

## 1996 DIPLOMATIC

### **7 January**

*Meeting with a French delegation led by Mr. Phillippe Seguin, President of the French Parliament*

Orient House, Jerusalem

#### **Topic: Current Political Situation and Upcoming Palestinian Elections**

*Participants:* Mr. Faisal Hussein; Dr. Sari Nusseibeh, President of Al-Quds University; Dr. Mohammed Jadallah, Physician; Dr. Mahdi Abdul Hadi, Head of PASSIA; and Mrs. Leila Shahid, PLO Representative in Paris.

### **SUMMARY**

Topics discussed included the preparation and prospects of the Palestinian elections; the assassination of Yahya Ayyash by Israeli intelligence forces; the agreement the PNA had reached with Hamas in order to halt military operations against Israel; the state of affairs of the peace process (Palestinian, Syrian and Lebanese tracks); and the issue of Jerusalem.

The French delegates expressed their strong support for the Palestinians' desire for freedom and independence, and said that the French role in the EU supported the Palestinian cause. They added that France is willing and interested to offer expertise in any field necessary to build Palestinian civil society.