
Jerusalem, 13 March 2005 - Press encounter between Secretary-General and Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon before their meeting at the Prime Minister's office in Jerusalem

SG: Thank you very much, Mr. Prime Minister, for this very warm welcome. I am happy to be able to come to Israel at this time, as you said, to join you in the opening of the new Yad Vashem museum, and to be able to discuss the peace process and the Road Map and developments in the region. We've all been very encouraged by recent developments, including the Sharm el Sheikh agreement. As a member of the Quartet, we look forward to working with you and [Palestinian President] Mahmoud Abbas in moving the process forward.

I am very much looking forward, Mr. Prime Minister, to our discussions on all these issues.

Prime Minister Ariel Sharon: Thank you very much, Mr. Secretary-General. You are among friends here.