

**Letter from Sharon to Peres on new Vice Premier responsibilities**  
**13 January 2005**

To: Minister Shimon Peres, Vice Prime Minister

My honorable,

In accordance with what was set in the coalition agreement between the Likud faction and the Labor faction, we finalize today that the vice prime minister will be in charge of the following matters:

1. The vice prime minister will act, on behalf of the Government before all the elements dealing with economic and civilian development, including recruiting resources in the world, and all relating to the disengagement plan.
2. The vice prime minister will develop a strategic economic plan to develop the Gaza Strip and economic relations with Israel in the era that is after the disengagement and will include the establishment of an international apparatus that will act for the economic development of the Gaza Strip.
3. The vice prime minister will be responsible for the development of the Negev and the Galilee and will head the ministerial committee that will be established for this purpose. The authorities for the development of the Negev and Galilee will be transferred to the office of the vice president. Likewise, the vice prime minister will act to exploit the new opportunities in the areas of the Negev and Galilee as a result of the disengagement plan as per the letter [statement] of President Bush of 14.4.2004.
4. The vice prime minister will be a full partner in the advancement and implementation of the disengagement plan and the diplomatic processes that the prime minister will lead including the Roadmap.
5. The prime minister and the vice prime minister will have ongoing and set meetings and consultations on various matters on the agenda of the State and among them diplomatic, societal and economic matters.

I wish you great success in fulfilling your role and look forward to close cooperation between us.

Regards,

Ariel Sharon