

ISSN 0970-7247

Rs. 20.00

APRIL 2015

THIRD
CONCEPT

338

Annual Subscription Rs. 200

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An International Journal of Ideas

Vol. 29 No. 338 APRIL 2015 Rs. 20. 00

Third Concept aims at providing a platform where a meaningful exchange of ideas can take place among the people of the Third World. The attempt will be to communicate, debate and disseminate information, ideas and alternatives for the resolution of the common problems facing humankind. We welcome contributions from academics, journalists and even from those who may never have published anything before. The only requirement is a concern for and desire to understand and take the issue of our time. Contributions may be descriptive, analytical or theoretical. They may be in the form of original articles, reactions to previous contributions, or even a comment on a prevailing situation. All contributions, neatly typed in double space, may be addressed to:

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Published, Printed and Owned by

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Printed at Vijeta Offsett Printer; 3545,
Jatwara, Daryaganj, New Delhi - 110002.

Designed by: Pt Tejpal

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Palestinian Conundrum

For about seven decades now, the question of Palestine has almost become a conundrum for the international comity of nations owing to Israeli intransigence to vacate the occupied Palestinian territories. However, some ray of hope is there in the wake of reported move of France to start discussions in the coming weeks on a U.N. Security Council resolution that would set out the steps for a negotiated end of Israel's occupation of Palestinian land and a solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. According to media reports, the defeated Palestinian draft resolution of December 2014 had called for a comprehensive solution to the conflict leading to a Palestinian state based on the 1967 borders within one year and a withdrawal of all Israeli forces from Palestinian territory within three years.

Media reports indicate that France had been working on a similar resolution in December 2014 and it was during this period that the Palestinians presented their own draft to the Security Council, which got defeated for want of necessary votes. France voted in favor of the Palestinian draft at the expense of annoying Israel. The US was spared from exercising its veto since the Palestinian draft fell one vote shy of the required nine-vote majority. Presently, France has no idea how the US would vote on its new resolution on Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Media reports indicate that Washington may leave open the possibility of its support for the proposed French resolution. Press Secretary in the Obama administration, Josh Earnest, has reportedly said: "But we have not yet actually seen a text of a resolution so I'd reserve comment on a hypothetical resolution." Recent weeks have witnessed Israeli relations with the United States having dropped to historic lows, mainly on account of reported disagreement over a nuclear deal with Iran and due to Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's remarks about Palestinian statehood and Arab Israeli voters.

Israeli prime minister Netanyahu's election eve statement in March this year that he no longer supported a two-state solution to resolve the Palestinian issue was reportedly disapproved by Obama administration and its officials are reported to have said that they would reassess the diplomatic cover Israel has enjoyed for decades from Washington at the U.N. The Israeli elections had failed to arouse any enthusiasm amongst the Palestinian leaders who expected nothing new to come out of the elections, but they hoped to see movement on issues that seemingly appeared to be frozen. Anticipating the results of Israeli elections, the Palestinian Authority (PA) had postponed the discussion of a number of important Palestinian issues until the results of the elections. The Palestinian political situation has been in deadlock, since the Israeli elections had remained the main priority for the past three months. Nevertheless, most Palestinians leaders are not optimistic about any major change regarding the Palestinian question, as the issues of settlements, occupation, Judaisation, arrests, Jerusalem, refugees and negotiations are considered "Zionist sanctities". The PA, in a deliberate and well-thought out decision, had put off the discussion of important Palestinian issues that are crucial on the Palestinian, Israeli and regional levels. Keeping in view the ambivalent stance of new dispensation headed by Netanyahu in Tel Aviv, the Palestinian leaders need to drive the fact that Netanyahu is not a reliable negotiating partner, a fact to which the Obama administration and its major European allies appear to have started ascribing now.

Some experts like Richard Klass feel that the PA should make an immediate push to get European nations to join Sweden in recognizing the Palestinian state. There is need for persuading EU to promote economic sanctions against Israel, as well as UN sanctions. It is also suggested that the PA should push for two types of UN resolutions, the first one should seek to set a two-year timetable for ending the occupation, and the second one to call for an agreement for a Palestinian state based on the 1967 borders, with negotiated adjustments. According to Klass, the United States should assist, or at least not impede, these efforts. Palestinian leaders should ensure that no self-defeating actions are indulged in that would only give the Israeli government excuses for further obstruction. If that is allowed to take place, 'the Palestinians will lose their country, and Israel will lose its soul.'

— BK