

**Venue: Dan Hotel, Tel Aviv**

**Date: 23 April 2006 (from 12:30 until 2:30)**

**Israeli Team: Itzik Guruvich, Gabi Bar, Itmar Yaer**

**Palestinian Team: Lamia Matta, Nisreen Haj Ahmad**

Below is a summary of what the Israeli team said on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of April 2005. The note below does not include the Palestinian side deliberations as mostly the Palestinians listened and asked questions.

#### Inventory

- General information on the areas will be submitted to Minister Dahlan.
- The Israel side is seeking the information from the various Israeli ministries and institutions.
- The information can be categorized or grouped by settlement.
- Maps and arial photographs will be provided.
- Arial photographs are ready but need security clearance to give to Palestinians
- The inventory will include information on the existing structures and the use of each as well as publicly or privately owned.
- Maps of the infrastructure of the region (not inside each settlement) will be provided to the Palestinian side.
- After the inventory is examined, working groups such as existing Joint Water Committee or Joint Energy Committee will meet to ask for specific pieces of information and to discuss details.

#### Notes:

- Israel has more information on public structures and utilities and less so on privately owned structures.
- Mohammad Al Abbar has received a lot of information on the settlement areas that were given to him by Israel and are credible.
- Agrexco can provide information about agriculture produce of settlements as it is in charge of exporting almost 75% of the produce.

#### Israeli request:

The Israeli team suggested that the Palestinian side presents to them its thinking on the future use of the evacuated areas only as a background briefing and not for any other purpose. They thought that this might educate their thinking on the decisions they have to make on the private housing and other matters.

#### Movement and Passages: Karni

- The Israeli side sees the need to agree to a system of movement (including detailed procedures). They note that this is such a delicate and difficult issue as it involves more than one agency on their side.
- After the principles are agreed to such a system of movement, a working group of experts have to be established to address this issue.
- Some few months ago, the Israeli side together with Minister Fayad purchased two huge scanners that allow for the scanning of the whole container. These

machines will arrive [from China] mid 2006. Those machines can check 200-300 trucks a day when currently 50 trucks pass a day.

- The machines are designed to check the whole container without opening it.
- After that the container would be lifted with a fork lift from one truck and loaded on the other, or the container would be moved to a side area where the container would be opened and the products would be loaded off one container and loaded on into another.
- The scanning machine cannot check the whole truck as it can not check the engine with accuracy that would address Israel's security concerns satisfactorily.
- Even if the technology (scanning machines) allow for container checking, there is still a need for consignment checking to expedite the process (!)
- There is also an idea to open a new terminal at Karni for the movement of agricultural produce from the Gaza Strip. This terminal would allow for expedited movement of perishable goods.
- Currently agriculture passes through Kussufim which essentially is a road that will be closed after evacuation.
- As for Suffa, currently it is for aggregates. Without giving a clear indication of possibilities to change the nature of Suffa, the Israeli team said that it is an issue for coordination.

Note: it was mentioned that Tarkoumia will be move to the 1967 border, Jalameh and Karem Eshrayem (Toulkarem) are currently on the Green Line.

#### Movement and Passages: Erez

- Israel during discussions with the World Bank accepted the principle of redundancy: meaning that at any point in time there will always be a crossing point open for goods and people. So if Erez is closed for security reasons, Karni will allow for the movement of people. And if Karni is closed for any security reason, Eerez will process goods.
- Israel is building the new Erez to allow for the movement of 15,000 workers in few hours as well as for the movement of VIP.
- The new Erez will be completed by October 2<sup>nd</sup> 2005.
- By then the Palestinian side must ensure that their side of Erez is equipped and managed to operate. Otherwise, Erez will just be a "gate". Again this is a topic for coordination.
- Furthermore, in line with the principle of redundancy, Erez is designed to allow for the processing of goods. There will be a terminal for goods on Erez.
- The goods terminal will allow for the processing of "some" goods such as those humanitarian goods that come in sealed containers from Ashdood to the Gaza Strip.
- Due to the shortage of financing , the cargo terminal at Erez is not currently being built. It is phase two of the project and they hope to complete it by mid 2006.
- Finally, it was noted that the new Erez facility was designed while keeping in mind that it would also operate as train terminal to Gaza Strip. The train to Ashdood or the West Bank. \Meaning that once the train connection is built, the infrastructure of Erez can integrate the train.

### Train Connections/ Safe Passage

- There are three at least three options for the train connection in terms of destinations:
  - Erez – Tarkoumia
  - Erez- Toulkarem
  - Haifa – Jenin
  - Erez Ashdood
- There are three options for sharing infrastructure arrangements:
  - Palestinian train on Israeli infrastructure
  - Palestinian train on Palestinian infrastructure (it was noted that this scenario involves many elements and takes a lot of time)
  - Combined approach.
- The Israeli deliberations on the issue are not final. There is no consensus in Israel on the topic or the options as there are different opinions in different ministries. The primary person responsible for the work so far is Daniel Shobi (?) who is the economic advisor in the NSC.
- **As for the safe passage, the Israeli team said that they are not allowed to speak about this topic. They have nothing to say.**

### Rafah Crossing with Egypt

- This is an urgent topic.
- Once Israel addresses its security concerns with Egypt and the PA, it will pull out. “The sooner the better”.
- Before that happens, the Palestinian and Israeli sides must reach an understanding on import policy/trade issues. There are two options from Israel’s perspective:
  - In order to maintain the customs union, the crossing point would be moved to the trilateral point of Karem Shalom where Israel would be present to monitor every day that the Paris Protocol is respected. This requires the agreement of the PA and Egypt, or
  - Rafah would remain to be the crossing point, Israel will withdraw, the PA will be in charge of Rafah and the Paris Protocol would be aborted as it relates to the Gaza Strip.
- In the second scenario, Israel would tax goods, check origin, standards and phyto-sanitary standards at the Gaza crossing point with Israel on goods going to Israel or to the West Bank.
- Until the wall is complete, Israel and the West Bank would have one import policy while the Gaza Strip would have another.

Note: What the second scenario means in actual affect is that all goods leaving Gaza Strip to Israel or the West Bank will be taxed twice. (If wholly obtained products were proven to be of Gaza Strip origin then they might not be taxed.) What it also means is that if any good leaving Gaza Strip is suspected to have input from any country Israel does not have relations with (such as Saudi Arabia and Indonesia), the product will be prevented from entering Israel or the West Bank.

### Closing Gaza Strip Before and During the Evacuation

- The whole of the Gaza Strip will be closed. All crossing including Rafah will be closed. A perimeter around Gaza will be created to prevent Israeli demonstrators.
- Arrangement for the access of the international community (especially humanitarian aid) is being agreed between Israel and the international community.
- During the evacuation, areas in the Gaza Strip will be closed and access prevented to allow for the safe evacuation. For example, people in Gaza city may not be able to access Rafah.