

ADEL HANA / THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Palestinians wave flags and chant slogans Wednesday in support of a reconciliation between the rival Fatah and Hamas movements in Gaza City.

Hamas, Fatah resolve split, reach unity deal

BY ETHAN BROWNER AND ISABEL KERSHNER
The New York Times

JERUSALEM — The two

Fatah and Hamas, said

Wednesday that they were

putting aside years

of bitter rivalry to

create an interim

unity government

and hold elections

within a year, a sur-

prise that promised

to reshape the diplo-

matic landscape of

the Middle East.

The deal, bro-

kered in secret talks

by the caretaker

Egyptian govern-

ment, was an-

nounced at a news

conference in Cairo,

Egypt, where two

negotiators referred

to each side as

brothers and de-

clared a new chapter

in the Palestinian

struggle for inde-

pendence, hobbled

the recent years by

Fatah-run West

Bank and Hamas-

run Gaza.

It was the first tangible

sign that the upheaval across

Authority has enjoyed.

The deal brings with it the

agreements.

to lead to deep dis-

process that is likely

prime minister, a

agree on a new

sides would need to

gotiator, said the

the chief Fatah ne-

Azzam al-Ahmed,

Gaza — to resign.

Isma'il Haniyeh in

the West Bank and

— Salam Fayyad in

two prime ministers

would require the

but the agreement

emerging unity deal,

power under the

would remain in

Mahmoud Abbas

Authority President

Palestinian Au-

making.

tion unfit for peace-

terrorist organiza-

that Hamas was a

ministration warned

The Obama ad-

min Netanyahu said.

mas," Prime Minister Benja-

Israel and peace with Ha-

choose between peace with

Palestinian Authority has to

seeks its destruction. "The

peace talks since Hamas

deal as dooming future



Chief Fatah negotiator Azzam al-Ahmed



Hamas negotiator Mousa Abu Marzouq

ern support the Palestinian

risk of alienating the West-

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seeking international recog-

But with the Palestinians

called each other's activists

other in vicious terms and

factions have spoken of each

sive and leaders of the two

Until now it has proved elu-

sistently said they sought

ians in both areas have con-

one goal ordinary Palestin-

A desire for unity has been

to the West Bank.

and his Palestinian Authority

ing the influence of Abbas

Fatah forces there and limit-

a brief factional war, routing

za, the coastal enclave, after

mas seized full control of Ga-

ruptured in 2007, when Ha-

tary elections in 2006. They

since Hamas won parliamen-

group, have deteriorated

Hamas, the Islamic militant

movement led by Abbas, and

the mainstream secularist

Relations between Fatah,

deal with Israel.

considering a natural-gas

deep ties to Hamas, and is re-

Brotherhood, which has

recognized the Muslim

tions aggressively and has

sued Palestinian negotia-

Egyptian government pur-

that poses for Israel. The new

fluence and the challenges

ity, its increasing regional in-

Egypt's evolving foreign pol-

The deal highlighted

would face great difficulties.

ment.

Mahmoud al-Zahar, a Ha-

mas leader, told Al-Jazeera

television that the sides had

agreed to changes in the in-

terim leadership of the Pales-

tinian Liberation Organization,

a tribunal for elections and a

date for the elections.

Hamas and Fatah will

nominate members of the

technocratic government

and a 12-judge election tri-

bunal. He also said an agree-

ment was reached to set up

an oversight committee to

regulate security.

regulate security.

regulate security.

regulate security.

regulate security.

regulate security.

regulate security.

regulate security.