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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 Hizbollah 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 mbrrs. (RL 2/18 in WNC 2/19; CSM, MM, NYT, WP, WT 2/19; al-Quds alArabi 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 2/21; 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-

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tion the U.S., Israel prefer to deport him to a 3d country. Freeh arrived in Amman fr. Is-

rael, 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 3/8/95) is unconstitutional. (al-


In Washington, Jewish Institute for Na-

tional 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-Assad in advance of Muba-

rak'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, mark-

ing the 1st time an Israeli PM has been ques-

tioned 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 Moni-

tor in JPS 103)

Jordan stops monitoring foreign newspa-

pers 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 dele-

gation 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. Is-

mail Karadayi arrives in Israel for meet-

ings 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 Pales-

tians. (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 Sha-

piro, is charged with placing a pipe bomb in

a synagogue before a speech by fmr. Is-

raeli PM Shimon Peres in a bid to assassini-

mate 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)


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 National 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 envoy to 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 Alissa Plataw, 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)


1 MARCH

Palestinians, Israeli leftists demonstrate in Har Homa against Israel's construction plans. 100s of Palestinians (mostly affiliated with the DFILP) 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. (JT 3/1 in WNC 3/4)

2 MARCH


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-

Israeli DM Mordechai approves construction of 1,500 houses, 3,000 hotel rooms on 2,500 acres of land bwn. 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)


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)

IMLG 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)


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


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 Leba- nese 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


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 b/wn. 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)


IDF, Hizbullah 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)


Netanyahu, 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)


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)


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)

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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)


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)

Nt. '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


In Rabat, King Hassan, Egyptian pres. Mubarak holds 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


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)


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)


19 MARCH


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)


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)

Hizbullah 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 Qurait as PC speaker. (PR 3/28)


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 (PFLPGC) 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, 
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 vil-
lage; 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 Ghan-
imat 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 Is-
rael’s Har Homa, redeployment plans clash 
with armed settlers. IDF uses tear gas, rub-
ber 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 “re-
vulsion” at today’s bombing. (WP 3/21; RE 3/ 
21 in WNC 3/24; NYT 3/22; WT 3/23; al-Dus-
tur 3/23 in WNC 3/24; 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 Palestini-
ans throw stones at PA police, who inter-
vene 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 Jor-
dan to Palestinians. (RJ 3/22 in WNC 3/25) 

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

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

Jordan’s Crown Prince Hassan re-
ceives 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. 
N. 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, dis-
cusses Jerusalem as one of its main topics, 
issues statement condemning “Israel’s persist-
ence in its settlement expansion.” (ITV, RE, 

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. Pre-
ventive Security Forces (PSF) Muhammad 
Dahlan says the PA is shutting down its 
security, intelligence cooperation with Is-
rael. 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)
CHRONOLOGY

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)


The Pan-Arab Congress holds its 7th session on Casablance; 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 Homar 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 Homar 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


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


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


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 btw. 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 3/16)

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-Yaum 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-Palestinian 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
**Chronology**

**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 haj 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 'Abdul-Lah 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 4/5 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 under-water 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; VIR 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)


**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)

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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 Surf since the 3/21 suicide bombing. (YA 4/6 in WNC 4/8; PR 4/18)

6 APRIL

In Minnesota, PM Netanyahu, King Hussein talk ways of restarting Israeli-Palestinian 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 Sercy. 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


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,

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)


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 cordon, 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 Erbakan accuses Netanyahu of giving "the green light to settler terrorism." (WT 4/10)

Bethlehem 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 4/10; 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 Erbakan 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 mb. nations (excluding Greece) withdraw their ambs. 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’Adh [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 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 brwn. Jewish settlers, Palestinians continue. 3 Palestinians are injured. (WT 4/14)
Israel reinforces troops in s. Lebanon. Hizbullah 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 Beit Hadassah 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. (WP 4/15; CSM, WP 4/16)


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


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 reseals 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. (RF 4/16 in WNC 4/18) (see 4/16)


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

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 Jezzin. (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 theatty. 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 prerelease of a joint paper for Foreign Affairs, fnr. National Security Advisors 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 L, 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-

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 Beilin 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)


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 ambvs. 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

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. (ITV, RMC 4/30 in WNC 5/1; JP 5/10)

N. 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 bwn. 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 Hadad in 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 Marzuk, 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, fmr. head of the Israeli delegation to the donor conferences, assumes his post in Amman. (RJ 5/5 in WNC 5/6)


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. fmr. 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, JTV, 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 Yiztihar 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 Bqa' 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-dy 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


Israel’s FM 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, Ekrina 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


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 Bjorn 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's personal atty. Vitzhak 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. brwn. PM Netanyahu, King Hussein until 1 hr. before it happened; hopes that his resignation leads to improved relations brwn. Netanyahu's office, the FM's (MM 5/13; JT 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
Chronology

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 Frech 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 (Christian Science Monitor, Boston)
HA (Ha'aretz, Tel Aviv)
IGPO (Israeli Government Press Office, Jerusalem)
INA (Iranian News Agency, Baghdad)
IRNA (Iranian News Agency, Tehran)
ITV (Israel Television Network, Jerusalem)
JT (Jordan Times, Amman)
JTVD (Jordan Television Network, Amman)
LAW (Palestinian Society for the Protection of Human Rights and the Environment, Jerusalem)
MA (Ma'ariv, Tel Aviv)
MEI (Middle East International, London)
MM (Middle East Mirror, London)
NAT (New York Times, New York)
PR (Palestine Report, 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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Palestinian police stop protesters from reaching the Jewish enclave in Hebron, 30 March 1997. (AFP Photo/Thomas Coex)