

Dueling Speeches: Abbas vs. Netanyahu

Yesterday was a day of dueling speeches at the UN General Assembly. Abbas' speech was full of accusatory language that portrayed Israel as the guilty party responsible for the lack of a peace agreement between the parties.

The core issue here is that the Israeli government refuses to commit to terms of reference for the negotiations that are based on international law and United Nations resolutions, and that it frantically continues to intensify building of settlements on the territory of the State of Palestine.

Israel is continually referred to as “the occupying power”. The creation of the State of Israel is continually referred to as al-Nakba: the Catastrophe. As usual, Abbas demands that Israel agree to reduce itself to the pre Six Day war borders and leave East Jerusalem before any negotiations can take place.

Netanyahu's speech is also a historical recitation of the situation in the Middle East. Perhaps the most telling paragraphs are these.

We left Gaza for peace.

We didn't freeze the settlements in Gaza, we uprooted them. We did exactly what the theory says: Get out. Go back to the 1967 borders, dismantle the settlements.

And I don't think people remember how far we went to achieve this. We uprooted thousands of people from their homes. We pulled children – out of their schools and their kindergartens. We bulldozed synagogues. We even – we even moved loved ones from their graves. And then, having done all that, we gave the keys of Gaza to President Abbas.

Now the theory says it should all work out, and President Abbas and the Palestinian Authority now could build a peaceful state in Gaza. You can remember that the entire world applauded. They applauded our withdrawal as an act of great statesmanship. It was a bold act of peace.

But ladies and gentlemen, we didn't get peace. We got war. We got Iran, which through its proxy Hamas promptly kicked out the Palestinian authority. The Palestinian Authority collapsed on one day – one day.

The difference between the two sides is both obvious and insurmountable. Abbas asks Israel to give up territory prior to any peace agreement or even negotiations. Israel has already done that. Didn't work. Can't work. To quote from a prior article.

“Therein lies the heart of the problem. It is religiously impossible for any Muslim to recognize any state in former “Lands of Islam” that is not a Muslim state.

And when the sacred months are passed, kill those who join gods with God (Christians) wherever ye shall find them; and seize them, besiege them, and lay wait for them with every kind of ambush; but if they shall convert, and observe prayer, and pay the obligatory alms, then let them go on their way for God is Gracious, Merciful. (Koran, Sura 9, verse 5 et. Seq.)

Make war upon such of those to whom the Scriptures have been given as believe not in God or in the

last day, and forbid not that which God and His Apostle have forbidden, and who profess not the profession of the truth (Islam), until they pay tribute out of hand and they be humbled. (Koran, Sura 9, verse 28 “The Verse of the Sword”)

This is a lot like the story of the scorpion and the beaver. The scorpion asks the beaver for a ride across the stream on the beaver's back. The beaver naturally says no not wishing to be stung and die. The scorpion promises not to sting the beaver so the beaver agrees to take the scorpion across the river. Half way across the scorpion stings the beaver. Now that they are both about to drown, the beaver asks the scorpion why he stung the beaver. “It's my nature”, replied the scorpion. Beware of scorpions.

Si vis pacem, para bellum.

If you wish peace, prepare for war.