Summit ends with upbeat vows from all

At Aqaba, Abbas outlaws 'terrorism', Sharon says outposts to go 'immediately'

By Debra Hagen and Susan Riemer

The Aqaba summit ended on a positive note, with both Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon and Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas committing to end violence and begin a new era of peace.

The leaders agreed to a joint statement that called for an end to all acts of violence, terrorism, and settlement expansion. Sharon said he would immediately begin the process of dismantling unauthorized outposts in the West Bank.

Abbas said he would take steps to improve the security situation in the territories and ensure that Palestinian security forces are fully committed to the task.

"We have reached a historic moment," Sharon said. "This is the beginning of a new chapter in the conflict between Israel and the Palestinian people."

Abbas added: "This is a historic moment. It is a moment of hope and a moment of renewal."

The leaders also called for an international conference to be held in Aqaba in September to push forward the peace process.

Summit Analysis

One small step for regional mankind

By Debra Hagen

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What Sharon sowed, now he reaps

By Mike Fisher

Exactly 21 years after a Palestinian terrorist attack on an Israeli school in Jerusalem, Israel's Prime Minister Ariel Sharon has won a historic victory.

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Only 20,000 answer settlers’ battle cry

By Hagai Haziza and Gideon Alon

Nearly 20,000 Israelis, including army reservists, police, and other civilians, took part in a demonstration in Jerusalem on Tuesday to show their support for the settlers in Gaza and the West Bank.

The demonstration was organized by the Knesset Members for Peace and Justice (KMPJ) and was held in conjunction with a similar rally in Ramallah.

"The settlers are fighting for their land and their way of life," said MK Tamar Zandberg, who organized the rally. "We must support them in their struggle against the occupation and the Palestinian Authority."

The rally was met with strong opposition from the Palestinian Authority and the Israeli government.

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