

**Visit to Japan of His Excellency Mr. Silvan Zion Shalom,
Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Israel
(Summary and Evaluation)**

August 2003

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Israel H.E. Mr. Silvan Zion Shalom visited Japan from 24 to 27 August at the invitation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. During his stay, Foreign Minister Shalom held meetings with Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi, Minister for Foreign Affairs Yoriko Kawaguchi and others. The following is a summary of the visit.

1. Itinerary

24 August (Sun)	Arrival in Japan
25 August (Mon)	Observation tour of Japanese corporation, etc.
26 August (Tues)	Courtesy Call on Prime Minister Koizumi, meeting and dinner with Foreign Minister Kawaguchi
27 August (Wed)	Meetings with Diet members, etc, departure from Japan

2. Summary of Major Meetings

(1) Courtesy Call on Prime Minister Koizumi

(a) Foreign Minister Shalom

- Since both the Israeli and Palestinian sides accepted the Roadmap, Israel has taken measures such as the withdrawal from some cities in the Palestinian autonomous territories and has also removed unauthorized outposts of the Jewish settlements. However, the Palestinian Authority (PA) has still not taken measures to dismantle terrorist organizations. The recent suicide bombing (that killed 21 and injured

approximately 120 people) made it mandatory for Israel to ensure security of the Israeli people by itself.

- In order to crack down on the extremists, Israel expects Japan to use its influence on the PA, and implement financial restrictions on terrorist organizations, including on Hamas as a whole. Israel also hopes that Japan would call upon countries such as Syria and Iran, to put an end to their support for terrorist organizations. Israel is concerned with Iran's alleged nuclear development, as it poses serious concern over the stability in the region.
- Japan could play a key role in realizing Middle East peace.
- The Israeli side would like to invite Prime Minister Koizumi to visit Israel.

(b) Prime Minister Koizumi

- Japan expresses its deepest condolences to those who lost their lives in these recent acts of terrorism. Japan will continue to make efforts toward the coexistence and prosperity of both Israelis and Palestinians. It is important that both sides overcome the chain of hatred and the involvement by the United States is essential to this end. It is important for Israel to exercise self-restraints and for the Palestinian side to make efforts to dismantle extremist groups.
- Japan is calling on Iran to make efforts to eradicate concerns over the alleged nuclear development.
- The invitation to visit Israel is much appreciated and a visit will gladly be made on an appropriate occasion.

(2) Meeting with Foreign Minister Kawaguchi

(a) Foreign Minister Shalom

- Though Israeli side has implemented the Roadmap, the Palestinian side has not

taken any measures. Israel would like to ask Japan to urge the Palestinian side to take such measures. Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas of the PA has the capability to crack down on Hamas. At the very least, he should take action.

- Israel would like Japan to designate Hamas as a terrorist organization. In addition, Syria and Iran's assistance toward extremist groups is hindering the peace process. Israel would like Japan to call on Iran to sign the Additional Protocol of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) with regard to the concerns over the alleged nuclear development.

(b) Foreign Minister Kawaguchi

- The Roadmap is the only way to achieve peace. In order to save the Roadmap from the current crisis, the Israeli side should provide opportunities to seek for peace to Prime Minister Abbas and also proceed with security cooperation with the Palestinian side.
- On 25 August, Foreign Minister Kawaguchi telephoned Minister of External Affairs Nabil Sha'ath of the PA and called on the Palestinian side to undertake visible steps, at the very least and to unify security organizations toward ending the violence and the dismantling of terrorist organizations.
- Frustration among the Palestinians is mounting, since the Palestinians think that the separation fence causes negative impacts on the lives of the Palestinians and prejudices final status. The construction of the fence curbing into the Palestinians territories needs to be stopped.
- Japan is to carefully examine whether to recognize entire Hamas as a terrorist organization including political wing based on the information collected
- Japan also conveyed its concerns to Iran and Syria over their alleged support for terrorist organizations. Japan has called upon Iran to eradicate concern over the

alleged nuclear development.

- Japan strongly hopes that Israel will participate in a system for non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, such as Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC), and the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC). Japan requests Israel the early signing and ratification of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) which will lead to early entry into force of the treaty.

3. Evaluation

(1) This visit by Israeli Foreign Minister was the first in six years, since 1997. From the Japanese side, Foreign Minister Kawaguchi visited Israel, in June 2002 and in April 2003. Given such an opportunity as the 50th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries in 2002, exchange and the promotion of understanding are invigorated at the foreign ministers' level, and it will bring about further development of the bilateral relationship.

(2) This visit was undertaken amid a situation where the Middle East peace took a turn for the worse, though the progress toward the implementation of the Roadmap that had been appearing. Through a series of meetings, both sides share a common recognition that serious efforts on the issue of Middle East peace, which is key to the peace and stability in the Middle East. Frank exchange of views on measures to achieve that end also took place.

(3) A wide-ranging exchange of views took place, such as Syria and Iran, security in the Middle East, and the issue of weapons of mass destruction.