

ready in the United States, where they were scheduled to meet Secretary of State Colin Powell. Nonetheless, the White House continues to be mute on the question; it is clear that as long as Cheney and his neo-cons are there, it will be an uphill climb to get the Accord adopted.

Documentation

Main Points of Geneva Accord

The main purpose of the Accord is to demonstrate to the Israeli and Palestinian public that there is an alternative to the policies of the government of Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon. The full text is available on the website of the Palestinian media center, www.palestine-pmc.com, or the site of the Accord's Israeli initiators, www.heskem.org.il. Its approach is like that of the Treaty of Westphalia, signed in 1648, which finally ended the Thirty Years' War, the religious war that devastated central Europe. This is asserted in the Geneva Accord's preamble:

"Reaffirming their determination to put an end to decades of confrontation and conflict, and to live in peaceful coexistence, mutual dignity, and security based on a just, lasting, and comprehensive peace and achieving historic reconciliation;

"Recognizing that peace requires the transition from the logic of war and confrontation to the logic of peace and cooperation, and that acts and words characteristic of the state of war are neither appropriate nor acceptable in the era of peace;

"Affirming their deep belief that the logic of peace requires compromise, and that the only viable solution is a two-state solution based on United Nations Security Councils Resolutions 242 and 338";

Recognizing "the right of the Jewish people to statehood and the recognition of the right of the Palestinian people to statehood, without prejudice to the equal rights of the Parties' respective citizens."

The **first five articles** deal with technical aspects of the establishment of two sovereign states based on Israeli withdrawal to the 1967 borders, with some exchanges of territory; and with the technicalities of implementing all aspects of a treaty, including deployment of a multinational force.

Article 6 deals with Jerusalem and its establishment as the capital of the two states. This is considered the major concession by the Israeli side, which always held that Jerusalem would be the "undivided capital of Israel" and would hold sovereignty over the Al-Haram Al-Sharif/Temple Mount. In this regard, East Jerusalem will become the capital of the Palestinian state, with its Jewish neighborhoods coming under Israeli sovereignty. Thus, several Jewish suburbs of Jerusalem, such as Ma'aleh Adumin and Gush Etzion, will be-

come part of Israel, though built on the territory of the West Bank. The Al-Haram Al-Sharif/Temple Mount will be under Palestinian sovereignty, but an international force will ensure freedom of access for all faiths. However, Jewish prayer will continue to be forbidden there. The Western Wall will remain under Israeli sovereignty. The Holy Basin will be under international supervision.

This part of the accord is unique, in that it details how Jerusalem's old city and the various Jewish and Palestinian neighborhoods will be managed without physically dividing the city.

Article 7 deals with Palestinian refugees and the "right of return." This is one of the most sensitive issues for Palestinians, who share the dream of returning to old family homes lost in what is now the State of Israel. The Article's solution has been interpreted as the concession of the right of return by the Palestinians. Though not explicitly stated in the document, it is juridically clear, because the Palestinians agree that anyone who requests to return to Israel must receive official approval from the State of Israel. The article calls for the comprehensive solution of the refugee question as "necessary for achieving a just, comprehensive, and lasting peace between them." In conformity with the relevant UN resolutions, all refugees, wherever their current residence—including those living in refugee camps in Lebanon, Jordan, and Syria—will have the right to return to the State of Palestine. An international commission will be established to oversee the process, which would include the option of residence in third countries and a package of economic compensation or aid.

Although Israel would not be required to accept Palestinian refugees' applications, it would have to accept as many refugees as any third country; e.g., France, Canada, or the United States.

Articles 4 and 5 deal with settlements, and clearly call for the evacuation of those settlements that lie within the agreed borders of the State of Palestine. In exchange for territory where several large settlement blocks are located, Israel will cede equal territory to the Palestinian state. In this arrangement, Ariel, Efrat, and Har Homa—large settlements deep in the West Bank—will be part of the Palestinian state.

The 1993 Oslo Accords had Annexes defining economic development as crucial to the success of a peace agreement, including the establishment of joint and regional economic projects. The Accord does not have such annexes; nonetheless, **Article 8** calls for the establishment of an "Israeli-Palestinian Cooperation Committee," laying the foundation for a broad range of economic and social cooperation projects. Yossi Beilin, recognizing the importance of the Oslo economic Annexes, told *EIR* that agreements defining economic cooperation and development are being discussed.

Still to be detailed are **Article 12**, which deals with water; **Article 13** on economic relations; and **Article 14** on legal cooperation.