

Abul Gheit Attacks Bush and Israel in Sharm El-Sheikh amid Strong Applause and Officials' Astonishment

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Ahmed Abul Gheit, Foreign Minister, indicated that Middle East problems are related to the continued Arab-Israeli conflict, stressing that Israel does not want peace .

Abul Gheit's statements, in one of Davos Forum sessions, stirred contradicting reactions .

Some attendees met his word with 'strong applause' when he indirectly criticized Bush's speech two days ago in the Forum inaugural session about Israel's nuclear power, while ministers and officials showed their resentment and astonishment.

Foreign Minister said, in 'decision strategies' seminar, that non settlement of Arab Israeli conflict and problems led to many grave things we witness in the region, pointing out to a rise in anti-Islam movement in Western world that is based on misunderstanding .

We lately saw incidents, he added, that indicate misunderstanding .

Responding to a question if he meant the speech of American President George Bush, Abul Gheit said he would not answer this question, indicating that the Arab indignation resulting from Israeli aggression on the Palestinian people leads to violence and instability in the region .

The minister inquired of the reason of hiding the Israeli nuclear power while such issue is raised about Iran, as if it is the only country possessing a nuclear program .

In the session attended by Mrs. Suzanne Mubarak, Abul Gheit said that we have to focus on the policy of achieving stability in the region without overlooking the economic needs .

He pointed out that President Mubarak spoke two days ago on the capability of Egyptian economy to overcome hardships .

He added that issues of human rights and democracy should be discussed, but we have to look for the causes, referring to the Israeli tanks and types of aggression in the Palestinian territories .

Relying to a question over launching rockets on Israel, Abul Gheit said that he talks about building settlements and occupation for 60 years.

As for the way to reach a peace agreement he said that if Israel has the intention to sign a peace accord and agrees on establishing the Palestinian state, peace can be achieved; pointing out that Egypt is doing its utmost to support negotiations and promote peace. But he questioned if Israel really wants peace .

Replying on the affirmation of session head Christopher Dickey that Israel announces its desire for peace, Foreign Minister asked to end the occupation tomorrow, referring to Israel's continuation of building settlements .

He inquired if it is possible to trust this desire, and added that the decision is at the hands of Israel.

Abul Gheit said if the Israeli-Arab conflict is not settled during this decade, there is no chance for the solution of two states, and that the Libyan President's solution of 'Isratin' may be resorted to. He elaborated that experiences proved that two peoples in one state is not likely .

He indicated that he thinks if the issue of eliminating nuclear weapons was presented regionally including Israel, this may have impacts on Iran, as Iran's feeling that Israel possesses nuclear power is the reason behind its attempt to possess the same power .

Mohamed el-Baradei, the Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency, said that we did not find an evidence of Iran possessing nuclear weapon ,pointing out that the issue of Iran revolves around the 'trust of its future intentions .'