

With Us or Without Us: extended interviews

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United States. But at the same time, there was probably advice by Bush senior and others who fought the Gulf War in 1990, that even if there were terrorists in the Middle

Well, for a while there was no meetings, no contact whatsoever. Colin Powell stayed in touch with President Arafat once in a long while, usually making polite – he's a polite man - politely threatening statements for the need for Mr Arafat to do this or to do that. For a while the contact became merely that of the American consul general in Jerusalem with Palestinian officials. And there was almost total ostracism of President Arafat for a while. And in the meanwhile the Israelis escalated and escalated and escalated their attacks. I mean, it became such that the Israeli brutalities started taking over the sympathies of Israeli victims for suicidal bombing. And usually Sharon would do that all the time. Sharon went into Lebanon in 1982 with the acquiescence of Alexander Hague [saying] that all he wanted was a 45-kilometre zone sanitaire to somehow separate the borders of Israel with the Palestinian guns. But eventually his enthusiasm took over and he put Beirut under siege and once the Palestinians were out, he rushed to commit that horrible massacre of Sabra and Shatila and lost his job for 18 years. He again went into the over-shooting, over-brutalit