



**MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION**

**INFORMATION AND PRESS DEPARTMENT**

32/34 Smolenskaya-Sennaya pl., 119200, Moscow G-200; tel.: (095) 244 4119, fax: 244 4112  
e-mail: [dip@mid.ru](mailto:dip@mid.ru), web-address: [www.mid.ru](http://www.mid.ru)

Unofficial translation from Russian

**PRESS RELEASE**

**Russian Minister of Foreign Affairs Sergey Lavrov Speaks to Head of the Palestinian National Authority Mahmoud Abbas by Telephone**

101-29-01-2006

A telephone conversation took place on January 28 between Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation Sergey Lavrov and Head of the Palestinian National Authority Mahmoud Abbas.

The conversation focused on the results of the first Palestinian Legislative Council elections in a decade, which became an important event in the life of the Palestinian people on the path of strengthening power structures and forming statehood in accordance with the provisions of the Road Map. In this context it was stressed that the democratically expressed will of the Palestinian people must be respected.

The Minister backed up the PNA Head's adherence to a political settlement with Israel, and orientation towards carrying out necessary reforms in various fields in the Palestinian territories.

It was especially noted that all participants in the Palestinian electoral process should adhere to political ways of the realization of the internationally recognized national aspirations of the Palestinian people, which presupposes a renunciation of terror and violence, and the coexistence of an independent, democratic Palestine in peace and security with Israel.

The Palestinian leader thanked the Minister for the words of support, and affirmed the invariability of his line on a quest for negotiated solutions to the tasks facing the Palestinians. Mahmoud Abbas voiced readiness to continue close engagement with Russia both in advancing the peace process and in strengthening Palestinian-Russian bilateral relations.

January 29, 2006