



Malaysia 51

Permanent Mission to the United Nations

MESSAGE FROM
THE HONOURABLE ABDULLAH AHMAD BADAWI
PRIME MINISTER OF MALAYSIA AND
CHAIRMAN OF THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT

ON
THE OCCASION OF THE COMMEMORATION OF
THE INTERNATIONAL DAY OF SOLIDARITY WITH
THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE ON 29 NOVEMBER 2004

DELIVERED BY
HIS EXCELLENCY AMBASSADOR RASTAM MOHD ISA
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF MALAYSIA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS AND
CHAIRMAN OF THE COORDINATING BUREAU
OF THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT

NEW YORK, 29 NOVEMBER 2004

Please check against delivery

His Excellency Ambassador Paul Badji, Chairman of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People,
His Excellency Mr. Jean Ping, President of the 59th Session of the General Assembly,
His Excellency Ambassador John Danforth, President of the Security Council for the month of November 2004,
His Excellency Mr. Kofi Annan, Secretary-General of the United Nations,
Excellencies,
Distinguished representatives,
Ladies and gentlemen,

I have the honour to read out a Message from The Honourable Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, Prime Minister of Malaysia and Chairman of the Non-Aligned Movement, on the occasion of the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People, which we are commemorating today, 29 November 2004. The Message reads as follows, and I quote:

"On the occasion of the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian people I have the honour on behalf of the people of Malaysia and as Chair of the Non-Aligned Movement to extend our warmest greetings to all our Palestinian brothers and sisters and express our solidarity with them. On this solemn occasion, the Non-Aligned Movement reaffirms its steadfast support for and longstanding solidarity with the Palestinian people and their leadership in their long-standing quest for the full realization of their inalienable rights, including their right to self-determination and to become masters of their own destiny in a state which they can call their own.

"We observe this Day today with a feeling of great loss and sorrow at the passing away just 19 days ago of President Yasser Arafat, a visionary and exceptional leader and the absolute personification of the Palestinian struggle for a homeland. We shall certainly miss him as do our Palestinian brothers and sisters who grieve over his demise. It is extremely sad that the late President Arafat was unable to live to see the fulfilment of his lifelong struggle for the Palestinian cause and his dream for a free Palestine. We are convinced like our Palestinian brothers and sisters that his relentless efforts, perseverance and sacrifices will never be forgotten. This should not be allowed to happen.

"The departure of the late President Arafat should now motivate every Palestinian to complete the struggle that he had led and to fulfil the dreams and aspirations of every Palestinian. The Non-Aligned Movement calls upon our Palestinian brothers and sisters to remain calm and stand united during this most difficult time to collectively address the many challenges ahead. We welcome the appointment of Mr. Rawhi Fattouh as the Interim President of the Palestinian Authority and the return of Mr. Ahmad Qureia as its Prime Minister. We also welcome Mr. Mahmoud Abbas as the new Chairman of the Palestinian Liberation Organization. The Non-Aligned Movement extends its best wishes to the new Palestinian leadership. They can count on the Movement's unwavering support. We look forward to the successful holding of the Palestinian Presidential election by 9 January 2005, in an orderly fashion in a calm, secure and peaceful environment. The election should provide a new beginning for Palestine and a new momentum towards the achievement of a just, comprehensive and lasting peace in the area.

"It is time that the Palestinian people be spared of violence, death and suffering in their midst. The application of harsh policies and practices as well as the excessive and disproportionate use of force by Israel against the Palestinians and other Arabs in the occupied territories must end. These measures that have led to injuries and deaths among children, men and women and the destruction of homes, land and property will not provide for the building of confidence on both sides in the future.

"We mourn the loss of all innocent lives. We sympathise with the families concerned over the tragic loss of their loved ones. We extend our profound condolences to them. We reaffirm our call upon Israel to desist from targeting innocent civilians, destroying Palestinian homes and property and impeding the freedom of movement of people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory in particular during this period when the Palestinians are preparing for elections. We also urge Israel to ensure that there would not be any further deterioration of the humanitarian situation and the socio-economic condition in the Occupied Palestinian Territory.

"Together with other leaders in the Non-Aligned Movement I remain hopeful that the legitimate aspiration of the Palestinian people to establish a sovereign and independent State of Palestine with East Jerusalem as its capital, existing side by side with Israel and together with their other neighbours, in peace within secure and recognised borders, will come to fruition in 2005 as envisaged in the Road Map. We remain steadfast in extending our support to the Palestinian people and its leadership in their unrelenting endeavour to achieve their long-held desire to enjoy freedom, independence and dignity and a better future for themselves and their children. The time to act is now. The international community must lend its support.

"The construction by Israel of the Separation Wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including in and around East Jerusalem, has introduced a new dimension to the problem and could seriously endanger the prospect for peace in the region. The impact of the Wall on Palestinian lives is overwhelming. The Wall threatens the territorial integrity of a future State of Palestine, as envisaged in Security Council resolution 1397 (2002) and upheld in the Road Map. The conclusion by the International Court of Justice in its Advisory Opinion rendered last July that the construction of the Wall in the occupied territories is contrary to international law should be respected by all and in particular by Israel. The Non-Aligned Movement urges all Member States, in particular Israel, to take all measures necessary to ensure compliance with the Advisory Opinion and Resolution ES-10/15 adopted by the General Assembly at its resumed Tenth Emergency Special Session on 20 July 2004. The Non-Aligned Movement also urges the Security Council to seriously look into this matter.

"Given the uncertainties prevailing in other parts of the region the Non-Aligned Movement is convinced that serious efforts must be made to resuscitate the peace process. There is clearly no military solution to this conflict. The cycle of violence and intimidation will not produce any advantage to either side. A new resolve on the part of the parties to the conflict to resume the political process, at the negotiating table, is urgently required. The key to a just and durable solution lies in the willingness on the part of Israel to end its occupation of Arab lands, and the fulfilment of the inalienable and legitimate rights of the Palestinian people to self-determination, national independence and sovereignty and to return to their homes and property from which they had been displaced and uprooted. We urge those who have the most influence to begin working towards bringing the parties to sit together in serious negotiations.

"The international community has a collective role to play in finding a solution to the Palestinian question. We must all work together to facilitate the attainment of peace in the region. The Non-Aligned Movement will continue to cooperate with the international community, in particular the Members of the Quartet, towards this end. The United Nations, including the General Assembly and the Security Council, has a permanent responsibility towards the question of Palestine until it is resolved in its entirety on the basis of the Charter and relevant resolutions of the United Nations, international law and international humanitarian law. As a Member of the Quartet, the United Nations is well placed to play a pivotal role towards achieving a just, comprehensive and lasting peace and towards achieving the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people. Likewise, the other Members of the Quartet – the European Union, the Russian Federation and the United States – should play their roles and seize this opportunity to revive the Road Map and work towards the achievement of peace.

"The valiant struggle of the Palestinian people against Israeli occupation, against the injustices suffered by them and against the inhumane treatment meted out upon them must be recognised. The Palestinian people have suffered long enough. The world must express and maintain solidarity with them. The Palestinian question deserves the continued attention of the international community in the right context and with the proper perspective.

"On behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement and in my capacity as its Chairman, I should like to reiterate on this very important day, our firm commitment towards ensuring that a just, comprehensive and lasting peaceful settlement is achieved on the question of Palestine in its entirety. Rest assured that the Non-Aligned Movement will strongly support all initiatives and efforts to address the Palestinian question; a question which has customarily been high on its agenda. We look forward to the day when the international community would join the Palestinians in celebrating the joy of their independence and statehood soon."

End of quote.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.