

1: Building Peace in the Middle East through water, sanitation, and hygiene – Rotary Service in Action

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Search Toggle display of website navigation Argument: May 25, , President Donald Trump spend his second and final day visited Mahmoud Abbas in Bethlehem, then visit the Yad Vashem Holocaust memorial and delivering an address at the Israel Museum, both in Jerusalem, before departing for the Vatican. President Donald Trump made the strongest public link thus far between two important initiatives: This grouping could then have a less formal but still highly cooperative relationship with Turkey. And, most importantly, it could engage in meaningful coordination and cooperation with Israel to form a united regional bloc against additional Iranian mischief and pursuit of hegemony. The Palestinians, in turn, would be provided by Israel and Arab nations with political cover, diplomatic support, and economic aid to help make the necessary compromises for a final peace deal. In theory, this is a great idea. But would-be peacemakers should not be preparing for their photo on the White House lawn just yet. The diplomatic and political obstacles in the region remain at least as daunting as the gains are enticing. Israel already has peace treaties with Egypt and Jordan, so the crucial players on the Arab side are Saudi Arabia, the UAE, and any other Arab countries they can bring along. These would involve gestures such as telecommunications and commercial and overflight relations with Israel in exchange for Israeli moves toward the Palestinians, such as restricting settlement activities or easing the blockade on Gaza. It essentially promises Israel fully normalized diplomatic and trade relations with the Arab countries once they reach an agreement with the Palestinians. Israel has dismissed the proposal from its outset. Saudi Arabia and the UAE are now signaling they are prepared to improve relations with Israel beyond the terms set by the initiative. Israel would be wise to recognize that the price for strategic cooperation with Arab countries and regional recognition of its de facto legitimacy have never been lower. Israeli leaders might be tempted to believe that if they wait longer, the concessions required of them will drop still further still. That would be a mistake. The cost of normalized diplomatic ties is never going to be zero. These countries are constrained by both their long-standing diplomatic and political positions, genuine values, and honest assessment of the destabilizing political impact of the ongoing occupation that began in and hence entering its 50th year with no end in sight. In the past, major movement between Israel and Arab countries would have required a final status agreement between Israel and the Palestinians. The more steps Israel takes, the more the Arab countries can do in return. For the Arab countries, such an agreement is hardly ideal, but it would surely be enough to allow for greater cooperation with Israel. Even the revival of the process itself, short of an interim agreement, might allow for some significant steps. None of this is what Palestinians want, which is an independent state in place of the occupation. Moreover, the prospect of an interim agreement presents them with a dreadful but familiar choice. This is completely understandable: Yet as so often in the past, Palestinians may be presented with a very small and highly unsatisfactory set of limited gains, all of which come with a concomitant price. Or they can reject whatever is presented to them, and enjoy what they essentially have now, which amounts to nothing. This is an infuriating conundrum. But it only has one rational answer, which is a grudging and resentful yes. Palestinians will be forced to compare the prospect of a deal with the situation they were in a few months ago. In recent years, they found themselves isolated, ignored, and deeply concerned that their issue had been discarded, not only by the international community but even by the Arab world. Now, suddenly, with Trump, they are back in the limelight, on the agenda and in the game. For Abbas and his secular nationalist allies, this is all a political godsend. It not only revives their hopes that their diplomatic strategy can achieve tangible results, it also reaffirms their role on the international and regional stage. Shifting Israel might be more difficult. Left on his own, the prospect of stronger ties with Saudi Arabia and the UAE might entice him to make concessions. But some of his coalition partners, particularly Naftali Bennett of the ultra-right-wing Jewish Home Party, are waiting to pounce on any moves he makes toward the Palestinians. The profoundly risk-averse Netanyahu might soon find himself with the unenviable choice of

defying an American president who he hoped would be his strongest ally, or risk being outflanked on the right by powerful rivals. Under current circumstances, most Israelis feel little pain from the status quo, and Palestinians lack any form of leverage to get them to consider compromising. It therefore seems a no-brainer for most Jewish Israelis and their politicians to take no risks politically or in terms of national security. Bringing in the Arab and regional component reminds Israelis of the broader context — including the threat from Iran and the myriad benefits that would come from greater cooperation with and recognition from the Arab world. Perhaps the biggest challenge, though, amounts to a chicken-and-egg question: Which shall come first? Is Israel going to move into a serious process with the Palestinians, in hopes of stronger ties with the Arabs? Or will Arab countries start building more open and robust cooperation with Israel in hopes that the Israelis will be more cooperative on peace? Neither side is likely to move on spec. Washington could push both sides together, but it would involve some very heavy lifting. It would probably require both carrots and sticks for the Israelis, which could come at a political price at home, especially among Republicans.

2: Middle East | Where We Work | U.S. Agency for International Development

It is with great dismay that we learned of the British government's plans to rent space for its new Tel Aviv embassy location from Lev Leviev's company Africa-Israel. Africa-Israel builds Israeli.

But it must begin with something even more basic -- mutual recognition, seeing people who are different, with whom there have been profound differences, as people. The United States has helped broker agreements between Israel and the Palestinians and between Israel and Jordan and led the efforts toward a resumption of the Israeli-Syrian talks. President Clinton has made clear that the United States stands firmly by those who have taken risks for peace, providing them with strong political, economic and material support; and demonstrated to the enemies of peace that violence and terror will not succeed in disrupting the peace process. At the same time, the United States has maintained its long-standing commitment to the security of Israel, strengthened its ties with Egypt and Jordan and built a new relationship with the Palestinian Authority and the Palestinian people. Brokered the Wye Agreement in October , revitalizing the peace process after years of stagnation. As a result of the agreements, the Palestinians strengthened their steps against terror and their security cooperation with Israel and agreed to undertake a program of weapons collection. The Palestinians also agreed to formally rescind those parts of the PLO Charter that are inconsistent with their commitment to peace. The Israeli government agreed, inter alia, to withdraw from areas of the West Bank, release Palestinian detainees, allow the opening of the Gaza Industrial Estate, the Gaza seaport and safe-passage routes between Gaza and the West Bank. Helped broker the Sharm el-Sheikh Memorandum, signed on September 4, , which built on the Wye agreement and established an ambitious timetable for permanent status negotiations with the goal of reaching a permanent status settlement by September 13, Hosted the Camp David Summit in July , the highest-level negotiations between Israelis and Palestinians on all permanent status issues. This was the first time the most sensitive issues were discussed by leaders of the two sides. Provided strong diplomatic and material support to Israel and led the international donor assistance effort to aid the Palestinian people. Donor states continue to raise funds and direct projects for and within the Palestinian economy. Since the signing, Israel and Jordan have had full diplomatic exchange, and have begun working together on development, the environment and security issues. President Clinton hosted the highest level meeting ever between Israel and Syria in December after months of behind-the-scenes diplomacy. Organized the creation of regional institutions designed to preserve the achievements of the peace process through long-term economic growth and prosperity. In February , the United States helped spearhead the resumption of the multilateral track of the peace process with the first meeting of the multilateral steering group since Counter-Terrorism Took decisive unilateral action and led multilateral efforts to aid Israel against terrorists determined to undermine the peace process, including offering counter-terrorism assistance to Israel in Signed Executive Orders and , declaring a national emergency to deal with the threat of terrorists that disrupt the Middle East peace process. In his six visits to the region, the President helped advance the peace process. President Clinton also hosted a number of meetings and summits in the United States to move the process forward: July President Clinton hosts highest level negotiations ever between Israel and Palestinians on permanent status issues. December President Clinton hosts the highest-level talks ever between Israel and Syria. December First President to visit Gaza and to address a meeting of the Palestinian National Council which led to the formal cancellation of those clauses of the PLO Charter that call for the destruction of Israel. The agreement led to unprecedented Israeli-Palestinian security cooperation, agreement by the Palestinians to annul provisions of the PLO Charter that called for the destruction of Israel, Israeli agreement to further land withdrawals, the release of Palestinian detainees and steps to help promote the Palestinian economy. January 24, President Clinton signs Executive Order , declaring a national emergency to deal with the threat of terrorists that disrupt the Middle East Peace Process. The treaty includes full diplomatic relations between the states, as well as broad cooperation in other areas. July 25, President Clinton hosts the signing of the Washington Declaration between Israel and Jordan which put an end to the state of war between the two states. President Asad states his commitment to "put an end to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

3: Peace in the Middle East

"These are at once promising, risky, dangerous and uncertain times as uprisings and political change engulf countries across the Middle East—posing complex challenges for policymakers and other seeking to advance peace in the region," said Riskin.

Peace in the Middle East Fact Sheet: Progress in the Middle East: The President believes that no region is more fundamental to the security of America or the peace of the world than the Middle East: Despite some frustrations and disappointments, the Middle East is freer, more hopeful, and more promising than in , with Israelis and Palestinians on the path to a two-state solution, 25 million Iraqis free from a brutal dictatorship, and many other examples of a brighter future to come. In , in the Holy Land, the collapse of the Camp David II peace talks had given way to the second Intifada, killing more than Israelis and Palestinians, and neither side could envision a return to negotiations or the realistic possibility of a two-state solution. In Iraq, Saddam Hussein had begun his third decade as dictator. The Arab Human Development Report revealed high unemployment, poor education, high mortality rates for mothers, and almost no investment in technology. We saw that repression and despair on the other side of the world could bring suffering and death to our own streets. With these new realities in mind, America reshaped our approach to the Middle East. President Bush took the offensive against the terrorists overseas, to break up extremist networks and deny them safe havens. President Bush strengthened partnerships with each nation that joined in the fight against terror. The United States deepened our security cooperation with allies like Jordan, Egypt, and our friends in the Gulf. We expanded counterterrorism cooperation with partners in North Africa. This is the approach the President took with Iraq, Libya, and Iran. The Administration went to the United Nations, which unanimously passed Resolution calling on Saddam Hussein to disclose and disarm, and offered Saddam Hussein a final chance to comply with the demands of the world. When he refused, the President acted with a coalition of nations to protect the American people and liberated 25 million Iraqis. Moreover, the Administration persuaded Libya to renounce terrorism and accept responsibility for prior acts of terror, and normalized relations with Libya as a result of its actions. Working with international partners, we have imposed tough sanctions and supported multiple UN resolutions against Iran for its failure to suspend enrichment. We have offered Iran diplomatic and economic incentives to suspend enrichment, and we have promised to support a peaceful civilian nuclear power program. While Iran has not accepted these offers, we have made our bottom line clear: For the safety of our people and the peace of the world, America will not allow Iran to develop a nuclear weapons. President Bush identified lack of freedom as the principal cause of threats coming from the Middle East. The War on Terror is an ideological struggle. To advance security and moral interests, America is working to advance freedom and democracy as the great alternative to repression and terror. The President is supporting the rise of vibrant civil societies and the promotion of freedom through new efforts, including the Middle East Partnership Initiative and the Broader Middle East and North Africa Initiative. Millennium Challenge agreements signed with Jordan and Morocco grant U. We are encouraging Middle Eastern women to get involved in politics, start their own businesses, and take charge of their health through wise practices like breast cancer screening. The President has a vision of Palestine and Israel, living side-by-side in peace and security. The United States has included Arab leaders, because their support will be essential for a lasting peace. Last fall, President Bush hosted a historic summit at Annapolis to bring everyone together to start substantial negotiations. While they have not yet produced an agreement, important progress has been made, and there is now greater international consensus than at any point in recent memory. Israelis, Palestinians, and Arabs all recognize that the creation of a peaceful, democratic Palestinian state is in their interest. Through the Annapolis process, they have started down a path that will end with the two-state solution finally realized. Iraq has gone from an enemy of the United States to an ally. Places like the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain are emerging as centers of commerce and models of modernity. The regime in Iran is facing greater pressure from the international community than ever before. Terrorist organizations like al Qaeda have failed in their attempts to take over nations and are increasingly facing rejection. Political and economic reforms are

advancing across the Middle East. Several Arab nations have held free elections in recent years. Women have run for office in several nations and been named to important government positions in Bahrain, Oman, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, and Yemen. Trade and foreign investment have expanded. Several nations have opened private universities, and Internet use has risen sharply. Expectations about government responsiveness are rising. People are defying the condescending view that the culture of the Middle East is unfit for freedom.

4: - Foundation for Middle East Peace

building peace in the middle east "Peace must mean many things -- legitimate rights for Palestinians, real security for Israel. But it must begin with something even more basic -- mutual recognition, seeing people who are different, with whom there have been profound differences, as people."

Particularly because we had to put an end, gradually, to the occupation of the West Bank and Gaza, and the Palestinians had to put an end to the rejection of Israel—and that was achieved. It did not fully materialize; there were some problems, not with the agreement but with the implementation of the agreement. I think to some degree it was too much a peace of the elite, and the socioeconomic gaps in both societies grew rather than narrowed. The people who reaped the fruits of the peace revolution were more in affluent North Tel Aviv rather than in South Tel Aviv; or the people in the skyscrapers in Gaza rather than the people in the refugee camps. Peacemaking among governments alone today is not good enough, because you cannot simply implement it by having a document and a power game that leads to implementation. You need the motivation of constituencies. And there is too little in the peacemaking and peace-building efforts that is pushing the constituencies of the countries to be in favor of peace. So we have to mix peacemaking and peace building; government and civil society. To a large degree peacemaking has been done the way it was 50 or years ago, where you simply share assets or territories. This is not what is going to sustain peace. You have to create the culture of peace; you have to have people endorse peace, and you have to improve economic situations. Peace building is to create the future peace in terms of joint projects, in terms of people-to-people encounters, in terms of youth-to-youth encounters, in terms of tourism; because once the problems of the past are solved, there is a whole new reality that has to be built, which is a peace reality. How do you put those two things together? Much more has to be invested in economic development, and much more has to be invested in economic development under a peace-building umbrella, which means through joint projects between former enemies: Israel and Palestine received a lot of money after Oslo, but each for his own purposes; and almost nothing was earmarked for joint projects. This is not how things should be done. Things should be done by creative diplomacy, by increasing the gain of assets for both sides. Those two things seem like enormous hurdles. We will have to engage in mutual trade, diplomatic relations and cultural relations to link infrastructures. When I negotiated with Syria in Maryland in they clearly were ready for trade and tourism relations. The whole question of Lebanon and Hezbollah would depend on Syria. Two-thirds of our world is not reaping the fruits of globalization. To a large degree, the nonglobalized world feels, if you like, localized—enclosed in their own culture, not part of the Western media culture. I concluded that the bridge between the two could be the city and not the country. To a large degree, the cities match together global opportunities but also local cultures. We work between wealthy cities and poor cities. An ecology of peace is really very close to the notion of a culture of peace. Often peace is made, and the other side remains dehumanized and an enemy.

5: Building Peace: Interview With Uri Savir

Email a copy of "A Message to the Pope: Peace in the Middle East Cannot Be Built With Platitudes" to a friend Pope Francis, Jan. 8, Photo: Reuters / Andrew Medichini / Pool.

One major focus of our trip was on how collective environmental objectives can be used as tools and solutions for building a larger peace between Israel, Jordan and Palestine. Throughout our time in Jordan, we visited and were prohibited from visiting several sites that had a profound impact on the way I see the environment and understand my impact on it. Our first stop was at the Sharhabil Bin Hasnah Eco Park, where Friends of the Earth Middle Eastâ€™Eco Peace has established a nature reserve and tourist attraction to educate people about environmental sustainability and conservation in the Jordan valley. The director of the park spoke about the importance of both environmental conservation and collaboration with other countries in the region. He spoke to us about collaboration on environmental issues as a key component to building and fostering a stable and peaceful Middle East. There was an interesting moment in which he described the fact that Jordanians and Israelis had to collaborate with one another as a reluctant obligation. It stood out to me because it revealed in a very plain sense the depth of the obstacles they face. On one hand, he was speaking to how difficult collaboration is between the countries, given generations of mistrust and violence. On the other hand, he was speaking to how powerful the environment can be for creating a new regional identity that is based on collaboration and cooperation. In a region where these two words are hard to come by, it speaks volumes that dedicated individuals are biting their tongues for the sake of environmental protection and sustainability. The next part of our tour provided an excellent example of the challenges people working toward environmental peace-building in Israel, Jordan and Palestine face: Al-Baqoura, the Jordanian side of a proposed peace park with Israel, was on our itinerary and a place that I was extremely excited to visit. It is perhaps the best example we had of what environmental peace building can and does look like in Jordan and Israel. Unfortunately, at the last minute our permit to visit the site from the Jordanian side was pulled for reasons beyond our control. It was a frustrating moment. The fact that we were all there to learn about peace-building and the environment and yet were barred from entering one of the few sites that would incorporate both was another reminder of how difficult it can be to gain positive momentum for NGOs and civil service organizations. Traveling throughout Jordan and Israel, it became clear to me how important the environment is to human sustainability, but also to making progress toward sustainable peace. Environmental issues can be seen as joint threats to any given number of actors in a region, and for this reason, managing these threats offers itself to collaboration. For sustainable peace between Israel, Jordan and Palestine, the environment and its protection must be used as a catalyst for collaboration. He was among a group of students from Columbia and Tel Aviv University who traveled around Israel and Jordan this spring to study environmental issues. This is one in a series of posts about the trip.

6: Trump's Plan for Middle East Peace Could Actually Work – Foreign Policy

For the last few years, there has been a debate about whether we should stay the course or cut and run in the Middle East (Afghanistan, Syria, Iraq, whatever).

Because the situation in Israel and the Palestinian Territories is getting worse in the absence of prospects for negotiations. The crises engulfing the region Syria, Iraq, Yemen, etc. It is our responsibility not to negotiate in place of the two parties, which is neither possible nor desirable, but to act to create political momentum conducive to new negotiations between the Israelis and Palestinians themselves. Who will be taking part in the meeting in Paris on 15 January? The major international players concerned are: This is a wider international conference in terms of participation than that of 3 June , resulting from the momentum we have managed to generate for our initiative. How will this differ from the meeting on 3 June ? Following the 3 June meeting, there were a number of developments: Is there really any hope of a result? Everyone is well aware of the difficulties dealing with a conflict that has lasted several decades. But we cannot remain as onlookers of a deadlocked situations that creates despair and insecurity. Our aim remains to mobilize the entire international community so that it actively commits by supporting a resumption of the peace process. To achieve this, we must first together reaffirm our commitment to the two-State solution, which is the only way to ensure a fair and sustainable solution to the conflict. We also need to make peace an attractive option again, by assembling the concrete contributions that all international partners are prepared to provide. These contributions will be central to the Conference on 15 January thanks to the reports from the working groups created in summer Middle East Peace Conference Joint Declaration I Following the Ministerial meeting held in Paris on 3 June , the Participants met in Paris on 15 January to reaffirm their support for a just, lasting and comprehensive resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. They reaffirmed that a negotiated solution with two states, Israel and Palestine, living side by side in peace and security, is the only way to achieve enduring peace. They emphasized the importance for the parties to restate their commitment to this solution, to take urgent steps in order to reverse the current negative trends on the ground, including continued acts of violence and ongoing settlement activity, and to start meaningful direct negotiations. They underscored the importance of the Arab Peace Initiative of as a comprehensive framework for the resolution of the Arab-Israeli conflict, thus contributing to regional peace and security. They noted the importance of addressing the dire humanitarian and security situation in the Gaza Strip and called for swift steps to improve the situation. They emphasized the importance for Israelis and Palestinians to comply with international law, including international humanitarian law and human rights law. II The Participants highlighted the potential for security, stability and prosperity for both parties that could result from a peace agreement. They expressed their readiness to exert necessary efforts toward the achievement of the two-state solution and to contribute substantially to arrangements for ensuring the sustainability of a negotiated peace agreement, in particular in the areas of political and economic incentives, the consolidation of Palestinian state capacities, and civil society dialogue. Those could include, inter alia: III Looking ahead, the Participants: As follow-up to the Conference, interested Participants, expressing their readiness to review progress, resolved to meet again before the end of the year in order to support both sides in advancing the two-state solution through negotiations.

7: Road map for peace - Wikipedia

The President believes that no region is more fundamental to the security of America or the peace of the world than the Middle East: a free, peaceful Middle East will represent a source of promise, a home of opportunity, and a vital contributor to the prosperity of the world.

Bush on 24 June A first EU-draft, proposed in September , was put aside in favour of a U. It may be summarized as: This made the Roadmap different from former peace plans; there was no unrealistic time-scheme to reach the goal, a Palestinian state. The Roadmap is composed of three phases: Satisfy the preconditions for a Palestinian state; II. Creating an independent Palestinian state with provisional borders; III. Negotiations on a permanent status agreement, recognition of a Palestinian state with permanent borders and end of conflict. Phase I finished as early as May Mutual recognition; an immediate and unconditional ceasefire to end armed activity and all acts of violence against Israelis anywhere; Palestinian political-institutional reform; Palestinian elections; Israeli withdrawal to the positions of 28 September begin of Second Intifada ; the plan does not speak of any further withdrawal. Israeli refrain from deportations, attacks on civilians, demolition and destruction, etc. Phase II June–December International Conference to support Palestinian economic recovery and launch a process, leading to establishment of an independent Palestinian state with provisional borders; revival of multilateral engagement on issues including regional water resources, environment, economic development, refugees, and arms control issues; Arab states restore pre- intifada links to Israel trade offices, etc. A provisional state in Phase II would thus include all existing settlements and exclude East-Jerusalem. Although the plan was presented with considerable delay, the original timetable was not adapted. Ariel Sharon asked, then US Secretary of State, Colin Powell "What do you want, for a pregnant woman to have an abortion just because she is a settler? No progress to the next phase before complete cessation of terror, violence and incitement. No timelines for carryout the Roadmap. Replacement and reform of the current leadership in the Palestinian Authority including Yasser Arafat. Otherwise no progress to Phase II. The process will be monitored by the United States not the Quartet. The character of the provisional Palestinian state will be determined through negotiations. The provisional state will be demilitarized, with provisional borders and "certain aspects of sovereignty", and subjected to Israeli control of the entry and exit of all persons and cargo, plus its airspace and electromagnetic spectrum radio, television, internet, radar, etc. Prior to the final settlement talks that is in the permanent status negotiations, Phase III , no discussions about settlements, Jerusalem and borders. Only about a settlement freeze and illegal outposts. No reference other than the key provisions of U. Resolution and No reference to other peace initiatives it is unclear if the Oslo-accords are included. Withdrawal to the September lines will be conditional. Israel is not bound to the Bertini Report in respect to improve Palestinian humanitarian issues. The Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas called the Israeli reservations to the map "not part of the map and The United States and Israel demanded that Arafat be neutralized or sidelined in the Roadmap process, claiming that he had not done enough to stop Palestinian attacks against Israelis while in charge. The United States refused to release the Roadmap until a Palestinian prime minister was in place. Hostilities after publication The publication of the Roadmap could not stop the violence of the Second Intifada. On 2 June, Israel freed about Palestinian prisoners before the first summit in Egypt as a sign of goodwill. The list consisted largely of administrative detainees who were due to be released. Subsequent prisoner releases involved members of Hamas and Islamic Jihad, but the government insisted that those slated for release did not have Israeli "blood on their hands. The Arab leaders announced their support for the Roadmap and promised to work on cutting off funding to terrorist groups. After Bush left the region violence resumed, threatening to derail the Roadmap plan. The cease-fire was later joined by the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine. One condition of maintaining the truce was a demand for the release of prisoners from Israeli jails, which was not part of the Roadmap process. On 1 July , in Jerusalem, Sharon and Abbas held a first-ever ceremonial opening to peace talks, televised live in both Arabic and Hebrew. Both leaders said the violence had gone on too long and that they were committed to the Roadmap for peace. On 2 July, Israeli troops pulled out of Bethlehem and

transferred control to Palestinian security forces. The plan required that Palestinian police take over from withdrawing Israeli forces and stop any anti-Israeli militant attacks. At the same time, the U. The hudna quickly collapsed. On 3 July, the IDF killed 2 civilians. A new cycle of violence happened. Hamas responded with a suicide bombing on 12 August, killing one Israeli civilian. Fatah claimed responsibility for a second suicide bombing on 12 August, killing another Israeli citizen. Despite this de facto violation of the hudna, Hamas stated that the cease-fire would continue. Israel reacted causing large-scale destruction to Palestinian population centres. The following days it continued with a range of further Israeli killing-attacks. By the end of , the Palestinian Authority had not prevented Palestinian terrorism, and Israel had neither withdrawn from Palestinian areas occupied since 28 September , nor frozen settlement expansion. Thus the requirements of Phase I of the Roadmap were not fulfilled, and the Roadmap has not continued further. It eventually reached deadlock. Developments in In , the "peace process" was still overshadowed by the Second Intifada, characterized by mutual Palestinian and Israeli violence. Reportedly, some Israelis and Palestinians were killed in the conflict: Bush, in which he reconfirmed his commitment to the Roadmap. He also accused the Palestinian Authority of not carrying out its part of the responsibilities under the Roadmap. Stating that "there exists no Palestinian partner with whom to advance peacefully toward a settlement", Sharon announced his unilateral disengagement plan Israeli withdrawal from Gaza , which meant the removal of all Israeli settlements from the Gaza Strip and four settlements in the West Bank. President Bush gave his support to the plan, calling it "a bold and historic initiative that can make an important contribution to peace". In his answer on the 14 April letter from Ariel Sharon, Bush took some distance from this principle. He said "In light of new realities on the ground, including already existing major Israeli population centers, it is unrealistic that the outcome of final status negotiations will be a full and complete return to the armistice lines of It is realistic to expect that any final status agreement will only be achieved on the basis of mutually agreed changes "that reflect these realities". A viable two-state solution must ensure contiguity of the West Bank, and a state of scattered territories will not work. There must also be meaningful linkages between the West Bank and Gaza. This is the position of the United States today, it will be the position of the United States at the time of final status negotiations. Armed activity and military actions While the Palestinians persisted in violent attacks against Israelis, Israel executed major military operations in Gaza. In , most Israeli civilians were killed in 6 bomb attacks inside Israel. The Israeli army invaded and besieged southern Gaza in May in Operation Rainbow , invaded and besieged Beit Hanoun in northern Gaza in the summer in a 37 days long raid , and invaded northern Gaza again from 29 September to 16 October in Operation Days of Penitence. In his speech of 24 June , Bush said: I call on the Palestinian people to elect new leaders, leaders not compromised by terror. It wanted to expel Arafat, but the US opposed. In October , the Government declared that "Arafat is the main obstacle for any progress in the Middle East peace process. Also under his successor Ahmed Qurei Abu Alaa , the needed reform did not appear. An international task force concluded that only general elections could transform the political system, which, however, was impossible under the continued Israeli occupation. The PA was committed to combat Palestinian terror. Moreover, they were not able to move freely between all parts of the Palestinian controlled areas, which were splintered into more than enclaves within Area C. With the destruction of hundreds of PA offices, like the Education Ministry, the Higher Education Ministry and the Health Ministry, along with equipment, computers and dossiers, the IDF wiped out the public data banks, according to Amira Hass apparently to destroy Palestinian civil institutions, sabotaging for years to come the Palestinian goal for independence. Instead, movement of Palestinians was heavily impeded by numerous roadblocks, earth mounds and checkpoints, [26] [53] and movement between West Bank and Gaza was virtually impossible. According to Israel, the Palestinians did not fulfil their obligation to end violence and terrorism, and therefore they refused to withdraw. Instead, the number of settlers continued growing. Even during the Second Intifada the settler population kept growing at a high rate, in a remarkably straight line. From to , the number of settlers in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem increased with more than 50, From to , the Jewish population grew with some 70, On the other hand, more than 1, Palestinian homes were demolished throughout the Palestinian Territories, [26] and build-up of Palestinian structures was virtually completely denied. British involvement Until , British intelligence officer Alastair Crooke played an important

role as mediator between Israel and the Palestinians. He realized ceasefires and truces until he was recalled in August. The plan also mentioned the Israeli requirements of the Roadmap: This report notes that the NSF Palestinian National Security Forces, who were assumed to prevent terror, were denied by the Israelis equipment, ammunition and freedom of movement. At the Annapolis Conference on 27 November, both parties again expressed their commitment to the Roadmap. Despite intensive negotiations in the following months, the parties did not reach an agreement. The negotiations ended in September without result. When the Olmert government started a major assault on Gaza in December to stop rocket fire into Israel, [65] dubbed Operation Cast Lead, the "peace process" completely collapsed. The main issues remained:

8: List of Middle East peace proposals - Wikipedia

With America's attention increasingly turned toward the Middle East, the role of free trade in sparking peaceful reform must not be forgotten. To counter the threat from al-Qaeda we must fight.

Find out more about our work in the Middle East by visiting our interactive map. USAID responds to needs in the region by promoting inclusive economic growth, improving education and healthcare, supporting local democratic processes, strengthening civil society and addressing cross-border issues including water scarcity and the regional impact of conflict. Explore stories and videos from the Middle East Insufficient economic growth and high unemployment among youth remain major challenges throughout the Middle East and North Africa. Education systems and skills training often fail to prepare young people for the workforce. USAID works with local partners and the private sector to promote inclusive economic growth. Strengthening basic and higher education, keeping young people in school and reducing dropout rates, with an emphasis on developing reading, science, and math skills. Working directly with farmers and businesses to share best practices and technical advancements. Offering small- and medium-sized enterprises start-up capital, training, mentorship, entrepreneurship skills, and regional networking opportunities for sustainable economic growth and job creation. USAID is committed to helping build resilient, democratic societies by working with local partners to improve transparency and accountability of governments, and support expanding participation by civil society, youth, minorities and women. USAID supports the development of government institutions, including promoting the rule of law, increasing civic engagement, and enhancing respect for human rights. Engaging civil society to advocate for transparency and accountability of governments. Supporting government-led reforms to foster more pluralistic, fair, responsive, and representative political leadership, and greater competition. Programs target local and cross-border issues that hinder efficient and equitable management of water resources, as well as public education campaigns encouraging citizens to be responsible stewards of limited water supplies. Rehabilitating urban water infrastructure to serve expanded populations. USAID programs have enabled the expansion of and provided reliable access to potable water for more than 1. Responding to Regional Conflict The crises in Syria, Iraq and Yemen are a regional challenge of unparalleled magnitude. USAID responds with assistance to foster resilience and stability. The majority of Syrian refugees are living within communities in Jordan and Lebanon, doubling and tripling the size of towns already struggling to provide essential. USAID has re-oriented existing programs to account for the refugee situation and added funds to help host communities by building more schools, renovating and expanding health facilities, and increasing access to water. Within Iraq , 2. Existing development assistance programs support Iraqi government institutions and civil society to improve the delivery of essential services, provide free legal assistance to displaced and vulnerable Iraqis, provide short-term job opportunities to the displaced, and assess protection concerns of vulnerable populations. In Yemen , over half a million people have been displaced which has exacerbated an already dire humanitarian situation. As conditions permit, USAID is prepared to support a political transition and peace-building processes as they emerge.

9: Letters: Building for peace in the Middle East | World news | The Guardian

United Arab Emirates Minister of State for Foreign Affairs His Excellency Dr. Anwar bin Mohammed Gargash spoke at Policy Exchange on "The Role of the Arab Gulf in Building Peace in the Middle East".

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