PALESTINE CHRONOLOGY

Palestine Chronology
16 February—15 May 1990

This section is part twenty-six of a chronology begun in Journal no. 51 (Spring 1984). The chronology focuses on events and actors affecting Palestinian communities throughout the world, with priority given to occupied Palestine/Israel.

16 February

UN Human Rights Committee endorses resolution calling for Israel not to settle Soviet Jews in O.T. U.S. abstains (cf. 2/17) [ADS 2/18 in FBIS 2/20].

USSR has informed U.S. it will not allow direct Aeroflot flights from Soviet Union to Israel (cf. 2/16) [YA 2/16 in FBIS 2/16].

Soviet P.M. Nikolay Ryzhkov says USSR will consider resuming diplomatic ties with Israel only after Israeli-Palestinian dialogue is launched [RPP 2/16 in FBIS 2/23].

Yasir Arafat contacts the “parties concerned” in the intra-Christian fighting in E. Beirut, offers to mediate (cf. 2/19) [RMC 2/17 in FBIS 2/20].

Gaza Strip residents observe general strike [MET 2/27-3/5].

Israeli helicopters attack Amal post south of Sidon, S. Lebanon; no injuries [JDS 2/16 in FBIS 2/20; MET 2/27-3/5].

DFLP has asked Red Cross to force Israel to give prisoner of war status to 3 DFLP members captured 2/15 [RMC 2/16 in FBIS 2/20].

17 February

Jordan’s King Hussein, noting U.S. abstention on 2/16 UN resolution against settlement, expresses concern that U.S. is reducing opposition to Israeli settlements in O.T. [WP 2/18; ADS 2/18 in FBIS 2/20].

Arab gov’ts. are reported divided over King Hussein’s call for a summit meeting to discuss Soviet Jewish emigration to Israel; senior diplomats call summit premature and potentially harmful to Middle East peace process [NYT 2/18].

Yasir Arafat tells Peggy Say, sister of U.S. hostage Terry Anderson, he is doing his “very best” to win the release of American hostages in Lebanon [WP 2/18; LAT 2/19].
Jordan and Iraq are rumored to have formed a joint air squadron; seen as cost-cutting measure for Jordanian air force (cf. 2/18, 2/19) [RMC 2/17 in FBIS 2/20].

18 February

Some 8,000 Soviet Jews have emigrated to Israel during first 6 weeks of 1990, compared to 12,800 for all 1989 [JDS 2/18 in FBIS 2/21].

Dozens of recently emigrated Soviet Jews in Jerusalem protest living conditions, complain of leaking ceilings and nonfunctioning heating systems [LAT 2/19; CDS 2/18 in FBIS 2/20].

Ariel Sharon resigns as Industry and Trade Minister, vows to run for P.M., calls elections plan “a mistake” that “will bring more tension, more bloodshed and even a war” [NYT, WP, LAT 2/19; IDF 2/18 in FBIS 2/20].

In separate interviews, Chief of Staff Dan Shomron and D.M. Yitzhak Rabin say Israel is not concerned about joint Jordanian-Iraqi air squadron (cf. 2/19) [JDS 2/18 in FBIS 2/20].

D.M. Rabin says U.S. has conceded, though not openly, that U.S.-PLO dialogue has been a failure: “The Americans failed and learned with whom it is possible to deal” [IPD 2/19 in FBIS 2/20].

19 February

Israel has told Jordan it objects to any Jordanian-Iraqi military cooperation. Israeli military source expresses concern that “a military alliance . . . is being set up against us” (cf. 2/20) [HAD 2/19 in FBIS 2/20].

5 Knesset members announce reestablishment of Likud faction Liberal Party, which had previously merged with Herut movement [JDS 2/19 in FBIS 2/20].

High-level Palestinian delegation, sent by Yasir Arafat, arrives in Beirut to meet with Gen. Michel Aoun and Samir Geagea [MENA 2/20 in FBIS 2/21].

Under pressure from Arab gov’ts., Soviet Union rejects U.S. appeal to allow direct flights for Soviet Jews from Moscow to Tel Aviv [NYT 2/20].

Soviet ambassador to Cairo, Gennadiy Zhuravlev, has stressed USSR readiness to host Israeli-Palestinian talks; denies this undermines Egypt’s role [RYF 2/19 in FBIS 2/28].

Israeli air force bombs DFLP bases near Kfar Jarah, 4 miles east of Sidon in Lebanon; one person reported killed [LAT 2/20; IDF 2/19 in FBIS 2/20].

20 February

In advance of human rights report to be issued 2/21, U.S. State Dep’t. says Israeli soldiers continue to violate Palestinian human rights, causing “avoidable deaths and injuries.” State Dep’t. also reports “significant increase in violence by Palestinians directed at other Palestinians” (cf. 2/21) [NYT 2/21].

Washington Post article cites recent statements by Israeli gov’t. officials to the effect that PLO is continuing terrorism [WP 2/21].

Jordan’s P.M. and D.M. Mudar Badran says financial considerations have forced Jordanian fighter pilots to train with Iraqi counterparts; this does not mean joint squadron is being formed. Badran accuses Israel of exploiting the subject [RAY 2/21 in FBIS 2/21].

Egypt’s ambassador to Israel, Muhammad Basyuni, says “Egypt does not oppose Jewish immigration to Israel, but does oppose the settling of new immigrants in the territories” [MAA 2/21 in FBIS 2/22].

PLO envoy Hakam Balawi meets with U.S. ambassador to Tunisia Robert Pelletreau to discuss Soviet Jewish emigration to Israel [SVP 2/21 in FBIS 2/23].
Hundreds of Israeli Arabs demonstrate against Interior and Finance ministries, urging them to honor pledge to aid Arab local councils in Israel [F] 2/26.

Chrmn. of the Supreme Soviet International Affairs Committee, A.S. Dzasokhov, meets in Moscow with PLO Executive Committee members Mahmoud Abbas and Sulayman Najjaj to discuss strengthening Soviet-Palestinian relations [IZV 2/21].

2 UNIFIL soldiers are killed, at least 6 are wounded by artillery fire directed at S. Lebanon outpost from inside Israel’s “security zone”; initial Israeli army statement says bombing occurred during gunfire between SLA and Hizballah [JDS 2/20 in FBIS 2/20; NYT 2/21]; UN protests to Israeli gov’t. [WP 2/21].

21 February

U.S. State Dep’t. releases annual report to Congress on global human rights; it sharply criticizes Israel’s actions in O.T., finds fault with most Arab nations as well [WP 2/22]; Israel criticizes report: “Everything we are doing arises from Arab violence,” says Moshe Raviv of foreign ministry [NYT 2/22].

PLO’s Bassam Abu Sharif tells reporters in Tunis that resettlement of Soviet Jews in O.T. is “an act of war against the Palestinian people,” and that “such an action can only beget similar reactions—that is, acts of war” [LAT 2/23].

In Tunis, Arafat meets with Soviet ambassador to Tunisia, discusses Soviet Jewish emigration to Israel [AVP 2/21 in FBIS 2/22].

At the Kremlin, Nabil Amr presents his credentials to Soviet V.P. Anatoly Lukyanov as ambassador of State of Palestine to USSR [TASS 2/21].

U.S. plans to give Egypt 700 surplus M-60 tanks made obsolete by cutbacks in U.S. forces in Europe (cf. 2/27) [WT 3/2].

22 February

Labor Party votes to give Shamir and Likud 2 weeks to accept Labor’s 4-point compromise formula for starting talks between Israel and Palestinians, or face dissolution of gov’t. [NYT, WP, LAT 2/23; IDF 2/22 in FBIS 2/23].

Christian Science Monitor reports growing concern among Sephardic Jews that funding for new immigrants will come at expense of Sephardics [CSM 2/22].


Security sources report core of Hamas movement has moved from Gaza to Nablus and Tulkarm. Some sources say Hamas leaflets now on high-quality paper and computerized, indicating Israeli Arab involvement [HAA 2/22 in FBIS 2/23].

Pres. Bush and Sec. Baker suggest Israeli gov’t. stop delaying implementing of its own peace plan, and make necessary compromises to open negotiations [NYT 2/23].

U.S. House Foreign Affairs internal operations subcommittee holds hearing on proposed VOA transmitter to be built this summer in the Negev; environmentalists testify against what would be the world’s largest radio transmitter [WP 2/22].

Soviet Union announces it will not permit any commercial air flights between USSR and Israel, concerned that Soviet Jews are being resettled in O.T. [WP 2/23].

Israeli troops confine some 250,000 W. Bank Palestinians to their homes to counter call for unrest on DFLP’s 21st anniversary [HAA 2/23 in FBIS 2/23; MET 3/6-12].

Israeli warplanes bomb military camps east of Sidon, wounding at least 3 [JDS 2/22 in FBIS 2/23; MET 3/6-12].
23 February

Meeting with Moshe Arens, Sec. Baker says it is time for Israel to accept his compromise formula for opening talks between Israelis and Palestinians [NYT, WP, LAT 2/24].

In letter to Jerusalem’s International Center for Peace in the Middle East, Yasir Arafat writes PLO has “once more leaned over backward and approves the idea of a dialogue between representatives of the Israeli government and representatives of the Palestinian people” [NYT 2/23; LAT 2/24]; message also states emigrating Jews should be allowed to choose their destination, providing they do not displace another people [JTS 2/23, HAA 2/25 in FBIS 2/26].

Unnamed Capitol Hill sources say USSR’s decision to bar direct commercial flights to Israel may spark congressional effort to maintain U.S.-Soviet trade restrictions [WP 2/24].

W. Bank Civil Admin. recently issued new regulation forbidding camp residents to build two or more stories on any house among first 3 rows adjacent to main Israeli highways. Several injunctions banning construction are issued, including one halting UNRWA’s $250,000 community center in Duhayshah [HAA 2/23 in FBIS 2/23].

Israeli jets bomb PFLP base in Kfar Jara, S. Lebanon; no injuries [JDS 2/23 in FBIS 2/23; MET 3/6-12].

24 February

Arab Cooperation Council in Amman concludes 2-day meeting [ATS 2/24 in FBIS 2/28].

25 February

Chrmn. Arafat arrives in Baghdad on official visit; will meet with Pres. Saddam Hussein [BVP 2/25 in FBIS 2/27].

PLO envoy Hakam Balawi meets with U.S. ambassador to Tunisia Robert Pelletreau [TDS 2/26 in FBIS 2/28].

General strike called for by Hamas is observed in O.T. [HAD 2/26 in FBIS 2/27].

Israeli Employment Services tells representatives of UN International Labor Organization (ILO) that unemployment in O.T. is 4.5% compared to 9% inside green line [MAA 2/26 in FBIS 2/27].

26 February

Israeli F.M. Moshe Arens arrives in Warsaw to renew diplomatic ties with Poland; Polish govt. newspaper issues detailed apology for past anti-Semitic acts [WP 2/27].

In Jerusalem, Shimon Peres has told Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations that U.S. Sec. of State Baker’s proposals for negotiations are acceptable to most of Israeli public [IDF 2/26 in FBIS 2/27].

PLO leaders have authorized Radwan Abu-‘Ayyash, chrmn. of E. Jerusalem Journalists Association, to begin exploratory talks with State Dep’t. officials John Kelly and Dennis Ross in Washington [MAA 2/26 in FBIS 2/26].

Israeli Arabs stage one-day strike pressing gov’t. to put into place agreement to write off $50 million of debt accumulated by Arab town and city councils. About 4,000 Arabs march through Haifa in protest [NYT 2/27].

Israeli military authorities allow 16 community colleges in O.T. to reopen (combined enrollment of c.5,000) [NYT, WP, LAT 2/27].

At least 91 Palestinians are injured by IDF gunfire in one of the most violent days ever in Gaza Strip [NYT 2/26; LAT 2/27]; Israeli helicopter is used to tear gas demonstrators [JDS 2/26 in FBIS 2/27].
27 February

Poland becomes 3d Warsaw Pact nation to renew full diplomatic ties with Israel, ending 23-year break [NYT 2/28].

D.M. Rabin says Israel is asking U.S. for compensation for U.S. supplying Egypt with surplus M-60 tanks [JDS 2/27 in FBIS 2/28].

Radan Abu-'Ayyash, head of E. Jerusalem Journalists Association, tells reporters that “according to new PLO strategy, the Palestinian right of return will be confined to the borders of the Palestinian state—the West Bank and Gaza Strip” [HAM 2/27 in FBIS 2/28].

PFLP in Damascus announces use of arms in O.T. has now become necessary [RMC 2/27 in FBIS 2/28].

Israeli military extends by 3 months closure order for 7 O.T. universities, now closed until end of May [WP 2/28; JDS 2/27 in FBIS 2/28; MET 3/13-19]; prompts student sit-ins throughout O.T. [NYT 2/28; HAA 2/28 in FBIS 3/1].

In a speech in Lusaka, Zambia, Nelson Mandela says that Yasir Arafat, who is in attendance, is fighting “a unique form of colonialism and we wish him success in his struggle” [NYT, LAT 2/28].

28 February

Polish officials will comply with F.M. Arens's request for Poland to serve as transit point for emigrating Soviet Jews [MAA 2/28 in FBIS 3/1].

February poll conducted by Mod'i'in Ezrati Research Institute indicates 60% of surveyed Israelis are in favor of settling new immigrants in O.T. [HAD 2/28 in FBIS 3/1].

P.M. Shamir, speaking before Presidents of American Jewish Organizations in Jerusalem, says if Israel were to leave O.T. “a Beirut-like situation” would develop [IGP 2/28 in FBIS 3/2].

Led by economics minister Yitzhak Modai, 5 Likud Knesset members announce the formation of opposition party, “The Party for the Promotion of the Zionist Idea” [NYT 3/1; JDS 2/28 in FBIS 3/1].

Yasir Arafat meets with Nelson Mandela in Lusaka; the two note they are fighting common struggle against imperialism and racism [SVP 3/1 in FBIS 3/2].

W. Bank Civil Admin. allows 3 religious colleges/seminaries to reopen [JDS 2/28 in FBIS 2/28].

Arabs in E. Jerusalem and Gaza Strip hold general strike to protest Israel's continued closure of Palestinian universities [MET 3/13-19].

1 March


Sec. Baker indicates Bush admin. would back $400 million loan guarantee program for housing Soviet Jews in Israel only if Israel stopped settlements in O.T.; also says he favors cuts in U.S. aid to Israel, Egypt, other major recipients in order to provide money for emerging democracies [NYT, WP, WT 3/2; NYT 3/3].

Pres. Bush denies U.S. is holding direct or indirect talks with Iran or Syria about release of American hostages in Middle East [WP, WT 3/2].

Appearing before House Foreign Affairs Committee, Defense Sec. Richard Cheney defends plan to give Egypt 700 surplus U.S. tanks made obsolete by reduction of European forces, says Israel was consulted and did not object [WT 3/2].

Arab diplomatic sources say ACC leaders have agreed Egypt, Iraq, and Yemen
Arab Republic will intervene militarily in event of Israeli military threat to Jordan [WFD 3/1 in FBIS 3/8].

British Foreign Sec. Douglas Hurd meets with PLO advisor Bassam Abu Sharif in London; Hurd reiterates Britain’s objection to settling immigrants in O.T. [WAKH 3/2 in FBIS 3/2].

Speaking in Jerusalem, Shimon Peres reiterates it is not Israeli gov’t. policy to settle Soviet Jews in O.T. [JDS 3/2 in FBIS 3/2].

3 trade union groups in W. Bank end 9-year rift, merge into 1 group: General Federation of Trade Unions in the West Bank, headed by Shahar Saeed [MET 3/13-19].

Explosion detonated by “resistance fighters” kills 2 Israelis in S. Lebanon [BDS 3/1 in FBIS 3/2]; security sources report Israel has brought additional armored reinforcements in to its “security zone” in S. Lebanon [BNR 3/1 in FBIS 3/1].

2 March

Israeli military authorities issue order requiring all news organizations, foreign and domestic, to submit all reports on Soviet Jewish immigration to military censors [NYT 3/3; MET 3/13-19].

Responding to Baker’s 3/1 statement tying U.S. loans to Israeli halting of O.T. settlements, senior officials say remarks hardened an angry Shamir against Baker proposal. Many say Baker’s timing was terrible; one Labor leader says “I don’t see how Shamir can surrender to the Baker plan now. His own people would kill him” [NYT 3/31].

Israel announces it will renew diplomatic ties with Bulgaria when Moshe Arens visits Sofia in the near future [NYT 3/3].

3 March

In California, Pres. Bush states “My position is that the foreign policy of the United States says we do not believe there should be new settlements in the West Bank or in East Jerusalem” [WP 3/6].

Shamir discusses Mideast peace process with Likud ministers amid reports he has decided to support U.S.-backed plan to convene Israeli-Palestinian talks in Cairo [WP 3/4].

Israel is requesting more than $1 billion in loans, gifts, and donations from American Jews and U.S. gov’t. to help pay for resettling Soviet Jews [NYT 3/3].

Hamas has sent letter to Chrmn. Arafat and PLO leadership, stating Palestinian state is objective of intifada; Hamas also urged PLO to discontinue contacts with U.S. [BAY 3/3 in FBIS 3/5].

King Hussein spends day in Iraq holding talks with Pres. Saddam Hussein [ADS, ATS 3/3 in FBIS 3/5].

4 March

Responding to Pres. Bush’s 3/3 comment, Shamir tells Jewish fund-raisers “There are no settlements in Jerusalem. It is part of Israel and it will never be divided again” [JDS 3/5 in FBIS 3/5; WP 3/6].

February is first month of intifada in which more Palestinians are killed by fellow Palestinians than by Israelis [WP 3/4].

Leading members of Likud, including David Levy and Moshe Katsav, speak out against modified U.S. proposal for peace talks between Israel and Palestinians; Levy threatens to resign if Cabinet agrees to offer [NYT 3/5].

Iranian envoy Mahmoud Hashemi meets in Damascus with Syrian for. min. Farouk Charaa to discuss efforts to free Western hostages held in Lebanon [WP 3/5].
5 March

U.S.-Israel settlement dispute appears to escalate as P.M. Shamir insists that new Jewish neighborhoods in E. Jerusalem would be expanded with "as many Soviet Jewish immigrants as possible" [WP 3/6].

UNLU issues leaflet no. 53, entitled "the women's call"; JDS reports leaflet does not break any new ground [JDS 3/6 in FBIS 3/6].

PLO delivers note to Washington, saying it rejects Israeli attempts to ignore issue of E. Jerusalem in any Palestinian-Israeli dialogue [NAH 3/5 in FBIS 3/7].

Pres. Bush meets with Seymour Reich, pres. of the Conference of Presidents of American Jewish Organizations; admin. officials say Bush "reiterated that U.S. policy toward Jerusalem is unchanged." Reich says Bush told him connection of E. Jerusalem to W. Bank may have been "unfortunate linkage" [WP, LAT 3/6].

In op-ed piece in New York Times, Ariel Sharon explains he resigned from Israeli government because current peace efforts "reward the Palestinians for their terrorism and increase the risks of war" [NYT 3/5].

6 March

After internal debate, Likud party says Labor must agree to "basic and essential" issues before Israeli-Palestinian negotiations can proceed: (1) E. Jerusalem Arabs be excluded from talks and (2) Israel reserves the right to walk out of sessions if it believes PLO is trying to control or direct discussions [NYT, WP, WT 3/6]; Labor rejects these terms [NYT 3/7].

U.S.-PLO dialogue continues in Tunis, where Hakam Balawi meets with Robert Pelletreau [BVP 3/7 in FBIS 3/9].

In op-ed piece to Washington Post former Sec. of State George Shultz writes "some form of confederation between Israel, the Palestinians, Jordan, and perhaps Egypt seems as necessary as it is inevitable" [WP 3/6].

Quoting "regional officials and experts," New York Times reports changes sweeping E. Europe represent major strategic setback for Palestinians and other Arabs [NYT 3/6].

Arub Academy, a 2-year teachers' college in W. Bank, is reopened by Israeli army [WP 3/7].

7 March

Israel's Cabinet opens debate on U.S.-backed formula for Israeli-Palestinian talks, but puts off any decision until 3/11 to allow for behind-the-scenes bargaining between Likud and Labor [NYT, WP, LAT, WT 3/8].

About 2,000 right-wing Israelis demonstrate in Jerusalem's Menora Square calling on P.M. Shamir to reject Sec. Baker's 5-point proposal [JDS 3/7 in FBIS 3/8].

Survey of 1,006 Israelis conducted for Israel-Diaspora Institute shows more than half believe army, when investigating Palestinian activities, should be allowed to use tactics that would be illegal if used against Jews. More than half also say they believe press should be prohibited from writing about or photographing mistreatment of Arabs by soldiers [NYT 3/8].

Examination of E. Jerusalem newspapers Al-Sha'b and Al-Bayad Al-Siyasi by Israeli human rights group BTselem reveals Israeli military censor has partially or fully banned more than 1/3 of items presented [HAA 3/7 in FBIS 3/8].

Washington Post reports recent stands by Bush admin., in particular Baker's 3/1 statement tying U.S. loans with Israel stopping O.T. settlement, having increased Washington's standing with Palestinians. Unnamed PLO advisor is
quoted as saying PLO has "really felt the sincerity of the U.S. position" [WP 3/8].

In Paris for meetings with Pres. François Mitterrand, King Hussein expresses dissatisfaction with Israeli and PLO "intransigence" [JDS 3/7 in FBIS 3/7].

8 March

Israeli housing minister David Levy calls for building 2,000 new W. Bank apartments this year to house Jewish immigrants (cf. 3/12) [WT 3/9].

Ruth Kaminker of Jerusalem's City Planning Board says city govt. has plans to build new Jewish neighborhood in Mount Homa area of E. Jerusalem, despite U.S. opposition [WT 3/9].

In interview with Le Figaro, King Hussein blames U.S. for helping facilitate Soviet Jewish emigration to Israel [ADS 3/8 in FBIS 3/9].

Pres. Asad denounces political changes in E. Europe as beneficial to Israel [NYT, WP 3/9]; says U.S. is encouraging Soviet Jewish emigration, pledges to continue war against Israel "for as long as time" (cf. 3/9) [LAT 3/10].

Attacking what he calls Arafat's "strategy of compromise," PFLP leader George Habash calls for "mobilizing all our energies" to foil proposed Israeli-Palestinian negotiations [NYT 3/9].

Hamas issues statement explaining it does not intend to join national leadership in O.T., nor any Palestinian-Israeli dialogue; says it is not part of PLO, therefore PNC resolutions are not binding on Hamas [JTS 3/8 in FBIS 3/12].

PLO advisor Nabil Sha'ath says it is important the U.S.-PLO dialogue continue, and that PLO keep all channels open [RAY 3/9 in FBIS 3/9].

Pentagon officials say U.S. will sell to Israel (at a cost of over $200 million) sophisticated new weapons system capable of shooting down tactical ballistic missiles [LAT 3/9].

Israeli forces outside self-imposed "security zone" in S. Lebanon shoot dead 5 Arabs, allegedly members of Hizballah [IDF 3/8 in FBIS 3/8; NYT, LAT 3/9].

9 March

Confirming 3/8 statements by Davy Levy and Ruth Kaminker, Israeli housing ministry announces construction of 4,000 apartments for Soviet Jews; 2,000 for W. Bank, 2,000 for E. Jerusalem [LAT 3/10].

PLO Exec. Committee member Mahmud Abbas reports Palestinian command has agreed to stop making public statements about Middle East peace efforts at this time, due to political turmoil in Israel [ITT 3/9 in FBIS 3/13].

U.S. denounces as "belligerent rhetoric" Pres. Asad's 3/8 statements pledging to continue war against Israel, states Asad should be "committing himself to peace, not war" [LAT 3/10].

Palestinians in O.T. observe general strike to mark start of 28th month of intifada [LAT 3/10].

In an unusually deep foray into Lebanon, Israeli warplanes bomb PLFP-GC bases north of Beirut killing 1, wounding 2 others [IDF, BDS 3/9 in FBIS 3/9; MET 3/20-26].

10 March

About 500 Palestinian and Israeli women march in Jerusalem to call for negotiations between Israel and Palestinians [WP 3/11; FJ 3/19].

Jerusalem mayor Teddy Kollek says current govt. crisis was brought on by Pres. Bush's 3/3 statement against E. Jerusalem settlements [NYT 3/11].

Arab League opens 93d ordinary session in Tunis; meeting is chaired by
State of Palestine [TDS 3/9 in FBIS 3/12].

11 March

Israeli Cabinet fails to agree on whether to accept U.S. proposal for Israeli-Palestinian talks, Labor party leaders set stage for possible collapse of coalition by deciding to ask its Central Committee to authorize “whatever steps are necessary to advance the peace process” [NYT, WP, LAT, WT 3/12; JDS 3/11 in FBIS 3/12].

King Hussein meets in London with P.M. Margaret Thatcher to discuss Middle East situation, particularly Soviet Jewish emigration [ADS 3/11 in FBIS 3/12].

Arab League foreign ministers in Tunis agree in principle to return Arab League headquarters to Cairo after 11-year absence (cf. 3/15) [NYT, WP, LAT 3/12; MENA 3/11 in FBIS 3/12].

12 March


Arab League Council in Tunis calls for holding Arab summit as soon as possible to discuss immigration of Soviet Jews to Israel [SPA 3/12 in FBIS 3/14].

Regarding 3/8 comment by Israeli housing minister David Levy, Soviet for. min. information head G. Gerasimov says “certain circles in Israel are blatantly setting out to violate the norms of international law, and are intentionally erecting obstacles to a peaceful settlement,” and USSR “condemns these lawless actions” (TASS 3/12).

13 March

Largely due to inability to agree on U.S. plan for Israeli-Palestinian talks, Israeli gov't. coalition collapses. P.M. Shamir fires deputy P.M. Peres; other Labor ministers resign. Vote of confidence is scheduled for 3/15 [IDF 3/13 in FBIS 3/13; NYT, WP, WT, LAT 3/14].

At press conference, Pres. Bush says “I don’t regret” 3/3 statement calling into question Israeli settlements in E. Jerusalem; states speculations and commentary “having blown things way out of proportion” [WP 3/13].

14 March

Jerusalem mayor Teddy Kollek says he received letter dated 3/13 from Pres. Bush reading Jerusalem “must never again be a divided city” [LAT 3/15].

Jimmy Carter arrives in Damascus for talks as part of his effort to gain the release of Western hostages in Lebanon [WP 3/15].

Clashes occur between Hizballah and Israeli forces in S. Lebanon, no further details [BVL 3/14 in FBIS 3/14].

15 March

Prime Minister Shamir loses vote of confidence 60-55, ending his Likud-led coalition gov't. He remains interim P.M. until new gov't. is formed [JDS 3/15 in FBIS 3/16; NYT, WP, WT, LAT 3/16].

Islamic Jihad for the Liberation of Palestine group threatens to attack airports and airlines to stop emigration of Soviet Jews to Israel [WT 3/16].

By request of USSR, UN Security Council begins discussion of Israel's alleged settling of Soviet Jewish emigrants in O.T. [TASS 3/15].

Decision to move Arab League headquarters from Tunis to Cario is postponed due to opposition from Faruq Qaddumi, chrmn. of current Arab League session [WAT 3/15 in FBIS 3/19].

Fateh Revolutionary Council opens session under leadership of Arafat (cf. 3/18) [SVP 3/21 in FBIS 3/23].
16 March

Two small religious parties, Shas and Agudat Israel, suggest they would not join Lidud-led coalition as long as Shamir is party leader [NYT 3/17]; Los Angeles Times reports growing pressure on Shamir to resign [LAT 3/17].

Senate Democratic Leader George J. Mitchell (D-ME) sharply attacks Pres. Bush for “heavy-handed blunder,” that “contributed to the recent political crisis in Israel.” Mitchell is referring to Bush’s 3/3 statement [LAT 3/17].

In letter dated 3/16 from Sec. Baker to Rep. Mel Levine (D-CA), Baker softens U.S. stand on Israeli settlements in E. Jerusalem, writing “Clearly, Jews and others can live where they want, East or West, and the city must remain undivided” [NYT 3/13].

Arafat meets in Tunis with Israeli peace activist Abie Nathan, who spent 4 months in prison for previous meeting with Arafat [BVP 3/17 in FBIS 3/20].

Jimmy Carter arrives in Jordan from Syria for talks about Middle East [MET 3/27-4/2].

In London, King Hussein meets with PLO advisor Bassam Abu Sharif [WAKH 3/16 in FBIS 3/19].

Israeli military reports killing 3 Palestinians, allegedly DFLP members, inside Israel’s “security zone” in S. Lebanon [MET 3/27-4/2].

17 March

Pres. Bush and Pres. Mubarak hold telephone conversation to discuss Middle East events and ways to advance the peace process [MENA 3/17 in FBIS 3/20].

Islamic Conference Organization (ICO) opens 2-day meeting in Jeddah to discuss Soviet Jewish emigration into O.T. [SPA 4/19 in FBIS 4/20].

18 March

Jimmy Carter arrives in Jerusalem after visits to Syria and Jordan; says Pres. Asad is willing to enter into peace talks with Israel at international conference [NYT, WP 3/19].

Iran’s First Dep. For. Min., Mohammed Ali Besharati, says chances for freedom for Western hostages in Lebanon have never been brighter, predicts they will be freed within 10 months [NYT 3/19].

General strike called for by Hamas is observed in W. Bank, E. Jerusalem; masked Palestinians wielding axes and knives enforce strike in Hebron [NYT 3/19].

Fateh Revolutionary Council closes extraordinary and ordinary sessions [SVP 3/21 in FBIS 3/23].

19 March

U.S. State Dep’t. sends to Congress report crediting Arafat and PLO with adhering to commitment to renounce terrorism (cf. 3/20) [NYT, WT 3/21].

IDF has increased fines for stonethrowing: 1,500 to 3,000 NIS fines are imposed as jail sentences proved ineffective deterrent [YA 3/19 in FBIS 3/19].

Jimmy Carter meets with delegation of 13 prominent Palestinians in Jerusalem, including Faisal Husayni, Sari Nusaybeh, and Hanna Sinyurah [JDS 3/19 in FBIS 3/20].

20 March


Israeli gov’t. press office head Yosi Olmert says 3/19 U.S. State Dep’t report to Congress is “not relevant to reality” and that PLO continues to engage in terrorism [IGP 3/21 in FBIS 3/21].
IDF will interrupt new recruits’ basic training to send them to O.T. for short tours of duty, beginning at end of March [JPD 3/20 in FBIS 3/20].

Jimmy Carter cancels visit to Tunis as Arafat is in Namibia [RMC 3/20 in FBIS 3/21].

General strike called for by UNLU is observed in O.T. [JDS 3/20 in FBIS 3/20].

21 March

Asked 3/20 to form gov’t. Labor leader Peres asks interim P.M. Shamir if Likud would be interested in joining Labor-led gov’t.; Shamir’s reply is unequivocal “no” [NYT 3/22].

Palestinian farmers in Gaza Strip say Israel has begun restricting sales of their vegetables to W. Bank [MET 4/3-9].

Hungarian commercial airline Malev suspends direct and charter flights of Soviet Jews to Israel due to threats from Islamic Jihad (cf. 3/23, 3/28, 4/1) [NYT, WP 3/22].

Namibia and the State of Palestine agree to formalize diplomatic relations, exchange ambassadors [MENA 3/21 in FBIS 3/22].

22 March

U.S. Senate adopts by voice vote resolution recognizing undivided Jerusalem as capital of Israel [NYT, WP 2/23; LAT 4/20].

Arafat says PLO has asked USSR to adopt specific measures to slow immigration of Soviet Jews to Israel; USSR announces Aeroflot will no longer issue tickets to Soviet Jews planning to emigrate to Israel via Hungary [NYT 3/24].


Pres. Bush rejects criticism that his 3/3 statement opposing E. Jerusalem settlements led to collapse of Israeli gov’t.; says he was “simply reiterating a standing United States policy” [WT 3/23].

Announcing his intent to “show how Israel PAC money is like the S&L influence scandal, only worse,” Arab American Institute Director James Zogby says his organization will publicly monitor pro-Israel lobby’s financial contributions to members of Congress; AAI releases initial report [WT 3/23].

23 March

Israeli officials protest Hungary’s 3/21 decision to suspend charter flights from Budapest to Israel because of terrorist threats; deputy F.M. Netanyahu calls act “surrender to pressure by the threats of Arab terror” [LAT 3/24].

Palestine Red Crescent Society has drawn up Palestinian health plan costing more than $50 million. Plan relies on funding from WHO and other relief agencies [MET 4/3-9].

24 March

New York Times reports Shimon Peres has made no visible progress toward securing majority of Knesset votes needed to form gov’t. [NYT 3/25].

Faisal Husayni says positive Israeli response to Baker proposals would lead to change in intifada methods used by Palestinians [JDS 3/25 in FBIS 3/26].

Pres. Asad and Pres. Mubarak meet in Libya; first meeting since their countries restored diplomatic ties in December [WP 3/25; DDS 2/25 in FBIS 4/3].

China and Israel have exchanged unofficial liaison offices to coordinate growing contacts, but diplomats says it is very
unlikely China would recognize Israel soon [NYT 3/25].

25 March

In light of Malev airlines halting flights to Israel, the Israeli gov't. has established contacts with Soviet authorities to discuss possibility of Soviet Jews travelling to Israel via ship [MET 4/3-9]

Senior Polish officials say Poland will not restrict Soviet Jews travelling through its land and will allow new charter flights to Israel, despite Arab gov't. pressure and terrorist threats [WP 3/26]

26 March

Eliezer Schach, elderly rabbi with influence over Shas and Torah Flag religious parties, delivers speech disapproving of Israel as secular state; his criticism of Likud and Labor could prolong gov't. crisis [NYT 3/27; WP 3/28]

Israeli gov't. officials express satisfaction with 3/22 U.S. Senate resolution [JDP 3/26 in FBIS 3/26]

Syria and Jordan sign agreement to promote tourism between the 2 nations [MET 4/10-16]

In Tunis, Arab League Council conducts emergency meeting at request of Iraq; strongly condemns 3/22 U.S. Senate resolution [TDS, RDS 3/26 in FBIS 3/27]

Czechoslovakia's airline CSA and El Al agree to provide 2 fights a week, 1 by each carrier, between the nations beginning this summer [JDP 3/27 in FBIS 3/27]

27 March

UNLU issues call no. 54, "call of martyrs" [BVP 3/27 in FBIS 3/27]

Israeli Knesset adopts resolution saying united Jerusalem is under Israeli sovereignty and there will be no negotiations on its unity and status; vote is 45-4 [JDS 3/28 in FBIS 3/28; TASS 3/29]

Israeli forces in S. Lebanon are seeking to change the border markers between Israel's "security zone" and Lebanon, enlarging the zone [BDS 3/27 in FBIS 3/27]

Jimmy Carter says that Syrian Pres. Asad is ready to acknowledge Israel's existence and to engage in peace negotiations with Jerusalem [LAT 3/28]

Hungarian airline Malev suspends flights to Beirut in retaliation for threats to attack planes carrying Soviet Jews to Israel; threats that originated in Lebanon [MET 4/10-16]

American lay missionary William Robinson is shot, killed by intruders in his home in Rachaiya el Foukhar, Lebanon, just inside Israel's "security zone." (cf. 3/28) [NYT, WP, LAT 3/29; MET 4/10-16]

Israeli gov't. lifts ban on amateur radio operators' contracts with Arab counterparts; previously Israeli radio operators could only speak with Egyptians [JPD 3/28 in FBIS 3/29]

Israeli army lifts ban on Palestine Press Service, Jerusalem organization that was ordered closed 2 years ago [NYT 3/29]

28 March

Likud and Labor accuse each other of trying to bribe rabbis from small religious parties who control deciding votes in attempts to form gov't. [WT 3/29]

Customs officials in London discover 40 American-made trigger devices for nuclear weapons that were being smuggled into Iraq [NYT, WP, LAT, WT 3/29]; U.S. intelligence sources report Baghdad is installing Soviet-built medium-range ballistic missiles [WT 3/29]

Yasir Arafat meets with Nobel laureate Mother Teresa in Calcutta, India. Mother Teresa says she will try to visit Je-
Jews ing. Arabs Gaza; with loan, $400 approves Jerusalem Galilee are Israeli debate 3/30.

Hammara" 3/30. 

29 March

Western nations join UN Sec. Council debate on flow of Soviet Jews to Israel, with both Britain and France saying Israeli settlements in O.T. and E. Jerusalem are illegal [WT 3/30].

Israeli authorities impose curfew on Gaza; order special precautions in W. Bank and Arab areas in Israeli in hopes of forestalling violence on the anniversary of 1976 Land Day, when a number of Israeli Arabs protesting land expropriation in Galilee were shot by IDF [WP, WT 3/30].

Israeli col. Yehuda Meir pleads not guilty in military court to brutality charges, saying he was following orders. He is accused of ordering his men "to systematically break the bones of 20 Palestinians from the villages of Beita and Hammara" in W. Bank [WT 3/30].

30 March

Thousands of Palestinians and Israeli Arabs hold protest marches in rallies marking 14th anniversary of Land Day; strike is observed in O.T. and Arab villages in Israel; about 10,000 Israeli Arabs attend main rally in Arraba; police in Taibeh use tear gas to disperse stone throwers [NYT 3/31].

Displeased with current politicking, Pres. Chaim Herzog says in monthly radio address "In the light of present political events, I once again publicly express my opinion on the urgent need for change in the electoral system" [LAT 3/31].

IDF issues new guidelines on firing plastic bullets; only company commanders with telescopic sights and soldiers given special training are allowed to shoot plastic bullets [JDS 3/30 in FBIS 3/30].

Poll of 506 Moscovites, conducted by Institute of Sociology of the Soviet Academy of Sciences, finds 48% believe anti-Jewish feeling in on the rise in USSR [NYT 3/30].

31 March

Unidentified senior Israeli official says number of Soviet Jews emigrating to Israel has shown "a slight decrease" for first time since latest wave of emigration began last year [NYT 4/1].

1 April

Hungarian airline Malev resumes direct flights for Soviet Jews from Budapest to Tel Aviv [WP 4/2].

Estimated 120,000 people demonstrate outside UN in New York in support of Soviet Jewish emigration, call for direct flights from Moscow to Tel Aviv [WT 4/2].

Israeli Tourism Ministry reports 1,425,000 people visited Israel in 1989, an increase of 9.7% over 1988 [MET 4/10-16].

PLO has rebuilt its military strength in Lebanon to 11,000 troops, more than the 8,000 who were forced out by 1982 Israeli invasion [NYT 4/2].
2 April

Caretaker P.M. Shamir has set in motion plans quickly to begin construction of 5 more settlements in O.T. Labor MK Avraham Burg says “part of [Shamir’s] plan is to kill the peace process” [WT 4/2]. Responding to Shamir’s plans, U.S. State Dep’t. spokesperson says “It’s disturbing that an Israeli leadership which was unable to move forward on peace seems ready to move forward on new settlements” [LAT, WT 4/3].

Washington-based National Conference on Soviet Jewry reports that 7,280 Soviet Jews emigrated to Israel during March. The figure is confirmed by Israeli immigration officials [NYT 4/3].

Rabbi Meir Kahane goes on trial on charges of sedition for calling Arabs at rally last year “cancer spreading in our midst” [WT 4/3].

Pres. Saddam Hussein says in speech to his armed forces Iraq would use its stockpile of nerve gases against any aggressor, especially Israel. Hussein says if West was trying to “give Israel a cover in order to strike at some [Iraqi] industrial metalworks, by God we will make fire eat up half of Israel if it tried to strike against Iraq” [NYT, WP, LAT, WT 4/3].

3 April

Israel launches Earth-orbit satellite 1 day after Iraq’s leader warned he would use chemical weapons against Israel. Labor party leader Peres says satellite should tell Saddam Hussein “that if he wants to deal with Israel, he should look for means other than the military one” [NYT, WP, LAT, WT 4/4; JDS, IDF 4/3 in FBIS 4/4].

Israeli human rights organization "In the Image" reports IDF soldiers killed fewer Palestinians in first quarter of 1990 than in any 3-month period since intifada began. 30 Palestinians were killed by IDF; 35 Palestinians were killed by fellow Palestinians over the same period, according to group [NYT 4/4].

Saddam Hussein’s 4/2 statement angers Pres. Bush, who says “This is no time to be talking about using chemical or biological weapons. This is no time to be escalating tensions in the Middle East” [LAT 4/4].

4 April

Shimon Peres tells reporters he has majority of votes in Knesset, enough to form new gov’t. [NYT, WP, WT, LAT 4/5, CSM 4/6].


Israeli helicopter gunships attack Rashidiyeh camp in S. Lebanon, at least 5 are wounded [MET 4/17-23].

Feuding between activists from PFLP and Fateh injures 8 Palestinians in W. Bank village of Awarta [MET 4/17-23].

Iraq’s F.M. Tareq Aziz tells Arab ministers meeting in Amman that Iraq will destroy its chemical weapons if Israel does same and signs 1968 nuclear non-proliferation treaty [WT 4/5].

Libyan leader Qadhafi tells Tripoli Radio foreign hostages and prisoners of conscience should be freed to mark beginning of Ramadan [LAT 4/5].

5 April

Dov Shilansky, speaker of Knesset, announces legislature will convene on 4/11 to vote on gov’t. put together by Shimon Peres [WT 4/6].

PLO Chrmn. Arafat says he has asked Arab Knesset members to back Labor leader Shimon Peres in his effort to form gov’t. [LAT 4/6].

Arab League Council hold emergency session in Tunis [INA 4/5 in FBIS 4/6].
Foreign ministers of Iraq, Egypt, Jordan, Yemen, and Syria call for ban on nuclear and chemical weapons in Middle East, urge Western pressure on Israel to comply [LAT 4/6].

6 April

In Washington, Soviet F.M. Eduard Shevardnadze says USSR is prepared to operate direct flights from Moscow to Tel Aviv if Israel will “give us assurances that people will not settle in occupied territories.” White House spokesperson Marlin Fitzwater agrees Israel should give such assurances, adding “We oppose settlements in the occupied territories” [LAT 4/7].

Responding to appeal by Libyan leader Qadhafi, spokesperson for Abu Nidal’s Revolutionary Council says the group will release 3 European hostages in next few days (cf. 4/7, 4/10) [NYT, LAT 4/7].

After Vatican meeting with Pope John Paul II, Arafat tells reporters that D.M. Rabin and P.M. Shamir have sent emissaries with messages to Pope [NYT, LAT 4/7].

7 April

Yasir Arafat arrives in Morocco to attend meeting on status of Jerusalem hosted by Islamic Conference Organization. King Hassan of Morocco called meeting of Jerusalem Committee to discuss Soviet Jewish emigration to Israel (cf. 4/8) [RDS 4/7 in FBIS 4/10; MET 4/17-23].

Representatives of PLO factions meet in Amman to discuss potential reorganizing of PNC [JTE 4/8 in FBIS 4/11].

As many as 100,000 Israelis demonstrate in Tel Aviv to demand change in national electoral system following deal-making and backroom politics employed by party leaders trying to form new gov’t. [WP 4/8].

Abu Nidal’s Fateh Revolutionary Council, which on 4/6 announced its intention to release 3 Western hostages, calls for release of 2 Swiss Red Cross workers who were kidnapped in Sidon on 10/6 (cf. 4/10) [NYT 4/8].

8 April

Jerusalem Committee in Morocco statement is made public, condemns Soviet Jewish settlement in O.T., U.S. Senate 3/22 resolution [SPA 4/8 in FBIS 4/10].

U.S. Senators Dole (R-KS), Simpson (R-WY), McClure (R-ID), Murkowski (R-AK), Grassley (R-IA), and Metzenbaum (D-OH) arrive in Damascus [SANA 4/8 in FBIS 4/10].

9 April

Israel’s Jewish Agency reports that during FY ending 3/31, only 175 of immigrants who were not sent to absorption centers settled beyond green line; also adds some 1,800 immigrants had settled in Jerusalem. JDS adds 41,500 total immigrants arrived during FY; 23,019 did not go to absorption centers, but looked after themselves [HAA, JDS 4/9 in FBIS 4/10].

Washington Times, citing unnamed defense sources, reports Israel is “reasonably close” to first test flight of experimental interceptor that could strike down incoming ballistic missiles; but deployment of these Arrow interceptors is at least 5 years away [WT 4/9].

New York Times reports Shimon Peres seems assured of 61 Knesset votes, majority needed to form new gov’t. [NYT 4/11].

Syria’s Pres. Assad receives Senator Bob Dole; says he wants better relations with U.S. and peaceful settlement to Arab-Israeli conflict [NYT, WT 4/10; DDS 4/9 in FBIS 4/10].
Representatives of Abu Nidal’s Fateh Revolutionary Council begin talks in Beirut with Belgian delegation on exchanging Palestinian jailed in Brussels for 4 Belgians held captive since 1987 [NYT 4/10].

Elias Freij, Bethlehem’s mayor, meets in Washington with Sec. of State Baker, discuss opposition to O.T. settlements [JDS 4/10 in FBIS 4/10].

Dahaf organization publishes poll that finds 80% of those Israelis surveyed want to change current electoral system, 78% want to directly elect P.M. [YA 4/9 in FBIS 4/10].

10 April

Shimon Peres says he wants to serve as both prime minister and foreign minister in proposed coalition gov’t. [LAT 4/11].

Abu Nidal’s Fateh Revolutionary Council releases French woman, her Belgian companion, and their 2-year-old daughter after holding them hostage since November 1987 (cf. 4/16) [NYT, WP, LAT, WT 4/11].

11 April

Shimon Peres is forced to withdraw his bid to form new Israeli gov’t. as 2 Agudat Israel party members withdraw their support [LAT, WT 4/12]; he receives 15-day extension from Pres. Herzog [JDS 4/11 in FBIS 4/12].

150 Jewish settlers move into Hospice of St. John building belonging to Greek Orthodox Church in Jerusalem’s Christian quarter [JPD 4/12 in FBIS 4/13].

12 April

Jerusalem’s Greek Orthodox patriarch Diodorus I is overcome by tear gas as Israeli police disperse group of clergymen protesting Jewish nationals’ occupation of church building in Old City’s Christian quarter [WP, LAT, WT 4/13; JDS 4/12 in FBIS 4/13]; Jerusalem magistrate court issues evacuation order to settlers in church building [IDF 4/12 in FBIS 4/13].

PLO formally requests membership in World Health Organization. PLO made same request last year, was denied membership after U.S. delegation walked out in protest (cf. 4/23) [WP 4/13].


Arafat arrives in Czechoslovakia for state visit [NYT 4/13].

13 April

Cypriot police seal off Larnaca airport grounds in response to threat of attack by extremist groups against Aeroflot plane carrying Soviet Jews to Israel via Cyprus. Passengers are taken from plane and continue to Israel via ferry [TASS 4/13].

In television interview, Senator Bob Dole says he will work to repeal Senate’s 3/22 resolution recognizing Jerusalem as capital of Israel [LAT 4/14].

Israeli gunboat fires upon, reportedly sinks, dinghy carrying Palestinians off Lebanese coast [NYT, LAT 4/14].

14 April

U.S. Senate delegation, led by Bob Dole, meets with 10 Palestinian notables at the U.S. consulate in Jerusalem; Palestinians give Dole memo detailing Palestinian position on Jerusalem [JTS 4/14 in FBIS 4/16].

PLO urges UN to send special delegation to Jerusalem to monitor settlement; another message is sent to Pope John Paul II urging him to help end Jewish settlements in Jerusalem [BVP 4/14 in FBIS 4/19].
15 April

In Jerusalem, Senator Bob Dole urges Israel to move toward peace talks, says American support for Israel diminishes with every report of violence in O.T. [WT, LAT 4/16].

Israeli Peace Now group holds small demonstration in Jerusalem's Old City, protesting Jewish nationals' occupation of building owned by Greek Orthodox Church [NYT, LAT 4/16].

16 April

Faisal Husayni arrives "unexpectedly" in Moscow to attend symposium on Soviet Jewish emigration [TASS 4/17].

Skirmishes between Israeli and Egyptian forces occur after Israeli patrol crosses border claiming to pursue infiltrators; Egypt sends strongly-worded protest to Israel [JDS, RMC 4/18 in FBIS 4/19].

Le Monde reports 3 hostages freed on 4/10 by Fateh Revolutionary Council were originally kidnapped by Libyan navy in 1986, not by Abu Nidal's group in 1987 [WT 4/17].

17 April

Jerusalem District Court overturns lower court ruling, allows eviction of Jewish nationalists from Hospice of St. John (cf. 4/10) [WP, LAT, WT 4/18; NYT 4/19; JDS 4/17 in FBIS 4/18].

In Moscow, Faisal Husayni meets with Soviet F.M. officials to discuss Jewish emigration [YA 4/17 in FBIS 4/18].

Arafat arrives in Amman for official state visit [ADS 4/17 in FBIS 4/17].

Palestinians commemorate 2d anniversary of assassination of Abu Jihad [Kahil al-Wazir]; at least 30 Gazans are injured in marches [JDS 4/17 in FBIS 4/18].

Pres. Saddam Hussein says Iraqi military commanders have standing orders to attack Israel with chemical weapons in event Israel uses nuclear weapons against Iraq [LAT 4/18].

18 April

In Amman, Arafat and King Hussein revive Jordanian-Palestinian joint committees, 1 for politics, 1 for information [QUD 4/20 in FBIS 4/24].

Interim P.M. Shamir is hurriedly seeking to establish new Jewish settlements in O.T. before his gov't. leaves office [WP, LAT 4/19].

Bulldozers, guarded by Israeli soldiers, level orange grove in Gaza Strip for construction of new Dugit settlement. Soviet F.M. spokesperson says "some circles in Israel continue to deliberately raise obstacles to a peaceful settlement in the Middle East" [WT 4/19].

Islamic Jihad says it will release one of its 3 hostages "within 48 hours" as a "goodwill initiative"; group also calls for asst. sec. of state John Kelly to come to Damascus "to coordinate final measures" [WP, LAT, WT 4/19].

Egypt's F.M. Esmat Abdel Meguid says Egypt intends to press for ban on "weapons of mass destruction" in Middle East [WP 4/19].

19 April

Robert Dole tells his Senate colleagues they made "dangerous" mistake in passing resolution recognizing undivided Jerusalem as capital of Israel [LAT 4/20]; key House Republicans, including Minority Whip Newt Gingrich, criticize Dole for straying from the party's "unwavering commitment to Israel" [NYT, WT 4/20].

Former nat. sec. advisor Zbigniew Brzezinski endorses notion of cutting foreign aid to Israel and other top recipients, saying "It is simply an absurd situation in which one single country has
come to view American aid for itself to be a permanent entitlement" [WT 4/20].

PLO officials, Soviet Jewish organizations, and members of Jewish intelligen-
tisia meet in Moscow to discuss settling of Soviet Jews in O.T. [MTS 4/19 in FBIS 4/23].

Tear gas canister is thrown into Agudat Israel party meeting near Tel Aviv [LAT 4/20; JDS 4/19 in FBIS 4/20; WP 4/23]. Rabbi Avraham Verdiger, 1 of 2 party members who withdrew support for Shimon Peres at vote on 4/11, reverses his position, says he will support Peres in future vote [NYT, LAT, WT 4/20].

Islamic Jihad for the Liberation of Pal-
estine stalls release of American hostage, apparently due to U.S. refusal to send high-ranking diplomat to Syria to work out unspecified details [NYT, WP, LAT, WT 4/20].

Arafat arrives in Baghdad on state visit [BVP 4/19 in FBIS 4/20].

Israeli air force bombs PFLP-GC bases in S. Lebanon [JDS 4/19 in FBIS 4/19].

20 April

Israel's Supreme Court blocks atty. gen. eviction order of 150 Jewish settlers from former Hospice of St. John in the Christian quarter of Jerusalem's Old City [WP, LAT 4/21].

Los Angeles Times reports that rumors of dissension in top circles of PFLP-GC have been circulating for weeks in Syria; dissension revolves around group's reliance on Iranian funding [LAT 4/21].

In overnight attack, Israeli troops shoot, kill 6 Hizballah members in Israeli raid north of its "security zone" in S. Lebanon [NYT, WP 4/22].

22 April

After 2 weeks of denials, Israeli officials acknowledge that Shamir's caretaker gov't. was helping fund controversial oc-
cupation by Jewish nationalists of Hospice of St. John in Jerusalem's Christian quarter [NYT, WP, LAT, WT 4/23].

Iranian-backed Islamic Jihad for the Liberation of Palestine frees American edu-
cator Robert Pohill after 39 months in captivity [NYT, LAT 4/23]; New York Times reports Iran gave weapons and fi-
nancial assistance to Islamic Jihad to pers-
suade group to release Pohill [NYT, LAT 4/23]; Pres. Bush tells reporters he does not plan any gestures to respond to release of Pohill, says release of all hostages is "bottom line" for any reciprocal "good-
will" action [WP 4/23].

Israeli officials insist that 4/19, 4/20 air force raids on PFLP-GC and Hizballah bases in Lebanon have no impact on fate of American hostages, and dismiss as rhetoric warning that such attacks could endanger future hostage releases [WP 4/23].

PLO officially requests extraordinary Arab summit to discuss Soviet Jewish em-
igration (cf. 4/24) [TDS 4/23 in FBIS 4/24].

Meeting for the 3d time in 15 days, Hakam Balawi and Robert Pelletreau discuss latest developments as part of U.S.-PLO dialogue [WAFA 4/24 in FBIS 4/25].

23 April

Leaders of Christian churches in Israel and O.T. announce they will close all shrines for 1 day beginning at 9 A.M. on 4/27. The first-ever closure is to protest Israeli gov't. funding for Jewish settlers at Hospice of St. John [NYT, WT, LAT 4/24; FJ 4/30].

JTS reports 24,200 Soviet Jews have emigrated to Israel since start of 1990, JDS adds total number of immigrants is 28,740 [JTS, JDS 4/23 in FBIS 4/24].

Lebanese cleric Hussein Musawi and Iranian F.M. Ali Akbar Velayati suggest
second Western hostage will be released soon, but reiterate that 4/22 freeing of Robert Pohill should be met with similar "goodwill" response [WP 4/24].

U.S. mission UN in Geneva says U.S. will stop paying contributions to UN bodies that admit State of Palestine or upgrade PLO's status; statement comes 2 weeks before opening of World Health Organization's assembly, to which PLO has applied for full membership [WT 4/24].

U.S. State Dep't. sharply criticizes Israeli gov't. for financing Jewish nationalists' takeover of church-owned hospice in Jerusalem; calls move "an insensitive and provocative action" [WP 4/24].


24 April

Responding to international criticism about secret gov't. funding of Jewish settlement in Jerusalem, Israeli foreign ministry issues statement: "It is the right of Jews to live everywhere, and to purchase or rent property in all parts of the land of Israel, and especially in Jerusalem" [NYT 4/25].

UN spokesperson says Sec. Gen. Javier Perez de Cuellar is deeply concerned over presence of Jewish settlers in Christian quarter of Jerusalem, and disturbed over Israeli officials' financial involvement [WP 4/25].

Through an emissary to interim P.M. Shamir, AIPAC exec. dir. Thomas Dine questions timing of Jewish settlement in Christian quarter of Jerusalem, criticizes Israeli gov't.'s secret financing of move (cf. 4/25) [NYT, WT 4/25].

Gov't of Greece has shelved its plans to establish full diplomatic relations with Israel until all settlers are evacuated from Greek Orthodox St. John's Hospice in Jerusalem [JPD 4/24 in FBIS 4/25].

Peretz Kidron of Yesh Gvul organization says at least 108 IDF reservists have gone to prison for refusing to serve in O.T. [MET 5/8-14].

Group called Islamic Jihad—Jerusalem threatens to kill Americans worldwide unless U.S. Senate repeals 3/22 resolution calling Jerusalem the capital of Israel [NYT 4/25].

U.S. House of Representatives votes 378 to 34 in favor of a nonbinding resolution affirming support for united Jerusalem as capital of Israel. Resolution, identical to one passed by Senate on 3/22, conflicts with official U.S. policy [WP, WT 4/25; FJ 4/30].

Syria's first ambassador to Egypt in 13 years, Isa Darwish, presents his credentials to Pres. Mubarak [MET 5/8-14].

Eight Arab states, including the State of Palestine, have agreed to Arab summit in Baghdad in late May (cf. 5/1) [KUNA 4/24 in FBIS 4/25].

Officials from PLO and Japan meet within framework of agreement reached last October, PLO to ask for assistance in creating jobs in O.T. [AVP 4/24 in FBIS 4/25].

Czechoslovakia's Pres. Havel says his country can serve as transit station for emigrating Soviet Jews [JDS 4/24 in FBIS 4/25].

Amid rumors that Israel will release captives held in S. Lebanon as payoff for release of U.S. hostage, Israeli officials say Israeli prisoners in Lebanon must be released as part of any deal [LAT 4/25].

25 April

Bulldozers, under IDF guard, begin clearing ground near Alon in the W. Bank for new Israeli settlement [WT 4/26; JDS 4/25 in FBIS 4/26].
Hussein Musawi, Hizballah leader, urges groups not to release any U.S. hostages because of ill will on part of U.S., says release of Robert Pohill was met by House vote recognizing united Jerusalem as Israel's capital [NYT, LAT, WT 4/26].


Arab diplomats ask Cyprus's parliament to restrict Soviet Jewish emigrants from using Cypriot ports as they travel to Israel [WT 4/26].

As first Eastern European leader to visit Israel, Czech Pres. Vaclav Havel briefs interim P.M. Shamir on meeting Havel had with PLO Chrmn. Arafat, offers help in mediating between Israel and the Palestinians [WP 4/26].

According to Washington Times, new gov't. of Nicaragua has asked Mossad, Israeli intelligence service, to reorganize Sandinista intelligence apparatus [WT 4/25].

Pro-Israeli supporters question Thomas Dine's criticism of Israeli gov't., speculating Dine was trying to help AIPAC with its critics in U.S. [WT 4/26].

Israeli soldier throws stun grenade at Swiss Red Cross worker in W. Bank camp near Ramallah [MET 5/8-14].

Israeli "There Is A Limit" movement reports 108 IDF regulars and reservists have been jailed for refusing to serve in O.T. [HAM 4/25 in FBIS 4/26].

Labor party leader Shimon Peres officially surrenders his mandate to form new Israeli gov't. after 5 weeks of bargaining [NYT, LAT 4/27; IDF 4/26 in FBIS 4/26].

In departure from usual custom, Israel declines to release Muslim prisoners in celebration of Muslim holiday of Id al-Fitr, apparently to avoid speculation it is involved in prisoner exchange [NYT 4/27].

U.S. State Dep't. statement strongly criticizes start of 2 new Israeli settlements in O.T. [WP 4/27].


Israel's Knesset Finance Committee approves NIS 2.44 billion plan to build 32,500 housing units for new immigrants [JPD 4/27 in FBIS 4/27].

27 April

Interim P.M. Shamir accepts Pres. Herzog's mandate to try to form new Israeli gov't., quickly dismisses Labor suggestion that short-term "national unity" gov't. be formed to revise Israel's electoral system [JDS 4/27 in FBIS 4/27; NYT, LAT 4/28].

Church of the Holy Sepulcher locks its doors for first time in 800 years, all other Christian shrines in Holy Land also close in protest over presence of Jewish settlers in St. John's Hospice [NYT, LAT 4/28].

General strike called for by UNLU is observed in W. Bank [JDS 4/27 in FBIS 4/27].

Syria's Pres. Asad arrives in Moscow for talks with Mikhail Gorbachev (cf. 4/28) [TASS 4/27; MET 5/8-14].

Several Katyusha rockets are fired into Israel's "security zone" in S. Lebanon; no injuries [MET 5/8-14].
28 April

Plunder cruise in Gulf of Aqaba by Jordan’s King Hussein is interrupted as Israeli naval patrol fires shots nearby. Israelis say they were clearing guns in routine weapons check, king’s yacht flees into Saudi coastal waters, no injuries are reported [LAT 5/5].

Washington Post reports trust and goodwill between Washington and Jerusalem is eroding; U.S.-Israeli relations are at lowest since early 1980s [WP 4/28].

Mikhail Gorbachev receives Pres. Hafiz Asad in Moscow to discuss Soviet-Syrian relations and Middle East peace [PRAVDA 4/29].

29 April

Interim P.M. Shamir accuses foreign gov’t.s of trying to force him into negotiations with PLO. Shamir does not name foreign gov’t.s, says intifada is merely “the tip of the iceberg” of Arab-Israeli conflict [NYT, WT 4/20].

Organization of Islamic Dawn announces it will release U.S. hostage Frank Reed within 48 hours [NYT, WP, WT, LAT 4/30].

Pope John Paul II expresses “profound concern” over recent attempt to create Jewish settlement in Jerusalem’s Christian quarter; seems to suggest Israel needs to be more sensitive, pointing out Jerusalem is sacred to 3 religions, and all rights must be respected [NYT 4/30].

30 April

In speech marking 42nd anniversary of Israeli statehood Shamir says he will not “accept every proposal or idea of an American secretary of state.” U.S. State Dep’t. spokesperson Margaret Tutwiler responds: “saying yes to Sec. Baker’s questions meant saying yes to the gov’t. of Israel’s plan” [WP, WT, LAT 5/1].

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Plans to build road in Cairo through ancient Jewish cemetery has provoked outcry. Pres. Mubarak, eager to preserve relations with world Jewish community, agrees to study alternatives that would keep Al Basatin cemetery intact [WT 5/1].

Yasir Arafat arrives in Cairo to seek Pres. Mubarak’s support for an Arab summit in May [MET 5/8-14].

U.S. hostage Frank Reed is freed in Beirut after 43 months of captivity [NYT, WP, WT, LAT 5/1].

Pres. Bush thanks Syria and Iran for help in securing freedom for 2 Americans in past 9 days. Robert Pohill delivers private message from his captors to Pres. Bush [WP, WT, LAT 5/1].

U.S. State Dep’t. releases annual report “Pattern of Global Terrorism,” which lists Syria and Iran as chief sponsors of state terrorism [WP, WT 5/1].

Bethlehem Mayor Elias Freij, visiting New York, says 4/11 occupation of St. John’s Hospice by Jewish settlers was “not an isolated incident” but “the beginning of a premeditated effort” by Jewish settlers to obtain control of Christian properties [NYT 5/6].

1 May

Militant rabbi Moshe Levinger pleads guilty to death by negligence charge after lawyers plea bargain to reduce original charge of manslaughter for shooting death of Arab salesman in Hebron. Levinger is to be sentenced on 5/14 [WT 5/2].

Israeli officials offer to exchange Arab prisoners for 3 Israelis held in Lebanon, but indicate they would not make any deals for Western hostages [WT 5/2].

Israeli gov’t. reports that for 16th consecutive month number of Soviet Jews arriving in Israel has increased. Officials say 10,500 Jews emigrated to Israel in
April, compared to 7,300 in March [NYT 5/2].

All but 20 Jewish settlers leave St. John’s Hospice in Christian quarter of Jerusalem in compliance with Supreme Court eviction order [IDF 5/1 in FBIS 5/1; NYT, WP, LAT 5/2].

Soviet ambassador to Syria Alexander Zotov says Arab-Israeli conflict and buildup of weapons in Middle East will be “top priority” at 30 May-3 June Bush-Gorbachev summit [WT 5/2]; Zotov criticizes U.S. for not showing enough “firmness” with Israel to reach peace settlement [WP 5/2].

Fifteen Arab states have agreed to attend Arab summit meeting in Baghdad in late May [KUNA 5/1 in FBIS 5/2].

Arafat and Saddam Hussein meet in Baghdad to discuss upcoming Arab summit [INA 5/1 in FBIS 5/3].

2 May

Legislator Yossi Sarid, of Citizens Rights Movement, says he has “details of 14 planned settlements” to be initiated by P.M. Shamir if he forms gov’t. [WT 5/3].


3 May

IDF places 160,000 Palestinians of Nablus under curfew so 150 Jewish settlers and Knesset members can dedicate Torah for seminary in Nablus [WP, LAT, WT 5/4].

Former D.M. Yitzhak Rabin publicly challenges Shimon Peres’s Labor party leadership, says he could better lead Israel to peace with Palestinians [WP 5/4].

Army-commissioned poll published in IDF Weekly reveals about 30% of Israelis surveyed lack full faith in army announce-
ments and in ethical behavior of soldiers [WT 5/4].

On final day in Damascus, Pres. Mubarak says he believes Yitzhak Shamir does not wish to settle Palestine problem and this could lead to “much more destructive situation.” Mubarak calls on U.S. to pressure Israel into negotiations [WP 5/4]; Washington Times reports Mubarak leaves Syria empty-handed, failing to bring Syria out of its isolationist stance [WT 5/4].

Israel and Bulgaria restore diplomatic relations after 23-year break, sign agreement over air transportation, tourism, communications [NYT, WP, WT, LAT 5/4].

Visiting New York, Jerusalem Mayor Teddy Kollek calls occupation of St. John’s Hospice by Jewish settlers a “great stupidity” and “a major setback” to inter-religious relations in Israel [NYT 5/6].

4 May

Israeli court blocks appeal of Jewish nationalists who settled in St. John’s Hospice in Jerusalem. The settlers were attempting to appeal eviction notice [LAT 5/5].

5 May

New York Times reports interim P.M. Shamir, 10 days into his attempt to form new gov’t., is facing same problems as did Peres, may not be able to gather majority of votes [NYT 5/6].

PLO Executive Committee opens meeting in Baghdad, chaired by Arafat, to discuss upcoming Arab summit [BVP 5/5 in FBIS 5/5].

6 May

Shimon Peres says he would form another unity gov’t. with Likud if two parties could agree on how to proceed with peace talks [WT 5/7].
Islamic Jihad movement leaflet calls on Palestinians in O.T. to launch "a revolution of daggers" against Soviet Jews, and to escalate uprising [WT 5/7].

Chrmn. Arafat orders about 2,500 Fateh troops to move from Jordan to Iraq [WT 5/7].

Kamal Kharrazi, Iran's UN ambassador says it is doubtful any more U.S. hostages will be released until U.S. forces Israel to release Arab hostages [WT 5/7].

7 May_________________________

Statement by Avi Pazner, of interim P.M. Shamir's office, rejects U.S. assumptions that Israel is holding "hostages," but rather, Israel is holding "terrorists" and "therefore there is no room for any comparison between them" and Western hostages held in Lebanon [WP, LAT 5/8].

Syria announces it will not attend the Arab summit meeting in Baghdad because of animosity between Pres. Asad and Pres. Saddam Hussein (cf. 5/9) [WP 5/8].

8 May_________________________

Israel's Supreme Court, responding to appeals from Israelis fed up with politicians' intrigues, rules that political parties must make public all coalition agreements before forming gov't. [WT 5/9].

New York Times reports strengthening of ties between Arafat and Saddam Hussein, notes recent movement of Fateh troops from Jordan to Iraq [NYT 5/13].

Hizballah cleric Hussein Mussawi says freedom for 3 captive Israeli servicemen is "impossible" and expresses doubt that hostage crisis will end any time soon [WP 5/9].

9 May_________________________

Interim P.M. Shamir endorses $1 billion plan to absorb another 150,000 Jewish immigrants into Israel [WT 5/10].

Abdullah Omar Nasif, sec. gen. of World Islamic League sends messages to Mikhail Gorbachev and Pres. Bush appealing for help to stop Soviet Jewish emigration to Israel [WT 5/10].

U.S. House Foreign Affairs subcommittees on Europe and the Middle East and on human rights hold first ever hearing on intifada [WP 5/10].

Israel accuses U.S. of working with Arab nations to draft resolution at UN against immigration to Israel, interim F.M. Moshe Arens summons U.S. ambassador William Brown for meeting to discuss alleged U.S.-Arab collusion [WT 5/10; NYT 5/11].

UN Sec. Council puts off a vote on a resolution terming Jewish settlement in O.T. and E. Jerusalem illegal [WT 5/10].

10 May_________________________

Israeli officials, including Moshe Arens, accuse U.S. of creating "artificial storm" over Soviet Jewish emigration [WP, LAT 5/11].

Bowing to U.S. threats to withdraw funding, World Health Organization shelves indefinitely PLO application [NYT, WP, WT 5/11].

New York Times news analysis claims Israel "has emerged as the beneficiary of changing times in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union, while the Arab world confronts the losses" [NYT 5/10].

In his column in Catholic New York, Cardinal John O'Connor denounces Israeli settlement in Jerusalem's Christian quarter: "What happened in Jerusalem is obscene," and writes that Israelis are "speeding up . . . a design to make it virtually impossible for Christians to func-
tion anywhere in the land" [NYT 5/12; WT 5/14].

Shimon Peres announces his intent to go into opposition of any gov't. formed by Yitzhak Shamir [TET 5/10 in FBIS 5/11].

11 May________________________

Yitzhak Rabin calls on Shimon Peres to resign as Labor party leader in continuing power struggle within party [LAT 5/12].

Leading U.S. Jewish organizations urge Bush admin. to oppose any UN Security Council resolution critical of Soviet Jewish settlers in O.T. [NYT 5/12].

12 May________________________

Felicia Langer, Israeli lawyer who represents Palestinians, quits her practice, claims justice for Palestinians in Israeli courts is nearly impossible [WP 5/13].

13 May________________________

Vandals deface c.250 graves in 2 Jewish cemeteries near Haifa. Police hold 41-year-old Jewish man in custody [WP, WT, NYT, LAT 5/14].

Maj. Gen. Antoine Lahad, commander of SLA, says he is willing to exchange "large number" of c. 300 Muslims held by his army for remaining Western hostages held in Lebanon [NYT, LAT 5/14].

UNLU issues call no. 56 in the O.T. [JDS 5/13 in FBIS 5/16].

14 May________________________

Rabbi Moshe Levinger is sentenced to 5 months in prison for shooting death of Arab merchant, is lauded as hero by supporters who carry him to prison on their shoulders [WT 5/15].

Israeli authorities says they are considering reopening colleges and universities in O.T. that have been closed for over 2 years [NYT 5/15].

Thousands of Jordanians and Palestinians march near Jordan's border with W. Bank to show support for intifada. Police fire tear gas to keep crowd from converging on border; at least 53 are injured [NYT, WP 5/15].

Pres. Mubarak arrives in Moscow for meeting with Mikhail Gorbachev, first visit to USSR by Egyptian leader in 18 years [WT 5/15].

15 May________________________

Gen. sec. Gorbachev and Hosni Mubarak sign declaration in Moscow condemning settlement of Soviet Jewish emigrants in O.T. [NYT, WT 5/16].

Journal Source Abbreviations

CSM (Christian Science Monitor)
FJ (Al-Fajr, Jerusalem)
IZV (Izvestia)
JPI (Jerusalem Post, International Edition)
LAT (Los Angeles Times)
MEI (Middle East International)
MEPARC (Middle East Policy and Research Center)
MET (Middle East Times)
NYT (New York Times)
PRA (Pravda)
TASS (Moscow Tass)
WP (Washington Post)
WT (Washington Times)

Sources referenced from Foreign Broadcast Information Service (FBIS)

ADS (Amman Domestic Service)
AGS (Algiets Domestic Service)
ATS (Amman Television Service)
AVP (Algiets Voice of Palestine)
BAY (Al-Bayan)
BDS (Beirut Domestic Service)
BNR (Beirut Voice of National Resistance)
BVP (Baghdad Voice of the PLO)
BVL (Beirut Voice of Lebanon)
CDS (Cairo Domestic Service)
DDS (Damascus Domestic Service)
HAA (Ha’Aretz)
HAD (Hadashot)
HAM (‘Al Hamishmar)
IDF (IDF Radio, Tel Aviv)
IGP (Government Press Office, Jerusalem)
INA (Radio INA, Baghdad)
ITT (Al-Ittihad)
JDS (Jerusalem Domestic Service)
JPD (Jerusalem Post, daily edition)
JTE (Jordan Times in English, Amman)
JTS (Jerusalem Television Service)
KUNA (Radio KUNA, Kuwait)
MAA (Ma’ariv)
MENA (Radio MENA, Cairo)
MDS (Rabat Domestic Service, Morocco)

MTS (Moscow Television Service)
NAH (Al-Nahar)
QAB (Al-Qabas Al-Duwali, Kuwait)
QUD (Al-Quda Al-‘Arabi, London)
RAY (Al-Ray)
RDS (Riyadh Domestic Service)
RMC (Radio Monte Carlo, Paris)
RPP (Radio Peace and Progress, Moscow)
RYF (Rose al-Yusuf, Cairo)
SANA (Radio SANA, Damascus)
SPA (Radio SPA, Riyadh)
SVP (Sana Voice of Palestine)
TET (Tel Aviv Educational Television)
TDS (Tunis Domestic Service)
WAFA (Palestine News Agency)
WAKH (Radio WAKH, Manama)
WAT (Al-Watan, Kuwait)
WFD (Al-Wafd)
YA (Yedi’ot Aharonot)

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