

THE SAUDI ONE-POINT PLAN

There's been some talk about a Saudi 8-point plan. Let's look at it.

1. *"Israel withdrawal from all territory occupied in the 1967 war."* Israel is already withdrawing from a huge section of that territory -- but *that* withdrawal is the result of the *Camp David* peace process, which Saudi Arabia and this eight point plan oppose. Camp David is the result of negotiation, give-and-take between Israel and Egypt, the indispensable element of any peace proposal. But the element of negotiation, of give-and-take, is absent from these 8 points.

Most important, however, is the (scarcely) hidden element in this proposal. For "Israel withdrawal" (from the West Bank), you should read "PLO takeover of the West Bank." That's what this first point means, in fact. This is not a new Saudi proposal; it is an old PLO proposal.

2. *"Removal of all Israeli settlements in the West Bank and other occupied areas."* Of course, this is just another way of implementing point number one: "PLO takeover." But, in addition, it states, incredibly, intolerably, that no Jews shall ever be allowed to live in the West Bank.

3. *"Guarantees of Freedom of Worship for all religious sects in the Holy Land."* A great point, which Saudi Arabia never proposed when Jordan was in control of Jerusalem and desecrating Jewish holy places. When the Saudis state this point, they are exposing their lack of good faith in general. They know that there is freedom of worship under Israeli administration as there would never be under the PLO.

4. *"Confirmation of the right of 2 million Palestinian people to return, and compensation for those who opt not to do so."* This is another mark of the cynical bad faith of the whole document. The Saudis know that, at most, three quarters of a million Arabs left what is now Israel. They also know that at least as many Jews fled from Arab lands during that period. Compensation would have to be a two-way street; and, in general, the Saudis could only make this inoperable suggestion with forked tongue in cheek.

5. *"The West Bank and the Gaza Strip will be subject to a transitional period, under the supervision of the UN, for a period not exceeding a few months."* This is, of course, just a restatement of Point 1, the heart of the whole proposal: turn the West Bank over to the PLO forthwith, without any conditions.

6. *"The establishment of a Palestinian state, with East Jerusalem as its capital."*

Again, this is just a restatement of Points 1 and 5: capitulate to the pro-war, anti-American PLO.

7. *"Confirming the right of the countries of the region to live in peace."* One dispatch from Washington translates this point as "the right of all states in the region." But the Saudi version does not say *all* states. And indeed, Saudi representatives, queried by Ted Koppel and others, carefully refused to stipulate that Israel was one of the countries of the area which has a right to peace. If you don't recognize a country as a country, then it's not a country, right?

8. *"The UN or some of its members shall guarantee the implementation of these principles."*

Since no negotiations are called for in these 8 points, this last point presumably just calls on the UN, or some of its members, to launch the war that it would take to implement these principles.

So, what do we have? Leaving out the sheer nonsense and window-dressing (Points 3, 4, 7 and 8), we are presumably left with 4 points. But those 4 points (Points 1, 2, 5 and 6) all say the same thing. *This is, in fact, a one-point plan: "Turn the West Bank over to the PLO without negotiation, without recognition of Israel, without conditions, without delay."*

That is not a peace plan. It is a declaration of war. It is an ultimatum. It is a cynical attempt to hoodwink America. If we fall for it, we will get what we deserve: the loss of the Middle East.