

President Abbas

Meets with
leaders of American Jewish Community

*Calls Prime Minister Netanyahu "My Partner in Our Quest for Peace,"
Addresses Settlement Moratorium, Security, Incitement, Hamas, Right of
Return Anti-Semitism*

*New York, NY—The S. Daniel Abraham Center for Middle East
Peace hosted Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas for dinner
on Tuesday, September 21, 2010, with over 50 top leaders
of the American Jewish community and former American
administration officials. The dinner, hosted by Center founder
and Chairman Dan Abraham and Center president Robert
Wexler at the Plaza Hotel, was organized at the request of
Abbas, following a dinner hosted by the Center with Abbas and
Jewish leaders in Washington DC in May.*

*Guests included former Secretary of State Madeleine Albright,
former National Security Advisor Sandy Berger, and former US
Ambassador to Israel Daniel Kurtzer; former Congressmen Mel
Levine and Sam Gejdenson; Alan Solow and Malcolm Hoenlein,
Chairman and Executive Vice Chairman of the Conference
of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations; Mort
Zuckerman, Editor-in-Chief of U.S. News & World Report and
former chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major
American Jewish Organizations; Robert Sugarman and
Abraham Foxman, National Chair and National Director of
the Anti-Defamation League; Steve Savitsky, President of the
Orthodox Union; Daniel S. Mariaschin, Executive Vice President
of B'nai Brith International; Ronald Lauder, Chairman of the*

Jewish National Fund; Kathy Manning, CEO of the Jewish Federations of North America; Jerry Levin and Alisa Robbins Doctoroff, President and Chair of the Board of the UJA Federation of New York; Martin Raffel, Senior Vice President of the Jewish Council for Public Affairs; Ruth Messinger, President of American Jewish World Service; Robert Bernstein, founder of Human Rights Watch; and other American Jewish community leaders and foreign policy scholars.

Mr. Abbas, thank you very much for joining us this evening.

President Abbas' Remarks

President Abbas: (In Arabic) In the name of Allah, the merciful and the compassionate...

(In English)

Ladies and gentlemen, good evening

My best wishes for the holy day.

Shana tova, hag sameh (In Hebrew, Happy Holidays) for all of you

I would like to thank my best friend, Danny Abraham, who helped to convene this meeting. This is a man who never changed since I first met him, many years ago – a man who has shown optimism, determination and strong commitment for peace in our region. I would also like to thank Congressman Wexler for his determined efforts and the rest of the staff of this center.

Ladies and gentlemen, this my second meeting with the American Jewish leaders since June of this year in Washington. I am extremely encouraged by these meeting.

My meetings with Jewish leaders in USA are part of my efforts to reach out to an important community. I had met in the past also, with Jewish communities in Canada, South Africa, Latin America...particularly in Argentina. I will be soon meeting with the leaders of the French Jewish community.

I have one objective in mind: to communicate with you directly without mediators. I would like for us to engage in a dialogue where we listen to each other and where I can respond to your questions because I trust that we have one mutual objective: to achieve peace in our region.

We launched at the beginning of this month, in Washington, direct talks, about permanent status, sponsored by President Barack Obama. During the last three weeks, I have met Prime Minister Netanyahu several times in Washington and in the region. And we started a difficult mission to achieve a lasting, just and comprehensive peace between us. We should be able to do this within a year.

There is no illusion that this effort will be easy. In a sense, it is extremely difficult. But we are determined to succeed. However, the two parties have the same reasons for hope and optimism. Here are some of them – first, this peace process is supported directly by President Obama and the exceptional efforts of his Secretary of State, Mrs. Clinton; his Special Envoy Senator Mitchell and their teams. This is the embodiment of a commitment by the United States to achieve peace. Second, negotiations, enjoy, unlimited and strong international support. The majority of the Palestinians and Israelis support peace and an end to the conflict. This peace process is not starting from zero.

...are terms of reference based on international resolutions, bilateral agreements, and the previous negotiations between the two sides.

We understand that there are enemies of peace who will try to undermine what we are trying to do, and that the road ahead of us is filled with difficulties and great challenges. But the objective is a noble one. Is there a goal more precious than achieving peace? Wouldn't it be more inspiring if our meeting next year focused on joint Israeli-Palestinian economic projects, and social, cultural and environment activities? We believe that our children and grandchildren deserve a better future for peace, prosperity, dignity and security. This is the time to make the difficult and courageous decisions. We should not allow those who oppose peace to keep us hostages in their hands. Peace must ultimately prevail.

I consider Prime Minister Netanyahu my partner in our quest for peace.

We have spent hours discussing important issues we have to deal with involving difficulties. But I hope we will be able to overcome them. I cannot discuss the details with you because I have to respect the conditions of the confidentiality of the ongoing discussions. But our objectives are clear: the establishment of an independent Palestinian state that can live side by side with the state of Israel in peace and security on the borders of 1967 with agreed (land swap) and a resolution to all the permanent status issues. Security will be guaranteed by a third party, accepted by all, to be deployed on the Palestinian side. We want a just solution for the refugees' problem, agreed by the two parties as stipulated by the Arab peace initiative.

Ladies and gentlemen, we are negotiating with open hearts and minds. And we are determined to succeed. In the meantime, we continue our security cooperation with Israel as a part of our long term continued and successful efforts to assert our authority and to achieve law and order in areas under our control. What happened in Hebron and Ramallah two weeks ago and the swift response of our security forces is a model of our effective efforts which are not affected by the lack of progress in our negotiations. The goal of maintaining law and order is a Palestinian national interest. Ladies and gentlemen, I am ready now to entertain your questions. Thank you very much.

Former US Secretary of State Madeline Albright: Abu Mazen, dear Mr. President, it is an honor to be here with you and thank you again for hosting everybody here tonight. I'm delighted to be here. We've spent a lot of time together. But I have to say that towards the end at Camp David, looking back we might have made a mistake by not having there some moderate Arab states.

And what seems to be different this time is that President Obama has invited President Mubarak and King Abdullah to attend and be part of these talks. So I wondered how you see their role. And a larger question, how do you foresee the structure of the talks without breaking your rule on confidentiality?

President Abbas: As you know Madam Albright, we started by the beginning of this month our direct talks between us and the Israeli side and with the auspicious of the American Administration. And we agreed that we have to meet and we already met in Washington and met in Sharm Al Sheik, then one week ago in Jerusalem with the presence of the

Americans. Till now, we have some meetings between the teams. But we did not launch the teams in a practical way. So, we hope that if we have the chance to continue our talks in the very near future, it will be done, also with the presence of the American administration. And by the way, as you said, that some of the Arab countries, attended our meetings, but even more the Follow-up Arab Committee is following up everything, is sponsoring everything and agreed with us on all of our efforts so you can be sure that the Arab countries are backing our efforts, and backing our negotiations and I think that they will push us in order to achieve an agreement with the Israeli side.

Thank you very much, Mr. President.

Question: Mr. President, you spoke about two states, a Palestinian State and Israel. (sound, unclear) Jewish state?

President Abbas: First of all, there is no problem if the Israeli people can name themselves a Jewish people or a Jewish state; it's up to them to do that. But I want to refer to something in the past. In 1993, after we initiated the Oslo agreement, on the 21st of August 1993 a, we concentrated on the issue of recognition for 18 days, Shimon Peres and myself with the mediation of the late foreign minister of Norway. And on the 9th of September, we achieved an agreement on mutual recognition, which meant that Arafat said and wrote that he recognized Israel and the right of Israel to exist, while the late Yitzhak Rabin wrote in his response that he recognize the PLO as the legitimate representative of the Palestinians. And we closed that file. After three years, Shimon Peres asked us to eliminate some of the articles of our Charter which called for the destruction of Israel. And in 1996, we convened the

PNC, the Palestinian National Council, and by consensus, we voted for the eliminating of all of these articles. After two years, when we were in Wye River, Prime Minister Netanyahu insisted that we have to repeat the elimination of these articles again or otherwise, he will not accept any kind of agreement between himself and us.

At that time, Mr. Sandy Berger, who is now sitting opposite to me, came to me asking: "why don't you make it again?" "Why don't you just convene the PNC in Gaza and eliminate all of these articles again? And we will give you a prize and that President Clinton will attend this session of the PNC." Okay! And we accepted. President Clinton came to us... visited us (in Gaza)... as the first president of the United States, and in his presence, we eliminated these articles. Now again, I don't know if every other year, or every two or three years, we will receive something like that. By the way, when Israel concluded the peace treaty with Egypt, they did not ask anything like this kind of demands. The same with Jordan. I'm sure the same will be with Syria and the same will be with Lebanon. Now, if the Israeli people want to name themselves whatever they want, it's up to them to do so.

Question: (New York Times): Mr. President, if Prime Minister Netanyahu is not going to extend the moratorium on settlement construction and expansion in the West Bank, then construction will continue and you said you will withdrawal from the talks. If this happens, my question is how do you expect to?

President Abbas: From the beginning they told us that by the 26th of this month, the moratorium will expire. Then, they said, it will expire by the end of this month. So I don't

know the truth about when it this moratorium will expire. I will return back to the beginning. Before we started our proximity talks, it was proximity. It wasn't direct talks. Prime Minister Netanyahu accepted a moratorium for ten months while we were not negotiating. Now, when we started our real negotiations, our direct negotiations, when we started to believe that there was hope, to conclude an agreement, a final agreement, with the Israeli side, he refuses to give us two, three, four months to extend the moratorium to give negotiators a chance, an opportunity to tackle, to handle, the final status issues. So how can we understand him? When we didn't have negotiations, he accepted the moratorium. Now, he refuses to extend the moratorium while he has a very strong excuse for anybody in his government to tell them we have something real, we have something in hand. We cannot miss this opportunity. We cannot miss this opportunity without handling these issues...so it's up to Mr. Netanyahu. In 1995, there an agreement between the Palestinians and the Israelis was signed and read as follows: nobody is allowed to take any unilateral actions which prejudice the outcome of the negotiations concerning the final status issues. This is an agreement. After that, we had the road map. The road map says that Israel should cease all kind of settlement activities including the natural growth. Now, we are not asking anything except to stop the settlement activities for a while to give us the chance to achieve an agreement.

I cannot say I will leave the negotiations but it's very difficult for me to resume talks if Prime Minister Netanyahu declares that he will continue his activities in the West Bank and Jerusalem. Besides that, you know that we have at least 15 resolutions from the Security Council calling on Israel to cease all settlement activities, and consider all settlements

in the Palestinian Territories illegal. So what is the problem if we concentrate on one item, the borders and negotiate, and we already offered the 1967 borders with agreed swaps? If we come to this agreement, immediately we can mark the borders and everyone will know their territories. At that time, the Israelis are free to build in their territories, and the Palestinians can do the same.

Question: Mr. President, it's good to see you here. The polling on the Palestinians side suggests that 70% of Palestinians would agree to (inaudible) while the poll on the Israeli side suggests that 70% of Israelis would agree along the same lines. But 70% on both sides agree that an agreement is not possible. So my question is how do you build trust? Part of it is obviously cooperation that takes place. Part of it is how you (inaudible) negotiations. Up to now, the principle of negotiations has been that nothing is agreed until everything is agreed (inaudible) ...to build trust between both sides.

President Abbas: Mr. Berger, I agree with you that 70% maybe more, of the Palestinian people and 70% maybe more, of the Israeli people are for peace. Maybe the leadership on both sides are against. I don't know. But anyhow, all of these people, on both sides, are eager to achieve peace as soon as possible. If you want to ask me about the core issues, then I can tell you now about two issues, one is the borders and the second is the security. You know that the Israelis are very sensitive about security. We know. We know that the Israelis want to live inside their borders, inside *secure* borders. They want their families to feel that they are secure, no bombs, no suicide bombs there. And I know that they want peace and they want security. I can tell you that for the last three or four

years, nothing happen, not one single incident came from the West Bank. Why? Because we decided to cooperate with the Israeli side in this sector. And we prevent anybody to do anything against Israel because the security of Israel is our security. We want to engage. We want to create some sort of "people to people" talks. And you remember that we had some committees but unfortunately, like other committees, it went away. We really want to talk to the Israeli side. For that, I am talking to the Jewish leaders here. Why? Because I want peace! And I know that you want peace and you will help to achieve this peace. So this is the issue of the security. Besides this, we told them: we want a third party. And the third party will not be Indonesia, Malaysia, or Turkey. The third party will be America...will be the NATO to come to our territories... inside the Palestinian Territories for the period they want... for the locations that they want... for the missions that they want. It doesn't matter, 30 years or 40 years! It doesn't matter what they are going to do in our territories, to defend the Israelis and to help us.

And at the same time, I told many people, I would not say anything about our talks with Prime Minister Netanyahu, that we accept a *demilitarized* state. What do I mean by a demilitarized state? I want a state it is stated in the Oslo agreement with a strong police force. And I accept a strong police force as it is defined by the American administration, not by me. So from our side, there will be no threat and there will be a third party in our territories. But if we want an independent state, I will not accept any single Israeli in our territories. And what I mean by Israeli, you know in the Israeli Army, there are some Muslims and there are some Druze and Christians, I will not accept any one of them but I can accept in the third party soldiers and generals who are Jewish, but not Israelis that will be accepted by us because we are

not against the Jews. We are against the Israeli occupation. Besides that, there will be regional cooperation because there are threats here and there can be what we call regional cooperation. And it's already there – when we talk about the third party, also we talk of Jordan and Egypt -- General James Jones went to them with his files and he called them, got their acceptance because all of us want to live in peace and security and nothing else.

President Abbas: If you will return back to history, or you will return back to religion, we are not going to solve the problem. We have to look for the future. But if you ask me, is there any relation between the Jews and the Middle East, I will say yes because they have already been there. Nobody can deny. And as I said in Washington, one third of our Holy Koran is about "Beni-Israel"...about the Israelis...about the Jews. So we cannot deny. But now, we are talking about the future...about the present time. We can say that Israel occupied the West Bank and East Jerusalem in 1967. And all the states around the world are asking Israel to withdraw from the occupied territories. And in the road map, President George W. Bush, put a sentence that we should put an end to the occupation that took place in 1967. In every document, international document or even our agreements, there is a mention of the 1967 borders. We want 1967 borders. Only with swaps...only with agreed swaps. But if you will talk about the history, about religion, about our ancient rights, we will not achieve peace in the very near future.

(inaudible question)

President Abbas: I think my dear friend that we should not listen to the commentators because they will mislead us even the media as a whole, I'm not accusing anybody,

but the media also tries to mislead us. We should listen to our hearts...to our minds...to our grandchildren, their demands...requirements. What they want? What are their needs? The Children in Israel...the children of Palestine – what they want...If we misread their messages, we are not going to reach peace. We tell our people that we will be criminals, both sides, if we do not reach the peace, for their sake, not for us. We are old men and we will pass away. We will make peace for the new generations...our grandsons in the region. And I heard many times from the American Administration that if we solve this conflict and we are ready to solve this conflict and we are ready to put an end to this conflict and we are ready to put an end to historical demands, all the players in the region will disappear, so let us concentrate on the peace process between the Palestinians and the Israelis.

Iran... Hamas...

President Abbas: Exactly, I don't know the amount of money Iran grants to Hamas. You said 200 million but I don't know. This is first. Second, we hear many statements from Iran and from other countries saying that they want to destroy Israel. Our opinion is that a state should be created, not a state should be eliminated. If anybody talks about my ability or my responsibility, I will not answer but I will say to them that I am elected by the Palestinian people, so I am the only one who is eligible to talk on behalf of the Palestinian people – nobody else. Even the Arabs are humble. When they want to talk about the Palestinian issue, they come to me and tell me why don't we do this or do that. But the others try to impose something on us. This is rejected by us.

Question: We in the Jewish community have witnessed the expedient growth of Anti-Semitism...in addition to sharing your vision...we are the ones speaking out against Anti-Muslim discrimination... I ask that in your leadership capacity, when visiting Muslim countries, that you speak out against Anti-Semitism.

President Abbas: Thank you. I promise you that I will repeat what you said and I will use the words you used. And I believe in every word you said. We are against those fanatics who make anti-Semite remarks. We believe that the Jews, Muslims and Christians are cousins, you are Semite and we are Semite also. So we do not believe in these campaigns against the Jews or against *anybody*.

And I believe those who talk on behalf of Islam in this way do not represent the real Islam. As a good Muslim, I understand exactly what does that mean...if I insult the Jews, I will not be Muslim I should believe in Musa (Moses), Issa (Jesus), and all those Prophets. Otherwise, if I say this, I don't believe in them, it means I am not Muslim. So I will repeat your words everywhere I go because I believe in these words.

Wendy Sherman: Thank you Mr. President and it's great to be here with you. Mr. President, what would you say are the things Prime Minister Netanyahu is doing to most help this process and what do you think the Prime Minister would say about the things you are doing to move this process forward?

President Abbas: First of all, as I said in my speech that Prime Minister Netanyahu is my partner because he is the elected prime minister of Israel, I will tell you what I *can* do. The day I came to be the head of the Palestinian Authority,

I started very difficult efforts to make security prevail. Why? Because security is essential for me and is essential for Israel. And I hope and I invite all of you to come to visit Israel and Palestine to see the life here and there but to see one thing you missed in the past, the culture of peace now prevailing and the culture of terrorism is diminishing. Why? Because we want to live in peace. Somebody asked me about the incitement and somebody in Washington asked me about the kind of incitement here and there. I didn't deny it. But I can say, there is some kind of incitement on the other side. It doesn't mean we have to exchange blames and accusations here and there, we want to put an end to this incitement eleven years ago, we agreed to establish a trilateral committee to deal with all kinds of incitement, to eliminate any kind of incitement from our side, and the same should happen on the Israeli side. We wanted to live a normal life. Now, Israel is existing. It wasn't easy for Yasser Arafat in 1988 to accept 242 and 338 and the mutual recognition he signed with Rabin. But we believe that we have to follow our efforts. We also ask the Israeli community to do the same because we are not seeking peace for one year or two years, three years, ten years, fifty years – we want permanent peace. Not only between the Palestinians and Israelis, but between the Arabs, not only the Arabs but the Muslims according to the Arab Peace Initiative. I hope you have read the Arab Peace Initiative which calls Israel to withdraw from the occupied territories while the Arab and Muslim countries, all the Muslim countries, including that which is in your mind... you know it... All of them signed that they will recognize Israel and they will raise its flag in their capitals. Please read this precious initiative. It is the first time since 1948 we have such kind of initiative. So we are not only looking for peace between the Palestinians and the Israelis, we are looking for peace with all the Arabs and all the Muslims.

And we are working very hard on this and I cannot talk much about it in detail, but we are working very hard to make peace prevail everywhere, not only in the Middle East, but from Indonesia to Mauritania. And I think it is achievable. Let us work to achieve it, thank you.

Question: (Unclear) ...on the occasion of President Peres and King Abdullah...visit to New York and the United Nations... and that advertisement you published recognized the peace initiative...all 57 countries...President Clinton has pointed out...those of us around the table are joining this effort to try and...

Question: (not clear) ...Incitement...suicide bombers... terrorists...it's not about the history, it's about the future... which undermine their confidence...?

President Abbas: First of all, I highly appreciate that the man who told me and who brought for me the Arab Peace Initiative printed is Danny Abraham, with the flags of the Muslim Countries. And at that time, I took this proposal from him and I tried to publish it everywhere so he taught us because he is a man of peace. I cannot deny that some of our people make incitements, maybe high ranking people; I do not want to exchange accusations – also to say that also in Israel (Inaudible) you've heard about what he (Ovadia Youssef) said against me personally and against the Palestinians and the Arabs. We do not want to exchange accusations. We want to eliminate this. We have to work on it. In the last meeting, they asked me about my book. I don't know why you didn't ask me about it.

President Abbas: ...About the holocaust and every time, someone comes to me to accuse me, "you deny Mr. Abbas

the holocaust?" Why? Because you didn't say that the victims were six million. And in that meeting in Washington, I said, if you say it is six million then you know better than me. I accept. When I said it, it is not a matter of number, it is a matter of (inaudible) it means it's a crime against humanity. This is my belief. (Inaudible) For that, I sent my ambassador to Warsaw, Poland to attend the memorial of the Auschwitz and I sent my ambassador to attend a commemoration of the holocaust in Russia. We are not ashamed if we do this because we believe it was a crime against the Jews. We believe, and we want these crimes not to be repeated, not against the Jews or against any other people in the world.

I cannot deny it. I'm sorry I didn't hear it, but if he said it, it's okay. It's very good. It's encouraging. It will encourage us to go ahead, to bridge the gaps, to remove all the obstacles that are in our way because peace deserves it, all kinds of efforts, either from the Prime Minister or the cabinet or from the Knesset or from the higher bodies and at the same time from all the Palestinians, people and leadership and from the Arabs and the Muslims and so forth.

Question: (not clear) ...refugees...right of return, does that mean that..?

President Abbas: Okay, we will return back to Oslo. Oslo, it was an agreement of principles. What do we call it?

Saeb Erekat: Declaration of principles.

President Abbas: Declaration of principles. It mentioned only that we have a pending issues, core issues, six core issues: Jerusalem, Borders, Settlements, Refugees, security and Water. The Arab peace initiative came and said the

following: There should a just and agreed upon solution for the refugees' problem. I heard many statements from, the Israeli media that said you have to remove the issue of the refugees from the table. Nobody has the right to remove it from the table. But everybody has the right to put it on the table and say what he wants. We have to discuss it. We have a problem. We have a problem of 5 million refugees and I am one of them. I am a refugee. But let us say that we want to solve this problem. What is your attitude about this resolution – we can say nobody can impose anything on the other while they are negotiating any issue, whether it is important or unimportant.

We can take a ten minute break so the President can eat.

President Abbas: No, no. No need.

(Laughing, a number of voices speaking over each other)

President Abbas: Revering to Danny Abraham)...I know he will pay...He has paid a lot...I know him for twenty years. And I know how much he paid. Not just money, but time and efforts. He is a man...he is a man of peace.

Question: How does the President propose a deal with Hamas...?

President Abbas: We, the Palestinian people have different parties and different opinions from the right to left. Some people are communists. Some people are ultra Muslims. Some people are moderate Muslims. And we have Hamas of course. And Hamas committed the coup in Gaza. But I heard some encouraging statements that they accept the 1967 borders. And they are ready if Israel wants to talk to them,

to talk to Israel. But anyhow, we have a problem with Hamas. Leave this problem to us. Let us focus on the final agreement between us and the Israelis. After this, we will handle this issue internally. But we cannot, exclude them. They are existing in the West Bank and Gaza. They are in Jordan, in Egypt, in Saudi Arabia, in the Gulf, everywhere, in Europe, in America. You have Muslim brotherhood. Right? We all know it to be true.

So leave this problem to be solved by us. Internally, we will do it. But when we will sign with the Israelis, we will respect our signature. And if we have a referendum, and if the referendum will say yes, no one can say no. Keep Hamas aside and we will solve their problem. Now, we don't have anything about reconciliation between us and them. But we are working with the Egyptians in order to find something with them.

Question: Is this something you would consider?

President Abbas: If Israel want to change its' name, I think, according to international law, they can go to the United Nations and say that this is our name, as happened with many, many countries. Of course we have to accept. But the state with provisional borders, we cannot accept. We refuse it, totally, totally. This doesn't mean that if we come to an agreement, there will be an immediate implementation. This is something else. But to accept a state with provisional borders, it is unacceptable by us. You can say, Okay, it is mentioned in the road map. I say, yes, it is mentioned in the road map. But it was optional. It is optional which means either you accept or not. I will not accept. A state with provisional borders is not peace. It cannot make peace

because after ten years, we will return back to the conflict and we will start from zero. We say that if we have our state, in the 1967 borders, we are ready to put an end to the conflict and an end to the historical demands. I think you know what that means. No historical demands, neither from this side nor that side. I think it's enough.

Question: I'm curious as we are reaching the end of this evening. I'm curious what you are going to tell the Palestinian people that you learned from this evening's encounter with the Jewish leadership...So I am interested in your observations...and what you're going to take away from our encounter tonight.

President Abbas: The same I took from the last meeting. I told our people that really there are people looking for peace –whether they are living inside Israel or out. They support peace. And they were very happy because for years I used to talk about dialogue between the Israelis and the Palestinians. In the seventies, nobody listened to me. On the contrary, they accused me. But after that, gradually, everybody came to the conclusion that this is the only way that we have to talk to each other, to understand each other, and to know what are the requirements from each other. If we come to this level, I believe that we can make peace. So the impression, my colleagues, in Palestine, in the West Bank, in the Fatah institutions, PLO institutions was very high. And when I told them that I may be invited by our friend Daniel again, they were very happy to hear that. And I think now they will be waiting for the results of this meeting because they count a lot on the results of such meetings. When I told you that I met the leadership in South Africa, five years ago, and the Canadian leadership, the Jewish leadership in

Canada, and in Latin America, they were very, very happy. And by the way, we are preparing for some gatherings and some activities in the West Bank and then in Israel to have these mutual meetings between Israelis and Palestinians because we believe this is the way – it will help a lot because the peace shouldn't be between leaders. It should be between the peoples. Thank you.

So Abu Mazen, thank you very much.

(Applause)