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Model United Nations – Israel-Hamas-Fatah Joint Crisis Committee

1. What is your past Model UN experience?

NAIMUN 2013: Legal committee; CMUNC 2013: Special Political, and Decolonization committee; NAIMUN 2014: Security Council; CMUNC 2014: International Olympic Committee; 2 years of experience on the debate team

1. What do you believe are the three most important issues related to developing a final framework agreement between Israel and Palestine?

I believe the three most important issues related to developing a final framework agreement between Israel and Palestine are Israel’s harsh settlement policy and occupation of disputed areas of land, the Israeli use of military force to enforce these policies and effectively occupy areas such as the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, and the response of Palestine and Hamas to these measure implemented by Israel.

1. How does the unification of Fatah and Hamas affect negotiations between Israel and Palestine?

From the Palestinian perspective, the unification of Fatah and Hamas symbolizes a more united Palestinian state, making their nation more prepared to coexist with Israel on the basis of a two-state solution. While Palestine and most of the world sees this as a step towards progress, Israel interpreted it as the Palestinian condoning of previous actions of Hamas. Ultimately, while the Palestinian government sees this as progression towards a more unified state, Israel has not forgotten the acts of terror committed by Hamas, and thus has become more reluctant towards peace talks.

1. Please discuss some of the potential outcomes of negotiations between Israel and Palestine (i.e. joint government in one state, two separate states, etc.), and the costs/benefits of each scenario.

One outcome that is certainly within the realm of possibilities is the establishment of an independent Palestinian state. Obviously, this is the most favorable outcome for the Palestinian people, as it would free them from the oppression and “land grabbing” by the Israeli government and military. However, out of fear for their own security, Israel prefers the creation of a “Palestinian entity.” This would essentially be a continuation of the current state of Palestine today, as it would entail partial but not full sovereignty over its borders and citizens. A joint government in one state scenario is practically impossible at this point, as Israelis and Palestinians have a plethora of reasons to loath one another, ranging from attacks on one another to fundamental ideological difference. Overall, the most likely outcome is a two-state solution, but this is unlikely to take place soon, as Israel is too concerned about its own security and Palestinian culture has become increasingly focused around a longing for an end to Israel’s existence through the popularization of terror organizations, especially Hamas.

1. How can Israel balance its stated desire to be formally recognized by the international community as a “Jewish state” with its constitutional commitment to democracy? How does this impact the negotiations process?

Israel doesn’t have to do much to maintain its position in the eyes of the world as a Jewish state. As the western world harshly condemns Muslim theocracies in the Middle East, Israel is forced to show its commitment to democratic values. Its very foundation is based in the roots of Zionism, and its historic location attracts Jews from around the world. If Israel is to effectively use the pressure of the western world to favorably craft its peace negotiations, then it must prove that its commitment to democracy outweighs its religious purpose.