



## **Brazil's Statement to the UN Security Council**

**New York, 15 September 2003**

Statement by Ambassador Ronaldo Mota Sardenberg

Mr. President,

The Brazilian Government noted, with deep concern, the recent decision of the Israeli Security Cabinet to "remove" the President of the National Palestinian Authority, Yasser Arafat, from the Palestinian Territories. We view with even greater alarm explicit statements regarding the assassination of President Arafat.

Brazil recognizes President Arafat's legitimate authority, as being democratically elected by the Palestinian people. In this connection, the Government of Brazil calls on Israel to renounce the decision adopted by its Security Cabinet, and urges, once more, Israelis and Palestinians to act with utmost restraint. Their return to the negotiating table is the only path conducive to a comprehensive, just and lasting solution for the conflict in the Middle East.

I also take this opportunity to welcome the appointment of Palestinian Prime Minister Ahmed Qorei. His many diplomatic skills, as reflected in his contribution to the Oslo Process, will be important for the resumption of contacts with his Israeli partners in the quest for a new momentum in the peace process.

Finally, Brazil reiterates its full support to the work of the Quartet, in its goal to promote, with the cooperation of the international community, an end to terrorism and violence, an end to occupation, and a permanent settlement of conflict based on Resolutions 242, 338 and 1397 and other relevant resolutions of the Security Council. We call upon the parties to comply immediately and thoroughly with those resolutions, especially towards attaining a meaningful cease-fire and the Israeli withdrawal from Palestinian cities, including Ramallah.

We renew our willingness to contribute to the implementation of initiatives capable of leading to the improvement of the situation in the region, including by means of participation in an international mobilization under the aegis of the United Nations.

Thank you.

**Brazilian Palestinian National Interest Committee**