

SPEECH FOR THE UNDP/PAPP SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE

Speaking event:	Inauguration of Terra Santa kindergarten & Multipurpose Hall
Date and time:	5/10/2009. 12 -02 pm
Venue:	Jericho
Participants/audience:	Italian Co-operation, Mayor of Jericho, Governor of Jericho
Length of speech:	5 minutes
Context of speech:	opening remarks
Draft prepared by:	Communications Unit
Draft cleared by:	Special Representative of the Administrator

Excellencies,
Distinguished guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen

I am delighted to be here today to open these fine buildings which will provide a stimulating environment for young children making the transition from the family to the school.

The kindergarten is the latest product of a fine partnership which has made a large contribution to education in the West Bank. This partnership of the Government of Italy, the Palestinian Authority and UNDP has led to the creation of six schools and the extension of ten others. Italy has donated \$7 million for the education of Palestinians in recent years, a generosity we must pay tribute to you.

Kindergartens are a vital part of a modern education system. Children learn how to interact with each other and develop skills and instincts which will help them as they move through the education system.

The construction of this building will allow younger children to play and be educated in a safer environment, without being crowded out by older children. Kindergartens also give mothers a break. If they desire they can work, or focus on other activities without the distraction of a young child in the house.

While this is a Christian establishment, it caters primarily for non-Christians. It is a great example of an institution which breeds mutual respect among different communities from an early age.

We are not just opening a new kindergarten, we are also beginning the construction of \$450,000 hall which will improve the facilities for 500 pupils of all ages. The hall, which will measure 530 square metres, can be used for assemblies, sports and other activities for children of all ages.

The building of the kindergarten is one thing. The real work begins with the teachers and the pupils. I wish them all the best for the future.

I would like to thank everyone that has helped make this project a success.

Thank you