

Fact Sheet
Office of the Spokesman
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U.S. Commitment to the Palestinian People

As President George W. Bush noted in his July 16 speech, we are strengthening our commitment to the Palestinian people and the government led by President Abbas and Prime Minister Salaam Fayyad. On June 20, shortly after Prime Minister Fayyad formed a new Palestinian government committed to the Quartet principles, we lifted financial restrictions on transactions with that new government.

In addition, the United States' own commitment to the Palestinian people remains strong. In the current fiscal year (FY07):

- * We are providing \$144 million in food assistance, education, health, and social services this year for Palestinians registered with UNRWA in the West Bank and Gaza, Jordan, Lebanon, and Syria.
- * We are providing \$50 million in assistance for Palestinian basic human needs, democracy and civil society, and private sector development through USAID. These programs include a contribution to the World Food Program which has provided essential food commodities to 300,000 Palestinians over the last ten months, and emergency water and sanitation repairs which have affected 10% of the Palestinian population. This is in addition to nearly \$130 million in ongoing USAID programs.
- * On July 10, the President authorized the Overseas Private Investment Corporation to support a program that will help generate \$228 million in lending to Palestinian small and medium enterprises.
- * We are also providing P.L. 480 Food Aid for Palestinians this year.

On security, today the President announced our intention to reorient 80 million dollars as a direct contribution to help reform the legitimate security services of the Palestinian Authority — a vital effort they are undertaking with the guidance of U.S. General Keith Dayton.

Finally, we are strengthening our commitment to helping build the institutions of a Palestinian state. Last month, former British Prime Minister Tony Blair agreed to take on a new role as Quartet Representative. In this post, he will coordinate international efforts to help the Palestinians establish the institutions of a strong and lasting free society — including effective governing structures, a sound financial system, and the rule of law. The

President also called for a meeting of the Ad Hoc Liaison Committee of donors to advance these efforts. We will work with Congress and partners around the world to provide additional resources once a plan to build Palestinian institutions is in place.

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