

Letter From President Yasser Arafat to President Clinton

[revision Palestine National Charter]

January 13, 1998

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His Excellency President William Clinton
President of the United States of America
Washington D.C.

Dear Mr. President.

In the mutual recognition letters between myself and the late Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin of September 9-10, 1993, the PLO committed to recognize the right of the State of Israel to exist in peace and security, to accept UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and to a peaceful resolution of the conflict between the two sides. The PLO also agreed to secure the necessary changes in the Palestinian Covenant [Charter] to reflect these commitments.

Accordingly, the PNC was held in Gaza city between 22-25 of April 1996, and in an extraordinary session decided that the "Palestine National Charter is hereby amended by cancelling the articles that are contrary to the letters exchanged between the PLO and the Government of Israel on 9-10 September 1993".

It should be noted that the above mentioned resolution acquired the consent of both the American Administration and the Israeli Government. Afterwards I sent letters concerning this historic resolution to your Excellency and Prime Minister Shimon Peres, and later a similar letter was sent to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

Both your Excellency and Prime Minister Peres warmly welcomed the PNC Resolution.

The Israeli Labour Party, and in appreciation of the PNC resolution dropped its objection to the establishment of a Palestinian State from its political platform.

From time to time questions have been raised about the effect of the Palestine National Council's action, particularly concerning which of the 33 articles of the Palestinian Covenant have been changed.

We would like to put to rest these concerns. The Palestine National Council's resolution, in accordance with Article 33 of the Covenant, is a comprehensive amendment of the Covenant. All of the provisions of the Covenant which are inconsistent with the PLO commitment to recognize and live in peace side by side with Israel are no longer in effect.

As a result, Articles 6-10, 15, 19-23, and 30 have been nullified, and the parts in Articles 1-5, 11-14, 16-18, 25-27 and 29 that are inconsistent with the above mentioned commitments have also been nullified.

I can assure you on behalf of the PLO and the Palestinian [National] Authority that all the provisions of the Covenant that were inconsistent with the commitments of September 9-10, 1993 to Prime Minister Rabin, have been nullified.

Nablus: January 13, 1998

Yasser Arafat

Chairman of the Executive Committee of the PLO
President of the PNA