Simulation Scenario

Time: June 2020

Players status:

US President Donald Trump was elected for a second term in November 2019.

In Israel, there is a national unity government consisting of the Likud, Kahol Lavan, Israel Beiteinu and Orthodox representatives.

Abu Mazzen leads the Palestinian Authority

Hamas is led by Ismail Haniya (Political) and Yihye Sinwar (“Politico-militaire”), Salah Aruri (Abroad)

Russia is led by President Putin

Egypt is led by A-Sisi

Jorden is led by King Abdullah

On June 4th, three months after the elections in Israel and establishment of a national unity government, US president presented his plan in a speech at the Whitehouse.

"Today I am pleased to make the announcement I promised to make throughout my first term, the election campaign and now, as I am reelected. Led by Jared Kushner, my team worked tirelessly in endless meetings with leaders from both sides as well as leaders of other countries in the region and Europe. A special thanks goes out to President Vladimir Putin who also gave his blessing for this outline.

Throughout my first term there were ups and downs during the talks, and there have often been rounds of violence between the two sides; electoral campaigns in Israel have delayed laying out the plan. Now that I’ve won the US election and a new government has been formed in Israel, I say to all parties involved - enough dragging feet and no more pulling tricks. The deal I lay before you today, is not open to negotiation. It’s a 'Take It or Leave It' deal; it holds great promise for the future of Israelis, Palestinians, the Middle East which is tired of conflicts as is the entire world. It's time we move forward for the sake of future generations.

Leaders of Israel and Palestine – I give you one month, until the Fourth of July 2020 to respond. I expect one answer from the esteemed leaders:

"Yes, Mr. President, we are with you." You know me and you know that I know one or two things about business; I have no intention of imposing an agreement on both parties, as I said before - 'one state, two states, whatever you decide'. I am putting on the table what seems decent and fair to me a realistic and pragmatic solution that can bring forward a better future for both peoples. If one or both of the leaders decide to reject this historic opportunity - it will come at a cost; a heavy and painful price is it will be. Of course, that is their prerogative as leaders of their people, and they will have to live with the consequences of their actions. No one is going to force the United States certainly not my government, to continue to fund this conflict. I announce that a side that refuses to accept the outline will give up American aid as well as political and diplomatic support.

On the other hand, agreement on both sides will create many opportunities. The United States will immediately enter negotiations with the Palestinians on a civil aid agreement and will act as a guarantee for a World Bank on a new investment agreement that will allow them to rebuild their national infrastructure. It is time for us to move forward There is no reason that in Gaza and the West Bank will not enjoy financial prosperity for the Palestinian people after years of suffering.

The United States will guarantee Israel's security as it has done to this day. The outline includes unprecedented security arrangements that will prevent terrorism and improve Israel's security situation. I am offering an upgrade of Israeli-US relations to the level of strategic partnership with a new regional security agreement with our Saudi, Egyptian, Jordanian and Gulf states against Iran, ISIS and Islamic Jihad wherever it is.

In addition, this outline will open the doors of all markets of the Middle East and the Muslim countries in Asia for the Israeli economy.

I know that this outline is not simple for both sides, but I say today to the Palestinian people and the Israeli people, and of course to their leaders – enough with the bloodshed. It is time to move forward.

A party that agrees to this can expect to benefit tremendously while those who will refuse have much to lose.

In conclusion, I would like to explain what is going to happen now that the United States has conveyed to both sides the principles of outline. It is not a simple outline; we worked on it for many days and nights.

We deliberately won’t publish the details of the outline right now. We want to enable both parties the time and space they need to study this plan.

The negotiations we propose will be conducted via two parallel channels - the US-Israel-Palestinian trilateral channel, and a multilateral channel, with all the region's countries and Saudi and Egypt's leadership discussing urgent issues on the on the agenda; I have also invited Russia, China, the EU and the UN to take part in this path, and promised to update them on developments in the trilateral channel. We give ourselves exactly one year, 12 months, to reach an agreement.

As I mentioned, in exactly a month we expect to receive the answers; I am calling here from the leaders of Israel and the Palestinian people do not miss the historic opportunity. To the world leaders, I say: show public support and help this move - you are all partners. And I also appeal directly to both nations, who have suffered and continue to suffer so much from this conflict. This conflict has cost you too much, it is time to end it. Me and the US are here to help you do that. I am full of hope and deep belief that we will success. Thank you very much.

Two weeks after President Trump's speech, the New York Times published key portions of the American outline. The US administration has not denied or approved the publication.

* **Borders** - A Palestinian state will be established based on the Gaza Strip and Judea &Samaria Territories, which will be recognized by the United States, the Security Council, and the UN Assembly. Israel will recognize it too. The size of the Palestinian state in Judea and Samaria, including territorial exchange solutions, will be negotiated. The Jordan Valley will be under Israeli sovereignty.
* **Mutual Recognition** - The PLO will recognize Israel as the democratic nation-state that realizes the principle of self-determination of the Jewish people, and the State of Israel will recognize the Palestinian state as the democratic nation-state that exercises the right to self-determination of the Palestinian people.
* **Jerusalem** - West Jerusalem will be the capital of Israel, and East Jerusalem the capital of Palestine. A special administration will be established in the Old City and Temple Mount, involving Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Morocco, the Vatican and the United Nations. Jordan will maintain its special status on the Temple Mount, and the holy sites for each religion will be managed by it. Other specific arrangements will be determined through negotiations.
* **Refugees** - Palestinian refugees will be allowed to return to Palestine without restriction, subject to Palestinian state policy. Israel will allow resettlement in its territory to a certain number of refugees, mainly based on family reunions. Arab states will set up a special Palestinian refugee rehabilitation fund, and those who choose to remain in their current place of residence (Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, etc.) will receive full civil rights and compensation. A special fund will be set up to compensate Jews deported from Arab countries.
* **Security Arrangements** - The Palestinian state will be demilitarized, and special security arrangements will be established for a period of 50 years. The Palestinians will be responsible for the disarmament of Gaza and security organization under the "one gun" principle. IDF forces will be responsible for preventing terrorism against Israel, and Palestinian forces for security within the Palestinian state. US and international forces will also play an active role on the borders, and individual arrangements will be established through negotiations involving the US, Israel and Palestine, including Egypt, Jordan, Saudi Arabia and NATO.
* **Regional Security**, Fight against in Iran and Terrorism - The US Will Lead a Regional Security Conference for the Missile East in Washington on September 11th, 2020. The summit will be kick start talks for new regional security in the Middle East against the Iranian and terror threats. All counties of the Middle East will be invited with the exception of Iran; all members of the UNSC; EU as well as India, Pakistan, Indonesia and Malesia.
* **Settlements** - The future of settlements will be determined by negotiation, subject to the following principles –
  + An attempt will be made to minimize removal.
  + There will be a link between the number of settlers who will be allowed to remain in the Palestinian state and the number of refugees who will be allowed to return to Israeli territory.
  + Maximum territorial continuity of Israel and the State of Palestine will be maintained.
  + The state of Palestine will have economic and agricultural viability
  + Economy and infrastructure –

o Israel and Palestine will enter into negotiations on a free trade zone agreement. The US and Palestine will negotiate a new free trade zone agreement.

o The United States, Arab states and - subject to their agreement - the European Union and China, too, will set up a dedicated multinational investment fund for infrastructure in Palestine, with the emphasis on the Gaza Strip.

o Palestine will have an independent port in Gaza, and at least one independent airport. The United States will establish a dedicated consortium to establish the land crossing between Gaza and Judea & Samaria, examining the option of a tunnel or an overpass. The transition will be under international management for 25 years.

o Israel will immediately allow Palestine to develop the “Gaza Marine” gas reservoir.

• Permanent borders of Palestine - Negotiations on permanent borders will be based on the following principles –

o Territorial continuity and viability of the Palestinian state.

o Defendable borders for Israel and Palestine.

o Ensuring complete blocking of cross-border terrorism of any kind. Includes tunnels, mortars, rockets and missiles, as well as smuggling weapons, terrorist operatives, terrorist raw materials and terrorist funds.

o In addition to the exchange of land between Israel and Palestine, examination of the possibilities for the exchange of triangular and square land with Egypt, Saudi Arabia and Jordan.

• Implementation of the Saudi-Arab Initiative - Saudi Arabia will gradually call on Arab and Islamic countries to establish relations with Israel, subject to negotiations progress. The first steps that will be taken immediately -

o Israeli aircrafts, and foreign aircrafts departing from Israel, will be allowed to fly in the Saudi airspace.

o Saudi Arabia will issue hundreds of visas to Israeli businessmen and enter negotiations with Israel on tourist arrivals.

o A friendship match between the Israeli and Saudi national football teams will be held soon, in a location agreed upon by both sides.

o The UAE will take the same steps as Saudi Arabia. Bahrain is considering following them

o Oman will open an embassy in Israel and Israel will open an embassy in Muscat.

• Ratification of the agreement by the parties - Once the agreement is signed, as stated within a maximum period of one year. It will be submitted for ratification in votes or referendums by either party, and subsequently approved by the UN Security Council and the General Assembly.

In the international arena, many positive reactions to the US move. China and Russia have announced their general support for the initiative and look forward to hearing more details. Trump has sent Secretary of State Pompeo to Beijing and Moscow along with Jared Kushner to clarify the goals of the plan and rally their support.

The EU, as well as Germany, France, the United Kingdom, Italy, Spain, have also expressed support for the initiative, although they have made it clear that they will wait to hear its details before fully finalizing their positions.

In the Arab world - Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Jordan, the UN expressed support. Morocco and Tunisia as well.

In the Muslim World-Indonesia, Malaysia, Pakistan welcomed the initiative and expressed public support of the process.

Iran expressed total opposition to the agreement, claiming that it would take care of the Palestinian people and that the Arab countries have betrayed them.

Turkey expressed dissatisfaction with President Trump's presentation of the outline, saying it would "oppose any initiative that would undermine the Palestinians' historic rights to their land."

The parties themselves are currently maintaining their silence. Israeli Prime Minister and President Abu Mazen announced that they were reviewing the details and avoided any official response.

The Hamas movement said it was considering its steps.

The opposition in Israel on the left expressed support for the initiative, urging the prime minister not to miss the historic opportunity. Among the Likud and Kahol Lavan coalition factions are severe tensions from the right-wing factors within the party. “Israel Beitneinu" leader Liberman remains silent. Opposition right-wing factions urge the public to come out and protest the initiative.

The Palestinian Islamic Jihad has announced that it will oppose in all avenues at its disposal.

In a speech made at a rally in Beirut, Hezbollah leader declares that the US is not a fair broker and is trying to impose its will on the Palestinians with the help of Arab states that betrayed their Palestinian brethren.