

## Roadmap or Carjacking?

by **Alan Forrester**

Once again the US is trying to move along a Middle East Peace Plan by **putting pressure** on the Israelis.

The **road map** to peace envisions the settlement of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and the establishment of a Palestinian state by 2005. The road map is horribly flawed. It is supposed to be implemented by the Quartet: EU, the UN, Russia and the US. The **EU** and the **UN** are both biased towards the Palestinian terrorists. The US and Russia have decidedly mixed records.

Furthermore, by adopting a peace plan with a time limit the US has painted its way into a corner. The problem is that Palestinian terrorists are **still dedicated** to destroying Israel and haven't got the slightest in making concessions. They may be squeezed if the Syrians shut down terrorist camps as they have been asked to but that's a big if.

It gets worse. The road map requires the Palestinian Authority (PA) to recognise Israel's right to exist, it has not done so. The road map also hinges on the introduction of a democratic constitution in Palestine and the PA cracking down on terrorism. The most recent version of the **Palestinian Constitution** includes words like "democracy" and "freedom" but sets the stage for tyranny. The Constitution also says that the Palestinian state will support terrorism.

As things stand now there is no substantial sign at all that the PA has any interest in peace. It is disgraceful that the US is putting pressure on Israel. No amount of pressure on Israel will make sure that the road map is implemented. Pressure on the PA might make it clear that this time the West actually intends to make sure that peace prevails in the Middle East. A good start would be for the US to issue a demand that the PA should rewrite the Palestinian Constitution. If pressure is not put on the PA to make real moves toward peace then they will conclude that the Quartet is not serious about peace and they will be right.

