

At World Economic Forum, Switzerland

LIVNI, PERES, ABBAS SHARE VISIONS FOR PALESTINIAN STATE

Jan 26, 07. Arutz 7 News. The Israeli Foreign minister, Tzippi Livni, told the World Economic Forum that negotiations between Israel and Palestinians must be based on idea of two states living side by side in peace.

Livni said she had made the formation of Palestinian state her top diplomatic. "The formation of a state for the Arabs within the biblical territories of Judea and Samaria is not an illusion. It's there. It's achievable," she said.

Israeli Vice Premier Shimon Peres, and Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas also shared their visions for a two-state solution within the disputed borders of Israel.

Abbas stressed his commitment to return to the negotiating table, but warned that if he cannot form a unity government with Hamas officials, he would move to call early elections.

Abbas reiterated long-standing Arab demands that other Arabs be resettled in Israel, and not in any newly created Palestinian nation. And he stressed that a permanent resolution is necessary to end the long-standing conflict, as opposed to any temporary decisions, urging Israel to begin discussing issues of final border status and insisting on the Israeli borders of 1967 as a starting point.

Livni cautioned Abbas against compromising with extreme elements within the Authority, labeling Abbas one of the "moderate" forces within the PA - in spite of the calls by Abbas at a Ramallah Fatah rally a week earlier, for arms, received to protect him and his Fatah faction from Hamas, "to be turned against Israel," which he referred to as "occupying forces."

Shimon Peres addressed the forum, expressing a vision of shared economic cooperation between Israel and the PA. He stated that Israel, Jordan and PA have already agreed in principle "to take the whole length of the frontier," a 500 kilometer-long strip along the current Israeli-Jordanian border, "and convert it into an ongoing economic zone."

The Israeli government has already formed a committee to study the ability to remove as many as 100,000 Jewish residents from their homes in the areas considered for the creation of a Palestinian State.

US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice has already announced plans to gather the Quartet committed to Middle East peace (US, UN, EU and Russia) in Washington D.C. at the beginning of February. She will return to the Middle East for a summit between Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert and PA Chairman Abbas, two weeks later.

JEWISH POPULATION IN JUDEA AND SAMARIA

JAN 10, 07. The Jewish population in Judea and Samaria grew by nearly 6% in 2006. According to figures released by the Interior Ministry, there were 268,379 Israelis living in the 126 Jewish communities in Judea and Samaria at the end of 2006, compared with 253,748 in 2005. The figures did not indicate how many of the additional residents were children born in the communities.