PALESTINIAN-ISRAELI WATER SECURITY: COOPERATION IN THE DEAD SEA-RED SEA CANAL PROJECT (PEACE CANAL)

Dr. Marwan Naser

Department of International Development
The London School of Economics and Political Science-LSE-, London WC2A 2AE, United Kingdom

(This study does NOT represent the views of the department or the LSE but only of the author)

ABSTRACT

The aim of this study is to have a better understand of the water security and to investigate the possible cooperation in big scale project and to offers a new insight and a detailed account for such project between both parties and uniquely offers advantages and disadvantages of such project to improve the water security situation based on both the particularities of the area and international law and conventions that govern such situations. The study will explore the Present Environmental Condition of the Dead Sea and investigate the economic benefits and risks for Palestinian Territories, Israeli, Egypt and Jordan. Also the study will examine the environmental and political risks of this project and then the study will provide some policy recommendations.

Keywords: Conflict and Regional Cooperation, Economic Development, Water Security, Political economy

I OVERVIEW AND AIMS

Many in the international community understand some of the complexity of the situation inside Gaza and in its relations with Israel. There are no magical remedies, but a number of options are considered that could mitigate conflict and improve water security, and hopefully thereby ease the path towards a political solution

All parties were optimistic at the start of the Israeli disengagement as an opportunity to improve the lives of people in the crowded and impoverished territory and perhaps as the first step towards a comprehensive peace and the creation of a Palestinian state, which was not impossible. However, the facts of the disengagement have proven to be a disappointment.¹

¹ By the uprising of Al Aqsa Intifada, Mr. Sharon the head of likud party became the prime minister of Israel State. Moreover Mr. Sharon consider as a radical leader from the point of view of the Arab citizen.
The Palestinian situation had dramatically deteriorated turning Gaza’s already critical political, economic and security conditions into unprecedented levels of blockade, unemployment, poverty, violence and uncertainty. The situation in Gaza is at a historic low in terms of human security and future prospects and the nearby Israeli town of Sderot has been in a state of turmoil as a result of continual rocket attacks.

There is sufficient research and analysis on what should happen in the long term with regards to the political process. There is almost a consensus on the ultimate cure for most, if not all, of the region’s problems. That cure would be a political settlement to bring about an independent sovereign Palestinian state side by side with a secure Israel and a just resolution to the issue of refugees. Little, however, is being done to examine – through a “water security” lens – the immediate desperate situation in Palestinian Territories, notably Gaza and offer recommendations to minimise the current unbearable, and in most instances, avoidable human suffering.

The aim of this study is to have a better understand of the water security and to investigate the possibility of cooperation in big scale project and to offers a new insight and a detailed account for such project between both parties and uniquely offers advantages and disadvantages of such project to improve the water security situation based on both the particularities of the area and international law and conventions that govern such situations.

The conflict on water in the Middle East has been one of the factors which contributed to the Area events and developments since the last century. It may be realized that the water crisis in the Middle East is related to a number of political aspects, namely: First: The water problem is one of the elements on which the Arab national security is and will be based. Second: The water issue has become one of the basic ingredients for the maintenance of the political and economic independence for the Arab countries. In spite of its limitedness, the water in the Arab Area is considered a focal point for others because of the intrigues and greediness which encircle or even are carried out against the Arab water resources are more dangerous than the strategies of fighting for oil, whereas oil is a commodity that can be sold or purchased in the international markets but water is normally connected with the peoples' sovereignty, land and life. Third: The control over the Arab water resources by four regional countries, namely Iran which controls the Arab Gulf, Turkey, controlling Tigris and Euphrates, Israel, controlling the River Jordan, The occupied Arab Territories, the Golden Heights.

2 It should be mentioned that this project is so costly, moreover, the Arab countries were resist sharing or involve in such project with Israel. In addition, this large scale project was unaccepted by International institutions.

3 The former secretary general of the UN, Boutros Boutros-Ghali, has warned that the next wars will be fought over water not oil. The Guardian Newspaper May 9, 2005.

4 Some analysts believe that there is No water crisis around the world, because the ability of the human to construct water desalination stations through the Seas and Oceans, But the problems remains in the cost of such Projects, Unofficial discussion between the researcher and Prof. Benhayoun Gilbert, Jun 9, 2007.

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and South Lebanon and finally Athubia which controls the main spring of the River Nile will devaluate the Arab reign due to the foreign control over its water which is deemed its blood vessels and life. Then the Arab regional reign will, of course, be unable to resist the regional system of the would-be Middle East, and Finally: We may realize that the Palestinian water rights have been a focal point in the Palestinian-Israel conflict. We also realize that Israel is not prepared to abide by the execution of the international or bilateral agreements which were signed in connection with the Palestinian water rights.

1.1 The Present Environmental Condition of the Dead Sea

The Dead Sea represents a unique rare phenomenon in the world particularly in regard to its water characteristics, the important metallic elements and compounds, its formative nature and its surroundings. All these factors have made the scientists and researchers from all over the world concentrate their attention on it. The Dead Sea occupies the lowest area in the Syrian – African depression. It has an area of 1000 sq. Km., and it consists of two basins, the northern basin with an estimated of 756 sq. km, and the southern basin with an area of 244 sq. km. The salinity percentage of the Dead Sea water reaches 30 % which is considered the highest in the world seas and oceans. Therefore, no water creatures can live in the Dead Sea.

In fact, the Dead Sea water level has been undergoing, since long time ago, from continuous reduction. Some evidences and researches show that its level was at 182 m. – level below the sea level and its water extended then along the depression from the limits of Tiberias in the north to Ein-Hasab location in Arava valley, 38 km. south of the Dead Sea. The passive escalation in the water level, which reached within the last forty years, to 50-70 cm. per year, has influenced the Dead Sea area which went down from 1000 km. to 660 km in the present time. In areas of great slope, the Red Sea coast went down by less than one meter per year, and by 30 cm in areas with less slope. So, the reduction in the Dead Sea area reached to an average of 5-6 sq. km. per year. Yet in spite of the numerous reasons which contributed to such reduction including the climatic changes which occur all over the world in general and the Area in particular which led to draught and shortage of rains, the formative nature of the Dead Sea and the different evaporation rates, it can be said that the most important reasons of the Dead Sea level reduction within the last forty years can be attributed to the Israeli water projects which were carried out for making full use of the water of the rivers which flaw into the Dead Sea for serving the Israeli settlement expansion especially in Bir Sheva. Among such projects the translocation of the Jordan River which was executed in 1964 where half of the water of this River has been pumped to Bir Sheva areas. On the other side of the coin the Jordanian – Israeli potash and other salts industries consume huge quantity of the water which also let to an increase in the reduction of the Dead Sea level. As a result the Dead Sea has lost about 90 % of the water which flew into it. This has naturally led to the disorder of the

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7 For more details refer to, The Project of Dead Sea-Red Sea Canal Between the dream and Practice, Dr. Majed Melhem, Economically Al-samed, Volume 88 (Arabic Version).
8 Dead Sea- Red Sea Canal New Installment of Water Crisis in the Middle East, Islam memory http://links.islammemo.cc/xfil/one_News.asp?
9 Unofficial discussion between the researcher and. Dr. Yusif Abu Saffia, previous chairman of the Environmental Quality Authority in the PT.

www.ijarse.com
environmental formula which was used to thoroughly balance between the water quantity flowing into the Red Sea and the loss in water as a result of evaporation which used to maintain approximately stable water level.

1.2 The project’s Economic Benefits

It can be clearly noted that the project has many benefits which the participating parties and Israel in particular will have. Through this highly promoted project, the water crisis, from which the Area has been suffering, will be solved. According to the available information the desalination stations of the project\(^{10}\) will be producing 850 millions cu. m. per year divided into 570 millions cu. m. to Jordan, 160 millions cu. m. to Israel and 120 millions cu. m. to the Palestinians.

For Jordan, this project will eliminate\(^{11}\) a number of outstanding problems such as short fresh water resources, insufficient power production and an extremely low level of the underground water in the areas close to the Dead Sea. Pumped water will be used in power generation, for agricultural purposes and for producing fresh drinking water. The water problem volume in the Area can be measured through the anticipated figures of the shortage in drinking water over the next years. Jordan has been suffering from severe shortage in drinking water supplies which reached in 2000 to 240 million cu. m. and this figure will expectedly increase to 430 million cu. m. in 2025. Jordan presently consumes 900 million cu. m. of water per year; meanwhile the local production of this invaluable substance is estimated at 650 million cu. m. a year. The country resorts to Syria for annual water "aid" which means a real threat to the Jordanian security in future. On the other side of the coin, Jordan will not be charged with large amounts\(^{12}\). The consent of the concerned parties has made a number of international donors such as the World Bank and UNESCO to promise to fund the project and contribute in its execution with the hope of pushing the peace wheel forward and supporting development and stability in the Area.

For Egypt the construction of the Canal between the two seas\(^{13}\) will make Israel drop out the idea of establishing a maritime canal which may be competitive\(^{14}\) to the Suez Canal. On this basis the two projects can't be executed and the existence of either may drop out the other's idea and feasibility.

The Palestinians undergo strict shortage of water due to Israel seizure of most of the water resources in the PNA Territories and its refrain to honor the water bilateral water agreements for dividing water. So they will

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\(^{10}\) It should be mentioned that the cost of freshwater produced by a Dead Sea hydro project would have to reflect investments in, and maintenance of the conveyance system and desalination plant. Although infrastructure is expensive, the price of desalinated water has decreased. In the early 1980s the unit cost was $1.2 per cubic meter. By 1994, the cost dropped to between $0.6 and $0.7. Price decreases are expected to continue as the desalination industry continues to grow. \(http://www.american.edu/TED/deadsea.htm\)

\(^{11}\) Some Jordan’s Islamic (Secretary General of the Islamic Action Front (IAF), Zaki Bani Ershaid ) believe that the dangers inherited in the project, including its high cost, exceed its positive aspects. Moreover a technical study already conducted has shown that the project involves political, economic, environmental and geological perils to Jordan. In addition, he said, from a principled attitude, we view the project a political move that has the key aim of normalizing ties with the Zionist entity. By Aljazeera website, www.aljazeera.net . December 9, 2006.

\(^{12}\) By Jordanian Minister of Water and Irrigation Mr. Hazem Nasser, Jordan time Newspaper, June 23, 2003.

\(^{13}\) This speech according to Mr. Shimon Peres, Al-Ahram Egyptian Newspaper, (Arabic Version) N° 42289, September 2002.

\(^{14}\) Israeli Feasibility Study for the Project of the Dead Sea, Strategic Al-ahram Profile. Strategic and Policy Studies Institution, Cairo, Hanan Albadry.
get a remarkable share of fresh water from this project. For the Palestinians' needs of water are in direct proportion with the natural increase in population. The number of population is expected to reach in 2010 to 4.2 millions and they will need at the same year 446 million cu. m. of water. At the same time the high increase in population will lead to a decrease in the individual quota of water from 28.2 cu. m. in 2000 to 19.9 cu. m, in 2010. In 2004, Dr. Yusif Abu Saffia, chairman of the Environmental Quality Authority, noted that water desalination is costly and unfeasible to the PNA, pointing out that the desalination cost of 1 cu. m. of water will be $ 1.55, in addition to the cost of pumping the Dead Sea water to the PNA areas. He also said that the construction of water desalination projects on the Red and Mediterranean Seas will be better and less costly. It should be noticed that the just the two years feasibility study would be costing 15 to 16 million dollars. Moreover, the project's economic benefits can be represented in the power generation through the use of the water flux from high levels of 100 m. to the Dead Sea level which is 400 m. below the Sea level. The available information shows that 500 mega watts of power can be generated through the project.

The project will be accompanied by a number of concepts of a wide construction movement for the area extending between Aqaba and the Dead Sea which is deemed to be one of the most disregarded and unexploited areas due to its desert nature. Such a movement will include the establishment of joint ventures among the countries participating in the project's execution, and free industrial zones for foreign investment attractions and making full use of the project central location where many maritime, desert, religious and archaeological tourisms can meet in many tourist projects and resorts along the Canal which may include artificial lakes, recreational clubs and hotels, besides a number of agricultural and pisc projects and other complementary projects such as water desalination.

So, among the main outcomes of the Canal project will be the creation of thousands of technical and manual job opportunities, an element deemed extremely important in an area that has been suffering from severely high unemployment rates. The most important thing in this project is that a number of minor projects will be established based on the project's potentials and this will simultaneously be a very progressive step towards the establishment of common cooperation between the Arab countries and Israel and finally it will be a focal point for more joint projects in the future, which is in quite agreement with the American economic point of view on the Area in the post-Iraqi war which was clearly represented in the free trade initiative in the Middle East which was announced by the USA on the eve of the World Economic Forum in Jordan and which frankly stated the encouragement of the establishment of free industrial zone between Israel and neighboring Arab states with the aim of pushing forward the Peace Process in the Area.

15 The Israel study team estimated costs ranging from $1.5 to $5 billion, which included the cost of infrastructure, They estimated that the cost of water diverted by a canal would range from $1.30 to $1.55 per cu.m That is mean the economic sense is not clear. The Guardian newspaper May 9, 2005.

16 The high cost of this project was asserted by Dave Phillips, a water consultant to the Palestinian Authority, warned that the canal, which would be one of the biggest of its kind in the world, might be difficult to justify economically. The Guardian newspaper May 9, 2005.

17 In 2005, Ghassan Khatib, the Previous Palestinian minister for planning, said that, although the high cost of this project, but all parties (Israel, Jordan and PNA) were excited and enthusiastic, he added that such project required technical advice before deciding how the project will develop. www.aljazeera.net.

18 For more details refer to, The Project of Dead Sea-Red Sea Canal Between the dream and Practice, Dr. Majed Melhem, Economically Al-samed, Volume 88 (Arabic Version).
Yet, despite the project's great benefits to Jordan and Palestine, Israel will get the lion's share from these benefits. Such benefits can be summarized in the following:

**First:** The Project will be a clear breach to the mechanisms of the normalization boycott with Israel, on the Arab level and a large hole through which Israel can easily penetrate to the Arab neighboring countries, and the Gulf sates and Iraq in particular which represent a large market for the Israeli products. At the same time Israel will concentrate on the Gulf capitals and use them in establishing joint industrial projects. The project is also considered a reliable motive for the execution of other projects such as the revival of the obsolete Musel-Haifa oil pipeline in the Area which can serve the Israeli interests.

**Second:** The project will be of great security importance to Israel as it will create water and demographic barriers which can serve as strategic and military buffer that can prevent the progress of any Arab force or the execution of any military operations on the eastern from against Israel.

**Third:** It is foreseen by some analysts that the Canal will be the first step towards the Israel project which will not be completed unless another Canal that would link the Dead Sea to the Mediterranean Sea where Israel will be a central state in the world possessing a canal that can compete and threaten the Suez Canal. In addition, the project may create a dangerous charge in the Area's geographical environment which means the eternal Israeli seizure of the West Bank.

**Fourth:** The Dead Sea – Red Sea Canal is connected with the Israeli national aims in regard to the development and construction of the Negav Desert (which forms half of Palestine's area) through providing it with water and power supplies. The said Canal was the only item which remained incomplete in Ben Goreon's matrix for securing the area of Negav through settling the Jews there in order not to remain unpopulated which can make it easily penetrated at the Egyptian-Israeli borders.

At the end of the world energy crisis which came out as result of the 1973 Arab-Israeli war, Israel started to seriously think of the variation of its resources of power, for reaching the least dependence on oil. The Canal project is quite invaluable opportunity for Israel in this connection. In addition to the hydroelectric power which will be generated through this project, it can make full use of the rock oil which is found in the mountainous area of the Dead Sea. The amount of such rock oil is estimated at 2,000 million tons and it can be used as an alternative for oil. Yet Israel could not exploit this oil in the past because of the huge quantity of cooling water, needed for power generation from the rock oil, which will be provided by the Canal project. The Canal project will also open a new door for solar power exploitation in the Dead Sea area which has a high level of brightness and high temperature. The same thing can be applied to the power generated by nuclear reactors. The water that will be provided by the project will be an optimal solution for the problem of cooling the Israeli nuclear reactors in the Negav Area, which are being cooled nowadays by the use of air which is more costly. The Canal project will also push up Israel to start more nuclear projects which mean more growth and development for the Israeli nuclear potential.

### 1.3 The project’s Environmental Risks

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19Palestinian Center for Planning and Policies (The Israeli benefits of The Dead Sea – Red Sea Canal) September 2003, Gaza
The Dead Sea nature will be totally changed in regard to the physical characteristics, chemical structure and biological ingredients of its water. This means that the Dead Sea will lose its distinguished environmental advantages.

The reduction of the Dead Sea salinity will lead to the merger of the underground fresh water into the saline water especially in the areas close to the Dead Sea and to an increase in the evaporation rates in the Area. This will consequently lead to a number of unpredictable social and environmental risks and outcomes. The huge pressures which may result from the increase in the water quantity coming from the Dead Sea may cause strong earthquakes in the Area. At the same time the increase in the sea water level may lead to flooding a large area of agriculture land with water which means the deterioration of such land and its loss of plantation. There are also some fears of causing some harm to the Red Sea environment that may come out from the water pumping which in turn may jeopardize the water equilibrium between the Red Sea and the Indian Ocean. This also many provide an opportunity for some of the Red Sea creatures to settle in the Red Sea which in turn may jeopardize the outstanding characteristics of the Red Sea.

1.4 The project’s Economic Risks

The decrease in the Dead Sea water salinity will have a remarkable influence on the metals exploitation and potash in particular. This industry will be then more costly, because the operating companies will be in need of pumping more water and will change its operational method, so metal extraction can be proportional to become, on the long run, totally useless, should the salinity of the Dead Sea water greatly decrease.

Although tourism is prioritized in this project as Shimon Peres demonstrated it, the Israeli former foreign minister when he said about the project that it would make the Area "the Middle East Rivera ". Yet the passive effects which may occur to the nature of the Dead Sea water may lead to passive results of the tourist attraction to the Dead Sea Area, mainly because the unique nature of the Dead Sea water with its remedial characteristics forms the basic element of tourist attraction. The Dead Sea water is four times more saline than normal sea water is and it is quite rich with many metals such as magnesium chloride, sodium, potash, Bromine and calcium. In addition, flooding vast areas of the Palestinian and Jordanian lands on both sides of the most fertile farmland in the Area will lead to the loss of many crops which are normally used in food.

1.5 Political and Strategic Risks

The project would improve the Israel’s picture all over the world. On the one hand it will be of cooperative appearance with its neighbors with an attempt to spread peace and welfare in the Area. And on the other hand it would be as if it defends the environment with a special attention to the revival of the Dead Sea Project and saving it from disappearance. Any real opposition from the Palestinians in case the project transgresses the Palestinian rights will be deemed an obstacle before the development of the Area and against the environment protection. It has been clearly known that after the invasion of Iraq, the USA Administration has been pushing towards the establishment of a new regional system in the Area based on geographical grounds in which Israel

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20 For more details refer to, The Project of Dead Sea-Red Sea Canal Between the dream and Practice, Dr. Majed Melhem, Economically Al-samed, Volume 88 (Arabic Version).
would play a leading role and would form main support for the US interests in the Area. So, it can be said that the Arab Area witnesses a deep development in the strategy of the imperial sovereignty in the Area in which Israel would change from a separation tool among the Arabs to a tool for linking and relating them to the universal American interests.

The creation of a new demographic reality in Negav\textsuperscript{21}, through the absorption of more Jewish immigrants who will be provided with excellent opportunities for settlement and attaining job opportunities after providing Israel with the basic requirements for such power generation projects.

The construction of more nuclear reactors would enable Israel to enhance develop its military forces, which means a clear threat to the security in the Area, especially under the Israeli refusal to sign on the Treaty of Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and to allow the international inspection to its nuclear structures.

Providing fresh water through desalination plants which are considered an essential part of the Project will open the door widely before Israel to extend its full control over more Jordanian and Palestinian natural resources of water, by exploiting the Yarmouk and Jordan rivers besides the underground water in the WBGS taking no account of any regional or international pressure on it against such practices where it will then assume that the project would satisfy the Jordanian and Palestinian needs of water.

The Project would enhance the Israeli stand in its negotiations with the Palestinian and Jordanian sides on water. Israel assumes that the present water resources would not be enough to allot the Palestinians their share of water so they have to rely on the desalination of the saline water or buy it from Israel.

1.6 Motives of the Palestinian Points of View

The Palestinian side found itself before a limited number of choices after Jordan and Israel had solely presented the Project before the Land Conference in 2000 in Johannesburg. The Palestinians found themselves obliged to participate in the Project in order to maintain their legitimate rights after the Jordan and Israel joint interest in the Project had been emphasized even without the Palestinians. The Palestinian point of view is based on the following:

First: Palestine borders the basin of the River Jordan and the Dead Sea and this represents the Palestine's eastern borders. So it should be given an entire role in all phases of any project that may be started in the Area in regard to conception development or execution. Second: Enhancing the Jordanian attitude which supports the Project and provide all potential facilities for the success of the Project environmental, economic and social feasibility study. Third: Maintaining Palestine's entire legal right as a coasting party in the way to deal with the recommendations which may be issued by the feasibility study so as not to touch the water rights connected with Israel or the sovereignty of the prospective Palestinian statehood in regard to the different aspects of the Project itself. Fourth: Maintaining the Palestinian rights in exploiting the different natural resources of the Dead Sea which are solely exploited by the Jordanian and Israeli sides. Fifth: Insuring the elimination of any major effects or risks which may result from the Project on the Palestinian environment or the social position of any Palestinian class. And finally: From the Palestinian point of view, Israel assumes direct responsibility to

\textsuperscript{21} Palestinian Center for Planning and Policies (The Israeli benefits of The Dead Sea – Red Sea Canal) September 2003, Gaza
the reduction of the water level in the Dead Sea because of the projects which it executed for transferring the water of the River Jordan and its tributaries into Tiberias.

It is worthy to mention that the control of water resources in the region (Particularly between Israel and the PNA) would remain a major factor, which mean the coming battle would be so harsh, moreover according to our experience with the GOI, it will resist and refuse sharing administrative control over water, which from the Israel point of view consider as essential linked to national security.

In spite of the project's great benefits to Jordan and Palestine, but Israel will get the lion's share from these benefits, and although, the project’s huge risks to the Arab countries especially Palestine, and since a large scale project would affect positively the population of the WBGS, the PNA carefully must be involved in any large scale project, moreover, the participation and co-operation in such project would be consider as a pattern for peaceful and Coexistence in the region. A new pattern of Virtual Coexistence that Israeli and Palestinian entrepreneurs co-developing Web 2.0 operating system G.ho.st, a free Virtual Computer available from any Internet browser. At first glance the new Web 2.0 Company G.ho.st looks like any other ambitious internet start up, but a closer look at its joint Palestinian-Israeli staff reveals otherwise. Israeli internet entrepreneur Zvi Schreiber is the founder and chief architect of the project which he privately funded, partly using profits from the lucrative sale of his company Unicorn to IBM. With offices in Jerusalem and Ramallah, almost all of G.ho.st's 15 employees are of Palestinian or Israeli Arab origin. G.ho.st and its team support collaboration – not just on-line but in real life as well. The two Persons don't just prove that co-existence is possible, they promote the idea financially as well, pledging 10 percent of earnings to the non-profit G.ho.st Peace Foundation. Their goal is "to promote peace in the Middle East through grass-roots social and commercial collaboration between the individuals on both sides," the website says.

Early in 2007, an other key area of cooperation between the both sides is that Olive of Peace, Israeli and Palestinian olive oil manufacturers have launched a new brand—Olives of Peace. It is a new product manufactured jointly by peace advocates from both sides of the divide. The oil is a blend of Israeli and Palestinian made virgin olive oil, bottled by leading producers on both sides. The idea came up in a series of seminars for olive growers and oil producers, where specialists from Israel, the Palestinian Authority and Italy gave lectures on new methods of producing quality olive oil. This project is a model of joint initiatives arranged by Crossroads, a new organization aimed at forming and supporting economic cooperation in the Middle East.

To begin with, the organization will focus on agricultural projects, environmental issues and related industries. The goal of the activity is to benefit and improve welfare by creating bi- or multi-faceted cooperation.

22 In an interview with Ynet, Schreiber said that he was the mastermind behind the original idea for G.ho.st and he met his Palestinian business partner Tareq Maayah through a common acquaintance. Eyal Marcus, www.ynetnews.com/Exl/Comp/ArticleLayout
23 Source mentioned above
24 The new brand will initially be marketed in Japan with the assistance of JETRO, the Japan external trade association. A British organization has also declared intent to order several thousand bottles and negotiations are being held with a company to market the oil in the US. Same source mentioned above.
25 For more details see www.ynetnews.com/Exl/Comp/ArticleLayout
Since a large scale project would positively affect the population of the WBGS, the PNA and the private sector, carefully must be involved in any large scale project. However, an international force could still be successful if both Israelis and Palestinians saw that it might benefit their water security. While it might not be able to prevent most attacks by force of arms, it could instead decrease the motivation for launching those attacks and marginalise the elements intent on fermenting conflict by providing the general population with the prospect of improved human security and an economic peace dividend.

II CONCLUSION

The study highlighted the Political, Economical and Environmental Strategic Risks and benefits and the possible cooperation in the Peace Canal. The control of water resources in the region (particularly between Israel and the Palestinian National Authority) would remain a major factor, which mean the coming battle would be so harsh, moreover according to the Palestinian experience with the Government of Israel, it will resist and refuse sharing administrative control over water, which from the Israel point of view water consider as essential linked to national security.

The Project would enhance the Israeli stand in its negotiations with the Palestinian and Jordanian sides on water. Israel assumes that the present water resources would not be enough to allot the Palestinians their share of water so they have to rely on the desalination of the saline water or buy it from Israel.

In spite of the project's great benefits to Jordan and Palestine, but Israel will get the lion's share from these benefits, and although, the project's huge risks to the Arab countries especially Palestine, and since a large scale project would affect positively the population of the WBGS, the PNA carefully need be involved in any large scale project, moreover, the participation and co-operation in such project would be consider as a pattern for peaceful and Coexistence in the region. Such projects and activities are expected to benefit and improve welfare by creating bi- or multi-faceted cooperation. An international force could still be successful if both Israelis and Palestinians saw that it might benefit their water security. While it might not be able to prevent most attacks by force of arms, it could instead decrease the motivation for launching those attacks and marginalise the elements intent on fermenting conflict by providing the general population with the prospect of improved human security and an economic peace dividend.

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