

Why does the United States owe the Palestinian Arabs any aid whatsoever?

by Hugh Fitzgerald



Secretary of State Antony Blinken has been busy trying to drum up “international support” for Gaza. As we all know, in the latest round of fighting between Hamas and Israel, a great deal of damage was done to Hamas’ “infrastructure” – that is, to the places where the terror group hid its huge armory of rockets (some 14,000 at the start of the conflict), including schools, hospitals, apartment houses, mosques and the buildings, too, where it had its intelligence offices, its weapons development facilities, its command-and-control centers. And then, of course, there was the extensive network of tunnels deep underground – dubbed the “Metro” by the Israelis – 62 miles of which the IAF managed to destroy, a network that Hamas had spent one billion dollars to build, starting its effort just after the last Gaza war in 2014; and

which it had only recently completed.

On his recent trip to the Middle East, during his visit to Ramallah, Blinken announced \$110 million in new economic assistance for the reconstruction of Gaza. And just before his trip the government announced other aid to the Palestinians, including \$15 million that would go to COVID-related expenses, and another \$75 million would go to the PA in order, the announcement by the Biden administration explained, to win back the “trust and goodwill” of the Palestinians. Why America needed to spend large sums to win the “trust and goodwill” of the Palestinians, instead of the Palestinians needing to behave quite differently if they wish to have our “trust and goodwill,” was not explained.

Including commitments of aid to the Palestinians already made to the PA in April, this new sum brings the American aid package pledged to the Palestinians to a total of \$360 million. The Biden Administration has also pledged to renew hundreds of millions of dollars in annual contributions to UNRWA, an organization that continues to inculcate antisemitism in its schoolbooks, despite many promises to revise that material. UNRWA is also responsible for treating the status of “Palestinian refugee” as an inheritable trait, able to be passed on by the original refugees to their children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and so on, world without end. Of the tens of millions of refugees created since World War II, only one group – the Palestinian Arabs – have been allowed to pass on this status to all of their descendants. Thus do the UNRWA rolls continuously increase, with no conceivable letup.

Blinken seems to think that the money he has just pledged for the reconstruction of Gaza, as well as whatever share of the other aid pledged by donors to the Palestinians will be allocated to Gaza, can be kept out of the hands of Hamas. He plans to route the aid through Mahmoud Abbas’ Palestinian Authority, apparently oblivious to the fact that the PA has no

visible presence in Gaza, having been expelled by Hamas from the Strip in 2007; Gaza is now securely under the rule of Hamas, which is newly empowered, despite its loss, because it managed to “stand up” to Israel, will insist on being involved in the distribution of aid, and will manage to find a way to inveigle others into agreeing.

It looks as if Blinken and his nominal boss Joe Biden are willing to take a chance, without the slightest evidence it will succeed, on the possibility that the PA will manage to find a way to distribute aid money to NGOs and individuals in Gaza while keeping Hamas at arm’s length. Just the other day, a “senior State Department official” admitted to reporters that “there are no guarantees” that Hamas won’t be able to get hold of some of that aid money. It should, of course, enrage the public to discover that American money was ending up in the hands of the terror group Hamas.

There is a way out. Why not admit publicly that “the government has concluded that it would be impossible to prevent Hamas from benefiting from aid money that goes to Gaza,” so “we [the American government] have decided not to participate, after all, in funding the reconstruction of Gaza. And what has finally convinced us to leave the reconstruction of Gaza to others is the latest news from Qatar”?

What news from Qatar? [Jihad Watch](#).