

1996 DIPLOMATIC

28 October

Visit of the Delegation from the German-Israeli Parliamentary Group

Topic: Developments in the Peace Process

Participants: Siegfried Vergin, MP; Christian Schmidt, MP; Waltraud Schoppe, MP; Jochen Feilcke, MP; Martin Kobler, Head, German Representative Office, Jericho; Dr. Mahdi Abdul Hadi, Head of PASSIA; Abed Abu Diab, Jerusalem Electricity Co.; Dr. Riad Malki, Panorama Center, Jerusalem; and Sheikh Jamil Hamami, Islamic Cultural and Scientific Society, Jerusalem.

SUMMARY

The meeting focused on the latest developments in relation to the peace process; the PNA and democracy; the Palestinian people's national goals; the outside-inside Palestinian relations; the importance of having an effective European role in the peace process; and the Israeli expansionist actions which contradict the context of peace.

Dr. Mahdi Abdul Hadi placed the Palestinians' goals in the following three groups: an independent sovereign Palestinian state; an economy free from Israeli control and open to Egypt and Jordan; and a civil society with democracy. He stressed the difficulty of changing the image of the enemy while the Israelis continue their expansionist actions and persist in not recognizing the Palestinian basic right to have an independent Palestinian state.

In replying to a question concerning the way in which dialogue between Israelis and Palestinians is conducted, *Dr. Abdul Hadi* mentioned that discussions with Israeli academics are usually handled in harmony and that only very rarely do academics affiliated to right wing parties lead discussions to disaster; and he stressed the need for more dialogue and forums for discussion.

While discussing the effectiveness of the European donations in relation to the practice of democracy by the PNA, *Dr. Riad Al-Malki* attracted attention to the fact that the European states do not link the issue of preserving Palestinian human rights to providing donations to the PNA.