



PRIME MINISTER

TRANSCRIPT OF PRESS CONFERENCE, KING DAVID HOTEL, JERUSALEM,
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JOURNALIST: What did Mr Peres have to say when you repeated, I assume, what you had to say earlier in the day about the PLO and Israel recognising each other?

PM: I think the fullness of the discussions I had with Mr Peres on that subject are appropriately left to us at this point. Suffice to say that he completely understood the sense in which I put those propositions.

JOURNALIST: Did he raise with you the possibility of when you are next dealing with the United States that you could make approaches concerning them getting involved in the peace processes again?

PM: We talked about the involvement of the United States in the peace process. You shouldn't ^{assume} that the United States is not involved

JOURNALIST: What do you mean ...

PM: It wasn't meant to be an esoteric comment. The United States is aware of the processes that have been going on. I think the correct thing to say is that the United States doesn't have the high profile in those processes as historically you have come to associate with them.

JOURNALIST: Was there a marked difference in the style of your talks with Mr Peres and the way he approached this issue and the approach of Mr Shamir?

PM: They were later in the evening and I guess it is obvious that because I have known Mr Peres now - the friendship goes back to 1971 to my first visit to Israel. And we are of the same political persuasion so there is a greater camaraderie between Mr Peres and myself.

JOURNALIST: Mr Hawke, you said the discussions ... could you explain that?

PM: No, I can't.

JOURNALIST: Mr Hawke, did you ask Mr Peres about Israel's alleged arms sales to South Africa ...

PM: Yes, we had a discussion about that and Mr Peres gave me a fairly lengthy exposition. Again all the details of which I am not at this stage in a position to talk about because I want to discuss that matter with my colleagues on my return. But let me say this that Mr Peres assured me that Israel would associate itself with any international decisions taken on the question of South Africa. And that Israel totally abhorred and repudiated apartheid.

PM cont: As to some of the detail of that area of discussion I will want to talk with my colleagues about that before I say anything more.

JOURNALIST: Did you leave your talks with Mr Peres more confident that Israel and the PLO may sometime in the near future ... down to some sort of recognition?

PM: I think the correct way to put it is this, Greg. Mr Peres in no sense disputed the analysis that I made. Indeed, it accorded essentially with the things that he has been saying himself. But there must be uncertainties as to what the PLO will say about the essential elements of the position, that is the acceptance of 242 and 338 - the right of Israel to exist. And within that framework of course the non-use of terror. There must be some question as to what the processes of decision-making are within the PLO to reach that point and how long it will take. Now there may be - let me rephrase that - there would be differences of opinion amongst any number of people that you want to ask on that issue as to how long it might take. But as to the essentiality of that process and agreement as to the reciprocal, that is that in those circumstances an obligation on the part of Israel to recognise the right of the PLO to be involved in the processes.

JOURNALIST: Mr Hawke, did you enquire where the case against Mordechai Vanunu was up to?

PM: I merely informed Mr Peres of the discussion that I have had with the Foreign Minister on that. There was, as I indicated in an earlier conference, I was satisfied with answer the Prime Minister had given, that is and let me repeat it. Firstly, that Mr Vanunu was receiving normal treatment. And secondly, that indeed he was given special treatment of being allowed to be visited by his American woman friend which was against the normal procedures. And I informed Mr Peres that that is what the Prime Minister had told. It is not a question of confirming it, but yes that is what is happening. And so there was not point in any further discussion.

JOURNALIST: Mr Hawke, what did Mr Peres say about Soviet participation in the international conference?

PM: ... Mr Peres confirmed that his adherence to the commitment that he gave in the discussions with Mr Mubarak that is that there was a place for an international conference and that as far as the Soviet Union was concerned that he had nominated the two conditions that is the recognition by the Soviet Union of Israel in terms of the resumption of diplomatic relations. And the second thing ... the change in the treatment by the Soviet Union of Soviet Jewry. Let me, as you raised the question of the international conference, make it clear that it is the endorsement of the concept of an international conference Mr Peres reaffirmed his view on the nature of that international conference, that is that it would not impose the resolution of the issues on the parties directly involved. And ... necessary definition from that. In fact, it would be a matter for direct negotiation between the parties under the framework of such a conference. Indeed, you will appreciate from what I have said following my discussions with King Hussein and the Prime Minister of Jordan that the position as to the nature of the conference is the same as between Mr Peres and the Jerusalemites.

JOURNALIST: Would you say that Mr Peres was ... satisfied with the impressions you brought with you from your talks with King Hussein and the Prime Minister in Amman?

PM: Yes indeed. I think it confirmed the judgement that Shimon had himself made but it was, I think, reassuring to have so recently and so explicitly a statement about his positions.

JOURNALIST: Mr Hawke, do you have any more information about the Sharon visit?

PM: ~~No, I don't other than that, and I am assuming that you have~~ heard this, that I understand that the actual dates that Mr Sharon unilaterally announced seem not to be capable of being fitted into Mr Dawkins' agenda.

JOURNALIST: He is going though, isn't he?

PM: I assume that once our Minister has said that the dates that Mr Sharon announced were not suitable to him - Mr Dawkins - there will be further discussions between them and that is where the matter rests as I understand it.

JOURNALIST: Prime Minister, now that you are about to leave Israel have you achieved what you hoped to achieve? What is the overview?

PM: Yes, I have achieved what I wanted to do and that was to be as well informed as I possibly could of the attitudes and positions parties principle. I have been to Jordan and I couldn't have been given a more fullsome, detailed, frank exposition of their position. I believe that has now been reciprocated, if I can use that word, here in Israel now that I have had the opportunity of having very long talks with the Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister. I have, I think, as clear an understanding now anyone from the world outside the parties directly involved what these positions are. And having said that, I repeat what I said at the outset that I didn't come to offer myself as a mediator. I think that as a result of what I have learned I am extremely well equipped to go into the discussions with President Mubarak. By that I mean that because of what I have been told by Jordan and Israel I will be very well equipped to understand and ask the appropriate questions of President Mubarak so that I will be totally understanding of the position of Egypt. I simply repeat that at the end of those processes which may I say also included a very valuable opportunity of listening to representatives of the Palestinian people in Jerusalem. At the end of all that there is a view that there may be some things that we could do to help the processes of peace. And reaffirm the strength, as I said at the beginning, that we would be prepared to do that .

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