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CHRONOLOGY

16 FEBRUARY-15 MAY 2000

This section is part sixty-six of a chronology begun in JPS 23, no. 3 (Spring 1984). Chronology dates reflect Eastern Standard Time. For more detail on events related to the peace process, see the Peace Monitor in this issue.

16 FEBRUARY

On his way home fr. the Vatican (see 2/15), **Palestinian Authority (PA) head Yasir Arafat** stops in Amman to meet with **King Abdallah of Jordan**. (MM 2/16)

Israeli PM Ehud Barak phones **Egyptian pres. Husni Mubarak** to discuss obstacles blocking the Palestinian, Syrian tracks of the peace process. (MENA 2/17 in WNC 2/18)

Reacting to the flare-up of violence in s. **Lebanon** in the past 3 wks., **Israel** empowers a 3-man team comprising **Barak**, FM **David Levy**, **Transportation M Yitzhak Mordechai** to authorize immediate reprisals for attacks on **Israel Defense Forces (IDF)** soldiers, reiterates intention to hit civilian targets. **2,000 Lebanese students** block Hamra Street in Beirut's main shopping district to protest against Israel for its recent air strikes, the U.S. for allegedly giving Israel the "green light" to attack. (MM 2/16, 2/17; RL 2/17 in WNC 2/18; AYM 2/17 in WNC 2/22; CSM, MM, NYT, WP, WT 2/18; NYT 2/19; MM 2/21; MEI 2/25)

U.S. Secy. of State Madeleine Albright tells the House International Relations Comm. that she is exploring ways to help victims of state-sponsored terrorism collect on judgements returned by U.S. courts even though **Pres. Bill Clinton** has blocked collection, citing foreign policy concerns and worries that other countries could use the precedent to seize U.S. properties abroad. (WP 2/17; *Guardian Weekly* 2/24)

PA General Intelligence questions **Palestinian journalist Khaled Amayreh** for the 2d time in a wk. regarding his new weekly paper, *Hebron Times*, which is critical of the PA. (Palestinian Human Rights Monitoring Group press release 2/21) (see 2/15)

17 FEBRUARY

The **Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP)** says it will resume full

participation in the **PLO Executive Comm. and Central Council**, which it has boycotted since the signing of the 1993 Oslo Accord. (NYT 2/18; AYM 2/21 in WNC 2/28)

At an **American Comm. on Jerusalem (ACJ)** briefing on Capitol Hill, **eminent Palestinian historian Walid Khalidi** reveals findings of a 3-yr. investigation proving that the ownership of the proposed site for a U.S. emb. in **Jerusalem**, as mandated by **Congress's** 1995 Jerusalem Emb. Act, is largely private property (some of which can be claimed by U.S. citizens) and *waqf* land that have been illegally confiscated by Israel. (ACJ press release 2/17)

PA teachers go on strike to protest their low salaries. Arafat had promised pay raises as part of the civil service law, but the salary increases were not worked into the FY 2000 budget approved on 1/26. (MENL 2/18; LAW 2/22; MEI 2/25) (see Peace Monitor)

Demonstrations continue in Beirut, where **2,000 Lebanese** hold a protest outside the **U.S. emb.**; several are injured when army, police units break them up. (MM 2/17; CSM, MM, NYT, WP, WT 2/18; MM 2/21)

In s. **Lebanon**, an **IDF** soldier is killed by **Hizballah** shelling. In a separate incident, a roadside bomb planted by **Hizballah** explodes, injuring 1 **South Lebanon Army (SLA)** mbr. Israel does not stage major retaliatory attacks. (RL 2/17 in WNC 2/18; MM 2/21)

18 FEBRUARY

In Beirut, around **5,000 Lebanese** protest nr. the UN headquarters against **Israel's** recent air strikes on civilian targets, the U.S.'s failure to restrain Israel. At another rally outside the CNN bureau, **3,000 students** are confronted by police firing tear gas and water cannons. The U.S. makes its 1st comment critical of Israel's strikes, which began 2/8, saying "we do not believe that Israeli attacks against civilian infrastructure and populated areas will solve the problem." (NYT, WP 2/19; MM 2/21; MEI 2/25)

In protest over **Israel's** threats to continue strikes against civilian targets in s. **Lebanon** (see 2/16), **King Abdallah of Jordan** cancels a planned visit to **Israel**. (WP 2/19; MEI 2/25)

Iran holds the 1st round of parliamentary elections, with some 6,000 candidates, including 400 women, vying for 290 seats. Reform-minded supporters of **Pres. Mohammad Khatami** overwhelmingly defeat conservative candidates, with 80% voter turnout. The 2d round of voting will take place on 5/5. (CSM, MM 2/18; NYT, WP, WT 2/19; MM, NYT, WP 2/21; MM, NYT, WP, WT 2/22; AYM 2/22; *al-Quds* 2/24 in WNC 2/29; MM 2/23; JP, MEI 2/25; WJW 3/2; NYT 3/9)

The **PA** arrests without charge **al-Najah University professor 'Abd al-Sattar Qasim**, one of the 20 signatories of the 11/99 anticorruption statement. (LAW 2/20; AFP 2/21 in WNC 2/23; MEI 2/25; JP 3/3) (see Doc. B1 in *JPS* 115)

19 FEBRUARY

PA head **Arafat** calls for resumption of negotiations with **Israel**, on hold since 2/6; says teams should forgo a framework agmt. on permanent status (FAPS) and focus on completing the final status agmt. by the 9/13 target date. **Israeli chief negotiator Oded Eran** says a FAPS is important, can be reached by end of 3/00. (WP, WT 2/21)

Pres. **Mubarak** makes the 1st trip to Beirut by an Egyptian leader since 1952 to meet with **Lebanese pres. Emile Lahoud** to show solidarity with Lebanon in the wake of Israeli attacks. Both presidents reiterate **Hizballah's** right to resist **Israel's** occupation. (MENA, RL 2/19 in WNC 2/22; NYT, WP, WT 2/20; AFP, MENA 2/20 in WNC 2/23; MM, WT 2/21; MM 2/22; GIU 2/23; AYM 2/24; MENA 2/26, *Der Spiegel* 2/28 in WNC 2/29; JP, MEI 2/25)

The **PA** shuts down **Nawras TV** in Hebron for 1 wk. on charges of incitement for covering the ongoing teachers strike. (MENL 2/20) (see 2/17)

In s. **Lebanon**, 1 **civilian** is injured by **IDF** shelling. (RL 2/19 in WNC 2/22)

20 FEBRUARY

The **UNRWA** ends a 2-day workshop on the fate of the agency following a final status agmt. (Palestinian Refugee Research Net [Internet] 4/17) (see Peace Monitor)

21 FEBRUARY

U.S. special envoy Dennis Ross returns to the Middle East to try to revive the stalled **Israeli-PA** negotiations, meets with PM **Barak** upon his arrival. Barak proposes 5/00 as a new target date for completing a FAPS; says Israel is willing to offer the PA a confidence-building package, including a release of prisoners, payment of some taxes, minor changes to maps of the 3d stage of the 2d further redeployment (FRD). (MM, WT 2/21; AYM 2/22 in WNC 2/28; WT 2/22) (see 2/19)

In Cairo, Pres. **Mubarak** receives **Kuwaiti FM Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah** for talks on Israeli attacks on **Lebanon**. Kuwait says it would attend a pan-Arab summit, even if **Iraq** were to participate; also says it does not oppose Arab states opening a dialogue with Iraq, though it would not do so until Baghdad apologizes for the 1990 invasion. (MENA 2/21 in WNC 2/23)

22 FEBRUARY

U.S. special envoy **Ross** meets with **Arafat** in Ramallah. Before the mtg. Arafat receives a written message fr. **Barak** that says Israel will adjust its map for the 3d stage of the 2d FRD but will not give the PA control of any of the villages it wants in the greater Jerusalem area. (MM 2/22; CSM, MM 2/23; MM 2/25)

Kuwaiti FM **Shaykh Sabah** travels to Beirut, to show **Kuwait's** solidarity with **Lebanon** in light of Israel's recent air strikes. (MENA 2/22 in WNC 2/24; NYT 3/4; MEI 3/10) (see 2/19)

Israel cuts its budget for security for **Jewish settlers** in the West Bank and Gaza fr. \$34.5 m. to \$6.2 m., in keeping with overall reductions in the defense budget. (NYT 2/23)

Arafat chairs the 1st mtg. of the **PA Higher Council for Development (HCD)**. Participants begin work on consolidating PA departments for improved financial accounting, form a group to explore ways of attracting foreign investment, agree to draft a working paper on a privatization strategy by 4/25. (*al-Quds* 2/22 in WNC 2/29)

23 FEBRUARY

In a speech to the Knesset, Israeli FM **Levy**, using particularly violent language, threatens **Lebanon** that if n. Israel is attacked, the IDF will retaliate "blood for blood, soul for soul, child for child." Israeli Arab and leftist MKs, Arab leaders denounce

his statements. (MM, NYT 2/24; MENA 2/24 in WNC 2/28; WP 2/26; AYM 2/26 in WNC 2/29; JP, MM 3/3; JP, MEI 3/10) (see 2/16)

Israeli security officials say that in recent wks., Israel and the PA have arrested several **Hamas** mbrs. on charges of plotting to blow up a building in Jerusalem. Some of those arrested are also charged with planning the failed attacks in Natanya (11/7), Hadera (1/17). (MM 2/23; NYT 2/24)

24 FEBRUARY

U.S. special envoy **Ross** makes 1-day trip to Cairo to consult with **Egyptian FM 'Amr Musa**. (MENA 2/24 in WNC 2/28)

PM **Barak** defends FM **Levy's** speech to the Knesset on 2/23, saying he is a voice of moderation, "his words illustrate the weighty responsibility we feel for Israel's security in the face of dangers that lie in wait for us when we enter the decisive stage of the peace process." (MM, NYT 2/25; WP 2/26; AYM 2/26 in WNC 2/29; MEI 3/10)

The **Arab League** announces that its next regular FMs mtg. will be held 3/11-12 in Beirut, instead of Cairo, as a gesture of solidarity in support for Lebanon's "steadfastness in the face of ongoing Israeli aggression." (MM 2/24; *al-Musawwar* 3/3, MENA 3/5 in WNC 3/6; MM 3/8)

Pope John Paul II arrives in **Egypt** for 3-day visit, meets with Pres. **Mubarak**, calls for unity and tolerance among all religious groups. Meanwhile in **Israel**, a group of **senior rabbis** asks the pope to cancel plans to hold a daytime Saturday mass when he visits Nazareth on 3/25, saying it would cause "massive desecration" of the Jewish sabbath. **Far-right Jewish groups** put up posters in Jerusalem calling the pope "the wicked one," saying prayer service would be an act of "mass idolatry in the heart of Jerusalem." (ANSA [Rome], MENA 2/24, MENA 2/25 in WNC 2/28; MM, NYT, WP, WT 2/25; MENA 2/26 in WNC 2/29; WT 2/27, 2/29; JP 3/3)

After a mtg. with Barak in Jerusalem, French PM **Lionel Jospin** says that "France condemns **Hizballah's** [recent attacks on the IDF in s. Lebanon], and all types of terrorist attacks which may be carried out against soldiers or possibly **Israel's** civilian population." **French pres. Jacques Chirac** reprimands Jospin. (MM 2/25; WT 2/27; WP 2/28; *Le Monde* 2/28 in WNC 2/29; AYM 2/28 in WNC 3/1; *al-Quds* 2/29 in WNC 3/3; WJW 3/9; JP, MEI 3/10)

25 FEBRUARY

After a lull of about a wk., the **IDF**, **Hizballah** exchange fire in s. **Lebanon**. A mortar lands in a field in n. **Israel** but causes no damage or injuries. (ITAR-TASS 2/25 in WNC 2/28; NYT 2/26)

26 FEBRUARY

French PM **Jospin**, in Ramallah to meet with **Arafat**, is chased into his limousine by a rock-throwing crowd of **Birzeit University students**, angered by Jospin's characterization (2/24) of **Hizballah** attacks on the **IDF** in s. **Lebanon** as "terrorist attacks." **PA police** arrest 12 students, shut Birzeit until 2/29. (MENA 2/26, *Le Monde* 2/28 in WNC 2/29; NYT, WP, WT 2/27; CSM, LAW, MM, NYT, WP, WT 2/28; *al-Quds* 2/29 in WNC 3/3; JP 3/3; MEI 3/10)

27 FEBRUARY

In an **Israeli cabinet** mtg., PM **Barak** admits that **4 past PMs** (Yitzhak Shamir, Yitzhak Rabin, Shimon Peres, Benjamin Netanyahu) had effectively guaranteed to withdraw fr. the **Golan Heights** to the 6/4/67 border with **Syria**; says he will not "erase the past." (MM, NYT, WP 2/28; CSM, MM 2/29; XIN 2/29 in WNC 3/1; WJW 3/2; AYM 3/5 in WNC 3/9; JP, MEI 3/10) (see Peace Monitor)

In Ramallah, **Palestinians** march to **PA** headquarters to protest the arrest of a total of **69 Birzeit students** since the 2/26 attack on French PM **Jospin**. **3,000 Palestinian students** in Hebron, **Lebanese** in Sidon hold anti-Jospin demonstrations. (LAW, NYT, WP, WT 2/28; *al-Quds* 2/29 in WNC 3/3; MEI 3/10)

28 FEBRUARY

After a wk. of mtgs., U.S. special envoy **Ross** returns to Washington having failed to revive **PA-Israeli** talks. (CSM, NYT, WP 2/29; AYM 2/29 in WNC 3/1; XIN 2/29 in WNC 3/2; *al-Quds* 2/29, DUS, *al-Quds* 3/1 in WNC 3/3; WT 3/1; AYM 3/1 in WNC 3/6) (see Peace Monitor)

The **Political Comm. of the Palestinian Council (PC)** condemns French PM **Jospin's** 2/24 statement on Hizballah, the attack on Jospin by **Birzeit University** students, the **PA's** arrest of students and closure of the university. The comm. calls on the PA to reopen Birzeit, to turn over students to

the university's disciplinary comm. (*al-Quds* 2/29 in WNC 3/3)

With the number of popular and labor protests in the West Bank and Gaza growing, the PA declares that all demonstrations, public mtgs. must receive prior authorization of the **PA police**. (LAW 2/29; NYT, WT 3/1; LAW 3/2; MEI 3/10; *al-Quds* 3/28 in WNC 3/29)

In Ramallah, **PA officials** discuss the ongoing **teachers** strike, promise to seek funds for pay raises. In addition to not receiving salary increases, some teachers have not been paid in mos., have been fired, or have been transferred. (MENL 2/29) (see 2/17)

In **s. Lebanon**, **Hizballah** attacks **IDF** posts, injuring 2 IDF soldiers, 1 **civilian**. The IDF responds with air strikes against Hizballah targets. (WP 2/29)

29 FEBRUARY

In Israel, **Egyptian presidential adviser Osama Baz** holds discussions with PM **Barak**, other senior Israeli officials on the peace process. (MENA 2/29, 3/1 in WNC 3/2; *al-Quds* 3/1 in WNC 3/3)

Crown Prince Abdallah of Saudi Arabia arrives in Cairo on a 2-day visit to discuss the peace process, inter-Arab coordination with Pres. **Mubarak**. (MM 2/29; MENA 2/29 in WNC 3/1; MM 3/1; MENA 3/1 in WNC 3/2)

1 MARCH

The **Knesset**, including much of **Barak's** governing coalition, approves (60-53) a draft bill designed to block a **Golan** withdrawal by requiring that a referendum on a peace agmt. with **Syria** win support of 61 of the 120 MKs and 62.5% of all eligible voters, whether or not they actually vote. **Justice M Yossi Beilin** denounces the bill as racist, because it would neutralize the votes of **Israeli Arabs**, who make up just over 10% of the electorate. The draft is sent to comm., is unlikely to become law soon. (MM 3/1; MM, NYT, WP 3/2; *al-Quds* 3/2 in WNC 3/6; JP, MEI 3/10)

Saudi Arabia's **Crown Prince Abdallah** arrives in Damascus for a 2-day visit to discuss with **Syrian pres. Hafiz al-Asad** the peace process, convening an Arab summit. Rumors hint that Abdallah may deliver a message conveying guarantees from Washington, proposing a Clinton-Asad mtg. in Ge-

neva. (MM 3/1, 3/3; NYT 3/4; MENA 3/4 in WNC 3/6)

In **s. Lebanon**, **Hizballah** attacks an SLA patrol, killing 5 SLA mbrs. 3 SLA mbrs. are injured in a separate Hizballah mortar attack. An exchange of shelling btwn. the 2 groups afterward kills a **Druze cleric**, injures 2 **civilians**. (MM 3/1; ANSA [Rome] 3/1 in WNC 3/2; NYT 3/2; JP, MEI 3/10)

2 MARCH

In the Israeli Arab village of Taibeh, **Israeli commandos**, acting on information fr. the **PA**, raid a **Hamas** safe house. In the ensuing gunfight 4 Hamas mbrs. are killed, 1 is captured, 1 commando is injured. Israeli police then bulldoze the house. **Barak** claims the men were planning an attack on Israelis to derail the stalled peace process. (MM 3/2; MM, NYT, WP 3/3; MM 3/7; JP, MEI 3/10)

Birzeit University students, teachers suspend classes indefinitely to protest the **PA's** arrest of students during and following French FM **Jospin**'s visit. The PA is still holding around 30 students. (NYT 3/3; WP 3/5; MEI 3/10) (see 2/28)

Saudi Arabia's **Crown Prince Abdallah** arrives in **Lebanon** on a 2-day solidarity visit, meets with Pres. **Lahoud** and parliamentary mbrs. representing **Hizballah**. (MM 3/3; NYT, WP 3/4; MEI 3/10) (see 2/24)

3 MARCH

Arafat receives **Knesset speaker Avraham Burg**, marking the highest level PA-Israeli mtg. in 1 mo. Burg presents Arafat with Barak's "full commitment" to achieve a permanent agmt., but PA says the mtg. does not represent a resumption of talks. (NYT 3/4)

4 MARCH

In Cairo, **Russian FM Igor Ivanov**, Egyptian FM **Musa** discuss the peace process, bilateral and regional issues. Ivanov also meets with Pres. **Mubarak** in Sharm al-Shaykh, **Arab League secy.-gen. Ismat 'Abd al-Majid**. (Interfax, MENA 3/4, ITAR-TASS, MENA 3/5 in WNC 3/6)

Some **100 prominent Palestinian diaspora figures** issue a statement emphasizing the importance to the PA-Israeli negotiations of the refugee issue, the concerns of diaspora Palestinians. (MM 3/15, 3/22) (see Doc. B1)

Hizballah shells an **IDF** outpost in **s. Lebanon**, wounding 1 IDF soldier. (WT 3/5)

5 MARCH

Barak wins unanimous approval of his cabinet to pull the **IDF** out of s. **Lebanon** by 7/00, even without an accord with **Syria**. Israel also promises to "honor its commitments" to the **SLA**. (XIN 3/5, DUS, Interfax 3/6 in WNC 3/7; XIN 3/5, 3/7 in WNC 3/8; MM, NYT, WP, WT 3/6; *al-Quds* 3/6 in WNC 3/9; MM 3/7; CSM, MEI 3/10)

PA police release all **Palestinian students** still being held for participating in anti-Jospin demonstrations. (NYT, WP 3/6; MM 3/8) (see 3/2)

In s. **Lebanon**, 2 **Hizballah** mbrs. are killed during an operation against the **IDF/SLA**. (MEI 3/10)

6 MARCH

In Sharm al-Shaykh, **Arafat**, **Mubarak** discuss the peace process. Mubarak also discusses the peace process by phone with **Barak**. (MENA 3/6 in WNC 3/7)

Lebanon welcomes **Israel's** 3/5 decision to withdraw its troops but says it will not give any guarantees for peace until Israel comes to an agmt. with **Syria** over the Golan Heights. (MM 3/6; WT 3/7; MEI 3/10)

Israel paroles a **Jewish settler** sentenced to life in jail for the execution-style slaying of a **Palestinian** in the West Bank 7 yrs. ago. (NYT 3/7; WT 3/8)

7 MARCH

U.S. special envoy **Ross** returns to the Middle East to try to restart talks on the Israeli-Palestinian track. (AYM, *al-Quds* 3/7 in WNC 3/9; WP, WT 3/8)

Arafat, **Barak** secretly meet in Tel Aviv to discuss differences blocking renewal of their peace talks, especially implementation of the 3d stage of the 2d FRD outlined in Wye II. **Ross** does not attend. (MM, NYT, WP, WT 3/8; *al-Quds* 3/9 in WNC 3/13)

Syria's cabinet resigns. Pres. **Asad** names Aleppo governor **Muhammad Mustafa Miru** as the new PM, charging him with forming a new government to "modernize the administration." This is seen as a move by Asad to accelerate economic and social reform, to reduce the Ba'th party's political role (Miru is a low-level Ba'th official), to inject new blood into the cabinet and is not expected to affect negotiations with **Israel**. (CSM, MM, NYT, WP 3/8; MM 3/9, 3/10; JP 3/17; MEI 3/24; *al-Majallah* 4/10 in WNC 4/14)

Israeli police begin to investigate a complaint that Transportation M **Mordechai** sexually assaulted a female employee. Mordechai denies the charges, takes a leave of absence fr. his post to speed the investigation. (MM 3/7; MM, NYT, WT 3/8; WJW 3/9, 3/16; JP 3/17)

8 MARCH

After another mtg. btwn. **Arafat** and **Barak** in Ramallah, this time attended by U.S. special envoy **Ross**, Ross announces that **Israel**, the **PA** will resume negotiations in the U.S. after the Id al-Adha holiday ends on 3/20. The sides still aim to conclude a full final status agmt. by 9/13. Ross says there have been "constructive" talks on interim issues. (MM 3/8; NYT, WP, WT 3/9; ITAR-TASS 3/9 in WNC 3/14; *al-Quds* 3/9, DUS 3/11 in WNC 3/13; CSM 3/10)

Lebanese pres. **Lahoud** says **Lebanon** would guarantee security along the s. border after the **IDF** withdraws, but only as part of an overall Middle East settlement; warns that Palestinian guerrillas opposed to Arafat might attack n. Israel fr. s. Lebanon if the refugee issue is not solved. (XIN 3/8 in WNC 3/9; CSM, WP 3/9; NYT 3/12; *Le Monde* 3/17 in WNC 3/20)

Israel's High Court rules (4-1) that an **Israeli Arab** family cannot be barred fr. living in a cooperative Jewish community. Although the decision affects the 1 family only, the court's determination that separate Arab and Jewish communities are "inherently unequal" and discriminate against Arabs sets legal precedent that may be used in future cases. (NYT, WP 3/9; WJW 3/16; JP 3/17)

In s. **Lebanon**, 2 **SLA** mbrs. are killed in a clash with **Hizballah**. (MEI 3/10)

9 MARCH

Arafat, **Barak** go to Sharm al-Shaykh to meet with Pres. **Mubarak** in advance of PA-Israeli talks in Washington later this mo. Afterward, they publicly announce the understandings they have reached in order to resume talks. (MM 3/9; ITAR-TASS 3/9 in WNC 3/14; NYT, WT 3/10; MENA 3/10, DUS 3/11 in WNC 3/13; WJW 3/16; JP 3/17; MEI 3/24) (see Peace Monitor)

10 MARCH

Czech Republic announces plans to open a permanent mission to the **PA** in Ramallah in the coming mos. (CTK [Prague], *Noviny* [Prague] 3/10 in WNC 3/13)

11 MARCH

Some **850 Israeli Arabs** attend a rally in Nazareth supporting the Palestinian refugees' right of return. (BDL 3/13)

12 MARCH

The **IDF** presents **Barak** with a proposal called Morning Twilight, under which the IDF would withdraw fr. all but 8 strategic sites in s. **Lebanon** in 7/00. When the gist of the plan is leaked by the Israeli press, **Lebanon, Syria, UN Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL)** term it a "doomsday option" (UNIFIL adviser Timur Goksel's term) that would exacerbate instability and violence. (MM 3/13, 3/15; MEI, MM 3/24; MEI 4/7)

At the close of a 2-day **Arab League** mtg. in Beirut, FMs declare their support of **Lebanon's** right to resist **Israeli** occupation, urge Arab states to unite and resist normalization with Israel until a comprehensive peace is achieved. **Israel** considers the statement extremist, hostile to the peace process. (NYT, WP, WT 3/12; IRNA, MENA 3/12 in WNC 3/13, 3/14; MM, NYT 3/13; MENA 3/13 in WNC 3/15; MM 3/14; AYM 3/14 in WNC 3/20; WJW 3/16; MEI 3/24) (see Doc. B3)

10s of Palestinians demonstrate outside the **PC** in Ramallah to protest the **PA's** decision to raise fuel prices given worldwide gas price hikes. (MENL 3/12; AYM 3/14 in WNC 3/20)

13 MARCH

Barak narrowly wins a no-confidence vote (47-42, with 3 abstentions) in the Knesset, which was called after heated public debate over **Education M Yossi Sarid's** decision to include 5 poems by **Palestinian nationalist poet Mahmud Darwish** in school curricula. (MM 3/13; MM, NYT, WP, WT 3/14; AYM 3/14 in WNC 3/15; NYT 3/15; MENL, WJW 3/16; MEI 3/24)

In apparent response to the **Arab League's** 3/12 statement, **Israel** steps up bombing campaigns against **Amal, Fatah-Uprising, Hezbollah, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command (PFLP-GC), Lebanese army** targets in s. **Lebanon** and nr. the Lebanese-Syrian border, killing 1 Lebanese soldier, 1 **civilian**, wounding several others. The attacks on Fatah-Uprising and PFLP-GC are the first since 1986. (MM 3/13, 3/14; MENA 3/14 in WNC 3/15; MM, NYT 3/15)

Prince Hassan of Jordan says that he will not be able to make a previously ar-

ranged trip to **Israel** today to receive an honorary doctorate. (DUS 3/14 in WNC 3/15)

PA Social Affairs M Intisar al-Wazir resigns to protest cuts to her budget for stipends to families of Palestinians killed by Israeli forces or jailed in Israel, the PA's failure to fund pay raises for civil servants.

Arafat refuses her resignation, appoints a panel to investigate ways of meeting these budget needs. (MENL 3/21; MEI 3/24; PR [Internet] 3/29; MENL 4/3)

As a goodwill gesture before the Id, **Arafat** orders the **PA Preventive Security Force (PSF)** to release **18 Hamas activists** being held as administrative detainees. (*al-Quds* 3/13 in WNC 3/16)

Syrian PM **Miru** presents his new government. FM **Faruq al-Shara'**, DM **Mustafa Tlas**, Interior M **Muhammad Harba**, Finance M **Muhammad Khalid al-Mahaini**, Economics M **Muhammad Imadi**, 8 other Ms retain their posts; 22 new mbrs. are all technocrats. (MM, WT 3/15; MM 3/20; MEI 3/24)

Lebanese Shi'i leader Mustafa Dirani, jailed in Israel since being abducted fr. Lebanon by the IDF in 5/94, files a \$1.5-m. lawsuit against the **Israeli government**, alleging that he was raped and tortured during interrogations. (WP 3/14; WT 3/15; IRNA 3/15 in WNC 3/16; WJW 3/16)

14 MARCH

After criticism fr. right-wing MKs, **Barak** removes the West Bank village of Anata, in jointly controlled area B nr. **Jerusalem**, from the list of possible areas to be transferred to PA-controlled area A under the 3d stage of the 2d FRD. (MM 3/14; MENA 3/14 in WNC 3/15; CSM, MM, NYT, WT 3/15; CSM, MM, WJW 3/16; CSM 3/21)

Israel formally deploys the **Arrow 2** missile system, culminating a 14-yr., \$13-b. joint development project with the **U.S.** (NYT 3/15)

Israeli air strikes on s. **Lebanon** continue. The **Lebanese army** says there have been 20 raids in the past 24 hrs. (MENA 3/14 in WNC 3/15; NYT 3/15)

Kuwait announces that it has started accepting job applications fr. **Jordanians, Palestinians, Yemenis** for the 1st time since accusing their leaders of supporting **Iraq** during the 1990-91 Gulf conflict. (WT 3/15) (see 2/21)

U.S. congressional staffers who traveled to **Iraq** in 8/99 release a report denouncing the U.S., British sanctions regime,

delineating the negative effects of sanctions, and calling for support in Congress for pending legislation to lift sanctions. (MM 3/16) (see Doc. C1)

15 MARCH

Israel, the **PA** agree on areas to be transferred in the 3d stage of the 2d **FRD**. Israel's security cabinet approves the maps and a list of **15 Palestinian prisoners** to be released for Id al-Adha. **Jewish settlers** hold 3 demonstrations against the FRD plans. (MM 3/15; NYT, WT 3/16; JP 3/31) (see Peace Monitor)

As fighting in **s. Lebanon** continues, **Hizballah** fires rockets into **n. Israel** in retaliation for IDF attacks 3/13-14 that killed, wounded civilians. Rockets cause no damage, injuries. (NYT 3/16)

16 MARCH

In Washington, **23 retired U.S. generals** publish a letter opposing any U.S. military or civilian aid to **Syria** as part of a Syrian-Israeli peace agmt. (MM 3/29)

In Nablus, **PA police** arrest 2 Palestinians suspected of plotting bombings, confiscate 88 lbs. of explosives. (NYT 3/18)

17 MARCH

The **U.S.** announces a "major gesture" to **Iran**, acknowledging (but not apologizing for) past meddling in Iran, including the 1953 CIA-backed coup that restored the monarchy; promising steps toward the return of assets frozen since the 1979 revolution; lifting a ban on imports of Iranian luxury goods; easing restrictions on Iranian academics and athletes visiting the U.S. Secy. of State **Albright** adds that the U.S. will also consider the upcoming trial of **13 Iranian Jews** as a "barometer of U.S.-Iran relations." (NYT, WP, WT 3/17; NYT, WP 3/18; IRNA 3/18, 3/19 in WNC 3/21; NYT 3/19; MM 3/20; AYM 3/21 in WNC 3/23; CSM, MM 3/24; NYT 4/27) (see 2/2)

Lebanon grants asylum to 1 of **5 Japanese Red Army mbrs.** who just completed prison terms for passport forgery. The other 4 mbrs. are deported to **Jordan**, which hands them over to **Japanese officials** for extradition to Tokyo, where they will stand trial for bombings they carried out there in the 1970s. When they hear the news, angry demonstrators rally outside **Lebanese PM Salim al-Huss's** home. Huss claims Lebanon did not have an agmt. with Jordan, Japan to send the 4 back to Tokyo. (NYT, WP 3/18;

al-Safir 3/18 in WNC 3/21; NYT 3/19; MM 3/21; WP, WT 3/22; MEI 5/5) (see 7/31/97)

18 MARCH

In Gaza, **PA police** detain an **IDF** jeep escorting a convoy of **settlers** through Netzarim junction, claiming it cut off a Palestinian car. After intervention by senior officers, the jeep is allowed to pass. Israel files a complaint with the PA, noting that PA-Israeli security agmts. forbid Palestinian vehicles to cut into an Israeli convoy. (Hatzofe 3/19 in WNC 3/21)

19 MARCH

Overnight, **Jewish extremists** vandalize the helipad and welcoming venue that has been specially built for the **pope's** visit this wk., spray painting symbols equating the cross with the swastika. (NYT, WP 3/20; MM 3/21)

20 MARCH

Pres. **Clinton** announces that he will meet Syrian pres. **Asad** in Geneva on 3/26 in hopes of restarting Syrian-Israeli talks. (MM 3/20; CSM, MM, NYT, WP, WT 3/21; MENA 3/21 in WNC 3/22; MM 3/22; MENA 3/21, *Le Monde* 3/22 in WNC 3/23; MM, WJW 3/23; MEI 3/24; JP 3/31) (see 3/1)

Pope John Paul II arrives in **Jordan** on the 1st leg of a 1-wk. Middle East tour, meets with **King Abdallah**. The pope's theme for the trip is that regional leaders should do more to reach a lasting peace, to promote Christian-Jewish-Muslim understanding. (MM 3/20; *al-Quds* 3/20 in WNC 3/22; CSM, NYT, WT 3/21; *al-Quds* 3/21 in WNC 3/23; MEI 3/24)

IDF soldiers open fire on a **Palestinian** car at a West Bank checkpoint, killing a woman, wounding her husband. The IDF shooting, which was apparently unprovoked, followed a drive-by shooting at nearby Tsurif settlement that wounded **4 Jewish settlers**. (WP 3/21; WJW 3/23; MEI 3/24; NYT 4/21)

21 MARCH

Egyptian pres. **Mubarak** says that **Israel**, **Syria** have neared a peace agmt. in behind-the-scenes talks (through "special envoys," U.S. and British officials) that have continued since talks were formally suspended in 1/00. (WP 3/22) (see 3/20)

PA, **Israeli** negotiating teams, led by **Yasir 'Abid Rabbu** and **Eran**, respectively,

resume final status talks at Bolling Air Force Base (AFB) nr. Washington under a media blackout. U.S. special envoy **Ross**, his assistant, **Aaron Miller**, will oversee the talks but will not, at this stage, present U.S. proposals. (CSM 3/21; MENA 3/21 in WNC 3/22; NYT, WP, WT 3/22) (see Peace Monitor)

Israel implements the 3d stage of the 2d FRD, transferring 6.1% of area B to area A. In total, the **PA** now has full control of 18.2% of the West Bank, partial control of 21.8%. (CSM 3/21; CSM, NYT, WP, WT 3/22; JP 3/31)

The **pope** celebrates mass for 30,000 Catholics in Amman, visits several religious sites before heading to **Israel**. (MM 3/21; NYT, WP, WT 3/22; MEI 3/24)

22 MARCH

Barak phones **UN Secy.-Gen. Kofi Annan**, French pres. **Chirac**, U.S. Amb. to Israel **Martin Indyk** to discuss scenarios for a unilateral **s. Lebanon** pullout if **Asad** does not agree to resume Syrian-Israeli negotiations in his mtg. with **Clinton** on 3/26. (MM 3/24) (see 3/12)

The **pope** visits Bethlehem, where he meets with **Arafat**, conducts mass, visits Dahaysha refugee camp, and tours religious sites. The pope pauses his mass for 2 minutes of silence during the Muslim afternoon call to prayer to demonstrate the accommodation, respect necessary among religious groups. (MM 3/22; CSM, JP, MM, NYT, WP, WT 3/23; MEI 3/24; PR [Internet] 3/29; MEI 4/7) (see Doc. A2)

After the pope leaves **Dahaysha refugee camp** (where almost 10,000 refugees live on less than 1 mi.² of land), **Palestinians** angry over the high-handedness of **PA police** enforcing security for the pope's visit clash with the police in an exchange of rock throwing, beatings, weapon fire. Some 60 injuries are reported, mostly caused by rocks. (NYT, WP, WT 3/23; LAW 3/27; MEI, MM 4/7)

After overseeing the pope's visit, **Arafat** heads to Cairo to hold talks with **Mubarak** on the peace process in advance of Mubarak's trip to Washington beginning 3/25. (MENA 3/22 in WNC 3/23; MENA 3/23 in WNC 3/27)

Given the skyrocketing gas prices in the **U.S.**, Washington agrees to allow **Iraq** to double its spending on maintaining, ex-

panding its oil industry to \$1.2 b. a yr. (WP 3/23, 3/25; MEI 4/7) (see 3/14)

23 MARCH

Before leaving Cairo, **Arafat** discusses the peace process with **Arab League secy.-gen. Ismat 'Abd al-Majid**. (MENA 3/23 in WNC 3/27)

Syrian FM **Shara'**, Russian FM **Ivanov** discuss the Syrian-Israeli negotiations by phone. (Interfax 3/23 in WNC 3/27)

The **pope** spends the day in Israel, visiting Yad Vashem, meeting with **Pres. Ezer Weizman** and **Israel's chief rabbis**, leading mass in Jerusalem. The pope also hosts a "healing and reconciliation" mtg. to which he invites **Chief Rabbi Martin Lau**, **Grand Mufti of Jerusalem Ikram Sabri**. Sabri refuses to sit on the same podium as Lau and so refuses to attend. The PA sends **Shaykh Taysir Tamimi** in his place. In their speeches Lau, Tamimi both stress their peoples' rights over Jerusalem. (MM 3/23; CSM, MM, NYT, WP 3/24; NYT 3/26; JP 3/31; MEI 4/7)

24 MARCH

Israeli FM **Levy**, Russian FM **Ivanov** discuss the peace process by phone. (Interfax 3/24 in WNC 3/28) (see 3/23)

The **pope** meets with PM **Barak**, holds a youth mass attended by 100,000 persons, visits religious sites in the Galilee. (MM 3/24; NYT, WP, WT 3/25)

Nr. Petra, **Jordanian security forces** demolish a **Jordanian's home**, which had been under construction for 4 yrs. and was nearly completed, claiming it had been built without a permit in a "sensitive tourist area." The demolition sparks a riot during which **3 Jordanians** are shot dead by the security forces. (MEI 4/21)

In reaction to recent gas price hikes, the **U.S. House of Representatives** passes a resolution that would urge the administration to cut off aid, military sales to **OPEC countries** that try to push up oil prices by constraining demand. Pres. **Clinton** opposes the measure, which he says is too heavy-handed. (MM, WP 3/27) (see 3/22)

The **U.S. District Court** orders **Iran** to pay \$341 m. in damages to **journalist Terry Anderson**, saying the evidence was overwhelming that Iran was behind his kidnapping in Lebanon in 1985. (NYT, WP, WT 3/25) (see 2/16)

25 MARCH

Israel, the **PA** reportedly hold the 1st mtg. in what they hope to be a series of "back-channel" contacts to establish a "real" track to draw up solutions on major final status issues. Israel is supposedly represented by **Tourism M Amnon Shahak**, **Internal Security M Shlomo Ben Ami**, the PA by **PC speaker Ahmad Qura'** and **Oslo negotiator Mahmud Abbas**. (MM 3/30; AYM 4/1 in WNC 4/6)

The **pope** conducts morning prayers and mass at the Basilica of the Annunciation in Nazareth. He also meets with Greek Orthodox patriarchs and bishops, urges Christian communities to resolve their differences. (NYT, WP, WT 3/26)

26 MARCH

In Geneva, Pres. **Clinton** presents Syrian pres. **Asad**, FM **Shara'** with a maximalist proposal fr. Israeli PM **Barak** for a Golan withdrawal that would place the final border east of the 1923 international border around Lake Tiberias. Asad rejects the proposal outright. After the mtg., the U.S. says that it would not be productive for Israel, Syria to resume talks now, since "it's not obvious that . . . differences can be bridged." (WP 3/26; *al-Quds* 3/26 in WNC 3/28; MM, NYT, WP, WT 3/27; *al-Quds* 3/27, DUS, *Le Monde* 3/28 in WNC 3/29; XIN 3/27 in WNC 4/12; CSM, MM, NYT, WP, WT 3/28; AYM, *al-Quds* 3/28 in WNC 3/30; WP 3/29; WJW 3/30, 4/6; *al-Quds* 4/6 in WNC 4/11; JP, MEI 4/7) (see Peace Monitor, Docs. A4, C2)

The **pope** ends his Middle East trip by holding Sunday mass at the Basilica of the Church of the Holy Sepulcher, joining worshipers at the Western Wall, visiting with the grand mufti of Jerusalem, meeting with Latin patriarchs and bishops. (NYT, WP, WT 3/27; WJW 3/30; JP 3/31)

27 MARCH

At Bolling AFB, Secy. of State **Albright** meets with **PA**, **Israeli** negotiating teams. (WT 3/28)

U.S. special envoy **Ross** arrives in Israel to brief **Barak** on Clinton's 3/26 mtg. with **Asad**. Afterward Barak tells the **Knesset** that Asad is "not ready for the type of decisions that are necessary to reach a peace agreement." (WP 3/27; MM, WP, WT 3/28; WJW 3/30)

Syrian FM **Shara'** says that the Israeli proposals Pres. **Clinton** brought to Geneva not

only were not new or better but were actually worse than previous proposals. (MM 3/27; WP 3/28, 3/29; WT 3/31; MEI 4/7)

In an unprecedented move, **Israel's Interior M Natan Sharansky** announces that he will restore to the **Israeli Arab village of Kafir Kasim** 250 acres of its land that had been taken to develop the neighboring **Jewish town of Rosh Ha'ayin**. The step is intended to promote democracy, social justice, and equal opportunities for all citizens. (NYT 3/28; MM 3/30)

Israel's atty. gen. opens a criminal investigation of **Shas spiritual leader Rabbi Ovadia Yosef** to determine whether to charge him with incitement for a 3/18 sermon in which he said that Education M **Sarid** should be "extirpated" and his memory obliterated for recommending Palestinian poetry be included in Israeli curricula (MM 3/27; NYT, WP 3/28; JP 3/31; CSM 4/4) (see 3/13)

In the **Knesset**, 5 no-confidence votes against the **Barak** government fail. The most serious motion attacked Barak's presumed intent to give away Arab neighborhoods abutting **Jerusalem**. (NYT 3/28)

28 MARCH

The 1st round of **PA-Israeli** FAPS talks at Bolling ends. The **State Dept.** says the teams spent this round "attempting to achieve a better understanding of each other's needs and requirements." No progress was made on narrowing the gaps in their positions. Teams agree to open a 2d round of talks at Bolling on 4/6. (NYT, WP, WT 3/29; AYM, *al-Quds* 3/29 in WNC 3/30; AYM 4/1 in WNC 4/6) (see Peace Monitor)

Barak phones Egypt's **Mubarak** in Washington to brief him on Israel's views on the 3/26 Clinton-Asad mtg. in Geneva. Egyptian FM **Musa** phones Syrian FM **Shara'** to discuss Syria's view of the 3/26 mtg. (MENA 3/28 in WNC 3/29; MEI 4/7)

In Washington for talks on bilateral relations, Pres. **Mubarak** meets with Pres. **Clinton** to discuss the peace process. Clinton calls for "intensifying" PA-Israeli negotiations, says that "the ball is in [Asad's] court" regarding movement on the **Syrian-Israeli** track. (MENA 3/28 in WNC 3/29; MM, NYT, WP, WT 3/29; MENA 3/29 in WNC 3/30; MM 3/30; DUS, MENA 3/30 in WNC 3/31; MM 4/3; MEI 4/7) (see Peace Monitor)

Jordan indicted **28 Arabs** allegedly linked to Saudi dissident **Osama Bin Laden** on terrorism charges for conspiring to attack U.S.,

Israeli targets during New Year's celebrations. 15 suspects are in custody; 13 others are at large. Most of the suspects are Jordanian, others are Algerian, Iraqi, Palestinian, Yemeni. (DUS 3/28 in WNC 3/29; NYT, WP 3/29; DUS 3/29 in WNC 3/30; NYT 4/11)

After a 7-mo. investigation, **Israeli police** recommend that **fmr. PM Benjamin Netanyahu and his wife Sara** be indicted on criminal charges of fraud, bribery, theft of 700 state gifts worth \$100,000, obstruction of justice. (MM, NYT, WP, WT 3/29)

Bowing to Washington, **OPEC** agrees to boost oil output. (**Iran** refuses to sign the agmt. in protest to the U.S. but agrees to comply in effect.) **Clinton** calls the move "good news . . . for the American consumer," but many OPEC officials complain that the heavy-handed U.S. pressure (especially fr. Energy Secy. Bill Richardson, who hopes to be chosen as VP Al Gore's running mate for the 11/00 U.S. elections) makes their own political and economic situations more awkward. (CSM, NYT, WP 3/29; WP 3/30; MEI 4/7) (see 3/24)

29 MARCH

Pres. **Clinton** says that at the 3/26 Geneva mtg., **Israel** had offered to withdraw fr. a "significant" portion of the Golan Heights; if **Syria** cannot accept Israel's offer, it is incumbent upon Damascus to come up with an alternative. (MM 3/30) (see Doc. C2)

The **Israeli High Court** rules that some 730 **Palestinians** who challenged their expulsion (11/16) fr. their cave homes nr. Yatta in the West Bank may return until the court has investigated the case and issued a final ruling. (WP 3/30)

30 MARCH

Israeli Arabs observe their annual 1-day strike commemorating the 1976 incident in which 6 Palestinians protesting Israeli land confiscations were shot dead by Israeli police. For the 1st time, 3 **Druze** communities observe the strike. Land Day **demonstrators** storm an **IDF base** being built on land expropriated fr. the Arab village of Sakhnin. **Israeli police** disperse the crowd using tear gas, injuring 20 and resulting in the death of a 72-yr.-old woman. (MM 3/30; HA [Internet] 3/31, 4/5; WJW 4/6; JP 4/7)

In Gaza, 500 **Palestinians** marking Land Day block the entrance to the **Jewish settlement** of Gush Katif. **PA police** keep the

protesters contained to prevent IDF intervention. (MM 3/30)

Some 150 **Jews fr. Rosh Ha'ayin** demonstrate against Interior M **Sharansky**'s 3/27 decision to return 250 acres of land to the Arab village **Kafr Kasim**. (MM 3/30)

For unclear reasons, an **IDF** soldier shoots, kills a **Palestinian** driver at a checkpoint outside Shu'afat refugee camp in the West Bank, arrests his passenger. (LAW 3/31)

31 MARCH

Egyptian pres. **Mubarak** phones Syrian pres. **Asad** to brief him on his meeting with Pres. **Clinton** in Washington on 3/28. (MENA 3/31 in WNC 4/5)

Iraq gives **Palestinians** who have lived in Baghdad since 1948 (totalling some 30,000 individuals) the right to own property, but stresses that rights cannot be passed on. (JT [Internet] 3/31)

1 APRIL

Lebanese DM Ghazi Zaytir suggests that Lebanon may ask **Syria** to deploy troops along the Israeli-Lebanese border if **Israel** withdraws unilaterally. Although Zaytir says his statements reflect his personal views, Israel expresses concern, suspecting the idea is backed by Syria. (CSM, WP 4/2; MM, WP 4/3; AYM 4/3, *al-Quds* 4/4 in WNC 4/6; MM 4/4; JP, MEI 4/7; CSM 4/19)

2 APRIL

PA chief negotiator '**Abid Rabbuh**' says that **Israel** has dropped its opposition to a Palestinian state, which **Arafat** hopes to declare in 9/00, but the PA rejects Israel's vision of that state: two clusters of areas connected by a land passage, along with some West Bank suburbs of Jerusalem, totaling 50% of the West Bank, with Israel controlling the border with Jordan. (MM 4/3)

Syrian FM **Shara'** denounces Lebanese DM **Zaytir**'s suggestion (4/1) that Syrian troops guard the Lebanese border when **Israel** pulls out. (MM, WP 4/3)

In Ramallah, 5 armed men break into the office of **PA Environmental M Yusif Abu Safiyya**, beat him severely. The **PA police** arrest 5 suspects plus the Environmental Min. dir. gen. for orchestrating the attack. (MENL 4/3; AYM 4/8 in WNC 4/12)

In a separate incident in Ramallah, **PC mbr. Qaddura Faris**, mbr. of a new PC Monitoring and Human Rights Comm., is beaten by **Arafat's guards** outside Arafat's

office when he attempts to enter for a comm. mtg. on the teachers strike, which is still being observed in some areas (see 2/28).

Arafat has the 7 guards arrested. Faris resigns fr. the comm. in protest. (LAW, MENL 4/4; AYM 4/4 in WNC 4/6; AYM 4/8 in WNC 4/12)

3 APRIL

After a mtg. with PM **Barak** in Israel, U.S. **Defense Secy.** **William Cohen** says that plans for a U.S.-Israeli defense pact have been put on hold since the deal is contingent upon Israeli withdrawal fr. the **Golan**, which does not appear likely. Cohen also discusses Israel's planned sale of sophisticated U.S.-developed AWACS technology to **China**. (MM, NYT, WP, WT 4/4; WP 4/5; WJW 4/6; MM 4/10; WP 4/11) (see Peace Monitor)

Israeli Arab students at Haifa University stage a demonstration to protest the death of a woman during Land Day protests in Sakhnin on 3/31. (HA [Internet] 4/5)

To protest sanctions on **Iraq**, an **Italian plane** carrying **EU parliament mbr. Vittorio Sgarbi**, an **Italian journalist**, and a **French Catholic priest** leaves Jordan's Amman airport and flies to Baghdad without UN permission. (MM 4/4, 4/7; JT 4/7 in WNC 4/11)

Turkey sends 1,000 troops into **n. Iraq** to hunt **Kurdish separatists**, makes air strikes on Kurdish bases. Turkey has previously carried out spring campaigns against the separatists. Since 1,000s of troops, supported by mbrs. of Iraq's **Kurdistan Democratic Party**, began massing on the border with Iraq in 3/00, there have been a few cross-border skirmishes, but this is the 1st large incursion into Iraq. (NYT 4/4; WT 4/5; see also WP 3/27)

4 APRIL

In Geneva, Israeli FM **Levy** assures UN Secy.-Gen. **Annan** that **Israel** will withdraw fr. **s. Lebanon** in 7/00 in coordination with the UN. Annan says that he will discuss with the **UN Security Council (UNSC)** possibly expanding **UNIFIL**'s 4,500-mbr. force. (MM 4/4; MM, WP, WT 4/5; WJW 4/6; MM 4/7)

In Amman, U.S. Defense Secy. **Cohen**, **King Abdallah** discuss cooperation efforts to modernize the Jordanian army, improve living conditions in the kingdom. Cohen also complains about the violation of the em-

bargo on **Iraq** by an **Italian plane** that departed Amman on 4/3. (MM 4/4)

At **Haifa University**, a fistfight breaks out btwn. several **Israeli Arab and right-wing Jewish students** over insults by the Jewish students regarding an Israeli Arab demonstration on campus 4/3. **Israeli police** intervene, detain 1 Arab and 1 Jewish student for questioning. Irate students attack the police, sparking a riot that lasts 2 hrs. (HA [Internet] 4/5)

In Amman, **Jordanian police** clash with **University of Jordan students** protesting a decision by the school administration to appoint half of the 80 student council mbrs. so as to reduce the influence of pro-Islamist student groups. (WT 4/5; JT 4/7 in WNC 4/11; MM 4/12; MEI 4/21)

5 APRIL

The donors' **Joint Liaison Comm.** and **Local Aid Coordination Comm.** both meet in Gaza. (World Bank press release 4/19, 5/4) (see Peace Monitor)

Israel releases **Ghassan Dirani**, nephew of **Mustafa Dirani** (see 3/13), to the **Red Cross** for repatriation to Lebanon. **Lebanese Christian militia men** kidnapped Dirani in 1986, hoping to trade him with Israel, who they thought would want him as a bargaining chip in its efforts to find out what happened to **IDF airman Ron Arad**, who was downed over Lebanon earlier in 1986, allegedly by mbrs. of Mustafa Dirani's group. Israel took custody of Ghassan in 1990 and had since held him without charge. (NYT, WP 4/6; WT 4/20)

To protest the Israeli High Court's 3/29 decision allowing Palestinians to return to their homes nr. Yatta, **Jewish settlers** reoccupy the West Bank hilltop where the illegal outpost **Havat Maon** was dismantled in 11/99 as part of an agmt. btwn. PM **Barak** and the **YESHA settlers council**. (NYT 4/6)

The **Jordanian air force** intercepts the **Italian plane** that defied UN sanctions on **Iraq** on 4/3 on its return trip and forces it to land. The plane is impounded, the pilot arrested, and the EU official and Italian film-maker deported. (MM 4/6, 4/7; JT 4/7 in WNC 4/11; DUS 4/23 in WNC 4/24) (see 4/4)

6 APRIL

PA, Israeli teams resume FAPS talks at Bolling AFB. (WJW 4/6; WP 4/7) (see Peace Monitor)

In Beirut, Lebanese pres. **Lahoud**, UN special envoy **Terje Larsen** discuss **Israel's** plans to pull out of s. **Lebanon** in 7/00. Lahoud gives Larsen a letter outlining Lebanon's concerns regarding a unilateral IDF withdrawal. (MM 4/6; MM, NYT 3/7; MEI 4/21) (see Doc. B4)

Rep. Sonny Callahan (R-AL), chmn. of the House Appropriations Subcomm., vows to block \$250 m. in FY 2001 aid to **Israel** to offset its profit fr. the planned sale of AWACS technology to **China**, if the sale goes through. (WP 4/7, 4/11; WJW 4/13, 4/20) (see 4/3)

After a 2-mo. investigation, **Israel police** conclude that Pres. **Weizman** committed fraud, breach of trust by accepting unreported funds and favors from 2 private businessmen but say he cannot be indicted because the statute of limitations has run out. (MM, NYT, WP, WT 4/7; MM, WT 4/10; WJW 4/13; JP 4/14) (see 1/20)

The **IDF** evacuates **Jewish settlers** fr. Havat Maon. (NYT 4/7) (see 4/5)

Jordanian riot police stand by as **University of Jordan students** stage a peaceful 2-hr. sit-in to protest the university's decision to appoint half of the student council. (JT 4/7 in WNC 4/11) (see 4/4)

7 APRIL

In Damascus, UN special envoy **Larsen** discusses with Syrian FM **Shara'** **Israel's** plans for a unilateral withdrawal fr. s. **Lebanon**, the possible role of UN forces. (NYT 4/7; MENA 4/8 in WNC 4/11)

8 APRIL

The **White House** announces that **Arafat**, **Barak** will come to Washington separately to meet with **Clinton** on final status talks. Clinton-Barak talks will also address the Syrian track. (NYT, WT 4/9; XIN 4/9 in WNC 4/11)

Syrian FM **Shara'** arrives in Cairo with a message to Pres. **Mubarak** fr. Pres. **Asad** regarding **Israel's** proposed unilateral withdrawal fr. s. **Lebanon**; says publicly that Syria would welcome a withdrawal, even if unilateral. (MENA 4/8 in WNC 4/11; NYT 4/10; USIS *Washington File* [Internet] 4/12; WP 4/14; *al-Musawwar* 4/14 in WNC 4/17; AYM 4/18 in WNC 4/20)

In an editorial in the London-based daily *al-Hayat*, **British journalist and Asad biographer Patrick Seale** offers an independent proposal, which **Israel** interprets as

floated by **Syria**, for a compromise solution to the **Golan** withdrawal issue. (MM 4/8; NYT 4/10; see also MM 4/7) (see Doc. A3)

In the 1st major public event on the Palestinian refugee issue, **100s of activists, students, scholars** fr. around the world attend a conference in Boston aimed at developing an international action plan to support **Palestinians' right of return**. 100s more are turned away due to limited space. Speakers are respected senior academics and political analysts, including **Edward Said**, **Noam Chomsky**. (BDL 4/19; *al-Safir* [Internet] 5/1)

9 APRIL

In s. **Lebanon**, **IDF** artillery fire injures 3 civilians, 1 Lebanese army officer. In retaliation for the civilian casualties, **Hizballah** fires a rocket into n. **Israel**, causing no damage or injuries. In a separate clash in s. Lebanon, Hizballah wounds 2 **SLA** mbrs. (NYT, WP, WT 4/10; WJW 4/13)

10 APRIL

At Bolling, the **Israeli**, **PA** teams exchange papers on the components of a FAPS agmt, discuss the 3d FRD. U.S. special envoy **Ross** sits in. (AYM 4/11 in WNC 4/12; AYM 4/12 in WNC 4/14; AYM 4/15 in WNC 4/17, 4/18)

On his way to Washington, **Barak** stops in Cairo to meet with Pres. **Mubarak** on the peace process. (MENA 4/10 in WNC 4/11; HA [Internet], MM 4/11; *al-Musawwar* 4/14 in WNC 4/17)

Israel says it has been briefed on **Syria's** response to Clinton's 3/26 proposals and that the "detailed answers" fr. Damascus are "very negative." (MM 4/10) (see 4/8)

Israel lifts the construction freeze in the **Golan Heights**, allowing work to begin on 200 new housing units in Qatzrin; also announces resumption of work on **12 West Bank bypass roads**, which has been suspended for the past few mos. The **U.S.** does not comment. (LAW, MM 4/11; NYT 4/12; AYM, MENA 4/12 in WNC 4/13; MM, WJW 4/13; WP 4/14; JT 4/14 in WNC 4/17; JP, MEI 4/21; MM 4/27)

In Amman, **Jordanian riot police**, plain clothes police surround the headquarters of the **Islamic Action Front**, where a rally is taking place in support of the **University of Jordan students** who clashed with police on 4/4. (MM 4/12; MEI 4/21)

11 APRIL

In Washington, **Clinton** holds 4 hrs. of talks with **Barak** on PA-Israeli final status talks, IDF withdrawal fr. s. Lebanon, the Syrian-Israeli negotiations, Israel's planned sale of AWACS technology to China. (MM 4/11; MM, NYT, WP, WT 4/12; *al-Anwar* 4/12 in WNC 4/17; WJW 4/13; MM, WP 4/14; WJW 4/20; JP, MEI 4/21) (see Peace Monitor)

The U.S. State Dept. confirms receipt of a **Syrian** response to the proposals presented by Pres. **Clinton** in Geneva on 3/26. Secy. of State **Albright** says "there is not much give" in the Syrian position, "but I do think it's important that they responded." (MM 4/11; *USIS Washington File* 4/12; WP 4/14) (see 4/10)

Jewish settlers in the West Bank, angry over Israel's rejection of 60-70 requests to authorize new settlement construction, say they will start carrying out expansions illegally. They begin bulldozing on Olive Hill nr. Efrat, with a plan to build 230 housing units. (NYT 4/12; AYM 4/12 in WNC 4/13; NYT 4/13; MEI 4/21)

Jordan becomes a mbr. of the **World Trade Organization**. (NYT 4/12)

12 APRIL

Immediately upon Barak's return fr. Washington, **Israel** says it will withdraw fully fr. s. **Lebanon**, evacuating all fortified outposts just inside Lebanon, across the Israel-Lebanon border, putting to rest any consideration of the **IDF**'s Morning Twilight proposal. (MM 4/14; MEI 4/21) (see 3/12)

Israel's High Court rules (6-3) against the government in the case of **15 Lebanese men** held without charge or after the completion of their terms, concluding that a 1979 emergency law does not authorize the taking of hostages who pose no risk to Israeli national security. The **Israeli prison authority** agrees to release the 13 detainees in its custody by 4/17 in compliance with the ruling. The **IDF**, however, refuses to free the 2 men it holds in military prisons: **Shaykh 'Abd al-Karim Obeid**, a Hizballah spiritual leader kidnapped in 1989, and **Mustafa Dirani**, fmr. Amal security chief kidnapped in 1994. (MM, NYT, WP, WT 4/13; MM 4/14, 4/18; WP 4/19)

13 APRIL

In Geneva, the 176 mbrs. of the **International Red Cross** agree to grant the **Israeli relief agency Magen David Adom** ob-

server status until a final decision can be reached on adopting a new neutral emblem, in addition to its 2 official symbols, the red cross or red crescent, which Israel refuses to use. (NYT 4/14; WP 4/15; WJW 4/20) (see Peace Monitor)

14 APRIL

At Bolling AFB, **PA**, **Israeli** teams end their 2d round of FAPS talks without agreeing on the outline for the FAPS agmt. Teams return home to brief their leaders, agree to hold a 3d round of talks in the Middle East. (AYM 4/15 in WNC 4/17, 4/18; WT 4/17; AYM, *al-Quds* 4/18 in WNC 4/19; WJW 4/20; AYM 4/22 in WNC 4/26) (see Peace Monitor)

15 APRIL

Lebanese pres. **Lahoud** arrives in **Saudi Arabia** on the 1st leg of a 7-nation tour to build support for Lebanon in advance of an **Israeli** withdrawal. (*Daily Star* [Internet] 4/17) (see Peace Monitor)

The **New York Times** runs extensive coverage of a classified CIA report on the inner workings of the 1953 **Iranian** coup, orchestrated by the U.S. and UK, that brought **Shah Mohammed Reza Pahlevi** to power. According to the document, which was obtained fr. an unnamed source, the aim of the coup was "to bring to power a government which would reach an equitable oil settlement . . . [and] vigorously prosecute the dangerously strong Communist Party." (NYT 4/16) (see 3/17)

Nr. Bracka settlement in the West Bank, 6 **armed Jewish settlers** assault a 71-yr.-old **Palestinian woman**, threaten to bury her alive. A passing Palestinian motorist stops the attack, takes the woman to the hospital for treatment for bruises, shock. (LAW 4/17)

16 APRIL

Barak for the 1st time says that **Israel** would not annex Palestinian villages nr. **Jerusalem** but would seek to annex most **Jewish settlements** in a final agmt.; says Israel might make a "down payment" on future land transfers, possibly handing over Palestinian villages nr. Jerusalem. (MM, NYT, WT 4/17; WJW 4/20; WP 5/4)

Another 4 senior **Israeli officials** confirm that under the right conditions, **Israel** would formally recognize a Palestinian state. The 5 officials who have made statements since 4/15 are Internal Security M **Ben Ami**, Regional Cooperation M **Shimon Peres**,

M Without Portfolio Haim Ramon, Education M **Sarid**, Dep. DM **Ephraim Sneh**. (WP 4/17)

Israeli FM **Levy** arrives in Paris to meet with **French officials**. (*Le Monde* 5/6 in WNC 5/10)

Israel postpones the release of **13 Lebanese detainees** after the family of IDF airman **Arad** files an appeal of the High Court's 4/12 ruling. (NYT, WT 4/17)

After a 6-wk. investigation, **Israeli police** recommend that Transportation M **Mordechai** be indicted on charges of having sexually assaulted 3 women over 8 yrs. Police say that the statute of limitations has expired on "several" other incidents. (NYT, WP, WT 4/17; WJW 4/20) (see 3/7)

17 APRIL

Syrian pres. Asad's son and heir apparent **Bashar al-Assad** says that pessimism following the 3/26 Geneva mtg. is unrealistic, that a **Syrian-Israeli** peace agmt. is still possible. (MM 4/17; NYT 4/18)

Israel's Amb. to the UN Yehuda Lancry delivers a letter fr. FM **Levy** to Secy.-Gen. **Annan** formally reaffirming Israel's intention to withdraw fr. **s. Lebanon**. (MM, NYT, WT 4/18; CSM 4/19; XIN 4/20 in WNC 4/21)

The **Israeli High Court** dismisses the appeal submitted by Arad's family, orders the release of **13 Lebanese detainees** by 4/19. (MM 4/17; NYT 4/18) (see 4/16)

Palestinians in the occupied territories mark Prisoners Day. In Bethlehem, **IDF troops** fire rubber-coated bullets at demonstrators. (WT 4/18)

18 APRIL

Israel demolishes **3 Palestinian homes** in Issawiyya, in West Bank area C, outside Jerusalem. (LAW 4/18)

19 APRIL

En route to Washington, **Arafat** holds talks on the peace process with Pres. **Mubarak** in Cairo. (MENA 4/19 in WNC 4/20)

The **UNSC** adopts a statement fr. Secy.-Gen. **Annan** informing the council of Israel's intentions to withdraw fr. **s. Lebanon** in keeping with UN Res. 425 and 426 and initiating preparations to enable the UN to carry out its responsibilities under those resolutions in order to avoid a deterioration

of the situation in Lebanon. (XIN 4/20 in WNC 4/24) (see 4/17)

Israel releases **13 Lebanese detainees**, returns them to Lebanon. 2,000 friends, relatives, supporters greet them at the border. The remaining 2, **Obeid** and **Dirani**, will be held at least until a hearing on 5/8 to determine whether they pose a security threat to Israel. (MM, NYT, WP 4/19; CSM, NYT, WP, WT 4/20; WJW 4/27; JP 4/28) (see 4/17)

20 APRIL

In Washington, **Clinton** holds talks with **Arafat** on final status negotiations, which the U.S. announces are set to resume after Pass-over ends on 4/27. The U.S. says there has not been enough progress in the Bolling sessions to meet the 5/13 FAPS target date, so all efforts will be directed toward the 9/13 deadline. At the request of both sides, the U.S. agrees to take a "more intensified role." (MM 4/20; XIN 4/20 in WNC 4/24; NYT, WP, WT 4/21; AYM 4/23 in WNC 4/26)

The **UN** says it may nearly double the size of **UNIFIL** fr. 4,500 to 8,000 troops to prevent formation of a security vacuum in **s. Lebanon** following an IDF withdrawal. Secy.-Gen. **Annan** dispatches his special envoy **Larsen** to the region to coordinate plans with **Israel, Lebanon, Syria**. (MEI, WP 4/21)

Jordan opens the trial of **15 alleged Bin Laden associates** charged with conspiring to attack Israeli, U.S. targets. (CSM, NYT, WP 4/21; MEI 5/19) (see 3/28)

21 APRIL

King Abdallah of Jordan approves a plan to establish a low-tax economic zone in Aqaba to attract tourism and technology companies, hopes to create 70,000 jobs. (NYT 4/22)

In Sarvestan, Iran, **150 Iranians** clash with **riot police** for the 3d day in protest of the annulment by the **Guardian Council**, comprised of conservatives led by Ayatollah Khamenei, of a reform candidate's election in the 1st round of the parliamentary race on 2/18. Since 2/18, the council, which holds ultimate political authority, has nullified the election of several candidates aligned with reform-minded Pres. **Khatami**, apparently to rein in the reform movement in advance of run-off elections on 5/5. (WP 4/22)

22 APRIL

Arafat arrives in Cairo on his way home fr. Washington to brief Pres. **Mubarak** on his

talks with Pres. **Clinton**. (MENA 4/22, 4/23 in WNC 4/24)

23 APRIL

King Abdallah of Jordan meets with PM **Barak** in Elat. Talks focus on bilateral issues. In an interview with Israel Television taped before the visit but aired afterward, the king calls for a dual capital solution for **Jerusalem**. (DUS 4/23 in WNC 4/24; CSM, NYT, WP, WT 4/24; MM 4/25; WJW 4/27) (see Peace Monitor)

Armed with a new press law that bans criticism of the constitution, the **Tehran court**, controlled by conservatives, orders 8 daily, 4 weekly **newspapers** that support reform-minded Pres. **Khatami** to cease publication immediately. 2 journalists are also arrested. (CSM, NYT 4/25; WP, WT 4/26; NYT 4/27; MM 4/28; MEI 5/5) (see 4/21)

In Issawiyya, the **IDF** demolishes at least 5 **Palestinian homes**, 21 tents, a water reservoir. (MM 4/25; LAW 4/26; MM 4/27) (see 4/18)

24 APRIL

U.S. Secy. of State **Albright** announces that she will go to the Middle East in 6-8 wks. to arrange a summit mtg. btwn. **Barak**, **Arafat**. (MM, WT 4/25)

All 26 mbrs. of the UN's **Western Europe and Other Group (WEOG)** agree to offer **Israel** full but temporary membership in their regional group while it continues to work for admission to the Asian grouping. (WJW 5/4; MEI 5/5) (see Peace Monitor)

25 APRIL

Syrian FM **Shara'** flies to Paris to hand Pres. **Chirac** a letter fr. Pres. **Asad** and to discuss **Israel's** planned withdrawal fr. s. **Lebanon**. (JP [Internet], MM 4/25; MM 4/27, 4/28; *Le Monde* 5/6 in WNC 5/10) (see 4/16)

King Abdallah of Jordan flies to Ramallah to meet with **Arafat** for talks on the PA-Israeli track of the peace process, bilateral relations. (MM 4/25; JT [Internet] 4/26; DUS 4/26 in WNC 4/27; NYT 4/27)

Israeli PM **Barak** phones Egyptian pres. **Mubarak** to discuss recent developments in the peace process. (MENA 4/25 in WNC 4/26)

UN special envoy **Larsen** arrives in **Israel** to meet with senior officials regarding Israel's withdrawal fr. s. **Lebanon**. (MM 4/25, 4/27)

In Tehran, **100s of university students** at Khajeh Naseer Technical University cut classes to demonstrate against the **Tehran court's** crackdown on pro-**Khatami** newspapers. (NYT, WP, WT 4/26) (see 4/23)

26 APRIL

Arafat flies to Paris to discuss the status of the peace process with Pres. **Chirac**. (MM 4/27; *al-Quds* 4/27 in WNC 5/2) (see 4/25)

UN special envoy **Larsen** meets with PM **Barak**, FM **Levy** to discuss Israel's plans to pull out of s. **Lebanon**. (MM 4/27)

In Paris, the **UN Comm. on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People (CEIRPP)** opens a 2-day international conference on Palestinian refugees. It is a precursor to CEIRPP's annual mtg. of NGOs on the question of Palestine, which begins in Paris on 4/28. (UN press release 4/27) (see Peace Monitor)

27 APRIL

At a **PFLP** congress in Damascus, party head **George Habash** announces his plans to retire fr. the organization. He is expected to be replaced by **Abu Ali Mustafa**. (NYT 4/29; AYM 4/29 in WNC 5/2; WT 5/3; *al-Quds* 5/7 in WNC 5/10; MM 5/8, 5/9) (see JPS's interview with Mustafa in JPS 114)

Iranian conservatives close the last 3 pro-reform **newspapers** still operating, including 1 owned by Pres. **Khatami's** brother, 1 by a Khatami adviser. (MM, NYT, WP, WT 4/28; NYT 4/29; WP 5/1; MM 5/2; WT 5/6) (see 4/25)

28 APRIL

In s. **Lebanon**, **Hizballah** attacks an **SLA** outpost, killing 3 SLA mbrs., wounding 4. (NYT 4/29; WJW 5/4; MEI 5/5)

29 APRIL

PA officials accuse **Israel** of attempting to undermine foreign investment in the Palestinian economy by refusing to grant visas or reentry permits to the administrative, technical, professional staff of **Egyptian firms** working on contracts in the West Bank and Gaza. (AYM 4/29 in WNC 5/3)

30 APRIL

PA-Israeli FAPS talks resume in Elat but are delayed by 5 hrs. while the PA files a complaint against **Barak's** authorization of new settlement construction just a few hrs.

before. **Palestinians** rally to protest Barak's decision. (NYT, WP, WT 5/1; LAW 5/2; AYM, *al-Quds* 5/2 in WNC 5/4; WT 5/3; AYM 5/3 in WNC 5/8; WJW 5/4; MEI 5/5)

The **PFLP** closes its congress in Damascus without deciding whether to accept **Habash's** 4/27 resignation. The party calls for a Palestinian national dialogue with all factions, organizations. (WT 4/3; MM 5/8)

In **Hebron**, **IDF troops** forcibly remove militant **settlers** fr. a new encampment they were staking out in the center of a Palestinian neighborhood. (NYT 5/1)

1 MAY

In Beirut, UN special envoy **Larsen** meets with Lebanese pres. **Lahoud**, PM **Huss** to discuss a new mandate for UNIFIL following an Israeli withdrawal fr. s. Lebanon. (*Le Monde* 5/6 in WNC 5/10)

In Shiraz, numerous **foreign diplomats**, **observers fr. international human rights groups** attend the opening of the trial of 13 **Iranian Jews** accused of spying for **Israel**. (8 **Muslims** were also arrested on the same charges but will be tried separately.) 1 defendant confesses to the court and on national television, but human rights groups are skeptical of the validity of his statement. (CSM 5/1; IRNA 5/1 in WNC 5/2; CSM, MM, NYT, WP, WT 5/2; WP, WT 5/3; NYT, WJW, WP, WT 5/4; JP 5/5; WP, WT 5/9; NYT, WJW, WT 5/11; IRNA 5/15 in WNC 5/16) (see 3/17)

Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails begin a hunger strike to protest their conditions. (WT 5/3)

For the 2d day, **IDF** troops forcibly remove **settlers** fr. a makeshift encampment in the Palestinian section of **Hebron**. (NYT 5/2)

2 MAY

On the 3d day of mtgs. in Elat, **Israel** for the 1st time presents the **PA** with maps that show how it envisions the final status. The PA walks out, saying the maps show Israel plans to annex large areas of the West Bank, leaving 3 noncontiguous parcels to the PA and preserving numerous West Bank and Gaza settlements. U.S. special envoy **Ross** arrives in Elat this evening. (MM 5/2, 5/3; CSM 5/5; NYT, WP 5/8; *Financial Times*, MA 5/11; AYM 5/11 in WNC 5/12; MEI 5/19)

UN special envoy **Larsen** flies to Paris to meet with Pres. **Chirac** regarding Israel's planned withdrawal fr. s. **Lebanon**. France is expected to provide the bulk of extra troops

if UNIFIL is expanded. (*Le Monde* 5/6 in WNC 5/10)

The **PC** postpones discussions on implementing the civil service law until 4/5. In response, **West Bank Palestinian teachers** resume their strike for higher wages, which was called off 3 wks. ago; schools in Gaza are not affected. (MENL 5/2, 5/3) (see 4/2)

Jordanian parliamentarian Ishaq

Farhan, a university president and prominent moderate Islamist political leader who received his Ph.D. fr. Columbia University, arrives at JFK airport in New York with a multiple-entry diplomatic visa issued by the U.S. State Dept. that is valid until 2003. Nonetheless, he is held by the **Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS)** for 6 hrs. of questioning on his "terrorist" connections, forced to buy a \$2000 return ticket to Jordan, and deported. The **State Dept.** says it revoked Farhan's visa last yr. without informing him and gives no further explanation.

U.S. emb. in Jordan says it considers Farhan an important moderating political force, cannot comprehend the INS or State Dept.'s actions. (MM, NYT, WP 5/5; DUS 5/5, 5/7 in WNC 5/8; DUS 5/5, 5/8 in WNC 5/10; MM 5/9; WT 5/13)

3 MAY

U.S. special envoy **Ross** convinces **Israel**, **PA** to resume FAPS talks in Elat. Negotiators complain that reporters are getting in their way. (MM 5/3; NYT 5/4; *al-Quds* 5/4 in WNC 5/8; MEI 5/5) (see 5/2)

The FMs of **Egypt**, **Saudi Arabia**, **Syria** open a 2-day mtg. in Palmyra, Syria, to coordinate their stands on the peace process, explore the possibility of holding an Arab summit. (MM, NYT 5/3; MENA 5/3 in WNC 5/4; MM 5/4; MENA 5/4 in WNC 5/5; MENA 5/6 in WNC 5/8; MM 5/8) (see Peace Monitor)

The **Israeli DMin.** says that around 10/00, Israel will deploy a \$250-m. laser-based air defense system, developed jointly with the **U.S.**, to protect against missiles fired into Israel following a withdrawal fr. s. **Lebanon**. (MM 5/3; WP 5/4)

PA Dep. Education M Naim Abu al-Humus resigns in protest of the failure of the PA to respond to teachers' demands for pay increases. **Teachers fr. Hebron** hold a large sit-in strike outside the PA Education Min. offices to protest the PA's inaction regarding their salary increases. (MENL, PCHR 5/3; MENL 5/4; PR 5/10) (see 5/2)

The PA High Court suspends the 2/28 decree requiring all demonstrations, public mtgs. to receive prior authorization fr. the PA police. (PCHR 5/3)

In Iqlim al-Tuffah, outside Israel's self-declared security zone, an **Israeli plane** drops a 660-lb. bomb on the home of **Amal regional cmdr. Abbas Hallal**, injuring his mother, 14 **civilians** (including 6 **children**). Israel claims the shelling was a mistake. In 2 other **IDF** and **SLA** attacks in s. **Lebanon**, 3 **Hizballah** mbrs. and 2 **civilians** are killed. (NYT 5/4; MM, NYT, WP 5/5)

In the Netherlands, the trial of 2 **Libyans** charged in the 1988 bombing of **Pan Am 103** opens. The Libyans plead not guilty, blame the crime on the **PFLP-GC** and the **Palestinian Popular Struggle Front**. Both groups deny the charge. (MM, NYT, WP 5/4; MEI 5/5; CSM 5/9)

4 MAY

In retaliation for **Israeli** attacks on 5/3 that killed and injured a number of civilians, **Hizballah** fires rockets into n. Israel, killing 1 **IDF soldier**; 28 civilians are slightly injured by flying glass. (MM, NYT, WP 5/5; Interfax, IRNA 5/5 in WNC 5/8; *al-Quds* 5/7 in WNC 5/10; WJW 5/11)

In Beirut, UN special envoy **Larsen** holds talks with Lebanese pres. **Lahoud**, PM **Huss** regarding **Israel's** planned unilateral withdrawal fr. s. **Lebanon**. (MEI, MM, WP 5/5; *al-Safir* 5/9 in WNC 5/15; MEI 5/19)

In Cairo, **Egypt**, **Israel**, **Jordan**, the **PA** hold a technical comm. mtg. on displaced persons. (AYM 5/6 in WNC 5/10) (see Peace Monitor)

5 MAY

In retaliation for **Hizballah** rocket attacks on n. Israel 5/4, the **IDF** carries out air strikes on Lebanese power stations, shells the Beirut-Damascus highway, hits Hizballah targets. At least 1 Lebanese civilian is injured. Large areas of Beirut and n. and e. Lebanon are left without power. The repairs on the 2 power stations caused by Israel's last air strikes in early 2/00 were just completed a wk. ago. Hizballah fires a 2d round of rockets at n. Israel, but Israel decides not to respond. (WP 5/5; NYT, WP, WT 5/6; *al-Quds* 5/7 in WNC 5/10; MM 5/8; JP 5/12; MEI 5/19)

Iran holds run-off parliamentary elections. Initial results show reformers allied with Pres. **Khatami** taking 52 of the 66 re-

maining open seats, giving them a total of around 200 of the 290 seats. (NYT 5/6; NYT, WP 5/7) (see 2/18)

Turkey elects **reformist judge Necdet Sezer** as its new pres. He will take office when outgoing pres. **Suleyman Demirel**'s term ends on 5/16. (MM 5/5; ATL 5/5 in WNC 5/8; WP 5/6)

PA police detain **Omar Assaf**, head of the **Palestinian teachers' union** in the West Bank, and close **Love and Peace Radio** in Ramallah for airing an interview with him on 5/3. (Workers Advice Center [Ramallah] press release 5/5; LAW 5/8; JT [Internet] 5/11) (see 5/3)

6 MAY

U.S. special envoy **Ross**, U.S. Amb. **Indyk** meet with **senior PA, Israeli negotiators** (including the PA's Abbas and Qurai', Israel's FM Levy) to discuss the impasse in the FAPS talks. Later, Ross meets with PM **Barak**. (WT 5/7)

Following **Israel's** latest round of attacks on **Lebanon**, the **Arab League** convenes an emergency session in Cairo; calls for a freeze in normalization, a halt to all Arab participation in the multilateral negotiations until there is substantial progress on all tracks of the peace process. (MENA 5/6 in WNC 5/8; JT [Internet] 5/7; MENA 5/9 in WNC 5/10)

All **Palestinian teachers** resume their general strike after a **PA Executive Authority** mtg. 5/5 fails to move them closer to their goal of higher wages, better working conditions. (MENL 5/7; LAW 5/8) (see 5/2)

Iran's Guardian Council says it has found evidence of voter fraud in the 5/5 elections, raising speculation that it may nullify victories of **reform candidates**. The council has already annulled 12 reformist victories fr. the 2/18 round of elections. (NYT, WP, WT 5/8)

7 MAY

In a late-night mtg. in Ramallah, **Barak**, **Arafat** agree to resume peace talks on 5/8 at an undisclosed location. After the mtg., Barak announces to the press that he has decided to cede control of 3 **West Bank villages** nr. Jerusalem within a few wks. or mos. (MM, *Le Monde*, NYT, WP, WT 5/8; *al-Quds* 5/8 in WNC 5/10; MM, WT 5/9; *Le Monde* 5/10 in WNC 5/11; WJW 5/11; *al-Quds* 5/11 in WNC 5/12; MEI 5/19) (see Peace Monitor)

In the early morning hrs., **100 PA riot police** raid **Bureij refugee camp** in Gaza,

arresting **50 Palestinians** who were allegedly behind a fight at a basketball match in the camp on 5/5. Bureij residents observe a general strike for the rest of the day to protest the PA's handling of the situation. (PCHR 5/7; MENL 5/8)

In the Israeli Arab village Shafa'amr, **Israeli Jews** holding an "independence" day celebration clash with local **Palestinians** holding a Nakba commemoration. **Israeli police** intervene, intensifying the conflict before breaking it up, leaving 20 Palestinians injured, arresting 30. (BDL 5/9)

8 MAY

PA-Israeli teams hold a final round of FAPS talks before recessing 5/9-10 while Israel marks its memorial and "independence" days. U.S. special envoy **Ross** returns to Washington to brief Pres. **Clinton** and the U.S. peace team on the Elat round of talks. He reportedly sees a lot of hard work ahead but also a "potential for progress." (MM, NYT 5/9)

In the wake of recent cross-border clashes with Hezbollah, **Israel** says it may make its unilateral withdrawal fr. **s. Lebanon** before 7/00. (NYT 5/9) (see Peace Monitor)

Syrian pres. **Asad** flies to Cairo to meet with Pres. **Mubarak** to coordinate positions on Lebanese, PA, Syrian negotiations with Israel and on Israel's planned withdrawal fr. **s. Lebanon**. (MENA 5/8, IRNA 5/9 in WNC 5/10; MENL, MM 5/9)

Israeli PM **Barak** phones Egyptian pres. **Mubarak** to discuss the various tracks of the peace process, briefs him on his mtg. with Arafat on 5/7. (MM 5/8; MENA 5/8 in WNC 5/10)

Palestinian students clash with **IDF troops** in Bethlehem during PA-organized demonstrations for the release of Palestinian prisoners held in Israel. 6 Palestinians are injured by rubber bullets fired by the IDF. (MENL 5/8; NYT 5/9)

9 MAY

Arafat arrives in Cairo on a 2-day visit to brief **Mubarak** on the status of negotiations with Israel. Mubarak updates Arafat on his mtg. with Asad 5/8. (MENL 5/9; MENA 5/9 in WNC 5/10; MENA 5/10 in WNC 5/11)

Dir. of the Russian FMin. Dept. for the Middle East and North Africa, Alexander Saltanov, arrives in **Syria** for a 2-day visit on the 1st leg of a regional tour to assess the peace process. He holds talks with

FM Shara' on the status of negotiations with Israel. (ITAR-TASS 5/9 in WNC 5/10; ITAR-TASS 5/10 in WNC 5/11; RAI [Moscow] 5/11 in WNC 5/15)

In Cairo, UN special envoy **Larsen** briefs the **Arab League** on his contacts with Israel, Lebanon, Syria regarding Israel's planned withdrawal fr. **s. Lebanon**. (MENA 5/9 in WNC 5/10)

The **State Dept.** issues Jordanian parliamentarian **Farhan** a new multiple entry diplomatic visa. The **U.S. emb. in Amman** reiterates its "regret over the incident," but the State Dept. says only that it erred by not informing Farhan that his original visa had been revoked. (MM, NYT 5/10) (see 5/2)

The **Acting Council of the Palestinian Bar Association** revokes the accreditation of **37 Palestinian lawyers** working for groups critical of the PA. (PHRC 5/10; LAW 5/11; PCHR 5/14) (see Peace Monitor)

10 MAY

After a 2d round of talks with Syrian FM **Shara'**, Russian FMin. official **Saltanov** goes to Beirut to meet with PM **Huss** regarding Israel's planned withdrawal fr. **s. Lebanon**. (ITAR-TASS 5/10 in WNC 5/11; RAI [Moscow] 5/11 in WNC 5/15)

Some **5,000 Israeli Arabs** mark Israel's independence day by participating in a "right of return march" fr. the village of Kabul in the Galilee to the site of the village of al-Damun, nr. Haifa, that was destroyed by Zionist forces in 1948. Another **1,000 Israeli Arabs** and displaced residents of Umm al-Zaynat hold a memorial at the site of that destroyed village. (BDL 5/12)

At the main Bethlehem checkpoint, some **500 Palestinians** demonstrate for the release of Palestinian prisoners fr. Israeli jails. **IDF** soldiers fire rubber bullets at the crowd, injuring 5 Palestinians. (MA [Internet] 5/11)

The **PA** allows **Love and Peace Radio** in Ramallah to resume broadcasting. (JT [Internet] 5/11) (see 5/5)

Apparently as a result of **Syrian** heir apparent **Bashar al-Asad**'s anticorruption campaign, **fmr. PM Muhammad Zu'bi**, who was replaced 3/13 with the new government, is expelled fr. the Ba'th party and indicted on charges of committing unspecified financial, political irregularities. (MEI 5/19)

11 MAY

Residents of the **Israeli town of Metulla**, nr. the Lebanese border, observe a

general strike and demonstrate to protest government plans to withdraw fr. **s. Lebanon**. (NYT 5/12; WJW 5/18)

Israel's High Court overturns a decision to parole a **Jewish settler** who had initially been sentenced to life imprisonment for the execution-style slaying of a Palestinian. (NYT 5/12) (see 3/6)

In Amman, **50 University of Jordan students** stage a sit-in outside parliament to protest the government's 4/4 decision to appoint half of their student council. (JT 5/12 in WNC 5/15) (see 4/10)

12 MAY

Israel, Jordan sign an agmt. to proceed with long-delayed plans for expansion of the Aqaba-Elat airport. (NYT 5/13; WJW 5/18) (see Peace Monitor)

13 MAY

Speaking in Kuwait, **Qatari FM Shaykh Hamad Bin-Jassim Bin-Jabbar al-Thani** calls for an initiative by Gulf Arab states to normalize ties with **Iraq**, lift UN sanctions. (MM 5/15, 5/17) (see 3/22)

14 MAY

At a PC mtg., PA chief negotiator **'Abid Rabbuh** resigns in protest after learning that secret **PA-Israeli** final status talks recently started in Stockholm. The Stockholm talks are being held btwn. Israel's Internal Security M **Ben Ami**, lawyer **Gilead Sher** and PC speaker **Qurai'**, PC mbr. **Hassan Asfour**, **PSF** chief **Muhammad Dahlan**. (MENL 5/15; MENA 5/15 in WNC 5/16; NYT, WT 5/16)

U.S. Consul General John Herbst delivers to **Arafat** a letter fr. Pres. **Clinton** regarding the peace process. No details are released. (MENL 5/15)

PA, Israeli interim issue team meet. **PA interim affairs negotiator Saeb Erekat** says **Arafat** instructed him to discuss only the immediate demand that **230 Palestinian prisoners** be released. Israeli negotiator **Eran**, however, asks that the Palestinian demonstrations in support of the prisoners be halted so the talks can be held in a positive atmosphere. (NYT, WT 5/15)

Across the West Bank and Gaza, **Palestinians** marking the 52d anniversary of the Nakba hold demonstrations to protest the continued detention of **Palestinian prisoners** in **Israeli** jails and to demand that the **PA** push the refugee issue in negotiations

with Israel. In several locations, the **IDF** clashes with protesters, opening fire with live ammunition and rubber bullets, killing 1 Palestinian and wounding at least 30. 2 IDF soldiers are also injured. The worst clashes are nr. Netzirim junction in Gaza and in Nablus, Qalqilya, and Ramallah in the West Bank (AYM 5/14 in WNC 5/17; NYT, WP, WT 5/15; MEI 5/19)

Some **150 Palestinians** fr. **Dahaysha, Aida, Azza refugee camps** nr. Bethlehem make a symbolic visit to the sites of their villages of origin, which were destroyed by Zionist forces in 1948: Bayt Nattif, Zakriyya, and Bayt Jibrin. (BDL 5/15) (see 5/10)

The **PA** and **Israel** announce that the PA has captured **Muhammad Dayif**, a leader of **Hamas's Izzeddin al-Qassam Brigades** who is Israel's most wanted for allegedly organizing a series of suicide bombings in 2-3/96. Israel releases **Salah Shihada**, a Hamas leader who has been jailed for 12 yrs. It is uncertain whether the Shihada release and Dayif capture are part of a reciprocal agmt. related to negotiations. (MM, NYT, WP 5/15; NYT 5/17; WJW 5/18)

15 MAY

In a scathing 4-page letter, **'Abid Rabbuh** publicly announces his resignation as PA chief negotiator for the final status, revealing the secret Stockholm talks. (MENL 5/15; MENA 5/15 in WNC 5/16; MM, NYT, WT 5/16; AYM 5/16 in WNC 5/18)

U.S. special envoy **Ross** arrives in Israel fr. Stockholm, along with the new **PA, Israeli** final status teams. All parties refuse to comment on the success or failure of the Stockholm talks. The State Dept. does not even confirm or deny that Ross was in Sweden, says only that the PA and Israel "are talking to each other in different ways at different levels." (State Dept. daily press briefing 5/15; MM, NYT, WT 5/16; State Dept. daily press briefing, WT 5/17; *al-Quds* 5/17 in WNC 5/18)

Across the West Bank and Gaza, **1,000s of Palestinians** commemorating the Nakba and protesting the stalled peace process and Israel's continued detention of Palestinian prisoners clash with **IDF troops and border police** in the worst fighting since 9/96. 2 PA policemen and 1 Palestinian civilian are killed and 100s are injured by rubber bullets, live ammunition, and tear gas; 14 Israeli soldiers and police officers are also injured. PA police, Israeli security forces exchange gunfire. **Arafat, Barak** are in contact via

their advisers throughout the day, speak by phone in the evening. (LAW, MM 5/15; BDL, LAW, NYT, WP, WT 5/16; ITAR-TASS 5/15, MENA 5/16 in WNC 5/17; AYM, *al-Quds* 5/16 in WNC 5/18; WJW 5/18; MEI 5/19)

Despite clashes, the **Israeli cabinet** votes (15-6) to transfer **3 Palestinian villages** outside Jerusalem (Abu Dis, Azariyya, Sawahara al-Sharqiyya) fr. area B to area A. Later in the day, the **Knesset** approves (56-48, with 1 abstention) the cabinet decision. **Barak**, however, says he will not turn over the villages until he receives an explanation fr. the **PA** for today's clashes in the territo-

ries. (MM 5/15; MENA 5/15 in WNC 5/16; MM, NYT, WP, WT 5/16; MM 5/17; WJW 5/18; MEI 5/19)

10,000s of Jewish settlers rally in Jerusalem's Zion Square to protest further territorial concessions to the Palestinians. The rally was planned by **Shas** last wk., before today's Knesset vote was announced. (MM 5/15; MM, NYT, WP 5/16; WJW 5/18)

In **s. Lebanon**, the **IDF** turns over its Taybiyya post to the **SLA**, marking the 1st step in its withdrawal fr. Lebanon. (MM, WT 5/17; NYT 5/18)

CHRONOLOGY SOURCE ABBREVIATIONS

AFP	(Agence France-Presse, Paris)
ATL	(Anatolia, Ankara)
AYM	(<i>al-Ayyam</i> , Ramallah)
BDL	(BADIL Resource Center, Bethlehem)
CSM	(<i>Christian Science Monitor</i> , Boston)
DUS	(<i>al-Dustur</i> , Amman)
GIU	(<i>Global Intelligence Update</i> , Austin)
HA	(<i>Ha'aretz</i> , Tel Aviv)
IRNA	(Islamic Republic News Agency, Tehran)
JP	(<i>Jerusalem Post International Edition</i> , Jerusalem)
JT	(<i>Jordan Times</i> , Amman)
LAW	(Palestinian Society for the Protection of Human Rights and the Environment, Jerusalem)
MA	(<i>Ma'ariv</i> , Tel Aviv)
MEI	(<i>Middle East International</i> , London)
MENA	(Middle East News Agency, Cairo)
MENL	(Middle East Newsline, Internet)
MM	(<i>Mideast Mirror</i> , London)
NYT	(<i>New York Times</i> , New York)
PCHR	(Palestinian Center for Human Rights, Gaza)
PR	(<i>Palestine Report</i> , Jerusalem)
RL	(Radio Lebanon, Beirut)
WJW	(<i>Washington Jewish Week</i> , Rockville, MD)
WNC	(World News Connection [Internet], Washington, DC)
WP	(<i>Washington Post</i> , Washington, DC)
WT	(<i>Washington Times</i> , Washington, DC)
XIN	(Xinhua-New China News Agency, Beijing)

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