

# CRS Report for Congress

Received through the CRS Web

## Israeli-Palestinian Agreement

-name redacted-  
Specialist in Middle Eastern Affairs  
Foreign Affairs and National Defense Division

### Summary

On August 27, 1993, Israel and the Palestinians announced that Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) official Mahmoud Abbas (also known as Abu Mazen) had initialed a landmark agreement on August 19 in Oslo, Norway on a Declaration of Principles on interim self-government for the West Bank and Gaza Strip. On September 9, PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin exchanged letters of unprecedented mutual recognition. On September 10, President Clinton welcomed the agreement, thanked Congress for its support, and announced that the United States would resume its dialog with the PLO. The Declaration was signed at the White House on September 13. The following are summaries of the Declaration and the letters.

### DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES

- The Declaration will enter into force 1 month after it is signed.
- Within 2 months after the Declaration enters into force, the two sides will conclude an agreement on withdrawal of Israeli military forces from the Gaza Strip and Jericho area.
- The withdrawal will be completed within 6 months after the Declaration enters into force.
- Immediately after the withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho, authority over education and culture, health, social welfare, direct taxation, and tourism in the West Bank and Gaza will be transferred to the Palestinians.
- A Palestinian Interim Self Government Authority in the form of a Council will be elected within 9 months after the Declaration enters into force for a transitional period not exceeding 5 years.
- The two sides will negotiate an interim agreement specifying the Council's structure, size, and powers.
- Palestinians who live in East Jerusalem will vote in the election.

- Not later than the eve of Council elections, a redeployment of Israeli military forces in the West Bank and Gaza to sites outside of populated area will take place.
- Further redeployments will occur as a Palestinian police force to be established by the Council assumes responsibility for public order and internal security.
- After inauguration of the Council, the Israeli civil and military administrations for the territories will be dissolved.
- The Council will establish bodies to deal with utilities, economy, the environment, water, and other areas.
- Joint Israeli-Palestinian committees will deal with common issues, such as economic cooperation and dispute resolution.
- The parties will invite Jordan and Egypt to establish cooperation arrangements that will decide modalities of admission of persons displaced from the West Bank and Gaza in 1967, among other matters.
- During the interim period, Israel will retain responsibility for external security, settlements, Israelis, and foreign relations.
- Permanent status negotiations will commence not later than the third year of the interim period, and may include Jerusalem.
- The peace process and negotiations on the permanent status of the West Bank and Gaza Strip will lead to implementation of U.N. Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, or the land for peace formula.

## **MUTUAL RECOGNITION**

Chairman Yasser Arafat affirmed that the PLO recognized the right of the State of Israel to exist in peace and security, accepted U.N. Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, the Middle East peace process and the peaceful resolution of conflicts, and renounced terrorism and other acts of violence and assumed responsibility to prevent them. He stated that articles of the Palestinian Covenant that contradict the foregoing commitments are no longer valid; he undertook to submit necessary changes in the Covenant to the Palestinian National Council. Arafat called upon the Palestinian people in the West Bank and Gaza to reject violence. Prime Minister Rabin recognized the PLO as the representative of the Palestinian people and agreed to negotiate with the PLO in the peace process.

Many Palestinians hope that the accord will lead to statehood, a possibility that alarms many Israelis. Nonetheless, despite opposition from critics on both sides, the agreement has been broadly welcomed as a major step forward in easing Middle East tensions. In a related development, Israel and Jordan signed a draft agenda delineating specific components of their bilateral peace negotiations on September 14, 1993.

# EveryCRSReport.com

The Congressional Research Service (CRS) is a federal legislative branch agency, housed inside the Library of Congress, charged with providing the United States Congress non-partisan advice on issues that may come before Congress.

EveryCRSReport.com republishes CRS reports that are available to all Congressional staff. The reports are not classified, and Members of Congress routinely make individual reports available to the public.

Prior to our republication, we redacted names, phone numbers and email addresses of analysts who produced the reports. We also added this page to the report. We have not intentionally made any other changes to any report published on EveryCRSReport.com.

CRS reports, as a work of the United States government, are not subject to copyright protection in the United States. Any CRS report may be reproduced and distributed in its entirety without permission from CRS. However, as a CRS report may include copyrighted images or material from a third party, you may need to obtain permission of the copyright holder if you wish to copy or otherwise use copyrighted material.

Information in a CRS report should not be relied upon for purposes other than public understanding of information that has been provided by CRS to members of Congress in connection with CRS' institutional role.

EveryCRSReport.com is not a government website and is not affiliated with CRS. We do not claim copyright on any CRS report we have republished.