

Statement Following Quartet Meeting With Prime Minister Ahmad Qurie

Representatives of the Quartet – Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs David Satterfield, UN Special Coordinator Terje Roed-Larsen, European Union Special Representative Marc Otte and Russian Middle East Envoy Ambassador Alexander Kalugin of Russia – met in Ramallah on July 7 with Palestinian Authority (PA) Prime Minister Ahmad Qurie and other senior PA officials.

Noting the vital importance of security in creating a climate in which forward movement is possible, the envoys stressed that the Palestinian Authority must make progress on its security related obligations under the roadmap. Recalling the Quartet Ministerial statement of May 4, they affirmed the need for concrete steps on the ground by the PA, not passivity, in order to revive the roadmap and seize the opportunity represented by Israel's Gaza withdrawal initiative.

In this context the envoys expressed their deep appreciation and strong support for the Egyptian role in working with the parties. The Quartet stands ready to further those efforts and urges the Palestinian Authority to do its part by moving decisively to fulfill its security commitments.

The Quartet envoys discussed the plans of the Palestinian Authority for organizing and holding municipal elections, and confirmed their readiness to assist with this process as appropriate.

The envoys also reviewed with the Prime Minister their discussion of the humanitarian situation and developmental needs in the West Bank and Gaza, as well as their preparations for a meeting in September of the Ad Hoc Liaison Committee to assess PA progress on reforms.

The Quartet remains committed to working with a responsible and accountable Palestinian Authority in pursuit of internal reform and a just, lasting solution to the Palestinian – Israeli conflict. The Quartet reiterated their position expressed in their 4 May 2004 statement on all issues and expressed the need for all sides to act in a manner necessary to achieve our common goal.

July 08, 2004
