16 FEBRUARY-15 MAY 1995

This section is part forty-six of a chronology begun in JPS XIII, no. 3 (Spring 1984). Chronology dates reflect Eastern Standard Time.

16 FEBRUARY

Arafat, PM Yitzhak Rabin meet at Erez to discuss interim agmt., elections, closure. Arafat rejects Rabin's "Jenin 1st" idea, where PA would take over administrative, financial management of Jenin but IDF troops would remain in place. Rabin agrees to gradual lifting of closure, transfer to PA of $12 m. in tax money to alleviate unemployment, refuses to release any prisoners; calls on Arafat to ban all incitement against Israel, stop terrorist attacks in planning stage, ensure there are no "unauthorized" militias in self-rule areas. (MM 2/16; ITV, VOP, QY 2/16, IDF Radio, RE 2/17 in FBIS 2/17; MM, NYT, WP, WT 2/17; QY, RMC, VOP 2/17 in FBIS 2/21; MM, PR 2/20; MM 2/21; JP 2/25) (see 2/9)

Arafat speaks by phone with Jordanian PM Sharif Zaid Bin Shakir, Egyptian FM Amr Musa, briefs them on mtg. with PM Rabin. (VOP 2/17 in FBIS 2/17)

U.S. Secy. of State Warren Christopher announces U.S. will give PA $75 m. to set up development institutions in West Bank, Gaza. (VOP 2/17 in FBIS 2/21)

At mtg. in Paris, Gulf nations take "forceful" stand against proposed Middle East Development Bank, say regional cooperation is premature without full peace. Seen as retreat fr. normalization with Israel. (NYT 2/17)

100s of Israeli settlers fr. Kiryat Arba, led by Kach head Baruch Marzel, celebrate Cave of the Patriarch massacre, praise Baruch Goldstein. IDF does nothing to stop celebration even though Kach is officially outlawed by the government. (NYT, WP 2/17; PR 2/20; MEI 3/3)

17 FEBRUARY

Israeli officials announce that 3 of 5 industrial zones will be located in Jenin, Ramallah, Lahav, 2 other sites in Gaza (to be determined). U.S. investors who have at least 25% stake in companies located in these zones will be eligible for U.S. financing, guarantees fr. Overseas Private Insurance Corp. (OPIC). (MM 2/17) (see 2/12)

Israeli FM Peres meets with Egyptian FM Musa in Paris to lower tensions bwn. their nations over the NPT. No compromise is reached. U.S. pressures both sides to moderate their positions, ease tensions. (HA, IDF Radio 2/17 in FBIS 2/17; QY 2/17, IDF Radio in FBIS 2/21)

Clinton administration announces new arms sales policy that significantly deemphasizes Middle East as area of priority but credits arms control efforts there with enhancing regional stability. (Congressional Research Service 4/12)

Palestinian human rights lawyer Raji Sourani is arrested by PA for 2d time in 2 days; is warned by Arafat's cabinet secy. Tayyib 'Abd al-Rahim to "keep a low profile with the media," stop criticizing Arafat. (WP 4/11) (see 2/25)

Journal of Palestine Studies XXIV, no. 4 (Summer 1995), pp. 163-188.
IDF clashes with Hizballah in s. Lebanon. 1 IDF soldier killed. South Lebanese Army (SLA) abandons Tallusa, 1 of 75 outposts along the "security zone" border, saying it has become untenable given improved Hizballah tactics. (MM 2/21; MEI 3/17)

18 FEBRUARY

At opening of 3-day private conference on peace in the Mediterranean in Paris, Arafat strongly criticizes Israel for obstructing negotiations, closure. FM Shimon Peres says Israel appreciates recent PA crackdown on opposition. Pair meet after mtg. to discuss Arafat's comments, Jenin 1st day. (WT 2/19; QY, VOP 2/19, AFP, RMC 2/20 in FBIS 2/21; NYT 2/20; CSM 2/21; MEI 3/3)

In Stockholm, PA Planning M Nabil Shaath, Israeli Dep. FM Yossi Beilin, Israeli academics and Oslo agmt. architects Ron Pundik, Yair Hirschfeld hold talks on "flower exports" fr. Gaza. Mtg. is rumored to be attempt to jump-start PA-Israeli talks. (Svenska Dagbladet 2/21 in FBIS 2/24)

19 FEBRUARY

Arafat says he is prepared to accept early empowerment over Jenin provided it is part of a comprehensive IDF redeployment and elections plan, suggesting a willingness to consider phased IDF withdrawal. (QY 2/19; MM 3/6) (see 2/16)

PM Rabin appoints expert on Jewish extremism to head Shin Bet. (WT 2/20; WJW 3/2)

Israeli cabinet approves 1,800-unit expansion of Ma'ale Adumim, Givat Ze'ev, Beitar settlements nr. Jerusalem. PA says decision threatens peace talks. (MM, WP, WT 2/20; CSM 2/21)

In mtg. of Knesset Foreign Affairs Comm., IDF Northern Command Cmdr. Gen. Amiram Levin asserts the Lebanese Army, under orders fr. Syria, is actively helping Hizballah by supplying arms, providing cover in attacks on IDF. SLA positions in s. Lebanon. (QY 2/20, HA 2/21 in FBIS 2/23)

Hizballah attacks SLA position nr. Marja'yun in s. Lebanon. Israeli Air Force (IAF) strikes Hizballah positions in response. 2 civilians, 2 Hizballah mbrs., 1 mbr. of SLA killed. Lebanese Chamber of Deputies Speaker Nabib Birri calls for Arab League mtg. on Israeli attacks. FM Faris Buwayz says Israeli attacks will derail peace process. (RL, VOL 2/19 in FBIS 2/21; WT 2/20)

20 FEBRUARY

Arafat meets with French Pres. Francois Mitterrand, FM Alain Juppé in Paris, calls on EU to pressure Israel to break impasse in talks. (WP, WT 2/21; MEI 3/3)

Arafat flies to Tunis to prepare for PLO Executive Comm. mtg. 2/21. In what is largely seen as snub to Arafat, no sr. PLO mbrs. meet him at airport; Mahmoud Abbas leaves country hours before arrival; Faruq al-Qaddumi forces Arafat to come to his office for mtg. (WT 2/22; MM 2/28)

1,000 Palestinians are allowed to return to jobs in Israel. PM Rabin says 10,000 will eventually be allowed back in. (MM 2/2)

Israeli Atty. Gen. Mikhael Ben-Ya'ir confirms IDF reports Israeli undercover police have been carrying out joint patrols around Jericho with armed settlers for past 2 wks; says patrols exist, are a problem, but will continue. (IDF Radio 2/20 in FBIS 2/23; HA 2/27 in FBIS 2/28)

Israel's West Bank Border Police Cmdr. Yitzhak Aharonovitz says joint Israeli-Pa patrols have assumed many IDF duties in Jenin, Nablus, Hebron, will soon be given responsibilities in Bethlehem, Tulkarm as part of separation plan being finalized by army. (JP 2/21 in FBIS 2/23)

Likud files no-confidence motion against Rabin government for deciding to ease closure on o.t. to reduce tension with PA, says it threatens Israeli security. (QY 2/20, JP 2/21 in FBIS 2/21; QY 2/22 in FBIS 2/23)

21 FEBRUARY

11th round of Israel-Pa talks on elections start in Cairo. Both sides suggest bringing international observers into o.t. to help organize elections. (MENA 2/20, 2/21 in FBIS 2/21; MENA, VOP 2/21 in FBIS 2/22; CSM, NYT 2/22; MEI 3/3)

Arafat convenes PLO Executive Comm. in Cairo to reassess peace process, detainees and elections issues, configuration and functioning of PA. 9 mbrs. attend; DFLP, PFLP boycott. Chief PLO spokes-

man and PA Information M Yasir 'Abid

4-way (Egypt, Israel, Jordan, PA) ministerial mtg. on refugees scheduled for 2/26 is postponed until further notice at Israel’s request. (al-Aswaq 2/22 in FBIS 2/22; RJ 2/24 in FBIS 2/24; JT 2/25 in FBIS 2/27)

Arab League condemns Israel for recent attacks on civilians in s. Lebanon, calls on UN to do the same. (RE 2/21 in FBIS 2/21) (see 2/19)

PM Rabin gives Shas 2 unassigned portfolios—interior and religious affairs—giving Shas significant influence over ruling coalition of which it is not a part. Metetz M Yossi Sarid threatens to resign. (MM 2/20, QY 2/21 in FBIS 2/21; JP 3/4)

IDF arrests Hamas political leader Shaykh Jamil Hamami in his home in the West Bank following the “seizure of a very large quantity of inflammatory material . . . that incriminated him” during 1/27 raid on Abu Dis College of Science and Technology. (ITV 2/21 in FBIS 2/22)


In response to German reports that Israel, Iran are negotiating release of Israeli airman Ron Arad, PM Rabin admits Germany has been talking to Iran on Israel’s behalf but has had no success. (ITV 2/20, QY 2/21, 2/22 in FBIS 2/22; MM, WP 2/21; IDF Radio 2/21 in FBIS 2/21; MM, NYT 2/22; WT 2/27; JP 3/4, 3/11; WJW 3/16)

22 FEBRUARY


PLO Executive Comm. mtg. closes without suspending talks with Israel. Arafat calls for emergency Arab summit, says PLO will send delegations to China, EU, Japan, Russia, U.S. in diplomatic effort to pressure Israel to set date for troop withdrawal, elections. Arafat begins by meeting with Pres. Mubarak, flying to Saudi Arabia to perform lesser hajj, coordinate with King Fahd. (MENA, VOP 2/22 in FBIS 2/22; MENA, VOP 2/22 in FBIS 2/23; CSM, FT, NYT 2/23; MEI 3/3; JP 3/4)

U.S. House Appropriations subcommittee increases Jordan’s debt forgiveness fr. $99 m. to $149 m. for its support of peace process. (WT 2/23)

Clinton administration submits draft of FY 1996 budget, incl. $44.2 m. military, economic aid to Jordan. (JT 2/25 in FBIS 2/28)

PA Atty. Gen. Khalid al-Qidra says Palestinian security services are detaining 6 mbrs. of Abu Nidal Organization found in Gaza for “disturbing national security.” (QY, VOP 2/22 in FBIS 2/23)

Israeli Labor Bureau says number of foreign workers replacing Palestinians in Israel has reached 70,695–860% more than last yr. PA estimates unemployment in Gaza to be 52%. (NYT, WT 2/22)

23 FEBRUARY

Israeli FM Peres, Egyptian Pres. Mubarak, FM Amr Musa meet in Cairo, discuss NPT dispute, fail to reach compromise. Both say disagreement will not harm overall political, economic relations. Rabin turns down Musa’s request to tour Dimona. (MM 2/23; IDF Radio, MENA, QY 2/23 in FBIS 2/23; ITV, MENA, QY 2/23 in FBIS 2/24; CSM, MM, NYT, WP 2/24; JP 2/25, 3/4)

PM Rabin, 13 MKs, top military commanders tour Israel’s self-declared security zone in s. Lebanon. Rabin says peace deal could be cut with Lebanon in 9 mos. Syria accuses Israel of trying to drag Lebanon into separate peace. Lebanese Pres. Ilyas Hrawi reiterates importance of Syria-Lebanon alliance. (MM 2/24, 3/1)

Reports say Syria, Lebanon held detailed discussions about amending Lebanese constitution to renew Pres. Hrawi term in office or extend it for 3–4 yrs when it runs out 11/95. (MM 2/23)
Israel extends naval blockade of s. Lebanon fr. Tyre to Sidon, fires warning shots at Lebanese fishermen. Move raises Lebanese fears that Israel may carry out large-scale operation in the area. (VOL 2/23 in FBIS 2/23; MM 2/24; RL 2/25, IDF Radio 2/26 in FBIS 2/27; ITV 2/25 in FBIS 2/28; MM 3/1) (see 2/14)

24 FEBRUARY

NATO opens talks with 5 North African, Middle Eastern nations (incl. Israel, Egypt) in Bonn as part of its new focus on maintaining Mediterranean security in the face of rising Islamist movements. (MM 2/20; CSM 2/24)

Lebanese Pres. Hrawi calls on U.S., Russia to pressure Israel to stop naval blockade, shelling of s. Lebanon. (RL 2/24 in FBIS 2/27) (see 2/23)

Frank Luntz, close advisor of House Speaker Newt Gingrich who masteredmind Republican's 1994 victory, announces he will be advising Likud party leader Benjamin Netanyahu on his 1996 campaign for PM. (WT 2/24)

25 FEBRUARY

10s of Israeli antiterror units, 100s of special police antiterror units for 1st time deploy inside the mosque area of Temple Mount among the 1000s of worshipers attending services marking end of Ramadan. Police officials say deployment was done without permission of, coordination with Waqf officials. (YA 2/28 in FBIS 3/1)

10s of Jewish settlers beat Palestinian worshipers, block their entrance to al-Ibrahim mosque on 1 yr. anniversary of Hebron massacre. IDF soldiers on guard do nothing to stop them. (NYT 2/26)

IDF shells s. Lebanon. Hizballah returns fire, wounding 1 IDF soldier. (RL 2/25, QY, RL 2/26 in FBIS 2/27)

26 FEBRUARY

Israeli sources say Syria, Israel have resumed low-level talks in Washington through mugs, with U.S. special Middle East coordinator Dennis Ross, some progress has been made on security issues. (ITV 2/26 in FBIS 2/27)

Syria pledges it will not sign NPT unless Israel joins. (WT 2/27)

IDF moves additional 300 troops, 20 tanks into s. Lebanon, deploys them nr. Nabatiyya, Marja'ayun. (MM 2/27)

Israel extends naval blockade of s. Lebanon fr. Sidon to Damur (20 km. south of Beirut). PM Rabin says goal is "a peace agreement with an independent and sovereign Lebanon and a war against the enemies of peace." Lebanese PM Rafiq Hariri calls blockade political, military, economic terrorism that will not force Lebanon to break its alliance with Syria. (MM, NYT 2/27; al-Hamishmar, VOL 2/27 in FBIS 2/27; VOL 2/27 in FBIS 2/28; MM 2/28; QY 2/28 in FBIS 3/1; MEI 3/3; JP 3/4) (see 2/23)

In Tel Aviv, Israeli, PA, U.S. officials discuss establishment of industrial zones in o.t. Israel, PA agree to write position paper on project for U.S., outlining funding, creation of joint supervisory comm. (IGPO 2/27)

PA, Israeli delegations meet at Erez to discuss import, export of agricultural goods, allowing Palestinian trucks carrying produce entry into Israel. Virtually no trucks have been allowed in since closure began 1/22. (VOP 2/26 in FBIS 2/28)

PM Rabin says he plans to import over the next few months 20,000 foreign laborers to eliminate the need for Palestinian workers in Israel. (CSM 2/28; WT 3/1)

PA permits reopening of Islamic Jihad's al-Istiqal newspaper, closed by PA 2/7 for publishing anti-Jordanian articles. (QY 2/26 in FBIS 2/27)

Israeli cabinet extends closure of o.t. (VOP 2/27 in FBIS 2/27; VOP 2/28 in FBIS 3/1; WT 3/1)

Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations calls on U.S. to move its embassy fr. Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. (WT 2/27)

27 FEBRUARY

Israel expels Palestinian policeman to Jordan, accusing him of attacking Israelis, collaborators. Jordan refuses to permit him entry, saying it will not allow Israel to deport Palestinians to its territory. Israel refuses PA request to return policeman to self-rule area, detains him at Israel's King Hussein Bridge checkpoint. (MM 2/27; JT 2/28 in FBIS 3/1; WT 3/1)

Joint PA-Israeli Economic Comm. meets in Jericho to discuss implementation of Paris protocol signed 4/29/94, closure of o.t., creation of 11 industrial
zones. (MM 2/27; VOP 2/27, QY 2/27 in FBIS 2/28) (see Peace Monitor)
SLA frees 27 Lebanese prisoners fr. Khiyam prison, s. Lebanon, as “goodwill gesture” marking Id al-Fitr. (MM 2/28)

28 FEBRUARY

Commenting on upcoming visit to the region by U.S. Secy. of State Christopher, Syrian Pres. Hafiz al-Asad warns he would make no concessions to Israel; criticizes Jordan, PLO for signing separate agmts., not remaining united. (WT 3/1)

CNN says it has been briefed on secret Syrian-Israeli talks by Syrian official (rumors say Amb. to U.S, Walid Mu'allim), who claims Syria has foregone demands for symmetrical demilitarized zones, will exchange embassies. Israelis, Syrians deny report. Israel’s Amb. Itamar Rabinovich says it “has all the markings of a Syrian plant.” (HA, QY, RMC 3/2 in FBIS 3/2)

2d mtg. of donor country’s Local Aid Coordination Committee (LACC) is held in Jericho. (VOP 2/28 in FBIS 3/1; VOP 3/1 in FBIS 3/2)

At request of PA, Arab states, UNSC debates Israeli settlement activity but refuses to adopt a resolution or council statement. (QY 2/28 in FBIS 3/1; VOP 3/2 in FBIS 3/3; MM 5/2)

PA Justice M Frayh Abu-Midyan says PA military court will try 17 alleged collaborators over next mo. Hamas urges executions. (QY 3/1 in FBIS 3/1)

Rabin government wins no-confidence vote filed 2/20 by vote of 59 to 48, with Shas voting with the opposition. (QY 2/27 in FBIS 2/28; MM 3/7)

IDF wounds 16 Palestinians in clash in Hebron. (VOP 2/28 in FBIS 2/28)

U.S. renews travel ban on Lebanon for 6 mos. (MM 3/1; RL 3/1 in FBIS 3/1; RL 3/1 in FBIS 3/2; MEI 4/14, 4/28)

1 MARCH

World Bank says its Holst Peace Fund for administration of Gaza, Jericho has run out of money because donor countries have failed to honor their pledges, critics donors for waiting for high-profile glamor projects rather than funding things of immediate necessity such as salaries. (NYT 3/13; WT 3/17)

In Gaza, Arafat, Israeli Police M Moshe Shahal meet to share security concerns (incl. release of Palestinian prisoners, crossing points, transportation), discuss cooperation on security matters. (AFP, QY 3/1 in FBIS 3/1; VOP 3/1 in FBIS 3/2)

Arafat, Israeli Dep. FM Beilin call for starting final status negotiations immediately. (WT 3/1; QY 3/1 in FBIS 3/1; HA 3/1 in FBIS 3/2; JP 3/11)

2 MARCH

Israeli FMin. holds mtg. on Palestinian refugees in advance of 4-way discussions 3/7, decides return of 1967 refugees is permissible if it does not cause “chaos and disorder” in o.t. Likud protests. (QY 3/2 in FBIS 3/2; ITV 3/2 in FBIS 3/3)

Lebanon asks UN to take steps to halt Israeli naval blockade of s. Lebanon, stop daily artillery and air attacks. (NYT 3/3; WT 3/4) (see 2/26)

Arafat, King Hussein agree to allow ‘Atallah ‘Atallah, frmr. PLO mbr. who broke with Arafat in 1986 to form his own group, to return to self-rule areas to help PA with security apparatus, curb PA Preventative Security Force’s (PSF) Col. Jibril Rajab. (QY 3/2 in FBIS 3/2)

Senior Hamas officials Muhammad Nazzal, Khalid Mash‘al end wk. of mtgs. on peace talks, Palestinian economic problems with Qatar’s crown prince, senior officials. (al-Quds 3/2 in FBIS 3/3)

3 MARCH

Israel issues 3,500 permits for Palestinian workers to enter Israel, raising total number to 18,500. Permits will go to married men over 30, tourism workers over 25. (QY 3/3 in FBIS 3/3; WP 3/4)

House Appropriations Comm. cuts debt forgiveness to Jordan to $50 m. fr. $275 m. PM Rabin calls Pres. Clinton to criticize move. Clinton condemns decision as threat to peace process, calls on Senate to overturn it; phones King Hussein to reassure him. (CSM, WT 3/3; RJ 3/7 in FBIS 3/8; CSM 3/8; JP 3/11; WT 3/12; WJW 3/16; MEI 3/17; WSJ 3/24; NYT 3/29; MEI 3/31) (see 2/22)

Senate confirms Martin Indyk as 1st Jewish U.S. amb. to Israel “with no controversy.” (WT 3/6)

anti-PA sermons. (HA 3/5; AFP 3/6 in FBIS 3/6; MBC in FBIS 3/7)

4 MARCH

Arafat postpones Fatah Central Comm. mtg., PLO Executive Comm. mtg. until middle of mo., citing upcoming visit by U.S. Secy. of State Christopher. (MM 3/6; al-Sha'raq al-Awsat 3/6 in FBIS 3/6)

Hamas' Imam Fateh offers Israel cease-fire in exchange for Israeli withdrawal fr. West Bank, East Jerusalem within 10 yrs., elections in which Hamas could compete with PLO. Israel rejects idea, says PLO is Israel's only negotiating partner. (MENA 3/5 in FBIS 3/6; MM 3/6; WT 3/8)

5 MARCH

PM Rabin reiterates offer to Syria of "very small" withdrawal fr. Golan in exchange for 3-yr. period to "test" full normalization, open border, exchange of embassies. Pres. al-Asad rejects proposal again, encourages U.S. to offer new ideas to activate talks. Both say if there is no progress by this summer, there will be little hope for an agmt. before 1996 Israeli, U.S. elections. (WT 3/6; RMC 3/5, 3/6 in FBIS 3/6; MM, WT 3/7; MM 3/8; WJW 3/9)

Annual IDF intelligence assessment is presented to Israeli cabinet. Report is pessimistic about securing peace with Syria, says Arafat is not asserting his authority in Gaza, finds probability for war low but says violent acts will likely increase. (MM, WT 3/6; QY 3/5, HA, JP, QY 3/6 in FBIS 3/6; WJW 3/9; JP 3/11)

Arafat, Israeli Police M Shahal meet to discuss "pending issues." IDF claims Arafat also transmitted message fr. Iraqi Pres. Saddam Hussein to PM Rabin expressing willingness to sign peace treaty with Israel. PA denies claim. (MM 3/6; al-Sha'raq al-Awsat 3/6 in FBIS 3/7)

Senate Foreign Affairs Comm. Chair- man Jesse Helms calls for abolition of all foreign aid; asks that $3 b. aid to Israel become part of defense budget; claims similar plan was proposed by Secy. of State Christopher but was shot down by VP Al Gore. Dep. Secy. of State Strobe Talbott, Undersecretary of State Tim Wirth. (WT 3/6) (see 3/3)

Israeli ships enforcing naval blockade of s. Lebanon fire on Adlun port, south of Tyre, killing 1 fisherman. (QY, RL 3/5 in FBIS 3/6)

6 MARCH

Arafat meets with representatives fr. the donor states and UNRWA in Gaza to discuss PA financial problems (VOP 3/6 in FBIS 3/7)

PA Local Government M Erakat gives Council of Ms draft law on Palestinian local rule for review. (VOP 3/6 in FBIS 3/6)

UK rejects Israeli request not to hold high-level mtgs. at Orient House in East Jerusalem during PM John Major's visit next wk. (QY 3/6 in FBIS 3/7; Times of London 3/8 in FBIS 3/8; QY 3/9 in FBIS 3/9; MM 3/10)


Labor MK Avigdor Kahalani arrives in U.S. to lobby congressmen against stationing U.S. troops in Golan in framework of Syrian-Israeli peace agmt. (MM 3/6)

Tourism Ms fr. Israel, Egypt, Jordan hold joint press conference at ITB conference, the largest annual tourism conference, announce plans to launch joint marketing campaign in Europe. (HA 3/7 in FBIS 3/9; JP 3/18)

2 Israeli tour buses are stoned as they pass through Karama, Jordan, injuring 1 Israeli. (al-Majd 3/6 in FBIS 3/10)

7 MARCH

Egypt, Israel, Jordan, PA hold 1-day mtg. in Amman on repatriation of Palestinian refugees. PA says 800,000 1967 refugees are eligible to return. FM Peres calls for slow, staged repatriation to "prevent disruption and disorder." PA Planning M Shaath suggests Israel immediately allow 100 families to return as confidence-building measure; Peres refuses. (MM 3/7; JTV, RE, RJ 3/7; JT 3/8 in FBIS 3/8; NYT, WT 3/8; JT 3/8 in FBIS 3/9; MM, NYT 3/9; JP 3/18; MEI 4/14) (see 2/21)

Secy. of State Christopher arrives in Cairo to begin shuttle mission between Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Syria in hopes of spurring peace process. State Dept. says he has no new proposals to offer. (WT 3/7; MENA 3/7, 3/8 in FBIS 3/8; NYT, WP 3/9)
8 MARCH

2-day, informal Major Donor and Host Governments mtg. opens in Amman. Participants fr. 28 countries, organizations reaffirm their pledges to reassure Palestinians. Additional pledges announced: U.S., $15 m.; Sweden, $2 m.; Britain £1 m. After mtg. Britain says it will give another £7 m. to PA. (UNRWA News 3/8, 3/9, 3/22)

En route to Morocco, Arafat stops in Tunis to meet with al-Qaddumi, Abbas to discuss convening Fatah Central Comm. 3/16 to reassess peace talks. (VOP 3/8 in FBIS 3/9)

9 MARCH

FM Peres, Arafat hold positive mtg. at Erez; agree to open safe passages immediately, halt land confiscation and financing expansion of existing settlements, speed process at border crossings, increase number of Palestinian workers in Israel to 21,000, discuss releasing prisoners, hold regular mtgs. to exchange security information; announce agmt. to try to reach consensus on elections, Israeli withdrawal by 7/1. (MM 3/9; VOP 3/9 in FBIS 3/9; QY, VOP 3/9, VOP 3/10 in FBIS 3/10; MM, NYT, WP, WT 3/10; VOP 3/10 in FBIS 3/13; WJW 3/16; MEI 3/17; JP 3/18; WT 3/19)


FM Peres says Israel has lifted its naval blockade on s. Lebanon in honor of Secy. of State Christopher's visit, as a goodwill gesture. (HA, RL 3/10 in FBIS 3/10; VOL 3/10 in FBIS 3/13; NYT, WP 3/11; MEI 3/17; MEI 3/31)

FM Rabin, King Hussein meet in Aqaba, discuss difficulties on Syrian track. Rabin tells king he asked Secy. of State Christopher to forgive Jordan's debt. (JTV 3/9, QY, RJ 3/10 in FBIS 3/10; MM 3/10)

10 MARCH

Secy. of State Christopher meets with Arafat in Gaza; discusses Israeli security, redeployment aid pledges; promises to push donors to fulfill aid pledges; announces gift of 200 military trucks; says teams fr. Agricultural Dept., Pentagon will be sent to advise PA on medical, humanitarian, agricultural issues. Arafat promises to prosecute, punish "terrorists." (MM 3/10; VOP 3/10 in FBIS 3/13; WP, WT 3/11; MM 3/13; JP 3/18)

Likud leader Netanyahu meets with Secy. of State Christopher, says if he wins 1996 election he will not expand Palestinian self-rule, bargain with Syria for the Golan. (NYT 3/11)

UNRWA Commissioner-General Ilter Türkmen arrives in Gaza for 1-wk. visit, briefs Arafat on donor mtg. (UNRWA News 3/22)

Matt Peled, one of the 1st Israeli officials to call for talks with the PLO (1975), dies in Jerusalem. (JP 3/18)

11 MARCH

Arafat briefs Pres. Mubarak on talks with Secy. of State Christopher and FM Peres, threats to peace talks. (VOP 3/11 in FBIS 3/13; WT 3/12)

12 MARCH

Secy. of State Christopher is kept waiting 6 hrs before mtg. with Saudi Arabia's King Fahd in Jidda; encourages support for Middle East Development Bank, easing of Arab boycott on Israel, funding of PA's daily operations, NPT. King gives no response. (MM, NYT, WP 3/13; WT 3/14; WT 3/21)

FM Peres, Crown Prince Hassan meet in Amman; discuss implementation of peace treaty, possibility of establishing
free-trade zone in Elat-Taba-Aqaba region, water projects, regional security, creation of regional bank; announce plans to meet with German Chancellor Helmut Kohl in Bonn regarding dam project 3/15. (RJ 3/12, JT 3/13 in FBIS 3/13; MM 3/13; QY 3/13 in FBIS 3/14)

In 1st visit by British head of state to Israel in 9 yrs, PM Major arrives in Israel for 2-day visit; promises to build closer trade ties to Israel, increase aid to the PA. (IGPO, QY 3/12, IGPO, QY 3/13 in FBIS 3/13; MM, WT 3/13; MEI 3/17; JP 3/18)


Senior Israeli military officials say 100s of plainclothes Palestinian police are operating in Jenin, Nablus, Ramallah in a semi-official manner, with the IDF's knowledge, settling civil disputes, investigating crimes. PA Planning M Shaath denies report. (HA, RMC, VOP 3/13 in FBIS 3/14)

Palestinian police find 2 bombs planted along road scheduled to be travelled by Arafat. IDF detonates them. (AFP 3/12 in FBIS 3/14)

13 MARCH

Secy. of State Christopher arrives in Syria; discusses details of security arrangements for Golan with Pres. al-Asad; notes progress toward resumption of talks with Israel, incl. participation of military advisors, switching focus to post-withdrawal security arrangements rather than extent of withdrawal; says U.S. will "put forward options" for talks. Then flies to Jordan, meets with King Hussein to discuss debt issue (see 3/3); returns to Israel. (MM, WP 3/13; RMC, SARR 3/13 in FBIS 3/13; JTV, RJ, SARR, SATN 3/13 in FBIS 3/14; CSM, MM, NYT, WP, WT 3/14; WJW 3/16; MEI 3/17; JP 3/18; JP 3/25; MEI 3/31; WT 4/19)

Jordanian-Israeli Follow-up Comm. meets in Dayr 'Alla, reviews progress of subcomms., focuses on trade, transportation. Joint water comm. also meets in Dayr 'Alla, finalizes discussions on line that will convey water fr. Lake Tiberias to King Abdullah Canal. (JTV 3/13 in FBIS 3/17)

Palestinian Arab League representative Muhammad Subayh says league mbrs. have passed PA proposal submitted to Jerusalem Comm. of the Arab League to build 10,000 housing units in East Jerusa-


The Netherlands opens representative office in Jericho. (VOP 3/13 in FBIS 3/14)

IDF raids Jenin Awqaf dept., confiscate files, documents on zakat funds. (VOP 3/13 in FBIS 3/14)

14 MARCH


Arab League issues statement at close of seminar on Jerusalem, says Jerusalem issue is key to peace process, calls on nations to uphold 1980 UNSC Res. 478 asking nations not to move diplomatic offices to the city. (MENA 3/14 in FBIS 3/17)


PA releases Shaykh al-Safadi, arrested 3/12. (QY 4/14 in FBIS 4/15)

15 MARCH

In Cairo, Israeli, PA teams begin writing draft of election proposal, focus on structure of legislative council but end talks without making progress. (AN, MM 3/16; AN 3/17)
German Chancellor Kohl, Israeli FM Peres, Jordanian Crown Prince Hassan meet in Bonn to discuss water, dam projects. Germany reportedly makes its financing of Yarmuk dam conditional on Syrian approval of project. (HA 3/16 in FBIS 3/17; al-Quds 5/9 in FBIS 5/12) (see 3/12)

Israeli Dep. FM Beilin meets Jordanian FM 'Abd al-Karim al-Kabariti in Amman, discusses Christopher visit, plans for Amman conference to follow up on Casablanca mtg. of 10/30/94, scheduled for 4/10. (JT, QY 3/16 in FBIS 3/16)

After 1-mo. ban, Egypt allows Israel's Jerusalem Post to be sold again. (JP 3/15 in FBIS 3/17) (see 2/15)

16 MARCH

Fatah Central Council meets in Tunis to assess peace process, discuss PA administration, economic problems, Fatah's role inside and outside o.t.; say there can be no progress without Israeli withdrawal from o.t. (VOP 3/16 in FBIS 3/16; AN 3/17; AFP, VOL 3/17 in FBIS 3/17; VOP 3/19 in FBIS 3/20)


Israeli Tourism M approves construction of youth hostel, restaurant in Golan Heights. (QY 3/16 in FBIS 3/17)

17 MARCH


18 MARCH

Israeli Environmental M Yossi Sarbin says Palestinian state will eventually emerge fr. negotiations; borders will probably coincide with separation plan; officially it will not be a state "but in reality it will be." The statement, thought to be trial balloon, is denounced by PM Rabin, Likud. (QY 3/19, IDF Radiio 3/20 in FBIS 3/20; WJW 3/23; ITV 3/24 in FBIS 3/28; JP 3/25, 4/1)

19 MARCH


Egyptian Pres. Mubarak receives delegation of Knesset mbrs. in Cairo, discusses NPT, recent Israeli statements against Egypt, ways of advancing peace process. (MENA 3/19 in FBIS 3/20; MM 3/20; MENA 3/20 in FBIS 3/21)

PM Rabin allows another 3,150 permits for Palestinian workers, bringing number allowed entry into Israel to 24,150. (QY 3/19 in FBIS 3/20; WP 3/20)


2 Palestinians die in explosion nr. Jenin. IDF says bomb they were making exploded, causing accident. (NYT 3/20)

IDF shells Amal positions in s. Lebanon, hits UNIFIL contingent, killing 1 UN soldier. (RL 3/20 in FBIS 3/20)

20 MARCH

VP Gore, Pres. Mubarak meet in Cairo, discuss technological, economic, cultural cooperation; switch emphasis on aid fr. U.S. grants to private sector promotion. Mubarak says he realizes U.S. cannot con-
tinue at $2 b. per yr. indefinitely, Egypt will have to make "concessions" to keep aid packages at "significant" levels. (MENA 3/20 in FBIS 3/20; NYT 3/23; MEI 3/31; CSM 4/3; MM 4/7)

Israeli gunboats tighten naval blockade on fishing villages in S. Lebanon up to al-Aswad, fire warning shots at fishermen. (RL 3/20 in FBIS 3/21) (see 3/16)

21 MARCH


Israeli Dep. FM Beilin, Egyptian FM Musa meet in Cairo, say relations have improved since Knesset delegation visit 3/19. Beilin says Egypt now better understands Israel's security needs, NPT argument has abated. (QY 3/21 in FBIS 3/22)


10 Damascus-based Palestinian opposition groups close 2-day mtg. to assess peace process, PA administration, possible relations with PNG (see 2/21). PLO Exec. Comm. mbr. al-Qaddumi says he will head delegation to Damascus in next wk. to try to reach a conciliation agmt. with these groups. (al-Ray 3/23, QY 3/24 in FBIS 3/24)

22 MARCH

PM Rabin, Pres. al-Asad reportedly accept 4-stage U.S. formula for drafting military annex to future peace agmt. 1st, Israeli, Syrian ambs. will define gaps, points of agmt. and fix agenda for talks btwn. military experts. 2d, U.S. envoy Ross will shuttle btwn. Israel, Syria compiling comprehensive list of gaps, agmts. 3d, military experts will meet in Washington to find military solution based on concerns listed. 4th, military chiefs of staff will meet to draft annex. (MA 3/22 in FBIS 3/22; al-Ittihad al-Usbat’i 3/23 in FBIS 3/28)

IDF approves reclassification of 2,500 acres along Green Line, nr. Hebron, as closed military zone for indefinite period, raising fears Israel will try to move the line. (JP 5/10 in FBIS 5/10)

Egypt drops threat to reject extension of NPT unless Israel joins, following heavy lobbying by U.S., Japan. (NYT 3/23) (see 3/20)

25 Israeli companies participate in Cairo International Trade Fair for 1st time since 1987. (Davar 3/22 in FBIS 3/23)

Palestinian police arrest 70 alleged Hamas mbrs. in wake of Beersheba incident 3/21. (QY 3/22 in FBIS 3/22)

Israel orders 4 mosques in Ramallah closed for 3-6 mos. for "inciting" against Israel. (WT 3/23)

23 MARCH

PM Rabin tells VP Gore Israel will not discuss a Middle East nuclear-free zone until it has peace agmts. with all its neighbors, Iran; hints Israel will not meet 7/1 deadline on elections talks with PA (see 3/9) if Arafat does not prevent incidents like 3/19 shooting, 3/21 truck incident. PA Planning M Shaath says he "never believed that date in the first place." (MM 3/23; QY 3/23 in FBIS 3/23; IDF Radio, QY 3/23, HA 3/24 in FBIS 3/24; MM 3/24; NYT, WP 3/25; MEI 3/31; JP 4/1)


Arab League passes resolution supporting indefinite NPT renewal but saying 22 mbr.-states are free to vote how they will; does not link renewal with Israel's joining NPT. U.S. official says "if the Egyptians were lobbying [against renewal], the Arab League resolution would never have passed." (AFP 3/22, 3/23 in FBIS 3/23; MENA 3/23 in FBIS 3/24; WT 3/31)

Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert says PA has violated Israeli authority over the city by taking control of all 20 Waqf schools
24 MARCH

Israeli FMin. Dir. Gen. Uri Savir says that, following recent secret talks, PA has accepted a phased IDF withdrawal fr. West Bank, may also accept partial withdrawal. 1st phase would occur on eve of elections, additional stages after elections. (ITV 3/24 in FBIS 3/27; IDF Radio 4/13 in FBIS 4/13)

Israel, Syrian ambs. hold 1st mtg. in Washington since 12/94, prepare for negotiations to resume 3/27. (WT 3/27)

VP Gore meets with Arafat in Jericho, announces PA will be allowed to export goods to the U.S. tariff-free, says $73 m. of pledged U.S. aid will be disbursed to build and renovate housing, pave roads, repair sewer system in Gaza. Arafat pledges to prosecute those who attack Israelis to derail the peace process. Both sign economic agmt. on U.S. participation in building health, educational, industrial projects. U.S., Palestinian businessmen meet. (MM 3/23, 3/24; VOP 3/24 in FBIS 3/27; NYT, WP, WT 3/25; WJW 3/30; MEI 3/31; JP 4/1) (see 2/16)

Arafat attends Friday prayers at Jericho mosque. When prayer leader Shaykh 'Abd al-Salaam Abu Shaykhidin denounces making peace with Jews, Arafat dispatches 2d shaykh to the pulpit, ending the sermon. (NYT, WP 3/25) (see 3/3)

PA Agriculture Min. bans entry of Israeli produce into Gaza, citing Israel's banning entry into Israel of Palestinian produce trucks. (VOP 3/24 in FBIS 3/28) (see 2/26)

Poll released by Dahaf pollsters shows 73% of Israelis think current negotiations will result in a Palestinian state as long as the PA "overcomes terror"; 23% think no state will result. (WT 3/23)

25 MARCH

PA convenes weekly cabinet mtg. in Jericho for 1st time. Following mtg. Arafat says he has appealed to Pres. Clinton to pressure Israel on withdrawal of troops fr. West Bank. (WT 3/26)

26 MARCH

PA-Israeli delegations meet in Jericho to discuss next official round of negotiations on elections, redeployment scheduled for 3/28-29 in Cairo. Parties say sides are still divided but talks are reaching a "practical stage," esp. on makeup of observer teams. (IDF Radio, VOP 3/26 in FBIS 3/27; MM 3/29)

Israel FM Peres tells press "several" Jewish settlements in Gaza, West Bank will have to be removed as Israeli authority is replaced by Palestinian self-rule. Statement provokes outrage of Likud, settler groups. (Sunday Times of London 3/26 in FBIS 3/28)

3 alleged Hamas mbrs. cross into Gaza fr. Egypt nr. Rafah checkpoint. IDF captures 1; 2 others escape into PA territory. (QY 3/26, 3/27 in FBIS 3/27)

27 MARCH


Morocco opens liaison offices in Tel Aviv, Gaza, making it 3d Arab country to

Jenin prison closes. All prisoners are transferred to jails inside Green Line. Move thought to anticipate Israeli withdrawal fr. Jenin as part of "Jenin 1st" proposal. (PR 3/26) (see 2/19)

28 MARCH

IDF reportedly has decided to evacuate its headquarters in Nablus, Jenin by 6/1; has drafted plan for eventual redeployment of stations now located in Bethlehem, Hebron, Ramallah, Tulkarm. Police M Shahal says that after redeployment the Israeli police presence in West Bank will double, police stations will be set up in each settlement. (ITV, QY 3/28 in FBIS 3/29; MM 3/29; JP 5/6)


Israel police admit that report of large bomb on truck stopped nr. Beersheba 3/21 was deliberately exaggerated, say they seized only three small homemade devices before destroying truck. (YA 3/29 in FBIS 3/30; JP 4/8)

29 MARCH

Round of Israeli-Syrian talks in Washington close. Israelis say sides are close to an agmt. on principles concerning security arrangements in the Golan after Israeli withdrawal. Syrians are more pessimistic.


In Cairo, PA-Israeli delegations close 2-day mtg. on elections, redeployment, comm-

position and powers of legislative council. Sides agree to reach phased agmt. by or during June on redeployment, elections, revision of laws, transfer of authorities, economic issues; generally agree to separate exec., legislative powers, create sub-committees to follow up executive activity. (RE 3/28 in FBIS 3/28; MENA 3/28, 3/29 in FBIS 3/29; MM 3/29)

Russian FM Kozyrev arrives in Damascus, meets with FM al-Shara', discusses bilateral relations, military cooperation, Syrian-Israeli negotiations. (SATN 3/29 in FBIS 3/30; MM 3/30)


Palestinian truck driver hits 4 IDF soldiers guarding Netzarim settlement in Gaza, killing 2; is shot 50 times by IDF, dies at scene. PA agrees to Police M Shahal's request to build bypass road around Netzarim so Israelis, Palestinians will not use same road. (QY 3/29 in FBIS 3/29; VOP 3/29 in FBIS 3/30; MM 3/30; QY 3/30 in FBIS 3/31; NYT, WP 3/30; JP 4/8)

30 MARCH

PA Planning M. Shaath holds informal mtg. with donor states' representatives in Gaza, discusses $244.m. budget for FY 1996, says World Bank is ready to disburse to the PA $600 m. of outstanding loans the EU has pledged. (VOP 3/30 in FBIS 3/30)


Saudi Arabia says it will allow Israeli Arabs to enter kingdom for hajj only if they bear Palestinian passports; changes hajj quotas so Israeli Arabs fall under Palestinian, not Jordanian, quota. Israel refuses to permit passports' use. (YA 3/30 in FBIS 3/30; QY 3/30, AFP 3/31 in FBIS 3/31; QY 4/2 in FBIS 4/3) (see 3/29)
Arafat received delegation of Jewish U.S. Congress mbrs., discusses obstacles to implementation of DOP. (VOP 3/30)


1 IDF soldier killed in s. Lebanon during clash with Hizballah. Israeli vessel patrols north, south of Tyre; gunboats fire warning shots at ports in continuation of blockade. (WT 4/1)

31 MARCH

PM Rabin says Syrian Pres. al-Asad told U.S. Secy. of State Christopher 2 wks ago that he was prepared to allow Israel to set up a low-level diplomatic presence in Damascus before it completely withdraws fr. the Golan. Israeli government sources hint Israel is prepared to give back all of the Golan. (NYT 4/1, 4/2; WJW 4/6)


Hizballah forces also clash with IDF in s. Lebanon, killing 2 IDF soldiers. 1 Hizballah mbr., wounding 3 Hizballah mbrs. (MM 3/31; VOL 3/31 in FBIS 4/3)

Israeli intelligence locates sr. Hizballah cmdr. Rida Yassin, sends helicopter-gunship north of self-declared security zone, kills him. Hizballah retaliates, shell ing northern Israel, killing 1 settler, wounding 9; says it will no longer abide by July 1993 accord to not target civilians. IAF shells s. Lebanon. U.S. Secy. of State Christopher phones Beirut, Tel Aviv, Damascus to deescalate situation. (MM 3/31; ITV, QY 3/31, IDF Radio, QY, YA 4/2 in FBIS 4/3; NYT, WP, WT 4/1; NYT 4/2; WJW 4/6; JP 4/8; MEI 4/14, 5/12)

PM Rabin says he will hold Syria accountable for Hizballah attack on northern Israel. Israeli Amb. Rabinovitch says attack will influence Israel’s stance in talks with Syria in Washington. U.S. Secy. State Christopher tells Syrian FM al-Shara’ to put an end to Hizballah rocket attacks. (JP 4/8)

2 APRIL

PM Rabin tells cabinet he will not suspend talks with Syria despite Hizballah attacks 3/31, only a diplomatic solution to the conflict is possible, Israel will not attempt a military solution; says Syria has promised Secy. of State Christopher it will restrain Hizballah. (MM 4/3)


Russian FM Kozyrev meets with PM Rabin, Pres. Weizman, FM Peres in Jerusalem, discusses Israeli-Lebanese border tensions, NPT, Iran, peace process. (QY 4/2, HA 4/3 in FBIS 4/3)

Arafat advisor Husseini meets with Russian Dep. FM Viktor Posuvalyuk at Orient House to discuss Israeli obstacles to implementing DOP. (VOP 4/2 in FBIS 4/3)

PM Rabin approves 2,000 more work permits for Palestinian workers to enter Israel, bringing total to 27,000. (ITV 4/1 in FBIS 4/4)

Kamal Kahil, sr. mbr. of Izz al-Din al-Qassam Brigades and no. 15 on Israel’s most-wanted list, 7 others die, 30 are wounded in explosion in Gaza allegedly triggered when Kahil, 1 other Hamas mbr. accidently detonate bomb they are making. Hamas accuses Israel of assassinating Kahil, plotting to turn public opinion against Hamas. (QY, RMC, VOP 4/2 in FBIS 4/3; MM, WP, WT 4/3; AFP, ITV, QPAR, QY, VOP 4/3 in FBIS 4/4; MM, NYT 4/4; NYT 4/7; VOP 4/8 in FBIS 4/10; MEI, 4/14; JP 4/15)

PA says it is holding 3 Palestinian policemen after frmr. collaborator is found dead in Gaza. (AFP 4/2 in FBIS 4/4) (see 4/1)
Hizballah, Amal hold mtg. in s. Lebanon to coordinate efforts against Israel. (RL 4/2 in FBIS 4/3)

3 APRIL

PM Rabin tells Knesset Foreign Affairs Comm. that Israel has retracted its demand Syria cut its standing army as part of a peace agmt.; Syria realizes Israel has special security needs, no longer demands geographical “symmetry” in security arrangements, instead emphasizes overall “equality”; sides are deadlocked on principles underlying security arrangements. (MM 4/4; JP 4/4 in FBIS 4/4) (see 2/28)

Egypt’s Pres. Mubarak tells preliminary mtg. with Secy. of State Christopher to discuss NPT, peace process, bilateral relations. Christopher gives Mubarak report on Israel’s nuclear program. (RE 4/3 in FBIS 4/4)

In response to queries by Senate Intelligence Comm., CIA reports that presently there is no clear successor to Arafat should he be removed, no evidence PA is involved in anti-Israeli attacks, little danger of Israel being attacked by outside power. (MM 5/4)

Israei Amb. to the UN Gad Ya’aqobi says he has requested the UN remove its Truce Supervision Organization observer force fr. the Jordan-Israel border now that a treaty has been signed. (HA 4/3 in FBIS 4/5; WJW 4/13)

Fatah issues statement condemning Hamas for 4/2 explosion in Gaza, obstructing peace, dividing Palestinians. (al-Aqsa 4/4 in FBIS 4/7)

Despite PA ban on unapproved demonstrations, some 10,000 Hamas supporters rally in Gaza, claiming Israel, PA are behind 4/2 explosion. (NYT, WT 4/4; QY 4/5 in FBIS 4/6)

4 APRIL

PA-Israeli talks on elections resume in Cairo. Sides discuss updating Palestinian census for voter registration. Israel turns over magnetic tapes of census information, aerial photos of o.t. to help draw up voter districts. (QY, VOP 4/4 in FBIS 4/5; MM 4/5)

Jordan, Israel sign tourism agmt. at Dayr Alla. (JT 4/5 in FBIS 4/5)

Donors’ Ad Hoc Liaison Committee (AHLC) closes informal 2-day mtg. in Washington. PA submits FY 1995 budget. Donors agree to cover PA operating costs through April, pending donor plenum 4/27. (HA 3/31 in FBIS 3/31; RE 4/6 in FBIS 4/6; VOP 4/6 in FBIS 4/6; JP 4/8) (see Peace Monitor)

Following donor mtg., mbrs. of Palestinian delegation meet with World Bank, IMF, U.S. Dept. of Commerce officials to discuss free Palestinian trade, with U.S. delegations interested in starting joint U.S.-Palestinian development projects in o.t. (VOP 4/6 in FBIS 4/7)

Egypt’s Pres. Mubarak visits mbrs. of Congress, lobbies for continuation of aid; holds 2d mtg. with Secy. of State Christopher, discusses NPT, Egypt’s economy, expanding peace bwn. Israel, Arab states; receives assurances the administration will push Congress to maintain $2.1 b. aid package. Christopher reportedly blasts Mubarak for Egypt’s “lack of support” on NPT issue. (WT, NYT 4/4; MENA 4/4 in FBIS 4/5; MENA 4/4 in FBIS 4/6; WT 4/5; CSM 4/6; MM 4/7; MEI 4/14)

Knesset delays bill that would allow government to transfer tax funds to the PA to ease its financial burden after Tsomert asks to turn vote into no-confidence motion. (JP 4/4 in FBIS 4/4)

5 APRIL

Pres. Mubarak meets with Pres. Clinton, assures him Egypt will not lobby against U.S. efforts to renew NPT but still wants assurances fr. Israel. Clinton promises to push for nuclear-free Middle East after Israel makes peace with all its neighbors. (WP 4/5; MENA, RE 4/5 in FBIS 4/6; CSM, NYT 4/6; MM 4/7; RE 4/7, 4/8 in FBIS 4/10; MEI 4/14)


Raji Sourani is fired fr. Gaza Center for Rights and Law after he fails to comply with PA requests to stop criticizing Arafat. (MM 4/5; JP 4/5 in FBIS 4/5; WP 4/11; JP 4/17) (see 2/17)

PA arrests 5 mbrs. of its intelligence service for 4/1 killing of prisoner accused of informing for Israel. (NYT 4/6)

PA arrests al-Nahar journalist Tahir al-Nunu after he publishes article suggesting 4/2 explosion could have been carried out
CHRONOLOGY

by Israel, supported by PA. Also arrests 10 Hamas mbrs. in connection with explosion. (QY 4/5 in FBIS 4/6; CSM 4/6; al-Nahar 4/6 in FBIS 4/7; NYT 4/7)


6 APRIL

Jordan's 1st amb. to Israel, Marwan Muasher, arrives in Tel Aviv to assume his duties. Israel's 1st amb to Jordan, Shimon Shamir, arrives in Amman to take his post. (MM, WT 4/6; RJ, JT 4/6 in FBIS 4/6; JP 4/15; WJW 4/20)

U.S. envoy Ross arrives in Israel for brief shuttle b/wn Israel, Syria; meets with PM Rabin, military Chief of Staff Shahak, senior IDF officials to discuss security arrangements within framework of armistice with Syria. Israelis present demand for 1:9 geographical ratio for demilitarized zones. Ross will transmit Israeli suggestions, concerns to Syria. (4/7. (MM 4/6; IDF Radio 4/7 in FBIS 4/7; MA 4/7 in FBIS 4/10)

Israeli, Egyptian FMs meet in Paris to try to solve NPT conflict. Egypt says it is willing to sign a ban on chemical weapons in exchange but no final compromise is reached. Sides agree to continue discussions within Multilateral Working Group on Arms Control, upgrade working group talks to FM level. (WP 4/5; CSM 4/6; MBC, MENA 4/6 in FBIS 4/7; HA 4/19 in FBIS 4/20)

Israeli Housing M Binyamin Ben-Eliezer says he will present plan to ministerial comm. for additional 5,600 homes beyond Green Line, incl. 1,300 units in Mattiyahu settlement, 3,000 units in Ma'ale Adumim, finishing work on 800 units in Giva'at Ze'ev. (MM 4/7; QY 4/6, JP 4/7 in FBIS 4/7)

Arafat decides to replace editorial board of Jericho-based al-Aqsa newspaper with journalists who are Fatah mbrs. Decision is criticized as interference with freedom of press. (ITV 4/6 in FBIS 4/7)

Congressional hearings open on Clinton's Omnibus Counterterrorism Bill to speed deportation of illegal immigrants suspected of terrorism, prohibit fundraising for organizations the pres. deems dangerous, grant FBI broader authority to investigate, order wiretaps. Arab-American, Muslim groups protest bill, fearing it will be used to discriminate against them, curb legitimate fundraising. (WP 4/7)

Bomb explodes on Gaza border as IDF foot patrol passes, wounding 1 soldier. No one claims responsibility. (JP 4/6 in FBIS 4/7; NYT 4/7)

7 APRIL

U.S. envoy Ross, Arafat meet in Gaza; discuss closure, economic aid, Israeli security and settlement construction. (MM 4/7; VOP 4/7; 4/8 in FBIS 4/10)

Egypt's Pres. Mubarak, Syria's Pres. al-Asad meet in Cairo to assess the situation in the region, progress on Syrian and Lebanese tracks, evaluate international environment, discuss enhancing joint Arab action, esp. in the Arab League. (MENA 4/7, 4/9 in FBIS 4/10)

PA police arrest Shaykh Ahmad Bahar after he gives anti-PA sermon at Friday prayer service. (MM 4/7)


IDF shells Hizballah positions in S. Lebanon in retaliation for Hizballah attack on IDF, SLA positions. 1 SLA mbr., 1 civilian killed. (WP 4/9)

8 APRIL


9 APRIL

U.S. special coordinator Ross flies to Cairo to brief Pres. Mubarak on talks with PM Rabin, Pres. al-Asad, then returns to Tel Aviv for scheduled mtg. with PM Ra-
bin, which Rabin cancels. Israeli Amb. Rabinovitch says Syria's insistence on "equality" is preventing progress in talks. (ITV, MENA 4/9 in FBIS 4/10; MM 4/10; WJW 4/13)

In 2 separate incidents nr. Jewish settlements in Gaza, suicide bombers drive explosive-laden cars into bus, military jeep, killing 8 (incl. 1 American), wounding 46 (incl. 3 Americans). Islamic Jihad takes credit for 1st bombing, Hamas for 2d. Both are apparently in response to 4/2 explosion for which both groups blame Israel. PM Rabin credits closure with preventing attacks fr. occurring inside Israel, says he will not let attacks halt negotiations. Pres. Weizman calls for halt to talks. (IDF Radio, QPAR, QY, SARR, SATN, VOP 4/9 in FBIS 4/10; CSM, MM, NYT, WP, WT 4/10; CSM, WP 4/11; MEI, WJW 4/14)

Secy. of State Christopher sends Arafat message that he must take stronger measures to ensure those attacking Israelis are found, stopped. (MM 4/10)

IDF says 2 main Gaza roads will be permanently closed to Palestinians following bombings. Closing the roads—used by 1000s of Palestinians, 10s of Israelis daily—means to curb "terrorists' . . . freedom of action." (IDF Radio, HA 4/10 in FBIS 4/10; MM 4/11)

PM Rabin's settlement review comm. announces mtg. to consider 6,000 new housing units around Jerusalem, quickly calls it off when FM Peres, Communications M Shulamit Aloni, Justice M David Libai protest expansion. (NYT 4/10; WJW 4/13)

Hizballah tanks shell SLA patrol nr. Marja'uyun in s. Lebanon, killing 5 SLA mbrs. (WP 4/10)


Israel's Chief of Staff Shahak, Planning Branch head Maj. Gen. Uzi Dayan present PM Rabin with road separation plan for Gaza, recommending construction of separate north-south routes for Palestinians, leaving existing highways for IDF, Israelis only; say roads closed 4/9 will remain closed until Palestinians accept plan. (MM 4/11)

11 APRIL

2 days of PA-Israeli talks on elections, redeployment close in Cairo without progress. PA Planning M Shaaht says Israelis are not taking talks seriously. (MENA 4/10, 4/11 in FBIS 4/11; IDF Radio, MENA 4/11 in FBIS 4/12)

In closed military trial held at night, without prior notice, PA sentences Omar Shalah, mbr. of Islamic Jihad, to life in prison for planning 1/22 Beit Lid bombing, "harming the peace process." PA Planning M Shaaht acknowledges closed-door trials are controversial but calls them "necessary to protect the national interest." Islamists fire on PA security mbrs., wounding 2. Hamas, Islamic Jihad warn Arafat is going too far. Israel says he is doing better but still not doing enough. (MM 4/11; QY 4/11 in FBIS 4/11; AFP 4/11 in FBIS 4/12; CSM, NYT, WP 4/12; NYT 4/13; JP 4/22; NYT 5/3)

Israeli Police M Shahal presents PM Rabin with final conclusions to separation proposal submitted 3/17; calls for "fixed closure" (incl. vehicles) in which entry to Israel will be permitted only by licensing, through regulated points only, with "assumption . . . that anybody who crosses into Israel otherwise is coming to commit an offense and is held to be a suspect from the outset." (ITV 4/11 in FBIS 4/12; MM 4/12)

Arafat, Pres. Mubarak meet in Cairo to discuss peace process, Palestinian opposi-
tion. Arafat accuses Israel of fomenting Palestinian civil war by continuing occupation, delaying negotiations. (AFP, MENA, RE, VOP 4/11 in FBIS 4/12; NYT, WP 4/12)

Pres. Mubarak's political advisor Os- sama al-Baz says Egypt does not seek to withdraw fr. NPT, wants 3-yr. reviews, is against unlimited extension. (MENA 4/11 in FBIS 4/12)

12 APRIL

PA continues crackdown on Hamas, Islamic Jihad in Gaza, bringing number of alleged mbrs. in custody to more than 300, gives Palestinians until 5/11 to register weapons with police or have them confiscated. PA Atty. Gen. al-Qidra say 35 Palestinians are scheduled to go before military court. (VOP 4/11, QY 4/12, VOP 4/12 in FBIS 4/12; MM 4/12; VOP 5/12 in FBIS 5/13; CSM, MM, NYT, WP, WT 4/13; JP 4/22)

PA approves appointment of Ziyad al- Majali as Jordan's diplomatic representa- tive in the self-rule areas. PA M Jamil al- Tarifi delivers message fr. Arafat to King Hussein, expressing PA's desire to coordinate with Jordan on all aspects of negotiations. (RJ 4/12, JT 4/13 in FBIS 4/13)

Arafat asks Jordan to crack down on Hamas elements in kingdom, prevent them fr. publishing leaflets. (MENA, VOP 4/12 in FBIS 4/13; MM 4/13)

FBI sends team to Gaza to investigate death of 1, wounding of 3 Americans in 4/9 bombing. Under 1986 law, U.S. can investigate crimes against its citizens overseas, prosecute defendants in U.S. courts. (NYT 4/12; MM, WP, WT 4/13; CSM 4/14)

13 APRIL

Rabin says he would accept a Palestin- ian state in Gaza if Palestinians would drop claims to rest of o.t.; PA Planning M Shaath rejects idea. Rabin also calls on Arafat to arrest all Palestinians who assist or incite anti-Israeli attacks, incl. religious leaders. (MM 4/13; JP 4/13 in FBIS 4/13; MM 4/20, 4/21)

IDF confiscates 4,080 Palestinian passports issued to West Bank, Jerusalem residents leaving to perform hajj; says passports are "a muscle-flexing move on the part of the PA, as it tries to show it has authority" in West Bank, only Palestinians fr. self-rule areas can have them. (QY 4/13 in FBIS 4/14; JP 4/29) (see 3/30)


After Hamas-run al-Watan criticizes PA arrest of Hamas mbrs. following 4/9 bombings, PA police raid paper's Gaza offices, detain editors Sayyid Abu Musamih, Ghazi Hammad; release them hours later. (QY 4/13 in FBIS 4/14)

Israel puts curfew on Hebron, closes borders with Gaza, West Bank to prevent violence during, keep Palestinians out of, Israel through Passover. (QY 4/12 in FBIS 4/12; MM, NYT 4/13; QY 4/13, 4/14 in FBIS 4/14; WT 4/14, 4/15)

Rabbi Ido Elba, spiritual leader of Kiryat Arba arrested in 8/94 in connection with Hebron massacre, is sentenced to 2 yrs for inciting racism for saying "thou shalt not kill" commandment does not apply to Jews killing non-Jews. (JP 4/22)

14 APRIL


In 1st border infiltration attempt fr. Jordan in 2 yrs, 1 armed Palestinian trying to cross into West Bank is wounded by IDF. (QY 4/15, ITV 4/16 in FBIS 4/18; JP 4/22) (see 3/26)
15 APRIL

2d Jordanian trying to cross into West Bank fr. Jordan is shot dead by IDF. (QY 4/15 in FBIS 4/18; JP 4/22) (see 4/14)

PA releases 30 Hamas, Islamic Jihad, DFLP mbrs. arrested in recent days in connection with 4/9 bombings. (QY 4/15 in FBIS 4/18)

16 APRIL

IDF undercover unit ambushes, kills 3 Hamas mbrs. in Hebron, imposes curfew. (QY 4/16 in FBIS 4/18; CSM, NYT 4/17; CSM, MM 4/18; MEI 4/28; JP 4/29)

PA court sentences 2 Hamas mbrs. to 2 yrs in prison for training with illegal weapons, involvement in attack last yr. that left 1 IDF soldier dead. (QY 4/16 in FBIS 4/18; CSM, NYT 4/17; NYT 5/3)

PA continues mgs. with Hamas to reduce tensions. No agmt. is reached but PA releases another 50 Hamas mbrs. (RMC 4/16, QY 4/17 in FBIS 4/19) (see 4/14)

New group calling itself Palestine National Democratic Coalition (PNDN) led by Firuz Yari announces it has broken away fr. PFLP, apparently following dispute over whether PFLP should continue as an underground group, remain outside PA bureaucracy. Observers say PNDN’s proparticipation platform “has huge potential.” (HA 4/16 in FBIS 4/20)

17 APRIL

Jordanian FM Kabariti, Secy. of State Christopher meet in New York, discuss peace talks, NPT, bilateral relations. (RJ 4/18 in FBIS 4/18)

Israel expels 2 Palestinian political prisoners, mbrs. of Fatah, to Lebanon. Lebanon refuses pair entry, leaving them stranded in Israel’s self-declared security zone, under UN protection. (WT 4/19; JP 4/29) (see 2/27)

In trial lasting fr. midnight to 3 a.m., PA military court sentences Hamas mbr. to 7 yrs for smuggling explosives to attack Israelis. (QY 4/17 in FBIS 4/18; CSM 4/18; NYT 5/3)

Representatives fr. 177 nations meet in New York for start of month-long talks on renewing NPT. Israel’s amb. to the UN defends Israel’s decision not to sign agmt., saying “We are the only state directly threatened in the Middle East by other states . . . . “ (WT 4/17; MM, WT 4/18)

18 APRIL

U.S. officials say Syria has backed out of talks with Israel scheduled for this wk. in Washington. Syrian Amb. Mu’allim remains in Damascus. (WT 4/19) (see 4/8)

To break impasse in talks with Syria, FM Peres suggests upgrading talks to FM level, discussing all aspects (withdrawal, borders, diplomatic relations, security, timetables) at once rather than struggling over “equality” (see 4/3); also hints at possible withdrawal to the “international border” drawn after WWI. The hint, considered a trial balloon by observers, is shot down by opposition. (MM 4/18; HA 4/18 in FBIS 4/18; MM 4/19; QY 4/19 in FBIS 4/20; MM 4/20; MA 4/20 in FBIS 4/24; MEI 4/28)

19 APRIL

Syria rejects FM Peres’s 4/18 proposal to move negotiations forward, says problem lies in Israel’s position not in structure of talks. (MM 4/19)


Representatives of all Palestinian factions meet in Gaza, agree to set up joint comm. to discuss security in the self-rule areas. (IDF Radio 4/20 in FBIS 4/20)


Hebron settlers say they will erect building in city to house 10 new Jewish families, increasing settler population in Hebron by 25%. Plan has not been approved by Israeli government. IDF lifts daytime curfew on Palestinians, dusk-to-dawn curfew continues. (WP 4/20)
Yitzhak Magen, Israel's chief archaeologist for West Bank, announces plans to begin ripping up parts of 5th-century Byzantine church on Mount Gerizim to uncover 2,000-yr.-old replica of Jerusalem temple. (WT 4/19; JP 4/29)

20 APRIL

On visit to Austria, Israeli Dep. FM Beilin says it makes no difference to Israel which elements are in control of s. Lebanon "so long as the safety of the inhabitants is maintained." Statement thought to be a concessionary signal to Syria. (MM 4/20)

Syrian VP Khaddam says Syria still wants full withdrawal to 6/4/67 border [the 1967 border incl. a strip of land along the Sea of Galilee not incl. in the international border], "equality" in security arrangements, recent signals fr. Israel have not changed Syria's position. (MM 4/20)


Previously unknown group, Islamic Salvation Front for Palestine, releases 2d communicé in 2 wks threatening to attack Israeli targets in Egypt, Algeria, France, Britain, U.S. if PA crackdown on Islamist groups continues. Hamas, Islamic Jihad say they have never heard of the group. (AFP, QY 4/20 in FBIS 4/21)

FBI switches focus of search for Oklahoma bombers to domestic separatist, white supremacist groups; Middle Eastern connection termed unlikely. (NYT, WP, WT 4/21; WP 4/22; MM 2/24) (see 4/19)

21 APRIL

PSF mburs. raid offices of PFLP's weekly al-Umma, prevent its printing for the day. (JP 4/29)

22 APRIL

PA Planning M Shaath says PA-Israeli Joint Liaison Comm. talks on expanding self-rule, scheduled for 4/30, are postponed until 5/8; gives no reason for delay. (AFP 4/22 in FBIS 4/24)

Islamic Jihad offers to end attacks against Israeli targets in Gaza, Jericho until 7/1, if PA releases mburs. in prison, cancels prison terms imposed by military court, Israel promises not to carry out actions against Gaza. PM Rabin rejects deal unless all attacks are halted. (ITV 4/22, MENA, QY 4/23, AFP 4/24 in FBIS 4/24; CSM, MM 4/24; WT 4/25; WJW 4/27)

Following weekend of talks with PA, DFLP spokesman Ahmad Hamad announces group has decided to end all operations against Israel; expects DFLP detainees to be released, 1 DFLP office to be reopened, new paper al-jamahir to publish as result. (QY 4/22, AFP, QY 4/24 in FBIS 4/24)

2 Hamas mburs. are sentenced to 7 and 4 yrs respectively in PA closed military court. 15 mburs. are released. (QY 4/22 in FBIS 4/24; NYT 4/24)

23 APRIL

PA Planning M Shaath, Israeli o.t. coordinator Oren Shaor meet to discuss upcoming joint comm. meeting, improving economic situation in Gaza, making it easier to cross at Rafah, Allenby Bridge. (QY 4/24 in FBIS 4/25)


Pres. Clinton says he will seek broad powers to combat domestic terrorism, incl. easing federal ability to check credit, travel documents, hotel records of suspects, requiring phone companies to assure easy access for government wiretaps. (NYT, WP 4/24)

24 APRIL

Israel says PA is overdue in paying $16.5 m. in phone bills, threatens to cut off international phone service to o.t. if PA does not pay. All international calls to o.t., calls btwn. Gaza, Jericho are currently routed through the Israeli phone system. (JP 5/13)

PA military court sentences 2 Hamas mbrs. to 3 yrs, acquits 1 on charges of murdering alleged collaborator. (QY 4/24 in FBIS 4/25)


PA police release 20 Hamas mbrs. arrested after 4/9 bombings. Some 100 remain in custody. (AFP, QY 4/24 in FBIS 4/24)


IAF reportedly overflies Beirut, draws antiaircraft fire fr. Lebanese Army. (MM 4/26)

25 APRIL

Syrian, Israeli ambs. resume talks on security issues in Washington. Mtg. is attended by Secy. of State Christopher but does not include military advisers. (QY 4/26 in FBIS 4/26; MM 4/27; WT 4/28)

PA, Israel resume talks on elections in Cairo, focus on allowing East Jerusalem Palestinians to vote, nature, structure, jurisdiction of projected legislative council. (MENA 4/25, MENA, VOP 4/26 in FBIS 4/26; WT 4/26; MENA, QY, VOP 4/26 in FBIS 4/27)

Preliminary donor mtg. opens in Paris. PA Planning M Shaath suggests donor states commit to timetable for meeting pledges for 1 yr., but several states (Shaath refuses to say which) oppose. (RMC 4/26 in FBIS 4/28)

In 1st such incident since signing of DOP, Palestinian arrested 4/22 on charges of being a sr. military leader in Hamas dies of injuries sustained during interrogation by Shin Bet. (MM 4/25; QY 4/23 in FBIS 4/25; CSM, NYT, WP 4/26; WP 5/4)


PA signs $65 m. contract with OPIC, Washington-based General Resources and Design Group to build Marriott hotel in Jerusalem. Hotel will have independent infrastructure (incl. water desalinization, communications, electricity). (MM 4/27)

Jordan's Dentists' Association bans mbtrs. fr. treating Israelis, who have been coming to Jordan for cheaper medical attention since signing of peace treaty. Move seen as part of growing disenchantment with normalization with Israel. (MM 4/26, 5/2)


26 APRIL

In Washington, Syrian-Israeli talks end without progress. (MM 4/27)

In Cairo, PA, Israeli negotiators on elections agree to divide West Bank, Gaza into 1,500 voting areas, schedule census to register all eligible voters and divide them among voting areas. Census would create 2 lists: one of Palestinians with ID cards, one without. Eligibility to vote for those without cards, those in East Jerusalem will be negotiated later. (HA 4/27 in FBIS 4/27)

PM Rabin tells cabinet IDF will re-sign soldiers fr. 3 army bases in West Bank (Hebron, Nablus, Ramallah) to bases inside Green Line as 1st step of “pre-redeployment”; does not give timetable. Opposition criticizes decisions as a "surrender to terrorism." (MM 4/26; QY 4/26 in FBIS 4/26; MM, NYT, WT 4/27; CSM 4/28; JP 5/6)

Israeli Treasury Dept. says it will give PA $65 m. to help cover its $136 m. debt for FY 1995. (MM 4/27)

For 1st time, PA military court arrests PFLP mbr., tries and sentences him to 1 yr. in jail. In separate incident, PSF mbtrs. raid offices of PFLP's al-Umma, confiscate equipment. (QPAR 4/26 in FBIS 4/27) (see 4/21)
IDF raids offices of Col. Rajab's PSF offices in Hebron, detains 7 PSF mbrs., confiscates cars, radios, other materials. Government officials say PSF is violating DOP by operating in West Bank. IDF later apologizes, saying they raided offices "mistakenly" during an operation to locate stolen cars. (QY 4/26 in FBIS 4/26; YA 4/27 in FBIS 4/27)


1 Scottish, 2 Israeli pathologists say Palestinian who died in Shin Bet custody 4/25 is "first absolutely clear-cut case where there can be no debate that this is a death as the result of torture and nothing else." Shin Bet official comments: "As much as it is unpleasant . . . we don't need to change the general rules." (MM 4/28; WP 4/29; NYT 5/1; WP 5/4; JP 5/6; MEI 5/12)

AHLC meets in Paris. Israel, PA, donors sign agmt. recognizing for 1st time Israel's "right" to impose restrictive measures (incl. closure) to ensure security. Comm. approves $60 m. to help cover PA's $136 m. deficit for rest of 1995, agrees to encourage financing for Gaza harbor, industrial parks. Israel says it will ease flow of goods fr. o.t. into Israel. (Currently only several dozen produce trucks are allowed to enter each day.) Kuwait announces $4 m. grant to PA. (MENA, QY 4/27, HA 4/28 in FBIS 4/28; CSM, MM, NYT 4/28; MM 5/1; MEI 5/12) (see 3/30, 4/4) (see Doc. A1)

In largest confiscation in Jerusalem in 15 yrs, Israeli officials approve plan to take 134 acres of mostly Arab-owned land for new Jewish neighborhoods, police headquarters. Housing Min. anticipates 800-900 new apartments. Rabin says no-confiscation promise does not apply to East Jerusalem, he personally approved plan. Arafat criticizes Israelis for acting in bad faith, violating DOP. (QY 4/27 in FBIS 4/27; CSM, MM, NYT, WP 4/28; MM 5/1; CSM 5/2; WJW 5/4; JP 5/6; WJW 5/11)

28 APRIL

In Morocco, OPIC announces creation of Middle East and North Africa Investment Fund. Capital for fund will come fr. U.S. private firms, be guaranteed by OPIC. Fund will encourage private sector investment in self-rule areas, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Morocco, Tunisia; will focus on tourism, real estate, communications, consumer products, pharmaceuticals, high tech; will not replace Middle East Development Bank. (MM 4/27; al-Hayat 4/30)

PA begins training 6,000 teachers on census taking, verifying and updating voter lists received fr. Israel 4/4. (VOP 4/26 in FBIS 4/26)

29 APRIL

14 PEC DAR trustees meet in Amman in "attempt to revive" what is supposed to be the principle PA economic institution, mbrs. complain they are being kept in the dark about PA economic transactions, donor mgs. (MEI 5/12)

PA cabinet condemns 27 Israeli decision to expropriate Jerusalem lands. Hamas threatens to stage attacks against Israeli targets in response. Fatah urges halt to talks. (VOP 4/29, AFP, QY 4/30 in FBIS 5/1)

30 APRIL

At World Jewish Congress mtg. in New York, Pres. Clinton announces trade ban on Iran, saying it threatens peace in the Middle East. Israeli FM Peres warns Islamic fundamentalism "like Communism adopted the Machiavellian slogan that ends justify means, which is a license to lie, to subvert, to kill." After mtg., Clinton, Peres discuss U.S. intervention in Syrian track; Clinton says U.S. will offer proposals only if asked by both sides. (NYT, WP, WT 5/1; QY 5/1 in FBIS 5/1; MM 5/2; WT 5/4; HA 5/5 in FBIS 5/5; MM 5/5; MEI 5/12)

Israeli government approves construction of 7,500 new units for Jewish settlers on 450 acres in East Jerusalem. (ITV 4/30 in FBIS 5/1; MM 5/1; CSM 5/3; ITV 5/3 in FBIS 5/4; WJW 5/4)
1 MAY

PM Rabin makes 1-day visit to Jordan, tours historical sites with King Hussein, Queen Nur, discusses development of joint economic projects in Rift Valley, Aqaba. At press conference, Rabin encourages Syria to start "secret," "intimate" talks with Israel. (JTV, RJ, QY 5/1 in FBIS 5/2; CSM, MM 5/2; MM 5/4)

U.S. Amb. to the UN Madeleine Albright arrives in Jerusalem on first leg of regional tour. (WT 5/2)

PA calls on UNSC to pass measure that would force Israel to rescind plans to confiscate land in Jerusalem for Jewish housing. (MM 5/1; 5/2)

EC consuls to Israel meet with PA representatives at Orient House in Jerusalem for briefing on Israeli land confiscation, say confiscations are obstacle to peace. (QY 5/1 in FBIS 5/2)

PA military court sentences Palestinian to 12 yrs for firing at policemen. (AFP 5/1 in FBIS 5/2)

Golan Residents Comm. begins 3-mo. public relations/multimedia campaign tour to encourage Israelis to lobby government to keep Golan. At opening, MK Kahalani says he will petition High Court to let him introduce bill to Knesset that would require special majoriy on any Golan withdrawal referendum. (MM 5/1, 5/2) (see 9/7/94)

2 MAY

In Damascus, Egyptian FM Musa meets with Syrian FM al-Shara', transmits message fr. Pres. Mubarak to Pres. al-Asad on bilateral coordination, peace process, regional issues. (SARR 5/2 in FBIS 5/2; RE 3/2 in FBIS 3/3)


PA invites Canada, EC, Egypt, Japan, Jordan, Norway, Russia to participate in 1,000-mbr. elections observer force. Arafat opens Palestine Central Elections Comm. headquarters in Gaza. (ITV 3/2 in FBIS 3/3; JP 5/13)

PA says direct phone btwn. Arafat, Rabin has been set up so they can make rapid decision as problems arise, esp. concerning IDF, police, border issues. (YA 5/3 in FBIS 5/4)

U.S. Amb. to the UN Albright meets with Israeli PM Rabin, FM Peres, PA Local Government M Erakat, PA Information M 'Abid Rabbi; discusses settlements, new U.S. trade ban on Iran, terrorism. Rabin gives support for U.S. dual containment policy; heads to Jordan for mtg. on peace process with Crown Prince Hassan. (WT 5/2; JP, QY 5/2 in FBIS 5/2; JTV, RJ, VOP 5/2 in FBIS 5/3; MM 5/3)

PA military court gives 1st death sentence to Palestinian police officer for killing 2d officer, gives him 14 days to appeal. (ITV 3/2 in FBIS 3/3; NYT 5/3; WT 5/15) (see 4/24)

Masked Israeli border policemen raid Makassed hospital in East Jerusalem in search of "Palestinian activists"; prevent ambulance workers fr. admitting patients. (WT 5/3)

Israel closes o.t. for 4 days, over Remembrance Day holiday. (QY 4/30 in FBIS 5/1)

3 MAY

Israel Housing Min. officials confirm that 134 acres confiscated 4/27 is part of plan to confiscate 1,100 acres of Arab land in Jerusalem for 7,000 new housing units to increase Jewish population of city by 10,000s. (CSM 5/3; WJW 5/4; MEI 5/12; JP 5/13; CSM 5/15)

U.S. Amb. to the UN Albright meets with King Hussein, PM Kabariti, discusses Jerusalem confiscations, U.S. policy toward Iran, Iraq, urges Jordan to joint NPT; heads to Cairo for talks with Pres. Mubarak on same issues. (MM 5/3; RJ 3/3 in FBIS 3/3; MENA 5/3, JT 5/4 in FBIS 5/4; WT 5/4)

Unidentified persons set fire to offices of al-Umma, a PFLP, anti-PA newspaper. (ITV 5/3 in FBIS 5/4) (see 4/26)

4 MAY

PA, Jordan sign 1st comprehensive trade accord, defining terms for shipments across Jordan river, preferential tariff system, free trade btwn. autonomous areas, Jordan. (RJ 5/4 in FBIS 5/4; JP 5/13)

Israeli embassy in Amman holds independence day celebration but few invited Jordanian officials attend. (SARR 5/4 in FBIS 5/5; JP 5/13; WT 5/17)

Arafat approves creation of Palestine Telecommunications Co., plans to have
600,000 phone lines, 200,000 mobile phones in use within 10 yrs. (VOP 5/4 in FBIS 5/5)

PA military court sentences 4 Palestinians to 6 mos. in jail for burning Israeli fields nr. Erez. (QY 5/4 in FBIS 5/5)

3 Israeli policemen, 1 Palestinian are hurt when Jewish extremists try to force their way into al-Aqsa compound to pray. (CSM 5/5)

In s. Lebanon, Hizballah shells IDF tank wounding 1 soldier, fires mortars at SLA position. IDF returns fire, killing 2 Lebanese civilians. (QY, VOL 5/4 in FBIS 5/4; RL 5/4, 5/5 in FBIS 5/5; WT 5/6)

5 MAY

PM Rabin arrives in U.S., meets with Defense Secy. Perry to discuss military cooperation, meets with Secy. of State Christopher, addresses the American Jewish Committee. (MM, WT 5/5; QY 5/5 in FBIS 5/5)

Russia says it will open representation office in self-rule areas. (VOP 5/5 in FBIS 5/8)

Hizballah fires 5 rockets into northern Israel, wounding 4 Israelis. (QY, RL 5/5 in FBIS 5/5; WT 5/6; VOL, MBC 5/5 in FBIS 5/8; JP 5/13)

6 MAY

Arab League FMs’ mtg. unanimously condemns Israeli confiscation of Arab lands in East Jerusalem, calls on UNSC to do same; discusses possibility of U.S. moving Israeli embassy to Jerusalem. Arafat calls for a suspension of normalization with Israel but Arab states refuse to take decision. (MENA, RE 5/6 in FBIS 5/8; WP, WT 5/7; MM 5/9; WJW 5/11; MEI 5/12; JP 5/13)

Israel lifts closure on o.t. begun 5/2. (QY 4/30 in FBIS 5/1)

7 MAY

Before AIPAC talk, Clinton reportedly meets with Rabin, offers “bridging proposals” for security arrangements to move Syrian-Israeli talks forward; Rabin accepts proposals. Israeli negotiator Rabinovitch denies report. (QY 5/8 in FBIS 5/8; MM 5/10, 5/11; QY 5/11 in FBIS 5/11)

Clinton, Rabin address AIPAC convention, stress need to maintain level of aid to Israel, fear of terrorism exported fr. Iran. Rabin’s prepared speech calls for giving aid to PA, but he omits reference in actual speech. Clinton is 1st president to address AIPAC. 55 senators, 114 representatives attend. (WT 5/7; MM, NYT 5/9; HA 5/9 in FBIS 5/9; WJW 5/11) (see Docs D3-5)

Israeli FM Peres arrives in Cairo for mtg. with Egyptian officials, PA negotiators, says recent confiscation of land in Jerusalem “is not a political development” but a demographic one. (MENA, QY 5/7, MENA 5/8 in FBIS 5/8; QY 5/8 in FBIS 5/9; CSM 5/9; WJW 5/11)

2 Hizballah mbrs. are killed in clash with IDF, SLA in s. Lebanon. (VOL 5/7 in FBIS 5/8)

8 MAY

PA-Israeli Joint Liaison Comm. meets for 2d day in Cairo. FM Peres offers PA Planning M Shaath sudden concessions in light of Jerusalem issue (see Peace Monitor). Sides agree to set up unofficial Jerusalem Comm. to address expropriation issue. Israel offers to broaden PA autonomy in West Bank, Gaza but dispute over land confiscation in Jerusalem prevents agmt. (MENA 5/7, QY, RE 5/8 in FBIS 5/8; MENA, VOP 5/8 in FBIS 5/9; WT 5/9; MEI, WP 5/12)

At AIPAC conference, Sen. Dole announces he will submit legislation to force U.S. to move embassy in Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. Israel reacts coolly. Jordan, Morocco, UAE criticize initiative, urge UNSC action. (ITV 5/8, QY 5/9 in FBIS 5/9; CSM, MM, WP 5/10; NYT, WT 5/11; MEI, WP 5/12)

Syria refuses Jordan’s request to name amb. to Jordan, host visit of Jordanian FM Kabariti to Damascus to try to improve bilateral relations. (MM 5/9, al-Bilad 5/10 in FBIS 5/9 [dates as printed]; al-Quds 5/9 in FBIS 5/12) (see 12/14/94)

Rabin meets with mbrs. of Congress; presses them not to reduce foreign aid, aid to Israel, Arab partners in peace effort; discusses Iranian threat, talks with Syria, PA about efforts to end attacks against Israeli targets; backs away fr. supporting Dole initiative to move embassy to Jerusalem. (NYT, WT 5/9)

In Amman, Jordan, Israel initial draft agmts. on regulating agriculture, energy, environmental cooperation; postpone ini-
tialing draft trade accord that will give Israel preferential tariffs for Jordanian goods. The accord would be 1st by Arab country to give preferential treatment to Israel. (WT 5/9)

Jordan's amb. to Israel Muasher warns Dep. FM Beilin that Jordan will chill relations with Israel if it does not reverse land confiscations in Jerusalem. (WP 5/12; CSM 5/15)

Jordan reportedly gives 2 Hamas mbrs. residing in Amman 1-mo. notice to leave country. (MM 5/9) (see 4/13)

IDF closes al-Quds office in Nablus, claiming materials there link the paper to Hamas. (HA, JP 5/10 in FBIS 5/11) (see 1/16)

Israel releases 250 pro-Fatah Palestinian prisoners, lifts curfew on Hebron (see 4/19) as goodwill gesture for Id al-Adha. (QY 5/8 in FBIS 5/8; NYT 5/9; CSM 5/10)

PLO Tokyo mission closes due to lack of funds. (al-Manar 5/8 in FBIS 5/11)

9 MAY

Housing M Ben-Eliezer says Israel will go ahead with confiscations of Arab-owned lands despite growing outcry; land will be expropriated as part of 5-yr. plan to build 30,000 new apartments in Jerusalem. FM Peres says confiscations are necessary to accommodate “natural growth” of Jerusalem's Jewish population. (MA 5/9 in FBIS 5/9; WT 5/10)

As way of solving current dispute over expropriations, FM Peres suggests confiscating land in Jerusalem for Arab housing. Palestinians across political spectrum denounce idea. (QY, VOP 5/9, QY, RE 5/10 in FBIS 5/10)


U.S. Amb. to the UN Albright criticizes Arab League call for UN to debate Israeli land confiscations, says it is not the proper forum, threatens to veto any resolution or statement on the issue. (MM 5/11; al-Hayat 5/12 in FBIS 5/15; JP 5/13; CSM 5/15)


American Jewish Congress issues letter to Congress in support of Dole initiative on U.S. embassy. Americans for Peace Now sends letter to Congress urging them not to support bill. (MM 5/10)

Arafat releases 2 Hamas mbrs., 21 other Palestinian prisoners arrested following bombings in April to mark Id al-Adha; promises more releases soon. (WT 5/10)

10 MAY

White House sends warning to 3 Democratic senators (Daniel Inouye, cosponsor of Dole bill, D. Patrick Moynihan, Joseph Lieberman) that moving U.S. embassy in Israel to Jerusalem would have “a devastating impact on the peace process.” (WT 5/15)

Frmr. Secy. of State James Baker calls on Clinton administration to take “more assertive role” in peace process to break impasses, says U.S. should commit now to stationing troops in Golan, opposes moving embassy to Jerusalem. (MM 5/11)

Jerusalem's Waqf authorities say site leased by U.S. as possible embassy location has been Waqf land for 200 yrs. U.S. officials say they doubt documentation supporting claim exists. (NYT 5/11; JP 5/20)

Final vote on NPT is postponed hours before it is to be held because of proposal submitted by Egypt, Algeria, Bahrain, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Tunisia, Yemen to single out Israel's undeclared nuclear program for mention. U.S. counters by threatening to call open vote on Egyptian proposal which would surely be defeated. Egypt, U.S. reach agmt. to include general appeal to all nations with undeclared nuclear programs to adhere to NPT. (MM 5/10; NYT, WP, WT 5/11)

Israeli gunboat fires at, detains, searches Lebanese civilian cargo ship off
coast of Tyre, s. Lebanon, as naval blockade continues. (RL 5/10 in FBIS 5/10)

IDF soldier is killed by friendly fire during night operation in s. Lebanon. (QY 5/11 in FBIS 5/12)

11 MAY


To date, 20 Republicans, 2 Democrats have signed on to Dole bill to move embassy to Jerusalem. Administration presses Democrats to reject bill. (MM 5/11)

PA says 500 guns have been registered since 5/11 deadline was declared 4/12. (JP 5/20; NYT 5/21)

PA, Israel reach agmt. that prevents disconnection of phone service to o.t. Israel will deduct communications debt fr. aid it is donating to PA. (QY 5/12 in FBIS 5/12) (see 4/24)


Pres. Clinton picks Jay Foothik as his "special liaison" to the Jewish community. Foothik's job is to "monitor issues of concern to American Jews, ensuring Jewish access to the president and arranging for Clinton to attend relevant Jewish community events." (WJJ 5/11)

12 MAY

Israeli officials drop plan to confiscate land fr. Roman Catholic monastery on line btwn. West Bank, southern Jerusalem after Vatican protests; say other lands nr. monastery will be confiscated to build road linking Har Gilo settlement to Jerusalem. (MM 4/12; QY 5/12 in FBIS 5/16; WT 4/13)

13 MAY


14 MAY


Palestinian-Israeli Jerusalem Comm. opens 2 days of talks. (VOP 5/14 in FBIS 5/15)


PA military court convicts, sentences Sayyid Abu Musamih, Hamas official and editor of al-Watan arrested 5/13, to 2 yrs in jail for writing "seditious" articles, increasing tensions btwn. Hamas, PA. Al-Watan is ordered to close for 3 mos. (AFP 5/14 in FBIS 5/15; WT 5/15; AFP, QY 5/15 in FBIS 5/16; NYT 5/21)

IDF detains, questions, photographs PA policemen, min. officials at checkpoint as they return to self-rule areas. PA protests. (VOP 5/15 in FBIS 5/16)

15 MAY

PA, Israeli teams arrive in Cairo for round of elections talks. Parties will try to come to an agmt. that would permit PA to conduct a "quasi-census" in o.t. to update population registry, prepare voter registry. (IGPO 5/14; MENA, VOP 5/15 in FBIS 5/16; CSM 5/16)

At White House, Pres. Clinton, Secy. of State Christopher hold talks with Syrian FM Shara' on Golan, confidence-building measures, reportedly present Shara' with U.S. "bridging" proposal to spur talks btwn. Syria, Israel. Christopher says Syria, Israel have narrowed differences over security arrangement, discusses possible shuttle mission to Middle East at end of June. (SATN 5/15, SARR 5/16 in FBIS 5/16; NYT, WP, WT 5/16; YA 5/16 in FBIS 5/17; WT 5/17; WP 5/21)
PM Rabin tells Knesset that most of Syria's demands are unacceptable, talks are effectively deadlocked. (WT 5/16, 5/17)

UN begins debate on recent Israeli land confiscations. Arab states call for united front against Israel's seizures. (CSM 5/15; WT 5/17, 5/18)

Israel's Arab Democratic Party, HADASH each file no-confidence motion over Jerusalem land seizures. (QY 5/15 in FBIS 5/15)


In s. Lebanon, 7 IDF soldiers are wounded in roadside bombing by Hizballah. (CSM 5/16)

### CHRONOLOGY SOURCE ABBREVIATIONS

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<td>FBIS</td>
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Chronology compiled by Michele L. Kjorlien