Ambassador Dennis Ross & Ghaith al-Omari
The Israeli-Palestinian Peace Talks in Historical Perspective

Wednesday, March 5 / 5:00 p.m. / Free
UCSB Campbell Hall

Veteran Middle East peace negotiators, Ambassador Dennis Ross and Ghaith al-Omari, discuss the framework agreement for a two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict soon to be unveiled by U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry. Drawing upon decades of experience, they will compare the “Kerry Plan” to previous peace proposals and analyze the likelihood of its adoption.

Ambassador Dennis Ross, counselor and William Davidson Distinguished Fellow at The Washington Institute for Near East Policy, served as special assistant to President Obama, National Security Council senior director for the Central Region, and special advisor to Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton. For more than twelve years, Ambassador Ross played a leading role in shaping U.S. involvement in the Middle East peace process and dealing directly with the parties in negotiations. Ross co-authored (with David Makovsky) Myths, Illusions, and Peace: Finding a New Direction for America in the Middle East and authored Statecraft: And How to Restore America’s Standing in the World and The Missing Peace: The Inside Story of the Fight for Middle East Peace.

Ghaith al-Omari, Executive Director of the American Task Force on Palestine, previously served in various positions within the Palestinian Authority, including Director of the International Relations Department in the Office of the Palestinian President, and advisor to former Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas. In these capacities, he provided advice on foreign policy—especially vis-à-vis the United States and Israel—and security. He has extensive experience in the Palestinian-Israeli peace process, having been an advisor to the Palestinian negotiating team throughout the permanent status negotiations (1999–2001). In that capacity, he participated in various negotiating rounds, most notably the Camp David summit and the Taba talks.

The Herman P. and Sophia Taubman Foundation Endowed Symposia in Jewish Studies at UC Santa Barbara, a program of the Interdisciplinary Humanities Center, is cosponsored by UCSB Arts and Lectures, Department of Religious Studies, Congregation B’nai Brith, Jewish Federation of Greater Santa Barbara, and Santa Barbara Hillel. This event is also cosponsored by Education Abroad Program, UCSB Center for Middle East Studies, and The Orfalea Center for Global & International Studies.

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