



Permanent Mission of

Malaysia

to the United Nations

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**Statement by H.E. Mr. Hamidon Ali
Permanent Representative of Malaysia to the United Nations in New York**

**at the 5564th Meeting of the Security Council of the United Nations
(open debate on the Situation in the Middle East,
including the Palestinian question)**

New York, 9 November 2006

Mr. President,

Let me begin by associating myself with the statements delivered by the distinguished representatives of Cuba, on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement, and Azerbaijan, on behalf of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference. My delegation endorses the statements delivered by the distinguished representative of Qatar, on behalf of the Group of Arab States, and by the distinguished Permanent Observer of Palestine. My delegation would like to expand on one point pronounced in those statements, namely on the establishment and deployment of a UN observer or peacekeeping force to the Occupied Palestinian Territory.

2. The establishment and deployment of a UN force to the Occupied Palestinian Territory is a proposal that has been on the Council's table for almost four decades. My delegation believes that, under the present circumstances of heightened tension, only the forcible separation of the two sides would be able to provide the necessary peace and security conducive for the resumption of negotiations for a political settlement. Malaysia, along with many other countries, has long urged the Security Council to establish a strong interposing international protection mechanism, which would have the immediate effect of defusing the explosive situation on the ground and instilling confidence between the two sides. Therefore, my delegation urges, once again, that a robust international protection force be deployed without further delay. We cannot afford to let the violence spiral out of control or allow this conflict to remain unresolved indefinitely.

3. The Security Council is well aware of the details of the UN force proposal, which had also been recommended by the Secretary-General. Unfortunately, the repeated calls in the past for the Council to consider this proposal had been met with resistance. Consequently, thousands of defenceless Palestinian civilians, including women and children, have been and would continue to be killed and wounded, and their property and infrastructure have been and would continue to be destroyed as a result of the relentless acts of aggression and excessive and indiscriminate use of force by Israel, the occupying Power, in a 'business as usual' fashion. In retaliating against the occupation and aggressions, acts by Palestinian

militants have wrongfully led to Israeli civilian casualties and the destruction of their property. If such acts are considered as legitimate under those circumstances, then, I am afraid, we have returned to the long bygone dark ages of our ancestors, and that the Council members, oblivious to their Charter responsibility, are sitting here in this Chamber seemingly endorsing those war crimes and crimes against humanity.

4. My delegation continues to recognize the important role of the diplomatic Quartet. The Road Map and the two-State solution envisaged therein, among others, had provided real hope for peace. Given the current situation on the ground and the overall increasingly deteriorating situation in the region, it appears that the three-year old Road Map has been deliberately asphyxiated by a power mightier than the Quartet. It also appears that the Road Map is nothing more than just a piece of paper, just like the Council resolutions on the Palestinian question – excellent in substance but poor in implementation.

5. My delegation appeals once again to the Council to shoulder its Charter responsibility for the sake of both the Palestinians and the Israelis, for the sake of peace and security in the region and the world at large, and for humanity. While serious efforts to resuscitate the Middle East peace process are being made, establishing and deploying a UN force without further delay to the Occupied Palestinian Territory is an option that the Council should seriously consider. My delegation hopes that the draft resolution that would be presented in due course by the delegation of Qatar, on behalf of the OIC and League of Arab States, would serve as the basis in this regard.

Thank you, Mr. President.