyptian representative, General Bohan Hammud reiterated that he would retransmit the request to Cairo for action and suggested that the EUBAM representative contact the EGIS head Omar Suleiman directly. He also noted that the GoE was already providing two officers at the RCP, and did not want to commit another valuable asset to a position that may not be adequately employed full time. LTG Pietro Pistolese agreed to personally phone the EGIS head Omar Suleiman to cement the importance of the issue. LTG Pistolese noted General Bohan's concern, and suggested that the solution may not require another officer, but instead the deployment of one of the two liaison officers at Rafah to Karem Shalom. General Bohan took note of that for consideration. LTG Dayton concluded the discussions by leaving the matter as a bi-lateral issue between EU-BAM and the Government of Egypt with the possibility of further SWG involvement at a later date.

9. The sixth 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 that a sub-working group was required to complete these procedures, in order to resolve this issue. The chair of the Sub-Working Group on Goods of Concern, Mr. Denis Lefebvre, provided a read-out from the two meetings the group held since 14 November 06. These discussions had focused on the development of a list of prohibited items for use by border officers. All attendees agreed that the Palestinians will need help with training and equipment. The Israeli legal representative stated that while the Security Protocol does not address "hazardous" goods, the SWG is chartered to address all security issues all-inclusively. LTG Dayton agreed. (Note: The Palestinian delegation to the Sub-Working Group on Goods of Concern maintains that the SWG does not have purview over hazardous goods and they will only address the topic bi-laterally with the EU-BAM. This topic has been deferred to the next meeting of the Sub-Working Group). This will remain a follow up item for the SWG.

10. The first new issue brought before the SWG concerned the development of a "Crisis Management Process among the PA, GOI, GOE and the EUBAM. In response to the manner in which several incidents were handled at the crossing, during the months of November and December 2006, the USSC proposed the creation of a Palestinian chaired Sub-Working Group on Crisis Management with Egypt and the EUBAM. This sub-working group will not include the GoI or the USSC, but will report the substance of its deliberations to the SWG. (Note: The USSC is awaiting final concurrence from the Israeli delegation as to its acceptance of the request that they not participate in the sub-working group).

11. The second new issue dealt with the topic of the possible "Extension of the EUBAM Mandate Past May 2007." LTG Dayton expressed his strong desire that this issue be addressed with enough time for European Union capitals to react to and approve an extension of the EUBAM's mandate at the Rafah Crossing prior to May 2007. All parties concurred to a consolidated SWG response to Minister Solana stating their desire for the European Commission to extend the current mandate of EUBAM beyond the expiration of 24 May 2007.

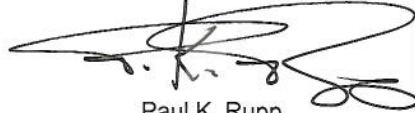
12. The third issue centered on LTG Pistolese's request that the GoI look into expediting the release of EUBAM equipment which has been held up at Karni and the Port of Ashdod for the past three months. MG Gilad promised that he would look into the matter and opined that the hold up might have something to do with security concerns.

13. There was one additional issue raised by LTG Pistolese that had been discussed also at his last CEC meeting. The Palestinians and the EUBAM wished to bring to the attention of the SWG a request to the GoI to allow the Palestinians and EUBAM to operate at the Rafah Crossing even when it is closed in order to perform training, administrative, and logistical

functions. The Israeli delegation promised to consider the matter. It is expected that EUBAM will continue to follow up on this issue through the CEC.

14. There were no other issues raised for discussion at this SWG. All primaries had no objections to the next scheduled SWG on 22 February 2007. The place and time would be forwarded in later correspondence.

15. LTG Dayton lastly gave concise closing remarks, as did the other primaries. This second formal meeting of the SWG was closed at approximately 1500, on 10 January 2007.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. K. Rupp', with a large, stylized flourish extending to the right.

Paul K. Rupp
Colonel, USMC
Operations Officer for the
US Security Coordinator