

FOR SHAME!

U.S. State Department Whitewashes Yasir Arafat's Bloody Hands

In May 2002, the U.S. State Department issued two reports on terrorism in the Middle East and around the world. Both reports whitewash the overwhelming evidence that Yasir Arafat has been the leader of the ongoing Palestinian Arab terrorist campaign. This whitewash undermines President Bush's declared policy of zero tolerance for terrorism.

Whitewashing Arafat's Role in Murdering Jews:

The State Department reports note that "elements with varying degrees of affiliation" with Arafat-controlled groups committed "acts of violence," but the reports then assert: "There is no conclusive evidence that these elements acted with the prior approval and encouragement of the PLO and PA leaderships." Incredibly, the reports ignore the truckloads of evidence found by Israel in Palestinian Authority (PA) offices in April 2002, including numerous documents signed by Arafat, in which he orders terrorism and pays individual terrorists.

Whitewashing Arafat's Words of War:

The State Department reports ignore the culture of anti-Jewish hatred and violence in Arafat's school textbooks, summer camps, and sermons by Arafat's clergy. The reports quote Arafat claiming to want peace, but do not quote any of Arafat's speeches calling for jihad (Islamic holy war); urging "one million martyrs to march to Jerusalem"; and assuring Arab audiences that he adheres to the PLO's 1974 strategy of destroying Israel in phases.



Whitewashing Arafat's Promotion of Terror:

The State Department reports ignore the fact that Arafat and his aides praise terrorists as "heroes" and "martyrs." Arafat's regime provides financial rewards to the families of terrorists, and it also channels Iraqi and Saudi payments of over \$30,000 to each family of a suicide bomber. And streets and parks in Arafat's territory are named after prominent terrorists.

Whitewashing Arafat's Terror Gangs:

The State Department reports acknowledge that much of the terrorism has been carried out by the Al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigade and the Tanzim, but it refuses to admit that these groups are part and parcel of Arafat's own Fatah group—even though Al Aqsa leader Maslama Thabet has said, "Our group is an integral part of Fatah" and "it is following the orders of Yasser Arafat"; and Fatah leader Marwan Barghouti has said the Tanzim "are part of the Fatah organization."

Whitewashing Arafat's Ship of Terror:

The State Department reports refer to the Israeli capture, in January 2002, of the Karine-A, the PA's Ship of Terror carrying 50 tons of Iranian weapons bound for the PA. Yet they refuse to acknowledge the PA's role in the ship, in spite of the fact that the ship had been purchased by Arafat's chief financial officer; manned by Palestinian Authority naval officers, and that the captain admitted the PA leadership organized the ship.

Incredibly, despite Arafat's terrorism and polls showing 81% of Palestinian Arabs support suicide bombings*, the Bush administration has increased America's annual aid to the Palestinian Arabs from \$100-million to \$150 million. And the administration is urging the creation of a Palestinian Arab state—which would mean setting up a mini-Iraq terrorist state along Israel's border. This appeasement tramples President Bush's own doctrine of ending terrorist states and may increase the likelihood of terrorism against the U.S. for if suicide bombers succeed in Israel, they may strike again in America as well.

Whitewashing Arafat's terrorism and trying to appease him with U.S. money and the offer of a state will not turn him into a moderate. It will only send him a message that terrorism reaps financial and diplomatic rewards.

Appeasement didn't work in the 1930s, and it won't work now. As Winston Churchill warned, "Those who appease the crocodile will be eaten last."

* Poll by the Palestinian Center for Public Opinion, August 8-13, 2001.

URGE PRESIDENT BUSH:

End relations with Arafat and the PA and don't allow a new terrorist state next to Israel.

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