

The essence of the S+S approach is this:

- Previous PLO attempts have already been made to accede to international conventions (for example, the WHO in 1989)
- The PLO is recognized in a majority of countries to represent the State of Palestine and have full diplomatic privileges accordingly
- International legal experts (including those at UN organizations such as the UNESCO) have advised that there is no legal impediment to Palestine joining/acceding (the issue is political -- the US tends to block or veto)
- Our expert (Quigley, et al.) do not agree with the NSU's political concerns about accession
- Our political counterparts at the Ministry of Tourism and PLO Ambassador to UNESCO have already initiated the process to accede to the World Heritage Convention which will take place in October with the support of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Now that the PM has indicated a desire for a state by 2011 and to put in place the necessary building blocks, the S+S file will be advising the various ministries (as part of the PRDP guidelines) to have each Ministry seek to accede to their relevant international organizations/conventions to achieve 3 purposes:
 - 1. Create facts on the ground
 - 2. Obtain financial and technical support to build the necessary capacity for Palestine
 - 3. Provide additional leverage to the PLO's permanent status negotiations (e.g. if we are members of the Chicago Convention, then negotiations with Israel won't be about who controls Palestine's airspace, but how it is regulated like any other state)
- The political concerns raised in Hala's memo do not have the same weight as before now that the leadership has effectively declared a state by 2011 on the green line and the parties have implicitly agreed that the green line is the base line (not to mention UNSC resolutions on the issue).
- The political concern that has to be balanced is whether the risk of a state with provisional borders can be addressed vis-a-vis the need to have building blocks in place before re-declaring statehood. In my view, there are ways to accede while protecting the political concerns about a state with provisional borders.
- ... let's discuss next week.

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