16 FEBRUARY—15 MAY 1991

This section is part thirty of a chronology begun in Journal XIII, no. 3 (Spring 1984). Chronology dates reflect Eastern Standard Time. Thus while the allies’ Gulf war ground campaign began on 24 February in Iraq, it began on 23 February in Washington, D.C., and therefore is found under 23 February in the Chronology.

16 FEBRUARY

Arab members of coalition end 2-day meeting in Cairo, find Baghdad’s conditions for Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait unacceptable, call on Saddam to leave “without conditions or strings” [MENA 2/16 in FBIS 2/19; NYT 2/17]; countries also propose economic and defense arrangements to improve Middle East postwar security [WP 2/17], and reaffirm support for Palestinian state, without mention of PLO [MEM 2/18].

Soviet Union concludes conditions set by Baghdad for Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait would render its 2/15 proposal meaningless [NYT, WP 2/17].

2 U.S. A-10 fighter-bombers are shot down over Kuwait; Iraq says 130 civilians killed on 2/14 when British bombs hit marketplace in Falluja [AFP 2/16 in FBIS 2/19; NYT 2/17]. Iraq launches 2 SCUD missiles at southern Israel; no damage [JAA 2/16 in FBIS 2/19; NYT, MEM 2/18].

Likud supporters criticize MKs Dedi Zucker and Chaim Oron for their 2/13 report on settlement construction (see JPS 79), saying report led U.S. admin. to delay granting $400 million in housing loan guarantees [IDF 2/16 in FBIS 2/19].

As Israeli authorities continue selectively to release Palestinian workers from war-induced curfew, many Palestinians are finding Soviet Jewish immigrants have taken over their jobs, according to New York Times [NYT 2/17].

PLO revolutionary courts condemn to death, then execute, 20 Fatah members who had rebelled against their commander earlier in the week [NYT 2/17].

Yasir Arafat arrives in Amman from Iraq to meet King Hussein [NYT 2/17].

17 FEBRUARY

Senior U.S. military officials report American planes are using new night-flying tactic to destroy as many as 200 Iraqi tanks a day [NYT 2/18].

Iraqi F.M. Aziz arrives in Moscow for talks with Soviet leaders about Baghdad’s highly conditional offer to withdraw from Kuwait, White House offers little hope for diplomatic solution [NYT, LAT, WP, WT 2/18].

Israel’s ambassador to U.S. apologizes for 2/14 criticism of U.S. economic aid to Israel (cf. 2/18) [JTN 2/17 in FBIS 2/19; WP 2/18; WJW 2/21].

UNLU issues addendum to its call no. 67, in which it reaffirms support for Iraq’s 2/15 cease-fire proposal (cf. 2/22) [AVP 2/18 in FBIS 2/19].

About 5,000 anti-war protestors march in New York City as talk of ground war intensifies [NYT 2/18].

Gov’t. of Kuwait has hired U.S. lobbying

firm of Neill & Co. to help smooth relations with Congress, deflect criticism of extravagant lifestyles of wealthy Kuwaitis, and ensure continued support for Kuwait [LAT 2/18].

18 FEBRUARY

Pres. Gorbachev presents F.M. Aziz another formula for Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait; details of proposal not announced. Aziz heads back to Baghdad via Iran. Bush admin. indicates there is nothing in Soviet proposal that would delay or halt planned ground attack (cf. 2/19) [MEM 2/18; NYT, LAT, WP, WT, CSM 2/19].

Allies continue “battlefield preparation” for ground war with more than 2,400 sorties flown; F-16 Falcon crashes in combat, pilot is recovered; it is 21st U.S. plane lost in combat, 9 additional allied crafts have been lost [NYT, LAT 2/19].

Border skirmishes continue between U.S. forces and Iraqi troops; no casualties are reported; to date 14 Americans have been killed in combat, 10 by friendly fire [NYT, LAT, WT 2/19].

Hearing is held in Gaza military court for Palestinian journalist Taher Shritich, in jail for 3 weeks without formal charge; court extends detention for 2 more weeks (cf. 2/19) [NYT, LAT, WT, MEM 2/19].

Lebanese Pres. Elias Hrawi says he plans to press Israel to withdraw from “security zone” in S. Lebanon; Israeli spokesman says Israel will not comply [NYT 2/19].

Red Cross president says blanket curfew in effect in o.t. since 1/17 has created serious problems for Palestinians; adds that Red Cross is in contact with Israeli authorities to try to alleviate harsh conditions [JTE 2/18 in FBIS 2/19].

19 FEBRUARY

Pres. Bush says 2/18 Soviet proposal for Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait “falls well short of what would be required” to end war with Iraq [NYT, LAT, WP, WT, CSM 2/20].

F.M. Aziz meets in Tehran with Iranian Pres. Rafsanjani; Baghdad gives no formal response to Soviet plan but reiterates 2/15 proposal. Iranian F.M. Velayati says he believes Iraq is “ready to withdraw from Kuwait unconditionally” [NYT, WP 2/20].

UN Sec. Council authorizes Red Cross to make emergency deliveries of water purification equipment to Iraq [NYT 2/20].

Allied planes attack targets in Iraq and Kuwait; single SCUD missile is launched at Israel, no casualties; U.S. A-10 plane is lost in combat, bringing American total to 22, and allied total to 31; U.S. military official says that Iraqi troops in Kuwait and southern Iraq are suffering “horrendous” casualties [JAA, JDS 2/19 in FBIS 2/20; NYT, LAT, WP 2/20; MET 3/5].

In separate forums, Soviet F.M. Bessmertnykh, envoy Primakov, and spokesman Ignatenko argue against beginning ground offensive against Iraq, saying its effect would only be enormous suffering and destruction; they add that Soviet proposal makes ground war unnecessary [NYT, WP 2/20].

U.S. commander Gen. H. Norman Schwarzkopf says Iraqi military machine is on verge of collapse, losing about 2 battalions of tanks a day to allied air strikes [LAT, WP 2/20].

Pope John Paul II summons bishops from countries involved in Gulf war, including U.S. and Iraq, to unprecedented peace-seeking conference from 3-4 March at the Vatican [MEM 2/19; LAT 2/20].

Moving to contain diplomatic fallout from its support for Iraq, PLO says it accepts the “spirit” of UN Sec. Council resolution 660; PLO also renews its call for talks with Israel [AFP 2/19 in FBIS 2/19].

In Luxembourg, EC “troika” foreign ministers decide to avoid talks with Yasir Arafat in their planned series of Middle East trips (cf. 2/21) [MEM 2/20].

U.S. State Dept. reiterates its criticism of Israel’s policy of administrative detention in light of Taher Shritich case [NYT, MEM 2/20].

20 FEBRUARY

U.S. and Britain tell Moscow that they find Soviet’s 2/18 cease-fire proposal unacceptable because it lacks tight timetable for Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait and does not compel Iraq to accept all UN Sec. Council resolutions on the crisis [NYT 2/21; CSM 2/22]; Washington urges Moscow to stiffen cease-fire conditions on Iraq [WP 2/21].

After month of often bitter negotiation, U.S. releases $400 million loan guarantee to Israel for housing for Soviet Jewish immigrants (cf. 2/21) [IDF 2/20 in FBIS 2/21; NYT, WP, WT, MEM 2/21].

Israeli authorities begin allowing 400 Palestinians per day to cross bridges from Jordan back to West Bank; “security concerns” had prompted Israel to reduce number allowed to cross river from 1,000 per day to
50 per day; at least 30 Palestinians lose their residency permits because of delay in crossing [JTE 2/20 in FBIS 2/20; MET 3/5].

Israeli air force planes bomb alleged PFLP base in Al Itzah village, about 40 miles east of Beirut; 5 people are reported injured [IDF, BDS, AFP 2/20 in FBIS 2/20; NYT 2/21; JPI 3/2; MET 3/5].

21 FEBRUARY

After midnight meeting with F.M. Aziz in Moscow, Soviet leaders announce Baghdad has given “positive” response to Soviet peace plan; U.S. delays formal response until consultation with allies [NYT, LAT, WP, WT 2/22].

Saddam Hussein delivers speech over Baghdad radio reaffirming Iraq’s 2/15 proposal; says Iraq is ready for all-out war unless proposal is accepted [BADS 2/21 in FBIS 2/21; NYT, LAT, WP, MEM 2/22; MET 3/5].

U.S. Def. Sec. Dick Cheney says allied forces are braced for “one of the largest land assaults of modern times” as U.S.-Iraq clashes grow larger and more intense; U.S. command says allies have reached level of destruction specified by senior generals as minimum needed before ground offensive can begin [NYT 2/22].

SCUD missiles are fired at Saudi Arabia in 2 rare daylight attacks; Patriot missile intercepts all; 9 American soldiers are killed in 2 helicopter crashes in Saudi Arabia [LAT, MEM 2/22; MET 3/5].

Kuwaiti govt-in-exile contracts U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to help restore Kuwait’s damaged water, power, and transportation systems after war. Contract runs for 90 days, valued at $45 million [LAT 2/22].

Saudia ambassador to U.S., Prince Bandar bin Sultan, warns that Yasar Arafat, King Hussein, and Pres. Saleh of Yemen will be made to pay dearly for supporting Iraq, signalling sharp break from Saudia prewar policy of trying to forge Arab consensus (cf. 2/26) [LAT 2/22].

Hours after long-disputed $400 million loan guarantees to Israel is approved, Israeli officials claim the amount is grossly insufficient; Immigration Min. Yitzhak Peretz says “in fact, it’s a very small sum that only accounts for 3 or 4 percent of the overall figure” needed [NYT 2/22].

Amnesty International accuses members of allies of using war as pretext for human rights violations, citing Britain, Egypt, and U.S. for war-related abuses [MEM 2/21; LAT 2/22].

At Labor party bureau meeting MK Moshe Shahal expresses, for 1st time in public, support for creation of Palestinian state [IDF 2/21 in FBIS 2/22; MEM 2/22; JPI 3/2].

22 FEBRUARY

Pres. Bush gives Saddam Hussein “‘until noon Saturday [2/23] to . . . begin his immediate and unconditional withdrawal’” or face huge ground attack; Bush gives Iraq 7 days to complete withdrawal. Baghad calls demand “disgraceful” [BADS 2/22 in FBIS 2/25; MEM 2/22; NYT, LAT 2/23].

Soviet Union and Iraqi F.M. Aziz radio Saddam Hussein with proposals for new Iraqi concessions in effort to forge settlement before Pres. Bush’s deadline [NYT, LAT 2/23].

King Hussein endorses Soviet peace plan at news conference in Amman; Arafat offers positive but guarded response; 9-country Western European Group gives full backing to Pres. Bush’s ultimatum, as does majority of Congress [JTE, AVP 2/23 in FBIS 2/25; ADS 2/22 in FBIS 2/27; NYT 2/23].

Allied fighter-bombers attack Iraqi troops in Kuwait, flying record number of sorties despite heavy black smoke from oil well fires that cover almost 1/4 of Kuwait [WAKH, IRNA 2/23 in FBIS 2/25; NYT, LAT 2/23].

U.S. announces that about 51,000 refugees who fled upheavals in Kuwait, Lebanon, and Liberia will be allowed to remain in U.S. for at least another year [NYT 2/26].

Israeli ambassador to U.S., Zalmun Shoval, submits to State Dep’t. Israeli gov’t’s formal request for $1 billion in emergency military assistance to cover outlays stemming from Gulf war [JPD 2/25 in FBIS 2/26; MEM 2/25].

For 1st time in 20 years, DFLP holds public rally in Amman to celebrate its 22d anniversary. Reports say about 20,000 people attend [JTE 2/23 in FBIS 2/28].

UNLU issues 2d addendum to call no. 67; 2d is more moderate than 1st, indicating tactical differences within UNLU leadership over PLO Gulf war policy [JPD 2/26 in FBIS 2/28].

23 FEBRUARY

Pres. Gorbachev makes round of telephone calls to leaders of U.S., Britain, Germany, Egypt, France, and Italy to try to persuade them how close positions of Iraq and U.S. had become through Soviet mediation ef-
forts; Western leaders respond that Iraq had not begun moving troops out of Kuwait by noon. Moscow says Iraq "lost the chance" to take advantage of Soviet efforts [NYT, WP 2/24].

Iraq fires SCUD missile at Israel 10 minutes before noon deadline; no injuries are reported [NYT 2/24; MET 3/5].

Pres. Bush says Iraq's failure to meet noon deadline leaves coalition forces "no alternative" but to continue to prosecute the war" [NYT 2/24].

Allied troops move into Kuwait and Iraq in faster than expected ground advances; forces meet scattered resistance; allied casualties are "extremely light," with fewer than 20 U.S. soldiers being killed; over 5,500 Iraqi POWs are taken in 1st 10 hours of assault; after 22 hours Iraqi POW total is nearing 10,000 [WP 2/24; RIDS 2/24 in FBIS 2/25; NYT, LAT, WT, WP, CSM 2/25; MET 3/5].

Iran's Pres. Rafsanjani says U.S. is exceeding UN mandate in its pursuit of war with Iraq [NYT 2/24].

Egypt's govt. publications for 1st time calls for Saddam Hussein to be overthrown [NYT 2/24]; Cairo students demonstrate against allied forces' ground war; security forces use tear gas to disperse marchers [RMC 2/24 in FBIS 2/25].

24 FEBRUARY

Emotional address from Saddam Hussein urges Iraqi troops facing allied attack to "fight them and show no mercy"; Baghdad radio later reports that "the enemy attack has failed utterly" [BADs 2/24 in FBIS 2/25; NYT, LAT, WP, WT 2/25].

Egyptian and Syrian ground forces move several miles into southwestern Kuwait; high profile given to allied Arab forces reflects calculated coalition effort to dispel "West vs. Muslims" notion of war [NYT, LAT, WP 2/25; CSM 2/26].

Soviet Union expresses regret that allies yielded to their "instinct" to use military force rather than accept Soviet-brokered peace plan [LAT, WP 2/25].

PLO and Jordan sharply condemn U.S.-led ground offensive [LAT, WT 2/25]. "Hundreds of thousands" of Yemenis demonstrate against allied ground offensive [AFP, AES 2/24 in FBIS 2/25]; Cairo police use tear gas to disperse about 2,000 anti-war demonstrators [WP 2/25].

Def. Sec. Cheney says that allied Arab nations should take the lead in devising postwar security arrangements in the region [WP 2/25].

Jordanian P.M. Mudar Badran says the Gulf crisis has thus far cost Jordan at least $8 billion, double the value of its annual domestic economic output [MET 3/5].

Israeli OC Central Command closes 2 offices of Arab Studies Society on suspicion of serving PLO purposes [MEM 2/25].

25 FEBRUARY

Iraqi SCUD missile hits American barracks outside Dhahran, killing at least 12 U.S. soldiers, wounding at least 25, and leaving 40 unaccounted for [cf. 2/26] [NYT, LAT, WP, WT, MEM 2/26; MET 3/5]; SCUD missiles land in southern Israel; no damage or casualties [IDF 2/25 in FBIS 2/25; MET 3/5].

Baghdad radio announces Iraq's armed forces have been ordered to make an orderly withdrawal from Kuwait in accordance with UN resolution 660; Iraqi tanks and trucks are reported heading north from Kuwait. White House dismisses broadcast, saying there has been no authoritative communication from Baghdad and that to end war Iraq must accept all 12 UN resolutions concerning Gulf crisis [BADs 2/25 in FBIS 2/25; NYT, LAT, WP, WT 2/26; MET 3/5].

Pres. of UN Sec. Council calls on Iraq to officially inform him of its willingness to leave Kuwait so that Sec. Council could convene to discuss cease-fire [NYT 2/26].

Iraqi resistance to quickly advancing allied ground troops toughens slightly, but American command reports "tremendous success" all across the front, that allied forces control more than 50% of Kuwait; Saudi and Kuwait forces, backed by U.S. Marines prepare for assault on Kuwait City. Iraqi troops continue to surrender en masse, with POW total now about 20,000-25,000 [NYT, LAT, WP 2/26].

P.M. Shamir is quoted in French newspaper as saying that Pres. Asad is Israel's "real enemy" [LAT 2/26].

French For. Ministry announces Kuwait will pay to France $1 billion, or about 40% of French expenditures in Gulf conflict [LAT 2/26].

26 FEBRUARY

In radio address, Saddam Hussein makes public his commitment to withdraw from Kuwait. Pres. Bush promises is inadequate, presses for virtual surrender, and orders allied forces to continue attacks [BADS
2/26 in FBIS 2/26; NYT, LAT, WP, WT 2/27; MET 3/12.

Allied forces enter Kuwait City, as Iraqi troops are reported in headlong retreat across Kuwait; fighting continues at Kuwait City airport; U.S. troops reach Euphrates River in Iraq, cutting off escape routes for Republican Guards; other allied forces are closing off additional escape routes for Iraqi troops; 25 to 30 mile long column of Iraqi tanks, personnel carriers, and trucks heading north on road to Basra is repeatedly attacked by U.S. warplanes [MENA 2/26 in FBIS 2/27; NYT, LAT, WP, WT, CSM 2/27]. SCUD missile lands in uninhabited area of Qatar, another is destroyed over Bahrain [MEM 2/26].

Emir of Kuwait declares martial law, says it will last for 3 months, in 1st step toward reestablishing his rule [NYT, WP, WT 2/27; MET 3/12].

U.S. command revises death toll in 2/25 SCUD attack on barracks, saying missile killed 28 U.S. soldiers and wounded more than 100 [NYT, WP 2/27; MET 3/12].

Military law specialists say "rules of war" clearly permit allies to attack retreating Iraqis until they law down their arms; claim definite distinction between retreat and surrender [NYT, WP 2/27].

Egypt, Kuwait, Soviet Union, and European members of coalition say Saddam Hussein must accept all 12 UN Sec. Council resolutions before war can end [KUNA 2/26 in FBIS 2/27; NYT, WP 2/27]; PLO calls on UN Sec. Council to bring about immediate cease-fire [TDS 2/27 in FBIS 2/27, AFP 2/27 in FBIS 2/28].

Allies effectively stop counting Iraqi POWs because so many have been taken since ground war began. Officials stop count at 26,000 but estimates are up to more than 30,000 [LAT, WP 2/27].

P.M. Shamir vows to resist concessions in postwar Middle East peace effort [IDF 2/26 in FBIS 2/27; MEM 2/26; WP, WT 2/27].

Yasir Arafat meets in Algiers with Pres. Benjedid; Arafat says U.S. aims to destroy Iraq [AGS, AFP 2/26, APS 2/27 in FBIS 2/27; APS 2/27 in FBIS 3/1].

European Community announces it is freezing contacts with PLO in light of Arafat's pro-Iraqi stand. EC statement says, however, that the decision "in no way calls into question the role of the PLO or the rights of the Palestinian people" [MEM 2/26].

Jordanian Cabinet issues statement accusing allies of exceeding UN mandate [MEM 2/27].

27 FEBRUARY

Declaring "Kuwait is liberated" 100 hours after ground war commenced, Pres. Bush orders suspension of offensive military operations against Iraq as long as Iraq does not attack allied forces or launch missiles at any country [NYT, LAT, WP, WT 2/28; CSM 3/1]; Pres. Bush also sets demands on Iraq for permanent cease-fire; complying with all 12 UN resolutions; freeing all POWs and detainees; giving allies location of all land and sea mines. Bush adds he is sending Sec. Baker to Middle East to deal with "the difficult task of securing a potentially historical peace" [NYT, WP, WT 2/28].

Before suspension of hostilities, 4 U.S. Army armored divisions defeat resisting Republican Guard units in large tank battle; Gen. Schwarzkopf says there are more than 50,000 total Iraqi POWs and a "very, very large number" of Iraqi dead [MEM 2/27; NYT, LAT, WP, WT 2/28; MET 3/12]; allied officials and relief organizations discuss what to do with growing number of POWs who do not wish to return to Iraq [LAT 2/28].

Kuwaiti army returns to Kuwait City, is met by cheering civilians; govt. buildings are reported destroyed by retreating Iraqis [LAT, WP, CSM 2/28].

In Damascus, Pres. Asad meets with Lebanese Pres. Hrawi to discuss Middle East future; thousands of Palestinians in Sidon demonstrate against U.S. [DDS 2/27 in FBIS 2/28; LAT 2/28; MET 3/12].

Congressmen say they fear allies will not follow through on monetary pledges made to U.S. during Gulf war; Congress members are reportedly especially upset at Japan [LAT 2/28].

Egyptian police fire rubber bullets at stone-throwing students at Cairo University where thousands protest war against Iraq for 3d consecutive day [AFP 2/27 in FBIS 3/1; MET 3/12].

Prominent Palestinian nationalist, Dr. Mamedouh al-Aker, is arrested on suspicion of helping to write UNLU leaflets, apparently as part of Israeli crackdown on Palestinian moderates (cf. 4/7) [MEM 2/28].

28 FEBRUARY

Iraq accepts Pres. Bush's terms for meeting of military commanders to discuss full cease-fire, leading admin. officials to hope for quick release of POWs and end of Gulf war [BADS 2/28 in FBIS 2/28; NYT, LAT,
1 MARCH

U.S. military officials estimate number of
Iraqis killed in action to 85, killed com-
mmander; declares that number of Iraqi
dead has risen in recent days. [LAT, WP, CSM
3/15]

Allies set up checkpoints along highway
south of Basra; say they will not allow
Iraqi military vehicles through. [LAT, WP, CSM
3/15]

Meeting between allied and Iraqi military
commanders to discuss cease-fire; and, for
today, is delayed 24 hours, at Iraq's request [NYT, WP
3/15, MET 3/15]

U.S. ambassador to Kuwait, Edward
Gnehm, officially reopens embassy in Kuwait.
[NYT 3/15]

In nationwide address, King Hussein con-
fers 9/11 SouthArab unity and forgive-
tess, and calls for movement on Palestine.
[NYT, WP 3/15]

Gulf war; allied losses: 126 killed in com-
munity, including 39 Americans, 13 POWs, including
9 Americans. [LAT, WP, NYT 3/15]

Gulf war; allied gains: 42 division battle
forts, 1,857 armored vehicles, and 2,050 ar-
dillery pieces. More than 88,000 POWs were
taken, no claims issued. [LAT, WP, NYT 3/15]

Gulf war; integrate Gulf war of Iraq's
forces into UN peacekeeping forces. [LAT, WP, NYT
3/15]

U.S. military officials estimate number of
Iraqis killed in action to 85, killed com-
mmander; declares that number of Iraqi
dead has risen in recent days. [LAT, WP, CSM
3/15]
sanctions [NYT 3/3].

Allied officials and Iraqi refugees report chaos and near anarchy in Basra as Iraqi troops leaving Kuwait arrive [NYT, WP 3/3].

American officer reports that dozens of Iraqi tanks, perhaps lost and without communications, attacked U.S. troops in worse violation of cease-fire. American forces repel attack, destroying about 60 vehicles and capturing about 80 tanks and personnel carriers; there are no American casualties [NYT, WP 3/3].

Senior U.S. admin. officials say Washington wants to maintain much larger military presence in Gulf region than it had before Iraq invaded Kuwait in order to deter aggression against U.S. allies [NYT 3/3].

UN Sec. Council adopts, by 11-1 vote, resolution 686 which reaffirms, in more detail, cease-fire conditions imposed on Iraq (cf. 3/3) [WP, MEM 3/4].

PLO leadership meets in Tunis, calls for "urgent" measures to halt attacks and arrests of Palestinians in Kuwait [TDS, AFP 3/3 in FBIS 3/4; AVP 3/3 in FBIS 3/5].

Lebanon's Pres. Hrawi warns in speech that Palestinian guerrillas will no longer be allowed to attack Israel from Lebanon: "... we will not tolerate the use of Katyusha rockets to provoke an invasion of this country. The liberation of Palestine cannot be fulfilled by the firing of Katyusha rockets" [NYT 3/4; MEM 3/5].

3 MARCH

U.S. forces round up more than 1,400 Iraqi soldiers—including a brigadier general—from island of Faylakah, the last piece of Iraqi-held Kuwaiti territory. Allies hold about 63,000 Iraqi POWs [LAT 3/4].

Refugees crossing into Iran and Syria from Iraq report demonstrations against Saddam Hussein have spread from Basra to 3 other cities in southern Iraq [NYT, LAT, WP, WT 3/4].

At UN, U.S. and allies offer to speed the flow of food and other relief supplies into Iraq after nonaligned nations press for formal easing of sanctions [NYT 3/4].

Pres. Mitterrand makes what diplomats describe as his clearest call yet for a Palestinian state [LAT 3/4]; Mitterrand also calls for international peace conference on Middle East [WP, MEM 3/4].

Presenting 9-item postwar agenda, Pres. Mubarak urges fresh start for Arabs, says Egyptians have no quarrel with Iraqi people and will help rebuild Iraq [LAT, NYT, WP, MEM 3/4].

UNLU issues call number 68, calling for "increased rallying around the PLO and adherence to it as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people" [AFP 3/3, JPD 3/4 in FBIS 3/5; AVP 3/5 in FBIS 3/6; MEM 3/5; JPI 3/16].

Israeli jets fly through Lebanese army machine gun fire and bomb Fateh base in southern Lebanon; it is 1st air strike since Gulf war ended [MEM 3/4; MET 3/12].

Israel lifts curfew on Gaza Strip for 1st time since 16 January, Gaza fishermen are permitted to put to sea; several towns and villages in W. Bank remain under curfew [MEM 3/4].

4 MARCH

Rebelling Iraqis have emptied prisons and executed loyalists to Saddam Hussein in fundamentalist uprising that has spread anarchy across southern Iraq in the last 4 days, according to refugees. Seven cities are reportedly in opposition hands [NYT, LAT, WP, CSM 3/5; AFP 3/4 in FBIS 3/5].

Kuwait's Crown Prince returns to Kuwait City amid celebratory gunfire; Kuwaitis who remained in their country during occupation say they expect significant democratic reforms when all rulers have returned [MEM 3/4; LAT, NYT, WP 3/5; CSM 3/6]. In interview with Guardian in London, Yasir Arafat says he is worried that Kuwaiti military will kill Palestinians in Kuwait; military in Kuwait City is reportedly detaining over 10,000 Iraqis and Palestinians [WT 3/5].

Pres. Bush says Iraq has turned over information about location of minefields in Kuwait; Bush adds disengagement is proceeding quickly and that Iraqis are cooperating [LAT 3/5].

White House says it is "collecting evidence" on war crimes, but that it will be up to "countries in the region" to initiate any trial of Iraqi officials [LAT 3/5].

At Vatican summit, Pope John Paul II tells church leaders from countries most directly involved in Gulf war that lasting Middle East peace depends on resolution of all of the region's problems [MEM 3/4; LAT 3/5].

As Sec. Baker's visit to Israel approaches, Israeli Construction and Housing Ministry announces that 1,000 additional housing units will be built in Golan Heights [JDS 3/4 in FBIS 3/4].

Palestinian family files suit against Jewish seminary over rights to house in Old City's Muslim quarter; theology student was
found murdered in basement of house last week [NYT 3/5].

UNRWA claims that Israeli soldiers in Gaza Strip had beaten 2 of its members in 2d such incident in 10 days [NYT, MEM 3/5].

EC foreign ministers elect to give inexpensive loans totalling $210 million to Israel, along with $36 million in interest subsidies. Palestinians in o.t. are to receive from EC $80 million in grants [MEM 3/5].

5 MARCH

In Damascus, F.M.s of GCC nations, Egypt and Syria reach agreement on new postwar defense arrangements in Gulf built around Egyptian and Syrian forces (see doc. B1) [MEM 3/5; WP, WT, MEM 3/6; NYT, LAT, WT 3/7; DDS 3/5 in FBIS 3/6; DDS 3/6 in FBIS 3/7; MET 3/19].

Republican Guard tank and infantry brigades loyal to Saddam Hussein attack rebel positions in Basra; opposition leaders say at least 6 Iraqi cities are still controlled by rebels; thousands of refugees flee the violence; Bush admin. says it has no intention of getting involved in the rebellion [LAT, WP, WT 3/6; IRNA, AFP 3/5 in FBIS 3/5].

U.S. and Kuwaiti experts say it may take almost 2 years to extinguish about 550 Kuwaiti oil wells that have been set ablaze, and at least 5 years before the country’s oil export facilities are fully restored [LAT, NYT, WP 3/6; CSM 3/7].

Iraq hands over what it calls its last POWs, releasing 35 allies, including 15 Americans, to the Red Cross; up to 26 journalists are still missing in southern Iraq [MEM 3/5; NYT, LAT, WP, WT, CSM 3/6; BADS 3/5 in FBIS 3/5; MET 3/19].

Pentagon updates U.S. casualty toll in Gulf war to 115 dead and 330 wounded. Tens of thousands of Iraqis are believed to have been killed [LAT 3/6]. Pentagon also says that tens of thousands of U.S. troops will have to stay in Gulf region for several months [NYT 3/6]. France begins withdrawing its forces from region; pullout expected to take until September [MEM 3/5].

In letter from F.M. Aziz to Sec.-Gen. Pérez de Cuéllar, Iraq renounces its annexation of Kuwait and promises to return hundreds of millions of dollars worth of looted property [LAT, NYT 3/6; INA 3/5 in FBIS 3/6; MET 3/19].

Food, water, and electricity remain scarce in Kuwait City, but 2,700-man allied task force is hoping to alleviate worst of problems within days [LAT, WT 3/6]. Kuwaiti gov’t. places Kuwait City under 10 p.m. to 4 a.m. curfew [AFP, KUNA 3/5 in FBIS 3/6; MET 3/19].

House Appropriations Committee votes to give Israel $650 million to cover costs associated with Gulf war, and approves $42.6-billion down payment of Operation Desert Storm [NYT, LAT, WP, WT, MEM 3/6].

Doctors in Kuwait City say that in the last 5 days they have treated scores of Palestinians who had been severely beaten and in some cases shot. U.S. military reports that 7 Kuwaiti soldiers manning checkpoints have been shot to death by people in passing vehicles [NYT 3/6]. Amnesty International warns of the risk of reprisal killings against Palestinians and other Arabs, urges that Red Cross be given access to all detainees in Kuwait [MEM 3/5; FJ 3/11].

In 1st postwar policy statement, King Fahd predicts Saddam Hussein will meet an ominous end as “all tyrants” in the Arab world have before him [NYT, MEM 3/6].

Israeli Immigration Min. Yitzhak Peretz expresses concern over small number of recent Soviet Jewish immigrants who, dissatisfied with high standard of living and limited employment opportunities, are emigrating to Canada, Australia, and Germany [WT 3/6].

6 MARCH

In speech before joint session of Congress, Pres. Bush announces end of hostilities against Iraq and outlines 4 goals for U.S. policy in Middle East—Gulf security, regional arms control, economic development, and Arab-Israeli peace, specifically mentioning “land for peace” (see doc. D1) [NYT, WP, LAT, WT, MEM 3/7].

Saddam Hussein names his cousin to replace fired Interior Minister; dissolves Ministry of Local Gov’ts., and issues large pay raise to Republican Guard and army troops, as those forces continue to gain upper hand in 4-day-old popular insurrection [MEM 3/6; NYT, LAT, WP, WT 3/7; CSM 3/8; BADS 3/6 in FBIS 3/6; MET 3/19].

Japanese upper house of parliament gives final approval to $9 billion of assistance to multinational force [LAT, WP 3/7].

General strike called for by UNLU is observed in o.t.; clashes occur throughout o.t., including in Ramallah where 18-year-old Palestinian is shot dead by IDF troops [MEM 3/6; NYT 3/7; IDF 3/6 in FBIS 3/7; FJ 3/11; MET 3/19].

U.S. military concludes that Iraq’s chemical weapons never entered combat theater;
allied troops have been unable to find any nonconventional weapons [WP 3/7].

7 MARCH

U.S. troops begin leaving Gulf; Def. Sec. Cheney says U.S. will return average of 5,000 troops per day over next few weeks [LAT, WP, CSM 3/8; MET 3/19].

En route to Saudi Arabia as part of 11-day Middle East tour, Sec. Baker says he will propose series of "confidence-building measures" between Israel and Arab states to open path to broader peace talks [LAT, NYT, WP, WT 3/8].

In Kuwait, at least 2 Palestinians have been shot dead and 5 others hospitalized from beatings and shootings, as Palestinians raise concerns about reprisals against their community in Kuwait [LAT, NYT, WP 3/8].

Palestinian journalist Taher Shriteh, jailed without charge on 1/28/91, is freed on bail after international campaign to gain his release (cf. 3/11) [NYT, MEM 3/8; AFP 3/8 in FBIS 3/11; MET 3/19].

House of Representatives votes to authorize $15.8 billion to pay for Gulf war, and also $650 million for Israel, and warns other nations that Congress "may consider appropriate action" if promised payments are not made [NYT, WP, WT 3/8].

Sec.-Gen. Pérez de Cuéllar selects Switzerland's ambassador to Washington, Edouard Brunner, as special Middle East envoy to begin new high-priority search for solution to Arab-Israeli conflict [WP 3/8].

Palestinian leaders representing Fatah, PFLP, and DFLP, but not Hamas, meet in Jerusalem with visiting EC "troika" representatives including Italian F.M. Gianni di Micheli, EC ministers also meet with Israeli P.M. Shamir and D.M. Arens, then depart for Jordan [JDS 3/7 in FBIS 3/8; FJ 3/11; MET 3/19].

Border policeman in Nablus is stabbed, wounded; attacker escapes and army imposes curfew on Nablus and adjacent refugee camps [JDS 3/7 in FBIS 3/8]; 30 Palestinians are detained in Jerusalem after IDF opens fire on demonstrators [JDS 3/7 in FBIS 3/11].

Syria and Saudi Arabia sign wide-ranging cooperation agreement which both nations say was sign of desire to foster closer relations [MEM 3/8].

Italian F.M. de Micheli is quoted as calling for "internal revolt in the Palestinian [resistance] movement" now that PLO has "ruled itself out" of peace negotiations [MEM 3/7].

8 MARCH

Baghdad releases 2 U.S. POWs, 40 journalists, and hundreds of Kuwaiti POWs, as well as 1,181 who had been abducted by Iraqi troops. More than 6,300 American soldiers arrive in U.S. during 1st full day of nonstop homecomings [LAT, NYT 3/9].

During 2 1/2-hour meeting in Riyadh, Sec. Baker outlines to King Fahd 4 U.S. policy goals announced by Pres. Bush on 3/6. King agrees to take active role in support of U.S., but offers no specific commitments [NYT, LAT 3/9; RIDS 3/8 in FBIS 3/11; MET 3/19].

Iranian Pres. Rafsanjani expresses sympathy for rebels trying to overthrow Saddam Hussein; calls for Saddam to surrender "to the will of the people" [LAT, NYT 3/9].

In interview with journalists from Morocco, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and Kuwait, Pres. Bush says PLO has "lost credibility" after siding with Iraq; Bush dismisses chances for U.S.-PLO talks anytime soon [WP 3/10].

EC "troika" ministers meet with King Hussein to discuss Middle East peace proposals [ADS 3/8 in FBIS 3/8].

9 MARCH

Senior U.S. admin. officials say military plans to use air strikes against any Iraqi military unit that uses poison gas or chemical weapons against rebels [NYT, WP 3/10].

Palestinians in o.t.m. mark 39 months of intifada with general strike; at least 55 Gazans are wounded in clashes with IDF; clashes are largest since before Gulf war [NYT, WP 3/10; JDS 3/9 in FBIS 3/11; FJ 3/18; MET 3/19].

On quick visit to Kuwait, Sec. Baker is told by gov't. officials that they intend to democratize their country in near future, but insist that until Saddam Hussein is removed from power, there will not be peace or stability in Gulf region [NYT, WP 3/10; MET 3/19].
10 MARCH

Meeting with Sec. Baker in Riyadh, representatives of the 8 Arab countries allied with U.S. in Gulf war give general endorsement to Pres. Bush’s Middle East peace initiative; but press for concessions and flexibility from Israel (see doc. B2) [NYT, WP, LAT, CSM 3/11; KUNA 3/10 in FBIS 3/11].

On eve of Sec. Baker’s visit to Israel, Palestinian fatally stabs 4 Israeli women at bus stop outside Jerusalem; police say assailant meant his action as “message” to Sec. Baker. Jewish bystanders throw stones at Palestinian cars and shout for revenge; Palestinians are barred from Jerusalem until further notice [NYT, LAT, WP, WT 3/11; IDF, JDS 3/10 in FBIS 3/11; CSM 3/12; FJ 3/18; MET 3/19; JPI 3/23].

18-track convoy of medicine, food, and water leaves Jordan for Iraq. Relief officials say they are “fighting against time to try to prevent another health catastrophe” as warming weather raises threat of cholera and typhoid [LAT 3/11; MET 3/19].

Jerusalem radio reports that Ariel Sharon has submitted to P.M. Shamir his resignation as chmn. of Ministerial Committee on Aliyah, saying he could not operate without additional powers or Shamir’s support (cf. 3/13) [JDS 3/10 in FBIS 3/11].

Internal report from Israel’s Housing Ministry indicates more than 10,000 new housing units are to be located in o.t., despite previous pledges by gov’t. to Bush admin. to place all homes in Israel [WP, LAT 3/11].

Yasir Abd Rabbo says PLO has authorized Palestinian figures in o.t. to meet with Sec. Baker during his visit to Israel [AFP, ADS 3/10 in FBIS 3/11; AVP, TDS 3/11 in FBIS 3/12].

Israeli Inner Cabinet meets and reaffirms its adherence to its May 1989 peace plan; various ministers says Israel will not discuss Golan Heights [IDF, JDS 3/10 in FBIS 3/11].

Israeli troops shoot dead 6 heavily armed Arabs who had crossed border from Jordan; 3 Israeli soldiers are slightly wounded in the 2-hour gun battle [NYT 3/12; JDS 3/11 in FBIS 3/11; JPI 3/23].

U.S. military officials say Iraq will turn over the bodies of 14 allied soldiers killed in Gulf war; 24 U.S. soldiers remain missing in action [LAT, WP 3/12].

23 Iraqi opposition groups begin 3-day conference in Beirut to solidify their stand and offer alternative to Saddam Hussein’s regime [LAT, CSM 3/12; BDS 3/11 in FBIS 3/12].

Allied air strikes have left Iraq’s oil production capacity reduced by two-thirds, according to oil industry experts [LAT 3/12].

U.S. Commerce Dep’t. makes public list of $500 million in advanced American goods, including lasers and computers, that were sold to Iraq with Washington’s approval between 1985 and August 1990 [NYT 3/12].

Palestinian journalist Taher Shriteh, released from Israeli prison on 3/8, is indicted on charges of aiding an illegal Arab group by giving them the publicly listed telephone number of Reuters in Jerusalem [NYT 3/17].

Gulf Crisis Financial Coordination Group. 27 wealthy countries, meet in Luxembourg, pledge $834 million in new aid to nations hardest hit by Gulf war [WT 3/12].

Public opinion survey published in Israeli newspaper Yediot Ahronot shows 49% of respondents find “territories for peace” principle acceptable; 49% say it is unacceptable [YA 3/11 in FBIS 3/19].

12 MARCH

In Jerusalem, Sec. Baker holds separate meetings with P.M. Shamir and group of 10 Palestinian leaders, led by Faisal Hussein, who hands him memo (see doc. B2). Baker reportedly probes each side for points on which each might be flexible; reiterates “land for peace” formula to a noncommittal Shamir (cf. 3/13) [NYT, LAT, WP, WT 3/13; IDF, JDS 3/12, JPD, DAV 3/13 in FBIS 3/13; CSM 3/14; FJ 3/18; MET 3/26].

Kuwait military continues to transport hundreds of Palestinians, Jordanians, N. Africans, and Iraqis—arrested since liberation of Kuwait—to border with Iraq; several people claim to have been tortured and beaten by Kuwait military [LAT, WP 3/13].

Kurdish insurgents in northern Iraq claim further territorial gains and accuse Baghdad of taking 5,000 Kurdish women and children as hostages [LAT, WP, CSM 3/13].
Syria announces it has freed all Palestinians held in its jails. Beirut radio says 302 prisoners were released, PLO reports more than 4,000 Palestinians in Syrian jails (cf. 3/13) [LAT, WP 3/13; BVL 3/12 in FBIS 3/18; MET 3/26].

North Korea has delivered to Syria about 24 SCUD missiles along with mobile launchers, according to U.S. officials [WT 3/13].

World Health Organization reports Baghdad's water supplies are at 5% of prewar levels; Iraqi Red Crescent says cholera and typhoid cases are beginning to appear [LAT 3/13].

King Hussein says that Jordan will never agree to be a substitute for PLO in peace talks with Israel, but if Palestinian leadership asked Jordan to join talks, it would do so [NYT 3/13].

Kuwaiti officials say joint U.S.-British air base will be built on Kuwait's Bubiyan Island as part of postwar security arrangements [WT 3/13].

13 MARCH

Sec. Baker holds 7-hour meeting with Pres. Asad in Damascus; American officials decline to comment on contents [NYT, LAT, WP, WT 3/14; CSM 3/15; MET 3/26].

Palestinian human rights workers and community leaders say more than 100 Palestinians have disappeared in the 2 weeks since allied forces recovered Kuwait; PLO says over 3,500 Palestinians have been detained at checkpoints. Bush admin. says this is "a big concern" [LAT, NYT, WT 3/14].

Taking 1st clear step to aid Iraqi insurgents, Pres. Bush accuses Iraq of violating cease-fire by using helicopter gunships against rebels; Bush warns Saddam Hussein against further use [NYT, LAT, WP, WT 3/14; CSM 3/15]. Bush also warns Iran not to seize any Iraqi territory during rebellion [WP 3/14].

Demonstrators in Mosul, Iraq storm 2 prisons and release 4,000 political prisoners, according to Kurdish leaders. Clashes between loyalists and rebels are reported in Baghdad. Three-day Beirut conference of Iraqi opposition leaders ends with an appeal to Iraqi loyalists to help topple Saddam [NYT, LAT, WP, WT 3/14; KUNA, SANAC, INRA 3/13 in FBIS 3/14].

Japan transfers equivalent of $8.6 billion to its Gulf Peace Fund, fulfilling its pledge of aid for allied forces, according to govt. spokesperson. No mention is made of the fact that Japan had promised $9 billion [LAT 3/14].

Bassam Abu Sharif, advisor to Arafat, gives interview to Sky Television in which he suggests borders of Palestinian state are negotiable, offers other "concessions" (cf. 3/18) [AVP, BBC 3/13 in FBIS 3/14].

P.M. Shamir asks Aijah Committee Chairman Ariel Sharon to withdraw his letter of resignation; Sharon compiles [JDS 3/13 in FBIS 3/14].

Algerian National Television Service broadcasts 24-hour telethon to raise money for and express solidarity with people of Iraq [APS 3/14 in FBIS 3/14].

14 MARCH

American troops move up to 30 miles further into Iraq. Marine Gen. Richard Neil says "the purpose is to maintain a presence until the cease-fire is agreed to." Move also appears to be part of Bush admin. effort to pressure Saddam Hussein not to use helicopters or chemical weapons against Kurdish rebels [LAT 3/15; NYT 3/16].

Pres. Asad tells Sec. Baker that Syria is "committed to a genuine peace" with Israel, according to U.S. officials, who interpret Asad's remark as fundamental change in Syrian policy. Sec. Baker flies to Moscow [LAT, NYT, WP 3/15; SANA 3/14 in FBIS 3/15].


Emir of Kuwait returns to his country for 1st time since invasion [NYT, LAT, WP, WT 3/15; KUNA 3/14 in FBIS 3/15; MET 3/26].

U.S. Senate declares Saddam Hussein should be tried for war crimes, and bars use of any U.S. funds for rebuilding Iraq while Saddam remains in power. Senate Appropriations Committee approves $200 million to help Turkey cover its war costs as part of $15.8 billion package that has already cleared House [LAT, WP 3/15].

Jerusalem city authorities plan to build, with approval of Religious Affairs Ministry and Israeli govt., a Jewish cemetery outside of Jerusalem in the West Bank. Opponents say cemetery violates international rules governing use of occupied territory, and reflects attempt to make irreversible Israel's hold on o.t. [LAT 3/15].

Israel reimposes ban on Palestinians' entry into Jerusalem, decides to keep ban until beginning of next week (cf. 3/17) [JDS 3/14 in FBIS 3/14; MET 3/26].
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15 MARCH

Iraqi insurgents reportedly capture strategic Turkish-Iraqi border town of Zakho; Baghdad accuses some Iraqi journals of "transmitting lies" about the rebellion [LAT 3/16; MET 3/26].

Pentagon announces that 6 U.S. soldiers have died in helicopter crash in Iraq; 3 other soldiers are reported killed in accidents, bringing to 324 the total number of U.S. deaths since 2 August [NYT, LAT 3/16].

U.S. says investigation into allegations that Jordan during war has turned up no evidence to support the claim [NYT 3/16].

Israeli warplanes destroy 2 buildings serving as bases for Popular Struggle Front in eastern Lebanon; 7 injured in 5th Israeli raid this year in Lebanon [NYT 3/16; IDF, AFP 3/15 in FBIS 3/15; MET 3/26].

16 MARCH

In 1st broadcast since 26 February, Saddam Hussein appeals for support from Iraqi people, promising to move ahead with democratic reforms as soon as his forces defeat rebels [NYT, WP 3/17; BADS 3/16 in FBIS 3/18; CSM 3/18].

Kuwaitis are reportedly deeply upset with returning gov't's efforts to restore essential services, including water and electricity [NYT 3/17]. Kuwaiti military commanders acknowledge soldiers' abuses in campaign of detention and deportation against suspected Iraqi collaborators, but say they are powerless to stop abuses [WP 3/17].

International team of doctors, after visiting Iraq, say that hospitals are desperately short of electricity, medical supplies, and water, and have been forced to turn away patients [NYT 3/17].

In Bermuda, Pres. Bush and P.M. Major outline stiff terms for permanent cease-fire in Gulf war, including supervised destruction of Iraq's chemical and biological weapons and the use of Iraq's oil revenues to pay reparations to Kuwait [WP 3/17].

U.S. officers who debriefed Iraqi POWs say Iraqi units suffered desertion rates from 20 to 50 percent, totaling nearly 100,000 soldiers, before allied ground war began. Officers say most of these deserters simply went home [WP 3/17].

17 MARCH

Returning from Middle East, and acknowledging deep mutual distrust between Israelis and Arabs, Sec. Baker says both sides must move simultaneously to adopt "confidence-building measures" because neither side can be expected to make the initial concession [LAT, WT 3/18; CSM 3/19].

Tel Aviv district court sentences cashiered soldier Ami Popper to 7 consecutive life sentences plus 20 years in prison for the shooting deaths of 7 Palestinians in Rishon le Zion last May [NYT, LAT, WP 3/18; JDS 3/17 in FBIS 3/19; MET 3/26; JPD 3/30].

Palestinian workers are allowed to return to Jerusalem for 1st time since recent stabbings; workers are also allowed back to Tel Aviv and Haifa for 1st time since 17 January [NYT, LAT, CSM 3/18; JDS 3/17 in FBIS 3/18; MET 3/26]; general strike is observed in o.t. to mark beginning of Gulf war [IF 3/25].

U.S. and international human rights officials say bodies of 20 to 30 people have been found tortured or shot, and many more are presumed dead in what appear to be reprisal killings by Kuwaiti military against suspected pro-Iraqi collaborators [LAT 3/18].

Moving to mollify vocal democracy movement, Kuwaiti govt. announces it will hold elections for new parliament within 6 months to a year [WP, WT, CSM 3/18, MET 3/26].

Insurgents in Iraq report fierce fighting between rebels and Iraqi troops in many parts of the country [NYT, WT 3/18]; Baghdad's daily newspapers carry accounts of widespread death and destruction in southern Iraq and say rebellion there has been crushed [WP 3/18].

Speaking at AIPAC conference, Israeli Health Min. Ehud Olmert says Israel is willing to begin peace negotiations with all Arab states and to discuss future of o.t. and Golan, but only with Arab delegation that excludes PLO (cf. 3/18) [WP 3/18; JDS 3/17 in FBIS 3/18; CSM 3/19].

18 MARCH

P.M. Shamir says the 10 Palestinians who met with Sec. Baker during his recent trip to Israel are unacceptable negotiating partners for Israel: "they came in the name of the PLO. Israel will absolutely not negotiate with the PLO" [LAT, WP 3/19; JDS 3/18 in FBIS 3/19]. Shamir and other officials repudiate
3/17 statement by Ehud Olmert, saying that o.t. are not negotiable in peace talks [WP 3/19; JDS, IDF 3/18 in FBIS 3/18].

Israeli and U.S. officials reject reported offer by Yasir Arafat to participate in direct talks with Israel; Arafat is quoted making his offer in the Paris newspaper Le Figaro [LAT, WT 3/19].

Joint statement by Saudi Arabia and Iran says hajj agreement has been reached, and that diplomatic relations between the 2 countries could resume soon. Relations were cut after 1987 hajj when riots between Saudi security and Iranian pilgrims left hundreds dead [LAT, CSM 3/19].

The 5 permanent members of UN Sec. Council reach broad agreement on main elements of new permanent cease-fire resolution for Gulf war; resolution will set out again, but in greater detail, terms approved in 3/2 resolution 686 [NYT 3/19].

PLO’s Bassam Abu Sharif is reported as having resigned over remarks attributed to him in interview on 3/13; Abu Sharif denies reports [MENA, RMC 3/19 in FBIS 3/19].

By 53-43 vote, Knesset defeats no-confidence motions brought against Israeli gov’t. for failures of immigrant absorption, high unemployment, and closure imposed on o.t. [JDS 3/18 in FBIS 3/19; MET 3/26].

19 MARCH

Sending strong message to coalition allies, Senate votes 98 to 1 to ban arms sales to allies that fail to make good on multibillion-dollar pledges to defray American costs in Gulf war [WP, LAT 3/20].

Angered by U.S. criticism of Japan’s refusal to play larger role in Gulf coalition, Japanese consul general in New York blames U.S. for starting crisis by refusing to learn to conserve energy [LAT 3/20].

Kuwaiti prosecutor says his gov’t. will seek to hang most of the 600 Iraqi, Palestinians, and other prisoners being held for alleged war crimes [LAT 3/20].

Senior Kuwaiti officials and Arab diplomats say that Iran has been arming and organizing many of the Iraqi rebels in effort to replace Saddam with Shiite gov’t. [NYT 3/20].

Israeli army chief of staff, Lt. Gen. Dan Shomron, tells reporters that Israel might give up some occupied territory if Israel made satisfactory peace agreements with Arab neighbors; some MKs call for Shomron’s immediate resignation, even though he is to retire in a month [NYT, WP 3/20].

In 2d attack in 5 days, Israeli warplanes attack Palestinian stronghold near Sidon, wounding 13. It is 6th such attack this year [LAT, NYT 3/20; JDS 3/19 in FBIS 3/20; MET 4/2].

20 MARCH

U.S. Air Force fighter shoots down 1 of 2 Iraqi fighter-bombers spotted above Tikrit, Iraq. Planes were flying in violation of temporary Gulf war cease-fire and in defiance of American warnings that Iraqi combat planes in the air would be fired upon [NYT, LAT, WP, WT 3/21; DUS 3/21 in FBIS 3/22; MET 4/2].

Appearing before Senate Foreign Relations Committee, U.S. ambassador to Iraq April Glaspie says she warned Saddam Hussein that U.S. would come to defense of Arab allies in Gulf, and that Saddam “clearly” assured her that Iraq would not seize Kuwait [NYT, LAT, WP, WT 3/21].

Kuwaiti cabinet resigns in effort to defuse growing public anger at apparent gov’t. paralysis and increasing demands for democracy [LAT, NYT, WP, WT 3/21; KUNA 3/20 in FBIS 3/20; MET 4/2].

In measure attached to Gulf war spending bill, Senate votes 92-8 to officially halt the $57.2 million in economic and military aid to Jordan this year in retaliation for Jordan’s support of Iraq (cf. 3/21, 3/22) [NYT, LAT, WP, WT 3/21].

Iranian embassy officially opens in Amman as Iran and Jordan restore diplomatic relations, putting into effect agreement reached last January [JTE 3/21 in FBIS 3/21; MET 4/2].

21 MARCH

UN survey of civilian damage caused by allied bombardment of Iraq calls the results “near apocalyptic,” and recommends an immediate end to embargo on food and other essential supplies (see doc. A1) [NYT 3/22].

Bush admin., moving to counter impression that it had scapegoated Ambassador to Iraq April Glaspie on Kuwait invasion, says it knew Iraqi transcript of Glaspie-Saddam meeting was inaccurate but did not wish to divert attention from coalition by correcting the record [NYT, WT 3/22].

U.S. military says thousands of Iraqi civilians have poured into villages and communities in Iraqi territory controlled by allied forces; many are refugees from civil unrest.
gripping much of Iraq [NYT 3/22]; heavy fighting occurs in northern Iraq [WP 3/22].

Speaker of the House Thomas Foley (D-Wash.) says he supports Pres. Bush’s opposition to measure passed by Senate that cuts off aid to Jordan. White House threatens to veto bill unless aid provision is removed [NYT 3/22].

Palestinian paramedics says Palestinian and Iraqi torture victims are being kept in secret hospital wards accessible only to Kuwaiti doctors, and that at least 2 casualties were beaten while still in hospital’s emergency room [WP 3/22].

In report to Congress, State Dep’t. says Soviet Jewish emigrants are settling in o.t. at higher rate than Israeli govt.’s claims; report adds Jewish population in o.t. is growing by as much as 10% annually (see doc. D4) [WP, WT 3/22].

Speaking on NBC television, King Hussein says that Jordan would not agree to substitute for PLO in any negotiations, but if PLO asked him to be part of joint delegation, he would consider doing so [MEM 4/3].

22 MARCH

For 2d time in 48 hours, U.S. fighter shoots down Iraqi warplane, this one over Kirkuk, Iraq. Bush admin. vows to continue to shoot down any military aircraft, and insists that it is not meddling in the uprising against Saddam Hussein [LAT, NYT, WP 3/23; MET 4/2].

Full Congress gives final approval of bill authorizing $42.6 billion in U.S. and allied payments toward cost of Gulf war, and passes $4.8-billion “dire emergency” bill that contains $650 million for Israel and $200 million for Turkey to defray war-related costs. Congress keeps provision cutting off aid to Jordan, but modifies it to allow repurposing of aid if it is determined Jordan is aiding Middle East peace process. Bush admin. informs Congress that it intends to sell to Israel another Patriot missile unit for $350 million [WP, LAT, LAT 3/23].

Bush admin. is putting pressure on Japan to improve its relations with Israel, and, in particular, to end longstanding compliance by many Japanese companies with Arab boycott of trade with Israel [LAT 3/23].

UN Sec. Council’s sanctions committee agrees to ease restrictions on food and other essential supplies for Iraq following 3/21 release of UN report warning of catastrophe in war-ravaged Iraq [LAT, NYT, WP 3/23; MET 4/2].

During tour of West Bank settlements, Housing Minister Ariel Sharon says construction of 13,000 housing units in o.t. has been approved for next 2 years. Plans contradict statements by F.M. Shamir who has told Bush admin. that gov’t. has not approved such plans [LAT 3/23; JPI 3/30].

IDF says that 2 Arab guerrillas with automatic rifles crossing border from Jordan into northern Israel were shot dead by army patrol [LAT 3/23; JDS 3/22 in FBIS 3/22].

23 MARCH

Saddam Hussein shuffles his cabinet, elevating the only Shiite in senior govt. position, Saadoun Hammadi to P.M. Deputy P.M. and F.M. Tarik Aziz is relieved of F.M. post and replaced by Ahmad Hussein Khudayyir. U.S. dismisses moves as insignificant because “Saddam Hussein still appears to be calling the shots” [NYT, WP 3/24; BADS 3/23 in FBIS 3/25; CSM 3/25; MET 4/2].

Arab man stabs and wounds Jewish couple on their farm north of Tel Aviv; IDF shoots dead 19-year-old Palestinian who was with demonstrators outside Tulkarm [NYT 3/24].

Deputy P.M. Aziz arrives in Amman for talks with King Hussein [MET 4/2].

24 MARCH

Forces loyal to Saddam Hussein have effectively crushed 3-week-old armed rebellion in southern Iraq; refugees reaching American lines say reprisals and executions are occurring now that Saddam’s forces are back in control. Refugees also flee toward Turkish and Iranian borders. Anti-gov’t. Kurdish rebels say they still control much of northern Iraq [LAT 3/25].

American officials say the number of Iraqi tanks and armored vehicles that survived Gulf war is much greater than originally thought, and many of the weapons have been used by Iraqi troops against insurgents [NYT 3/25].

Gen. Schwarzkopf says U.S. is near agreement on establishing permanent military headquarters in Bahrain [NYT, LAT 3/25].

Acting on request from U.S. officials, Israeli police arrest American-born Jewish couple, Robert and Rochelle Manning, for 1985 bombing that killed Arab-American Anti-Discrimination Committee director Alex Odeh. The Mannings, who emigrated to Israel in 1973, have ties with Kach party [LAT 3/25; NYT 3/26; MET 4/2].
Israel retaliates for wave of Arab knife attacks by issuing deportation notices to 4 Palestinians allegedly tied to Fatah; 4 Palestinians are wounded in clashes touched off in response to deportation orders (cf. 3/25, 3/27). [NYT, LAT, WP, WT, CSM 3/25; AVP, JDS 3/24; HAA 3/23 in FBIS 3/25; FJ 4/1; MET 4/2].

16-year-old Palestinian dies of head wound suffered on 3/22 when IDF opened fire on stone throwers in Gaza Strip, [LAT 3/25]; Israeli soldiers kill 3 Arab guerrillas inside S. Lebanon "heading towards Israel" [NYT 3/25; JDS 3/24 in FBIS 3/25].

25 MARCH

White House and State Dept. denounce Israeli decision to deport 4 Gaza Palestinians, suggesting that action could jeopardize efforts to bring about peace; Israeli Housing Minister Ariel Sharon calls for mass deportations of activists from o.t. [LAT, WT 3/26].

Iraq submits to UN detailed list of Kuwaiti gov't. property it took from the emirate, including $457 million in gold and $600 million in currency [LAT 3/26].

Bahraini F.M. says that overall "security arrangement" will be negotiated to insure permanent military presence by Western and friendly Arab nations in Gulf region [NYT 3/26].

In interview with Toronto Star, Yasir Arafat offers peace plan, says PLO would accept UN buffer zone on Palestinian side of border between Israel and future Palestinian state [WT 3/26; AFP, JDS 3/25, AGS 3/26 in FBIS 3/26].

Pres. Asad and King Hussein meet in Damascus as part of Arab fence-mending effort [WT 3/26; ADS, DDS 3/26 in FBIS 3/26; MET 4/2].

Israelis successfully test fire Arrow antiballistic missile; it is 2d test flight, and coordinated with American military [JDS 3/25 in FBIS 3/26].

26 MARCH

Bush admin. abandons policy of shooting down combat helicopters that Iraqi gov't. is using against rebels, saying they are not part of temporary cease-fire agreement. Admin. says helicopters will be attacked "only if they threaten U.S. forces or coalition forces" [NYT, LAT, WP 3/27].

German gov't. announces it will pay in full all monetary pledges it made to U.S. for Gulf war, increasing chances that U.S. will either "break even or make a small profit" on the war [LAT, WP 3/27].

Israeli group Peace Now publishes study asserting that gov't. has budgeted more than $500 million during current fiscal year on settlements in o.t. and related expenses. Highest official gov't. estimate on such spending is $200 million, given in report to U.S. earlier in the year (see doc. C2) [NYT 3/27].

Syrian officials say Damascus is planning to double its 20,000-member military force in Gulf as part of efforts by Arab nations opposing Iraq to strengthen security in region [NYT 3/27].

Iran and Saudi Arabia officially restore diplomatic ties [WT 3/27].

West Bank settler is killed near Ramallah in what Israeli army calls "planned attack" by Palestinians; IDF expropriates land near killing site to set up army camp [JDS 3/27 in FBIS 3/27; CSM 3/28; MET 4/9].

In Gaza, IDF paints yellow lines along major traffic arteries in Palestinian towns leading to main locations, such as Civil Admin. bldgs. Lines are intended to help direct soldiers and vehicles to safety in event of riots [YA 3/27 in FBIS 3/27].

27 MARCH

Fighting allegations that Palestinians in Kuwait have been tortured and killed since emirate was freed, Kuwaiti ambassador to UN writes to Sec.-Gen. Pérez de Cuéllar, saying Kuwait will protect its Palestinian population and that Red Cross may visit detainees [LAT 3/28].

Western and Middle East diplomats say Bush admin. is exploring possibility of convening regional peace talks with U.S. and U.S.S.R. as hosts that would serve as opening for direct negotiations between Israel and Arab neighbors [NYT 2/28].

Iranian Pres. Rafsanjani says that Teheran has not provided troops or materials to Iraqi insurgents, saying the rebels neither want nor need Iranian help [NYT 3/28].

Israeli Police Minister Roni Milo advises Jewish public to kill any Palestinian seen brandishing a knife; on 3/26 Milo ordered security officers to "shoot to kill" any Palestinian believed about to attack an Israeli [NYT 3/28].

UN Sec. Council issues statement deploring Israeli’s decision to deport 4 Gazans, and said that it was "deeply concerned" over continuing unrest in o.t. [WP 3/28]; permanent Council members are reportedly in agreement
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over tentative cease-fire resolution [MET 4/9].

45-year-old Palestinian is stabbed to death in E. Jerusalem; no arrests are made [JDS 3/28 in FBIS 3/28].

28 MARCH

Iraqi troops launch attack to force Kurdish rebels out of northern oil city of Kirkuk [LAT, WT 3/29; MET 4/9]. Rebels say food shortages are hurting their cause; appeal for international help [NYT, WP 3/29; AFP 3/28 in FBIS 3/29].

UN environmentalist compares Kuwait's burning oil wells with Chernobyl disaster, saying scientific world is still unable to measure the extent of the disaster in Kuwait [LAT, WP 3/29].


29 MARCH

Yasir Arafat says that, faced with a drop of more than 80% in funding after Gulf war, PLO has been forced to close diplomatic missions, shut down newspapers, and lay off workers [LAT 3/20].

Rebuffing desperate plea from Kurdish rebels, White House sticks to its policy of nonintervention in Iraq's civil war [LAT 3/30]. Kurdish leaders say their forces are retreating from city of Kirkuk [NYT 3/30].

Kuwait gov't. announces plans to issue new identity cards to residents and to re-register its entire population in order to weed out illegal aliens and reduce number of foreigners [LAT 3/30].

Iraqi troops shoot dead 3 Arabs who entered West Bank from Jordan; Israeli radio reports ages of Arabs as 30, 15, and 12, and says they were armed with a knife [NYT 3/30; JDS 3/29 in FBIS 3/29; MET 4/9].

30 MARCH

In Cairo, Arab League meeting opens with introductory speeches; all 21 nation-members attend; pro-Western nations, particularly Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and Syria, dismiss Iraq's justifications for occupying Kuwait and hint that they no longer regard PLO as sole representative of Palestinians [NYT, WP 3/31; MENA 3/20 in FBIS 4/1; CSM 4/1].

Palestinians in o.t. hold general strike to mark Land Day, but within Israel, Land Day strike is canceled for 1st time in years, underscoring political differences among Israel's 800,000 Arabs [NYT, WP 3/31; FJ 4/8; MET 4/9].

At news conference in Kuwait, GCC Sec.-Gen. announces members states have decided to cut financial aid to Jordan and PLO because of their Gulf war stands (cf. 4/1) [ADS 3/30 in FBIS 4/1; MET 4/9].

Palestinian military court in Sanaa sentences Hani Muhammad al-Hasan to death for the assassination of Abu Iyad on 16 January [MENA 3/30 in FBIS 4/2].

31 MARCH

Israeli gov't. imposes new restriction on Palestinians, forbidding workers to drive their own cars into Israel; gov't. also pledges to accelerate deportations of activists and affirms policy of house demolitions (cf. 4/1, 4/2) [LAT, WP, WT 4/1; JDS 3/31 in FBIS 4/1, 4/2; CSM 4/2; FJ 4/8].

Israel lifts curfew in Gaza Strip and some West Bank locations; Palestinians are still barred from entering Jerusalem [JDS 3/31 in FBIS 4/1; MET 4/9].

Iraqi troops retake city of Kirkuk from Kurdish rebels after 4 days of fighting; soldiers also take Irbil, 50 miles north of Kirkuk; thousands of refugees flee to Turkish and Iranian borders [LAT, WT, NYT 4/1].

In Easter message, Pope John Paul II condemns destruction in Gulf war, calls on world leaders to deal with plight of "oppressed peoples, such as the Palestinians, the Lebanese, the Kurds" [NYT, LAT, WT 4/1].

U.S. Army announces plan to begin within 2 weeks to withdraw about 20,000 troops from southern Iraq, about ¼ of its combat forces there [NYT 4/1].

Senior Iranian official accuses U.S. of misleading Iraqi people by encouraging them to overthrow Saddam Hussein, then giving Iraq "green light" to suppress rebellion [NYT 4/1].

Pres. Asad arrives in Cairo to discuss with Pres. Mubarak regional security arrangements in light of Gulf war [NYT 4/1; MENA 3/30, 4/1 in FBIS 4/1; CSM 4/1; MET 4/9].
1 APRIL

On 2d day of meetings in Cairo, Pres. Mubarak and Pres. Asad say they are opposed to the splintering of Iraq, and call for international peace conference, after adequate preparations. On matter of Kurdish rebellion, Pres. Asad says it is "an internal matter" [MENA 4/1 in FBIS 4/1; SANA 4/1 in FBIS 4/2; NYT, MEM 4/2].

Human rights groups working in Kuwait have turned up no proof to date that thousands of Kuwaitis were executed by Iraqis; Middle East Watch says that number is from 300 to 600. Also refuted is claim that Iraqi troops killed hundreds of premature babies by sealing incubators [WP 4/2].

Inquest by Jerusalem judge into Haram al-Sharif killings last October 8 turns up evidence that contradicts official Israeli gov't. version of events. Border officer testifies he saw other officers "shoot from the hip," in violation of regulations; another officer claims police fired on Palestinians who had sat down and begun to pray [WP, LAT 4/2].


Six Kuwait opposition groups, 96 leaders in all, sign manifesto demanding democracy [LAT, MEM 4/2].


UNLU issues call no. 69, praising Iraqi "steadfastness" in face of coalition, criticizes attempts to find alternative Palestinian leadership [AVP 4/1 in FBIS 4/2; MEM 4/2].

U.S. State Dep't. criticizes Israel's 3/31 restrictions on Palestinians in o.t., stating what is needed is "dialogue and trust . . . not imposing new restrictions" [MEM 4/2].

About 20 mobile homes are set up in West Bank settlement of Kiryat Arba to help meet growing housing needs of Soviet Jewish immigrants, around 400 of whom have moved to this settlement over the past year [MEM 4/3].

Israeli human rights group B'Tselem reports Israeli security forces killed 8 Palestinians during March; 5 in West Bank and 3 in Gaza Strip; 1 Israeli civilian was killed in o.t. during the month [FJ 4/8].

In defiance of Lebanese gov't. ban on private militias, PLO says it will not lay down its arms and that its fighters in southern Lebanon will continue to strike at Israel [NYT 4/2, RFL 4/1 in FBIS 4/2].

2 APRIL

U.S. admin. officials say rebellions in Iraq appear to have ended as fighting ebbed in the south and Kurdish insurgents have abandoned major cities in the north; official says civil war has dwindled into "lingering insurgency" [NYT, WP 4/3].

Washington Post reports Saudi Arabia's war-related debt as at least $64 billion, placing the country in its most severe financial crisis in 30 years [WP 4/3].

3 APRIL

UN Sec. Council votes 12-1 with 2 abstentions to approve resolution 687 outlining strict terms and timetable of cease-fire in Gulf war. Cuba votes against; Yemen and Ecuador abstain. Resolution becomes effective once it is accepted by Iraq [NYT, WP, LAT 4/4; BADS 4/4 in FBIS 4/5; MET 4/16].

Kurdish leaders continue to appeal for international help as failed rebellion causes mass exodus towards Turkish and Iranian borders. Senior State Dep't. official meets with Iraqi dissident intellectuals in Washington in show of sympathy for Kurds; Ankara says it will not permit mass entry of Kurds into Turkey; Iran says it will accept refugees, and asks for international aid [NYT, LAT 4/4].

Jewish Agency head Simcha Dinitz reports Soviet Jewish immigrants to Israel reached almost 15,000 during March and is expected to climb to 25,000 during April [NYT 4/4].

U.S. military officials proclaim emergency relief program for Kuwait nearly complete, but express concerns about Kuwait gov't.'s ability to continue reconstruction after Americans leave [WP 4/4].

Spokesperson for DFLP in Amman states that Sec.-Gen. Nayif Hawatimah has dismissed his deputy, Yasir Abd Rabbo, and replaced him with Taysir Khalid; DFLP wing in Tunis proclaims Abd Rabbo its leader [MEM 4/4; RAY, KUNA, DUT 4/5 in FBIS 4/8].

4 APRIL

Iraq does not formally respond to 4/3 UN Sec. Council cease-fire resolution, but Baghd-
5 APRIL

Under intense pressure to help Kurdish refugees fleeing Iraqi army, Pres. Bush orders Air Force transports to begin, on 4/7, dropping food, blankets, and clothing to refugee stations along northern border. Bush says he expects Iraq to “permit this effort to be carried out without interference.” Other aid is promised by Bush to Turkey and Iran (cf. 4/7) [NYT, WP, LAT 4/6]. Iraq offers 1 week of amnesty for Kurds and army deserters (cf. 4/11) [MEM 4/5, NYT, WP 4/6; MET 4/16].

Taking up issue of rebels in Iraq, UN Sec. Council votes 10-3, with 2 abstentions to condemn Saddam Hussein’s oppression of Kurds and other civilians, and to ask Sec.-Gen. to investigate their plight. Cuba, Zimbabwe, and Yemen vote against resolution, while China and India abstain [NYT, WP, LAT 4/6].

GCC nations, laying groundwork for aid program for Egypt and Syria that will tie the countries economically, allocates $5 billion as initial installment; GCC officials say as much as $15 billion could be spent [WP 4/6].

IDF shoots dead Nablus youth during stone throwing clash; 3 Gazans are wounded in separate clash [LAT 4/6; MEM, F] 4/8].

6 APRIL

Iraq formally accepts U.N. Sec. Council cease-fire resolution, “While declaring that this resolution is unjust, [we] have found there was no other choice than to accept it in order to defeat the American-Zionist plot,” says National Assembly speaker Saadi Mehdil Saleh [NYT, WP 4/7; BADS 4/7 in FBIS 4/8; INA 4/8 in FBIS 4/9; CSM 4/8; MET 4/16].

PLO leadership in Tunis endorses proposed meeting between Sec. Baker and o.t. Palestinians during Baker’s upcoming visit to Israel [ADS 4/7 in FBIS 4/8].

Yasir Arafat arrives in Algeria, meets with Pres. Bendjedid to discuss postwar Gulf situation [AGS, APS 4/6 in FBIS 4/8].


Israeli troops shoot dead 2 Palestinians in overnight clashes in West Bank [F] 4/15; MET 4/16].

7 APRIL

Beginning trip to Middle East, Sec. Baker, along with other U.S. officials, acknowledge that initial exploratory efforts for Arab-Israeli settlement had gotten nowhere, and that it is time for Washington to begin pressing parties for specific concessions [NYT, WP, CSM 4/8].

In preparation for Sec. Baker’s visit, Israeli officials bar Palestinians from Israel and E. Jerusalem [JDS 4/7 in FBIS 4/9; MET 4/16].

In effort to calm demands for democratic reform, Emir of Kuwait reiterates pledge to hold parliamentary elections “during the coming year, God willing.” Emir also says he will study possibility of giving vote to some and to some of those now considered “second class” citizens in Kuwait (cf. 4/9) [NYT, WP, LAT, MEM 4/8; KUNA 4/7 in FBIS 4/8].

Scientists estimate oil spill in Gulf to be about 1.5 million barrels, with an estimated 3,000 barrels still pouring into the Gulf from several sources in Kuwait [WP 4/8].

Palestinian surgeon Dr. Mamdouh Aker is released on NIS 20,000 ($10,000) bail after over 5 weeks of detention on suspicion of writing intifada leaflet telling Palestinians how to protect themselves during Gulf war emergencies [MEM 4/8].

8 APRIL

European Community leaders, including P.M. Major, call on UN to create safe haven in northern Iraq where Kurdish refugees could be protected from further repression. EC offers $180 million in humanitarian aid to help Kurds [NYT, WP, LAT 4/9].

Sec. Baker visits Iraq-Turkish border to witness plight of refugees; spending just 7 minutes there, Baker speaks with refugees, says it is up to international community and not just U.S. to help Kurds [NYT, WP, LAT, CSM 4/9].

Palestine National Salvation Front, loose alliance of PFLP-GC, Fateh Uprising, and Saiqa factions based in Damascus, put forward Syrian-backed initiative for reconciliation with mainstream PLO after 8-year split. Move is seen by analysts as continuing effort
on part of Pres. Assad to strengthen his influence over PLO [NYT, LAT 4/9].

Israeli Defense Ministry announces it will free more than 1,000 of approximately 14,000 Palestinian prisoners. Those to be released are Palestinians who were not involved in intifada violence and who have served most of their sentences. Official says timing has to do with end of Ramadan rather than Sec. Baker’s upcoming visit (cf. 4/10) [NYT, WP, LAT 4/9; JDS 4/8, JPD 4/9 in FBIS 4/9].

First major element—about 100,000 troops—of U.S. Army’s VII Corps in southern Iraq begins withdraw back into Saudi Arabia, move is expected to take weeks [NYT 4/9].

Kurdish leaders say U.S. used Voice of Free Iraq radio station to incite anti-Saddam rebellion [WP 4/9].

Kuwait opposition leaders refuse to sign on to new interim govt., saying emir is not committed to speedy restoration of parliament [LAT, CSM 4/9].

Kuwait reports that 628 people, including high-ranking Iraqi officers, will stand trial soon on charges of war crimes [AFP 4/8 in FBIS 4/9; LAT 4/9; MET 4/16].

Yasir Arafat is quoted as saying Palestinian fighters in Lebanon should be allowed to keep their weapons to defend refugee camps in defiance of Lebanese govt. order to disarm [MEM 4/8].

Israeli Army Col. Yehuda Meir is convicted of ordering his soldiers to break the bones of Palestinians during early days of intifada [MET 4/16; JPI 4/20].

9 APRIL

In Jerusalem, Sec. Baker meets with P.M. Shamir, F.M. Levy, other Israeli officials. Israel says for 1st time that it is willing to enter into single regional peace meeting co-sponsored by Washington and Moscow, but no agreement on structure, agenda, timing, and who would represent Palestinians [MEM 4/9; NYT, WP, LAT, CSM 4/10; JDS, IDF 4/9 in FBIS 4/9; MET 4/23].

Sec. Baker also meets with delegation of 6 Palestinians from o.t., who present to Baker 6-point memorandum (see doc. B3) [IDF 4/9 in FBIS 4/9; MEM 4/9; FJ 4/15].

Unofficial estimates from UN High Commissioner for Refugees claim about 750,000 Iraqis have crossed into Iran and that about 280,000 have crossed illegally into Turkey, while roughly 300,000 still wait on Iraqi side of Turkish border; relief agencies say thousands will die unless massive aid reaches them soon [NYT 4/10].

Iraq rejects EC notion of setting up safe haven for refugees to be administered by UN; EC backs away from its own plan; Bush admin. also backs away from "enclave" idea [MEM 4/9; NYT, WP, LAT, MEM, CSM 4/10].

Prominent Palestinian in Kuwait, Dr. Salim Mukhtar, writer and dentist, is assassinated near Kuwait army roadblock; incident raises concerns in U.S. about continued repri- sals and repression of Palestinians in Kuwait [NYT 4/10].

UN Sec. Council authorizes dispatch of 1,440-member observer team to oversee demilitarized zone between Iraq and Kuwait currently patrolled by U.S. forces [WP, LAT 4/10].

General strike is observed in o.t. to mark beginning of 41st month of intifada [HAA 4/10 in FBIS 4/11; FJ 4/15].

10 APRIL

In Cairo, Sec. Baker meets with Pres. Mubarak; F.M. Abdel Meguid says Egypt is prepared to consider American proposal for Arab-Israeli peace conference sponsored by Washington and Moscow, and would treat Israel’s conditions for such a conference with an open mind [MEM 4/10; NYT, WP, LAT 4/11; MENA 4/10, 4/11 in FBIS 4/11; MET 4/23].

Housing Minister Ariel Sharon says that he intends to continue efforts to accelerate settlements in o.t., despite Sec. Baker’s reported criticism of Sharon’s policy at 4/9 meetings [NYT 4/11].

Pres. Bush signs emergency appropriations bill into law; it authorizes $650 million for Israel, $200 million for Turkey, and cuts off economic and military, but not humanitarian, aid to Jordan. Provision allows pres. to resume aid if he feels it will facilitate Middle East peace process [NYT 4/11].

Yasir Arafat delivers speech to mark 41st month of intifada outlining PLO’s recent diplomatic activity [AFP 4/10 in FBIS 4/11].

Ha’aretz reports that about 3% of some 223,000 new immigrants to Israel since January 1989 have settled in o.t., most in Jerusalem neighborhoods [HAA 4/11 in FBIS 4/12].

In interview with Paris-based Arabic-language weekly, Khaled al-Hassan, Fateh Central Committee member and PNC committee chair, calls for election of Palestinian provisional govt. capable of ending PLO’s isolation [MEM 4/11].
Israel releases 240 Palestinian prisoners for end of Ramadan; D.M. Arens promises to release more [FBIS 4/15; MET 4/23].

11 APRIL

After meeting in Washington with European leaders, Pres. Bush says U.S. and EC are in "total agreement" about the establishment of refugee shelters for Kurds in northern Iraq; Bush shies away from "enclaves" that could later be used as claim to statehood by Kurds [NYT, WP, LAT, MEM 4/12].

In Damascus, Sec. Baker reportedly tries to persuade Pres. Asad to agree in principle to U.S. proposal for regional peace conference between Israel and Arab nations; officials say talks were "inconclusive" [NYT 4/12; MET 4/23].

P.M. Shamir and several members of his cabinet unite behind firm rejection of Sec. Baker's suggestions that Israel curtail expansion of Jewish settlements in o.t. as goodwill gesture for peace [WP, CSM 4/12; JDS, JTN 4/11 in FBIS 4/12]. Sec. Baker meets in Cairo with Saudi and Egyptian officials, reportedly discussing how Palestinians would be represented at peace conference [WP, CSM 4/12].

American officials admit that U.S., Saudi Arabia, and some other Arab countries are looking to groom new Palestinian leadership to replace PLO [LAT 4/12; APS 4/18 in FBIS 4/18].

Iraq extends amnesty for Kurds for additional week, as 4/5 offer of amnesty is due to expire. Kurds not suspected of felonies may return home without retribution [INA 4/11 in FBIS 4/12].

12 APRIL

U.S. begins taking control of relief effort for Iraqi Kurds by outlining plans to feed some 700,000 people daily and to set up temporary refugee settlements in northern Iraq [NYT 4/13]. New military deployments to northern Iraq, including personnel already on duty elsewhere in Middle East, will bring to 8,300 the number of soldiers involved in aiding Kurds [WP, LAT 4/13].

Both Syria and Jordan tell Sec. Baker that they would be willing to attend regional peace conference, but differences still remain on agenda and timing [NYT 4/13; AFP 4/12 in FBIS 4/12].

Saudi Arabia, facing severe financial crisis, seeks U.S. agreement to pay in oil rather than cash some of the $13.5 billion Riyadh pledged to offset U.S. Gulf war costs [WP 4/13].

Palestinian activist Radwan Abu Ayyash is released after 5 months in Israeli prison without trial or charge [MEM 4/12; F 4/15; MET 4/23].

Israeli Air Force jets bomb bases belonging to Abu Nidal's Revolutionary Council and Abu Abbas's PFL in southern Lebanon; 4 people, including a civilian, are killed [NYT, WP 4/13; BVL, RFL 4/12 in FBIS 4/12; MET 4/23].

13 APRIL

Pres. Bush says U.S. "will not tolerate" any interference in its relief efforts for Kurdish refugees, adds that he does not want to see U.S. forces "shoved into a civil war in Iraq that has been going on for ages" [WP 4/14].

Israeli media report that P.M. Shamir had put forth to Sec. Baker Palestinian administrative autonomy plan based largely on Camp David [HAM, JTN, JAA 4/14 in FBIS 4/15].

14 APRIL

On ABC television, Israeli Housing Min. Ariel Sharon defends construction of o.t. settlements, saying West Bank has to be settled to provide military "strategic depth." On same program, Nat. Sec. Advisor Brent Scowcroft disagrees, saying "land for peace" is only real solution that will provide Israel any strategic security (cf. 4/15) [WP, MEM 4/15].

Two Arabs, allegedly from Abu Nidal's faction, are killed by IDF gunfire in "security zone" in southern Lebanon [IDF 4/14 in FBIS 4/15; RFL, BVL 4/15 in FBIS 4/17].

More than 200 Palestinians demonstrate in Rafah camp, marking 3d anniversary of assassination of Abu Jihad [AFP 4/15 in FBIS 4/16; F 4/22].

Palestinian is shot dead after allegedly trying to run down IDF soldier with his car [MEM 4/15; JDS 4/14 in FBIS 4/16; F 4/22].

Despite opposition from U.S., Israeli F.M. Levy urges gov't. to push quietly ahead with settlements in o.t.: "Our right [to settlements] cannot be challenged. There is one difference—don't upset the whole world" [MEM 4/15].

Findings of poll conducted by Jaffee Center for Strategic Studies in Tel Aviv are released: 90% of Israeli public favors use of nuclear weapons under certain circumstances; 49% believes Arabs final goal is to
destroy Israel and kill Jews [MEM 4/15].

15 APRIL

In rare public showing, 43 Saudi businessmen and intellectuals publish in Cairo daily an open letter to King Fahd calling on him to establish national and municipal consultative councils and to curb the power of the mutaween, the Islamic religious police [WP 4/16].

In nationwide address, King Fahd renounces limited pledge of political reform, announcing "notable progress" in establishing consultative assembly [LAT 4/17; SPA 4/15 in FBIS 4/16]. King also promises to expand the country's armed forces and equip them with world's best weapons [MEM 4/16; CSM 4/18].

Kuwaiti soldiers take up positions along demilitarized zone as U.S. troops continue to leave area [WP 4/16]. Most U.S. troops move quickly out of southern Iraq [LAT 4/16].

In southern Lebanon, SLA troops kill 2 Arabs just west of Israel's "security zone"; it is 2d such killing in 2 days [JDS, AFP 4/15 in FBIS 4/15; MET 4/23]. Arab crosses border from Jordan into Israel, fires on Israeli patrol and is shot dead by IDF; 1 Israeli soldier is wounded [JDS 4/16 in FBIS 4/16]. Palestinian is shot dead by security guards after throwing stone at Israeli bus north of Jerusalem [MEM 4/15; JDS 4/15 in FBIS 4/16; FJ 4/22].

Eight Jewish families move into mobile homes in West Bank, opening 1st new settlement, named Revava, to be established in o.t. under P.M. Shamir's current govt. (cf. 4/16) [MEM, CSM 4/16; JDS 4/16 in FBIS 4/16; JPI 4/27]. Leftist Israelis stage demonstration at Revava, protesting its establishment [JDS 4/15 in FBIS 4/17].

16 APRIL

Pres. Bush says that U.S., British, and French troops will set up secure camps in northern Iraq that could shelter more than 500,000 Kurds until they could be coaxcd back to their homes [NYT, WP, LAT 4/17]. Inspectors from International Atomic Energy Association (IAEA) negotiate with Baghdad for permission to visit rubble of Iraq's 2 nuclear research reactors to see if country's supply of weapons-grade uranium is still intact, and if it is, to destroy it or remove it [WP 4/17].

P.M. Shamir meets with Soviet P.M. in London; Shamir says that diplomatic relations between the 2 countries would have to be established before Moscow could have a role at Middle East peace conference [WP 4/17].

U.S. calls new Jewish settlement of Revava "an obstacle" and questions Israel's timing, with Sec. Baker due to arrive on 4/18 [NYT, WP, LAT, MEM 4/17; MET 4/30]. Israeli navy shells boat carrying 8 Palestinians, allegedly en route to Israel. All are killed [RFI 4/17 in FBIS 4/17].

Israeli Central Bureau of Statistics reports Israel's population has reached 4.9 million [JDS 4/16 in FBIS 4/19].

17 APRIL

U.S. military sends troops and helicopters into northern Iraq to secure large sites for refugee camps; camps are to be built near Kurdish cities and as deep as 60 miles inside Iraq as part of effort to lure refugees home. Sec. Baker defends plan at EC meeting in Luxembourg [NYT, WP, LAT, MEM 4/18; MET 4/30]. Suspicious of U.S. motives, Iran refuses to comment on U.S. camp-building operation [WP, LAT 4/18].

At Luxembourg meeting, EC foreign ministers tell Sec. Baker that Europe wants role in any Middle East peace conference [WP, LAT 4/18; CSM 4/19].

Iraq says it has promised to return to Kuwait more than $1 billion in gold bars, bank notes, and silver coins taken during occupation [LAT 4/18]. Palestinian leaders from o.t. submit to U.S. consul in Jerusalem a list of 11 questions, the American answers to which would help Palestinians decide whether to accept invitation to meet with Sec. Baker on 4/20 (see docs. B4 and B5) [MEM 4/18].

Two armed guerrillas cross into Israel from Jordan, shoot 4 farmers in border kibbutz, killing 1, wounding 3 [NYT, WP, LAT 4/18; MET 4/30]. Arab trying to swim from Egypt to Israel is shot dead by IDF in Rafah [JDS 4/17 in FBIS 4/18].

18 APRIL

Senate approves bill that urges Bush admin. to propose international tribunal that would prosecute Iraqi war criminals [NYT 4/19].

Sec. Baker arrives in Jerusalem for 3d round of diplomacy; on Israeli radio P.M. Shamir cautions U.S. not to pressure Israel into taking part in peace conference not to its
CHRONOLOGY

liking [MEM 4/18; NYT, WP, LAT 4/19].

Iraq turns over to UN information on its chemical and biological warfare capacity and its nuclear facilities, saying it has complied with demands in 1st stage of UN res. 687 ending Gulf war (cf. 4/19) [WP, LAT 4/19].

Amnesty International study concludes hundreds of Kuwaiti residents suspected of collaborating with Iraq have been arrested and in some cases tortured and executed (cf. 4/19) (see doc. A3) [WP, LAT, MEM 4/19; FJ 4/22; MET 4/30]. Kuwaiti ambassador to UN in Geneva criticizes report as “based upon a few excesses… and ignores the general situation inside Kuwait” [KUNA 4/19 in FBIS 4/19].

For 2d time, Iraqi gov’t. extends its amnesty period for returning Kurds [MEM 4/18; INA 4/18 in FBIS 4/19; MET 4/30].

Thousands participate in Gush Emunim-sponsored march in West Bank settlement of Karmei Shomron in support of continued settlement; location of march is changed at last minute after IDF refuses to allow group in new settlement of Revava [MEM 4/19].

PLO approves of 4/20 meeting between Sec. Baker and Palestinian leaders from o.t., according to Palestinian media [MEM 4/19].

19 APRIL

Meeting with Israeli leaders, Sec. Baker says Israel should consider series of fundamental compromises with Arabs if there is to be a peace conference; Baker gives P.M. Shamir list of possible concessions [NYT, LAT 4/20, IDF 4/19 in FBIS 4/19; MET 4/30]. Palestinian leaders hold news conference in Ramallah on questions of who will participate in talks with Sec. Baker [JTN 4/19 in FBIS 4/22].

Iraq makes public contents of 4/18 report given to UN; Baghdad says substantial arsenal of its chemical and ballistic weapons survived Gulf war, including 11,131 chemical warheads; Iraq also denies having nuclear arms, nuclear weapons-grade materials, or biological arms; U.S. says Iraq’s inventory is incorrect [NYT, LAT 4/20; MET 4/30].

Blockade imposed on o.t. because of Sec. Baker’s visit to Israel is lifted, allowing Palestinians to return to jobs over green line [JDS 4/19 in FBIS 4/19].

Lebanese media publishes results of public opinion poll conducted by Jerusalem’s Arab Research Center: 55.34% of Palestinians now support cooperation with Jordan, as opposed to 9.82% before Gulf war; 45.62% predict that PLO candidates would win majority of votes if elections were held in o.t. [MEM 4/19].

20 APRIL

Sec. Baker meets with Palestinians in Jerusalem, makes no comment afterward. Faisal Husseini says that meeting was most constructive of the 3 held so far (see doc. B6). Baker flies to Jordan for meeting with King Hussein (1st since Gulf war), who endorses Baker’s peace mission; then Baker flies to Cairo. Israeli officials criticize what they call “subtle pressure” on Jerusalem to offer concessions; Baker and other American officials admit that Saudi Arabia is not likely to attend peace conference with Israel [NYT, WP 4/21; JDS, IDF, AGS, MENA, ADS 4/20 in FBIS 4/22; FJ 4/22; JPI 5/4].

Battalion of U.S. Marines lands in northern Iraq to begin erecting 1st refugee camp in what is to be allied-protected zone inside Iraq [NYT, WP 4/21; CSM 4/22].

Under pressure to form more democratic govt., Kuwait announces new cabinet with 4 of 9 members of Sabah family retaining major posts [NYT 4/21; MEM 4/22; KUNA 4/20 in FBIS 4/22]. Opposition groups say naming cabinet is insufficient, that it fails to move country toward democracy [WP 4/21; MEM 4/22].


21 APRIL

After meetings with Pres. Mubarak in Cairo, Sec. Baker arrives in Jeddah; says he is trying to organize 2-phase peace conference, with Israel and its bordering Arab states negotiating their differences in main talks. In 2d phase, Israel and other Arab nations would discuss regional issues [NYT, MEM 4/22; MENA, RIDS 4/21 in FBIS 4/22].

Saudi Arabia confirms that it will not take part in any Middle East peace conference with Israel, and there are growing signs that Arab gov’ts. want to limit negotiations with Israel to only Palestinian problem [WP, LAT 4/22].

PLO Central Council—the link between PLO Exec. Committee and PNC—opens meetings in Tunis to assess repercussions of Gulf war of PLO’s relations with Arab and European states (cf. 4/23) [MEM 4/23; TDS 4/22 in FBIS 4/22; AVP 4/22, TDS 4/23 in FBIS 4/23].
Construction of new settlement, Talmon Bet, outside Ramallah, is completed allowing settlers to begin to move in (cf. 4/23) [HAA 4/23 in FBIS 4/23].

U.S. ambassador to UN Thomas Pickering tells Jewish group in New York that Kuwait has agreed to stop participating in Arab League boycott of U.S. firms that do business with Israel, at least during reconstruction of the emirate [MEM 4/23; CSM 4/24].

Israeli soldiers shoot dead 2 Palestinian fighters who had cut through Lebanon border fence, in Damascus, Fatah Uprising group claims responsibility [MEM 4/22; NYT 4/23; JDS 4/22 in FBIS 4/22].

22 APRIL

Sec. Baker arrives in Kuwait City and presses Kuwaiti govt.'s for greater democracy and more respect for human rights [WP, LAT, MEM 4/23; MET 4/30].

GCC committee for finance and economic cooperation opens meetings in Riyadh, ministers set up multi-billion dollar development fund [MEM 4/22, 4/23; SPA 4/22 in FBIS 4/23].

In Baghdad, autonomy talks between Kurdish leaders and Iraqi govt. enter 3d day [NYT 4/23]; exiled Iraqi Shiite leaders denounce Baghdad talks [LAT 4/23]. Kurdish leaders again call for more international aid, ask that refugee camps be enlarged [WP 4/23].

IDF lifts ban on journalists freely entering o.t. that was imposed 1/17 at start of Gulf war, according to Israeli Defense Ministry [MEM 4/22].

Report by opposition members of Knesset, including Dedi Zucker, says Shamir govt.'s is enticing Jews to o.t. with large, low-cost mortgages; settlers receive 50% more aid than other Israelis, report states [MEM 4/23].

Kuwait govt. announces that registration of all non-Kuwaiti residents has begun. Expatriates are told they risk 6 months in prison if they do not bring papers to Interior Ministry for vetting [MEM 4/23].

23 APRIL


Eight Israeli families complete move to new settlement of Talmon Bet several miles west of Ramallah hours before Sec. Baker is due to arrive in Israel. Gush Emunim says new houses are part of existing settlement. Baker later announces he is postponing his visit to Israel for trip to USSR [MEM 4/23; NYT, WP 4/24; JPI 5/4]. Clashes are reported between peace activists and settlers there [MEM 4/23].

Israeli officials say they do not interpret U.S. objection to settlements as call for definitive freeze, but rather as Washington asking for temporary halt [LAT 4/24].

PLO Central Council ends 3 days of meetings in Tunis, calls for international peace conference that includes PLO (see doc. B7) [MEM 4/24; TDS 4/25, AVP, MAP 4/24 in FBIS 4/25; AVP 4/25 in FBIS 4/26].

24 APRIL

At joint news conference in Damascus, Sec. Baker says his latest diplomatic mission has failed to bridge major differences between Israel and Syria over how to organize peace conference. Baker sharply criticizes Israel's 4/23 opening of new settlement [NYT, WP, CSM 4/25; DDS 4/24 in FBIS 4/25; MET 5/7].

Iraqi and Kurdish leaders say they have reached broad new agreement that will allow Kurds to return home. jalal Talabani, leader of one of largest Kurdish groups, says agreement provides for new measure of autonomy for Kurdistan, and guarantees of democracy and pluralism [NYT, WP, LAT, MEM, WT 4/25; CSM 4/26; INA, RMC, AFP 4/24, ADS 4/25 in FBIS 4/25; MET 5/7].

Saudi Arabia says it will accept and shelter all Iraqi refugees in southern Iraq, and will build camp to accommodate as many as 50,000 people [NYT 4/25]. U.S. symbolically hands over American control of part of southern Iraq to UN forces; imminent departure of American troops is raising fears among refugees that UN troops will not defend them from Saddam's army [NYT, WP, LAT 4/25].

Kuwaiti official says new govt.'s 1st act will be to downgrade relations with Algeria, Yemen, Jordan, and Sudan, which backed Iraq in Gulf war [LAT 4/25].

Knesset members from Labor, Citizens' Right Movement, and Mapam head Israeli delegation that leaves for Spain and international conference: "The Dialogue of Mediterranean Citizens." Palestinians from o.t. and PLO representatives are also attending [MEM 4/24].

U.S. ambassador to Israel William Brown files an official protest with Israeli govt.
about establishment and/or expansion of settlements in West Bank; Housing Min. Sharon says that Israel has no intention of meeting U.S. demands to slow or stop settlement: "... we built in the past, we build now, and we will build in the future" [MEM 4/25].

21-year-old Palestinian is shot dead in Rafah by IDF after he disobeys order to halt [MEM 4/25; FJ 4/29].

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25 APRIL

Soviet Union announces that it is prepared to cosponsor Middle East peace conference with U.S., as F.M. Bessmertnykh meets with Sec. Baker in Kishlovodsk, USSR [NYT, WP, LAT 4/26].

While Sec. Baker is en route to Israel from Soviet Union, Israelis move 7 additional mobile homes to new West Bank settlement of Talmon Bet [NYT 4/26]. Gush Emunim group brings 16 additional mobile homes to new settlement of Revava; IDF stops convoy from setting up homes, claiming move was not approved by gov't. [JDS 4/25, YA 4/26 in FBIS 4/26].

In 90-minute news conference with Israeli and foreign journalists, Israeli P.M. Saadun Hamadi says his country is moving toward democracy, wants better relations with West, and will abide by UN terms for lifting economic sanctions [NYT, WP 4/26; INA 4/25 in FBIS 4/26].

Palestinian notable Radwan Abu Ayyash, who met with Sec. Baker, is given green ID card, barring him from Israel without special permission from Israeli gov't. [MEM 4/25; JDS 4/25 in FBIS 4/25].

53 senators sign letter to King Fahd urging Saudi Arabia to participate in proposed Arab-Israeli peace talks; letter calls Saudi involvement "indispensable" [MEM 4/26].

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26 APRIL

Having to leave Jerusalem abruptly because of his mother's death, Sec. Baker does not have chance to meet with Palestinians (see doc. 88), but does meet with P.M. Shamir; F.M. Levy; Baker says in news conference before departing that Israel had failed to give responses he needed to continue trying to put together peace conference, and that he and Pres. Bush will have to reevaluate diplomatic steps [MEM 4/26; NYT, LAT 4/27; IDF, JDS 4/26 in FBIS 4/26; MET 5/7].

UN Sec.-Gen. Javier Pérez de Cuéllar announces that UN relief teams will take over Kurdish refugee camps in northern Iraq from American troops "as soon as possible" [LAT 4/27; MET 5/7].

Baghdad says it will disband its million-man militia, the Popular Army, and will let citizens travel abroad [NYT 4/27; INA 4/26 in FBIS 4/29].

Yasir Arafat, George Habash, and Nayif Hawatimah arrive in Khartoum to take part in Islamic Arab People's Conference [RMC 4/26 in FBIS 5/1].

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27 APRIL

UN and other relief agencies claim increased symptoms of cholera in Iraqi population, particularly in Basra and Mosul [NYT 4/28].

Iran's Pres. Rafsanjani, on 1st foreign trip as head of state, arrives in Damascus for post-war talks with Pres. Asad [NYT 4/28; IRNA, DSS, SANA 4/27 in FBIS 4/29; MET 5/7].

Hebrew-language media in Jerusalem report that new Jewish neighborhood will soon be set up inside the Old City walls on land owned by Israel Lands Administration [HAM 4/28 in FBIS 4/30].

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28 APRIL

Israeli gov't. formally retracts agreement made last week between F.M. Levy and Sec. Baker on format for regional peace talks. P.M. Shamir says Levy went too far, Levy accuses Shamir of "getting cold feet" [NYT 4/29; JDS 4/28 in FBIS 4/29; MET 5/7].

Saudi Prince Khalid bin Sultan, commander of allied Arab forces, says he does not think Saudi Arabia would need or want larger American military presence than it had before Gulf war [NYT 4/29].

Israeli authorities release Sari Nusseibeh from prison, 3 months after he was detained on charges of spying for Iraq [NYT, MEM 4/29; FJ 5/6].

Syria calls for increased Iranian role in postwar Gulf security arrangements as Pres. Asad and Pres. Rafsanjani hold 2d day of talks in Damascus [WP 4/29]. Rafsanjani also meets with PFLP-GC delegation [QUD 4/29 in FBIS 4/30].

Yasir Abd Rabbo, PLO information chief who headed PLO delegation to Moscow last week, tells media "the Soviet Union believes the peace process cannot take off without the participation of the PLO" [MEM 4/29].
29 APRIL

After 3 days of talks in Damascus, presidents of Syria and Iran agree to allow armed Iranian-backed forces to remain in southern Lebanon near Israel’s “security zone”; Lebanese Forces militia announces it is surrendering its weapons to Lebanese Army [MEM 4/29; NYT, MEM 4/30; DDS 4/29 in FIBS 4/30]. Joint Syrian-Iranian declaration stresses that Iran must play a role in Middle East security arrangements [MEM 4/30].

International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) says that Iraq has given detailed response to requests for more information about location of its nuclear materials [NYT 4/30; AFP 4/30 in FIBS 5/1]; but will not disclose whereabouts of materials that escaped allied bombing unless Baghdad is assured bombing materials will not be destroyed [WP 5/1].

American section of World Jewish Congress calls for commutation of Jonathan Jay Pollard’s life sentence for spying for Israel [WP 4/30].

Pres. Bush says U.S. will resist Iraq’s UN request to have economic sanctions lifted so that Baghdad can begin selling oil for badly needed currency; Bush says exception would be made for food imports [WP 4/30].

Media report that Egypt is quietly repatriating most of its nearly 40,000 troops who were deployed in Gulf war (cf. 5/8) [AFP 4/30 in FIBS 4/30].

UNLU issues unnumbered leaflet blaming Israeli govt. for purposely “striking at the tourist sector in Jerusalem and spreading biased propaganda regarding alleged risks to tourists” [MEM 5/1].

30 APRIL

64-year-old French tourist is stabbed to death outside restaurant in Bethlehem by unknown assailant. Mayor Elias Freij denounces incident [MEM 4/30; NYT, WP, LAT 5/1; IDF 4/30 in FIBS 4/30].

Despite intensive bombing of Iraq’s military sites, Baghdad still has enough weapons-grade uranium to make 1 nuclear bomb, according to U.S. admin. officials and scientists [NYT 5/1].

State Dept. reports international terrorism dropped by nearly 15% in 1990; adds that more terrorist attacks occurred in Latin America (162) and Asia (96) than in Middle East (63) [WP, LAT 5/1].

Egyptian media report PLO has not been invited to Socialist International meeting in Cairo because of its pro-Iraq Gulf war stand. A delegation from Israel’s leftwing Mapam party will attend [MEM 4/30].

Israeli Housing Ministry plans the construction of 24,000 more houses in o.t. to accommodate 88,000 Jewish settlers, according to media reports [MEM 5/1].

1 MAY

Senior Bush admin. officials say U.S. wants Iraq to pay for American-led effort to help Kurds; operation is expected to cost over $500 million over 6 months [NYT 5/2].

Kuwaiti govt. announces that the more than 400,000 Kuwaitis who have spent last 8 months in exile could begin returning home on 5/11 [WP, LAT 5/2].

Israeli Housing Minister Ariel Sharon meets with HUD Sec. Jack Kemp, but at White House insistence to avoid “official” meeting because of Sharon’s pro-settlement views, talks are moved from Kemp’s HUD office to the Israeli embassy (cf. 5/2) [WP 5/1, 5/3; NYT, LAT 5/2; CSM 5/3; IDF 5/2 in FIBS 5/2].

PLO spokesperson strongly condemns 4/30 stabbing death of French tourist in Bethlehem. Faisal Husseini sends victim’s family cable of condolence. 19-year-old Palestinian surrenders to Israeli authorities and is charged with the stabbing [MEM 5/1; RMC, AVP 5/1 in FIBS 5/2].

Absorption Min. Yitzhak Perez says 17,700 immigrants arrived in Israel during April, and that some 55,000 immigrants arrived during 1st third of the year [IDF 5/1 in FIBS 5/2].

UNLU issues call no. 70, appealing for unified Palestinian response to Sec. Baker’s peace initiative, warning that U.S. is trying to “impose an American solution to Palestine question,” and condemning 4/30 stabbing of French tourist [MEM 5/2; AVP 5/2 in FIBS 5/3].

Israeli human rights group B’Tselem reports Israeli security forces killed 6 Palestinians during April, a 7th died after exposure to tear gas [F] 5/6].

2 MAY

Allied forces push 35 miles farther east into Iraqi territory to the town of Amidiyah, more than doubling size of security zone for protecting Kurdish refugees. Saddam Hussein orders the destruction of 1 of 3 state palaces and villas located within the zone be-
cause it could be used by allies for military purposes [WP, NYT 5/3].

Commander of UN Iraq-Kuwait observer force says all UN troops will be in place by 5/6 and that the remaining 4,800 U.S. soldiers would be out of southern Iraq by 5/8 [WP, NYT 5/3].

Israeli gov't. protests to U.S. over "snubbing" of Housing Min. Sharon, who, refused an "official" gov't. meeting, met 5/1 with HUD head Jack Kemp at Israeli embassy [WP, NYT 5/3].

Meeting in Cairo, PLO rep. Mahmoud Abbas and Egyptian F.M. Esmat Abdel Meguid agree that no Middle East peace process could lead anywhere without "a role for the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people" [MEM 5/3].

3 MAY

In speech to commerce organization in Tel Aviv, U.S. ambassador to Israel William Brown levels blunt criticism at Israeli gov't. for its settlement and immigration policies [NYT 5/4].

Public opinion poll published in Davar finds that 63% of recent Israeli immigrants define themselves politically as left wing; only 18% claim to be right wing; this despite the fact that 60% say o.t. should not be returned to Palestinians [MEM 5/3].

4 MAY

New York Times reports that Israeli gov't. is acknowledging for 1st time that tens of thousands of Soviet Jews are postponing or canceling their moves to Israel because of the lack of employment for those already there [NYT 5/5].

For 1st time since PLO established foothold in Lebanon, gov't. authorities have begun to prosecute Palestinian fighters on charges of illegal possession of weapons, according to Lebanese officials. Military prosecutor brings charges against 6 PFLP and 2 Fatah members [NYT 5/5].

5 MAY

U.S. soldiers, backed by helicopter gunships, push to outskirts of Dahuk, in northern Iraq, and hundreds of Iraqi soldiers withdraw as allies continue to enlarge security zone for Kurdish refugees [WP, NYT 5/6].

In Kuwait City, GCC announces it has begun "intensive negotiations" with Iranian officials on joint postwar security pact [WP 5/6]. Ministers also issue strong warning to Iraq to implement all provisions in UN cease-fire agreement [KUNA 5/5 in FBIS 5/6].

Israel's ambassador to U.S., Zalman Shoval, says his country will soon request $10 billion in loan guarantees from Washington to aid in settling Soviet Jewish immigrants to Israel; Shoval urges U.S. not to link request with concessions for peace talks [WP 5/6].

Kuwaiti gov't. elects not to allow the 170,000 Palestinians who fled the Iraqi occupation to return to Kuwait. Those in country, along with Indians, Egyptians, Pakistanis, have been, since 4/22, registering as aliens [NYT 5/6].

6 MAY

Speaking at joint press conference, Pres. Mitterrand, Pres. Gorbachev express support for international peace conference and Palestinian statehood (see doc. A4) [MEM 5/8].

Israeli officials and Western diplomats say Gulf states are weighing relaxation of Arab League economic boycott against Israel and firms that do business with Israel [WP 5/7]. Palestinian and PLO editorials attack Kuwait for planning to ease boycott [MEM 5/7].

Arriving in Riyadh, Def. Sec. Cheney opens efforts to negotiate sweeping changes in U.S.-Arab military relationship that would include permanently stationing weaponry and deploying large numbers of troops during rotating exercises in the Gulf region (cf. 5/9) [WP, NYT 5/7; SPA 5/6 in FBIS 5/7].

Syrian officials say that Lebanese guerrillas fighting against Israeli-backed militias in southern Lebanon should not lay down their weapons under Beirut's plan for disarming all militias: "Weapons of resistance groups ... cannot be touched until the Israeli enemy abandons the border strip" [NYT 5/7].

In letter to UN Sec.-Gen., Iraq asks for 5-year delay on paying war reparations so as to first rebuild its economy. U.S. ambassador to UN Thomas Pickering says Sec. Council is unlikely to ease that part of cease-fire agreement [NYT 5/7].

7 MAY

In interview with Washington Post, Iraqi Deputy P.M. Tariq Aziz concedes that Sad-dam's regime has made "mistakes" because it has been in power so long, but adds that
Baghdad is committed to move towards democracy [WP 5/8].

UN special envoy reports that Iraqi Kurds are returning home from border camps faster than expected—more than 4,000 a day—indicating that allied effort to establish security zone is working [WP 5/8].

Iraqi govt. officials and Kurdish opposition begin new round of talks to hammer out details of agreement that would give Kurds autonomy [NYT 5/8; INA 5/7 in FBIS 5/8].

Housing Min. Ariel Sharon presents plan to MKs for additional Jewish housing in Jerusalem. Sharon wishes to establish contiguous territorial and demographic strip between Jerusalem and nearby settlements, according to Israeli media [JNT 5/7, YA 5/8 in FBIS 5/8].

8 MAY

Soviet F.M. Bessmertnykh begins trip to Middle East, arriving in Damascus and assuring Syrian leadership that Moscow remains “a strong supporter of the Arab cause.” Bessmertnykh is also to visit Israel, Lebanon, Jordan, and Egypt, where he is expected to meet with Sec. Baker [MEM 5/8; WP, NYT 5/9; DDS 5/8 in FBIS 5/8, 5/9].

Pres. Mubarak announces decision to pull the nearly 40,000 Egyptian troops out of Saudi Arabia and Kuwait; media debates whether announcement signals the end of Damascus agreement made on 3/5 that provided for postwar security arrangements built around Syrian and Egyptian troops [MEM 5/9; MENA 5/8 in FBIS 5/8, WP 5/11].

Sec. Cheney visits Muscat, Abu Dhabi, and Doha to discuss U.S.-Arab military agreements [WAKH 5/8 in FBIS 5/8].

Head of Israeli Civil Administration in West Bank grants 31 permits for establishment of businesses with policy of providing employment to hundreds of laborers [IGP 5/8 in FBIS 5/9].

9 MAY

UN Sec.-Gen. Pérez de Cuéllar tells Pres. Bush that he has received from Iraq “a very clear rejection” of the allied plan for UN troops to protect Kurdish refugee camps once allies leave; Iraqi troops move into Dahuk in effort to prevent allies from expanding security zones further (cf. 5/10) [WP, NYT 5/10].

Soviet F.M. Bessmertnykh declares while visiting Jordan that new Middle East peace process could not begin unless Israel halts construction of Jewish settlements in o.t.; adds that Moscow will not rule out limiting emigration of Soviet Jews as way of halting settlements [WP, MEM 5/10; ADS 5/9 in FBIS 5/10].

Returning to U.S. after meeting with King Fahd, Sec. Cheney says he has made “significant progress” towards new U.S.-Arab military agreements in Gulf region [WP, MEM 5/10; RIDS 5/9 in FBIS 5/9]. Cheney reports he reached general understanding with Saudi and other Gulf govt.s. about storing equipment and other steps to maintain American military presence in region [NYT 5/10].

10 MAY

Saudi Arabia and other 5 member states of GCC agree to send observer to opening session of any Middle East peace conference that Sec. Baker is trying to organize (cf. 5/11) [WP 5/11; MEM 5/13; KUNA 5/11 in FBIS 5/13].

F.M. Bessmertnykh becomes highest-ranking Soviet official ever to visit Israel; no progress reportedly made in talks on overcoming obstacles to Middle East peace conference. Israeli officials express concern over Bessmertnykh’s 5/9 remarks in Jordan [WP, NYT, LAT 5/11; JDS, IDF 5/10 in FBIS 5/10; MEM 5/13].

U.S. calls on Iraq to reconsider its 5/9 rejection of proposal to allow UN troops to protect Kurds in northern Iraq, allowing early withdrawal of American and allied troops from the area [WP, NYT, LAT 5/11].

UN announces the formal withdrawal of all allied military forces from southern Iraq and the establishment of a demilitarized zone inside the 6-mile buffer space separating Iraq and Kuwait [WP 5/11]. In rare move, Israeli Army cancels order to demolish house of Palestinian who was dead at the time the military decided to punish him [NYT 5/11].

11 MAY

Sec. Baker says that decision by Saudi Arabia and 5 other Gulf states to send observers to potential Middle East peace negotiations would lead to direct talks with Israel and thus “break at least one major taboo” of the Arab-Israeli conflict [WP, NYT, LAT 5/12; MEM 5/13]. First wave of Kuwait’s 400,000 exiled citizens return home, nine months after Iraq’s invasion [NYT, WP, LAT 5/12, MEM 5/13].
EC indicates that it still hopes for full role as cosponsor of any Middle East peace conference [NYT 5/12]. Soviet F.M. Bessmertnykh meets in Cairo with Pres. Mubarak and Sec. Baker [MENA, CDS 5/11 in FBIS 5/13]. In speech, Yasir Arafat criticizes U.S. Middle East peace efforts, says U.S. is trying to ignore Jerusalem issue [AVP 5/13 in FBIS 5/14].

12 MAY

In talks with Sec. Baker, Syrian Pres. Asad refuses to compromise on 2 major issues concerning Middle East peace conference: Asad demands UN have "significant" and "important" role in conference, and that peace conference reconvene periodically. Israeli leaders have previously stated they want no UN role and a one-time conference [WP, NYT, LAT 5/13; SANA 5/12 in FBIS 5/13]. Baker also talks with Bessmertnykh in Cairo [MENA 5/12 in FBIS 5/13].

Lebanese Army troops take up positions at entrances to Palestinian refugee districts in southern Lebanon as well as posts close to Israel's "security zone" [NYT 5/13].

13 MAY

U.S. military begins to transfer responsibility to the UN for major Kurdish relief effort as separate violent incidents involving allies, Iraqi troops, and Kurdish demonstrators occur [MEM 5/13; WP, NYT, LAT 5/14].

Meeting in Cairo, Soviet F.M. Bessmertnykh tells Sec. Baker that Moscow would be reluctant to support larger UN security role to protect Kurdish refugees [WP, NYT, LAT, MEM 5/14; MENA 5/13 in FBIS 5/13]. Bessmertnykh then flies to Saudi Arabia for meeting with King Fahd [SPA 5/13 in FBIS 5/14].

Washington Post reports on West Bank village of Artas, the villagers of which, while under curfew during the Gulf war, had most of their agricultural lands confiscated by Israeli authorities [WP 5/14].

Bush admin. has prepared arms control plan that would ban Israel from producing nuclear material for weapons and would require Arab nations in Middle East to give up chemical weapons, according to admin. officials [NYT 5/14].

14 MAY

After talks with Sec. Baker, King Hussein avoids making public commitment on whether Jordan would attend proposed peace conference if Syria does attend [MEM 5/14; WP, NYT, LAT 5/15]. Baker crosses from Jordan to o.t., and holds meeting with 3 Palestinians, including Faisal Hussein [AVP, RMC 5/15 in FBIS 5/16].

Congress pressures Pres. Bush to seek international curbs on arms sales by introducing bipartisan joint legislation proposing to ban all arms sales to Middle East if Bush admin. fails to make "good faith" effort to get international accord on arms sales [WP 5/15].

UN Sec. Council and other UN representatives say they are studying formulas under which Iraq could begin paying for damages assessed to it during Gulf war; focus is on using 25% to 30% of Iraq's oil revenues for payment [WP, NYT 5/15].

F.M. Bessmertnykh meets in Damascus with Syrian leaders, then flies to Geneva for talks with Yasir Arafat [WP 5/15; AVP 5/15 in FBIS 5/16].

15 MAY

Arab League ministerial meeting opens in Cairo; in unopposed election, Arab League chooses Egyptian F.M. Esamat Abdel Meguid as its Sec.-Gen. for the next 5 years [MEM 5/15; WP, NYT 5/16; CDS, RMC, MENA 5/15 in FBIS 5/16].

Meeting in Israel, Sec. Baker and P.M. Shamir draw up confidential document that acknowledges the obstacles to holding regional peace conference, but points toward fresh attempt to start Israeli-Palestinian talks [WP, LAT 5/16]. But Israel rejects Sec. Baker's proposals for bridging differences with Syria [MEM 5/15; NYT 5/16].

U.S. diplomatic and intelligence sources say that roughly 10 days ago, Israel told American military attaches in Tel Aviv that Israeli military action in southern Lebanon was possible; warning is seen as message to Lebanon and Syria not to take action against Israel-backed SLA [WP 5/16].

34-member team of international specialists arrive in Baghdad for week of on-site inspections of Iraq's nuclear facilities to ensure compliance with UN resolutions prohibiting Iraqi possession of weapons of mass destruction [MEM 5/15; WP, NYT, LAT 5/16].

Palestinians who met with Sec. Baker say that he told them American initiative did not
envision eventual creation of Palestinian state: "Less than a state, more than autonomy," is how one participant put it [NYT, MEM 5/16]. On conclusion of 5-day meeting in Tunis, Fateh Revolutionary Council calls for meeting of Egypt, Syria, Jordan, Lebanon, and PLO to coordinate stands on Middle East issues [MENA 5/15, DUS 5/16 in FBIS 5/16].
Chronology compiled by Mark Mechler