

Paul: I am representing the American side. I do not want to speak for long because there is important work that you should accomplish. There has been numerous meetings, but matters became worse afterwards. I hope that this meeting will come up with positive results.

General Iytsek: Good evening. I give my blessing to this meeting and extend gratitude to the American side who exerted much effort to convene this meeting. I am sorry that Jibril did not come to this meeting because he is a very important person along with those who are here. We came to this meeting after the political leadership agreed on Mitchell report and also the agreement of Israel's government on a ceasefire. It is important to listen to you, and after that we will continue our discussion.

General Amin: I express thanks to the American side for providing this opportunity to meet in this place, especially since there has been other meetings under its supervision. I stress that the absence of brother Jibril does not mean that we do not want to take part in work or be committed to the results of the meeting. Preventative Security is present here, and we deal with institutions, not individuals. We are pleased to hear that the Israeli political leadership has agreed on the Mitchell report, and stress that our Palestinian leadership has sent a letter agreeing on the recommendations of the committee as a package. In regard to the issue of a ceasefire, this matter will be under discussion because we believe that it is. I hope that there will be a political meeting between the two leaderships in order to have their instructions.

General Iytsek: Because the government of Israel has agreed on the Mitchell report, and the first thing mentioned in the report is immediate and final ceasefire. But in reality the one who stopped fire is the Israeli

side. In spite of this, we see remarkable increase in shootings by your side, and more than before. It is very important to have full ceasefire. The continuation of the current situation will force us to respond. We only respond when there is a threat against life. The area that appeared was Beithlehem, as there were a number of meetings there under American mediation. But this experience failed.

General Amin: We do not want to have a dialogue without result. You raised Mitchell report. Let us discuss its recommendations and find out how we can implement them as a package without dividing them. If we speak in detail about shootings, there are 200 cases of shooting by your side. Let us agree on whether we are authorized here to create a mechanism for implementing Mitchell report, or we only receive instructions from the political echelon.

General Iytsek: In regard to security matters in the West Bank, we applied a ceasefire. What happens there is only in response to sources of shooting against us. We are abiding by a complete ceasefire because there is a political decision by the government to do so. If we would like to progress, the Palestinian side should also apply a ceasefire. We hope that there will be a call on all organizations to follow a ceasefire and stop operations. I do not want to speak about the number of operations in the West Bank. Nevertheless, we shall continue to give facilities regardless of operations. We will soon allow another number of workers to go to Israel. So far, we did not hear any call from the Palestinian leadership for a ceasefire. On the other hand, we hear from the Palestinian media calls to carry out operations against Israel. The key to continue work is a ceasefire and to halt operations everywhere in Israel and the West Bank. In my opinion this is the key to continue talks.

Ofer: Thank you for this meeting. I am sorry that Jibril is here today, and I am pleased that his representatives are present. I accept what Abu Fouzi said in regard to working with an institution, not an individual. This meeting is taking place with a good intention by our side, although we do not agree on a number of issues. I hope that we will take decisions at the end of this meeting. There are two matters that constitute keys for work:

1. Commitment to fighting terrorism and a ceasefire.
2. Agreement on continuing meetings. We came to this meeting with a good intention and an open heart. We are ready to listen to what you raise.

Haj Ismail: We welcome this meeting and hope it will succeed. This meeting comes after a difficult time, and following deterioration in confidence between the two sides. I am pleased to hear what the general said about the Israeli government's position vis-à-vis the Mitchell report. We extend gratitude to the United States which contribute by making the report the basis for halting the cycle of violence. I would like the Israeli government to look at the report as one package and not to be selective about it. We do not consider that there is an exchange of fire. There is shooting from the Israeli side only. We do not possess F-16 aircrafts, helicopters, tanks or cannons. We do not follow a policy of assassinating innocent soldiers. We welcome the decision of the government to implement a ceasefire, but it is important to treat the causes of the current situation. We expected the government to announce a program to implement the Mitchell report starting with a ceasefire which is a simple part of violence that also includes assassinations, demolishing houses, bulldozing land, construction of settlements, arrests and closures. We hope that there will be good intentions, especially because we are meeting here to stop violence. We hope to translate the security section of the

Mitchell report by taking measures that restore the situation to what it was before 28 September. It is also not true that shooting by your side always responds to shootings. There are matters that you start, as happened today in Jericho, which contradicts with what the prime minister says. In addition to tenders published today by Shiransky. Do these actions push matters towards calm? There is a big gap between us that you can bridge by taking more steps, and by freezing settlement activity. We are here as one group working with directions from the political echelon. We have instructions to work with you to stop violence. Any meeting that does not have an objective will fail. If the objective of the political and security movement is to implement the Mitchell recommendations, we are ready for that. But what you do does not express good intentions to implement the Mitchell report. You are capable of transforming the Mitchell report into a positive case if you want to. You can also transform it into a paper without value, and this is what we feel you are doing. We hope the general will do his best to restore the status quo. Without positive steps, we cannot perform our duties under Israeli pressure. Whenever we progress politically, we progress at the security level. I confirm that our meetings in areas did not stop, and these meetings are important for restoring confidence. I consider it important to continue them, but it is very important to cover them politically.

General Iytsek: We always hear what we should do. We do not hear what you should do.

Haj Ismail: How would you like me to act when we are under the fire of aircrafts and tanks. We will not be like Lahed troops. Why don't you take steps on the ground and move politically to see the importance of our

role. In order to act, we will enter a fierce battle. So what is the political foundation? Is it bright promises and the policy of launching strikes against the Palestinians? I believe you are objective more than any other person. Therefore, we expect you to create a suitable political climate for us. We are prepared to work hard when we feel you are serious. With all due respect to the United States, we feel that it is biased towards Israel. We look forward to seeing an international role to judge who acts and who does not act.

Brigadier General Tawfiq: You mentioned points that you consider distant from the political climate. You say there people who make public statements in support of operations. All of your ministers make stronger statements and attack president Arafat in the media. The ceasefire is only a media ploy. After you took the decision, every thing was distant from self-defense. I will give only 3 examples:

The killing of the five soldiers was not in response to shooting. There is also the killing of 11 policemen in Nablus and shelling of Jibril's house. These are three examples that did not include shooting. Ofer says he would like to have a commitment from us against terrorism. Haj Ismail called every thing you do terrorism from occupation to uprooting trees. In regard to the continuity of meetings, we have been always positive about them and always come with good intentions. We cannot do any work without being complete at the political and security levels. We refuse the issue of seniority in these meetings. The brothers who are present in this meeting are the most senior officials we have. Your representation and the US representation should be the highest level you have.

Haj Isamil. We respect all those who are in the meeting, and we are fully confident that those who come to the meeting have the desire to work. Not coming to the meeting does not mean unwillingness to work.

Ofer: This is a security meeting, not a political one. A week ago the prime minister declared a ceasefire, and you say this is not serious. A number of operations took place which included the killing of Israelis and shooting Gilo. Our statistics indicate that there is rise in the curve. The prime minister agreed on the Mitchell report and you say this is a maneuver.

Haj Ismail: We did not mention the word maneuver.

Ofer: You have a comment on the arrests that we conduct. I would like to listen to what you would like us to do when we know that there are cells which carry on terrorist operations?

General Iytsek: The issues you raised are important issues. We should reach an agreement through negotiations. No negotiations will overcome the occurrence of terrorist operations that cause huge life losses. I have many examples that respond to Tirawi. Three are dead today, bombings in Jerusalem and shooting at settlements. The key to progress is a ceasefire and an end to operations and terrorism. The continued operations will not bring us back to negotiations. The Israeli side implemented a ceasefire. But the Palestinian side did not say a word, did not implement a ceasefire and terrorist operations increased in all places. The only call we hear is for escalation. I did not want to bring the material that has been published in your official papers and the cartoon that was published against the prime minister. Therefore, you can see

how we respect the Head of the Authority. On the other hand, we can see how much you respect our prime minister. If incitement is not stopped, it will lead to numerous operations and this is what prevents the resumption of negotiations.

General Amin: I thank Ofer and the general for stressing Israel's agreement on the Mitchell report. Our duty is to find a mechanism for implementing the security section in the report under the title stopping violence. The general spoke about incitement which is part of the Mitchell report and a cause for violence. Let us follow a timetable for implementing the report. Our concept of violence is different from yours. Let us define and eliminate the causes of violence. You can see that shooting is violence. I agree with you. But settlement activity, blockade and entering areas (a) is violence as well. Let us define the concept of violence. You put restrictions on our movement and demand from us to take measures. You prevent me from traveling to here to give instructions to Tawfiq. I need American help to get to here. You created this mess. I demand from the Americans to be more active, not mere witnesses. Today we met with Ambassador Burns and our political leadership presented a mechanism to implement the agreement. Weakening the Authority does not create security. A Shabak spokesman said that the person who carried out Netanya bombing was known to you, but you could not arrest him. Should there has been cooperation, this could have happened.

Colonel Jibrini: all the talk is about violence. We should distinguish between two levels of violence:

1. The violence carried out by Palestinian organizations which we combated successfully in the past

2. Israeli official violence which we should talk about accurately. On 27/4/2001, a meeting took place here. It was followed by meetings in the areas. There has been a distinguished Palestinian effort to cool down the situation. If you look in your agenda, the period on 27/4-5/5 did not witness any serious incidents. But what happened later is that on 5/5, after Friday passed without incidents and as a reward for the calm period due to our large efforts, a Palestinian citizen was assassinated in Bethlehem and the intelligence headquarters in Jericho was shelled. This is an official violence that has no justification. Later, a citizen in Jenin was assassinated, and after that five members of the National Security were assassinated. After Netanya operation, PA official headquarters were shelled causing the death of 14 policeman. Then you shelled the house of the Preventative Security head which could have killed him. This is official violence. It is clear that there is great mistrust. As you declared a surprise ceasefire, you can also take a surprise contradictory decision as well. We distinguish between popular violence and violence by organizations, which is our duty to face together if the right climate is provided, and violence from your side. There is no comparison between the two kinds of violence. If you speak about the death of 10 Israelis, in the same period 60 Palestinians died.

Ofer: There are members of security agencies who take part in violence.

Colonel Jibrin: The rule is that we are committed. But there are persons who practice this. This is the exception. Violence from your side is the rule.

Haj Ismail: Beitunia check post is not a threat to any body. This is the post which sent back the Israeli navy officer who lost his way. Isn't it state violence and terrorism to kill members of the post? Isn't it a shame