

Jewish-Palestinian Living Room Dialogue Groups

*LISTENING IN DIALOGUE
BUILDING A COMMON FUTURE*

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February 22, 2005

Dr. Condoleezza Rice, Secretary of State
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Secretary Rice:

We are very pleased that the U.S. has brought together Israeli and Palestinian negotiators. It is essential that Congress supports progress toward a successful peace process.

We in the Jewish-Palestinian Living Room Dialogue Groups are among thousands of American Jews, Palestinians, Arabs, Muslims and Christians who are participating in a nationwide parallel peace process that will be needed for ultimate lasting success. We wish to offer you our collective insights.

We are running out of time and cannot afford more false starts toward peace.

Treaties alone cannot bring peace, but must be accompanied by sustained human relationships that build trust person by person.

To succeed, all governments must:

Consider equally both peoples' narrative and heritage, lands and resources, freedom, and prosperity. The majority of people will need to feel emotionally and economically acknowledged. Call it justice. The key principle is "equal".

Encourage, fund, and learn from an expanded citizen **face-to-face public peace process**. From people in relationships will spring most of the needed trust, creativity and cooperation that allow a treaty to succeed.

In 1991, a Framework for a Public Peace Process was created by respected Palestinian and Israeli citizen leaders from government, military, business and academia. We feel that the Framework (enclosed) was an historic first in that it defined most of the elements in today's proposals and also defined the essential role of ordinary citizens in a public peace process.

More about our 12-year-old Dialogue is at <http://traubman.igc.org/dg-prog.htm>. If we can serve you in any way, please feel free to call on us. We will continue to do our part, we promise you.

Sincerely yours,

(signed by each Dialogue participant)