

Meeting Minutes
April 21, 2005

Palestine: Dr. Saeb Erekat, Habib Hazzan
Israel: Dov Weisglass, Shalom Tourjmane

DW: Sharon's political life is almost over. Minister Sheranski resigned today. Sharon lost his party. He held a reception for Passover that was attended by the fewest number of Likud Center Committee members of any reception held by any of the other ministries.

HH: Maybe he lost his Likud Center but he is winning the public, no other prime minister in recent Israeli history enjoys more popular support.

SE: I sat with Nasser Yousif, to assess his situation. Yousif said I do not have security forces in Gaza. I can not do much in Gaza by way of force.

If this situation prevails, there will be no Gaza coordination. The PA needs Israel not to obstruct PA security reform efforts or the EU or US help.

DW: He has 30,000 enlisted and of them at least 15,000 are functioning. The entire Israeli police force for all of Israel is 12,000. The force size is enough. He has to act against 30 to 50 gangsters that are terrorizing Gaza. DW gave the example of Elik Ron the Northern District police commander in Israel during the October 2000 events in which 13 Palestinian Citizens inside Israel were murdered by the Israeli police (!!!). In civilized countries a ratio of 6 policemen to demonstrator is enough for the policemen to control the demonstration with white gloves. In Israel the ratio is usually 3:1. In October events the ratio was one policeman to 100 demonstrators and this is why the policemen panicked.

HH: The Or commission found this Ron unprepared and unprofessional. But it also recommended that the government deals with the reasons for the public anger. The same can be said about Gaza, if you provide what is needed for it to succeed those policemen will not have to face thousands angry Palestinians and will concentrate on directing traffic of curious visitors to ex-settlements.

SE: Abu Mazen inheritance is scary. He needs help and at least no obstruction. First of all political help. Israel must stop ignoring Sharm understandings. On the other hand, equipment etc. to be able to enforce law and order if needed.

DW: Abu Mazen is building a honey trap, he will not confront factions even when they find a reason to end the Hudna. This is the wrong approach. In any case, I will talk to Mofaz and see what can be done to help. I will learn the issue and come back with answers.

SE: Nasser Yousif and Mofaz should sit together and discuss without nonsense.

SE: Regarding the fugitives. The 17 in Jericho all signed the paper saying they will not conduct any military activities and will be integrated in the PA. They will be in the security forces now.

DW: The same people with same gun? Now with a license? The PA is making a joke of itself. This is un acceptable.

SE: This is what we agreed upon, you sound surprised ?

DW: You must collect the weapon. You or Dahlan said that weaponry will be out of their hands. In areas under PA command, convince them to turn weapons and in places where the PA has no control we have other arrangements.

We are agreeing to open a new slate on 500 people that we think should be in jail if not worse and giving them immunity. 500 out of the game, OK , but to make them security forces on which we depend to stop terror attacks and with whom we must coordinate? Is this the security reform Abu Mazen is so keen to do.

ST: You said you will not have them in security forces.

HH: My recollection is different.

ST: Habib was not in all the meetings. This was agreed upon with Dahlan, they will be under PA supervision in a designated place. This is not new it was agreed by Abu Mazen when he was prime Minister , these are the June 2003 agreements when Dahlan was minister of interior.

HH: So we are not talking about what we agreed before Sharm summit?

ST: Also that but not only.

DW: In any case, this integration into the security forces will not work.

SE: They all signed in Jericho.

DW: We are not acting against them.

SE: The understanding of 2003? Is it the issue now? Or What we agreed on in Sharm ? And for the record, you are acting against them. You arrested two and killed one in Balata. In other cases you notified us about some people and we acted against them and stopped them. When you act unilaterally you hurt us and hurt Abu Mazen because you are not respecting the ceasefire.

DW: Two main factions Hamas and Jihad are committed to the Cairo agreements because of their own political reasons. Once they decide to reignite the area they will, they will first over take the PA institutions and then fight us. You in the PA don't

understand this risk. We are pessimistic, about Abu Mazen's strategy, we think it is wrong. However, we are sitting aside anxious while Hamas and Jihad regroup and build strength for the future. We are doing it only to help Abu Mazen, if it was any one else we would have acted against Hamas And Jihad long time ago.

SE: But you know how to strengthen Abu Mazen so that it is not that easy politically and logistically for Hamas to break the ceasefire. When they raise their head if Abu Mazen is politically strong they will not have much ground, but if he is weakened by you then what you described might happen. You are not giving him anything. Prisoners, Fugitives, City Handover etc. Nothing.

DW: We will learn issues, we will learn what happened in prisoners meeting and have answers.

SE: On Deportees?

DW: Save your time. Your case is strong and we did not do yet our part of the agreements. I agree with you before you make the case.

DW: Once we undo the mess and misunderstandings about the fugitives' arrangements we are ready to resume city handover, It will continue with Qalqyiah. But first you need to improve the arrangements for Jericho and Tulkarem.

Why isn't Abu Mazen doing much on law and order in Gaza. In 1948 we refused to allow Irgun and Stern members to enter Military. You should do the same, these people once they killed without mercy will kill again. That was David Ben Gurin reason then and it should be yours.

SE: What about second phase of Jericho & Tulkarem handover? Rest of the Road Blocks?

DW: It is about time we reconsider like we agreed, we will ask the army commanders and come back with answers. We will also expedite the release of the 400, the lists are ready since Sharm summit. We will also tell the committee they have to provide answers about criteria asked for by Palestinians. This should be done soon.

SE: Regarding Gaza, I need to know the day after? How will Gaza look like? I do not need empty promises but rather the reality so I can start preparing my people. No disappointments if the expectations are managed.

The airport and the link between Gaza and West Bank are crucial for success.

DW: We will learn from our delegation. We are working with you subject by subject. The US told us they were very impressed by the kind of work done by the Palestinians in the context of Gaza.

SE: It is the NSU that has been working on this since December 17, 2003 when Sharon made his speech for the first time. We are happy to so the same presentation to you if you wish.

SE: One very important issue, Tirawi. Abu Mazen told me he is going to rely on him a lot in the West Bank, you need to work with him.

I also suggest that President Abbas and Sharon meet in the ranch. I also suggest an earlier meeting of Dov and Shalom with Abbas in Ramallah.

DW: we will start working on that. What date are we targeting?

SE: Before Abu Mazen trip to the US.

[Discussion about elections]