

Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab League Envoy on U.S.-PLO Dialogue

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[Text] Abu Dhabi, March 4 (KUNA)—A senior Arab diplomat Saturday called on Washington to reopen the PLO office there and asked the Arab world to work for progressing the U.S.-PLO dialogue.

Arab League representative at the U.N. Clovis Maksud, in an interview with KUNA here, wondered how can the U.S. open a dialogue with the PLO through its Tunis embassy and keep the organization's information office in Washington closed.

Maksud said that the U.S. Administration should further clarify emphatically that the Palestinian uprising will continue as long as Israel's occupation of the occupied Arab lands and its atrocious practices to quell it persist.

Washington should also admit the legitimacy of resistance in South Lebanon as long as Israel maintains its hold of the so-called security zone in southern Lebanon, he elaborated.

No Arab country accepts Israel's outrageous description of the uprising and the resistance as terrorism, Maksud emphasized.

The Arab League official, who stopped here en route to Australia to deliver lectures there, warned against converting the PLO-dialogue into intermittent contacts.

Maksud said that the Arab League and Arab ambassadors in Washington are exerting efforts to avoid making Israel benefit from the dialogue by channeling its demands and threats through the U.S. to the Palestinians.

The Arab official, calling on the U.S. to work for implementing the Security Council Resolutions 425, 508 and 509 on Lebanon which it shared in drafting, said that crises are complicated in Lebanon as a result of the Israeli presence there and welcomed in this respect deployment of Lebanese Army troops in the south as a step to defend it.

Maksud, who has spent so far ten years in his office, said that the uprising has led to changes in the American public opinion more than in the American Administration.

He charged Israel of launching deceptive initiatives to divert the attention from the real settlement to the Palestinian problem.

Maksud advocated an Arab summit to decide on several pending questions and ascertain Arab calls for peace based on international legitimacy.

5 States Discuss Power Grid Interconnection

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[Text] Amman (J.T.)—Jordan and four Middle Eastern countries opened a three-day meeting in Amman Saturday to discuss a power grid interconnection in the region and promote cooperation among themselves in energy-related fields.

The meeting, held at the Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA) offices, are being attended by representatives from Jordan, Iraq, Syria, Egypt and Turkey, whose countries last January reached tentative agreement in Ankara on launching the scheme.

The Islamic Development Bank and the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development are also represented at the meeting to discuss prospects of financing the project.

The delegates are discussing technical aspects of the interconnection scheme among their countries in a bid to agree on a programme for implementation which will be preceded first by a feasibility study, according to a JEA statement.

The meeting of experts was opened by Hisham al-Khatib, minister of energy and mineral resources, who said Jordan attaches importance to this project and the deliberations which would pave the way for coordination and close cooperation among the five countries.

Jordan and Syria have been cooperating in power supply matters over the past 10 years and Jordan and Egypt are now heading towards linking their national grids, a project which is expected to take three years to complete, Al-Khatib noted.

He said that Jordan and Iraq are also studying the prospect of linking their grids and the way is open for linking the three countries with other states in the region, Al-Khatib added.

The Turkish and Iraqi grids are already linked and Iraq is currently supplying parts of Turkey with electric power.

Energy officials and specialists from Jordan, Egypt, and an international consultancy firm, have completed a feasibility study on a project for linking the national grids of Egypt and Jordan, and a full report was submitted to the joint Jordanian Egyptian Higher Committee in Cairo recently.

The \$170 million project will take four years to implement, according to JEA officials.