



Feb 10 1992

*With the compliments*

*of the*

*Consulate General*

*of the*

*United States of America*

Faisal--Secretary Baker asked that we forward this letter from him to you.

*With best regards,*

*D. L. M. Winn*



CONSULATE GENERAL OF THE  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

JERUSALEM

February 10, 1992

Mr. Faisal Hussein  
Head of the Palestinian Team to  
the Peace Conference  
Jerusalem

Dear Faisal:

It was good to see you in Moscow and be able to discuss first hand our respective views on the challenges that lie ahead in the peace process. As I mentioned in Moscow, I believe the multilaterals offer the prospect of significant gains for Palestinians, and thus I hope Palestinians will join the process when it gets off the ground in late April and early May. As I said in Moscow, we will support participation by diaspora Palestinians in appropriate working groups, such as economic development and refugees.

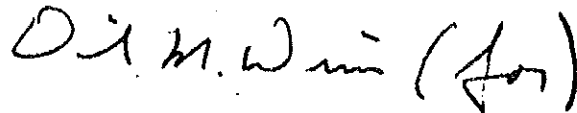
I was struck in Moscow by your description of the hardships on the ground which you and your colleagues face. We have raised these concerns, many of which we share, at the highest levels of the Israeli Government with the view toward reducing, if not eliminating, the most severe burdens of the occupation. I also share your concern about the accelerated pace of settlements activity, a problem which remains high on my agenda.

It is a very positive development that you have put on the table an outline of your views on interim self-government arrangements. We are encouraging the Israelis to develop their views. This and coming rounds of negotiations should be used to flesh out these outlines and to identify the key issues on which agreement needs to be reached. Through negotiations, agreement can be reached to effect the peaceful and orderly transfer of authority from Israel to Palestinians, which would give Palestinians control over political, economic, and other decisions that affect their lives. I look forward to your report of progress achieved during this round of negotiations and to hear your views on the prospects for moving ahead.

From the beginning of this process, the United States has said that it is prepared to be a driving force in the negotiations. It is critical, however, that our influence be brought to bear at the appropriate time and on the appropriate issues. To reach this point, it is essential that the parties themselves define their positions in a workable fashion, so that differences in positions become clarified and possible bridging ideas become apparent. This requires more intensive engagement on substance, which should be the focus of efforts in the coming rounds.

I want to reconfirm the commitment of both President Bush and myself to see this process through to its required objective, namely, a comprehensive settlement. Please look at what we are doing, and what we are saying -- in the U.N., in our public statements, and in our bilateral talks with Israel. Our engagement remains intense, and we will be prepared to exert efforts to help the parties overcome substantive problems. We are in this process to achieve vital U.S. national interests, as well as to help the people of the region enjoy the peace that they deserve.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "J. A. Baker III" with a stylized flourish at the end.

James A. Baker III  
U.S. Secretary of State