

PRESIDENT ABBAS RECEIVES DINO DELEGATION

President Mahmoud Abbas received on Saturday April 5, 2008 a German delegation from the German Initiative for the Near East; Deutsche Initiative fur den Nahen Osten (DINO). The delegation was headed by Manfred Erdenberger, Spokesman for the Initiative, Jurgen Bremer Director General of DINO, MSGR Martin Huelskamp, Rodolf Dressler, Manfred Kock, Ulrich Keudel, Mrs. Andrea Paschke und Dr. Dimitri Raheb.

In the Muqataa Compound the Delegation as welcomed by President Mahmoud Abbas who discussed with them the latest political developments in light of the peace process. Mr. Abbas emphasized the determination of the Palestinians to reach a peace agreement with the Israelis based the principles of right and justice, on the resolutions of the international legality, the Road Map and the Arab Peace Initiative. Mr. Abu Mazen emphasized that 2008 will be the year of Peace, and that an opportunity should be given to both sides to reach a peace deal. He expressed his willingness to accept criticism to the Palestinian position and emphasized that any solution should be based on the principle of a two-state solution, in conformity with President Bush's vision and the Arab peace initiative, including the resolution of all pending issues.

Abu Mazen emphasized to the German delegation that the year 2008 is the last chance to reach a peace deal and expressed his will to deploy whatever possible to reach a just and comprehensive peace in the region.

Abu Mazen expressed his gratitude for ther German Delegation and said that the Europeans in general and the Germans in particular bear a responsibility, He urged them to deploy additional efforts with the United States inorder to help in making the last peace chance a success.

- Before their meeting with Mr. Frangi the DINO delegation had paid a visit to the Chief Palestinian Negotiator Abu Alaa who gave them an idea about the course of the negotiations with his Israeli counterpart Mrs. Zippi Livni.
- Afterwards, the DINO delegation paid a visit to the Foreign Relations Commission where they were rreceived by Abdallah Frangi, who discussed the latest developments of the peace process and the handicaps facing the progress of the negotiations. Abdallah Frangi mentioned the accelerated settlements construction in the West Bank and criticized the policy of checkpoints and the Wall construction and the continuous policy of land confiscation. Such Israeli practices reveal the bad intentions of the Israeli side to reach a serious peace deal with the Palestinians.

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After the meeting in the Foreign Relations Commision Mr. Frangi accompanied them to the President's office and then to the Mausoleum of the late great leader of the Palestinian people, Yasser Arafat.