

**From:** leila hilal  
**Sent:** Sunday, June 27, 2004 6:52 PM  
**To:** nsu\_staff  
**Subject:** Meeting today with Dr. Saeb

Saeb  
 2 hours

He briefed us on Omar Suleiman's visit, his most recent trip to the US, his meeting with Peres, and Burns's meeting with the PMO. We also discussed Burns's response to the NSU Gaza presentation.

### Suleiman and Egypt's involvement

Egypt is proposing a timeline for Gaza withdrawal:

*July & August* – Egyptian scouts will be sent to Gaza for a scoping mission to identify security training and capacity needs. Arafat to name 3 persons to head 3 consolidated security services (NSF, Intelligence, and Interior of Ministry services) The 3 people must be acceptable to the Palestinian people and not be tainted by corruption. They will formally report to the PM but will be accountable to Arafat.

*September* – The factions will be invited to Cairo for discussions on ending violence. Security trainers will be trained in Cairo. Training to begin in WBSG. Jordan has agreed to provide security assistance as long as it is recognized that Jordan and Egypt have no role in maintaining security.

At some point before the end of the year, the Egyptians will sponsor a quadripartite meeting with Egyptians, Americans, Palestinians and Israelis, intended to eventually lead to a resumption of negotiations.

Saeb believes that Israel is trying to sabotage Egypt's ability to play a role in the withdrawal by its actions in Nablus and by issuing the tender for construction of the moat on the Gazan-Egyptian border while also hoping to be able to blame Arafat for not coming through on the security front.

### US meetings

SE had a one-on-one with Powell. SE emphasized elections, freeing Arafat, and Egypt's positive role in the Gaza withdrawal. He presented the file the NSU prepared on the Wall and 2 secret UK reports on the PA's recent preventative acts against violence. (SE is going to try to get approval to have the CD leak the reports to counter arguments that the suicide bombings have stopped because of the wall.) Powell vacillated on the issue of Arafat's freedom and did not commit one way or the other. He raised concerns about Clinton's book in which Arafat is blamed for the collapse of the peace process.

SE met with Eliot Abrams and Rob Danin. They were unenthusiastic about Egypt's role.

### Peres

They had a private dinner at the King David Hotel. Peres said he spoke with Sharon and presented 3 conditions for joining the government: 1) timeline with specific dates for Gaza evacuation; 2) WB component (Clinton minus with respect to the "Holy Basin"); and 3) resumption of bi-lateral talks. Peres asked that Labor be given one of three cabinet posts: Defence, Finance or Foreign affairs. He thinks that Sharon will only sacrifice Shalom/FM.

↳ Israelis do not want Palestinian elections.

### Burns

Meeting was held at PMO. Abu Ala, Kassis, Shaath, and Saeb attended. Salam Fayyad met Burns alone in Jerusalem.

Abu Ala talked about Suleiman's visit, reform, the economic situation, civil society, Pal security steps and the situation on the ground, including settlements and the wall. He said that in 3 months either a new prime minister will be appointed or the cabinet will be shuffled. He asked for the siege on Arafat to be lifted. He said he was ready to meet Sharon.

Burns said Israel is serious about withdrawing from Gaza, it is an opportunity and that the Palestinians must take

security steps to transform Gaza withdrawal into a political horizon. He said security is the link between Gaza and the WB. He said the US is continuing to press Israel on easing the closure and removing outposts (here he referred to Kurtzer's statements on outposts and settlements).

**NSU Gaza presentation to Burns and future trips to the US**

Burns had 2 main comments on our Gaza presentation:

1. Unify messages with WB, other PA ministries
2. Incorporate settlements/wall presentation for Washington visit