
BRIEFING NOTE**WYE RIVER MEMORANDUM: ISRAEL'S OBLIGATIONS AND STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION**

Background

Under the Interim Agreements (IA), Israel was required to carry out “further redeployments” (FRDs) within a specified timeframe, leading to the conversion of all West Bank territory to Area A, except for the issues to be decided in permanent status negotiations. With the expiry of the timeline stipulated in the IA, the Wye River memorandum (WRM) came as an attempt to rejuvenate the FRD process – requiring Israel implement Phases one and two of the three phases of FRD set out in the IA.

WRM Requirements re Land Status Conversion

The total conversion required by WRM for the IA phase one and two FRD amounts to 13% of West Bank territory: 1% converted from Area C to Area A, 12% from Area C to Area B. Israel was also required to convert 14.2% of Area B to Area A.

In order to carry out the above FRDs the WRM establish three stages for Conversion:

1. Stage 1 of F.R.D. implementation: 2% C to B, 7.1% B to A (week 2)
2. Stage 2 of F.R.D. implementation: 5% C to B. (week 2-6)
3. Stage 3 of F.R.D. implementation: 5% C to B, 1% C to A, 7.1% B to A (week 6-12)

3rd Phase FRD

The agreement left the issue of 3rd FRD to be dealt with by a committee, and stipulated that the US would be briefed regularly. In a letter to Israel the US position at the time was that the issue of these FRD was not a matter of negotiation, but rather of implementation.

Other Main Requirements

- Re-establishing security cooperation, including establishment of trilateral security committee with US participation
- Resumption of IA joint committees, and establishment of specific committees
- Accelerated negotiations on the permanent status issues

Implementation

The Israeli government (headed by Netanyahu) only carried out the 1st stage by transferring 2% of Area C to Area B and 7.1% of Area B to Area A. It stopped implementation claiming the PA had not performed its parallel security undertakings, particularly relating to collection of illegal weapons and reducing the size of PA police.

The trilateral security committee functioned briefly (for a few months with limited success). There was limited resumption of interim committees. Permanent status negotiations took place with the Barak government, culminating in Camp David, and the final sessions at Taba. With the outbreak of the 2nd intifada, all was ended.