

Palestinians concerned about Bush's support of Sharon pullout plan

By Mohammed Daraghme
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

RAMALLAH, West Bank — Palestinians and Israeli hard-liners rejected statements by President Bush on Wednesday suggesting Israel would not have to give up some key West Bank settlements and ruling out the right of Palestinian refugees to return to Israel.

Bush spoke after meeting Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon in Washington, where Sharon presented his plan for an Israeli withdrawal from all of the Gaza Strip, along with a smaller pullback in the West Bank.

The plan faces a referendum of members of Sharon's Likud Party on May 2, and Sharon backers hoped Bush's statement would persuade skeptical voters the "disengagement" plan is worthwhile.

Likud Cabinet minister Tsipi Livni, who had expressed doubts about the pullout, said she was somewhat reassured by Bush's pledges. "I'm not ecstatic," she told Israel TV. "I'm apprehensive regarding the process, but I will support it if we really get these things."

Cabinet minister Uzi Landau, leading the Likud campaign against the Sharon initiative, said the Bush speech yielded "a thin harvest." He called on other Likud Cabinet ministers to join his drive "to stop this bad initiative," setting a planning meeting for his allies for Thursday.

Hard-liners oppose evacuating settlements in principle, and are against Sharon's unilateral pullback plan, calling it a "reward for terrorism" that will spur more violence.

Bush supports Sharon's pullout plan

President Bush endorsed Israel's Gaza pullout plan and said West Bank borders must take into account some Israeli settlements. Palestinian Prime Minister Ahmed Qureia warned that will destroy peace efforts. Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon wants to keep five main settlement blocs.

Settlements

□ Israeli □ Palestinian
■ Israeli settlements to be kept



SOURCES: B'tselem; ESRI



AP

Bush said a peace agreement must take into account realities that have developed in the decades since Israel captured the West Bank. Bush said the existence of Israeli population centers — referring to settlements — must be taken into account.

It was the first time a U.S. president had come that close to legitimizing Jewish settlements in the West Bank, which were traditionally denounced as "obstacles to peace" in previous administrations.

Palestinians demand a state in all the West Bank and Gaza Strip, with the removal of all Israeli settlements.

Bush also said the problem of Palestinian refugees must be solved in the framework of a Palestinian state, rebuffing a key Palestinian demand of right of return of the refugees and their descendants to their original homes in Israel.

Minutes after Bush spoke, Palestinian Prime Minister Ahmed Qureia harshly criticized the president's stand. "He is the first president who has legitimized the settlements in the Palestinian territories when he said that there will be no return to the borders of 1967," Qureia said. "We as Palestinians reject that, we cannot accept that, we reject it and we refuse it."

Palestinian Cabinet minister Saeb Erekat also dismissed Bush's statement. "This is like someone giving a part of Texas' land to China," he told The Associated Press. He said that over the years, U.S. administrations have assured the Palestinians that issues like borders and settlements would be handled in negotiations.

"If Israel wants to make peace, it must talk to the Palestinian leadership," Erekat said.

Enjoy comfort, convenience and value at...

Willowick Apartments

We have exceptional service, great neighbors, convenient location, and the *best* value in town.

Up to 1 1/2 months
FREE RENT
- Hurry -

Offer expires April 30, 2004

Open till 7pm Monday-Friday
Saturday till 6pm & Sunday till 5pm

(979) 693-1325

Check us out at:
www.willowickapartments.com

Or E-Mail us:
WWLeasing@shortmgmt.com

502 Southwest Parkway • College Station, TX 77840

Newly Remodeled.
Grand Opening!

IMPERIAL Chinese Restaurant

Banquet Room
Available!

2232 Texas Ave. S, College Station • 764-0466

All You Can Eat Buffet
Lunch - \$4.95 Mon.-Sat.
Dinner - \$6.95 All Day Sun.

- | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1) Pepper Steak | 9) Hot To Fu |
| 2) Broccoli Beef | 10) Mixed Vegetables |
| 3) General Tso's Chicken | 11) Pork w/Dry To Fu |
| 4) Orange Peel Chicken | 12) Yu Shan Beef |
| 5) Sesame Chicken | 13) Crispy Tofu |
| 6) Kung Bo Chicken | 14) Moo Shi Pork |
| 7) Cashew Chicken | 15) Pork w/Sour Mustard |
| 8) Szechuan Beef | |

BUY ONE ITEM GET ONE FREE
(from this menu only)

(expires July 31, 2004)

The Silk Stocking lounge

The Best in Adult Entertainment

-- Happy Hour Daily until 7pm --

\$2.00 Well / \$2.00 Drafts



- Sun.: \$2.00 Wells
Mon.: \$1.25 Drafts
Tues.: \$3.00 Domestic Longnecks
Wed.: \$2.00 Wells
Thurs.: \$1.25 Drafts

**2 for 1
Cover
with
Student ID**

Mon. - Sun. 5pm-2am
(979) 690-1478

4075 S Highway 6 - take Rock Prairie Road exit

TEX-MEX MONDAYS

\$1 CHEAP MARGARITAS

BUY ONE MEXICAN PLATTER GET A SECOND HALF-OFF (OF EQUAL OR LESSER VALUE)



OTHER DRINK SPECIALS

WEDNESDAY \$1 DOMESTIC BEER

\$1 ALL WELL DRINKS THURSDAY



DON'T FORGET ABOUT OUR WEEKEND BRUNCH

**520 HARVEY RD.
979-694-4618 ozonagrill.com**

NEED A JOB?

THE KIDS KLUB IS SEEKING STAFF FOR THE 2004 FALL SEMESTER



- Are you a fun person?
- Do you enjoy working with kids?
- Looking for valuable work experience?
- Are you available Mon.-Fri., 2:45 p.m. to 6:15 p.m.?
- If you answered yes to any of these questions, we may have a job for you.

Applications are now being accepted for the Kids Klub After School Program at the College Station Conference Center thru April 26th at 5 p.m.

Employment to begin August 10, 2004
College Station ISD is an Equal Opportunity Employer

For more information call:

THE KIDS KLUB 764-3831

Male & Female Staff needed!