



המטה לביטחון לאומי
National Security Council

April 22, 2014

Dear Dr. Ambassador,

I am writing to draw your attention to the attached document written by Dr. Saeb Erekat, the chief Palestinian negotiator. The document examines and makes recommendations regarding the Palestinian position as of March 9, 2014 (i.e. prior to the White House meeting on March 17 and the scheduled fourth tranche of prisoner release).

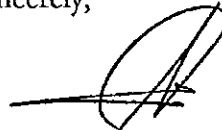
In effect, this is a policy paper presented in early March in preparation for a Palestinian rejection of American proposals and includes, in addition to a highly selective account of the talks so far, a series of recommendations to implement a strategy of unilateral Palestinian actions outside the agreed negotiation framework (page 39), including the submission of instruments of accession to international conventions and specifically the Geneva Conventions, and advancing reconciliation with Hamas.

This document refutes the current Palestinian claim that the decision to apply for accession to the conventions – in direct violation of Palestinian obligations and of the understandings that enabled the resumption of negotiations in July 2013 – was taken strictly in response to what they considered a delay in the release of the fourth tranche of prisoners. Similarly, it indicates that advancing the reconciliation process with Hamas and bringing Hamas into a new government was under active consideration at the very time intensive negotiations were meant to be under way. As such, the document points to premeditation and to Palestinians' calculations to renege on their commitments and pursue a unilateral strategy regardless of the release of prisoners, in a manner that would gravely endanger if not destroy the negotiation process.

In short, the document serves as damning evidence of bad faith on the part of the Palestinian side, which has unfortunately been demonstrated time and again during these negotiations. It suggests that plans to reject American proposals and pursue unilateral actions were in place well in advance, despite the unwavering commitment shown by Secretary Kerry and his team in facilitating these negotiations, and the seriousness which Israel has demonstrated throughout the negotiation process.

I would respectfully request that this letter and the attached document be passed on to the relevant officials and that the necessary conclusions be drawn both with respect to Palestinian responsibility for the current impasse and to the measures needed to respond appropriately to the situation that has been created which gravely endangers prospects for advancing the peace process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'J. Cohen', written over a horizontal line.

Joseph M. Cohen
National Security Adviser
Head, National Security Council