

Palestine: A non-State for a non-People

(13 Sep 11) Approximately one week from today Mahmoud Abbas (AKA Abu Mazen) will address the United Nations General Assembly and ask that the General Assembly upgrade the status of the Palestinian (lack of) Authority's (PA) status to that of non-member state. He will also most probably ask the Security Council to recognize the statehood of Palestine. While the General Assembly will most certainly upgrade the status of the PA, as of now the United States is pledged to veto any such resolution in the Security Council.

Nabil el-Araby, secretary general of the Arab League, said after meeting with the Palestinians that "it is obvious that the Palestinian Authority and the Arab countries are leaning towards going to the General Assembly," where a successful vote could elevate the status of the Palestinian Authority from nonvoting "observer entity" to "observer state," a status equal to that of the Holy See.

(http://www.nytimes.com/2011/09/14/world/middleeast/us-scrambling-to-avert-palestinian-vote-at-un.html?_r=1&ref=world/)

There is no such thing as a "Palestinian people" in the current context. There are descendants of Egyptian residents of the Gaza Strip and descendants of Jordanian citizens in the West Bank. The Palestinian people is an artificial construct created by the Arab Muslim states as another method to destroy Israel. The creation of a Palestinian state is a method for the Arabs to recover the ground they lost in the Six day War without having to pay for it with the recognition of Israel and the guarantee of Israel's right to exist.

What evidence is there for the creation of a Palestinian state as a means to destroy Israel? The Palestinians have always had four basic demands. First, they will only accept a state based on the pre-Six Day War (pre-1967) borders of Israel. In some places between Tel Aviv and Haifa Israel is only eight miles wide. That does not provide Israel with defensible borders especially with Hezbollah sitting on that northern border. Even though Jordan and Israel are currently at peace, any change in the current Government of Jordan could put Israel at risk of an armored thrust from the Jordan River Valley that would split Israel in two.

The second demand has been for a corridor between the West Bank and Gaza. This would also split Israel in two only farther south than an attack from the Jordan River Valley. This corridor would cut off the Negev from the rest of Israel. This is also unacceptable to Israel.

The third demand has been for the right of return for refugees displaced from their homes in Israel during Israel's war for independence in 1948. This is nothing more than an attempt to overwhelm the Jewish population of Israel and create a Muslim state based upon sheer numbers in the next election following such a return.

The fourth demand has been for the return of East Jerusalem to Muslim control. East Jerusalem is where the bulk of the religious sites of all faiths are located. The Israelis are not about to return control of the Wailing Wall and other sites to the Muslims.

In other words, the Muslims will only agree to sign a treaty with Israel that guarantees its eventual demise as the world Jewish Homeland. Is it any wonder then that there has been no agreement for lo these may years? What the Arab states could not recover by force they will attempt to recover

politically while sacrificing nothing. As Muslims they can do no other.

(16 Sep 11). Since I started this article and then stopped writing it as Abbas had decided not to go to the UN, Abbas has again changed his mind and has decided to go all the way to the Security Council and ask for Palestine to be declared a state.

Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas said he'll ask the Security Council next week to accept the Palestinians as full members at the United Nations, as US President Barack Obama is expected to meet with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu next week in New York.

By demanding a full membership, Abbas would be risking a threatened U.S. veto, according to The Associated Press.

"We are going to the United Nations to request our legitimate right, obtaining full membership for Palestine in this organization," Abbas said in a televised speech.

The Islamist movement Hamas hit out at plans by Abbas to apply for U.N. membership next week, saying the move was unilateral and carries "great risks."

"We are going to the Security Council," he said, to rapturous applause from his audience of Palestinian leaders. "As for other options, we have not yet taken a decision on them," he said, according to Reuters. (<http://english.alarabiya.net/articles/2011/09/16/167196.html>)

Analysis. This is quite a turn of events. Abbas has gone from asking for a General Assembly declaration that would have upgraded the PA's status to that of the Vatican. Then, well, maybe not. Well, why not the whole enchilada? I must ask just exactly who is Abbas listening to? For whom is Abbas being the stalking horse? Iran? Syria? Turkey?

Iran does not have a whole lot to gain from Palestinian statehood. They already support Hamas through Hezbollah. But that is only half of the putative Palestinian state even though it is the aggressive part. Iran would not gain politically from Palestinian statehood. It would not remove any sanctions or gain them any good will. Probably not Iran.

Syria has its own problems. Assad is way too busy to worry about Palestinian statehood. Syria is in the same boat as Iran. Probably not Syria.

Turkey is perhaps different. Erdogan has been shooting off his mouth a lot lately and has made several threats against Israel.

The Erdogan government sharply ratcheted up its threat of war on Israel Monday, Sept. 12 with a report that three Turkish Navy frigates are to sail for the eastern Mediterranean "to ensure freedom of navigation and confront Israeli warships if necessary."

As Turkish Prime Minister Tayyip Erdogan was set to start a visit to Egypt, Turkish naval sources reported: "If Turkish warships encounter an Israeli military ship outside Israel's 12-mile territorial waters, they will advance up to 100 meters from the ship and disable its weapon system."

The threat bluntly applied to Israel's naval enforcement of its UN-approved blockade of the Gaza Strip. (<http://www.debka.com/article/21295/>)

One doubts that the Palestinian Authority as a non-state can make treaties with other nation states. The State of Palestine most likely can. If the Vatican can make treaties why not the State of Palestine whose status becomes the same? Could not a State of Palestine conclude a mutual defense treaty with Turkey or anybody else? Does Turkey really want a war with Israel? Maybe.

Turkey was humiliated in the Mavi Marmara Incident. I suspect that Erdogan well knew that members of the IHH were on board and looking to create an incident in which dead and captured Israeli commandos would figure prominently. The Israeli Navy would be much more reticent to prevent the Mavi Marmara landing in Gaza with Israeli hostages aboard or to just sink the Mavi Marmara. When the Palmer report came out and said that the Gaza blockade was legal even if the Israeli action to seize the Mavi Marmara were excessive, Turkey was not pleased.

Now this statement by the Turkish Foreign Minister.

Of all these, one issue will stand. The Palestinian drive to elevate its status at the U.N. to that of a state will be the major highlight of the General Assembly. Turkey is proud to support this historic initiative. We continue to support a negotiated two-state solution based on well-established parameters and in that context, believe it is high time for the State of Palestine to enter the international family of nations based on the 1967 borders as a full-fledged U.N. member, with all the rights and responsibilities that apply.

The tragic flotilla incident and the crimes Israel perpetrated on the high seas in the dark of night on May 31, 2010, will also be high on our agenda at the U.N. Turkey is determined, with the support of the international community, to pursue this matter politically and legally to its rightful and just conclusion. No state is above international law. The many high-level contacts we will have at the U.N. will allow us to prepare the groundwork for the steps we intend to take both at the U.N. and elsewhere to ensure that justice is done and Israel's transgressions, whether in the eastern Mediterranean Sea or in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, are not left unchecked.

(<http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/n.php?n=turkey-will-not-waver-in-its-support-for-those-who-seek-to-create-a-better-future-2011-09-15>)

Besides that, Israel and Greek Cyprus have concluded a treaty delineating their respective Exclusive Economic Zones with regards to undersea exploration primarily for oil and gas. Exploration in the Greek Cypriot area of Block 12 is scheduled to begin 1 Oct 11. Erdogan has said he will shut this down by force if necessary.

Despite the U.N. call, the Greek and Turkish sides continued making dueling statements over the contentious issue. Cyprus's internationally recognized Greek Cypriot government says it plans to go ahead with exploration for natural gas in the eastern Mediterranean Sea.

Turkey does not recognize Cyprus as a sovereign country and opposes any Greek Cypriot oil and gas search, insisting that Turkish Cypriots should also reap any windfall that may come from any discoveries. It also said drilling could damage long-running reunification talks.

(<http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/n.php?n=un-calls-for-calm-in-cyprus-drill-standoff-2011-09-16>)

Perhaps this is a Turkish attempt to put a ring around Israel, especially since Israel and Greece signed a mutual defense treaty some two weeks ago.

Israel and Greece have invoked the mutual defense pact they signed secretly only 12 days ago in the light of heavy Turkish sea and air movements in the eastern Mediterranean. Debkafile's sources report that this was decided in a long nocturnal phone conversation Wednesday night Sept. 14 between the Israeli and Greek prime ministers, Binyamin Netanyahu and George Papandreou, and at Israel's expanded cabinet of eight, which was called into session over the Turkish threat to its off-shore oil and gas rigs.

The Greek Prime Minister added to the information recorded so far on Turkish fleet movements in the Aegean and Mediterranean Seas. He was particularly concerned by the observation flights suddenly

increased in the past 48 hours over the Greek island of Kastelorizo in the southeast Mediterranean just two kilometers from the Turkish coast. Those flights are escorted by Turkish combat jets.
(<http://www.debka.com/article/21301/>)

Four days remaining until September 20 when the General Assembly meets. By then we may find out exactly who is behind the Palestinian Authority's change of heart. Gobble. Gobble?