

Cabinet communique on negotiations for a peace agreement with Jordan, 21 July 1974.

In view of the fact that since the Rabin government took office, members of the cabinet entertained various views on the question of negotiations with Jordan, the cabinet discussed the issue thoroughly. There were two proposals on the agenda. One by the Prime Minister and the other by Ministers Shemtov and Kol which was rejected. The wording used in the communique "the government will work towards negotiations for a peace agreement with Jordan" resulted from the doubts whether or not the government's declaration regarding stage two of talks with Egypt ruled out negotiations with Jordan. Thus the statement established that talks will be held with Jordan as well. Stress was laid on negotiations with Jordan to remove doubts concerning negotiations on a further independent Palestinian state on the West Bank. The cabinet's decision was also viewed as an expression of the principles endorsing the Prime Minister's statement to the Knesset of 3 June 1974, with all operative aspects still to be discussed in the future. The cabinet did not discuss the question of whether it would negotiate with a Jordanian delegation including Palestinians who are neither Jordanians nor members of terrorist organizations. There was mention but no discussion of a Separation of Forces agreement with Jordan. The government felt that there was no room for such separation. Text:

The cabinet today held a political discussion upon conclusion of which the following resolution was adopted:

Israel will continue to strive for peace agreements with the Arab states within defensible borders, to be achieved through negotiation without prior conditions.

The government will work towards negotiations for a peace agreement with Jordan.

The peace will be founded on the existence of two independent states only - Israel with United Jerusalem as her capital, and a Jordanian-Palestinian Arab state, east of Israel, within borders to be determined in negotiations between Israel and Jordan. This state will provide for expression of the self determination of the Jordanians and the Palestinians, in peace and good-neighbourliness with Israel.

The cabinet endorses the Prime Minister's statement of 3 June 1974 in the Knesset, that the government of Israel will not conduct negotiations with terrorist organizations whose aim is the destruction of the State of Israel