

AN ALTERNATIVE SOLUTION FOR AN END TO THE ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN CONFLICT – THE BRITISH BACKED ROAD MAP TO PEACE

The plan detailed in this document has been created as an alternative to the performance-based roadmap championed by the Quartet (EU, Russia, USA and the UN).

Like the roadmap this solution has time lines, benchmarks and clear phases that must be met by the Palestinians, Israelis and other states, thereby ensuring an end to the conflict. Resulting in the creation of two, secure states

Before there can be any discussion or movement towards peace certain concessions have to be made.

Due to the nature of Israeli occupation and repression, one must assume there will only be a halt to the present *intifada* when a mutually attractive compromise is reached.

Each phase will be recognised as a progression towards a peaceful solution: Taking July 1st as an initial benchmark for the implementation of this solution, then Phase 1 should be completed by January 2005.

Phase 1

Initial withdrawal of Israeli troops; normalising Palestinian way of life; initial cessation of violence from Palestinian terrorists

- As the Israelis commence withdrawal of their troops, there will be an equal conversion of militant organisations into, or, back to, political organisations. As the Israeli troops pull further out of occupied territories so more groups will lay down arms and have a representative placed in a new, Political Council.
- Order to be restored to cities within the West Bank. Employment of state security officers. The initial contingent of personnel to be trained should be from previous militias that were (but not necessarily still are) under the auspices of a political front. They will be formally trained and will act as a deterrent to domestic forces only. They will not act as a Palestinian military. The officers will be trained by experienced staff from The Quartet and for the first two years, the divisions of this security force, will be headed by representatives from the UN. All movements and operations will be monitored by the Quartet
- The newly formed Political Council will issue an unequivocal statement re-iterating Israel's right to exist as a state and a state free from terrorist attacks.
- The Likud will issue an unequivocal statement re-iterating Palestinians right to their own state, one free from occupation.
- The newly created Political Council and The Quartet will begin drawing up the constitution for a viable Palestinian state. This Political

Council will act as the Palestinian governing body until a democratic and duly elected Representative Assembly can take over after elections (elections should take place within three months of completion of peace agreement)

Phase 2 to begin on completion of phase 1. Phase 2 should therefore be completed by April 2005

Phase 2

Israeli repatriation of their Jewish population housed in settlements built after September 2000; Area of Golan Heights ceded to Israel

- Removal of Israelis housed in settlements built after September 2000. The empty settlements can then act as housing for the initial return of a proportion of refugees. With this comes the part implementation of UN General Assembly Resolution 194 (III).
- Israel will officially annex a designated area of the Golan Heights (see map). Current Syrian nationals and Arabs living within the specified area of the Golan Heights will live under Israeli law.
- Israel will withdraw from any other occupied areas of The Golan Heights. A determined percentage of the gross governmental earnings from the region annexed to Israel will be paid as reparation to the Syrian government each year, in the guise of an aid package.
- Water rights will be decided before official annexation. However this will take the form of equal rights to all Palestinians, Israelis, Syrians and Jordanians held within the Golan Heights water resource's sphere of influence.
- The Israeli government will release all political prisoners deemed falsely imprisoned by The International Red Cross Committee.

Phase 3 should begin on completion of Phase 2 and should be completed by July 1st 2005

Phase 3

Progressive and selective withdrawal of West Bank Israeli settlements, relative to population size and geographical location

- The following settlements and all other settlements, built since September 2000, will be vacated by Israeli settlers:

Alfei Manashe	Kedumim
Allon Sherut	Kiyat Arba
Bet Arye	Lapid
Bet El	Neve Dahalim (Gaza)
Efrat	Ofra
Elliana	Orarit
Emmanuel	Sha'are Tilire
Karne Shomron	

The total population of these fifteen settlements is approximately 60,000. All Gaza settlements would have already been dismantled by this date.

- The following settlements within The West Bank will remain populated by Israeli's.

Modi'in Ilit	Ma'ale Adummim
Giv'at Ze'ev	Betar Illit
Ariel	

The total population of these settlements is approximately 95,000. There will be a cap on expansion of said settlements, however further building can take place within the current settlement borders and thus there will be no ceiling to population size. Jewish citizens living in these settlements will pay taxes (equivalent to that which they would pay should they reside within Israel's borders) to the relevant Palestinian Authority.

- The vacated settlements will not be dismantled, they will house a proportion of the refugees located in the neighbouring countries of Syria and Jordan
- Not all of the remainder of the refugees will be able to return. It would not be economically or geographically viable to house all refugees within the newly created state of Palestine. Therefore those educated refugees who are categorized as professionals will take priority. For example, doctors, teachers, lawyers etc
- The returning refugees will forfeit any request for compensation from the Israeli government. Those refugees unable to return will forfeit their right to return and any claim of compensation from the Israeli government

Phase four will be under the auspices of the UN and will take as long as they deem necessary, though to necessitate the progression into phase 5, phase 4 should be completed in as short a time as possible

Phase 4

The removal of specific UN mandates and resolutions.

- As at the completion of phase 3, the following references will be removed:
 - UN General Assembly Resolution 194 (III)
 - UN Security Council Resolution 1322
 - 1397 Saudi Initiative and the Arab Initiative
- The following references will be adhered to and kept in the UN charter as viable UNSCRs:
 - UN Security Council Resolution 242
 - UN Security Council Resolution 338

Phase 5 will need quadrilateral co-operation and will take approximately four months to complete. Thus, in relation to previous phases timelines, should be completed by November 1st 2005

Phase 5

*The division of Jerusalem to enable a cultural capital to both states;
Accessibility of all holy sites for respective religions*

- The old city of Jerusalem (within the old city walls) will be in both states. Accessible to both states. The city of Jerusalem will be a capital city to both states.
- Separate police and security forces will be put in place in Jerusalem. These forces will be selected from The Quartet with a given time ceiling on their transferral to a dual-national police force.
- The borders of both countries will encircle Jerusalem. The border will be enforced on the Palestinian side by an independent UN team and the Israeli border by appropriate Israeli forces.
- The Temple mount / Haram Al Sharif will be accessible to followers of both Islam, Judaism and Christianity. The separate religious sites within the Temple Mount will fall under the control of their respective religions.

Phase 6 to be completed by January 1st 2006.

Phase 6

The removal of the separation barrier; installation of UN controlled demilitarised zone and border access; creation of a viable interim Palestinian governing body

- All political members of the original Palestinian Assembly will be representatives in a democratically elected parliament. Yasser Arafat cannot stand as an elected member of this assembly, although, as he is highly respected by many Palestinians with his consent he will promote the elections and can have influence in a purely advisory role
- The separation barrier will be removed by Israel and Palestine over a given period of time, a time period no longer than that taken to build it.
- UN will patrol access to both states and the demilitarised zone between the West Bank and Israel. The DMZ should not be any wider than 500m.
- The UN peacekeeping force patrolling the DMZ should stay only as long as is deemed necessary by both Israel and Palestine.

Phase 7 will be undertaken during January 2006 and to be completed within said month and thus completing the process

Phase 7

Signing of non-aggression pacts.

- Israel and Palestine will sign a non-aggression pact.
- Both parties will sign a treaty denouncing terrorism and eliminating the possibility of border expansion
- The Arab League will sign a non-aggression pact with Israel, and acknowledge Israel's right to exist as a separate state.

- Israel will sign an agreement refraining from any further territorial expansion within the state of Palestine. Expansion can only be internal expansion within previously recognised settlements, as stated in Phase 3.
- Jordan, Syria and Egypt to sign declarations of support to both Israel and Palestine:
 1. Egypt will control Gaza border to halt any further infiltration of weapons. This will facilitate a complete withdrawal of Israeli forces along the Philadelphi Road.
 2. Jordan and Syria will reject (under power of arrest) any terrorist / extremist bodies housed under their jurisdiction, inciting anti-Israeli fervour
 3. Jordan and Syria will agree to house all displaced refugees that have not been able to return under UN General Assembly Resolution 194 (III) (or phase 3.)
 4. Syria will make a declaration clearly stating their intent to combat any terrorist activity and/or training camps within their borders.

The Alternative Solution should take no less than 18 months and no more than two years to reach completion and thus create the two viable states of Israel and Palestine.

Nothing is concrete, these are but guidelines to help end the crisis in the Middle East.

For Britain to champion such a fair peace proposal should lead to a decrease in anti-British rhetoric in the Arab world and the echo effects of this will be felt in Iraq, among other states.

The 1st July date given for the implementation of this solution has purposefully been chosen so as to coincide with the handover of sovereignty in Iraq, in essence it is also an attempt to negate any terrorist insurgency, or certainly to quell the scale of said insurgency.

