

Term

1978 Camp David Accords

8.26.2004

Definition

The term "1978 Camp David Accords" (9/78) refers to two agreements on a framework for peace signed between Israel, Egypt and the US (without Palestinian participation):

1. An agreement on the framework for negotiations with the Palestinians, intended to serve as a basis for future Israeli-Palestinian peace agreements. This agreement indeed outlined the Sequence of the Israeli-Palestinian Political Process in the framework of the Oslo Process.
2. An agreement on the framework for an Israeli-Egyptian peace treaty which outlined the principles for a peace treaty between Israel and Egypt (3/79).

These agreements set UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 as the legal basis for future peace agreements between Israel and the Palestinians and between Israel and Egypt.

Content of the Agreements

Agreement on the framework for future negotiations with the Palestinians determines following principles:

- In the territories of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, an independent Palestinian administration will be implemented for a period of five years. This administration will constitute an early stage leading towards permanent status for these territories. Under the independent administration, following the withdrawal of the Israeli military and civil administration, the Palestinians will enjoy full autonomy
- The independent Palestinian administrative authorities will be elected by Palestinians in free elections. The means for its establishment will be discussed by Israel, Egypt and Jordan.¹
- The Palestinian police force will be established for the sake of maintaining order. The borders will be supervised by Israel and Jordan through joint patrols.²
- No later than the third year of the independent administration talks will begin on a permanent status agreement between representatives of Israel, Egypt, Jordan and Palestinian representatives elected from the West Bank and Gaza Strip.
- During the transition period, a joint committee will be established among Israel, Egypt, Jordan and the elected Palestinian representatives in order to discuss the future of Palestinians who left the West Bank and Gaza Strip in 1967. Egypt, Israel and "interested third parties" will discuss the creation of agreed procedures to solve the refugee issue.³ (See The Issue of Palestinian Refugees, and The Issue of Displaced Persons).
- This framework was intended to constitute a basis for future peace agreements between Israel and the Palestinians. To a great extent, the Oslo Process, and particularly the Declaration of Principles (9/93), the Gaza and Jericho Agreement (5/94), and the Interim Agreement (9/95), preserve the layout recommended by the 1978 Camp David Accords.

¹ See Articles 1-a and 1-b, under "West Bank and Gaza".

² See Article 1-e, under "West Bank and Gaza".

³ See Articles 1-e and 1-f, under "West Bank and Gaza".

The framework agreement to the Israeli-Egyptian peace treaty determines that a full peace treaty will be signed between Israel and Egypt on the basis of the UN Security Council Resolution 242. In the framework of the peace treaty, Israeli armed forces will be withdrawn from Sinai and Egyptian sovereignty will be recognized over the "International Border of 1906" lines. Following intermediate Israeli withdrawal from Sinai, normal relations will be established between the two states, although limitations will be placed on the positioning of armed forces in the border area between the two states.

Additional sources

On the 1978 Camp David Peace Talks:

- Dayan Moshe, Breakthrough, Jerusalem, Idanim, 1981, Hebrew.
- Stein Kenneth, Heroic Diplomacy, Routledge, 1999, English.