

Mr. President, your excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

Mr. President, I would like to thank you and the great American people for peace and support. Indeed, I would like to thank all those who have made this day possible. What we are doing today is more than signing an agreement; it is a revolution. Yesterday a dream; today a commitment.

The Israeli and the Palestinian people, who fought each other for almost a century, have agreed to move decisively on the path of dialogue, understanding and cooperation. We live in an ancient land. And as our land is small, so must our reconciliation be great. As our wars have been long, so must our healing be swift. Deep gaps call for lofty bridges.

I want to tell the Palestinian delegation that we are sincere, that we mean business. We do not seek to shape your life or determine your destiny. Let all of us turn from bullets to ballots, from guns to shovels. We shall pray with you. We shall offer you our help in making Gaza prosper and Jericho blossom again. As we have promised, we shall negotiate with you a permanent settlement, and with all our neighbors a comprehensive peace. Peace for all.

We shall support the agreement with an economic structure. We shall convert the bitter triangle of Jordanians, Palestinians, and Israelis into a triangle of political triumph and economic prosperity. We shall lower our barriers and widen our roads so goods and guests will be able to move freely all about the holy places and other places.

This should be another Genesis. We have to build a new commonwealth on our old soil: a Middle East of the people, and a Middle East for the children. For their sake we must put an end to the waste of arms races and invest our resources in education.

Ladies and gentlemen, two parallel tragedies have unfolded. Let us become a civic community. Let us bid once and for all farewell to wars, to threats, to human misery. Let us bid farewell to enmity, and may there be no more victims on either side. Let us build a Middle East of hope where today's food is produced and tomorrow's prosperity is guaranteed, a region with a common market, a Near East with a long-range agenda.

We owe it to our fallen soldiers. To the memories of the victims of the Holocaust. Our hearts today grieve for the lost lives of young and innocent people yesterday in our own country. Let their memory be a foundation we are establishing today, a memory of peace on fresh and old terms.

Suffering is first of all human. We also feel for the innocent loss of Palestinian life. We begin a new day. The day may be long and the challenges enormous. Our calendar must meet an intensive schedule. Mr. President, historically you are presiding over a most promising day in the very long history of our region, of our people.

I thank all of you, ladies and gentlemen. And let's pray together. Let's add hope to determination, since all of us since Abraham believe in freedom, in peace, in the blessing of our great land and great spirit.

From the eternal city of Jerusalem, from this green, promising lawn of the White House, let's say together in the language of our Bible:

"Peace, Peace to him that is far off and to him that is near," sayeth the Lord. "And I will heal." (Isaiah 57:19).

Thank you.