

Questions for Senator Mitchell

US-Israel Arrangement on Settlements

- What is the US definition today of the settlement freeze? Has it changed over the last several months?
- What would it mean to exclude Jerusalem from a freeze?
 - Do you not consider East Jerusalem a part of the Occupied West Bank?
 - In the US vision, will East Jerusalem will be the future capital of a Palestinian state?
- What do you understand “public construction” to mean?
 - Would that include roads, infrastructure, schools, public housing etc?
 - Does it include construction of the Wall?
- Are you aware that if the loopholes demanded by Israel are allowed, the level of Israeli settlement construction at the end of 2009 will be at least that of 2008 and 2007, if not more? If that is the case, would you still characterize the arrangement as a settlement freeze?
- Should you reach a bilateral arrangement with Israel, How do you plan to monitor the situation on the ground to verify compliance? What mechanism would you use to assess compliance?
- How do you plan to enforce such an arrangement? What steps would you be willing to take should Israel not comply?

Trilateral Meeting:

- What would be the agenda of the meeting? Outcome?
- What will be President Obama’s statement following the meeting?
- What do you mean by the “package”? What are the elements of this “package”?
- In particular, what are the incentives you are trying to secure on Jerusalem?
- Will you be ready to provide us with political guarantees? If so, what will they be?
- Have you considered the impact such meeting will have on President Abbas’ credibility, especially in light of his repeated public statements and principled position that he will not meet with Prime Minister Netanyahu unless there is a settlement freeze?

- Have you thought of alternatives to the trilateral meeting? What are your thoughts on a bilateral meeting between President Abbas and President Obama?

Substance:

- How do you plan to address the “end game”?
- Will you explicitly refer to all core issues?
 - If so, can you provide us with the language you will be using?
- Are you aware of the July 30 2008 agreement with the previous administration (through Secretary Rice) establishing the 1967 border as the baseline for discussion on borders and land swaps?
- Do you agree that a state with provisional borders is unacceptable? Do you agree that it will lead to failure of negotiations?
- As part of the framework of negotiations, will you be ready to put a time-frame for phased withdrawal of Israel from the Occupied Palestinian territory?
- What role do you envisage for third-parties in this process?
- Beyond his public relations offensive, are you aware of any concrete steps taken by Netanyahu that indicate he is willing and prepared to engage in meaningful political negotiations? If so, what are those steps?
- Have you looked at the lessons from Camp David? Would you agree that a lack of adequate preparation and planning will lead to failure and an explosive situation?

Phase I Road Map Obligations:

- Are you planning to address any of Israel’s phase I obligations?
 - Opening of Palestinian institutions in East Jerusalem?
 - Dismantling outposts?
 - Returning to Sept 28 lines?
 - Lifting the closure regime?
 - Ending the Siege on Gaza?
 - Implementing the AMA?

Regional Impact:

- Have you discussed your plans with the Arab states? What was their reaction?
- Have you considered the effect of giving in to Netanyahu’s dictates on the credibility of the US in the region?

- Have you considered the effect on the credibility of President Obama personally, especially in light of his Cairo speech, in which he demanded a settlement freeze?
- Do you realize what impact your current plans will have on President Obama's standing in the Arab and Muslim streets?

Refugees:

- Where does the US stand on UNGAR 194, which is an integral part of the API and the PLO position on refugees?
- How do you see your reference to a '*Jewish* state of Israel' affecting the rights of Palestinian refugees? How might it affect the rights of the Palestinian citizens inside Israel (Israeli-Arabs)?