

ABBAS TO BUSH: 'TIME IS OUR GREATEST ENEMY'

By Leah web: <http://www.lekarev.org>

A note from Pastor Kevin Lea follows these articles.

President George W. Bush praised Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas' steps toward democracy and promised USD 50 million in housing aid for Palestinians in Gaza. "You have made a new start on a difficult journey, requiring courage and leadership each day. And we will take that journey together," Bush told Abbas.

The USD 50 million in new direct aid is part of a USD 150 million package Bush is seeking for the Palestinians from Congress. Bush said the money would help Palestinians settle into Gaza once the Israel withdrawal set for this summer is complete.

For his part, Abbas vowed to adhere to the U.S.- supported peace process but said, "Time is becoming our greatest enemy. We must end the Palestinian- Israeli conflict before it is too late." In two statements that many Israelis find naive at best, the President suggested that Palestinian voters would reject candidates who advocate violence. (That certainly did NOT happen in local elections recently.) Secondly, Bush said, "Palestinian moms want their children to grow up in peace just like American moms want their kids to grow up in peace." The sad truth is that too many Palestinian mothers give great value, as we have often seen, to their children becoming "shahids" (martyrs) and 'growing up in peace' for many would mean that their children grow up in a world where Israel no longer exists. These are the tragic realities on the ground here in the Middle East and no amount of political or diplomatic rhetoric can alter the facts.

I am NOT saying that every Palestinian feels this way. There are some lovely Palestinian families that I know personally, who want nothing to do with Hamas, violence, etc. But it is a proven fact that a significant majority do indeed support the elimination of Israel.

Bush said that both the Palestinians and Israel must live up to their obligations under the so-called "road map" peace process that calls for creation of an independent Palestinian state on lands captured by Israel in the 1967 Middle East war. "Israel must continue to take steps toward a peaceful future" and not take steps that contravene road map obligations, Bush said. He said Israel must "remove unauthorized outposts and stop settlement expansions." At the same time, the Palestinians must end violence

against Israelis. "You cannot have a democracy based upon rule of law if you have armed bands of people who will use their weapons to try to achieve a political outcome," Bush said. "We must not lose sight of the path ahead," he added.

In yet another very troubling remark by the US President, Bush said that any final-status agreement must be reached between the two parties, and changes to the 1949 Armistice lines must be mutually agreed to. A viable two-state solution must ensure contiguity of the West Bank, and a state of scattered territories will not work, he stressed.

You cannot have territorial contiguity of BOTH Israel and Palestine. Several weeks ago, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice called for territorial contiguity for the Palestinians, a move which would cut Israel in half. Why? Why must it be Israel that has to forfeit territorial contiguity? Needless to say, the reports out of Washington yesterday are deeply disturbing to us here. Our only comfort, particularly for those who are dual citizens of Israel and America, is that ultimately all of these events hasten us toward Ultimate Redemption. But at the cost of how much pain along the way?

A Blow to US - Israel Relations

The Chairman of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee says Thursday's Bush-Abu Mazen meeting is a great blow to Israeli-U.S. relations, and proves that Sharon is deceiving the public. The committee chairman, Likud MK Yuval Shteinitz (pictured), said today that everything Sharon has long said he was promised by U.S. President George Bush amounts to zero, because "Bush said yesterday that the basis for everything is the pre-1967 borders."

Prime Minister Sharon has long boasted that Bush has promised him that he would support Israel's right to retain large settlement blocs in Judea and Samaria in any final-status arrangement. However, Shteinitz said, Bush's remarks on Thursday represent "a regression even from previous American positions in favor of UN Resolution 242, which talked about 'defensible borders.'" In fact, Bush referred not to the 1967 borders, but rather to the 1949 Armistice Lines, which are even less generous to Israel in some areas.

"It is deception and misleading of the public," Shteinitz said, "when Prime Minister Sharon claimed that the United States and Bush would support the Israeli position in talks after the disengagement." Shteinitz further said, "Abu Mazen is doing nothing against terrorism, as the Shabak (GSS), and even Sharon himself, have said. The opposite: he is allowing Hamas and the terrorist organizations to get stronger, and even to run in the elections. And this same Abu Mazen receives compliments in Washington for his opposition to terrorism."

Associate Prime Minister Shimon Peres said Friday morning that the Bush "promise" regarding Israel's right to retain large settlement blocs no longer exists, for all intents and purposes. Peres explained that this is because Bush made sure to say in the press conference with Abu Mazen on Thursday that the future of the areas requires Palestinian Authority agreement.

In summary, these are the issues that cause deep concern to Israel and should cause equal concern to American supporters of Israel: 1) Explicit reference to Jerusalem in the phrase "Israel should not undertake any activity that prejudice final status negotiations with regard to Gaza, the West Bank and Jerusalem." 2) Acceptance of validity of a "terror" party running in the elections. 3) Implicit acceptance of the PA position that the "punishment" for murdering Israelis is a day job in the PA security forces.

I can only hope that the email inboxes at the White House are being jammed beyond belief by those of you who support Israel on a biblical and moral basis.

Shalom and blessings, Leah

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INSIDE THE WHITE HOUSE

By Bill Koenig
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Note from Pastor Kevin: The following is only a portion of Bill Koenig's weekly update. I encourage the reader to visit Bill's website at www.watch.org where you can subscribe to the full version of his very insightful news briefings.

Bush and Abbas Make Alarming Statements

President George W. Bush is rapidly moving himself and our nation on a collision course with God over Israel's covenant land. His peace efforts and personal commitments on the surface sound good but they are biblically wrong. He is calling for a contiguous Palestinian state from Ramallah to Gaza, which will divide Israel. Additionally, his plan to put a Palestinian state on God's covenant land and replace Jews with Palestinian terrorists is incomprehensible. The whole peace process is built on lies, deception

misperceptions and unfairness.

President Bush's efforts could very well lead Israel into a civil war and further division.

He will be responsible for the forceful evacuation of Jews by Jews off the land God gave to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and their descendants. If his policies are implemented, Israel will be living with indefensible borders.

Is the God of Israel going to let this happen without further judgment? History says no. The war on terror is judgment which has cost \$1 trillion in the U.S. and \$300 billion in Iraq and Afghanistan — and the cost is rapidly climbing. It's dreadful to ponder what is next for those directly responsible for putting the "apple of God's eye" at risk. I sense that President Bush believes God is going to bless his plan to bring freedom, democracy and peace to the Middle East; he says freedom is a gift from God. He thinks he is going to bring peace to the Israelis and the Palestinians.

In reality, President Bush is rapidly moving into territory that will very likely produce events that will cause his presidency to be a major failure. Unless there is a course change, which doesn't seem likely, the Bush Administration and the U.S. will pay an enormous price. Our Lord is not a respecter of man, especially one who puts His people at risk.

The following are the main points from President Bush's and Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas' White House Rose Garden press conference on May 26. The words speak for themselves.

PRESIDENT BUSH:

- Israel must continue to take steps toward a peaceful future, and work with the Palestinian leadership to improve the daily lives of Palestinians, especially their humanitarian situation.
- Israel should not undertake any activity that contravenes road map obligations or prejudices final status negotiations with regard to Gaza, the West Bank and Jerusalem.
- Therefore, Israel must remove unauthorized outposts and stop settlement expansion.
- The barrier being erected by Israel as a part of its security effort must be a security, rather than political, barrier. And its route should take into account, consistent with security needs, its impact on Palestinians not engaged in terrorist activities.
- As we make progress toward security, and in accordance with the road map, Israeli forces should withdraw to the positions held on September 28, 2000.
- Any final status agreement must be reached between the two parties,

- and changes to the 1949 Armistice lines must be mutually agreed to.
- A viable two-state solution must ensure contiguity of the West Bank, and a state of scattered territories will not work.
- There must also be meaningful linkages between the West Bank and Gaza. This is the position of the United States today, [and] it will be the position of the United States at the time of final status negotiations.
- The imminent Israeli disengagement from Gaza, parts of the West Bank, presents an opportunity to lay the groundwork for a return to the road map.
- All parties have a responsibility to make this hopeful moment in the region a new and peaceful beginning. That is why I assigned General Kip Ward, who is with us today, to support your efforts, Mr. President [Abbas], to reform the Palestinian security services and to coordinate the efforts of the international community to make that crucial task a success.
- The United States also strongly supports the mission of the Quartet's special envoy, Jim Wolfensohn, to make sure that the Gaza disengagement brings Palestinians a better life.
- To help ensure that the Gaza disengagement is a success, the United States will provide to the Palestinian Authority \$50 million to be used for new housing and infrastructure projects in Gaza. These funds will be used to improve the quality of life of the Palestinians living in Gaza, where poverty and unemployment are very high.
- He has also asked Secretary Rice to travel to Jerusalem and Ramallah before the beginning of the Israeli withdrawal. Secretary Rice will consult with Israelis and Palestinians on the disengagement, their shared commitments and the way back on the road map.
- He stated as we work to make the disengagement succeed, we must not lose sight of the path ahead. The United States remains committed to the road map as the only way to realize the vision of two democratic states living side-by-side in peace and security.



Mr. President [Abbas], we will work with you to help realize the dream of a free and democratic Palestine, to bring greater freedom, security and prosperity to all peoples in the region, and to achieve the lasting peace we all seek.

PRESIDENT ABBAS (as translated):

These discussions afford us with the opportunity to emphasize the central and essential role played by you, Mr. President [Bush], and by your administration, in supporting and advancing the peace process toward the realization of your vision of ending the Israeli occupation that started in 1967 and the establishment of a democratic, free and independent Palestine to live side-by-side with the state of Israel in order to create a better future for the peoples of the region.



In our talks, we also discussed the ongoing democratic process in Palestine. This process has successfully presented, through the presidential elections and the local municipal elections, that the Palestinians have succeeded in carrying out transparent and fair elections under very difficult circumstances, another example of the capability of our people and their ability to build an independent democratic state once we achieve our freedom and our independence.

- We look forward to the free movement and the freedom of movement and the removal of Israeli roadblock and check points, and the Israeli withdrawal to positions prior to September 28th, 2000, and as well as implementing the various understanding that we have reached with the Israeli government in Sharm el-Sheikh.
- We stress that democracy cannot flourish under occupation and in the absence of freedom.
- In this regard, we expressed our deep concern over the continuous Israeli settlement activities and the construction of the wall on our land, particularly in the area of Jerusalem.
- These settlement activities, in addition to undermining President Bush's vision in establishing a Palestinian and contiguous state, that it is a viable state that can live side-by-side by the state of Israel, it also contributes to the feeling of frustration and despair and the loss of hope.
- We are extending our hands to the Israeli people in good intention. We are saying that peace and dialogue and the recognition of the other side's rights is what will create a good neighborhood and achieve security and prosperity for our people and the peoples of the region.

- We have assured the President that the Palestinian Authority is ready to coordinate with the Israeli side in order to ensure the success of its withdrawal from Gaza and the West Bank upon the Israeli evacuation. We see this evacuation as a part of ending the occupation, and it should not be at the expense of the West Bank.
- We must then immediately move to permanent status negotiations to deal with the issues of Al-Quds, East Jerusalem, as a capital of the future state of Palestine, the issues of refugees, settlements, borders, security, and water, on the basis of President Bush's vision, and on the basis of U.N. resolutions, and the basis of the Arab Initiative.
- It is time for the Palestinian-Israeli conflict to end, right now. It is time for our people, after many decades of suffering and dispossessions, to enjoy living in freedom and independence on their own land. And we should accelerate the freedom of our prisoners in order to be a part of peace-making.

Note from Pastor Kevin Lea: The news coming out of the Middle-East this week is hard to believe, unless one has looked into the future by studying the writings of the Hebrew prophets as recorded in the Bible.

The Bible teaches that in the last days Jews would return to the Promised Land and that Israel would become a nation again in one day (Ezekiel 36-37 and Isaiah 66:6-9). These prophecies were and are being fulfilled. Israel became a nation in one day on May 15, 1948, and Jews continue to return to their land from the four corners of the earth.

*The Bible also predicts that in the last days all nations of the world would be gathered against Israel (Zechariah 14). Until recently, this has been literally fulfilled **EXCEPT** for America and a handful of third world countries.*

President George W. Bush is the first American President to propose statehood for the Arab/Muslim Palestinians in the land that God gave to the Jews. His predecessors avoided discussing statehood because they knew it would become a stepping-stone to the destruction of the nation of Israel.

It is clear from the promises that President Bush gave to Mahmoud Abbas this week that America is joining with the rest of the world in prodding Israel into national suicide.

The Bible also prophesies that these plans of men will not accomplish their goal (Psalm 2, Psalm 83). Those who fight against

the nation of Israel are actually fighting against God.

Some, in their foolishness are betting that the world leaders will solve the Middle-East conflict by making Israel go away. Smart money sides with the divine promises of God to His promise and witness people, the Jews.

By way of application, either American pressure will succeed in forcing Israel into national suicide, or America will lose its ability to pressure Israel or anyone. The later scenario has frightening consequences for those who only have hope in this world.

*Gen 12:2 I [God] will make you [descendants of Abraham through Isaac, i.e., Israel] a great nation; I will bless you and make your name great; and you shall be a blessing. 3 I will bless those who bless you [Israel], **and I will curse him who curses you;** and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed." (NKJ)*

Many Bible teachers are sensing the same ominous clouds of judgment forming as a result of our national policy against Israel. I pray that all Christians will first trust in the Lord Jesus during the coming times of trouble and realize that it is time to get serious about preaching the gospel of Jesus while there is still time, because it appears that the time of cushy life in America will soon be over.