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CHRONOLOGY

16 FEBRUARY–15 MAY 1997

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

16 FEBRUARY

The **8 Palestinian Authority (PA)-Israeli subcomms.** established 1/28 begin meeting at Kibbutz Maale Hahamisha, nr. Jerusalem. (MM, NYT 2/17; *al-Quds* 2/17 in WNC 2/20; PR 2/21; JP 3/1) (see Peace Monitor for details)

PA police arrest Capt. Hani Ayad, head of Nablus military intelligence, 2 interrogators; charge them with torturing Palestinian prisoner **Yusif Baba** to death 2/1. (WP, WT 2/17; PR 2/21) (see 2/3)

17 FEBRUARY

After receiving permission fr. the PA to start a newspaper in Gaza, the **Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP)** opens a media office in Gaza City. (AFP 2/19 in WNC 2/20)

The **Israel-Lebanon Monitoring Group (ILMG)** meets to discuss Lebanon's complaint that a civilian was injured in an Israeli attack on a Hizballah radio station 2/11, Israel's complaint that it discovered explosive devices planted nr. Bayt Lif in s. Lebanon. ILMG issues statement stating that media organs will be considered civilian targets even if they are run by the Islamist resistance. (RL 2/17, 2/18 in WNC 2/19; RL 2/19 in WNC 2/20)

18 FEBRUARY

Israeli ministerial comm. decides to speed construction of roads in and around **East Jerusalem**, delays decision on construction of **new settlement** on Har Homa hill. (MM 2/18; MA 2/18 in WNC 2/20; NYT, WT 2/19; PR 2/21; WJW 2/22)

Israeli police question **Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu** for 4 hrs. as part of their corruption probe surrounding the selection of **Roni Bar-On** as atty. gen. (see 1/24, 1/26). (MM, NYT 2/19; MM 2/21; ITV 2/21, YA 2/23 in WNC 2/25; WT 2/22; WP, WT 2/23; ITV 2/24 in WNC 2/26; JP 3/1)

Lebanese security forces announce they have arrested at least 7 people in **Lebanon's** Biqa' Valley, some of whom are believed to be mbrs. of the **Japanese Red Army**, incl. the surviving gunman in the 5/72 Ben-Gurion (Lod) airport attack in Tel Aviv. Japan says it will seek extradition of Red Army mbrs. (RL 2/18 in WNC 2/19; CSM, MM, NYT, WP, WT 2/19; *al-Quds al-Arabi* 2/19 in WNC 2/20; RL 2/20 in WNC 2/21; RL 2/21 in WNC 2/24; AFP, RL 2/24 in WNC 2/25; RL 2/25 in WNC 2/26; *Kyodo* [Tokyo] 2/28 in WNC 3/3; RL 2/28, 3/1 in WNC 3/4; WP 3/13)

Israel Defense Forces (IDF), South Lebanon Army (SLA) shell villages in s. **Lebanon**, killing 1 civilian, wounding 2. Lebanon files complaint with **ILMG**. (RL 2/18 in WNC 2/19; WP 2/19; RL 2/21 in WNC 2/24)

19 FEBRUARY

After discussions with MKs, **Netanyahu** approves the construction of 6,500 housing units for 30,000 Israelis at Har Homa in **East Jerusalem**. (MM 2/19; CSM, MM, WP, WT 2/20; YA 2/20 in WNC 2/21; MM 2/21; MA 2/21 in WNC 2/24; MM 2/27) (see 2/18)

IDF demolishes 2 buildings nr. Nablus in area B, 1 of which belongs to **UNRWA**. Almost 300 Palestinian homes have been demolished since the signing of the Declaration of Principles in 9/93. (*al-Hayat al-Jadida* 2/20 in WNC 2/24; PR 3/28)

The **FBI** announces that **David Tenenbaum**, a mechanical engineer working for the U.S. army, has informed the Bureau that, for the past 10 yrs., he has "inadvertently" passed classified military information to **Israeli** officials. **FBI, Defense Investigative Service** say they are investigating, but have not filed charges. Israel denies any wrongdoing. (NYT, WT 2/20; ITV 2/20 in WNC 2/24; JP 3/1)

20 FEBRUARY

FBI chief Louis Freeh arrives in **Jordan** to discuss extradition of **Hamas political leader Musa Abu Marzuq**, raising specula-

tion the U.S., **Israel** prefer to deport him to a 3d country. Freeh arrived in Amman fr. Israel, is heading to **Egypt**. (NYT 2/21; SA 2/22 in WNC 2/25; *al-Ra'i* 2/24 in WNC 2/26; JP 3/1; MEI 3/7) (see 2/11)

ILMG closes 2 days of talks on death of 1 Lebanese civilian, wounding of 2 others during IDF shelling 2/18; blames Israel for the death. (RL 2/19 in WNC 2/20; RL 2/20 in WNC 2/21; RL 2/20, 2/21 in WNC 2/24; *al-Nahar* 2/21, RL 2/22 in WNC 2/25)

IDF mine explodes in **s. Lebanon**, killing 1 Lebanese civilian. (RL 2/21 in WNC 2/24)

21 FEBRUARY

PA intelligence chief Amin al-Hindi says that the PA is currently holding 200 Palestinians on charges of spying for **Israel**. (SA 2/21 in WNC 2/25)

Jordanian Court of Cassation rules that Jordan's extradition treaty with the **U.S.** (signed 3/28/95) is unconstitutional. (*al-Dustur* 2/23 in WNC 2/25; JT 2/25 in WNC 2/27; JT 3/4 in WNC 3/7)

In Washington, **Jewish Institute for National Security Affairs** hosts breakfast for Turkish FM **Gul**. (WJW 2/27)

22 FEBRUARY

Egyptian pres. Husni Mubarak makes unscheduled visit to Damascus to meet with **Pres. Hafiz al-Asad** in advance of Mubarak's trip to Washington. (RMC, SANA 2/22 in WNC 2/25; MM 2/24)

23 FEBRUARY

In Brussels, **PA, European Union (EU)** sign partnership agmt. (PR 2/28; MEI 3/7; JP 3/8)

King Hussein receives PM **Netanyahu** in Amman. (ITV, JT, RJ, YA 2/23, *al-Dustur*, RJ 2/24 in WNC 2/25; MM, NYT, WT 2/24; JT, *al-Quds* 2/24 in WNC 2/26; JTV 2/23, Globes [Internet] 2/24, JT 2/25 in WNC 2/27)

Netanyahu hires top criminal lawyer **Yaakov Weinrot** to represent him in the **Bar-On** investigation. Weinrot confirms rumors that the **police** warned Netanyahu 45 mins. into his questioning (2/18) that his statements could be used against him, marking the 1st time an Israeli PM has been questioned under caution. (CSM, NYT, WT 2/24; JP 3/1)

Jordanian prisoners in **Israeli** jails begin 1-wk. hunger strike to protest their detention.

(*al-Ra'i* 2/21 in WNC 2/24) (see Peace Monitor in *JPS* 103)

Jordan stops monitoring foreign newspapers before allowing them to be distributed; says it will revise the press and publications law, which currently forbids criticism of the royal family, sensitive military information, etc. (CSM 2/28; *al-Dustur* 2/28 in WNC 3/3; JT 3/1 in WNC 3/4)

24 FEBRUARY

In Amman, **King Hussein** receives a delegation of **U.S.** friends of Israel's **Meretz** party for discussions on the peace process. (JTV 2/24 in WNC 2/26)

Israeli FM David Levy arrives in **China** on 3-day official visit. (Xinhua [Beijing] 2/24 in WNC 2/25; Xinhua 2/25, AFP, Xinhua 2/26 in WNC 2/27)

PM **Netanyahu** blames Israeli **Justice M Tsahi Hanegbi** for not adequately briefing him on **Bar-On's** qualifications for atty. gen. (MM 2/24; WT 2/25; JP 3/1) (see 2/23)

Iran, Syria sign communications agmt. increasing fr. 12 to 24 the number of satellite channels they jointly operate. (IRNA 2/24 in WNC 3/25) (see 2/22)

25 FEBRUARY

Israel approaches the **U.S.** administration to inquire if it would veto a **UN Security Council (UNSC)** resolution on **Har Homa** if the issue is brought to a vote. (MM 2/26)

In Jerusalem, an **EU** delegation submits formal protest to **Israel** over the decision to build at Har Homa. (AFP 2/25 in WNC 2/27)

Turkish Army chief of staff Gen. Ismail Karadayi arrives in **Israel** for meetings with **DM Yitzhak Mordechai**. (MM 2/26; WJW 2/27; JP 3/8) (see Peace Monitor)

3 undercover **IDF** soldiers shoot, beat **Palestinians** in the village of Hizma in the West Bank, which is under joint PA-Israeli control, killing 1, wounding 3. Troops use tear gas to quell ensuing clashes with Palestinians. (ITV 2/25 in WNC 2/27; CSM, MM, NYT, WP, WT 2/26; PR 2/28; JP 3/8; PR 3/14)

In Florida, an **Orthodox Jew**, Harry Shapiro, is charged with placing a pipe bomb in a synagogue before a speech by **fmr. Israeli PM Shimon Peres** in a bid to assassinate Peres, blame the act on an Islamist group. (NYT 2/26; NYT, WT 2/27)

26 FEBRUARY

Israeli ministerial comm. unanimously approves **Har Homa** construction plan, says

3,015 housing units for Arabs may be built adjacent to the Har Homa settlement, but does not approve any funding for their construction. (Since 1990, Israel has allowed Arabs to build only 663 units in East Jerusalem, while allowing Israelis to build 13,835 units.) (MM 2/26; SANA 2/26 in WNC 2/27; MM, NYT, WP, WT 2/27; WP 3/2; JP 3/8) (see 2/19)

King Hussein sends an envoy to Israel to urge **Netanyahu** to reconsider the Har Homa decision. (WP 2/27)

The **Jordan-Israel Aqaba-Elat Comm.** convenes in Aqaba. (*al-Aswaq* 2/27-28 in WNC 3/3)

3 leftist Jordanian parties (**Jordanian Arab Ba'th Socialist Party**, the pan-Arab **National Action Party**, the **Arab Land Party**) announce they are merging to form the **Jordanian Nationalist Democratic Front**. Jordanian elections are 9 mos. away; Jordan's 26 official parties are trying to work out common platforms to field candidates on united lists. (JT 2/27 in WNC 3/3)

Turkey says it is considering recalling its envoys fr. Tehran amid a diplomatic crisis sparked by **Iran's** perceived support for Turkish Islamists politically opposed to the Turkish military, which advocates government secularism. (AFP 2/27 in WNC 3/4)

In Washington, the family of **Alisa Flatow**, killed in the 4/9/95 suicide bombing in the Gaza Strip, file a \$150-m. lawsuit against **Iran**. The federal Antiterrorism Act of 1996 allows families of victims of terrorism to bring civil actions against countries designated by the State Dept. as sponsors of terrorism. Lawyers claim the bombing was carried out by **Islamic Jihad**, with Iran's financial backing. (WT 2/27; WJW 3/6; JP 3/8)

27 FEBRUARY

Arafat convenes **Palestinian national dialogue conference** in Nablus. (NYT 2/28; MM 3/4) (see Peace Monitor)

2,000 Palestinians march fr. Bayt Sahur toward **Har Homa** to protest Israeli settlement plans; are stopped by **PA** security forces, **IDF** troops. (CSM, NYT, WP, WT 2/28; NYT 3/1, 3/2; MEI 3/7)

Lebanon selects economist **Muhammad Chatah** as its new amb. to the U.S. Current Amb. Riad Tabbara has announced his retirement fr. the Lebanese foreign service. (WT 2/28)

In **s. Lebanon**, **Amal** detonates a roadside bomb as an **SLA** patrol passes, causing

no injuries. **SLA** mbrs. shoot back, killing 1 **Amal** mbr. (RL 2/27 in WNC 3/3)

28 FEBRUARY

Israeli paper *Globes* publishes transcript of the 1/10 cabinet meeting during which **Bar-On** was appointed atty. gen. Transcript shows that PM **Netanyahu**, Justice M **Hanegbi** overrode the concerns of several cabinet mbrs. who thought Bar-On should be disqualified for his Likud membership, personal ties to Hanegbi. (MM 2/28; WP 3/1) (see 2/24)

1 **IDF** soldier, 4 **Hizballah** mbrs. are killed, 3 **IDF** soldiers are wounded in clash in **s. Lebanon**. (MM 2/28; RL, VOL 2/28 in WNC 3/3; RL 2/28 in WNC 3/4; WP 3/1; JP 3/8)

8 Jordanian centrist nationalist parties—**al-'Ahd**, the **Democratic Arab Unionist Party-al-Wa'd**, the **Jordan National Alliance**, **Jordanian Arab Masses Party**, **Popular Unity Party**, **Progress and Justice**, **al-Watan**, **al-Yakaza**—merge to form the **National Constitutional Party**. (RJ 2/28, JT 3/1 in WNC 3/4; JT 4/8 in WNC 4/9) (see 2/26)

1 MARCH

Palestinians, Israeli leftists demonstrate in **Har Homa** against Israel's construction plans. 100s of Palestinians (mostly affiliated with the **DFLP**) hold similar demonstration in Ramallah. (ITV 3/1 in WNC 3/4)

In Amman, **Jordanian** opposition parties hold rally to show solidarity with **Syria's** stand on negotiations with Israel. (*al-Dustur* 3/2 in WNC 3/4)

King Hussein announces that he and Queen Nur will move out of al-Nadwa Palace into a house in the Amman suburbs, which will be called Bab al-Salam. Al-Nadwa Palace will be turned into a guest palace, and al-Hashimiyya Palace will be turned into a home for orphaned and homeless children. (JTV 3/1 in WNC 3/4)

2 MARCH

Arafat arrives in Washington fr. Cairo; meets with U.S. **special envoy Dennis Ross**, **World Bank Pres. James Wolfensohn**. (MM 3/3)

Likud central comm. mtg. is held. Senior party officials accuse PM **Netanyahu** of bringing "professional hecklers" to cheer him, shout down his opponents and the media on cue; preventing opposition fr. speak-

ing. (IDF Radio 3/2 in WNC 3/4; MM, WJW 3/6; WT 3/8; JP 3/15)

Israeli DM **Mordechai** approves construction of 1,500 houses, 3,000 hotel rooms on 2,500 acres of land btwn. **Jerusalem**, Ma'ale Adumim **settlement**. (MM 3/3; WT 3/4)

In Amman, **Jordanian** PM Kabariti, **Israeli** Labor party mbr. Ehud Barak hold talks on bilateral relations. (RJ 3/2 in WNC 3/4; JTV, RJ 3/2 in WNC 3/7)

Japanese envoy arrives in **Lebanon** to confirm identities of alleged **Red Army** detainees. (RL 3/2 in WNC 3/4; MM 3/3) (see 2/18)

3 MARCH

PM **Netanyahu**, DM **Mordechai**, FM **Levy** discuss 1st phase of **further redeployment (FRD)**. (WT 3/23)

In Washington, **Arafat** meets with **U.S. Pres. Bill Clinton**, **Secy. of State Madeleine Albright**. (MM, WT 3/3; MM, NYT, WP, WT 3/4; MM 3/5; WJW 3/6; MEI 3/7; WJW 3/13) (see Peace Monitor for details)

Palestinians in East Jerusalem, Gaza, West Bank observe **general strike** to protest Israel's **Har Homa** and other construction plans. (MM 3/3; CSM, NYT, WT 3/4; MEI 3/7)

The 54-mbr. **Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC)** and **Iran** formally condemn **Israel's** plans to build at **Har Homa**. (VIRI 3/3 in WNC 3/7; MM 3/4)

Turkey dispatches a special envoy to **Iran**. Both countries blame the media for recent tensions. (VIRI 3/4 in WNC 3/10) (see 2/26)

Japanese envoy arrives in Damascus fr. Beirut to discuss with **Syrian** pres. Asad the extradition fr. **Lebanon** of 5 **Red Army** mbrs. Syria says it will not block the transfer. (MM 3/4; Kyodo [Tokyo] 3/4, 3/6 in WNC 3/7; AFP, Kyodo 3/4 in WNC 3/10; MM 3/5) (see 3/2)

A **Syrian** bus carrying 9 **Japanese** tourists comes under fire nr. Baalbeck, **Lebanon**, causing no injuries. (MM 3/5)

4 MARCH

PM **Netanyahu** orders the **PA** to close 4 offices in, remove all security forces fr., **East Jerusalem** by the end of the wk.; does not name which offices. (MM 3/4; WP, WT 3/5; WT 3/6)

Jordan, **Kuwait** resume commerce ties, which were severed during the Gulf War. (*al-Watan* [Kuwait] 3/5 in WNC 3/14)

ILMG convenes to examine complaints by Israel, Lebanon regarding firing on residential areas. (RL 3/4 in WNC 3/7)

5 MARCH

In Cairo, Egyptian pres. **Mubarak**, Israeli PM **Netanyahu** hold tense, inconclusive talks, marked by disagreement over Israeli settlement plans. (MM 3/5; RE 3/5 in WNC 3/7; CSM, MM, NYT, WP 3/6; ITV 3/7 in WNC 3/13; WJW 3/13; MEI 3/21)

After a brief visit to New York, **Arafat** heads to Georgia to meet with **fmr. Pres. Jimmy Carter** and Houston to meet with **fmr. Pres. George Bush**, **fmr. Secy. of State James Baker III** before returning to Gaza. (MM, NYT 3/6; WT 3/7)

UNSC begins debate on **Israel's** Har Homa plan. (MM, WT 3/5; MM, NYT, WP, WT 3/6; MEI 3/7; WJW 3/13) (see Doc. D2)

After 4 days of talks in Tehran, **Jordan**, **Iran** sign memorandum of understanding on health issues, medicine, medical training. (IRNA, VIRI 3/2 in WNC 3/4)

6 MARCH

Israeli cabinet approves (10-7) 1st stage of **FRD** covering 9% of West Bank. (MM 3/6; MM, NYT, WP, WT 3/7; RE 3/7 in WNC 3/11; ITV 3/7 in WNC 3/13; NYT WP 3/8; CSM 3/13; JP 3/15; *Hatzofe* [Tel Aviv] 3/17 in WNC 3/19; WP 3/25; *Vesti* [Tel Aviv] 3/24 in WNC 3/27; PR 3/14) (see Peace Monitor for details)

12 Mediterranean (including Egypt, Israel, Jordan, PA), 15 EU states attend **Euro-Mediterranean conference** in London. (JT 3/8 in WNC 3/13)

Jordan says that **Lebanon** is barring entry to Jordanian trucks transporting produce, claiming that the Lebanese markets are inundated; believes the move is in violation of trade agmt. stipulations that Jordan may sell unspecified amounts of produce to Lebanon until the end of April; bars the entry of Lebanese produce in response. (JT 3/6 in WNC 3/7)

Lebanon releases 3 **Japanese** citizens arrested along with 5 **Red Army** mbrs. on 2/15; charges the 5 **Red Army** mbrs. with passport forgery, entering the country illegally. (Kyodo [Tokyo] 3/14 in WNC 3/17) (see 3/3)

7 MARCH

The U.S. vetoes a **UNSC** resolution, drafted by the **EU**, calling on Israel to abandon plans to build a new Jewish settlement on **Har Homa** in East Jerusalem. (VIRI 3/7 in WNC 3/10; NYT, WP, WT 3/8; SANA 3/8, JT 3/9, QPAR, *al-Quds*, SA 3/10 in WNC 3/13; CSM, MM 3/10; PR 3/14; WT 3/15; MEI 3/21) (see Doc. A1)

8 MARCH

In Amman, **Arafat**, **King Hussein** say that Israel's settlement plans in East Jerusalem, limited 1st FRD threaten Middle East peace. The king offers to fly Arafat back to Gaza, but **Netanyahu** refuses to grant the king's plane permission to enter Israeli airspace. (JTV 3/8, JT 3/9 in WNC 3/13; WP, WT 3/9)

Egyptian pres. **Mubarak** arrives in Washington for 3-day visit. (WP 3/9)

Regular transportation of produce btwn. **Jordan**, **Lebanon** resumes. (JT 3/9 in WNC 3/13) (see 3/6)

9 MARCH

The **PA** rejects **Israel's** 9% redeployment plan as insufficient, unacceptable. Israel says it will redeploy unilaterally. (MM, NYT, WP, WT 3/10; NYT, WP, WT 3/11; WP 3/12; PR 3/21; JP 3/22; PR 3/14)

Jordan's **King Hussein** sends accusatory letter to Israeli PM **Netanyahu**. (YA 3/11 in WNC 3/14; MM 3/12; NYT, WP, WT 3/12; MM, NYT, WJW, WT 3/13; CSM 3/14) (see Doc. B1)

Arafat meets with senior **DFLP**, **Hamas**, **Islamic Jihad**, **Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP)** political leaders to discuss concerns regarding Israeli violations of Oslo agmts. (WT 3/24; MM, WT 3/25; MA 3/25 in WNC 3/27; NYT 3/26; MM 3/27)

Iranian FM 'Ali Akbar Velayati arrives in **Syria** on the 1st leg of a 10-nation tour, meets with **FM Faruq al-Shara'**. (*Kayahan International* [Tehran] 3/10 in WNC 3/15)

IDF, **Hizballah** clash in **s. Lebanon**, leaving 1 IDF soldier wounded. (WP 3/10)

10 MARCH

PM **Netanyahu** replies to **King Hussein's** 3/9 letter. (NYT, WP 3/12; MM, WJW, WT 3/13) (see Doc. C)

Netanyahu begins 3-day trip to Moscow, urges **Russia** not to arm **Iran**, **Syria**. (MM 3/

10; ITAR-TASS [Moscow] 3/10 in WNC 3/13; WT 3/11)

In Washington, Egyptian pres. **Mubarak**, Pres. **Clinton** jointly criticize **Israel's** construction plans for East Jerusalem; disagree on the U.S. veto of the 3/7 UNSC res.; discuss ways of reviving talks btwn. **Syria**, **Israel**. (CSM, MM 3/10; MM, NYT, WP, WT 3/11; MM, WJW 3/13; RE 3/14 in WNC 3/19; MEI 3/21)

In Tel Aviv, **DM Mordechai**, **PA Information M Yasin 'Abid Rabbuh**, **U.S. amb. Martin Indyk** meet in a bid to ease tensions. (MM, NYT, WT 3/11; MM, WP, WT 3/12; WT 3/13; *Vesti* [Tel Aviv] 3/16 in WNC 3/20)

Nr. Hebron, 100 **Palestinians** try to stop Israeli workers fr. opening a road for Jewish **settlers**. 150 **IDF soldiers** beat them back with clubs, guns. (MM, NYT, WT 3/11; PR 3/14)

PA releases fr. Gaza jail 100 Hamas mbrs., including senior **Hamas** military figure **Ibrahim Muqadima**. **Arafat** holds 2d mtg. with Hamas political leaders. (MM 3/21; JP 3/22; WP 3/24; MM 3/25) (see 3/9)

Iranian FM Velayati arrives in **Turkey** to discuss improving bilateral relations. (IRNA, VIRI 3/10 in WNC 3/13; MM 3/19) (see 3/3)

Despite U.S. protests, the **Vatican** establishes full diplomatic relations with **Libya**. (NYT 3/11; WJW 4/17)

In **s. Lebanon**, a car bomb placed along a road frequented by **IDF**, **SLA** troops explodes, injuring 1 IDF soldier, 2 Lebanese children. (JP 3/22)

11 MARCH

In Moscow, PM **Netanyahu**, Pres. **Boris Yeltsin** discuss expanding economic, political ties. (WP, WT 3/12; ITAR-TASS 3/12 in WNC 3/14; JP 3/22)

22 Jordanian deputies call on the government to cancel the 1994 **Jordan-Israel** peace treaty. (MM 3/11; RJ 3/11, *al-Ra'i* 3/12 in WNC 3/14; JTV 3/11, JT 3/12 in WNC 3/15)

An **IDF soldier** is found gravely injured with 20 stab wounds outside the West Bank settlement he guards. (WP 3/12; CSM 3/13; JP 3/22)

Israel successfully test fires U.S.-financed **Arrow-2** missile over the Mediterranean. (WT 3/12; JP 3/22)

Australia, **Lebanon** sign aviation accord. (RL 3/11 in WNC 3/14)

12 MARCH

Israel puts the 1st stage of **FRD** on hold; says it cannot be implemented if the **PA** will not take over responsibility. (WP, WT 3/13)

U.S. presses **Israel** to delay the **Har Homa** project. **Netanyahu** says that international opposition "will just strengthen my resolve." (MM 3/12; WP, WT 3/13)

UN General Assembly (UNGA) convenes to discuss **Israel's Har Homa** construction plan. (MM 3/12; CSM, NYT, WP, WT 3/13; JP 3/15)

13 MARCH

PA Palestinian Council (PC) holds emergency session in Bethlehem to discuss **Har Homa** situation; calls on **PA** to halt negotiations, security coordination with **Israel** until it honors all agmts. (PR 3/21, 4/4)

Jordanian soldier fires on group of **Israeli girls** on a field trip to a **Jordan River** island, killing 7, wounding 6. He is overpowered and detained by **Jordanian** security officials. (MM 3/13; IDF Radio, QPAR 3/13 in WNC 3/15; ITV, JTV 3/13, ITV, SANA 3/14 in WNC 3/17; CSM, MM, NYT, WP, WT 3/14; NYT 3/16; WJW 3/20; JP 3/22) (see *Peace Monitor* for details)

UNGA passes (130-2, with 2 abstentions) a resolution calling on **Israel** to rescind the "illegal" **Har Homa** decision. (MM, NYT 3/13; MM, NYT, WP, WT 3/14) (see Doc. A3)

Israel rescinds the order to close 4 **Palestinian offices** in **Jerusalem**. (MM 3/13; AFP 3/13 in WNC 3/15) (see 3/5)

14 MARCH

Israeli cabinet unanimously reaffirms **Har Homa** construction plans, sets ground breaking for early next wk. (NYT, WT 3/15; WT 3/16)

Nr. 'Ayn al-Hilwa refugee camp (r.c.) in s. **Lebanon**, **Fatah official Amin Kayid** survives an assassination attempt that leaves his wife, bodyguard injured. (AFP 3/15 in WNC 3/19) (see 1/19, 2/12)

Lebanon expels 3 **Japanese** cleared of charges (3/6) in connection to the arrest of 5 **Red Army** mbrs. 2/15. (Kyodo 3/14 in WNC 3/17)

15 MARCH

At **Arafat's** initiation, envoys fr. **Egypt**, **EU**, **Japan**, **Jordan**, **Norway**, **Russia**, **U.S.** meet in **Gaza**, criticize **Netanyahu's** plan for construction in **East Jerusalem**. **U.S.** blocks

move to issue final declaration at end of mtg. (WT 3/15; NYT, WP, WT 3/16; PR 3/21; JP 3/22)

In **Rabat**, **King Hassan**, **Egyptian** pres. **Mubarak** hold talks on the peace process; ways to coordinate protection of **Muslim**, **Arab** rights in **Jerusalem**. (RTM Television [Rabat] 3/15 in WNC 3/19; MM 3/18)

16 MARCH

Accompanied by PM **Netanyahu**, **King Hussein** travels to **Beyt Shemesh**, **Israel**, to ask the forgiveness of families of girls killed, those wounded by **Jordanian** soldier 3/13. (ITV 3/16 in WNC 3/18; MA, RJ 3/16, JT, IDF Radio, RJ 3/17 in WNC 3/19; CSM, MM, NYT, WP, WT 3/17; WJW 3/20; MEI 3/21; JP 3/29) (see *Peace Monitor* for details)

Israel says it will confiscate 100s of acres of land fr. **Anata** village e. of **Jerusalem** for the expansion of **Talon settlement**. (PR 3/21)

17 MARCH

2 **MKs** request that the **Israeli High Court** block work at **Har Homa** until it hears petitions against the construction project on 3/20. (YA 3/17 in WNC 3/19)

Palestinian protesters erect tents nr. **Har Homa**. **IDF** snipers take up positions nearby to watch them. (CSM, WT 3/18; PR 3/21)

Netanyahu defeats (54-46) a no-confidence vote. (WT 3/16)

Jordanian police ban 200 activists (incl. 21 opposition deputies) fr. visiting home of **Pvt. Ahmad Daqamsa**, the soldier who shot 13 **Israeli girls** on 3/13, to express their solidarity. The deputies condemn the killings but demand a fair trial for **Daqamsa**, oppose **Israeli** intervention in the investigation. (AFP, RMC 3/17 in WNC 3/19; JT 3/19 in WNC 3/20; MEI 3/21)

Lebanon bans potato imports fr. **Egypt**. **Egypt** threatens economic retaliation. (RL 3/17 in WNC 3/19) (see 3/8)

18 MARCH

1,000 **IDF soldiers** guard **Israeli** construction workers as they begin construction at **Har Homa**. **Israeli police**, **border guards** beat back **Palestinian** protesters with fists, boots, rifles. **IDF snipers**, other soldiers with belt-fed machine guns take up firing positions nr. the demonstrators. **IDF** seals **Bethlehem**, **Hebron** to prevent protests. **Arafat** calls on **Palestinians** not to resort to

violence; **Netanyahu** claims that the PA “has prepared the ground for violence that [it] would initiate”; **U.S.** says no proof exists to back Israel’s claim. (MM 3/18; ITV 3/18, RE, SA 3/19 in WNC 3/20; NYT, WP, WT 3/19; MEI 3/21; TJT 3/21 in WNC 3/25)

Iranian FM Velayati arrives in **Qatar** on a tour to the Gulf to improve Iranian-Gulf ties. (MM 3/19)

Jordanian police prevent 120 mbrs. of the **Jordan Engineers Association** fr. marching to the **Daqamsa** home to show solidarity with the soldier, his family. (WT 3/19; MEI 3/21) (see 3/17)

In Ankara, the **Joint Iraqi-Turkish Comm.** holds talks on economic, diplomatic relations. (INA 3/18 in WNC 3/19)

Saudi Arabian citizen Hani ‘Abd al-Rahim Sayigh is detained in **Canada** at **U.S.’s** request for extradition in connection with the **al-Khobar barracks bombing** in Saudi Arabia 6/25/96. (WP 3/24; MM 3/26; WP 3/27-29; NYT 3/31, 4/3; WP 4/5; MM 4/18) (see 11/24/96, 1/10/97)

19 MARCH

Netanyahu proposes that Israel, the PA bypass the 3 stages of FRD and hold Camp-David-style negotiations. **Arafat** refuses (ITV 3/19, IDF Radio 3/20 in WNC 3/21; MM, NYT, WP, WT 3/20; ITV 3/20, MA 3/21 in WNC 3/24; CSM, MM 3/21; PR 3/28; JP 3/29) (see Peace Monitor for details)

Peaceful **Palestinian protests** continue at **Har Homa**, as **IDF** soldiers continue to deploy in force to guard construction workers. 200 Palestinians march in Ramallah, are kept away fr. Israeli checkpoints by **PA security forces**. (MM 3/19; NYT 3/20)

After receiving notice that their detentions had been extended without cause, **220 Palestinian administrative detainees** being held without trial in **Israel’s Megiddo prison** riot for 6 hrs. IDF soldiers fire tear gas; tents catch on fire; entire section of prison burns down. (LAW 3/23; PR 3/28, 4/18)

PM **Kabariti** is forced to resign. **King Hussein** replaces him with **fmr. PM ‘Abd al-Salam Majali**, swears in new cabinet. Majali will lead a caretaker government until the 11/97 general elections. (MM 3/19; *al-Dustur*, JT, RJ, RMC 3/19 in WNC 3/20; JTV 3/19, *al-Dustur*, JT 3/20 in WNC 3/21; CSM, MM, NYT, WP 3/20; JT 3/20 in WNC 3/24, 3/25; *al-Majd* 3/24 in WNC 3/28; MM 3/25; JT 3/31 in WNC 4/1) (see Peace Monitor for details)

Jordan’s **Arab Organization for Human Rights, Islamic Action Front party, Jordan Bar Association** separately announce that they have set up legal defense teams to represent Pvt. **Daqamsa**. More than 200 **independent lawyers** have also volunteered to defend Daqamsa. (JT 3/19 in WNC 3/20) (see 3/18)

Cyprus, Lebanon sign extradition agmt. (RL 3/19 in WNC 3/21)

Hizballah attacks an **IDF** patrol in **s. Lebanon**, killing 1 soldier, wounding 3. (RL 3/19 in WNC 3/20; SATN 3/19 in WNC 3/21; MM 3/20)

20 MARCH

PC holds the 1st mtg. of its 2d session. Mbrs. reelect (62-20) **Ahmad Qurai’** as PC speaker. (PR 3/28)

In Cairo, Pres. **Mubarak** holds separate mtgs. with **Arafat**, Israeli PM **Netanyahu’s** adviser **Dore Gold**, **Lebanese PM Rafiq Hariri**, Syrian FM **Shara’** on the Har Homa situation and Netanyahu’s 3/19 proposal for skipping the interim negotiations. (MM 3/20; RE, RL 3/20 in WNC 3/21; SATN 3/20 in WNC 3/21; WP 3/21; RE 3/21 in WNC 3/24)

In Bethlehem and Bayt Omar, 100s of stone-throwing **Palestinians** protesting the Har Homa construction clash with **IDF troops**, who respond with rubber bullets, tear gas, water cannons, sound grenades. **PA security forces** sporadically attempt to hold back demonstrators, beating them with batons. (WP, WT 3/21; NYT 3/22)

The **Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command (PFLP-GC)** holds a large rally in **al-Yarmuk r.c.** in Damascus to protest **Israeli** construction in East Jerusalem. (QPAR 3/20 in WNC 3/21)

5 Jewish families seize, move into a **Palestinian building** in **Silwan** under the protection of heavily-armed private security guards. The Israeli government says it is legal for settlers to “acquire” home in the area. 9 Palestinian homes have been taken by settlers over the past 6 yrs. (PR 3/28)

21 MARCH

In Tel Aviv, a **suicide bomber** detonates explosive device killing himself, 3 Israelis, wounding 47. An anonymous caller takes responsibility on behalf of **Hamas’s Izzeddin al-Qassam Brigades**, though some Hamas leaders deny the claim. **Netanyahu** blames **Arafat**, criticizes the **U.S.** for ignoring his warnings, seals the West Bank and Gaza,

hints he may suspend negotiations with the PA, denounces as "obnoxious and immoral" a reporter's question linking bombing and **Har Homa**. Arafat condemns the attack. (MM 3/21; IDF Radio, ITV, RJ, RE, SATN, VIRI 3/21 in WNC 3/24; AFP 3/21 in WNC 3/31; NYT, WP, WT 3/22; *al-Ra'i*, VOA 3/22, YA 3/23 in WNC 3/25; CSM 3/24; NYT 3/26; PR 3/28; JP 3/29)

IDF identifies the suicide bomber as **Musa Ghanimat**, a 28-yr.-old man fr. **Surif** village nr. Hebron (in area B); seals the village; places curfew on Hebron; arrests 13 people, including Ghanimat's 68-yr.-old father, other relatives; prepares to demolish family's house. Family mbrs. say that Ghanimat supported neither **Hamas** nor **Fatah**. (MM 3/21; IDF Radio 3/21 in WNC 3/24; WP 3/23; MA 3/25 in WNC 3/27; NYT 3/26; PR 3/28)

In **Hebron**, **Palestinians** protesting Israel's **Har Homa**, redeployment plans clash with armed **settlers**. **IDF** uses tear gas, rubber bullets on Palestinians to keep the two groups apart, injuring 30 Palestinians. (MM 3/21; IDF Radio 3/21 in WNC 3/24; YA 3/21 in WNC 3/24; NYT 3/22; PR 3/28)

Some **1,000 Palestinians** in **al-Baq'a r.c.** in Jordan protest Israel's construction in **East Jerusalem**. (QPAR 3/21 in WNC 3/24)

U.S. vetoes a 2d **UNSC** resolution calling on Israel to halt construction at **Har Homa**. **UNSC** also issues statement expressing "revulsion" at today's bombing. (WP 3/21; RE 3/21 in WNC 3/24; NYT 3/22; WT 3/23; *al-Dustur* 3/23 in WNC 3/25; MM 3/24; *al-Akhbar* 3/24 in WNC 3/27; PR 3/28; MEI 4/18) (see 3/7, Doc. A5, Peace Monitor for details)

King Hussein leaves for the **U.S.** for medical check-up, mtg. with Pres. Clinton. (RJ 3/21 in WNC 3/24; JT, RJ 3/23 in WNC 3/25)

In Ba'albeck, **Lebanon**, a bomb explodes outside the home of a policeman, killing him, wounding 6 family mbrs. The bombers and their motive are unknown. (NYT 3/22)

22 MARCH

In Hebron, **Palestinian protesters** clash with **IDF troops** for 2d day. **IDF** responds with live ammunition, rubber bullets, tear gas, injuring over 100 Palestinians (including 20 wounded by live bullets). Some Palestinians throw stones at **PA police**, who intervene to push back demonstrators. (AFP 3/22 in WNC 3/31; NYT, WP, WT 3/23; SATN 3/23 in WNC 3/25; PR 3/28)

Israel closes the Allenby Bridge into **Jordan** to **Palestinians**. (RJ 3/22 in WNC 3/25)

PA orders rearrest of senior **Hamas** military figure **Ibrahim Muqadima**, who was released 3/19. **Israel** says it expects the **PA** to arrest 150 other **Hamas**, **Islamic Jihad** activists. (AFP, ITV 3/22 in WNC 3/25; WP, WT 3/23; WP 3/24)

Jordanian police prevent a 13-mbr. delegation fr. the **al-Zubi tribe** fr. visiting the **Daqamsa** family. (*al-Dustur* 3/23 in WNC 3/25) (see 3/19)

Jordan's Crown Prince Hassan receives **Iraqi PM Tariq 'Aziz** for discussions on bilateral relations. (INA 3/22, JT 3/23 in WNC 3/25; *al-Dustur* 3/24 in WNC 3/26)

In **s. Lebanon**, **Hizballah** detonates bomb outside home of **SLA** officer Kamal Nimr, killing him. (RL 3/22 in WNC 3/25; WT 3/23) (see 3/21)

23 MARCH

Israeli cabinet suspends all but security coordination with the **PA**, orders the **PA** to crack down on Islamist groups. (ITV 3/23, YA 3/24 in WNC 3/25; CSM, WT 3/24; VOA 3/24 in WNC 3/26; *al-Quds al-Arabi* 3/24 in WNC 3/28)

Unrest continues throughout the West Bank. **Israeli border police** shoot, wound 2 **Palestinians** at a roadblock outside Jerusalem. Nr. Bethlehem, **IDF troops** fire on 2 **Palestinians** fleeing a checkpoint, wounding both. In Hebron, **PA police** form cordons to keep **Palestinian** protesters fr. Jewish areas. (SATN 3/23 in WNC 3/25; WT 3/24)

OIC holds conference in Pakistan, discusses **Jerusalem** as one of its main topics, issues statement condemning "Israel's persistence in its settlement expansion." (ITV, RE, RL, SATN 3/23 in WNC 3/25; MM, WT 3/24; MM, WT 3/25; RE 3/25 in WNC 3/27)

World Bank says it will loan **Jordan** about \$1 b. over the next 5 yrs. to help the kingdom's economic reform. (JT 3/24 in WNC 3/26)

24 MARCH

The **U.S.** calls on **Arafat** to explicitly rule out the use of terror in the Middle East. **Preventive Security Forces (PSF) Muhammad Dahlan** says the **PA** is shutting down its security, intelligence cooperation with Israel. Netanyahu adviser **Gold** confirms that only low-level security contacts are being held. (CSM, MM, NYT, WP, WT 3/25; WT 3/26; MA, YA 3/26 in WNC 3/27; PR 3/28)

PM **Netanyahu** lists 6 demands that the **PA** must meet for the peace process to continue. (MM 3/24; PR 3/28) (see Peace Monitor for details)

PA Culture M Yasir 'Abid Rabbu, Israeli pres. Ezer Weizman hold mtg. to try to defuse tension in the wake of the 3/21 bombing. Israeli FM **Levy** refuses to attend. (IDF Radio 3/24; MM 3/25)

The **Pan-Arab Congress** holds its 7th session on Casablanca; calls on nations to protest **Israel's** construction in **East Jerusalem** by suspending negotiations, halting normalization. (MAP [Rabat] 3/24 in WNC 3/25)

Jordanian, Israeli military officials meet in Tel Aviv to discuss the 3/13 shooting incident in Jordan, agree on new regulations to ensure better cooperation in future border incidents. (*Hatzofe* [Tel Aviv], IDF Radio 3/25 in WNC 3/26; NYT, WT 3/25; SA 3/26 in WNC 3/27)

Demonstrations by 100s of **Palestinians** continue in the West Bank, spread to Gaza, where 1 Palestinian is shot, wounded by an **IDF** soldier manning a roadblock. (CSM, NYT, WT 3/25)

25 MARCH

In Bethlehem, Hebron, **IDF** wounds 10s of **Palestinians** protesting **Har Homa** construction. **Netanyahu** again claims the **PA** planned the demonstrations. (NYT, WT 3/26)

26 MARCH

Israeli dep. housing M Me'ir Porush says that despite government promises to build Arab housing to offset **Har Homa** construction, his min. has no plans to build homes for Arabs in Jerusalem. (IDF Radio 3/26 in WNC 3/27)

Palestinian protests continue throughout the West Bank. In Bethlehem, demonstrators throw stones at **IDF** soldiers, who respond with tear gas and rubber bullets, injuring 20. In Bethlehem, protesters burn **U.S., Israeli** flags. (NYT, WT 3/27)

In Beirut, **Lebanon's** PM **Hariri, Iran's** Dep. FM **Morteza Sarmadi** discuss ways of expanding cultural, economic, political, press relations. (IRNA 3/26 in WNC 3/27)

27 MARCH

After separate 2-hr. mtgs. with **Arafat, King Hassan** in Rabat, Morocco, U.S. special envoy **Ross** heads to Israel where he holds 3-hr. talks with PM **Netanyahu**, gives no de-

tails of the mtgs. (MM, WT 3/27; ITV, SANA 3/27 in WNC 3/28; CSM, NYT, WP, WT 3/28; MA 3/28 in WNC 3/31)

Israel sends tanks, troop reinforcements to surround **PA** self-rule areas in the **West Bank**. Palestinian protests throughout the territories continue. (MM 3/27; ITV 3/27 in WNC 3/28; NYT, WT 3/28; NYT 3/30)

Jordan's military investigation comm. into the 3/13 shooting of 7 Israeli girls concludes its interrogation of Pvt. **Daqamsa**, turns the case over to the military court. **Daqamsa's** lawyer claims that **Daqamsa** opened fire on the spur of the moment after the girls laughed at him while he was praying. (WP, WT 3/28; *al-Dustur, al-Ra'i* 3/28 in WNC 3/31) (see 3/22)

2 explosive devices are found in a drainage pipe nr. **al-Aqsa Mosque**, are disarmed by Israeli police. No one claims responsibility. (PR 4/4)

Israel arrests **Israeli businessman Nahum Manbar** on suspicion of selling chemical weapons parts to **Iran**. In a 12/95 interview, **Manbar** admitted selling arms to **Iran**, but denied that he sold any weapons that could harm **Israel**. (WT 4/17; NYT 4/18; JP 4/26)

28 MARCH

U.S. special envoy **Ross** meets again with **Netanyahu**, separately with **PA Local Government M Saeb Erakat**. (PR 3/28; RE 3/28 in WNC 3/31; NYT, WP, WT 3/29; JT 3/29, ITV 3/31 in WNC 4/1; WT 3/30)

Arafat cancels a joint unity rally of **Fatah, Islamist groups**. (PR 3/28; RE 3/28 in WNC 3/31)

At the end of a 2-day mtg. in Rabat, Morocco, the **Jerusalem Comm. of the OIC**, chaired by **King Hassan**, issues an unexpectedly moderate denunciation of **Israeli** settlement policy. (RE, RL, VOA 3/27 in WNC 3/28; SANA 3/28 in WNC 3/31; NYT 3/29; *al-Aswaq* [Amman], RTM Television [Rabat] 3/29 in WNC 4/1; SA 3/29 in WNC 4/3; *al-Safir* 4/2 in WNC 4/4; MA 4/4 in WNC 4/7; MA 3/28 in WNC 4/9)

29 MARCH

During the 10th day of widespread **Palestinian demonstrations**, a Palestinian is shot and killed, another is wounded by live ammunition in a clash with the **IDF** nr. Ramallah. 1,000 Palestinians rally at the youth's home in a show of solidarity. (NYT, WP, WT 3/30)

In Amman, **Jordan, PA** hold talks on bilateral relations, peace process. (RJ 3/29 in WNC 4/1)

The wife of 3/21 suicide bomber **Musa Ghanimat** suffers a nervous breakdown, is hospitalized in Hebron. Although the IDF admits she is not suspected of any involvement in the bombings, the **IDF** has sealed her home for demolition; confiscated her money, car, valuables; interrogated her. The **Israeli High Court** rejects a petition to cancel the house demolition order; says IDF's actions are a legitimate form of deterrence against future attacks, the results of the actions are "irrelevant." (LAW 3/30)

In **s. Lebanon, Amal** kidnaps a Lebanese civilian, Qasim Rammal, who allegedly works for Israeli military intelligence. (RL 3/29 in WNC 4/1)

30 MARCH

Clashes btwn. the **IDF, Palestinians** intensify throughout the West Bank. In Surif, an IDF soldier allegedly rapes a Palestinian woman during a raid on a home; IDF admits that "indecent acts" took place, arrests the soldier. 1,000s of Palestinians in Bethlehem, Hebron, and Nablus, 100s in Janin demonstrate. The IDF deploys tanks around Bethlehem, Nablus; flies helicopter gunships over Nablus. **PA police** fire in the air, club and shove protesters in Nablus, Hebron to prevent them fr. reaching Jewish sites. To date some 460 Palestinians have been injured (mostly by rubber bullets, tear gas) in West Bank clashes. (LAW, NYT, WP, WT 3/31; PR 4/4)

Jordan's **King Hussein** arrives in Washington for talks with Pres. **Clinton**, swears in **Jordanian amb. to the U.S. Fayiz Tarawnah** as his new FM. (WT 3/31)

The **Knesset** approves \$53 m. for construction of public institutions in Golan Heights **settlements**; general planning and development in the Golan, Jordan Valley, Gaza coast. (Globes [Internet] 3/30 in WNC 4/1)

Saudi Arabia requests that the suspect in al-Khobar bombing held in **Canada** be extradited to Saudi Arabia, not the **U.S.** (NYT, WP 3/31) (see 3/18)

31 MARCH

Arab League issues a final communiqué at the close of its 2-day session, announcing its decision to freeze relations with Israel, reactivate the **Arab boycott**. (IDF Radio, MA,

QY, SANA 3/31 in WNC 4/1; NYT, WP, WT 4/1; *al-Dustur*, RL 4/1 in WNC 4/2; *al-Dammam al-Yawm* 4/1, VIRI 4/2 in WNC 4/4; PR 4/4; Globes [Internet] 4/7 in WNC 4/21; RJ 4/10 in WNC 4/11; JP 4/12; PR 4/18) (see Doc. B2, Peace Monitor for details)

In Surif, **IDF** demolishes the home of suicide bomber **Ghanimat's** family, home of a relative. (LAW, NYT 3/31; WT 4/1; PR 4/4; JP 4/12) (see 3/29)

Iran, Syria discuss expanding bilateral cooperation in the media sector fr. the print media to radio, television networks. (IRNA 4/1 in WNC 4/2) (see 3/26)

1 APRIL

In Washington, Pres. **Clinton**, Jordan's **King Hussein** discuss ideas for restarting Israeli-PA talks, policy toward Iraq. (NYT, WP, WT 4/2; *al-Dustur, al-Ra'i*, RJ 4/2 in WNC 4/3; NYT, WP 4/3; WT 4/8; RJ 4/12 in WNC 4/15; MEI 4/18) (see 3/19)

2 bombs explode nr. Jewish **settlements** in **Gaza**, killing 2, wounding 7 Palestinians. A wing of **Islamic Jihad** claims responsibility. (WP 4/1; AFP 4/1 in WNC 4/2; NYT, WP, WT 4/2; RMC 4/2 in WNC 4/3; PR 4/4; JP 4/12)

IDF troops shoot, kill **2 Palestinians** in separate incidents: 1 during a demonstration; the other, an undercover PA policeman, as he approached an IDF checkpoint in an attempt to block other Palestinian protesters fr. advancing on the roadblock. (NYT, WP, WT 4/1; IDF Radio 4/1 in WNC 4/2)

The **Knesset** approves 1st reading of a bill that would grant the **Orthodox rabbinical courts** exclusive jurisdiction over those seeking to convert to Judaism, meaning that Jews converted by Reform or Conservative Jewish denominations would not be officially recognized as Jewish. **Senior leaders of the Reform and Conservative movements in the U.S.** (which represent 3 m. of the 3.5 m. U.S. Jews) threaten to withhold lobbying support, divert contributions to Israel away fr. the government if the bill is made law. (NYT, WP, WT 4/2; WP 4/3; WJW 4/10; NYT 4/17; Globes [Internet] 4/21 in WNC 4/24)

Hizballah attacks an **SLA** patrol in **s. Lebanon**, killing 1 SLA mbr., wounding 5. (RL 4/1 in WNC 4/2; WT 4/2)

2 APRIL

U.S. Secy. of State **Albright** meets with **King Hussein**, speaks twice by phone with **Arafat**. Later, the king meets with Defense

Secy. **Cohen**. (AFP, RJ 4/2 in WNC 4/4; WT 4/3)

At the UN, **fmr. Secy. of State James Baker III** criticizes the **U.S.** for vetoing recent **UNSC** resolutions on **Israeli** settlements, especially after having publicly criticized Israeli settlement decisions; says the vetoes send a mixed signal, Israel's **Har Homa** construction makes "a mockery of Resolutions 242 and 338." (WP, WT 4/3)

Israeli government acknowledges that DM **Mordechai** recently approved construction of 1,000s of housing units in West Bank **settlements**. (ITV 4/2 in WNC 4/3; NYT, WP, WT 4/3; JP 4/12)

Nr. Nablus, **2 settlers**, who claim to have been attacked by Palestinian stone throwers, kidnap a disabled **Palestinian youth**, beat him, take him to their settlement. **IDF soldiers** at nearby checkpoint, informed by Palestinian witnesses, enter the settlement, free the youth, arrest the settlers. (PR 4/11)

Israel prevents 20 **Hamas, Islamic Jihad** mbrs. fr. leaving Gaza to perform the hajj although they had already obtained Israeli permission to do so. (*al-Ayyam* 4/4 in WNC 4/7)

Nr. Jalazun r.c. in the West Bank, an unidentified assailant throws a firebomb at an **IDF** truck, injuring 13 soldiers; **IDF** puts a curfew on Jalazun. In a nearby village, **Israeli motorists** beat a **Palestinian** they accuse of stoning their car, dump him at an army camp. (NYT, WP, WT 4/3)

Islamic Jihad leader Shaykh 'Abdulah al-Shami denies Islamic Jihad was responsible for the 4/1 bombings in Gaza. Meanwhile, **PA police** detain 30 suspected Islamic Jihad mbrs. in connection with the explosions. 13 are released after questioning. (ITV 4/2 in WNC 4/7; CSM, NYT, WP 4/3; NYT 4/4)

3 APRIL

Israeli DM **Mordechai** begins 2-day visit to Washington, meets with Secy. of State **Albright**, **National Security Adviser Sandy Berger**, Defense Secy. **Cohen**. (ITV, YA 4/3 in WNC 4/4; WT 4/4; WT 4/5; MA, SANA 4/6 in WNC 4/8; MM 4/7; JP 4/12; WP 4/14) (see 2/25; Peace Monitor for details)

Citing fears of reprisal attacks, **Israel** drops bid to extradite **Hamas** political leader Musa **Abu Marzuq**. If the U.S. does not deport Abu Marzuq within 60 days of the date he dropped his fight against the extradition order (the U.S. and Israel claim that date is 4/7; Abu Marzuq's lawyers say it was 3/28), it

legally must free him. (ITV 4/3 in WNC 4/4; NYT, WP, WT 4/4; *al-Ra'i* 4/4 in WNC 4/8; NYT 4/6; JP 4/12; MEI 4/18) (see 1/28)

Islamic Jihad's military wing issues leaflet claiming responsibility for the 4/1 bombs, saying Shaykh 'Abdullah had been "hasty" in denying the group's responsibility. (NYT 4/4) (see 4/2)

Palestinians, IDF clash nr. Har Homa. (WT 4/4)

Iran says it has 1st-hand information that 4 of its diplomats long believed dead were kidnapped in 1982, are being held in **Israel**. (IRNA 4/4 in WNC 4/7; WT 4/9)

Lebanon indicts 5 alleged **Japanese Red Army** mbrs. with passport forgery, illegal entry into Lebanon, forgery of official stamps. The 5 could receive up to 10 yrs. in prison. **Japan** has been trying to extradite the 5 men to face charges for guerilla activity. (WP 4/4) (see 3/14)

Egypt, Lebanon, Syria link new underwater telephone cable system. (SANA 4/3 in WNC 4/4)

4 APRIL

Israeli citizen **David Mir**, who owns 50% of the land which **Israel** confiscated for **Har Homa** and disapproves of Israel's decision to build, announces that he has been negotiating with Palestinians, other Arabs to transfer his rights to the land so as to turn the construction at Har Homa into construction on land confiscated fr. Arabs. (ITV 4/4 in WNC 4/7)

Turkey ratifies free trade agmt. with **Israel** (passed by the Knesset in 1996). (Anatolia [Ankara] 4/8 in WNC 4/9; VIRI 4/8 in WNC 4/10)

400 **Palestinians** clash with **IDF** troops in Hebron. 16 Palestinians are wounded by rubber bullets. Other clashes occur in Bethlehem, East Jerusalem. (WT 4/5)

Greece complains to the **U.S.** about recent **Israeli** initiatives, U.S. relations with **Turkey**. (MA 4/6 in WNC 4/8) (see 4/3)

In **Lebanon**, delegation fr. **Hamas's** political bureau meets with **Hizballah** Secy. Gen. Hasan Nasrallah to discuss peace process, Jerusalem. (*al-Ahd* 4/4 in WNC 4/9)

5 APRIL

King Hussein undergoes prostate surgery at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota. Doctors find no cancer. (JTV 4/5, RJ 4/7 in WNC 4/8; WP, WT 4/6; JTV 4/11 in WNC 4/14)

As Palestinian protests continue throughout the territories, **10,000 Israelis** attend peace rally in Tel Aviv, encourage PM **Netanyahu** to resume talks with the PA immediately. (ITV 4/5 in WNC 4/8; WP, WT 4/6)

Israel says that the **IDF, Shin Bet** have detained 42 **Hamas** suspects in Surif since the 3/21 suicide bombing. (YA 4/6 in WNC 4/8; PR 4/18)

6 APRIL

In Minnesota, PM **Netanyahu, King Hussein** discuss ways of restarting Israeli-PA talks, especially Netanyahu's proposal for a Camp-David-style summit (see 4/1). (CSM, NYT, WP 4/7; RJ 4/7 in WNC 4/8; JTV 4/8 in WNC 4/9)

Netanyahu withdraws fr. a scheduled appearance before the **Reform Jewish movement**, the largest Jewish denomination in the U.S. Reform leaders regard the decision as a "deliberate affront." (WT 4/7) (see 4/1)

PA Higher Education M Hanan Ashrawi arrives in Washington to meet with Secy. of State **Albright**, U.S. special envoy **Ross**. (WP 4/7; MM 4/9)

The **American Israel Public Affairs Comm. (AIPAC)** annual 3-day conference opens in Washington. **U.S. VP Al Gore**, Amb. to the UN **Richardson** address the group. Gore praises "my friend Bibi" for his "passionate" devotion to Israeli security. (MM, WP 4/7; WP 4/8)

Nr. Tel Aviv, an **explosion** destroys a warehouse at a factory where **Israel** makes parts for the U.S.-funded **Arrow** antimissile missile. Israel says the explosion was accidental. (WT 4/7) (see Doc. D3)

7 APRIL

PM **Netanyahu** arrives in Washington for AIPAC conference, holds talks with Pres. **Clinton**, Secy. of State **Albright** (MM 4/7; MM, NYT, WP, WT 4/8; ITV 4/8 in WNC 4/9; CSM, NYT 4/9; MA, *La Repubblica* [Rome] 4/9 in WNC 4/10; *al-Thawra* [Damascus] 4/9, RE, RL 4/10 in WNC 4/11; PR 4/11; *al-Ahram* [Cairo] 4/11 in WNC 4/17; WJW 4/17; MEI 4/18; MM 4/28) (see Peace Monitor for details)

In preparation for trial, **Jordanian** military team visits **Israel** to interview victims of the 3/13 **Daqamsa** shooting. (JT 4/9 in WNC 4/10) (see 3/27)

Vatican says that it has reached a critical stage in its relations with **Israel**, that Israel should renew its commitment to peace for

normalization to progress further. (WJW 4/17)

In Moscow, Lebanese PM **Hariri, Russian PM Viktor Chernomyrdin, Dep. FM Yevgeny Primakov** discuss peace process, bilateral relations. (RL 4/7 in WNC 4/8; RL 4/8 in WNC 4/9)

In Manhattan, federal prosecutors for the **Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS)** open exclusion proceedings against **Hamas** political leader **Abu Marzuq**. Abu Marzuq is willing to withdraw his application to reenter the U.S. and agree to exclusion (i.e., immediate deportation), but INS says he cannot do so without either conceding or contesting the terrorism charge, otherwise he could be detained indefinitely. Abu Marzuq refuses to concede; contesting the charge could take yrs. The exclusion proceeding is closed; the INS does not have to reveal the sources of its evidence. (MM 4/8; NYT 4/13; WJW 4/17; MEI 4/18) (see 4/3)

The **Knesset Finance Comm.** agrees (by vote of 6-5) to demand that the **PA** detail the use of funds in its Bank Leumi account. Some MKs suspect the account is a secret petty cash fund. (Globes [Internet] 4/7 in WNC 4/9)

In Kharbata village nr. Ramallah, a Jewish **settler** opens fire with an M-16, handgun on **Palestinians** who stone his car, wounding 2. Villagers say the settler is known for intimidating local Palestinians, driving through the village instead of using the Jewish-only bypass road. (MM 4/7; WT 4/8)

Islamic University of Hebron holds student council elections. **Hamas-Islamic Jihad** list wins 19 of 35 seats; pro-Arafat **Fatah** lists wins 15 seats; **PFLP** 1 seat. (WT 4/8; MEI, PR 4/18; JP 4/19)

The **Kuwaiti** government denies the Comm. for the Defense of Islamic Issues permission to stage a rally outside parliament to protest **Israel's** policies on Jerusalem, **U.S.** support for Israeli actions. (AFP 4/7 in WNC 4/8)

SLA exchanges 3 **Hizballah** mbrs. being held at al-Khiyam prison in **s. Lebanon** for 1 SLA soldier held by Hizballah. (RL 4/7 in WNC 4/8)

8 APRIL

Arafat reportedly takes ill on his way to mtg. in Egypt, returns to Gaza with his physician under ambulance escort. PA makes no statement. (IDF Radio 4/9 in WNC 4/10)

At a mtg. in Gaza attended by **Arafat, PA security chiefs** refuse a request by the **CIA**,

Israeli security officials to reestablish security coordination immediately. (ITV, MA 4/9 in WNC 4/10; MM 4/10; ITV, YA 4/10 in WNC 4/11; WT 4/11; ITV 4/11 in WNC 4/15; MEI 4/18)

In the Israeli-controlled enclave of Hebron (H2), 2 **Jewish yeshiva students** open fire with Uzi submachine guns (provided by the IDF), killing a Palestinian, sparking riots in the PA controlled section of the city (H1) during which **IDF troops** kill 2 **Palestinians**, wound 100; 5 soldiers are also injured. **PA policemen** prevent riots fr. spilling over into H2; some are injured by Palestinian protesters, others by rubber bullets fired at the protesters by the IDF. (MM 4/8; CSM, NYT, WP, WT 4/9; ITV 4/9 in WNC 4/10; PR 4/11; MEI 4/18; JP 4/19)

Israeli FM **Levy** arrives in Turkey for talks with PM **Erbakan**. (MM 4/8; Anatolia [Ankara] 4/8 in WNC 4/9; VIRI 4/8, *Sabah* [Istanbul] 4/9 in WNC 4/10; VIRI 4/10; *Millyet* (Istanbul) 4/11 in WNC 4/16) (see Peace Monitor for details)

9 APRIL

After the funeral in Hebron of 1 of the 3 men killed 4/8, **1,000s of Palestinians** throw stones and molotov cocktails at **IDF soldiers**, who fire rubber bullets, tear gas at protesters, injuring 31. **PA police** form cordons, block streets with trucks, man rooftops to prevent riot fr. spreading. 3 IDF soldiers, 2 PA policemen are also injured. (MM 4/9; CSM, NYT, WP, WT 4/10; PR 4/11)

Israeli officials release on bail the 2 **yeshiva students** who shot, killed a Palestinian man 4/8. PA Local Government M **Erakat** accuses **Netanyahu** of giving "the green light to settler terrorism." (WT 4/10)

Birzeit University holds student council elections. **Fatah** wins 22 of 51 seats; **Hamas** wins 20 seats, **PFLP-Palestine People's Party** list wins 8 seats; **Islamic Jihad** wins 1 seat. (MEI, PR 4/18; JP 4/19)

Iraq defies the southern U.S. no-fly zone by transporting a planeload of elderly pilgrims to Saudi Arabia to perform the hajj. (RMC 4/9 in WNC 4/10; MM 4/14; WT 4/23; MEI 5/2)

2 **SLA** mbrs. are wounded in an explosion in **s. Lebanon**. (RL 4/9 in WNC 4/10)

10 APRIL

PA delegation led by Arafat dep. **Abbas**, Local Government M **Erakat** arrives in Washington, meets with Secy. of State **Al-**

bright, special envoy **Ross**. (WT 4/10; CSM, MM, PR, WP, WT 4/11; MM 4/14)

In Hebron, 7 **Palestinians** are wounded by rubber bullets in the latest round of clashes with the **IDF**. Israeli Justice M **Hanegbi** urges security forces to be tougher on Palestinian demonstrators. (MM 4/10; IDF Radio 4/10 in WNC 4/11; WT 4/11)

German court rules that **Iran's** top leaders ordered the 1992 assassination of 4 Kurdish dissidents in Germany. In response, **EU** mbr. nations (excluding Greece) withdraw their amb. to Iran to protest that government's support of terrorism. Iran responds in kind. (CSM 4/11; AFP 4/11 in WNC 4/14; VIRI 4/11 in WNC 4/15; MM 4/15; VIRI 4/18 in WNC 4/21; CSM 4/25; WT 4/28; NYT 4/30; MEI 5/2; *al'Ahd* [Beirut] 5/2 in WNC 5/7; WJW 5/15)

11 APRIL

In Washington, **senior Palestinian negotiators** hold 3 hrs. of talks with U.S. special envoy **Ross**. (NYT 4/12; MEI, PR 4/18)

12 **Palestinians**, 3 **IDF soldiers** are injured in clashes in Hebron. There have been daily confrontations in Hebron since 4/8. (ITV 4/11 in WNC 4/14; NYT 4/12)

12 APRIL

In Hebron, **Jewish settlers, Palestinians** hold counterdemonstrations in Israeli controlled H2. **IDF soldiers** shoot rubber bullets, wounding 6 Palestinians, including a PA policeman. (ITV 4/12 in WNC 4/15; NYT, WP, WT 4/13)

13 APRIL

PM **Netanyahu** says that the 1st houses at **Har Homa** will not be completed until 2000 (the year Netanyahu's term ends), work on infrastructure will continue. (MM 4/14; YA 4/14 in WNC 4/15; CSM, NYT 4/15)

At the Allenby Bridge crossing, a **Palestinian woman** fr. Qalqilya returning to the West Bank fr. Jordan shoots, wounds 2 Israelis, 1 Palestinian. (RJ, RMC 4/13 in WNC 4/15; MM, NYT, WT 4/14)

Israel eases **closure** of the West Bank, Gaza, allowing 20,000 Palestinian men over age 35 to go to their jobs in Israel. (IDF Radio, QY 4/13 in WNC 4/15; CSM 4/14; WT 4/15)

In Hebron, clashes btwn. **Jewish settlers, Palestinians** continue. 3 Palestinians are injured. (WT 4/14)

Israel reinforces troops in **s. Lebanon**. **Hizballah** detonates bomb nr. **SLA** patrol, killing 1 **SLA** mbr., wounding another **SLA** mbr., 1 civilian traveling with them. (RL 4/14 in WNC 4/15)

14 APRIL

In Washington, **Egyptian FM Amr Musa** meets with U.S. special envoy **Ross**, says Egypt will soon launch a diplomatic campaign to lobby the **EU**, **U.S.** for initiatives to salvage the peace process. (WP 4/15)

In Hebron, **Jewish settlers**, complaining that **IDF** protective measures at **Beyt Hadasah** settlement make them feel as if they are living in a ghetto, turn on **IDF soldiers**, pelting them with stones, eggs, tomatoes and soaking them with water hoses. 1 settler tries to stab a soldier but is overpowered. (WT 4/15)

15 APRIL

U.S. special envoy **Ross** arrives in the Middle East; holds talks in Gaza with **Arafat**, in Jerusalem with **Netanyahu**. (WCP 4/15; CSM, WP 4/16)

EU-Mediterranean business conference opens in Malta. **Arafat**, Israeli FM **Levy** meet on the sidelines in the highest level contact since talks broke down in 3/97. (CSM, MM, WT 4/15; Radio France Internationale [Paris] 4/15 in WNC 4/16; CSM, MM 4/16; *De Volkskrank* [Amsterdam], SANA 4/16 in WNC 4/17; CSM, NYT, WP 4/17; MEI, PR 4/18)

On the sidelines of the Malta conference, **Jordanian FM Tarawnah**, **Syrian FM Shara'** discuss improving bilateral relations. (*al-Dustur* 4/23 in WNC 4/24)

In Surif, **3 critically ill Palestinians** die when **IDF** troops enforcing curfew deny them access to medical treatment. (NYT 4/16)

Israeli police recommend felony indictments in the Bar-On affair be sought against Justice M **Hanegbi**, chief of staff **Avigdor Lieberman**, Netanyahu political ally and Shas head **Arye Deri**. (ITV 4/15 in WNC 4/16; MM, WP, WT 4/16; YA 4/16 in WNC 4/17) (see 2/28)

In Mina, **Saudi Arabia**, an estimated **210 Bangladeshi**, **Indian**, **Pakistani pilgrims** participating in the hajj are killed, 800 are injured when canisters of cooking fuel ignite tents. At least 70,000 tents are destroyed,

leaving 100,000s of pilgrims temporarily without shelter. (CSM, NYT, WP, WT 4/16; MM 4/22, 4/24; MEI 5/2)

SLA releases 7 detainees fr. al-Khiyam prison in **s. Lebanon** to mark the end of Ramadan. (RL 4/15 in WNC 4/16)

16 APRIL

Israeli police formally call for PM **Netanyahu's** indictment on charges of "fraud and breach of trust" in connection with the Bar-On affair. Israeli **state atty. Edna Arbel**, **atty. gen. Elyakim Rubinstein** must now decide whether to file the charges. Labor leader **Peres** urges Netanyahu to step down, call new elections. (MM 4/16; IDF Radio, ITV 4/16, IDF Radio, MA, YA 4/17 in WNC 4/18; ITV 4/16 in WNC 4/29; MM, NYT, WP, WP 4/17; CSM, MM, NYT, WP, WT 4/18; WT 4/19; WP 4/20; MEI 5/2) (see 4/15)

U.S. special envoy **Ross** meets with PM **Netanyahu**, who rejects his suggestion that Israel make gestures toward the Palestinians to regain their confidence, demands PA show proof it is fighting "terrorism." (NYT, WT 4/17; IDF Radio 4/18 in WNC 4/21)

On the 1st leg of his regional tour, Russian dep. FM **Posuvalyuk** meets with Lebanese PM **Hariri** in Beirut, discusses the peace process. (RL 4/16 in WNC 4/17)

Israel reveals the **West Bank** after warning of possible Palestinian attack. (WT 4/16)

IDF demolishes home of a relative of suicide bomber **Ghanimat** in Surif, leaving 12 people homeless. (WP 4/17; LAW 5/6) (see 3/31)

SLA mbr. wounded in the 4/13 attack dies. (RL 4/16 in WNC 4/17)

17 APRIL

Russian dep. FM **Posuvalyuk** discusses state of the peace process with **Crown Prince Hassan** in Amman, then heads to Israel. (RJ 4/16 in WNC 4/18) (see 4/16)

In Gaza, **Arafat**, **IDF Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Amnon Shahak**, **Shin Bet head Ami Ayalon** hold mtg. on security coordination. U.S. special envoy **Ross** attends. (ITV 4/18 in WNC 4/21; MA 4/23 in WNC 4/24)

IDF demolishes home of a relative of suicide bomber **Ghanimat** in Surif, leaving 10 people homeless. (LAW 5/6) (see 4/16)

Fmr. Israeli pres. (1983-93) **Chaim Herzog** dies in Tel Aviv. (NYT, WT 4/18; JP 4/26)

18 APRIL

Nr. Ramallah, 1 Palestinian is killed, 2 are wounded when **PA General Intelligence** officers open fire on the wrong car in a botched ambush. PA arrests the shooters. (PR 4/25; JP 5/17)

Death toll in **Mina fire** (see 4/15) rises to over 400. New reports suggest that as many as 1,300 pilgrims were injured. (WP, WT 4/19)

Ceremonies are held in **Lebanon** to mark the 1st anniversary of Israel's massacre of over 100 Lebanese civilians at the UN compound in **Qana**. (RL 4/18 in WNC 4/21)

19 APRIL

Israeli state atty. **Arbel**, atty. gen. **Rubinstein** decide not to indict PM **Netanyahu**, Justice M **Hanegbi** in the Bar-On affair, saying they have credible but insufficient testimony to convict; agree to indict Shas leader **Deri** for extortion by threats; say investigations of Dir. Gen. **Lieberman** will continue. 100s of **Shas** mbrs. riot in Jerusalem after receiving the news. Labor leader **Peres** says forming a coalition government with **Likud** is out of the question, calls on Netanyahu to resign. (IDF Radio, ITV 4/19, IDF Radio, YA 4/20, *al-Dustur*, *al-Ra'i* 4/21 in WNC 4/22; WT 4/20; CSM, MM, NYT, WP, WT 4/21; NYT 4/22; MA, YA 4/23 in WNC 4/24; MM 4/23; Globes [Internet] 4/23 in WNC 4/29; CSM, MM 4/24; Globes [Internet] 4/24 in WNC 4/28; PR 4/25; JP 5/10) (see 4/16; WJW 5/1; MEI 5/2; JP 5/3)

Russian dep. FM **Posuvalyuk** returns to Lebanon for 2d mtg. with PM **Hariri** to brief him on his talks with Israel 4/18. (RL 4/19 in WNC 4/22) (see 4/16, 4/18)

20 APRIL

UN Human Rights Comm. votes (51-1, with 1 abstention) to express grave concern over **Israel's** actions in **Lebanon's** Biqa' Valley, to denounce Israel's persistent violations of the 1949 Geneva Conventions. (al-Manar Television 4/21 in WNC 4/24)

Israel releases **Hamas leader 'Abd al-'Aziz Rantisi** after 3 yrs. in prison. (MM 4/23; PR 4/25) (see 8/23/95)

In **s. Lebanon**, 2 **SLA** mbrs. are killed by separate bombs placed by **Hizballah**. **Israel** retaliates by shelling areas around Jazzin. (AFP, RL 4/20 in WNC 4/22; WP 4/21)

21 APRIL

Labor, **Meretz** parties file lawsuits with the Israeli High Court to appeal the atty. gen.'s decision not to indict PM **Netanyahu**, Justice M **Hanegbi**. Hearings will be held in 5/97. (MM 4/21; WP 4/22; MM 4/23) (see 4/19)

Israel seals the West Bank, Gaza, barring Palestinians fr. entering Israel during the 8-day Passover holiday. (WT 4/22; CSM 4/25)

In a prerulease of a joint paper for *Foreign Affairs*, fmr. **National Security Advisers Zbigniew Brzezinski**, **Brent Scowcroft** conclude that U.S. **dual containment** policy "lacks strategic viability and carries a high financial and diplomatic cost," sanctions have been ineffectual; suggest the U.S. offer Iran, Iraq incentives to alter their behavior instead of just punishing them. (MM 4/21)

Following Germany's 4/10 ruling, **U.S.** announces decision to encourage its **EU** allies to impose sanctions on **Iran**; sends mission to **France**, **Germany**, **Holland**, **UK**. (NYT, WT 4/22; CSM 4/25)

Iraq again defies the southern **U.S.** no-fly zone by sending 9 helicopters to fly home pilgrims returning from Mecca. U.S. says it will tolerate the flights. (MM, WT 4/22; NYT, WP 4/23; MEI 5/2) (see 4/9)

22 APRIL

In Amman, Jordan PM **Majali** holds talks with **Hamas** leaders on possible release scenarios for **Abu Marzuq**, suggesting Jordan may grant him asylum. (*al-Ra'i* 4/23 in WNC 4/24; *al-Quds al-'Arabi* 4/24 in WNC 4/25) (see 4/7)

In Bayt Lif, **s. Lebanon**, **IDF**, **SLA** blow up the house of a Lebanese citizen for "illegally" fleeing the Israeli self-declared security zone for n. Lebanon. (RL 4/22 in WNC 4/23)

23 APRIL

In Jerusalem, **10,000 Shas party supporters** hold rally in support of party head **Deri**, against the Israeli judicial system, which they claim discriminates against Sephardic Jews and has targeted Deri for ethnic, religious reasons. (CSM, MM, NYT 4/24; MM 4/25; YA 4/25 in WNC 4/28; NYT 4/28; WT 4/29; JP 5/3)

Citing "security reasons," **IDF** demolishes Palestinian home in Surif, leaving 6 people homeless. (LAW 5/6) (see 4/17)

U.S.-Jordan Joint Military Commission convenes 2-day mtg. to discuss joint

exercises, cooperation, U.S. aid to Jordan. (RJ 4/22 in WNC 4/23)

ILMG convenes to address Israeli complaint regarding 4/13 roadside bombing that killed 2 SLA mbrs., injured a civilian with them. Israel claims the SLA mbrs. were off duty, in civilian clothes, meaning the attack was against a civilian target. Lebanon claims the men were armed, therefore a legitimate target. (RL 4/23 in WNC 4/24; RL 4/24 in WNC 4/25) (see also 4/16)

24 APRIL

UNGA opens emergency special session to discuss **Israeli settlement** construction, particularly at Har Homa. (VIRI 4/24 in WNC 4/15; WT 4/26)

IDF shells areas in **s. Lebanon**, wounding 2 Lebanese civilians, 1 Lebanese Internal Security Forces officer. (RL 4/24 in WNC 4/25)

25 APRIL

The **UNGA** passes (134-3, with 11 abstentions) a resolution condemning **Israeli settlement** construction. (NYT, WT 4/26; ITV 4/26, SANA 4/27 in WNC 4/29; MM 4/28, 4/29; MEI 5/2) (see Doc. A6, Peace Monitor)

In New York, Hamas political leader **Abu Marzuq** signs an agmt. that he will not contest the terrorism charges against him, will give up his residency status; in return, the **U.S.** will drop exclusion proceedings, release him to **Jordan**, which has agreed to grant him asylum. (AFP, RJ 4/30 in WNC 5/1; NYT, WP 5/1; NYT 5/2; WP 5/9) (see 4/22)

Israeli police find bodies of 2 Israeli women in a West Bank nature reserve nr. Jerusalem, suspect Palestinian assailants, but offer no proof. (WP 4/26; MM 4/28; WJW 5/1; JP 5/10)

Israeli court extends by 10 days the remand of businessman **Manbar** while it considers whether to charge him with selling arms to **Iran**. (ITV 4/25 in WNC 4/28) (see 3/27)

For 3d time, **Iraq** violates the **U.S.** no-fly zone to ferry pilgrims fr. Saudi Arabia to Iraq. (WP 4/26; CSM, MEI 5/2) (see 4/23)

In Miami, **Palestinian refugee fr. Lebanon** who hijacked an Iberian plane fr. Madrid to Miami on 7/26/96 is found guilty of federal air piracy charges, will be sentenced 8/11/97. (WT 4/26) (see also 7/30/96)

2 **IDF** soldiers are wounded by mortar fire nr. the Israeli, **s. Lebanon** border. IDF claims soldiers were hit while in Israeli terri-

tory; Lebanon, **SLA** claim soldiers were in s. Lebanon. (MM 4/25; RL 4/26 in WNC 4/29)

26 APRIL

Egyptian pres. Mubarak travels to **Kuwait** to discuss the Arab stance on the peace process with Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah. (RE 4/26 in WNC 4/29)

27 APRIL

Labor MK **Bellin** holds unauthorized mtg. with **Arafat** to suggest plan for restarting PA-Israeli talks. (MM 4/28; PR 5/2; JP 5/10) (see Peace Monitor for details)

In the West Bank village of Haris (area B), **IDF** troops on routine patrol are pelted by rocks, open fire on **Palestinian youths**, killing 1, wounding 2. (MM 4/28; ITV 4/28 in WNC 4/29; PR 5/2)

In Beirut, a bomb explodes outside the home of the **dir. gen. of Lebanon's Information Min.**, causing material damage but no injuries. No one claims responsibility. (RL 4/28 in WNC 4/29)

IDF fires on areas in **s. Lebanon**, hitting and damaging a school bus but injuring none of the students on board. (RL 4/27, 4/28 in WNC 4/29)

28 APRIL

In Amman, **EU special envoy Miguel Moratinos** discusses ways of bridging gaps in the peace process with **Crown Prince Hassan**, FM Tarawnah. (RJ 4/28 in WNC 4/29)

France, Turkey, UK, U.S. begin 10 days of joint military maneuvers in the Aegean. (Cyprus Broadcasting Corporation Radio [Nicosia] 4/29 in WNC 4/30)

29 APRIL

French cargo firm Calberson announces that it is terminating its 892 **Israeli** contracts due to the economic situation in Israel, difficulties in the peace process. (Globes [Internet] 4/29 in WNC 5/2)

Ignoring appeals fr. the **U.S.** to break off all political, economic ties with **Iran**, **EU** states decide to send their amb. back to Tehran, say it would not be in their economic interests to impose sanctions, but suspend all high-level contacts, maintain arms embargo. (NYT, WP, WT 4/30) (see 4/21)

ILMG begins discussion of Israel's complaint regarding wounding of 2 IDF soldiers

4/25, Lebanon's complaint on IDF shooting of school bus 4/27. (RL 4/29 in WNC 4/30)

30 APRIL

IDF eases **closure**, allowing 28,000 Palestinians fr. the West Bank, 27,000 fr. Gaza into Israel. (MM 4/30; RMC 4/30 in WNC 5/2; NYT 5/2)

In Damascus, EU special envoy **Moratinos** discusses the peace process with Pres. **Asad**. (RMC 5/1 in WNC 5/2)

Israeli DM Mordechai hosts **Turkey's** DM Turhan Tayan. (MM 4/30; IDF Radio, IGPO 4/30 in WNC 5/1; MM 5/1; Anatolia [Ankara] 5/2 in WNC 5/2; WT 5/2; *Turkiye* [Istanbul] 5/4 in WNC 5/7; VIRI 5/6 in WNC 5/8; JP 5/10; MEI 5/16) (see 2/25, 4/4, Peace Monitor)

Knesset rejects further inquiry into **Bar-On** affair. (WT 5/3; JP 5/10) (see 4/21)

Israeli dep. finance M David Magen resigns to protest the atty. gen. decision not to indict PM **Netanyahu**. (ITV 4/30 in WNC 5/1; Globes [Internet] 4/30 in WNC 5/2; MM 5/1)

Palestinian television broadcasts of the **PC** weekly session are jammed for the 2d wk. in a row. Some PC mbrs. blame the PA, though Arafat's office claims it cannot determine the source of the interference. (Internews [Internet] 4/30; PR 5/16; WP 5/21)

Bank of Israel reports that for the 1st quarter of 1997 tourism has dropped 16%, the economic downturn which began in 7/96 continues. (Globes [Internet] 4/30 in WNC 5/2)

In **Jordan**, an **Israeli** tourist is stabbed, lightly injured. Jordanian police arrest perpetrator. (JTV, RMC 4/30 in WNC 5/1; JP 5/10)

Nr. Jerusalem, **IDF** soldiers open fire on **Palestinian** car that fails to stop at a checkpoint, killing the driver. (MM 4/30; RMC 4/30 in WNC 5/2; PR 5/2)

1 MAY

In Cairo, Pres. **Mubarak**, Syrian pres. **Asad** discuss possible Arab summit on the peace process. (ESC Television [Cairo], RMC 5/1 in WNC 5/2; MM 5/2)

Turkey, Israel end 3 days of military talks, agree to perform joint military maneuvers with the **U.S.** later this yr. (Anatolia [Ankara] 5/2 in WNC 5/2; MM, WT 5/2; *Turkiye* [Istanbul] 5/4 in WNC 5/7; VIRI 5/6 in WNC 5/8; JP 5/10)

PM **Netanyahu** forms a 10-mbr. **Gesher, Likud, Tsomet** ministers' forum that will

meet once a wk., before cabinet sessions. The PM's goal is to have the ministers more involved in consultations to prevent incidents like the Bar-On affair. (IDF Radio 5/1 in WNC 5/2)

ILMG continues discussion of 4/29 complaints, determines that 1 mortar fired 4/25 by a Lebanese group accidentally landed inside Israel, but reaches no final decisions. (RL 5/1 in WNC 5/2)

U.S. takes over rotating chairmanship of **ILMG** fr. **France** today, but the U.S. official will assume his post 5/5. (*al-Ahd* 5/9 in WNC 5/15)

2 MAY

At their weekly mtg. the PA **Executive Authority** mbrs. decide to ban sales of Palestinian **land** to Israelis, punish offenders (no punishment is specified, recommended). (NYT 5/16, 5/19; WP 5/10; IDF Radio 5/19 in WNC 5/21; LAW 5/21)

After he writes an article saying that the PA should adopt Israeli standards of democracy, **Gazan lawyer Jamil Salameh** is arrested by the **PA** on charges of slander. (WP 5/3; JP 5/10; JP 5/17)

After discussion with FM **Levy**, Israeli dep. finance **M Magen** decides not to resign. (ITV 5/2 in WNC 5/6) (see 4/30)

3 MAY

Arafat calls on Pres. **Clinton**, other countries to intervene to save the peace process in light of **Israel's** "malicious" settlement of Jerusalem, the West Bank. (WT 5/4)

2d strategic dialogue btwn. **Israel, Turkey** opens in Israel, will last until 5/6. Delegations discuss deepening defense, military relations. (IGPO 5/4 in WNC 5/6; MM 5/6; VIRI 5/6, RMC 5/7 in WNC 5/8; *Milliyet* [Istanbul] 5/7 in WNC 5/13; MM 5/8; MEI 5/16)

In Amman, **Jordan, Iran** open talks on expanding, advancing trade relations. (JT 5/4 in WNC 5/6)

4 MAY

Arafat arrives in Cairo, holds 2-hr. mtg. with FM **Musa** on the peace process. Possibility of a 4- or 5-way summit is not discussed. (RE 5/5 in WNC 5/6) (see 5/1)

In Damascus, EU special envoy **Moratinos** meets with Syrian pres. **Asad**, then heads to Israel to meet with FM **Levy**. (IDF Radio 5/4 in WNC 5/6; WT 5/5; JP 5/10) (see Peace Monitor for details)

Israeli Infrastructure **M Sharon**, **Jordanian water and irrigation M Munthir Hadadin** meet in Israel to discuss Jordan-Israel water sharing agmt. (MM 5/6, 5/7; SA 5/7 in WNC 5/8; MM 5/12; MEI 5/16) (see Peace Monitor for details)

At a news conference organized by the **PSF**, Palestinian **Ibrahim Halabi** says that he was recruited by **Shin Bet** to find Palestinian Islamists to carry out the 2 suicide attacks that occurred 4/1, that the bombs were rigged to explode prematurely. **Israel** calls the assertion "a ridiculous lie." (NYT 5/4; MEI 5/16; JP 5/17)

PA releases Gazan lawyer **Jamil Salameh**. (JP 5/17) (see 5/2)

Jordan says it has asked the **U.S.** for a written request for Jordan to grant asylum to Hamas's **Abu Marzuq**, will not accept him until letter is received. (JTV 5/4 in WNC 5/6) (see 4/25)

5 MAY

PA Justice M Frayh Abu-Madayn announces that **Palestinians** who sell or facilitate the sale of land to **Jews** will face the death penalty. (NYT, WT 5/6; NYT 5/16; JP 5/17; IDF Radio 5/19 in WNC 5/21; WT 5/21) (see Peace Monitor for details)

U.S. says that it has repeatedly protested to **Israel** "at the highest level" over complaints **Israel** has threatened to take away the **U.S.** passports of **Palestinians** who do not give up claims of residency in **Jerusalem**, stresses that Palestinian Americans cannot lose their **U.S.** citizenship involuntarily. (WT 5/6)

In Cairo, EU special envoy **Moratinos** discusses peace process with **Arab League secy. Gen. Ismat 'Abd al-Majid**. (RE 5/5 in WNC 5/6)

Israel's new amb. to **Jordan**, **Oded Eran**, fm. head of the Israeli delegation to the donor conferences, assumes his post in Amman. (RJ 5/5 in WNC 5/6)

U.S. releases Hamas political leader **Abu Marzuq** after 22 mos. in detention, flies him to **Jordan**. (AFP 5/5, JTV, *al-Ra'i*, RJ, RMC 5/6 in WNC 5/7; NYT, WT 5/6; RJ 5/6, JT 5/7 in WNC 5/8; MM 5/7; WJW 5/8; WP 5/9; SA 5/9 in WNC 5/13; MEI 5/16; JP 5/17; *al-Wasat* 5/19-25 in WNC 5/21) (see 5/4)

PA policeman shoots, kills **Palestinian** at a Hebron checkpoint. (WP 5/6; MEI 5/16)

IDF demolishes **5 Palestinian homes** in **Hebron's H2**, saying they were constructed without permits. (LAW 5/6; WT 5/7; PR 5/16) (see 4/23)

Israeli court charges **Manbar** with assisting the enemy, providing information to an outside enemy with the intent of harming state security, providing **Iran** with means to manufacture chemical weapons in exchange for \$16 m. (IDF Radio 5/5 in WNC 5/6; MA 5/7 in WNC 5/8; JP 5/17) (see 4/25)

Iranian FM Velayati arrives in Cairo on a 2-day visit to invite Pres. Mubarak to attend the upcoming (12/97) OIC conference in Tehran. This is the 1st high-level contact btwn. Iran, **Egypt** since Mubarak accused Tehran in 1995 of trying to have him killed. (IRNA 5/5 in WNC 5/6; NYT, WP, WT 5/6; IRNA, RE, SA 5/6 in WNC 5/7; MM 5/8, 5/9)

The **Jordanian Popular Movement** merges with the **National Constitutional Party**. (JT 5/6 in WNC 5/7; JT 5/7 in WNC 5/8) (see 2/28)

Hizballah detonates 3 roadside bombs in **s. Lebanon**, wounding 5 civilians, 2 **SLA** mbrs. (RL 5/5 in WNC 5/6, 5/7; WP 5/7)

6 MAY

FBI begins investigating whether a "senior **U.S. government official**" has been passing highly sensitive information to **Israel**. **U.S.** officials say that in 1/97, the **National Security Agency (NSA)** intercepted a transmission btwn. 2 Israeli intelligence officers in Washington and Tel Aviv, discussing a request by Israeli amb. to the **U.S.** **Eliahu Ben-Elissar** to activate an alleged mole code-named Mega to obtain the secret letter of assurances fr. fm. Secy. of State **Christopher to Arafat**, which was attached to the Hebron protocol and has never been made public. The transmission suggests that Mega has provide information to **Israel** in the past. **Israel** denies spying. (WP 5/7; NYT, WP 5/8; MM 5/8; IDF Radio, ITV, YA 5/8 in WNC 5/9; MM, WP, WT 5/9; SANA 5/12 in WNC 5/13; MEI 5/16; JP 5/17)

Arafat, **Israeli pres. Weizman** meet in advance of **U.S.** special envoy Ross's arrival 5/8. (MM, WT 5/6; ITV 5/6 in WNC 5/7; CSM, MM, NYT, WP 5/7; AFP, YA 5/7 in WNC 5/8; WJW 5/8; JP 5/10; MM 5/12)

After Arafat-Weizman mtg., an **Israeli-PA-U.S.** security mtg. is held to discuss resuming coordination. (MM 5/7; ITV 5/7 in WNC 5/8)

Egyptian pres. Mubarak accepts **Iran's** invitation to attend the 12/97 OIC mtg. in Tehran but says that **Egypt** is not considering resuming diplomatic relations with **Iran** (severed after **Egypt** signed its peace treaty with **Israel** in 1979). (WT 5/7)

Iran's FM **Velayati** arrives in Beirut for mtg. with FM **Buwayz**. (VOL 5/6 in WNC 5/7; IRNA 5/7 in WNC 5/8)

Israeli police forcibly evacuate 30 Jewish **settlers** fr. a shack they had set up nr. Nablus in an attempt to expand Yitzhar settlement. (MM, NYT 5/7; IDF Radio 5/7 in WNC 5/8; PR 5/16)

IDF demolishes **2 Palestinian homes** in Jerusalem, Ramallah for being constructed without a permit. (LAW 5/6; PR 5/16) (see 5/5)

A bomb explosion in **s. Lebanon** blamed on **Israel** kills 2 civilians, injures 2. A 2d bomb at the same site is dismantled. In a separate incident, Israeli planes attack suspected **Hizballah** targets in the **Biqa' Valley**, injuring 1 civilian. (RL, VOL 5/6 in WNC 5/7; WP 5/7)

7 MAY

Regarding the assertion concerning Mega (see 5/7), an unnamed senior U.S. official confirms that special envoy **Ross** read **Netanyahu** the U.S. letter of assurances to the PA but did not give him a copy to keep. (WP 5/8; CSM 5/9)

In Geneva, the **UN Comm. Against Torture** summons **Israel** for a 3-day extraordinary hearing to face accusations that its practices against Palestinian prisoners violate international conventions. (NYT, WT 5/8; IGPO 5/8 in WNC 5/13; NYT, WP 5/10) (see Doc. A7, Peace Monitor for details)

Austrian FM Wolfgang Schuessel arrives in **Israel** on 1st leg of a regional tour to acquaint himself with the issues of the peace process in advance of his assumption of the EU presidency in 1998; meets with FM Levy, Labor mbr. Ehud Barak. (*Neue Kronen Zeitung* [Vienna] 5/8 in WNC 5/12)

Israeli inner cabinet holds mtg. on evacuation of **settlers** nr. Nablus 5/6. Ms **Rafael Eitan**, **Zevulun Hammer**, **Ariel Sharon** accuse PM **Netanyahu** of making a gesture to the PA; Netanyahu apologizes for the evacuation. (IDF Radio 5/7 in WNC 5/8)

Jordan, Tunisia sign agmt. to form comm. to study the creation of a common free trade zone; discuss joint tourism, investment projects. (JT 5/7 in WNC 5/8)

In Beirut, Iranian FM **Velayati** meets PM **Hariri**. Velayati then goes to Damascus to discuss Israeli-Turkish military cooperation with Pres. **Asad**, FM **Shara'**; then heads to Yemen. (IRNA, RMC, VOL 5/7 in WNC 5/8; SATN 5/7, IRNA, RMC 5/8 in WNC 5/9; MM 5/8) (see 5/3)

ILMG meets to discuss Israeli complaint regarding 5/5 Hizballah attack, Lebanese complaint regarding 5/6 bombing. (RL 5/7 in WNC 5/8; RL 5/7, 5/8 in WNC 5/9)

8 MAY

U.S. special envoy **Ross** meets with **Arafat** in Gaza, then meets with PM **Netanyahu**, Pres. **Weizman**, FM **Levy**. (WJW 5/8; ITV, QY 5/8 in WNC 5/9; MM, WP 5/9; MEI, PR 5/16; JP 5/17)

Israel's PM Netanyahu, **Jordan's** King Hussein meet in Aqaba to discuss water issues, ways of resuming Israeli-PA negotiations. (MM 5/9; QY, RJ, YA 5/9 in WNC 5/12; JTV 5/9, RJ 5/10, JT 5/11, RJ 5/12 in WNC 5/13; NYT 5/10; JP 5/24) (see 5/6, Peace Monitor for details)

U.S. special envoy **Ross**, EU special envoy **Moratinos** meet in Israel to discuss the peace process. (IDF Radio 5/8 in WNC 5/9; AFP 5/9 in WNC 5/12; MEI 5/16)

Austrian FM **Schuessel** holds separate mtgs. with Israel's **Netanyahu**, PA's **Arafat**, EU's **Moratinos**. (*Die Presse* [Vienna] 5/9 in WNC 5/12)

Israeli cabinet secy. **Nave** admits that the intelligence transmission intercepted by the NSA in 1/97 was made. An unnamed Israeli intelligence official claims that "**Mega**" does not refer to a person but to something else. A 3d official claims "Mega" was a mistranslation of "Elga," the term used by Mossad for the CIA. **U.S.** declines to comment. (WP 5/9; MA, YA 5/9 in WNC 5/13; MM 5/13; YA 5/13 in WNC 5/14) (see 5/6)

9 MAY

U.S. special envoy **Ross** holds separate mtgs. with Israeli DM **Mordechai**, PA's **Arafat**; makes no progress. (AFP 5/9 in WNC 5/12; MEI 5/16)

PSF, Shin Bet, CIA representatives meet in Tel Aviv to discuss resuming Israeli-PA security cooperation. Shin Bet head **Ayalon** refuses to attend the mtg. in anger over PA claims that the Shin Bet was behind 2 suicide bombings 4/1 (see 5/4). (AFP, IDF Radio 5/9 in WNC 5/12; MM 5/13; NYT 5/17)

In Ramallah, **Farid Bashiti**, an East Jerusalem Palestinian accused of selling Arab homes and land to Jews, is found dead. **Israeli** police open an investigation. At Friday prayers at al-Aqsa, the **PA-appointed mufti of Jerusalem, Ekrima Sabri**, says Bashiti must not be prayed over or buried in a Muslim cemetery. (NYT, WP, WT 5/10; WT 5/11;

IDF Radio 5/11 in WNC 5/13; WJW 5/15; MEI, PR 5/16; WJW 5/22) (see 5/5)

IDF destroys the foundations of a new **UNRWA** school in Abu-Dis, says the building permit was granted by mistake. The construction project is funded by donor countries. (PR 5/16)

In Amman, PM **Majali**, Iraqi dep. PM **Aziz** discuss bolstering bilateral relations, forming a united Arab stand on the peace process. (*al-Dustur* 5/10 in WNC 5/13)

In Beirut, a **Lebanese court** sentences **Samir Ja'Ja'** to life with hard labor for the attempted murder of Michel al-Murr in 3/91. 3 accomplices are each given 20 yrs. with hard labor. 2 others are acquitted. (RL 5/9 in WNC 5/13)

10 MAY

In Sharm al-Shaykh, Egyptian pres. **Mubarak**, U.S. special envoy **Ross** hold talks on the peace process. Mubarak holds separate mtg. with Jordanian FM **Tarawnah**. (RJ 5/10, JT 5/11 in WNC 5/13; WP 5/11; MEI, PR 5/16)

IDF imposes a 3-day **closure** on the West Bank, Gaza for the duration of Israel's independence celebrations. (ITV 5/10 in WNC 5/13; PR 5/16)

On his 1st trip to the Middle East, **Pope John Paul II** begins 2-day visit to **Lebanon**. (NYT, WP, WT 5/11; RAI Televideo [Rome], *La Repubblica* [Rome], RL 5/11, *L'Unita* [Rome] 5/12 in WNC 5/13; MM, NYT, WP, WT 5/12; RL 5/12 in WNC 5/13; ANSA [Rome] 5/12 in WNC 5/14; MM 5/16) (see Peace Monitor for details)

In Amman, **King Hussein**, **Crown Prince Hassan** receive Iraqi dep. PM **Aziz**. (RJ 5/10 in WNC 5/13)

11 MAY

U.S. special envoy **Ross** meets with **Arafat** in Ramallah to try to arrange an informal PA-Israeli mtg. at Amb. **Indyk's** residence to discuss the freeze in negotiations. (MM 5/12)

Israel accuses **Arafat's** personal guards of killing Palestinian land dealer **Bashiti** 5/9. **PA** denies any involvement. (NYT, WP 5/12)

12 MAY

In Amman, U.S. special envoy **Ross** discusses status of the peace process with **King Hussein**, FM **Tarawnah**. (*al-Dustur*, RJ 5/12 in WNC 5/13; MEI 5/16)

In Cairo, **Norwegian FM Bjørn Tore Godal** discusses with Pres. **Mubarak** ways of resuming PA-Israeli talks, then heads to Damascus to meet with Syrian FM **Shara'**. (RE 5/12 in WNC 5/13; SATN 5/12 in WNC 5/14)

In Amman, **Gen. Binford Peay**, cmdr. of U.S. forces in the Middle East, and **King Hussein** discuss U.S.-Jordanian military relations. (JTV 5/12 in WNC 5/14; WT 5/14)

A **Jordanian soldier** is killed in a clash in al-Mafraq, Jordan, nr. the Syrian border. **12 Syrians** are arrested. PM Majali's office says the Syrians were smugglers, in the country illegally; there is no political dimension to the clash. (JT, SA 5/13 in WNC 5/14)

In **s. Lebanon**, 4 **SLA** mbrs., 1 **IDF** soldier are wounded in a **Hizballah** attack. At least 1 Hizballah mbr. also dies. (NYT 5/13; RL 5/13 in WNC 5/14)

13 MAY

U.S. special envoy **Ross** extends his stay in the region after **Israel**, **PA** agree to hold informal mtg. at Amb. **Indyk's** residence. Israeli team will be led by DM **Mordechai**, Netanyahu personal atty. **Yitzhak Molho**. PA side will be led by Local Government M **Erakat**, Culture M **'Abid Rabbu**. (MM 5/13; YA 5/13 in WNC 5/14)

In Amman, Norwegian FM **Godal** meets with **King Hussein**. (RJ 5/13 in WNC 5/14; JTV 5/13 in WNC 5/15)

Israeli amb. to Jordan **Eran** quits after 8 days on the job because he was not informed about the 5/8 mtg. btwn. PM **Netanyahu**, King Hussein until 1 hr. before it happened; hopes that his resignation leads to improved relations btwn. Netanyahu's office, the FMin. (MM 5/13; JTV 5/13 in WNC 5/15; CSM 5/14; JP 5/24) (see 5/5)

Egyptian pres. Mubarak travels to **Morocco** for talks on the peace process with King Hasan. (WT 5/14)

Turkish PM Erbakan postpones indefinitely joint naval maneuvers with **Israel**. (Anatolia [Ankara], ITV 5/13 in WNC 5/14; MM 5/14; IGPO, SANA 5/14 in WNC 5/15; *al-Nahar* 5/14 in WNC 5/19) (see 5/1, Peace Monitor)

Labor party mbrs. vote down a proposal (37% for, 63% against) to create the post of party pres. for fmr. PM **Peres**, defer further debate until 9/97 (well after the new party leadership is selected 6/3). Decision heralds end of Peres's formal leadership of the party, is seen as victory for party rival IDF Chief of

Staff **Barak**. (MM, NYT 5/14; YA 5/14 in WNC 5/15; JP 5/24)

In testimony before Congress regarding domestic and international terrorism, **FBI Dir. Louis Freeh** states that several Middle Eastern "terror groups" (including **Hamas**, **Hizballah**) "have placed supporters inside the U.S. who could be used to support an act of terrorism here." (WP 5/13)

14 MAY

With U.S. special envoy **Ross** in attendance, PA Local Government M **Erakat**, Israeli DM **Mordechai** meet at U.S. amb. **Indyk's** home in Jerusalem to "clarify" their positions. Israel, PA remain far apart on Har Homa issue. After the mtg., Erakat complains that **Ross** said nothing when **Mordechai** declared that Israel would continue building settlements. (NYT 5/15; CSM, NYT, PR 5/16; NYT 5/17) (see 5/11)

After 13 hrs. of debate, the **Israeli High Court** defers decision on opposition requests to overrule atty. gen., charge PM **Netanyahu** with fraud. (WT 5/15; JP 5/24) (see 4/21)

Jordanian nationalist parties announce creation of the **Jordanian Nationalist Democratic Front** in advance of parliamentary elections. (*al-Dustur* 5/15 in WNC 5/16) (see 5/5)

IDF kills 1 **Hizballah** mbr. in a clash in **s. Lebanon**. (ITV 5/14 in WNC 5/15)

Turkey makes its largest incursion into **n. Iraq** in 2 yrs., sending over 10,000 troops to attack Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) targets. **U.S.** says Turkey has the "right to self-defense," but expects a quick pullout. (MM 5/14; MM, WP 5/16)

15 MAY

U.S. special envoy **Ross**, PM **Netanyahu** meet in Tel Aviv. Later, **Arafat** refuses to meet **Ross**, stating that he is unhappy with the U.S. mediating role, Israeli delay tactics; sends letter to Pres. **Clinton**, asking him to intervene personally to save the peace process. **Israel** accuses Arafat of manufacturing a crisis. (IDF Radio 5/15 in WNC 5/16; PR 5/16; AFP 5/16 in WNC 5/19; NYT, WP, WT 5/17; JP 5/24)

In Jerusalem, Norwegian FM **Godal** meets with PM **Netanyahu**. (QY 5/15 in WNC 5/16)

Israeli police detain 2 Palestinians, one of whom is a PA police officer, in connection with **Bashiti's** murder 5/9. (IDF Radio, QY 5/15 in WNC 5/16; IGPO 5/15 in WNC 5/19; NYT 5/16; JP 5/24)

3 **IDF** soldiers are killed, 7 are wounded in a clash with **Hizballah** in **s. Lebanon**. 2 **Hizballah** mbrs. also are killed. (AFP 5/15, IDF Radio, VOL 5/16 in WNC 5/19; MM, WT 5/16; NYT 5/17)

CHRONOLOGY SOURCE ABBREVIATIONS

| | |
|------|---|
| AFP | (Agence France Presse, Paris) |
| CSM | (<i>Christian Science Monitor</i> , Boston) |
| HA | (<i>Ha'Aretz</i> , Tel Aviv) |
| IGPO | (Israeli Government Press Office, Jerusalem) |
| INA | (Iraqi News Agency, Baghdad) |
| IRNA | (Iranian News Agency, Tehran) |
| ITV | (Israel Television Network, Jerusalem) |
| JP | (<i>Jerusalem Post International Edition</i> , Jerusalem) |
| JT | (<i>Jordan Times</i> , Amman) |
| JTV | (Jordan Television Network, Amman) |
| LAW | (Palestinian Society for the Protection of Human Rights and the Environment, Jerusalem) |
| MA | (<i>Ma'ariv</i> , Tel Aviv) |
| MEI | (<i>Middle East International</i> , London) |
| MM | (<i>Mideast Mirror</i> , London) |
| NYT | (<i>New York Times</i> , New York) |
| PR | (<i>Palestine Report</i> , Jerusalem) |
| QPAR | (Al-Quds Palestinian Radio, clandestine) |
| QY | (Qol Yisra'el Radio, Tel Aviv) |
| RE | (Republic of Egypt Radio, Cairo) |
| RJ | (Radio Jordan, Amman) |
| RL | (Radio Lebanon, Beirut) |

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|------|--|
| RMC | (Radio Monte Carlo, Paris) |
| SA | (<i>al-Sharq al-Awsat</i> , London) |
| SANA | (Syrian Arab News Agency, Damascus) |
| SATN | (Syrian Arab Television Network, Damascus) |
| TJT | (<i>The Jerusalem Times</i> , East Jerusalem) |
| VOA | (Voice of the Arabs, Cairo) |
| VIRI | (Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Tehran) |
| VOL | (Voice of Lebanon, Beirut) |
| WJW | (<i>Washington Jewish Week</i> , Rockville, MD) |
| WNC | (World News Connection [Internet], Washington, DC) |
| WP | (<i>Washington Post</i> , Washington, DC) |
| WT | (<i>Washington Times</i> , Washington, DC) |
| YA | (<i>Yedi'ot Aharonot</i> , Tel Aviv) |

Chronology compiled by Michele L. Kjorlien



Palestinian police stop protesters from reaching the Jewish enclave in Hebron, 30 March 1997. (AFP Photo/Thomas Coex)