

Feb. 16, 2011.

The Editor,

Guardian Weekly.

Dear Editor.

Renate Peters [Letter Feb.11] is having difficulty in understanding the reasons why peace between the Palestinians and the Israelis is so elusive, despite the extraordinary concessions that the Palestinian authority chief negotiator, Saeb Erekat, made, as revealed by Al Jazeera. The fundamental reason why this peace is elusive is simply that Israel has never had any intention of recognising an independent state for the Palestinians, or compliance with UN resolutions. David Ben Gurion , Israel's first prime minister, expressed Israel's expansionist designs, as he stated iin his diareies, in 1954, after having conquered 78% of historic Palestine: " To maintain the status quo will not do. We have set up a dynamic state bent upon expansion." {Ben Gurion, David, "*Rebirth and Destiny of Israel* [New York: The Philosophical Library, 1954], p.419.}

This expansionist design never changed and is reflected in the creation of the illegal colonies [settlements], annexation of East Jerusalem, the building of the apartheid wall and the demand to maintain control of the Jordan Valley. All these actions are in defiance of international law and repeated Security Council resolutions.

To sum it up, if there has to be a lasting peace between Israelis and Palestinians, it has to be based on international law, the UN Charter and the provision of a modicum of justice for the Palestinians under occuption and the Palestinians refugees' right of return to their homes, as stipulated in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and repeated UN resolutions.

Yours Sincerely,

Ismail Zayid, MD.