

INTERNATIONAL PEACE PROJECT²⁰⁰⁰

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IPP PUBLIC NOTICE No. 1

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LAUNCH OF FIRST IPP BRIEFING ON 'THE PROSPECTS FOR PEACE':

THE ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN CONFLICT

Today marks the publication of the first briefing of the International Peace Project focused on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. This new educational charity is using a unique strategy called the 'Peace Games', which is being tested on this conflict in order to illustrate the idea and build up support and funding for applying it to many conflict areas.

These trial peace games, like weather forecasting, are about predicting a 'climate' for peace or war between Israel and the Palestinian Authority by taking all relevant factors into account such as military, economic and institutional issues. Three competing methods of analysis, outlined in *IPP Briefing No. 1*, are to be tested against criteria, chosen by each author, for evaluating the subsequent course of events in the conflict area to decide which reveals the best understanding of the long term factors for peace or war:

- An Israeli perspective, based on Professor Raphael Israeli's work, argues that, paradoxically, because compromising before negotiations begin invites pressures for more, Israel needs to stand firmly and not yield one inch to Palestinians without a peace of reciprocity, tested over a protracted period;
- A Palestinian perspective, based on Cheryl Rubenberg's work, contrasts the power of Israel with the powerlessness of Palestinians and implies that unless Israel ends the occupation of the territories taken in 1967 and allows the Palestinians to establish a viable, independent state there will be no peace;
- An 'irenical' or peace perspective by Peter Southwood, predicts periodic war between the two sides unless (i) the greater jihad of Islam – or war against the enemy within – assumes priority over the 'lesser jihad' fought on the battlefield and (ii) Israel can give greater emphasis to peaceful means of conflict resolution (like its unilateral withdrawal from Gaza).

Each contribution has the same sub-headings for ease of comparison. Appendices packed with concise information from reliable sources help the public decide which view is right.

'The final establishment of universal peace among all the nations of the earth manifestly is an object of public charity.'
Rugg C. J. in Parkhurst v Burrill 117 NE 39 (1917)

Charity registration number 1101966. Application under English law was based on the Court of Appeal judgment in Southwood & Parsons v H. M. Attorney General (28 June 2000) concerning the Project on Demilitarisation.

The Briefing, written in the aftermath of the death of the Palestinian leader Yassir Arafat, is being published in the month that Israeli leader, Ariel Sharon, suffered a stroke and brain haemorrhage. While rightly of great emotional concern to those affected, none of the analyses suggest that the fate of individual political leaders has a long term effect on the direction of the conflict. The conclusions of the Briefing also contrast markedly with the hopeful note struck by the outcome of the London Meeting on 1 March 2005 which spoke of 'a moment of **promise and opportunity** for Palestinians and Israelis.'¹ The Briefing seeks to illustrate the important potential role of education in a peace process.

Full details of the International Peace Project (IPP) and its Briefing No. 1 (in pdf format) are available on the new web site at: www.ipp2000.org

Funding

The total cost of the 'Project 2000' initiative, as it was first called, from the establishment of the Project on Demilitarisation in 1992, through the related court case (*re Prodem*) in 1998 and 2000 to the registering of the International Peace Project as a charity in 2004 was about £100,000. Of this total just under two-thirds came from a charitable trust for setting up Prodem and roughly one third from Peter Southwood for legal costs and taking IPP up to the point of registration as a charity. The first IPP Briefing No. 1 is being funded by voluntary effort, in terms of time and gifts in kind, until the value of predicting peace or war is recognised and rewarded by grant making bodies or public subscription.

Note for Editors and Journalists

In order to help protect the political and religious impartiality of this educational charity the Trustees do not generally intend to give media interviews. Naturally, this policy may be varied at their discretion, if circumstances warrant. (Brief details of the Trustees will be found on the IPP web site.)

Similarly, the Special Editor of Briefing No. 1, Peter Southwood, is not authorised to give any interviews on its content or the controversial issues which the briefing addresses, unless Professor Israeli and Cheryl Rubenberg are willing and able to be interviewed simultaneously with him. However, he is permitted to give information on the background to the setting up of IPP, including the legal case and the concept of the 'Peace Games'. Decisions on the future direction of the Trust and the choice of conflict areas to be examined by competitive methods of analysis will be taken by the Trustees alone, dependent on what charitable funds may be raised for this purpose and after taking into account the views of interested individuals and organisations.

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¹ . 'Conclusions of the London Meeting On Supporting the Palestinian Authority, 1 March 2005', p.1 accessed from UK Foreign & Commonwealth Office web site at: www.fco.gov.uk on 5 March 2005. Emphasis in the original.