Chronology: 16 August–15 November 1991
Published by: University of California Press on behalf of the Institute for Palestine Studies
Accessed: 03-03-2015 18:13 UTC
This section is part thirty-two of a chronology begun in *Journal XIII*, no. 3 (Spring 1984). Chronology dates reflect Eastern Standard Time.

16 AUGUST

**Special meeting of Palestinians** from o.t., the U.S., and PLO Exec. Comm. begins deliberations in London to decide what assurances U.S. should give Palestinians as condition for Palestinian participation in peace conference. Meeting was directed by Chmn. Arafat.

Among those attending were Faisal Husseini, Hanan Ashrawi, Zakariya al-Agha (who have been meeting with Secy. of State Baker), Basil ‘Aql, Edward W. Said, Ibrahim Abu-Lughod, Walid Khalidi, Musa Mazzawi, Zuhayra Kamal, and three PLO officials. *(al-Quds* al-'Arabi* [London], 8/19; *MEM* 8/19; *al-Hayat* [London] 9/4 in *FBIS* 9/9)

Turkish prime min. Turgut Ozal sends letter to U.S. Pres. Bush indicating that *Syria strongly objects* to a private U.S. foundation’s plans to invite Israel to participate in *conference on regional water issues* to be held in November in Turkey, will boycott meeting along with other Arab states. U.S. indicates inclusion of Israel may result in U.S. boycott. *(WP 8/29)*

17 AUGUST

Nayif Hawatma, leader of one of two factions now using the name DFLP, states DFLP, PFLP, Fateh have agreed on *common stance* concerning Palestinian participation in peace conference, including insistence on PLO’s right to present a delegation comprised of Palestinians from within and outside the o.t., including delegates from E. Jerusalem. But the three groups failed to adopt a joint statement to this effect for presentation to the upcoming Palestine National Council (PNC) meeting. *(Radio Monte Carlo 8/18 in *FBIS* 8/19)

Pres. Bush refuses to grant pardon to Jonathan Jay Pollard, convicted of spying for Israel. *(JP 8/18 in *FBIS* 8/21)

Hizbullah leader Shaykh ‘Abbas al-Musawi, other Hizbullah officials, arrive in Tehran for discussions with Iranian leaders on *comprehensive Middle East prisoner-hostage exchange*. *(NYT 8/19)

Israeli for. ministry declares *Ethiopia* will allow remaining 2,600 Jews in Ethiopia to *emigrate to Israel*. *(WP 8/17)

Iranian Oil Minister Gholam Reza Qaqzadeh-Kho’i presents Kuwaiti leader Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah with letter from Iranian pres. Rafsanjani on protecting the rights of the Palestinian people. Letter follows recent diplomatic activity indicating *increased PLO-Iranian ties*. *(Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran 8/17 in *FBIS* 9/1)*

18 AUGUST

PLO Exec. Comm. mbr. Sulayman al-Najjab indicates Syria, Egypt have agreed to hold a meeting of the five confrontation states to coordinate negotiating positions prior to peace conference [Jordan had already agreed to proposal]. (Jordan Times 8/19 in FBIS 8/19)

Special Palestinian committee meeting in London [see 8/15] ends discussions. In addition to discussing what assurances Palestinians should seek from U.S., the committee also adopted 28 confidence-building measures it will forward to the Israeli government through the U.S. (al-Hayat 9/4 in FBIS 9/9)

Iranian Oil Minister Qazazdeh-Khoi presents King Fahd of Saudi Arabia with letter from Iranian Pres. Rafsanjani on protecting the rights of the Palestinian people. (see 8/17) (Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran 8/17 in FBIS 8/19)

19 AUGUST

PLO Exec. Comm. mbr. Yasar 'Abd Rabbuhi states PLO hopes coup d'état in USSR will help "solve" question of Soviet Jewish emigration to Israel. (AFP 8/19 in FBIS 8/19)

Israel, Albania establish diplomatic relations. (IDF Radio 8/19 in FBIS 8/19)

King Hussein, Pres. al-Asad meet in Syria on peace talks, Palestinian representation to conference. (AFP 8/19 in FBIS 8/20)

Israeli settlement leader sentenced to four month's community service in return for pleading guilty to a lesser charge in case involving death of a Palestinian youth [in Jan. 1988] whom the settler "accidentally" shot. (JP 8/20 in FBIS 8/20)

20 AUGUST

PLO Pol. Dept. Head Faruq al-Qaddumi states coup against Pres. Mikhail Gorbachev will restore international balance upset by Gorbachev's policies and "enhance the Third World's political role." (Sawt al-Sha'b [Amman] 8/20 in FBIS 8/20)

Palestinian mayors in Israel begin sit-down strike opposite prime ministry in Jerusalem to protest discrimination against Arab municipalities in terms of government funding. (MEM 8/21)

21 AUGUST

Israeli def. min. Moshe Arens allows al-Najjah University in Nablus to reopen. Al-Najjah would be the fourth of six Palestinian universities reopened since their closure at the beginning of the intifada. Bir Zeit, Islamic University of Gaza remain closed. (NYT, WP 8/22)

Jewish settlers expand settlement for seminary students in Hebron by moving ten mobile homes (caravans) to bus station behind Beit Romano building. Bus station had been used as army base since its expropriation in 1983 after murder of Jewish seminary student. (NYT, MEM 8/22)


'Abd Rabbuhi also expresses clarification of PLO position on Soviet coup in interview with Agence France Presse, stating PLO hopes Soviet crisis can be solved in such a way as to "preserve the democratic gains" made by the Soviet people under Pres. Mikhail Gorbachev and to work for peace and international legitimacy in the Middle East.

Statement comes in wake of statements in support of Gorbachev's ouster throughout the Arab world. PFLP, PFLP-GC went on record as favoring Gorbachev's removal. (MEM. 8/21)

Israeli interior minister with 37 Arab mayors striking for budgetary parity between Arab, Jewish municipalities of similar size in Israel. (MEM 8/22)

22 AUGUST

Israeli foreign ministry accuses PLO of supporting anti-democratic forces around the world "time and again." Statement comes in wake of statements by some PLO officials in support of 8/19 coup in USSR. (NYT 8/23)

PLO ambassador to USSR denies PLO supported anti-Gorbachev coup, as reported by Russian television 8/23, issues press statement noting PLO considered recent developments in USSR to be an internal Soviet matter. (MEM 8/23)

Israeli authorities order Faisal Husseini, Hanan Ashrawi to appear before police 8/26 to discuss their recent meetings with Palestinian leaders in London [see 8/16]. (NYT 8/23)
**CHRONOLOGY**

Hizbullah claims responsibility for **bomb attack** that left one South Lebanon Army soldier dead, four wounded. SLA artillery, tanks bombard several villages in retaliation. (Pal Yisra'el 8/23 in FBIS 8/23)

Foreign min. of Congo holds discussions with Israeli for. ministry on **restoring diplomatic ties**. Congo, the tenth African state to renew relations with Israel since 1973, will open an **embassy in Jerusalem**, making it the third country to do so. (MEM 8/23)

**23 AUGUST**

SLA, Israeli army continue shelling of S. Lebanese villages after 8/22 Hizbullah raid, causing heavy civilian casualties. **Anti-Hizbullah demonstration** in Jarju', led by villagers demanding Hizbullah leave area to avoid further attacks, leads to short gun battle between villagers, Hizbullah fighters. (Beirut Radio Lebanon 8/24 in FBIS 8/26)

**24 AUGUST**

Three **Israelis stabbed** in Jerusalem. (ITV 8/24 in FBIS 8/27)

**25 AUGUST**

PLO Chmn. **Arafat arrives in Amman for talks with King Hussein**, Jordanian officials, on proposed joint Palestinian-Jordanian **delegation** to peace conference. PLO Exec. Comm. mbr. Yasir 'Abd Rabbuh indicates form of Palestinian participation will depend on U.S. pledge that peace conference will result in full Israeli withdrawal from o.t. He also states **final decision on Palestinian participation** in peace conference will be determined by proposed 8/20 meeting of PNC in Algiers.

'Abd Rabbuh also indicated Arafat, Hussein agreed to form joint committee to discuss conditions for Palestinian participation. (NYT 8/26; MEM 8/27)

**26 AUGUST**

PLO, Hamas officials meet in Amman to discuss **Hamas participation in upcoming PNC meeting**. Hamas demands 40 seats in council. (AFP 8/26, in FBIS 8/27; MEM 8/27)

Israeli police question Hanan **Ashrawi**, Faisal Hussein on their recent meetings in London with Palestinian officials to determine if they violated Israeli law banning contact with PLO. (MEM 8/27)

After heated debates, **Lebanese parliament approves amnesty for war crimes committed during Lebanese civil war.** (NYT 8/27)

Hizbullah admits it holds two **Israeli prisoners**. (WP 8/27)

Israeli housing min. Ariel Sharon details **major plan to expand Israeli settlements**. Plan would expand settlements in Jerusalem area to link them with large settlement of Ma'ale Adumim, which itself would be expanded to reach Jericho, cutting the West Bank in half. **Thousands of new homes** would be built. (MEM 8/27, 8/29)

Israeli cabinet agrees to **equal funding of Arab, Jewish municipalities** following 10-day sit-in by Arab mayors. Mayors indicate they will take their protest to the Israeli labor federation, the Histadrut, to protest **unfair practices** by that body, which is dominated by the Labor party. (MEM 8/27)

Palestinian human rights group Al-Haq issues report on increased Jewish settlement in o.t. Places number of settlers in W. Bank, Gaza at 127,700 along with 104,000 along in E. Jerusalem. (MEM 8/27)

Soviet, Ethiopian Jewish **immigrants clash** in Jerusalem hotel where they live; four injured. Soviets have complained of preferential treatment extended to Ethiopians. (MEM 8/27, 8/29)

**27 AUGUST**

Amal indicates it holds **bodies of two Israeli soldiers**, will allow the International Committee of the Red Cross to examine them after Israel releases 28 women held prisoner; Israel refuses. (NYT, WP 8/28)

**28 AUGUST**

Chmn. **Arafat agrees to Palestinian participation** in peace conference if four conditions are met: recognition of Palestinian right to self-determination; PLO must determine Palestinian participation in conference; Palestinians from E. Jerusalem must be allowed to participate and question of Jerusalem must not be deleted from conference agenda; Israeli settlement activity in occupied territories must be halted and international protection extended to Palestinians.

**Arafat also praises democratic reforms underway in USSR, amidst increasing criti-**
icism of Palestinian stance vis-à-vis the Soviet coup. (MEM 8/28)

Arafat meets Pres. Mubarak in Libya for first time since Gulf war. (MEM 8/29)

PFLP denounces U.S.-led peace plan, criticizes PLO for conditional agreement. (MEM 8/28)

Israeli press announces Israel recently requested aid from Germany to assist settlement of immigrants in Israel. Finance ministry requested $5.74 billion in aid during secret negotiations held several weeks ago. (MEM 8/29)

Kuwait announces U.S. will build military base at Sabiya, 40 km. from Kuwait-Iraq border. (MEM 8/28)

---

29 AUGUST

Lebanese general Michel 'Awn leaves Lebanon for France aboard French naval vessel. Two other 'Awn allies, Gen. 'Issam Abu Jamra and Gen. Edgard Ma'luf, also depart French embassy in Beirut, where the three had taken refuge since Oct. 1990.

'Awn departs Lebanon under terms of 8/26 amnesty passed by Lebanese parliament, which prohibits 'Awn from political activities or attempting to return from Lebanon. Amnesty does not include immunity from charges 'Awn embezzled $31 million. (WP 8/30; MEM 8/29)

After meeting in Libya, PLO Chmn. Arafat, Syrian vice pres. 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, agree to form joint PLO-Syrian coordinating committee to begin meeting in early September. (Radio Monte Carlo 8/30 in FBIS 9/3; AFP 8/30 in FBIS 9/3)

Amal leader Nabih Birri declares Israeli airman captured in Lebanon in 1986 was transferred to Iranian Revolutionary Guards in 1988 for $500,000, and is now being held in Iran. Hizbullah sources claim, however, that the airman is being held by Revolutionary Guards near Bal'bak, Lebanon. (MEM 8/29)

---

30 AUGUST

At end of Israeli PM Shamir's visit to Bulgaria, Bulgarian PM states his country has ended arms transfers to PLO, that PLO has no diplomatic status in Bulgaria. (MEM 8/30)

Former Amal chief of security denies 8/29 report that Amal sold Israeli prisoner to Iranian Revolutionary Guards. (al-Safr 8/30 in FBIS 9/5)

Explosion near Khirbat al-Akrabaniyya, east of Nablus, kills two Palestinians; two others later died of wounds. Cause of blast unknown. (WP 9/1; MEM 9/2)

---

1 SEPTEMBER

U.S. Secy. of State Baker telephones PM Shamir, requests Israel to delay anticipated request for $10 billion in loan guarantees from the U.S. for settlement of Soviet Jews. Israel had indicated it would be approaching the U.S. for the guarantees so that it can approach commercial banks for loans.

Bush administration has been sharply critical of Israeli settlement activity, and fears money could go toward settling Soviet Jews in the o.t. Administration officials have urged Israel not to bring up the question of loan guarantees until after the proposed peace conference is underway.

In March 1991, Israel agreed to delay requests for more U.S. aid until September, in attempt to secure U.S. aid to cover Israeli expenses in the Gulf war. (NYT, WP 9/5; WP 9/12)

Irish UNIFIL contingent protests to Israel over continued SLA shelling of UNIFIL troops in Bra'shit, one of several villages subjected to recent SLA attacks. (Ha'aretz 9/2 in FBIS 9/3)

Israeli army extends closure of Bir Zeit University for additional three months. (Qol Yisra'el 9/1 in FBIS 9/6)

---

2 SEPTEMBER

Scheduled PLO-Palestinian National Salvation Front (PNSF) meeting in Sanaa, Yemen, postponed. (Radio Monte Carlo 9/2, in FBIS 9/3)

Egypt issues memorandum refuting statements contained in recently issued Jordanian "white paper" which sought to explain Jordan's position in the Gulf crisis. Egypt claims nine distortions are contained in Jordanian document. (MENA 9/2 in FBIS 9/3)

---

3 SEPTEMBER

PNSF Chairman Khalid al-Fahum states organization did not attend 9/2 meeting with PLO in Sanaa because it had not received a response from Chmn. Arafat to a PNSF demand that any meeting include all PNSF groups, as well as Islamic Jihad and Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas). (MEM 9/4)
4 SEPTEMBER

U.S. Secy. of State Baker appeals to U.S. Congress to delay considering request for loan guarantees to Israel until after the proposed peace conference. (NYT 9/5)

Israeli cabinet votes sharp increase in 1992 defense budget. Some Israeli officials state that the 6% increase might heighten the difficulties in obtaining U.S. loan guarantees. Budget will also cut settlement building in 1992. Defense ministry pushed for increased military budget while finance ministry sought cuts in def. spending to help balance the budget. (MEM 8/29; NYT WP 9/5)

Israeli press notes 24 Soviet Jewish families will move to Qela', a settlement in Golan Heights, as part of a move to convert the settlement from a paramilitary settlement to a civilian town. (Davar 9/4 in FBIS 9/5)

5 SEPTEMBER

Chairman of the U.S. congressional committee which oversees U.S. foreign aid indicates he will delay considering legislation which includes the proposed $10 billion in loan guarantees to Israel. (NYT, WP 9/6)

6 SEPTEMBER

Pres. Bush asks Congress to delay considering Israeli loan guarantee request for 120 days. Ignoring the pleas of the U.S. administration, Israel formally submits its request. Request states Israel expects to settle one million immigrants during next five years and reiterates claim that none of the money guaranteed will be spent in the o.t. (NYT 9/7; Israel Television 9/7 in FBIS, 9/9)

In Khartoum, Chmn. Arafat meets with Hamas representatives for the first time. Talks focus on conditions set by Hamas for its attendance at upcoming meeting of PNC. (MENA 9/8 in FBIS 9/9)

PLO executive committee holds meeting. (Sanaa Voice of Palestine 9/8 in FBIS 9/9)

Israeli security forces kill Ahmad Akmil, reportedly a high Fateh official in the West Bank, after an eight-month search for him. (MEM 9/9)

France calls on exiled Lebanese gen. Michel 'Awn to halt his calls for the Lebanese people to overthrow the government of Pres. Ilyas al-Hirawi and fight a war of liberation against Syrian forces. (NYT 9/7)

Amal leader in Lebanon states Israeli pi-

lot Ron Arad is in Lebanese hands and not being held in Iran as claimed 8/29 by Nabil Birri. (Radio Lebanon 9/6 in FBIS 9/9)

8 SEPTEMBER

PM Shamir states U.S. has a "moral obligation" to provide Israel with loan guarantees, that Israel would continue to build settlements in the occupied territories. (NYT, WP 9/9)

PLO Ex. Comm., Fateh Central Comm., and general-secretaries of other PLO groups meet in Tunis to prepare agenda for upcoming PNC meeting in Algiers. (Sawt al-Sha'b 8/9 in FBIS 9/9)

Israeli security forces kill Fateh activist Muhammad Mukaskas, wound two others, during gun battle in Jenin. Mukaskas was the second Fateh official recently killed whom Israeli forces had long been seeking to arrest. (MEM 9/10)

9 SEPTEMBER

Chmn. Arafat reportedly indicates willingness to hold PLO-PNSF talks. PNSF begins meeting in Damascus, supports such talks. (al-Sharq al-Awsat 9/10 in FBIS 9/12)

10 SEPTEMBER

Pres. Bush tells U.S. congressional leaders that if they accept his request to postpone discussion of Israel's request for loan guarantees until January, he will not seek any additional delays in responding to the request. Bush also sends six-point pledge to Congress promising to pay for any additional costs incurred by Israel as a result of the four-month delay. However, Bush refuses to give assurances that he will support the request when it is discussed in January. (NYT, WP, MEM 9/11)

PNSF leader Khalid al-Fahum confirms that Chmn. Arafat agreed to hold PLO-PNSF dialogue to discuss participation of PNSF groups in upcoming PNC meeting. (Radio Monte Carlo 9/10 in FBIS 9/11)

Hamas spokesman Ibrahim Grawsha states that PLO-Hamas talks in Khartoum failed [see 9/6], Hamas will not attend upcoming PNC meeting. Notes that, barring elections, Hamas members should constitute 40% of PNC members. (MENA 9/10 in FBIS 9/11)

PLO delegation headed by Nabil Sha'th
meets with Jordanian officials in Amman to discuss possibility of joint Palestinian-Jordanian delegation to proposed peace conference. (Jordan Times 9/11 in FBIS 9/11)

European Parliament passes resolution calling on the European Commission to investigate "discriminatory" Israeli economic practices directed against Palestinians in the o.t., encourages increased trade between Europe and o.t. (MEM 9/10)

Lawyer for convicted American spy Jonathan Pollard tells U.S. court of appeals that Pollard should be allowed to withdraw his guilty plea, made in 1987, because federal prosecutors allegedly broke their promise not to ask the court for a life sentence. (WP 9/11)

11 SEPTEMBER

After receiving proof that Rachamim Al-Sheikh and Yossi Fink, two of the 7 missing Israeli soldiers in Lebanon, are definitely dead, Israel frees 51 Lebanese prisoners from Khiam prison in the "security zone" and returns the bodies of 9 Hizbullah fighters who died in Israel. Release comes as U.N. Secy. Gen. de Cuellar meets with Iranian officials in Tehran about the proposed comprehensive prisoner-hostage release. (LAT 9/12)

During meeting of Arab League foreign ministers, Syrian FM al-Sharaa states committee formed comprising Syria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, and Palestine to coordinate stands on Palestinian question, Arab-Israel conflict. (MENA 9/11 in FBIS 9/12)

Middle East Watch, a division of the New York-based organization Human Rights Watch, issues report documenting human rights abuses in Kuwait since its liberation from Iraqi forces. Report condemns U.S. for not doing more to halt the abuses. (MEM 9/11)

12 SEPTEMBER

As signs of breakthrough in prisoner-hostage negotiations, Hawatma wing of the DFLP turns over body of Samir Asad, an Israeli Druze soldier captured in Lebanon and allegedly killed in an Israeli air raid on Palestinian positions, to Red Cross in Vienna, whereupon it was flown to Israel. Also on the plane was DFLP official 'Ali 'Abdullah Muhammad Abu Hilal, deported from o.t. in 1986 and whose return was part of the DFLP-Israeli exchange. (NYT 9/13; Qol Yisra'el 9/13 in FBIS 9/13)

Pres. Bush threatens to veto proposed legislation which includes loan guarantees to Israel if Congress passes the legislation over his pleas to postpone the vote. (NYT 9/13, see doc. D1)

Poll of Palestinians in o.t. conducted by al-Bayadir al-Siyasi Press Foundation during first week of September indicates 48.6% want PNC to approve participation in proposed peace conference; 46.7% opposed participation and 4.7% had no opinion. (al-Shab [Jerusalem] 9/12 in FBIS 9/18)

During "national congress" in Amman of DFLP members supporting dissident leadership of Yasir 'Abd Rabbuh, 'Abd Rabbuh announces failure of mediation efforts between his faction and that loyal to long-time DFLP leader Nayif Hawatma, including efforts made by Chmn. Arafat and PFLP Gen. Secy. George Habash. 'Abd Rabbuh notes that his group will retain the name DFLP but will abandon Marxism-Leninism and concept of "democratic centralism," and indicates his group's willingness to accept proposed peace conference.

Hawatma wing, which has criticized recent peace initiatives, denounces 'Abd Rabbuh faction as "deviationist" (al-Ra'i 9/13 in FBIS 9/17)

Israeli court in Ramla convicts peace activist Abie Nathan of meeting with PLO officials, upon Nathan's admission that he held two meetings with Chmn. Arafat. (Qol Yisra'el 9/12 in FBIS 9/18)

U.S. State Department declares 9/11 Middle East Watch report on human rights abuses in Kuwait was "too harsh." (MEM 9/12)

13 SEPTEMBER

Palestinian fighters in boats are forced to land at Naqura inside Israel's Lebanese "security zone," by Israeli naval patrol boats. The guerrillas take several UNIFIL soldiers hostage. One guerrilla, one Swedish UNIFIL soldier, five other UN troops wounded in subsequent clash, which UN states was started when SLA troops opened fire during negotiations to free the hostages. (NYT 9/14)

One of captured fighters claim group belonged to Fateh. (Qol Yisra'el 9/14 in FBIS 9/18)
CHRONOLOGY

14 SEPTEMBER

One Israeli soldier killed in ambush near Jenin. Troops kill Buraq Salih al-Masri in Nablus. (NYT 9/16)

One Nepalese UN soldier killed, second wounded near Yatir, S. Lebanon, during gun battle. One guerrilla killed. (WP 9/15)

15 SEPTEMBER

The battle between Pres. Bush, Israeli government, becomes more personal when Israeli cabinet mbir. Rehavam Ze'evi calls Bush “close to being an anti-Semite.” (NYT 9/16)

DFLP split deepens as supporters of Yasir 'Abd Rabbuh announce recent “national congress” voted him general secretary. Both the 'Abd Rabbuh and Hawatma factions use the name DFLP. (Sawt al-Sha'b 9/16 in FBIS 9/17)

Lebanese FM Faris Bouez meets with Iranian FM 'Ali Akbar Velayati in Tehran, urges Iranian cooperation in disarming of Hizbullah militia, withdrawal of Iranian Revolutionary Guards in Lebanon. Velayati indicated Iran felt that the groups’ presence assisted the anti-Israeli resistance, without which Israel could never be driven from S. Lebanon. The Lebanese government has issued an October deadline for Hizbullah to surrender its arms. (NYT 9/16)

16 SEPTEMBER

U.S. Secy. of State Baker meets with PM Shamir in Jerusalem, discusses loan guarantee controversy. Baker also delivers a draft letter outlining U.S. “assurances” to Israel and the Palestinians concerning proposed peace conference. Talks with Palestinians are inconclusive, and Baker suggests they travel to meet him in Amman for follow-up discussions. (WP 9/17)

Israeli peace movement Peace Now issues report claiming Israeli government has decided to invest $50 million in schemes to encourage Israeli investment in o.t., including tax relief, grants, and state guarantees. One-fourth of funds would go for building factories, remainder on labor-intensive projects. (MEM 9/17)

Housing min. Ariel Sharon states 15,780 homes have been built in o.t. since April 1990, the first time Sharon has announced such a figure as housing minister.

17 SEPTEMBER

PM Shamir, Secy. of State Baker fail to reach compromise on loan guarantees issue. Baker re-states U.S. offer to compensate Israel for losses incurred during the 120-day delay, but refuses any compromises beyond that. Journalists traveling with Baker as he flies to Cairo report he states that eventual decision to grant aid would be conditioned upon halt to settlement building. (NYT, WP 9/18, 9/19)

Palestinians are given a letter from Baker by U.S. officials stating U.S. will agree to listing question of Jerusalem on agenda of peace conference. U.S. support for Palestinians’ right to name their conference delegates, but adds that U.S. prefers joint Palestinian-Jordanian delegation. Negotiator Faisal Hussein flies to London to convey contents of letter to PLO officials. (Radio Monte Carlo 9/17 in FBIS 9/18; MEM 9/17)

PNSF issues statement claiming PLO never responded to PNSF proposal for PLO-PNSF dialogue [See 9/10]. PNSF expresses regret that PNC meeting will therefore be held before agreement could be made for including PNSF groups, which will not attend. (al-Dustur 9/19 in FBIS 9/20)

Press reports indicate recent Arab League meeting decided to end Arab boycott of companies dealing with Israel if such companies establish industries in Arab countries on same technical level as those they maintain in Israel. Decision stipulated companies wishing to comply must submit detailed plans of proposed project, must not support Zionism, and cannot have factories in Israel producing goods related to Israeli military.

Arab League took decision to boycott airlines, shipping companies, shipping agents which facilitate Jewish immigration to Israel. (MENA 9/17 in FBIS 9/18)

18 SEPTEMBER

U.S. administration denies Secy. of State Baker linked future U.S. decision to grant Israel loan guarantees with freeze of Israel settlement building, stating reporters erred when reporting on Baker’s 9/17 meeting with PM Shamir, but denial does little to assuage Israeli leaders, who were angered by the comment. (WP 9/19)

After arriving in Damascus, Baker is warned by Syrian FM al-Sharraa that U.S. loan guarantees to Israel would affect Arabs’ attitude toward peace process. Baker also deliv-
ers draft U.S. assurances on the peace conference, including pledge to Syria that U.S. considers UN resolutions calling for Israeli withdrawal from the o.t. applied to "all fronts," including the Golan Heights. (WP, MEM 9/19)

Informed sources indicate secret U.S.-PLO talks carried out in Amman by PLO Exec. Comm. Mbr. Mahmoud 'Abbas (Abu Mazin) and three officials from U.S. state department. Talks reportedly centered on Palestinian participation in peace talks. Americans reportedly tell 'Abbas that U.S. hopes PNC meeting in Algiers will allow Chmn. Arafat to authorize such participation and that Palestinians' only chance for representation is as part of a joint Palestinian-Jordanian delegation. (MEM 9/23)

In Amman, PNC Speaker Shaykh 'Abd al-Hamid al-Sa'idi states Israel has rejected a UN request to allow PNC delegates living in o.t. permission to travel to Algiers to attend PNC meeting. PLO had earlier requested UN assistance in arranging Israeli permission. (Radio Jordan 9/18 in FBIS 9/18)

Al-Sa'idi also announces that PNC members Edward W. Said and Ibrahim Abu-Lughod, both professors at American universities, have resigned from PNC for personal reasons. (Radio Monte Carlo 9/18 in FBIS 9/19)


19 SEPTEMBER

Israel FM Levy refuses to accept any U.S. demand for freeze in settlement building prior to negotiations with Palestinians in o.t., which would only take place after a three-year transitional period of Palestinian self-rule. (WP 9/20)

Palestinian negotiators Faisal Husseini, Hanan Ashrawi, Zakariya al-Agha, refuse Baker's 9/16 invitation to travel to Jordan for talks. The Palestinians were reportedly ordered by PLO not to meet with Baker out of the PLO's dissatisfaction with U.S. "assurances" delivered to them by Baker while in Jerusalem. (NYT 9/20; Radio Monte Carlo 9/19 in FBIS 9/20)

Clandestine al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio announces Islamic Jihad Movement has issued statement declaring it will not attend upcoming PNC meeting. (al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio 9/19 in FBIS 9/20)

Israeli police question Zakariya al-Agha about alleged meetings he held with PLO officials in London [see 8/16]. Police had earlier interrogated Faisal Husseini, Hanan Ashrawi [see 8/26]. (IDF Radio 9/19 in FBIS 9/23)

Baker travels to Jordan to deliver U.S. "letter of assurances" to Jordanian leaders. PM Taher al-Masri states preliminary reading indicates that the letter is satisfactory. (al-Ra'i 9/19 in FBIS 9/24; MEM 9/20)

20 SEPTEMBER

Hanan Ashrawi travels to Amman to meet with Secy. of State Baker after Chmn. Arafat changes his mind and instructs her to meet with Baker in an attempt to narrow differences between the two sides. Ashrawi reports progress, but not agreement. (MEM 9/20)

Baker later travels to Syria to deliver U.S. "letter of assurances" to Syrian pres. al-Asad. Following a short visit, he returns to U.S. after having failed to obtain final confirmation from Israel, Jordan, Syria, and the Palestinians that they would attend the proposed peace conference. Each party has objected to portions of the U.S. "letter of assurances" delivered to it during Baker's recent trip to region. Baker threatens to issue invitations to the conference to force parties to make a final decision. (NYT 9/21, Syrian Arab Republic Radio 9/20 in FBIS 9/23)

Nayif Hawatma, head of one faction of the DFLP, states that "bureaucratic, high-handed" machinations have blocked attempts toward a recomposition of PNC, which will be composed of "old characters" who have lost any influence with the Palestinian people. Hawatma claims others share his view, links recent resignations by several PNC independents with dissatisfaction over PNC composition [see 9/18]. (Radio Monte Carlo 9/20 in FBIS 9/23; MENA 9/21)

Knesset finance committee approves plan to spend 15 million shekels in development funds in occupied territories. (MEM 9/23)

21 SEPTEMBER

In wake of PLO refusal to treat the Yasir 'Abd Rabuh faction of the DFLP as a separate group with no affiliation with the DFLP, longtime DFLP leader Nayif Hawatma states his faction of the DFLP will not attend PNC meeting unless PLO adopts "clear" positions on important matters. (Jordan Times 9/22 in FBIS 9/23)
CHRONOLOGY

22 SEPTEMBER

Israeli forces kill three fighters in the Mt. Hermon area of the Golan Heights, claim the men were from the Hawatma faction of the DFLP. (Qal 'イスラエル 9/23 in FBIS 9/24)

23 SEPTEMBER

Palestine National Council meeting begins in Algiers. Chmn. Arafat, calling meeting a “decisive point in the history of the Palestinian cause,” asserts PLO willingness to cooperate with moves to hold peace conference, but without submitting to Israeli “blackmail.” Following recent failures to agree on proposed new formulas for PNC composition, neither Hamas nor constituent groups of the PNSF are in attendance. PNSF Chmn. Khalid al-Fahum denounces “authoritarian, irresponsible manner” in which composition of PNC was decided, states present composition does not represent all factions. Nayif Hawatma attends the meeting despite 9/21 statement.

PNC reelects Shaykh 'Abd al-Hamid al-Sa'ih chairman of PNC after his nomination by Chmn. Arafat, despite al-Sa'ih’s earlier statements that he would not seek reelection. PNC also approves expansion of PLO executive committee from 15 to 18 members. (MEM, NYT 9/24; Radio Algiers Network 9/23, al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio 9/23 in FBIS 9/24)

In Jerusalem, 24 Knessian members from Labor, Mapam, Ratz, and Shinui issue statement urging PNC to authorize Palestinian participation in peace conference. (MEM 9/23)

In Jerusalem, prominent figures from o.t. hold press conference calling on UN to pressure Israel into allowing residents of the territories who are members of the PNC to attend meeting. (Qal 'イスラエル 9/23 in FBIS 9/24)

In leaflet issued in o.t., Hamas denounces PNC as “conference to sell Palestine.” (al-Ribat 9/24 in FBIS 10/17)

Pres. Bush addresses UN general assembly, calls for repeal of General Assembly Resolution 3379, adopted in 1975, which calls Zionism a form of racism. Move seen as attempt to improve U.S.-Israeli relations in wake of public dispute over U.S. loan guarantees sought by Israel. (NYT, WP 9/24)

Israeli troops kill three fighters identified as belonging to DFLP (Hawatma faction) who were trying to infiltrate Israel from Syrian front. (NYT 24/9)

24 SEPTEMBER

British hostage Jack Mann released by Revolutionary Justice Organization in Beirut amid indications that pace of comprehensive hostage-prisoner exchange may be quickening. (NYT 9/25)


PFLP Gen. Secy. George Habash and Nayif Hawatma, lead attack on conditions of participation in peace conference at PNC meeting and are poised to stop Fateh's strategy of having the PNC avoid deciding on whether or not to attend but instead leaving the decision to the PLO Exec. Comm. (MEM 9/24, Radio Monte Carlo 9/24 in FBIS 9/25)

At a ceremony dedicating Tzur Yigal, a new Israeli town being built in Israel just across the “green line” separating Israel proper from the West Bank, Israeli health min. Ehud Olmert declares that the border between the two areas is “dead.”

The town is being built as part of the “seven stars” project designed some two years ago which aimed to build seven new towns on Israeli side of the “green line” which would eventually spread into the West Bank, effectively erasing the border.

Prime Min. Shamir later told Israeli television that “the ‘green line doesn’t exist.’” (NYT, WP 9/25)


25 SEPTEMBER

Negotiators Faisal Husseini and Hanan Ashrawi reportedly attend session of PNC political committee which had been closed to the press to urge PNC authorization of Palestinian participation in peace conference. Israeli government reportedly knew of their plans to attend and tacitly approved as long as they were not photographed at the meet-
ing. (MEM 9/26, 9/27, 10/2; Tunisian Repub-

Gun battle between Israeli undercover forces and Palestinian militants of the Black Panther organization (associated with Fateh) east of Jenin leaves three Palestinians dead, four captured. (MEM 9/26)

26 SEPTEMBER

PLO denies attendance of Faisal Hus-

Syrian FM al-Sharaa tells Secy. of State Baker that Syria will not participate in talks on regional issues which will follow the opening sessions of a proposed peace conference unless Israel withdraws from the Golan Heights. (NYT 10/11)

Bassam Abu Sharif, spokesman for Chmn. Arafat, indicates Saudi Arabia will free funds earned by 5% tax imposed on Palestinians working in Saudi Arabia. Saudi Arabia had frozen the funds as a result of PLO's stance in Gulf war. (AFP 9/26 in FBIS 9/27)

Israel army announces arrest of 463 PFLP activists over the past several weeks. Israeli television calls it the largest campaign of arrests ever mounted against PFLP in o.t. (MEM 9/27)

27 SEPTEMBER

PNC authorizes PLO Exec. Comm. to "continue its current efforts to achieve the best conditions that can ensure success for the peace process in accordance with PNC resolutions." (MEM 9/30)

U.S. Senate approves amendment to legislation authorizing U.S. defense spending to prohibit department from signing contracts with companies honoring Arab League boycott of Israel, companies doing business with Israel. However, legislation allows secy. of defense to waive the prohibition if he feels the U.S. must contract with a country honoring the boycott in order to facilitate important national security concerns. Vote comes in wake of recent change in Arab League policy concerning boycotts [see 9/17]. (MEM 9/30)

28 SEPTEMBER

PNC meeting in Algiers ends after issuing statement outlining PLO conditions for Palestinian participation in peace talks, including PLO's right to appoint delegates (see doc. B1)

PNC also accepts resignation of Muham-

Palestinian National Salvation Front issues statement stating PNC does not represent all factions of the Palestinian people, condemns PNC resolutions giving PLO Exec. Comm. power to decide Palestinian participation in peace talks. (al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio 10/1 in FBIS 10/2)

1 OCTOBER

Addressing organizers of a Palestinian solidarity conference to be hosted by Tehran later in the month, Iranian pres. 'Ali Khamanei rejects PNC decision, reaffirms that Israel must be "obliterated." (MEM 10/1)

Israeli transport min. Moshe Katzav announces plans to improve road system of E. Jerusalem, including building of a beltway around the city. Katzav notes that "our hold on Jerusalem is strong." (MEM 10/2)

2 OCTOBER

U.S. Senate formally agrees to Pres. Bush's request for 120-day postponement in considering Israel's request for $10 billion in U.S. loan guarantees. (NYT 10/3; MEM 10/4)

Leader of Israeli-backed South Lebanon Army Gen. Antoine Lahd declares he will not allow any more prisoners to be released from Khiyam prison in the Israeli "security zone" until he receives information on the fate of six missing SLA soldiers. (NYT 10/3)
First direct USSR-Israel flight arrives in Israel with eight passengers, none of them Jewish immigrants. Flights are carried out by Aerolicht, a subsidiary of the Soviet Aeroflot airlines co-owned by Aeroflot and an Israeli businessman. (MEM 10/2; Qol Yisra'el 10/2 in FBIS 10/3)

Lebanese Pres. al-Hirawi states 9/24 talks between him and other Lebanese government officials and Pres. Bush succeeded in convincing U.S. to amend its draft "letter of assurances" to Lebanon to include statement that UN Security Council Resolution 425 (calling for Israeli withdrawal from S. Lebanon) is not linked with other resolutions calling for Israeli withdrawal from territories occupied in 1967. (MEM 10/2)

3 OCTOBER

Israeli defense ministry announces Israel will control export of anti-ballistic missile technology in response to pressure from the U.S., which reportedly included threat to stop accepting Israeli bids for U.S. defense contracts. U.S. is pushing for Israeli compliance with the Convention for the Limitation of the Spread of Missile Technology, adopted in 1987 by the U.S. and other industrialized nations. Israel has been pursuing a research program for developing the Arrow anti-ballistic missile. Most of the funding for the program has been provided by the U.S. (WP 10/4)


PLO is demanding right to name Palestinian delegates to the joint delegation, and is pushing for adoption of a joint negotiating point demanding end to Israeli settlement building in o.t. Jordan had previously indicated it would accept PLO appointment of Palestinians to joint delegation and that Palestinians could address their own issues at peace conference. (Radio Jordan 10/4 in FBIS 10/4; Jordan Times 10/5 in FBIS 10/9)

More than 100 American Jewish leaders, part of Project Nishma, call on Israel to stop settling Jews in o.t. (MEM 10/3, 10/4)

4 OCTOBER

Four Israeli F-15 fighter planes fly on a reconnaissance mission over western Iraq. Iraqi officials claim the planes entered from Syrian airspace and left over Saudi airspace. U.S. strongly protested the action. One U.S. official claimed the planes traveled over Jordan, not Syria and Saudi Arabia. Israeli officials claim U.S. is not providing enough information on Iraqi missile sites in Iraq, that Israel must gather such information itself. (NYT, WP 10/9; WP 10/10)

Israeli newspaper Qol Ha'ir reports Sharon and the militant religious Ateret Cohanim movement have prepared a plan to establish 26 "settlement points" within Palestinian neighborhoods in the Jerusalem area, including 200 housing units in Silwan on eastern outskirts of East Jerusalem (Ha'aretz 10/4 in FBIS 10/4)

Settlers from Golan present PM Shamir a five-year plan for increased Israeli settlement on the Golan Heights. The plans call for expenditures of $200 million in roads, infrastructure, and for increasing number of settlers from present figure of 11,500 to 40,000 within four years. Shamir accepts plan by noting there was "no shadow of doubt" about Israel's future control of Golan. (MEM 10/4)

Israeli newspaper Ha'aretz reports that Israel, Germany have failed to reach an understanding over Israel's request for DM10 billion in credit to assist settling Jewish immigrants. Among other reasons, Israel's request was based upon the fact that the former East Germany never paid reparations to Israel as did West Germany [see 8/28]. (Ha'aretz 10/4 in FBIS 10/8)

5 OCTOBER

King Hussein meets with PLO delegation to discuss formation of joint Palestinian-Jordanian delegation to peace conference. (Petra 10/5 in FBIS 10/7)

6 OCTOBER

Israeli court sentences peace activist Abie Nathan to 18 months imprisonment for meeting with Chmn. Arafat in Tunis in July. A 1986 Israeli law bars Israelis from meeting with the PLO. (NYT 10/7)

As Palestinian negotiators Faisal Husseini and Hanan Ashrawi return to Israel from Europe, they are told they must face police ques-
tioning about whether or not they met with PLO officials in Algiers while abroad. The two reportedly attended the PNC. (NYT 10/7; WP 10/11)

The PLO, Jordanian negotiators meeting in Amman reach agreement on formation of joint delegation to peace conference, but do not reach stage of naming delegates. (MEM 10/7; al-Dustar 10/7 in FBIS 10/9)

Israeli undercover forces kill Khalid Hasan Rayyan, a wanted activist, in Balata refugee camp. (MEM 10/7)

For first time in several years, long-range Israeli artillery fires on S. Lebanese city of Tyre in response to rockets fired into "security zone." (MEM 10/9)

7 OCTOBER

Addressing Knesset, PM Shamir declares Pres. Bush’s stance on loan guarantees constitutes an attack on the “deepest foundations of Jewish and Zionist consciousness.” Shamir also insists that Israel approve Palestinian delegates to peace conference and states Israel will not negotiate with any Palestinian who announces affiliation with PLO while at the conference. (WP, MEM 10/8; see doc. C1)

Israeli security forces impose a ban on travel to Jerusalem for residents of the o.t. in an attempt to forestall violence on 8 October, first anniversary of the 1990 disturbances on the Haram al-Sharif which left 18 Palestinians dead. (AFP 10/8, in FBIS 10/9)

The new Israeli voluntary society Sikuy ("Chance") issues report indicating that 46% of Palestinian families in Israel live below the poverty line, compared to 8% of Jewish families. Palestinian academics hold only 10 of some 5,000 academic positions in Israel while only 17 of 1,310 senior positions in government are filled by Palestinians. (Davar 10/8, in FBIS 10/9)

Undercover Israeli agents kill Palestinian youth, 'Imad 'Abdullah 'Atiq, in Burkin village near Jenin. (MEM 10/7)

Turkish Pres. Turgut Ozal announces that proposed conference on Middle East water resources scheduled to meet 3–9 November in Turkey will be postponed [see 8/16]. (WP 10/8)

8 OCTOBER

Israeli police question Faisal Husseini, Hanan Ashrawi about alleged meeting with PLO officials in Algiers. Both stated they had not violated any laws, and asserted their right to refuse to answer further questions. Security forces do not confiscate their passports, but require each to post a bond of 5,000 shekels to ensure that they will report for questioning at any time in the future. U.S. state department had earlier requested that Israel not prosecute the two for fear it would complicate Secy. of State Baker’s peace mission. (Qol Yisra’el 10/8 in FBIS 10/9; MEM, NYT 10/9; AFP 10/9 in FBIS 10/10)

PM Shamir claims U.S. promised that it would not issue invitations to peace conference without having first reached agreement with Israel. (MEM 10/9)

On the first anniversary of the violence at the Haram al-Sharif, tens of thousands of Palestinians who commute from o.t. to jobs in Israel observe a general strike called by the Unified National Command of the Uprising and refuse to travel to work.

Israeli security forces maintained the ban on Palestinians from the o.t. entering Jerusalem which had been imposed 10/7 in order to forestall any violence. (AFP 10/8 in FBIS 10/9)

Israeli daily newspaper Yedioth Aharonot publishes report taken from the Russian weekly Rossiya, associated with reformist president of the Russian republic Boris Yeltsin, which claims that the Israeli New Communist List (Raqa) has been receiving a $600,000 per annum subsidy from the Soviet KGB. Rossiya obtained the figure from a 1987 document recently seized from the headquarters of the Soviet communist party in Moscow which listed the amount of money given by the KGB to communist parties around the world. (Yedioth Aharonot 10/8 in FBIS 10/9)

Islamic resistance in S. Lebanon claims it exploded a roadside bomb as an Israeli patrol passed on the Rummana-Safi road. Israeli artillery shells several villages, including Haris, Haddatha, suburbs of Nabatiyya. South Lebanon Army announces it will attack anyone moving in or near villages of Ayta Zut and Haddatha, Shi’ite villages lying north of “security zone.” (MEM 10/9)

9 OCTOBER

Hundreds of Jewish settlers invade Silwan, on outskirts of East Jerusalem, and occupy eight Palestinian homes they claim were bought or leased from the government but occupied by Palestinians. Occupation of the homes was planned by Housing Minister Ariel Sharon, and several right-wing Knesset members, including Michael Eytan, Yuval
Ne‘eman, and Ge‘ula Cohen, joined the settlers in a move some openly stated was an attempt to bring down the government of PM Shamir and disrupt U.S. efforts to convene a peace conference [see 10/4].

Police evacuate most of the homes, but PM Shamir tells settlers they can control one of them. Shamir calls settlers' action "unnecessary" and takes no action against Sharon. (MEM 10/9; WP 10/10, 10/14)

Sharon announces he will challenge PM Shamir for the Likud party's nomination for prime minister in 1992. (WP 10/11)

10 OCTOBER

Palestinian negotiators Faisal Husseini, Hanan Ashrawi, Zakariyya al-Agha, Sari Nusseibeh meet Secy. of State Baker in Washington to discuss Palestinian participation in proposed peace conference. (MEM, NYT 10/11)

For the first time, China admits that Israeli-Chinese meetings took place in Beijing between Chinese officials and representatives of Israel's foreign ministry. Latter had been invited to China by Israel's semi-official representative office, and spoke with their Chinese counterparts while in the country. Israel also confirms that the meetings were held. (MEM 10/10; Qol Yisra'el 10/10 in FBIS 10/11)

UN Secy. Gen. de Cuellar informs Lebanon that Lebanese army cannot deploy in areas in S. Lebanon controlled by UNIFIL forces. Lebanese officials claim de Cuellar had indicated the army would be allowed to operate in UNIFIL areas during talks between Lebanese, UN officials in September in New York. (Radio Lebanon 10/10, 10/11; Voice of Lebanon 10/11 in FBIS 10/11)

11 OCTOBER

Lebanese daily al-Hayat publishes advertisement signed by Hamas, Islamic Jihad, and several groups from the Palestinian National Salvation Front, including PFLP-GC, Fateh-Uprising (Abu Musa), Fateh-Revolutionary Council (Abu Nidal), condemning PLO for agreeing to participation in peace conference. (MEM 10/11)

Two Israeli soldiers die, eleven are wounded when a West Bank man drives a stolen vehicle into a group of soldiers standing beside a road in central Israel. (MEM 10/11)

12 OCTOBER

King Hussein, addressing a national congress in Amman, calls on Jordanians to "bury senseless illusions" and "face reality" by supporting Jordan's decision to participate in the peace conference. (WP 10/13)

Pres. al-Asad meets with Pres. Mubarak in Egypt to discuss peace conference. (MENA 10/12 in FBIS 10/16)

Pope John Paul II calls on Israel to "make it easier" for the Vatican to establish diplomatic ties with Israel. The Vatican has stated that relations cannot be established until the Palestinian problem has been solved and Israel guarantees to protect Jerusalem as a city holy to Muslims and Christians as well as Jews. (MEM 10/14)

13 OCTOBER

Jerusalem city council condemns 10/9 invasion of several Palestinian homes in Silwan by Israeli settlers and right-wing Knesset members. (MEM 10/14)

In Tunis, PLO Exec. Comm. approves principle of joint Palestinian-Jordanian delegation to peace conference. PLO, Jordanian officials had earlier agreed to form a joint delegation, not a unified delegation which included both Jordanian and Palestinian delegates [see 10/6]. Exec. Comm. mbr. Yasir 'Abd Rabbuh is dispatched to Amman for more talks with Jordanian officials. (al-Ra'i 10/14 in FBIS 10/15)

Secy. of State Baker arrives in Cairo for eighth trip to Middle East since Gulf war. (MEM 10/14)

Soviet airlines Aeroflot, Jewish Agency, sign agreement to establish direct, regular flights of Soviet Jewish immigrants to Israel from Leningrad and Moscow. Flights will be conducted by Aeroflot and El Al, the Israeli state airline. (MEM 10/14)

14 OCTOBER

Secy. of State Baker ends talks with Pres. Mubarak in Cairo, after which he flies to Jordan for discussion with King Hussein about Palestinian participation in peace talks. At a press conference in Amman, Baker indicates U.S. is seeking Palestinian delegates who will not press for immediate Palestinian statehood in the o.t. but who would cooperate in talks concerning a limited period of Palestinian self-rule, with negotiations on the final
status of the territories to come later. (WP 10/15)


15 OCTOBER

Secy. of State Baker travels to Syria for talks with Pres. al-Asad. Israeli FM Levy states U.S., Israel have agreed on terms for holding peace conference, which include the fact that the conference will not have any power to vote, make decisions, or enforce sanctions and U.S. pledge not to prompt Israel to negotiate with the PLO. (WP 10/16)

Palestinian negotiators Faisal Husseini, Hanan Ashrawi, Zakariya al-Agha travel to Amman to join PLO officials [arrived 10/14] and Jordanian officials for discussions concerning joint delegation. (MEM 10/15)

Knesset no-confidence motion entered by Labor party fails, but Tehiya parliamentarians, part of the governing Likud government, abstain from voting. (MEM 10/15)

Lebanese VP Hasan Habib denies recent press reports that Iranian FM 'Ali Akbar Ve- layati and Lebanese Pres. Ilias al-Hirawi agreed last month in New York to a withdrawal of Iranian Revolutionary Guards from Lebanon. (NYT 10/16)

16 OCTOBER

Syrian FM Faruq al-Sharaa confirms Syria will attend peace conference but will not participate in subsequent talks on regional issues unless Israel displays willingness to withdraw from occupied Arab territories [see 9/26]. Al-Sharaa also states he will not shake hands with Israeli delegates at conference. (MEM, WP 10/17)

Tunisia, Morocco indicate they will take part in peace conference as observers. (MEM 10/17)

Secy. of State Baker travels to Jerusalem, holds discussions with PM Shamir, Palestinian negotiators. Talks with Palestinians centered on Palestinian delegation to peace conference. Two sides continue to disagree over Israeli demand that such a delegation not include Palestinians from East Jerusalem, a demand which Baker has urged Palestinian negotiators to accede to in order that the Palestinians not be left out of the peace process. (WP 10/17)

PLO delegation in Amman reportedly reaches agreement with Jordanian government over composition of joint Palestinian-Jordanian delegation under joint leadership of King Hussein and Chmn. Arafat. But Jordanian government states it has discussed the issue not with the PLO but "people from the occupied territories" in effort to stem Israeli objections to PLO role in choosing Palestinian delegates. (MEM 10/16; WP 10/17)

PLO Central Comm. meets in Tunis to discuss Palestinian participation in peace conference. (WP 10/17)

Clandestine al-Quds Palestinian Arab Ra-
dio reports statement has been issued in o.t. by PFLP-GC, Hamas, Fateh-Revolutionary Council [Abu Nidal], Islamic Jihad, Mujahid Islamic Trend, and Fateh-Uprising [Abu Musa] rejecting "conference of humiliation." (al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio 10/16, in FBIS 10/17)

Israeli military court sentences Shaykh Ahmad Yasin, founder of the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas), to life imprison-
ment for ordering the deaths of several al-
leged Palestinian collaborators. Yasin was arrested in May 1989. (NYT 10/17)

17 OCTOBER


Soviet FM Boris Pankin arrives in Israel for talks with Israeli leadership, Palestinian negotiators, Secy. of State Baker. Visit is first visit by Soviet foreign ministry since USSR broke diplomatic relations with Israel in 1967. (WP 10/19)

Iranian Pres. Ayatollah 'Ali Khamanei denounces peace conference, calls upon Mus-
lims to participate in jihad to liberatePale-
tine. (MEM 10/23)

In Damascus, Presidents al-Asad, al-
Hirawi co-chair first meeting of Syrian-Leban-
ese Supreme Council, set up by the May 1991 Syrian-Lebanese Treaty of Brotherhood, Cooperation and Coordination to coor-
dinate affairs of the two countries. (Syrian Arab Republic Radio 10/17 in FBIS 10/21)

18 OCTOBER

In Jerusalem, Secy. of State Baker and So-
viet FM Boris Pankin jointly announce that their governments have extended invitations to attend a Middle East peace conference to be held 30 October in Madrid. Israel, Egypt,
Lebanon, Jordan, Syria, and Palestinian negotiators will attend the meeting, scheduled to be opened by Pres. Bush and Pres. Gorbachev.

First stage of process will be a three-day opening conference, followed by face-to-face negotiations among the parties. A third stage of talks, dealing with regional issues, would include other Middle Eastern countries.

Announcement comes in wake of Baker's meetings with PM Shamir and with Palestinian negotiators, who provide Baker with a partial list of Palestinian delegates who will participate in a joint Palestinian-Jordanian delegation after PLO Central Committee approved Palestinian participation in joint delegation. But Israeli officials delay giving Baker a final answer regarding Israel's participation because they were not shown the list of Palestinians.

Earlier in the day, Pankin and Israeli FM Levy announced that Israel, USSR are restoring full diplomatic relations. The move culminates four years of improved relations, which began with the establishment of consulates in 1987 and the emigration of over 300,000 Soviet Jews to Israel. (MEM 10/18; WP 10/19)

19 OCTOBER

Chmn. Arafat meets Pres. al-Asad in Damascus, the first time the two bitter rivals have met since 1983. The two reportedly agree that the multilateral Arab-Israeli talks on regional cooperation, envisaged as the third-stage of the peace process, would be futile unless Israel agrees to withdraw from the o.t. (MEM 10/21)

Asad had earlier met with Soviet FM Pankin, while FM al-Sharaa received the U.S., Soviet ambassadors who issued invitation to attend the peace conference. Syria indicated it would formally respond to the invitation in a few days' time. (WP 10/20)

Palestinian negotiator Faisal Husseini submits list of 14 Palestinian delegates to peace conference to U.S. consul in Jerusalem. (WP 10/20)

Jordan formally accepts the U.S.-Soviet invitation to attend peace conference. (WP 10/20)

Gulf Cooperation Council Secy. Gen. 'Abdullah Bishara indicates he will head GCC delegation to peace conference. (AFP 10/19 in FBIS 10/21)

Israel reports it has received positive information that one of its five missing soldiers in Lebanon, Yossi Fink, is dead, in a move which may expedite the ongoing comprehensive prisoner-hostage exchange negotiations. (WP 10/20)

"International Conference in Support of the Islamic Revolution in Palestine" opens in Tehran with 800 delegates from 60 countries in attendance. PNC Speaker 'Abd al-Hamid Sa'lih, delegates from the main constituent PLO groups attend, as do representatives of Hamas, Islamic Jihad of Palestine [Fathi Shaqaqi], and groups within the Palestinian National Salvation Front. Iranian pres. Hashemi Rafsanjani declares Iran is willing to send troops to help establish a Palestinian state. (WP 10/20; MEM 10/21, 10/23)

20 OCTOBER

Israeli cabinet approves PM Shamir's recommendation to attend peace conference by vote of 16 in favor to 3 opposed. Tehiya party announces it will leave the government on 10/30. Tehiya Chmn. Yuval Ne'eman decides to support the Likud-led coalition, however, and resigns as party chair [party later reversed its decision]. (MEM 10/21, 10/31)

Chmn. Arafat arrives in Jordan for talks with King Hussein, who along with Arafat co-chairs a joint Palestinian-Jordanian committee overseeing participation of the joint delegation at peace conference. The two agree to give PLO a major but behind-the-scenes role in conference process. (MEM 10/21, 10/23)


Roadside bomb near Kufr Rummana, in the Israeli "security zone" in S. Lebanon, kills three Israeli soldiers, wounds two others. (MEM 20/21)

21 OCTOBER

Chmn. Arafat travels to Egypt, his first trip to Egypt since the deterioration of PLO-Egyptian relations during the Gulf crisis. (MEM 10/21)

At Tehran conference on Palestinian issue, PFLP-GC Gen. Secy. Ahmad Jibril states Palestinian delegates to peace conference have "sentenced themselves to death." Arguments break out between delegates supporting, opposing participation in peace conference, including verbal exchanges between
anti-Arafat delegates such as Sa'id Musa Muragha (Abu Musa), head of Fateh-Uprising, and PLO representatives. (MEM 10/22)

National Committee of Heads of Local Arab Councils, made up of mayors of Palestinian communities in Israel, votes unanimously to strike 10/24 and stage protest in Jerusalem to draw attention to under-financing of Arab municipalities by Israeli authorities. Vote comes in wake of increased calls for action on the question and strikes by Arab municipal workers demanding payment of back wages [see 8/20]. (MEM 10/22)

Israel releases 14 Lebanese prisoners held in Khiyam prison, S. Lebanon. A 15th detainee was released in Israel and returned to Lebanon. Islamic Jihad for Palestine in turn releases American hostage Jesse Turner. Turner had been held captive since January 1987, and is the fourth Western hostage to be released since the current comprehensive, multilateral prisoner-hostage negotiations began earlier this year. (MEM 10/21, 10/22)

Israeli jets bomb Hizbullah headquarters in Jibshit, S. Lebanon, in retaliation for 10/20 deaths of three Israeli troops. (MEM 10/21)

22 OCTOBER

Faisal Hussein releases names of the fourteen Palestinians who will serve on the joint Palestinian-Jordanian negotiating delegation. Seven additional Palestinians will serve on a steering committee and not participate in the actual talks. (See Special File III, A1.)

Chmn. Arafat asserts that the Palestinian delegates will represent the PLO because “every Palestinian is a member of the PLO.” (NYT 10/23)

U.S. State Department indicates Secy. Baker will appoint a special Middle East representative to facilitate the bilateral negotiations which will constitute the second phase of negotiations. (NYT 10/23)

PFLP, DFLP, Hamas issue joint statement in o.t. urging escalation of intifada, call for general strike 10/23 in opposition to peace conference. Statement also rejects claim that a majority of Palestinians favor talks. Spokesmen for PFLP, DFLP denounce 10/21 threat against Palestinian delegates issued by PFLP-GC head Ahmad Jibril in Tehran.

Fateh also issues leaflet in o.t. calling on Palestinians to ignore PFLP-DFLP-Hamas call for strike on 10/23. (MEM 10/22)

Saudi Arabia releases $3 million to PLO. The funds, deducted from salaries of Palestinians working in Saudi Arabia as a “liberation tax,” had been frozen following the deterioration of PLO-Saudi relations during the Gulf crisis. Agreement was recently reached about resuming transfers of the funds [see 9/26]. Some of the funds also came from Saudi donations to the Palestinian cause. (MEM 10/24)


Al-Hirawi later tells press conference that “not one shot” will be fired at Israel from Lebanon once Israeli forces are withdrawn from S. Lebanon. (MEM 10/23)

23 OCTOBER

Prime Min. Shamir indicates he will head Israeli delegation to the peace conference, not FM David Levy. Invitations sent to the parties by the U.S., USSR had called for talks at the “ministerial level,” a diplomatic phrase usually interpreted to mean participation by officials holding rank of foreign minister or below. (NYT 10/24)

Arab foreign ministers representing Syria, Egypt, Jordan, along with representative of Lebanon’s foreign ministry and head of PLO political department meet in Damascus to discuss strategies for peace conference. They were later joined by foreign ministers of Saudi Arabia, representing the Gulf states, and Morocco, representing North African states (except Libya). (MEM 10/23)

Strike called for 10/22 by three groups in o.t. partially observed in E. Jerusalem, elsewhere in West Bank, but not in Nablus, Jenin. Residents of Gaza city observe strike, but not those in the refugee camps. (MEM 10/25)

Members of the Jewish Ateret Cohanim seminary move into a house in the Muslim quarter of E. Jerusalem. Group claims the house was owned by Jews driven out by Palestinian rioting in 1929.

Settlers occupying a building in Silwan seized 10/9 from Palestinian residents petition Israeli high court of justice to allow them to remain. Group also seeks permission to move into four other buildings from which they had been evicted by police. (MEM 10/24)

European Community official announces EC, Israel have reached agreement over long-
standing dispute over status, place of residence of EC official who will be sent to monitor EC economic aid to Palestinians in the o.t. EC had sought to post the official in the territories, Israel objected, seeking to place the representative in Tel Aviv instead. The EC has set aside $100 million in aid for Palestinians in the o.t. (MEM 10/24)

Human rights organization Middle East Watch issues report on condition of 18,000-20,000 stateless Palestinians in Kuwait. The Palestinians, who were either born in Gaza during the British Mandate, during the period of Egyptian administration of Gaza (1948-67), or who are descendants of those born there, have lived in Kuwait for decades but do not hold citizenship in any country. They do not carry Israeli Gaza identity cards but merely hold Egyptian travel documents, and are thus unable to legally live anywhere. According to the report, Kuwait intends to expel these persons to Iraq 11/15. (MEM 20/24)

24 OCTOBER

In Damascus, Arab foreign ministers agree to coordinate stands during peace conference, not to strike separate deals with Israel. Syria failed to garner support for proposal that none of the delegations would attend the third-stage talks on regional issues until Israel returned occupied Arab territories. (MEM 10/24; NYT 10/25)

In another move toward Saudi-PLO reconciliation, PLO Pol. Dept. Head Faraq al-Qaddumi meets with Saudi FM Prince Sa‘ud al-Faysal while both attend Damascus foreign ministers meeting. The meeting, brokered by Egyptian pres. Husni Mubarak, was their first since the Gulf war, and reportedly led to Sa‘ud pledging to restore Saudi ties with PLO. (MEM 10/25)

Palestinian delegate Sa‘ib ‘Urayerqat creates an uproar in Israel by declaring to the press that “we are the PLO delegation.” Palestinian negotiator Faisal Husseini later states that ‘Urayerqat was speaking for himself. (NYT 10/2)

Faisal Husseini announces seven Palestinians will form an advisory committee to work with the steering committee attached to the Palestinian delegation to the peace conference. They are: Radwan Abu ‘Ayyash, Ziyad Abu Zayyad, Ahmad al-Yazji, Jamil Tarifi, Razi Jara’, Salih Abu Laban, ‘Abd al-Hadi Abu Khawash. (MEM 10/25; Voice of Palestine 10/26 in FBIS 10/28)

Some 300 Palestinian fighters opposed to participation in the peace talks occupy the offices of Fateh in the ‘Ayn al-Hilwa refugee camp near Sidon, S. Lebanon, and overrun much of the rest of the camp. Action was reportedly led by Maj. Munir Makda, commander of Force 17, Fateh’s security force. (NYT 10/25)

Ten Palestinian groups which had been attending Tehran-based conference on Palestinian sign 13-point statement denouncing Madrid peace conference, calling for escalation of intifada. Among signatories were PFLP, DFLP [Hawatma faction], Palestinian Popular Struggle Front, al-Sa‘iqa. (Radio Monte Carlo 10/24 in FBIS 10/25)

Israel re-opens its embassy in Moscow, closed since the USSR broke diplomatic relations with Israel in 1967. (NYT 10/25)

Lebanese Pres. al-Hirawi states Ta‘if accord calls for “redeployment—not a withdrawal—of Syrian forces,” but suggests that if Israel withdrew from S. Lebanon, Syria would withdraw its forces from Lebanon. (MEM 10/24)

25 OCTOBER

Israel names its delegation to conference. (See Special File III, E.) (NYT 10/26)

Israeli daily Yedi‘ot Aharanot publishes poll indicating 91% of Israelis support participation in peace conference but 57% do not believe negotiations will lead to “real results.” (WP 10/27)

United National Command of the Uprising issues leaflet number 76, calling for unity among Palestinians and escalation of the intifada. (MEM 10/25)

26 OCTOBER

King Hussein names Jordanian delegates to joint Palestinian-Jordanian delegation. (See Special File III, A2.)

Jordanian and Palestinian delegates on the joint delegation meet for the first time in Amman. (NYT 10/27)

In one of largest rallies in Israel in recent years, some 30,000 Israelis hold pro-peace conference rally in Tel Aviv. (WP 10/27; MEM 10/28)

27 OCTOBER

Washington Post reports that Pres. Bush waived sanctions against Israel, called for under U.S. law seeking to stop international
transfers of ballistic technology, after U.S. intelligence determined that Israel exported missile components to South Africa. Bush reportedly took into account the fact that Israel recently agreed to adhere to the 1987 Convention for the Limitation of the Spread of Missile Technology when deciding not to punish Israel. Administration officials also stated that Bush did not wish to hurt Israel’s position at upcoming peace conference by publicly punishing Israel at this time. (WP 10/27)

Six-member GCC announces willingness to participate in multilateral talks on regional issues, the third stage of the peace process. GCC earlier [10/19] stated it would attend opening ceremonies. (MEM 10/28)

Egypt announces delegation to peace talks. (See Special File III, D.) (MEM 10/28)

After meeting with Syrian FM al-Sharaa, Egyptian pres. Mubarak states multilateral discussions on regional issues, the proposed third stage of peace talks, should not begin before significant progress has been made during bilateral negotiations between Israel, Arabs. Syria has been pushing for delaying the third stage talks until Israel displays willingness to evacuate from the occupied territories. But Mubarak notes that no agreement on this point has yet been made among the Arabs despite the agreement to “coordinate” policies made at recent Arab foreign ministers meeting in Damascus [see 10/23, 10/24].

PLO Pol. Dept. Head Faruq al-Qaddumi, however, states that the foreign ministers did agree to link attendance at the multilateral discussions with Israeli withdrawal from occupied territories.

Both statements come in wake of behind-the-scenes struggle between Egypt and Gulf states on one hand, Syria on the other, over whether to proceed with multilateral talks before Arab-Israeli agreement is reached in bilateral talks. (MEM 10/28)

Israeli soldier seriously injured in Nablus when he is struck by a concrete block thrown from a roof. Another man on the roof is shot and wounded by Israeli troops. Security forces clamp a curfew on Nablus. (MEM 10/28)

The door of the American Cultural Center in Jerusalem burned by unknown persons, but a slogan painted nearby stating "America is the enemy—Kach" seems to implicate the ultra-nationalist Kach movement. (MEM 10/28)

U.S., Bahrain sign defense cooperation agreement. (MEM 10/28)

28 OCTOBER

U.S. announces that both Jordanian and Palestinian delegates will each be able to deliver a 45-minute opening speech at peace conference. Israel, Lebanon, Egypt, and Syria will also talk for 45 minutes. Israel protests to Washington that this violates conditions for Israeli attendance by treating the Palestinians as a separate delegation. (NYT 10/29)

London-based Mideast Mirror publishes list of Syrian delegates (See Special File III, B.) (MEM 10/28)

Demonstrators for, against peace conference clash at anti-conference rally in Amman. (MEM 10/29)

West Bank gunmen open fire on a bus carrying Israeli settlers from Shilo to an anti-peace conference rally in Tel Aviv, killing two and injuring five, bringing total number of Israelis killed since beginning of intifada to 74. (NYT, WP 10/29)

German authorities state police in Hamburg discovered 14 Soviet T-72 tanks aboard an Israeli ship destined for Israel. The tanks, formerly belonging to the E. German army and subsequently handed over to the German secret service BND, were to be delivered to Mossad, the Israeli intelligence service, which sought to learn more about the tanks’ design. (NYT, WP 10/29)

Israeli, South Lebanon Army forces launch artillery barrages directed at area surrounding Nabatiyya, S. Lebanon. Attacks continue into early morning hours of 10/29. (MEM 10/30)

29 OCTOBER

Soviet pres. Gorbachev holds talks with PM Shamir in Madrid, the first summit meeting ever held by leaders of Israel, USSR. (WP 10/30)

Israel concedes to U.S. decision to allow 45 minutes to both Palestinian, Jordanian sections of Palestinian-Jordanian delegation for opening remarks at peace conference. (MEM 10/29)

PFLP claims responsibility for 10/28 attack on bus carrying Israeli settlers. (AFP 10/29 in FBIS 10/29)

Some 1,000 supporters of Fatah stage pro-peace conference demonstration in Gaza city, shaking hands with Israeli soldiers and handing them olive branches. Another pro-peace conference march held in Jenin. (MEM 10/29)

Roadside bomb kills three Israeli
soldiers, injures a fourth near ‘Aramta, S. Lebanon; Islamic Resistance coalition (led by Hizbullah) claims responsibility. In a separate incident, guerrillas attempting to infiltrate into Israel near town of Biranit ambush Israeli patrol, wounding five; two are killed. Islamic Jihad Movement of Palestine [Fathi Shqaqi] claims responsibility. Israeli helicopters attack area near Rashidiyya refugee camp, Hizbullah office in Nablus. (Qol Yisra’el 10/29 in FBIS 10/30; MEM 10/29; WP, MEM 10/30; NYT 11/2)

30 OCTOBER

Middle East peace conference opens in the royal palace in Madrid with delegations from Israel, Egypt, Syria, Lebanon, and the joint Palestinian-Jordanian delegation present. Conference begins with short speech by Spanish PM Felipe Gonzalez, followed by addresses by conference coconveners Presidents Bush and Gorbachev, and Dutch FM Hans van den Broek, representing the European Community. Soviet FM Boris Pankin and Secy. of State Baker were also present at the negotiating table. Saudi ambassador to the U.S. Prince Bandar bin Sultan and ‘Abdullah Bishara, secy. gen. of the Gulf Cooperation Council, also attend the conference, but are not seated at the table. Egyptian FM ‘Amr Musa delivers the first address by one of the negotiating delegations (See Special File V: A, B, C, D).

Secy. of State Baker confirms that it was not certain whether or not second phase bilateral talks between Israel and the Arab delegations would commence 11/2 as scheduled due to disagreement between Israel, Arab delegations over venue of such talks. Israel is pushing for holding the negotiations in the Middle East, while Arab delegations seek to continue to hold such talks in Madrid. (NYT 10/31)

Hamas calls for a general strike to protest the peace conference. But 2,000 Palestinian supporters of Fateh, some armed with clubs and knives and waving Palestinian flags, march in favor of the peace talks in Gaza as Israeli troops follow them but make no effort to disperse the gathering. The marchers clashed with supporters of Hamas, injuring four.

Five thousand other PLO supporters march in Khan Yunis. Pro-peace conference activists in Qalqiliya, Jenin force shopkeepers to open their shops which had been closed following orders by Hamas to observe a general strike.

Elsewhere, Israeli security forces kill one Palestinian in Hebron, wound at least 24 in Gaza and 11 in Nablus during clashes. (NYT, WP, MEM 10/31)

Iraqi National Assembly condemns peace conference, attacks Syria, Egypt for their participation. (MEM 10/31)

Some 10,000 Lebanese march in Beirut against peace conference. (WP 10/31)

Israeli, South Lebanon Army forces bombard villages near Nablityya, S. Lebanon, in retaliation for 10/29 attacks on Israeli troops. (NYT 10/31)

31 OCTOBER

At Madrid peace conference, PM Shamir delivers first opening address of the day. He is followed by Jordanian FM Kamil Abu Jaber, chief Palestinian delegate Haydar Abd al-Shafi, Lebanese FM Faris Bouez, and Syrian FM Faruq al-Sharaa (See Special File, V: E, F, G, H, I.) (NYT 11/1)

After hearing Abd al-Shafi’s speech on the radio, hundreds of Palestinians march through Ramallah waving olive branches and shaking hands with Israeli security forces, who did not break up the demonstration. Similar marches took place in E. Jerusalem, throughout occupied territories. (MEM 10/31, 11/1)

In another move toward PLO-Saudi reconciliation, Fateh Central Comm. Mbr. and top aide to Chmn. Arafat Nabil Sha’th, who was appointed as behind-the-scenes PLO co-ordinator of Palestinian delegates at Madrid, meets with Saudi representative to talks, Prince Sa’ud bin Faysal, along with Palestinian delegates and members of the steering committee. (MEM 11/1)

Kuwaiti FM Shaykh Salim al-Sabah reiterates Kuwaiti hostility toward PLO, however, describing PLO position during the Gulf war as "shameful" while affirming Kuwaiti support for Palestinian cause. (MEM 11/1)

Israeli, South Lebanon Army forces continue shelling Nablityya area, other regions of S. Lebanon. (MEM 11/1)

1 NOVEMBER

Peace conference opening ceremonies end as each of the delegations delivers closing
It remains unclear whether or not Syria and Lebanon will proceed to the second phase of bilateral negotiations with Israel, although Palestinian delegates indicate they intend to hold such talks. (NYT 11/2)

**Pro-peace conference demonstrations continue in occupied territories.** (MEM 11/1)

Some 4,000 anti-peace conference demonstrators turn out in Amman to hear leaders of the country's Muslim Brotherhood movement state that their "long battle with world Zionism" has just begun. (MEM 11/1)

Some 2,500 supporters of Hizbullah, anti-Arafat Palestinian groups protest peace conference in Sidon, S. Lebanon. Israeli jets later bomb Hizbullah positions near Luwayza, 'Arab Salim, S. Lebanon. Israeli, SLA artillery later shell Luwayza and Nabi- tiyya. (MEM 11/1; NYT 11/2)

2 NOVEMBER

Faisal Husseini, Hanan Ashrawi, two other members of the Palestinian steering committee, fly to Morocco for consultations with Chmn. Arafat. (NYT 11/3)

**Pro-peace marches continue in o.t., including one involving thousands of marchers in Jenin. Curfew imposed 10/27 on Nablus lifted, but is imposed on 400,000 Gaza residents.** (MEM 11/4)

Thousands flee Kufr Rumman, S. Lebanon, after Israeli troops order them to evacuate the area, which has come under recent heavy Israeli artillery fire. South Lebanon Army radio broadcast also orders 100,000 residents of some 100 villages near the Israeli "security zone" to flee. Israel denies it officially ordered the evacuation, claims order came from a local Israeli commander or from SLA acting on its own authority.

As Israel continues its bombardment of the area, Lebanese pres. Iyas al-Hirawi calls Lebanon's defense council into emergency session, and Shi'ite Amal militia announces a general mobilization, vowing to stand with Lebanese army troops in repelling any Israeli attacks. (NYT, WP 11/3)

3 NOVEMBER

Second phase, face-to-face bilateral talks between Israeli, joint Palestinian-Jordanian delegation begin in Madrid. Israeli negotiating team is headed by Elyakim Rubinstein, while Haydar 'Abd al-Shafi and Abd al-Salam al-Majali colead the Palestinian-Jordanian delegation. Negotiators agree to discuss proposal for Palestinian autonomy in occupied territories.

**Syrian delegation** headed by Muwaffaq al-Allaf agrees to participate in direct talks at last moment, but no progress is made. Israeli team negotiating with Syria is headed by Yossi Ben Aharon. Bilateral Israeli-Lebanese talks also commence. (NYT, MEM 11/4; NYT 11/5)

Curfew imposed on Gaza on eve of peace conference is lifted. (Qol Yisra'el 11/3, in FBIS 11/4)

**Lebanon sends 500 troops to Kufr Rumman, Nabatiyya, S. Lebanon to face Israeli troops who have shelling the towns.** (NYT 11/5)

4 NOVEMBER

Less than 12 hours after concluding bilateral talks with Syria, Israeli inaugurates Qela', new settlement in Golan. Present at the ceremony are three cabinet ministers, Rafael Eytan, Yuval Ne'eman, Ariel Sharon. (MEM, WP 11/5)

**Elections for Gaza chamber of commerce,** first such elections since 1964, return thirteen pro-PLO candidates, two Hamas supporters, and one independent. Elections were viewed as a surprisingly strong turn of Palestinian public support away from Hamas, which opposes the peace conference, toward the PLO. (NYT 11/6)

 Israeli army announces it will ban all demonstrations in the o.t., citing instances where some of the pro-peace conference demonstrations of recent days allegedly turned violent. (Ha'Arets 11/4 in FBIS 11/4)

5 NOVEMBER

Secy. of State Baker criticizes 11/4 opening of Israeli settlement in Golan, calling it "provocative." (NYT 11/6)

Chmn. Arafat arrives in Amman for discussions with King Hussein in advance of return of Palestinian, Jordanian delegates from Madrid. The two cochair a committee overseeing activities of the joint Palestinian-Jordanian delegation to the peace talks. (MEM 11/6)

Five Palestinians are injured when violent confrontations break out between Palestinians, Israeli security forces in Jenin following assassination of Fatah activist Mahdi Abu al-Hasan by Israeli undercover agents. Abu al-Hasan, whom security forces had been seek-
CHRONOLOGY

6 NOVEMBER

Chmn. Arafat arrives in Damascus at head of four-person delegation, holds talks with Syrian vice pres. 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam. Arafat later meets with Pres. al-Asad in Ladhaqiyya. (MEM 11/7)

At Damascus press conference, PFLP Gen. Secy. George Habash states PFLP has suspended its membership in PLO executive committee due to its opposition to peace conference. Habash notes PFLP will reserve final decision on whether to stay in committee. (Radio Monte Carlo 11/6 in FBIS 11/6; MEM 11/7)

Hizbullah-led Islamic Resistance movement detonates another roadside bomb in Israel's "security zone" near village of Rashaf; casualty reports vary. (MEM 11/6)

7 NOVEMBER

Poll released in Israel finds that almost 30% of Soviet Jewish immigrants who have arrived in Israel since September 1989 would like to be living in another country within five years. Also, 52% stated they would advise other Soviet Jews to delay immigrating to Israel; only 37% had said they would do so in a similar poll conducted in June 1991. (MEM 11/8)

Israeli helicopters fire rockets at DFLP office in Palestinian refugee camp of Rashidiyya, S. Lebanon, while Israeli, South Lebanon Army artillery continue barrage of villages near Israeli "security zone." Israeli, SLA forces reportedly fired more than 1,200 shells during their two-week campaign of shelling. (MEM 11/7)

8 NOVEMBER

Faruq al-Qaddumi, top official of both Fateh and PLO, arrives at head of Fateh delegation to Syria in aftermath of Chmn. Arafat's recent meetings with Pres. al-Asad. (NYT 11/10; AFP 11/13 in FBIS 11/14)

Israeli aircraft attack alleged DFLP positions in Rashidiyya refugee camp near Tyre, Fateh-Force 17 positions in 'Ayn al-Hilwa camp near Sidon in S. Lebanon, while Israeli-South Lebanon Army bombardment of S. Lebanese villages continues. (MEM 11/8)

Israeli DM Arens returns from China. (Qot Yisra'el 11/22 in FBIS 11/22)

9 NOVEMBER

PLO officials state Syria has agreed to allow PLO to reopen offices in Syria, that delegation headed by Faruq al-Qaddumi which arrived in Syria 11/8 was working on details of reopening offices. (NYT 11/10)

Chmn. Arafat arrives in Cairo meets with Pres. Mubarak, further symbolizing improving PLO-Egyptian relations. (MENA 11/10 in FBIS 11/12)

10 NOVEMBER

Palestinian delegates return to West Bank via Allenby Bridge as thousands cheer them in Jericho. Member of advisory committee to delegation Ziyad Abu Zayyad announces establishment of "political committees" throughout o.t. to advise Palestinian delegates, reportedly under the leadership of Sari Nusseibeh in the West Bank and As'ad al-Saftawi in Gaza.

DM Moshe Arens, Chief-of-Staff Ehud Barak, Police Min. Ronni Milo brief Israeli cabinet on decrease in intifada activities during the week after the peace conference, noting that incidents such as rock throwing have decreased 30% in West Bank and 70% in Gaza. (WP, MEM 11/11)

A poll described as the largest ever carried out in Israel is published, revealing that 74% of Israelis are ready to yield territory in the West Bank and Gaza for peace. Thirty-one percent stated that land in the Golan Heights should be exchanged for peace. (MEM 11/11)
11 NOVEMBER

Knesset passes resolution declaring Israeli control of Golan is not negotiable. The resolution was supported by a broad coalition which included members from Likud, Labor parties.

Prime Min. Shamir states current borders and ceasefire lines (including 1967 occupied territories) are an essential minimum of territory. (MEM 11/12)

Syrian vice pres. ‘Abd al-Halim Khaddam meets with Fateh delegation which has been in Damascus during the week. (MEM 11/13)

Nayif Hawatma, leader of one wing of the DFLP, meets with King Hussein, Jordanian prime min. Tahir al-Masri in Amman. (MEM 11/12)

Foreign ministers of the “Damascus Declaration” nations (Egypt, Syria, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Bahrain, Oman) begin meeting in Cairo, the fifth time the countries have met. Meeting expressed satisfaction at recent Madrid peace conference. (MENA 11/11 in FBIS 11/12)

Israel army kills four persons in the western Negev desert who infiltrated into Israeli territory from Egypt. (IDF Radio 11/11 in FBIS 11/12)

12 NOVEMBER

Member of advisory committee to Palestinian delegation Ziyad Abu Zayyad confirms the existence of an eight-page document discussing the eventual transfer of power from Israeli occupation forces to Palestinians in the o.t. during the "transitional period" of self-rule envisioned as part of the peace process. The document, which he states is only a draft proposal, was written by residents of the o.t. and suggests establishing management committees to oversee administration of the territories. (Qol Yisra’el 11/12 in FBIS 11/14)

Five members of the new political committees in o.t. resign, but 25 new members are added. Move seen as part of behind-the-scenes conflict between the original founders of the committees and the PLO, members of the Palestinian delegation over the nature of the committees. (Qol Yisra’el 11/13, Ha’aretz 11/13, Israel Television 11/12 in FBIS 11/14)

Faisal Husseini holds debate with Riyadh al-Maliki, leading PFLP supporter in West Bank and opponent of the peace process, at Bethlehem University. (MEM 11/12)


Pres. Bush, speaking before a meeting of Jewish American leaders in New York, regrets language he used during his 9/12 comments about the loan guarantees to Israel [in which he obliquely referred to the power of the Jewish lobby]. (MEM 11/13, 11/14)

Meeting of Israeli Labor party, called by Labor party leader Shimon Peres in an attempt to bridge gap among hard-liners and moderates within the party on foreign affairs and security matters, fails to reach agreement. Meeting comes in wake of rightward turn within Labor party toward security issues, evidenced by the tough 11/10 draft of the party’s political platform adopted by the party’s political committee and by the support given by several hard-line Labor parliamentarians to an 11/11 Knesset resolution that called for permanent Israeli control over Golan. (MEM 11/13)

Meeting of the “Damascus Declaration” nations ends without agreement on ways to turn their Gulf war alliance into a deeper multi-lateral relationship. (MEM 11/12)

13 NOVEMBER

Faisal Husseini, Hanan Ashrawi hold meeting at Islamic College of Hebron to explain what transpired at Madrid. Fights break out between supporters, opponents of peace process. (Qol Yisra’el 11/13 in FBIS 11/14)

Additional members of the political committees resign (See 11/12) (Qol Yisra’el 11/13 in FBIS 11/14)

In Washington, West Bank academic Sari Nusseibeh, the driving force behind creation of the political committees, meets with State Department officials, requests U.S. intervention with Israel to assure Palestinians in o.t. be given freedom to express themselves politically, an essential step if the committees and other forms of political expression are to succeed. (MEM 11/14)

In Damascus, Fateh Central Comm. mbir. ‘Abbas Zaki states that Fateh, Syria have agreed to normalize relations. Fateh-Syrian discussions have been ongoing since a Fateh delegation’s arrival in Damascus 11/8. (AFP 11/13 in FBIS 11/14)

PLO Executive Committee begins meet-
ing in Tunis to discuss the venue for second phase of peace talks. (MEM 11/14)

14 NOVEMBER

E. Jerusalem newspapers list names of some 30 new members of the political committees in the o.t. The committees already count some 150 members, reportedly largely Fateh activists but some from the Palestine Communist Party, DFLP-'Abd Rabbuh faction. (Qol Yisra'el 11/12, 11/14 in FBIS 11/14)

Fateh leaflet circulated in o.t. orders political committees to disband after receiving orders to this effect from Yasir Arafat. The order stated that the committees should be reorganized by a special committee made up of seven representatives from both the West Bank and Gaza, plus a president. Fateh leaflet asserts that the underground committees of the intifada, not the political committees, should form the basis for the future Palestinian state. (Qol Yisra'el 11/12, Al Ha'mishmar 11/15 in FBIS 11/15)

Some 200 supporters of Hamas, leftist factions demonstrate against peace talks at a gathering of some 500 supporters of the peace process who were listening to a presentation made by Faisal Husseini in Hebron. (MEM 11/14)

Celebrations marking the third anniversary of Palestinian "declaration of independence" [11/15/89] begin in the occupied territories. (MEM 11/13)

Two alleged Palestinian collaborators are found dead in Gaza. (MEM 11/15)

Fighting continues in S. Lebanon as SLA artillery shells Iqlim al-Tuffah, Nabatiyya areas of S. Lebanon. Israeli helicopters attack PFLP office in Rashidiyya camp, S. Lebanon. Aircraft later bomb Hizbullah bases in Malita village, Jabal Safi area of S. Lebanon. (MEM 11/14)

15 NOVEMBER

PM Shamir arrives in U.S. for private tour, although he plans to meet with Pres. Bush later in the trip. (MEM 11/15)

Israeli police recommends that attorney general prosecute Hanan Ashrawi, for allegedly meeting with PLO officials during peace conference. (NYT 11/16)

Large pro-PLO rallies held throughout o.t. to commemorate third anniversary of Palestinian "declaration of independence." Israeli border guards shoot, kill Musa Ghazi Muhammad Abu 'Id as he spray paints slogans on a wall inside E. Jerusalem's old city. (MEM 11/15)

CHRONOLOGY SOURCE ABBREVIATIONS

CSM (Christian Science Monitor, Boston)
FBIS (Foreign Broadcast Information Service Daily Report, Near East and South Asia)
FJ (Al-Fajr Jerusalem Palestinian Weekly, Jerusalem)
FNS (Federal News Service wire, Washington, D.C.)
LAT (Los Angeles Times, Los Angeles)
MEI (Middle East International, London)
MEPARC (Middle East Policy and Research Center, Washington, D.C.)
MEM (Mideast Mirror, London)
MET (Middle East Times, Nicosia)
NYT (New York Times, New York)
WJW (Washington Jewish Week, Washington, D.C.)
WSJ (Wall Street Journal, New York)
WP (Washington Post, Washington, D.C.)
WT (Washington Times, Washington, D.C.)

Chronology compiled by Michael R. Fischbach, a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of History, Georgetown University.