

Israeli news

U.S., Israel working on deal to limit settlement expansion

By MATTHEW E. BERGER

WASHINGTON (JTA) - The United States and Israel are working on a deal that would end most expansion of settlements, according to an Israeli official in Washington. The deal calls for no building of new settlements, no expropriation of land for building and no external expansion of existing settlements, said the official, speaking on the condition of anonymity.

However, it is believed that Israel would be allowed to continue construction projects inside settlements where homes have already been built. "We are going to use creativity to get to a win-win situation," the Israeli official said. But the official noted that any settlement agreement with the Palestinians would only come after a complete cease-fire, a cooling-off period and the implementation of confidence-building measures.

These steps were contained in the guidelines of an international fact-finding commission led by former Sen. George Mitchell released last month. Discussions about the settlement issue have been taking place between Israeli officials and William Burns, assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern affairs, who is in the Middle East.

"Israel is willing to find a formula that all sides can live with," the Israeli official told JTA. While welcoming the U.S.-Israel talks, Lewis Roth, assistant executive director of Americans for Peace Now, said there are still several open questions remaining about settlements.

Among the issues yet to be broached are whether additional land will be expropriated for

access roads between settlements and Israel, and whether settlements believed to have been built after the election earlier this year of Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon will remain intact, Roth said.

The definition of the settlement boundaries will also be key, he told JTA. "For this proposal to have any meaning, it is going to have to have a very narrow definition of what the boundaries are," said Roth, whose organization is opposed to settlement expansion. Roth said a broad interpretation of the boundaries could allow "considerable new construction to go on."

State Department spokesman Richard Boucher denied June 6 that an agreement had yet been achieved. "We have not reached any agreement with the Israelis on settlement activities," Boucher said. "We continue to see settlement activity as provocative as it risks inflaming already volatile situations in the region, and therefore we continue to see it as one of the issues - an issue that definitely needs to be addressed as part of the efforts to build confidence between the parties."

However, Boucher refused to comment on any new proposals made by Israel regarding settlements. He did, however, acknowledge that the topic is being dealt with in discussions involving Burns, the Israelis and ambassadors in the region.

The discussions come as Israeli-Palestinian violence diminished last week, following separate calls for a cease-fire from each side. CIA Director George Tenet arrived in the region June 6 to hold separate discussions with Israeli and Palestinian officials on security issues.

Separation plan revived

(Cont. from page 1.)

The idea of fencing off the West Bank was raised during former Prime Minister Ehud Barak's term. He advocated total separation from the Palestinians if peace negotiations, which became deadlocked before the violence began last fall, remained frozen. Some had argued at the time against the idea, because a fence could be seen as an acceptance of the border that existed before the 1967 war.

Prime Minister Ariel Sharon has refrained from embracing his predecessor's separation plan, which included a unilateral Israeli withdrawal from isolated Jewish settlements in the West Bank. His spokesman, Ra'anan Gissin, dismissed the fence idea last week. "You can't cut off the territories with a fence and hope it will work," Gissin said June 5. "It's a very long and winding border. You would have to build about 600 miles of fences, he said.

Instead, Sharon is currently eyeing an Israel Defence Force plan for creating a security zone - as wide as five miles in some areas - that would have the 1967 line between Israel and the West Bank as its western border. Many of the Israeli settlements in the West Bank would fall within the planned zone, whose eastern border would fall near Palestinian-controlled areas.

Located within the zone would be physical obstacles such as trenches, as well as lookout posts and electronic and thermal detection devices. The estimated cost, according to the army: \$250 million U.S. Critics like Transportation Minister Ephraim Sneh, a former deputy defence minister, argue that the cost will be much higher.

IDF officials hope that by using aerial reconnaissance and increased ground patrols the zone would greatly enhance security. The idea is not new. A similar plan was proposed by former Internal Security Minister Moshe Shahal following a series of terror attacks in early 1996. Under his plan, Palestinians would not be allowed to work inside Israel - a move that could now prove devastating to the faltering Palestinian economy.

Even as the idea of separation is reviving, opponents are raising their voices loud and clear. Likud legislator Gideon Ezra charged that a separation plan, no matter how carefully planned, will prove ineffective. "What will you do here if you have 10 simultaneous penetrations?" he asked. "Will you fight the infiltrators within Israeli cities?" Ezra said the billions of shekels that would be invested in the plan would be a total waste of money. "I will do everything possible to prevent investing money under stress, an investment which will not bring about the desired results," he said.

Sneh said the main obstacle to the plan would be the settlers, who would be caught within the newly created security zone. He said the zone - reminiscent of the one Israel maintained in southern Lebanon until May of last year - would be an area in which settlers and soldiers would be the target of Palestinian militants. But supporters of the idea, like Likud legislator Michael Eitan, argue that it is better than having suicide bombers strike in Tel Aviv.



ARIEL SHARON, Israeli prime minister: Eyeing a plan for creating a security zone, with the 1967 border as its western border.

Israeli news

Palestinian terror attacks persist despite Israel's unilateral cease-fire

JERUSALEM (JTA) - Following is a timeline of major attacks that Palestinian terrorists carried out after Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon declared a unilateral cease-fire on May 21. It does not include numerous attacks of lesser scope during the same period.

Sharon rescinded the ceasefire declaration on June 2, a day after a deadly suicide bombing at a Tel Aviv disco, but has yet to order any military retaliation.

May 23 - An Israeli motorist is killed and another wounded by Palestinian gunfire near the West Bank settlement of Ariel.

May 25 - A car bomb explodes near the Hadera bus station. At least 39 people are injured in that blast, and the two suicide bombers are killed. Another suicide bombing takes place outside an Israeli



Demonstrators protest outside Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's Jerusalem office May 31, following a week in which settlers were killed almost every day in Palestinian drive by shootings. Credit: Brian Hender/JTA.

army post in the Gaza Strip, killing only the perpetrator.

May 27 - Two car bombings take place in the heart of western Jerusalem. The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine claims responsibility for the first blast, which explodes shortly after midnight, causing no injuries. The second car bombing, coming hours before the start of the Shavuot holiday, is packed with mortar shells. The Islamic Jihad terror group claims responsibility for the blast, which injures some 30 people.

May 29 - Three Israelis are killed in separate shooting attacks in

the West Bank. Gilead Zar, a security guard for a West Bank settlement, is killed in a roadside ambush near Nablus, three months after he was seriously wounded in another shooting incident. Later that day, on the way to Zar's funeral, a resident of the settlement of Efrat - Sarah Blaustein, 53, an immigrant from the United States - is killed when shots are fired at her car. Her husband, Norman, is slightly wounded, and a son, Sammy, is seriously wounded with three bullets in his back.

Another person in the car, Esther Alva, 20, dies several hours after

the attack. Terrorists also open fire on the Zar funeral procession.

May 30 - A car bomb explodes outside a high school in the Israeli coastal city of Netanya, injuring six people. Classes are not in session at the time of the

explosion.

May 31 - An Israeli settler is killed by Palestinian gunmen while driving near the West Bank city of Tulkarm. Zvi Shelef, 63, dies of massive head wounds. The attack takes place hours after Israeli and

Palestinian security officials meet for a second time in two days but fail to find a way to end the violence.

June 1 - A suicide bomber kills 20 Israelis and wounds more than 90 at a Tel Aviv beachside disco.

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SYNAGOGUE SERVICE TIMES

BETH ISRAEL SYNAGOGUE
Saturday, June 16, services 9:30 a.m. Mincha following Kiddush. Sunday, June 17, Tallit & Tefillin, 9:30 a.m. Monday, June 18-Thursday, June 21, services 7:15 a.m. & 7:00 p.m. Friday, June 22, services 7:30 a.m. & 8:00 p.m.
BNAY ABRAHAM SYNAGOGUE
Friday, June 15 - morning service at 7:30 a.m., evening service at 9:00 p.m., candle lighting at 9:21 p.m. Saturday, June 16 - morning service at 9:00 a.m., evening service at 9:00 p.m. Shabbat ends at 10:32 p.m. Sunday, June 17 - morning service at 9:00 a.m., evening service at 9:00 p.m. Monday, June 18-Thursday, June 21 (Rosh Chodesh) - morning service at 7:30 a.m., evening service at 9:00 p.m.
CIA VURAT TEFILA SYNAGOGUE
Friday, June 15. Candles: 9:21. Mincha: 8:00. Shacharit: 9:30. Shabbat ends: 10:32.
CHEVRA MISHNAYES SYNAGOGUE
700 Jefferson Avenue. Daily morning services (Monday to Friday), 7:30 a.m. Sundays and statutory holidays, 9:00 a.m. Friday, June 15 (24 Sivan), Mincha and Kabbalat Shabbat, 8:00 p.m. Saturday, June 16, (25 Sivan), Shabbat morning service, 9:30 a.m.; Parshat Sh'lich; Kiddush and words from the Torah at the conclusion of Musaf. Mincha service, after 12:00 noon. Traditional Orthodox services are conducted, and everyone is welcome.
CONGREGATION SHAAREY ZEDKIM
561 Wellington Crescent. Daily morning service (Monday-Friday), 7:30 a.m. Daily evening service (Monday-Friday): 6:00 p.m. Sunday & statutory holiday mornings: 9:15 a.m. Shabbat morning service: 9:15 a.m. (Monday-Thursday); 6:00 p.m. Shabbat morning: Learner's minyan (ages 8-13) 10:30 to noon. Junior Congregation (younger children) 10:30 to noon. Family Minyan (young children & parents) 10:30. Prairie Ruach Minyan - worship for the mind, body, heart & soul - starting November 10 at 8 p.m. and continuing the 2nd Friday of each month.
ROSH PINA CONGREGATION
Friday, June 15, sundown 9:39 p.m., candle lighting at 9:21 p.m., morning service at 7:30 a.m., evening service at 7:00 p.m. Saturday, June 16, sundown 9:39 p.m., morning service at 9:00 a.m., evening service at 9:00 p.m. Shabbat ends at 10:21 p.m. Sunday, June 17, sundown 9:40 p.m., morning service at 9:00 a.m., evening service at 8:30 p.m. Monday, June 18-Thursday, June 21, sundown 9:40 p.m., morning service at 7:30 a.m., evening service at 8:30 p.m.
TALMUD TORAH - BETH JACOB SYNAGOGUE
Located at 1525 Main Street. Candle lighting time for Friday, June 15 at 9:21 p.m. Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat at 7:45 p.m. Saturday morning service at 9:15 a.m. Sedra of the week - Shelach. Mevarchim Hachodesh. Mincha service at 9:20 p.m. Shabbat ends at 10:32 p.m. Sunday Shacharit service at 9:00 a.m. Daily Shacharit service (Monday to Friday) at 7:30 a.m. Daily Mincha/Maariv services at 7:45 p.m. Rosh Chodesh Tammuz - Thursday, June 21 and Friday, June 22. Traditional Orthodox services are conducted, and everyone is invited to attend.
TEMPLE SHALOM
Temple Shalom, Winnipeg's only Reform Congregation, 1077 Grant Avenue, will be holding: On Friday, June 15 a Shabbat service led by Rabbi Levenson. The service will begin at 8:00 p.m. All are welcome.

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