

the Holy Land. We've had very good meetings, and now is the time to make difficult choices.

I underscored to both Prime Minister Olmert and President Abbas that progress needs to be made on four parallel tracks. First, both sides need to fulfill their commitments under the roadmap. Second, the Palestinians need to build their economy and their political and security institutions. And to do that, they need the help of Israel, the region, and the international community. Third, I reiterate my appreciation for the Arab League peace initiative, and I call upon the Arab countries to reach out to Israel, a step that is long overdue.

In addition to these three tracks, both sides are getting down to the business of negotiating. I called upon both leaders to make sure their teams negotiate seriously, starting right now. I strongly supported the decision of the two leaders to continue their regular summit meetings, because they are the ones who can and must and, I am convinced, will lead.

I share with these two leaders the vision of two democratic states, Israel and Palestine, living side by side in peace and security. Both of these leaders believe that the outcome is in the interest of their peoples and are determined to arrive at a negotiated solution to achieve it.

The point of departure for permanent status negotiations to realize this vision seems clear. There should be an end to the occupation that began in 1967. The agreement must establish Palestine as a homeland for the Palestinian people, just as Israel is a homeland for the Jewish people. These negotiations must ensure that Israel has secure, recognized, and defensible borders. And they must ensure that the state of Palestine is viable, contiguous, sovereign, and independent.

It is vital that each side understands that satisfying the other's fundamental objectives is key to a successful agreement. Security for Israel and viability for the Palestinian state are in the mutual interests of both parties.

Achieving an agreement will require painful political concessions by both sides. While territory is an issue for both parties to decide, I believe that any peace agreement between them will require mutually agreed adjust-

ments to the armistice lines of 1949 to reflect current realities and to ensure that the Palestinian state is viable and contiguous. I believe we need to look to the establishment of a Palestinian state and new international mechanisms, including compensation, to resolve the refugee issue.

I reaffirm to each leader that implementation of any agreement is subject to implementation of the roadmap. Neither party should undertake any activity that contravenes roadmap obligations or prejudices the final status negotiations. On the Israeli side, that includes ending settlement expansion and removing unauthorized outposts. On the Palestinian side, that includes confronting terrorists and dismantling terrorist infrastructure.

I know Jerusalem is a tough issue. Both sides have deeply felt political and religious concerns. I fully understand that finding a solution to this issue will be one of the most difficult challenges on the road to peace, but that is the road we have chosen to walk.

Security is fundamental. No agreement and no Palestinian state will be born of terror. I reaffirm America's steadfast commitment to Israel's security.

The establishment of the state of Palestine is long overdue. The Palestinian people deserve it, and it will enhance the stability of the region, and it will contribute to the security of the people of Israel. The peace agreement should happen and can happen by the end of this year. I know each leader shares that important goal, and I am committed to doing all I can to achieve it.

Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 5:27 p.m. at the King David Hotel. In his remarks, he referred to Prime Minister Ehud Olmert of Israel; and President Mahmoud Abbas (Abu Mazen) of the Palestinian Authority.

Remarks During a Visit to Yad Vashem in Jerusalem

January 11, 2008

Mr. President and Mr. Prime Minister, thank you for your wonderful hospitality. I would hope as many people in the world

would come to this place, it would be a sobering reminder that evil exists and a call that when we find evil, we must resist it. It also is a—I guess I came away with this impression, that I was most impressed that people, in the face of horror and evil, would not forsake their God, and in the face of unspeakable crimes against humanity, brave souls, young and old, stood strong for what they believe.

It's an honor to be here. It is a moving experience, and it is a living memory that is important. Thank you, sir.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:43 a.m. In his remarks, he referred to President Shimon Peres and Prime Minister Ehud Olmert of Israel; and Avner Shalev, chairman, Yad Vashem Directorate.

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

January 5

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing.

January 7

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he traveled to Chicago, IL, where he visited Horace Greeley Elementary School. Then, at the Union League Club of Chicago, he had lunch with business and community leaders.

In the afternoon, the President returned to Washington, DC.

January 8

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing.

In the afternoon, in the Old Family Dining Room, the President had lunch with President Abdullah Gul of Turkey.

In the evening, the President traveled to Tel Aviv, Israel, arriving the following morning.

The President declared a major disaster in Nevada and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by severe winter storms and flooding beginning on January 5 and continuing.

January 9

In the morning, aboard Air Force One, the President had an intelligence briefing.

In the afternoon, the President traveled to the King David Hotel in Jerusalem, Israel. Later, he traveled to the President's Residence, where he and President Shimon Peres of Israel attended cultural performances. He then traveled to the Prime Minister's Residence, where he met with Prime Minister Ehud Olmert, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Tzipora "Tzipi" Livni, and Minister of Defense Ehud Barak of Israel.

In the evening, the President returned to the King David Hotel.

January 10

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he met with Opposition Leader Benjamin "Bebe" Netanyahu of Israel. He then met with the family of former Prime Minister Ariel Sharon of Israel.

Later in the morning, the President traveled to Ramallah, Palestinian Territories, where, at the Muqata, he participated in a greeting with President Mahmoud Abbas (Abu Mazen) of the Palestinian Authority. Later, in the President's Small Conference Room of the Muqata, the President met with Prime Minister Salam Fayyad of the Palestinian Authority.

In the afternoon, in the President's Dining Room of the Muqata, the President had a working lunch with President Abbas. Later, he met with Quartet Representative in the Middle East Tony Blair. He then traveled to Bethlehem, Palestinian Territories, where he visited the Church of St. Catherine of Alexandria at the Basilica of the Nativity.

Later in the afternoon, the President returned to the King David Hotel in Jerusalem, Israel, where he met with U.S. Embassy personnel and their families.

In the evening, the President traveled to the Prime Minister's Residence, where, in