

Chronology

16 August–15 November 1998

This section is part sixty 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 August

Palestinian Authority (PA) head Yasser Arafat, Israeli negotiator Yitzhak Molho meet in Gaza to discuss further redeployment (FRD) ideas. (HA 8/20 [Internet]; IGPO 8/25; IDF Radio, YA 8/31 in WNC 9/1)

Jordan’s King Hussein, who is undergoing cancer treatment in the U.S., gives Crown Prince Hassan power to name new government in response to public criticisms of government handling of the ongoing domestic water pollution crisis. (AFP, JTV, MBC 8/16, SA 8/17 in WNC 8/18; WP 8/17)

Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu approves plan to build 50 miles of walls, ditches, fences along stretches of the 194-mi. Green Line dividing Israel, the West Bank, in order to prevent car thefts; stresses that the barriers will not constitute a de facto border demarcation. (MM 8/17, 8/18; Vestf 8/18 in WNC 8/19; WP 8/19; MM 8/20; PR 8/21)

South Lebanon Army (SLA), Hizballah clash in S. Lebanon, leaving 1 Hizballah mbr. dead, 1 captured. (RL 8/17 in WNC 8/18)

17 August

In Washington, U.S. Pres. Bill Clinton testifies before a grand jury on his relationship with White House intern Monica Lewinsky. In a televised address afterward he admits having an affair, misleading the special prosecutor, the public. (MM 8/17; MM, NYT, WP, WT 8/18; IDF Radio 8/18 in WNC 8/19; MM 8/19; Al-Thawra 8/19 in WNC 8/24)

PA lifts curfew on Jericho, saying that escaped prisoner, Hamas mbr. Imad Awadallah, is no longer in the area. (WP 8/18; ITV 8/19 in WNC 8/21; LAW 8/21; HA [Internet] 8/21; JP 8/22) (see 8/15)

18 August

In Marsa Matruh, Egyptian pres. Husni Mubarak meets with Arafat on the peace process, possible international summit.

(MENA 8/18 in WNC 8/19; ESC Television 8/29 in WNC 8/20)

PA bans visits by Jews to Joseph’s Tomb in Nablus after Jewish settlers, allowed by the IDF regional cmdr. to stay in the tomb for 1 mo. to observe a mourning period for 2 Yitzhar settlers killed 8/5, announce that they are going to establish a permanent settlement there. (MM 8/19; MEI, PR 9/4)

Numerous media reports claim that Egypt has arrested Fatah Revolutionary Council leader Sabri al-Banna (Abu Nidal) in Cairo, but Egypt denies them. Abu Nidal is known for staging lethal attacks on Israeli, Jewish, PLO targets in the 1970s, 1980s. (MM 8/18; HA, MA, YA in IGPO 8/18; Al-Quds, SA 8/24 in WNC 8/26; MM, NYT, WP, WT 8/26; MENA 8/26 in WNC 8/27; NYT 8/27; WT 8/31; MEI 9/4; AFP 9/12)

In s. Lebanon, 2 IDF soldiers are killed in clash with Hizballah. (RL 8/18 in WNC 8/19)

19 August

PM Netanyahu approves plan to expand Golan Heights settlements. (HA [Internet], IGPO, MM 8/20; JT 8/20 in WNC 8/26; WT 8/21; SA 8/21 in WNC 8/24; PR 8/28; IIV 9/4 in WNC 9/9) (see Peace Monitor)

PM Netanyahu agrees to send his political adviser Uzi Arad to represent Israel at Norway’s celebrations marking the Oslo agmt.’s 5th anniversary. (IGPO 8/19) (see 8/9)

IDF demolishes 15 Palestinian homes nr. Hebron. (IDF Radio 8/19 in WNC 8/20; WP 8/20; LAW 8/21)

Hizballah detonates roadside bomb in s. Lebanon, killing 1 IDF solider, wounding 4. (RL 8/19 in WNC 8/20; IGPO, MM 8/20)

20 August

In retaliation for the 8/7 embassy bombings in Kenya and Tanzania, the U.S. launches 79 Tomahawk cruise missiles striking 6 training camps in Afghanistan report-

edly connected to Saudi dissident Osama Bin Laden; also hit a pharmaceutical plant in Khartoum, Sudan, in which Bin Laden possibly holds stock. U.S. claims that “terrorists” at the sites were planning attacks on U.S. interests. Sudan says plant was a legitimate medical drug company. Sudanese stone the U.S. embassy in protest. (ITV 8/20 in WNC 8/21; MM, NYT, WP, WT 8/21; AFP, IDF Radio, JTV, NYT, MENA, News [Islamabad], RE, RJ, VIRI, VOL, YA 8/21 in WNC 8/24; NYT, WP, WT 8/22; al-Dustur, MENA, Petra-JNA, RE, RJ, SANA, VOL 8/22, JT, MA, MENA, al-Ra'i, RJ 8/23, al-Akhram, MENA, al-Ra'i 8/24, MENA, al-Dustur, al-Wajid 8/25 in WNC 8/26, MM 8/24, 8/28; MEI 9/4)

King Hussein replaces PM ‘Abd al-Salam al-Majali with Chief of the Royal Court Fayiz al-Tarawneh after Majali officially resigns over recent water pollution scandal. Tarawneh is replaced by FM Jawad al-Anani. Abdallah al-Khatib is named FM. (MM 8/20; AFP, JTV, RJ, RJ 8/20 in WNC 8/21; JTV 8/20, CSW 8/21) (see 8/16)

In Tal Rumayda, one of the most tightly guarded Israeli enclaves, an unknown assailant stabs to death a Jewish settler rabbi, wounds another before setting fire to the settlers’ home. Settlers take to the streets, attack Palestinians. IDF seals Hebron, places curfew on Israeli-controlled sector of Hebron. (MM, NYT, WP 8/21; IDF Radio 8/21 in WNC 8/24; NYT, WT 7/22; JTV 8/22 in WNC 8/26; CSW 8/25)

IDF demolishes 7 Palestinian homes in Samu‘a village in the West Bank. (PR 9/4)

21 AUGUST

U.S. transfers to Jordan Egypt’s $50-m. contribution to the Peace and Stability fund. (JT 8/24 in WNC 8/26) (see Peace Monitor in JPS 109)

Hizballah detonates a roadside bomb in s. Lebanon, killing 2 IDF soldiers, 1 Israeli civilian contracted to the IDF. Israeli planes bomb Hizballah targets, injuring 1 civilian. (MM 8/21; RL, VOL 8/21 in WNC 8/24; WP 8/22; MEI 9/4)

22 AUGUST

In Hebron, IDF soldiers clash with 60 Palestinians protesting the sealing of the city, curfew; arrest 7 demonstrators. A 3-mo.-old Palestinian baby dies when IDF soldiers bar access to Hebron hospital. (JTV 8/22 in WNC 8/26; NYT, WP 8/23; LAW 8/25; PR 8/28; MEI 9/4, WP 9/19)

PA imposes house arrest on escaped prisoner Imad Awadallah’s family, which lives in al-Bireh. (PR 8/28) (see 8/17)

23 AUGUST

In Oslo, Norwegian FM Knut Vollebekk hosts dinner to celebrate 5th anniversary of the initializing of the Oslo Accord on 8/20/93. Fmr. Israeli PM Shimon Peres, PA negotiator Ahmad Qurati, fmr. Israeli negotiator Uri Savir, U.S. special envoy Dennis Ross attend. (WP 8/24)

France says there is “no compelling evidence” that the target the U.S. struck in Sudan 8/20 was tied to terrorism. Russia has already termed strikes on Afghanistan, Sudan “state terrorism.” Israel has been the only country to applaud the U.S. attacks. (MM 8/24)

Egyptian FM Amr Musa arrives in Syria for 1-day visit, meets with FM Faruq al-Shara on the peace process. (MENA, SANA 8/23 in WNC 8/26)

Israeli cabinet approves construction of permanent structures in Tal Rumayda where a settler was killed 8/20, thereby sanctioning creation of a new settlement. (Settlers at Tal Rumayda live in mobile homes.) IDF lifts curfew on Hebron briefly but reimposes it when 50 Jewish settlers attack Palestinians stockpiling up on food at the central market. (MM, WP, WT 8/24; CSW 8/25; MA 8/25 in WNC 8/27; PR 8/28; JP 8/29; MEI 9/4)

24 AUGUST

UN Security Council (UNSC) holds an informal, closed-door mtg. on U.S. strikes on Sudan, Afghanistan; decides to take no action to reprimand the U.S. (MM 8/24, 8/25, 8/27)

Arab League holds emergency session, condemns 8/20 U.S. attack on Sudan; does not mention Afghanistan. Meanwhile, the U.S. claims that senior Iraqi scientists were helping to produce elements of the nerve agent VX at the targeted Sudanese factory. (MENA, RE 8/24 in WNC 8/26; NYT 8/25)

Israeli Finance Min. approves transfer of $23.4 m. fr. urban building to settlements. (Globes [Internet] 8/24 in WNC 8/26)

Turkey rejects Syria’s proposal to revive water talks of the Turkish-Syrian-Iraqi Joint Technical Comm., which has not met in 6 yrs. (ATL 8/25 in WNC 8/27)
25 AUGUST

PM Netanyahu makes surprise visit to Hebron, promises settlers he will build them new homes. Settlers, Palestinians scuffle again when curfew is lifted for several hours to allow Palestinians to shop for food. (MM 8/25; CSM, WT 8/26; PR 8/28) (see 8/23)

An Israeli Housing Min. document states that a quarter of settlement housing units built brwn. 1989 and 1992 are still empty; only 45% of the units have been sold. (MA 8/25 in WNC 8/27; HA [Internet], WT 8/26)

Israel allows Syrian wives of 13 Golani Druze to take up residence in the Golan Heights. (IGPO 8/25)

IDF helicopter unit assassinates Amal operations chief Hussam al-Amin in Tyre, Lebanon. Amal fires 26 rockets into n. Israel, damaging buildings and cars, knocking out power, injuring 9 Israelis. 9 Lebanese civilians are injured in IDF counterattacks. (RL 8/25 in WNC 8/26; AFP, RL 8/25 in WNC 8/27; IGPO, MM, NYT, WP, WT 8/26; CSM, MM, WP 8/27; MA 8/27 in WNC 8/28; VOL 8/28 in WNC 8/31; WJW 9/3; MEI 9/4; JP 9/5)

26 AUGUST

UNSCOM chief inspector Scott Ritter resigns in protest over recent revelations that the U.S. repeatedly urged UNSCOM to forgo “challenge inspections” at Iraqi sites thought to house weapons of mass destruction. (MM 9/3; MA 9/3 in WNC 9/11; MM 9/4, 9/9, 9/11; Babil 9/17 in WNC 9/25; NYT, WP 10/2; WP 10/11, 10/12) (see 8/7)

IDF soldiers enforcing the Hebron closure prevent Palestinian woman in labor fr. reaching hospital, causing her baby’s death. (LAW, WP 8/27; JP 9/5, 9/12; WP 9/19)

Libya tentatively accepts proposal approved by Britain, U.S., to try 2 suspects in the 1988 Pan Am bombing in the Hague under Scottish law. (MM 8/26; NYT, WP, WT 8/27; WP, WT 8/28; MEI 9/4; WP 9/30) (see 7/30)

Five settlers fr. Yitzhar settlement abduct a Palestinian teenager, take him to the graves of 2 settlers killed 8/5, hold him there for 2 hrs., beat him. (PR 9/4)

Settlers in Hebron set fire to a Palestinian home nr. the Jewish sector of the city, injuring 1 man. IDF soldiers enforcing the curfew on the city prevent fire fighters fr. reaching the site. (PR 9/4)

Amal shells an SLA post in s. Lebanon, killing 1 SLA mbr., wounding another. (RL 8/26 in WNC 8/27)

27 AUGUST

A bomb explodes in a Tel Aviv trash can, seriously injuring 1 Israeli, lightly wounding 27. No one claims responsibility. (MM 8/27; IDF Radio, MENA, QY 8/27 in WNC 8/28; MENA 8/27 in WNC 8/31; CSM, NYT, WP 8/28; MM 9/1; PR 9/4; JP 9/5; WJW 9/8)

Israel’s Jerusalem city authorities approve U.S. millionaire Irving Moskowitz’s plan to build 132 housing units for Jews in the Palestinian neighborhood of Ras al-Amud in East Jerusalem. (MM, WP 8/28; PR 9/4, 9/11) (see Peace Monitors in JPS 105, 106)

A U.S. federal judge orders Iran to pay $65 m. to 3 Americans (Joseph Cicippio, Frank Reed, David Jacobsen) who were kidnapped by Hizballah in Lebanon in the 1980s. (NYT, WP 8/28; WP 9/27) (see 3/11)

The IDF mobilizes 2,000 troops in Hebron to prevent violence as 1,000 settlers gather to mark end of 7-day mourning period for rabbi killed 8/20. Settlers beat Palestinian reporters covering the event. (NYT 8/28)

28 AUGUST

The Jewish settlement of Migdalim nr. Nablus begins construction on 500 dunams of recently confiscated Palestinian land. (al-Quds 8/28 in WNC 9/1)

N. Jezzin, a roadside bomb detonates as a car passes, injuring 1 SLA mbr., 1 civilian. SLA blames Hizballah. (VOL 8/28 in WNC 8/31) (see 3/31)

29 AUGUST

PA military court sentences 3 PA policemen (all brothers) to death for killing 2 Palestinian brothers—both Fatah mbrs., 1 a mbr. of the PSF—in a family feud on 8/27. A 4th policeman (cousin to the other 3) is sentenced to life in prison with hard labor. (LAW 8/29; WT 8/30)

Israeli police release Jewish settler arrested 8/28 for shooting at Palestinian houses in al-Arul refugee camp in the West Bank, causing damage but no injuries. (WT 8/30; PR 9/4)
30 AUGUST

PA executes 2 Palestinian brothers convicted of murder 8/29. The 3d brother’s death sentence is commuted to life in prison. These are the 1st executions by the PA. (LAW, NYT, WP 8/31; MM 9/1, 9/2; MEI, MM, PR 9/4; JP 9/5)

IDF lifts curfew, imposed 8/20, on Palestinians in Israeli-controlled sector of Hebron. (MEI 9/4)

In s. Lebanon, Hizbullah detonates a roadside bomb as IDF patrol passes, wounding 5 soldiers. (NYT 8/31)

31 AUGUST

Arafat goes to Amman to brief Crown Prince Hassan on the peace process. Hassan later receives a delegation fr. the Arab Democratic Party of Israel. (al-Ra‘i, RJ 8/31 in WNC 9/1; JTV 8/31 in WNC 9/2)

Bipartisan Senate comm. report on Gulf War syndrome questions government assertion that exposure to nerve gas sickened U.S. soldiers who fought in Iraq; concludes that evidence is insufficient in all but 1 case to prove troops were exposed to any chemical agents. (WP 9/1; WT 9/2)

Amal attacks 3 IDF posts in s. Lebanon, wounding another 5 soldiers. (RL, VOL 8/31 in WNC 9/1)

1 SEPTEMBER

Some 70,000 Iranian troops begin exercises nr. the Afghanistan border. The Taliban fears an attack. Up to 11 Iranian diplomats are believed dead after disappearing during the Taliban’s takeover of the n. Afghan city of Mazar-e Sharif 8/8. (NYT, WP, WT 9/2; MEI, MM, NYT, WT 9/4; WP, WT 9/5; NYT 9/6; MM 9/7; MM, WP 9/8; MM 9/9; GIU 9/11)

New Jordanian press law goes into force. Critics fear it will be a “penal code” for journalists, forbidding any criticism of the government. Optimists hope that the Royal Press Commission will use the vague language of the law to allow “soft interpretation” of restrictions. (JT 9/2 in WNC 9/3; al-Dustur 9/2 in WNC 9/9) (see 4/18)

Abdullah Ocalan, head of the Turkish separatist group the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK), declares an unconditional, unilateral cease-fire with Turkey, which-Turkey rejects. (MED Television 9/11 in WNC 9/16; MM 10/7; MEI 10/16; MED Television 10/19 in WNC 10/22)

In s. Lebanon, Hizbullah attacks an IDF convoy, injuring 1 soldier. Israeli retaliatory shelling injures 1 civilian. (RL, VOL 9/1 in WNC 9/2)

2 SEPTEMBER

At the nonaligned summit in South Africa, Arafat calls on countries to support the Palestinian right to declare an independent state, obtain full membership in the UN. (WJW 9/10; PR 9/11)

3 SEPTEMBER

Pres. Clinton agrees to send special envoy Ross to the Middle East next wk. as part of a renewed U.S. mediation effort aimed at reaching a PA-Israeli FRD agmt. (MM 9/3; MA, YA 9/3 in WNC 9/4; MM, NYT, WP, WT 9/4; IDF Radio 9/4 in WNC 9/8; WT 9/5; ITV, YA 9/6, ITV 9/7, VOAs 9/8 in WNC 9/5; al-Ba‘ath 9/6 in WNC 9/11; WJW 9/10; JP 9/12)

Syria opens a trade center in Iraq. (WP 9/4)

Israeli authorities begin construction of new housing units on confiscated Palestinian land to expand the West Bank settlement of Mihula. (al-Quds 9/3 in WNC 9/9)

4 SEPTEMBER

Reliable Israeli sources report that Shin Bet has interrogated several Hebron settlers under “maximal secrecy” in connection with the murder of a settler rabbi in Tal Rumayda 8/20. (MEI 9/4) (see 8/27)

5 SEPTEMBER

Turkish PM Mesut Yilmaz arrives in Jordan for 2-day talks on bilateral relations with Crown Prince Hassan, marking 1st leg of Middle East tour. (JTV, Petra-JNA, al-Ra‘i, RJ 9/6, JT, RJ, RL, SATN 9/7, JT 9/8 in WNC 9/9; MM 9/7; al-Majd 9/28 in WNC 9/29) (see Peace Monitor)

N. Jerusalem, at least 5 Palestinians, 5 Israeli policemen are wounded when IDF opens fire with rubber bullets on Palestinian protesters at Shuafat refugee camp. Shuafat resident Muhammad al-Karaki dies when an Israeli ambulance refuses to enter the camp without military escort. (WP 9/6; LAW 9/7; PR 9/11)

An Israeli judge rules that American teenager Samuel Sheinbein, wanted for murder in Maryland, is technically an Israeli citizen but may be extradited because his tie to Israel is only that of an “outside observer.”
Sheinbein’s lawyer immediately appeals the ruling, which could have important impact on Israeli immigration. (NYT, WP, WT 9/7; WJW 9/10; MA 10/6 in WNC 10/7) (see 3/2)

6 SEPTEMBER

Palestinian Husayn Abu Ghali dies in a fight with a PSF officer blocking his entry to Arafat’s Gaza compound to speak with an aide about a visa to Jordan for his ailing son. (LAW 9/7; WT 9/8; JP 9/19)

Israeli DM Yitzhak Mordechai informs heads of 21 West Bank settlements nr. the Green Line that the DMs will build fences around their settlements to ensure their security. Settlers protest, saying fences could be perceived as delineating a permanent border. (JP 9/12; WT 9/23; IDF Radio 9/27 in WNC 9/29) (see 8/16)

7 SEPTEMBER

In Jerusalem, Turkish PM Yilmaz, Israel PM Netanyahu hold talks on trade ties. (MM 9/7; IDF Radio 9/7 in WNC 9/9; MM 9/8; IRNA 9/9 in WNC 9/11; JP 9/19)

8 SEPTEMBER

U.S. special envoy Ross arrives in the Middle East for the 1st time in 4 mos. (WT 9/9; WP 9/10; MEI 9/18)

CIA offers the PSF Israeli modifications to the 12/97 memorandum of understanding (MOU) on Israeli-PA security cooperation rejected by PM Netanyahu. (MM 9/11) (see Peace Monitor)

In Amman, PA negotiator Abbas briefs Crown Prince Hassan on talks with Israel. (Petra-JNA 9/8 in WNC 9/9)

Turkish PM Yilmaz meets with Arafat in Ramallah. (MM 9/8; JP 9/19) (see Peace Monitor)

The Lebanese army breaks up an armed clash b/wn. Amal, Hizballah mbrs. nr. Sidon. (VOL 9/8 in WNC 9/9) (see 5/10)

9 SEPTEMBER

In Ramallah, Ross holds 3-hr. session with Arafat, who says the PA will not accept any changes to the U.S. 13.1% FRD proposal. (MM 9/9; ITV, RJ 9/9 in WNC 9/11; NYT, WT 9/10)

In Cairo, Netanyahu aides Dani Nave, Uzi Arad meet with Pres. Mubarak in a bid to persuade Egypt to press the PA to agree to Israeli FRD proposals. (WT 9/9, ITV, MENA 9/9 in WNC 9/11; MM 9/10)

UNSC unanimously votes to suspend periodic reviews of economic sanctions on Iraq, meaning that Iraq will no longer have guaranteed opportunities to challenge the sanctions. (NYT, WP, WT 9/10; MM 9/11)

In s. Lebanon, 2 SLA mbrs. are killed, 4 are wounded by a roadside bomb. (VOL 9/9 in WNC 9/11)

10 SEPTEMBER

U.S. special envoy Ross meets with PM Netanyahu, then with Arafat. Ross also meets with Israeli pres. Ezer Weizman, who urges him to pressure Israel into accepting U.S. initiatives. (MM 9/10; ITV 9/10, MA 9/11 in WNC 9/14; NYT 9/11; MM 9/14)

100 IDF troops storm house nr. Hebron, killing Imad, ‘Adil Awadallah—wanted by Israel for staging attacks for Hamas. Some Palestinians accuse the PA of collaborating with Israel to set up the raid. PA suspects that raid was timed to scuttle Ross’s visit. The IDF seals the West Bank, Gaza. (MM, NYT 9/11; LAW, NYT, WP, WT 9/12; al-Ra‘i, RE 9/12, AFP, al-Aswaq, MA, MENA 9/13 in WNC 9/15; YA 9/13, JT 9/14 in WNC 9/16; MM, NYT 9/14; WT 9/16; MEI, PR 9/18; JP 9/19) (see 8/25)

IDF troops fire rubber bullets, live ammunition at Palestinians protesting at Shuafat refugee camp in Jerusalem, killing a Palestinian bystander. (NYT 9/11)

Israel’s Immigrant Absorption M Yuli Edelstein goes to Washington on PM Netanyahu’s behalf to ask the U.S. for the 1st time to release spy for Israel Jonathan Pollard. Edelstein asks 5 congressmen to back Clinton if he pardons Pollard. (WJW 9/17; JP 9/19) (see 5/15)

A bomb explodes in s. Lebanon, killing 4 SLA mbrs., including the cmdr. for Jazzin. (VOL 9/10 in WNC 9/11) (see 8/28)

11 SEPTEMBER

U.S. envoy Ross meets again with PM Netanyahu, DM Mordechai. (WT 9/12)

Reacting to IDF raid 9/10, Palestinians fire at an Israeli bus carrying Jewish settlers to Nablus, causing no injuries. Israeli police fire rubber bullets at Palestinian protesters at a West Bank blockade, wounding 5. (NYT 9/11; NYT, WP, WT 9/12)

Yevgeny Primakov is approved as the new Russian PM. Primakov, who has an intelligence background, strongly supports the Arab position in the peace process, lifting of sanctions on Iraq. (MM 9/14; Vesti 9/17 in
WNC 9/21; MM 9/18; ITAR-TASS 9/20 in WNC 9/22

The Taliban admits its mbrs. killed at least 8 Iranian diplomats in 8/8 raid. Iran warns of retaliation. (MM 9/11; WP 9/12; RJ 9/13 in WNC 9/15; MM 9/15) (see 9/1)

12 SEPTEMBER

Independent counsel Kenneth Starr's report on Pres. Clinton's relationship to Lewinsky, detailing their sexual encounters and listing 11 impeachable offenses, is released to the public. (NYT, WP, WT 9/12, 9/13; al-Akhbar, Globes [Internet], al-Jumhuriyya, YA 9/13 in WNC 9/15; MM 9/14; ITV 9/16 in WNC 9/18; MM 9/18; al-Thawra 9/19 in WNC 9/25)

U.S. envoy Ross meets with Arafat, then with Netanyahu. (ITV 9/12 in WNC 9/15; NYT, WP, WT 9/13)

Across the West Bank and Gaza, IDF troops clash with Palestinians protesting the IDF killing of the Awadallah brothers, leaving at least 30 Palestinians, 1 IDF soldier injured. Least protest march, attended by 1,000s of Palestinians, takes place in al-Bireh, the brothers' hometown. (NYT, WP, WT 9/13; CSM 9/14)

13 SEPTEMBER

In Cairo, U.S. envoy Ross briefs Pres. Mubarak on his talks with Arafat, Netanyahu. (MENA 9/13 in WNC 9/15; NYT 9/14; WJW 9/17)

Palestinian-IDF clashes continue in the occupied territories. Israel says that it will hold bodies of Awadallah brothers as "bargaining chips" with Hamas. (MM, NYT, WP 9/14; WT 9/16; ITV 9/16 in WNC 9/18)

14 SEPTEMBER

U.S. envoy Ross holds 4th mtg. with PM Netanyahu. Israeli Internal Security M Avigdor Kahalani; briefs them on his recent talks with Mubarak, Arafat. (MM, WP 9/15; WJW 9/17)

Egyptian, French officials meet in Paris to discuss plans for an international summit on the peace process. (MENA 9/14 in WNC 9/15)

Israel agrees to move all Jordanian political detainees to Ashkelon prison, to allow the Jordanian consul to visit them once a wk. (JT 9/14 in WNC 9/16; al-Awsaqq 9/19 in WNC 9/22) (see Peace Monitor)

In Washington, Congress and the Knesset hold their 1st joint hearing under the auspices of the new U.S.-Israeli Interparliamentary Comm. on National Security, which aims to improve Israel's missile defense capability. (WJW 9/24) (see Peace Monitor)

IDF cases closure on the occupied territories, allowing 17,000 Palestinian workers and 3,000 businessmen into Israel. Palestinian medical sources report that since the closure began 9/10, 123 Palestinians have been injured in clashes with the IDF. Jewish settlers 19 have been placed under administrative detention. (MM, WP 9/15)

Israel makes 1st successful tests of the Arrow-2 missile. (MM 9/15; WP 9/16; WJW 9/17; MM 9/24; JP 9/26)

15 SEPTEMBER

U.S. envoy Ross holds another round of separate meetings with PA, Israeli officials. (MM 9/15; WT 9/16; PR 9/18)

In Jericho, a casino jointly owned by the PA and an Austrian firm opens. NYT, WT 9/15; MM 9/16, 9/17; MM, PR 9/18; JP 9/26; CSM 9/28; WJW, WP 10/1; MEI 10/2; JP 10/3; PR 10/16) (see Peace Monitor)

An Israeli court sentences 81-yr-old Ahmad Hamdan to 1,000 days in prison for building a 2d floor on his home in the Silwan neighborhood of East Jerusalem without a license. Hamdan, who is partially paralyzed and seriously ill, was sentenced to jail when he could not afford the $26,000 fine. (PR 9/18)

16 SEPTEMBER

In Amman, U.S. envoy Ross briefs Crown Prince Hassan on talks with Israel, the PA; then returns for more talks with Arafat, Netanyahu. (MM, WT 9/16; MM 9/17; al-Rai, Vesti 9/17 in WNC 9/21; al-Thawra 9/17 in WNC 9/22)

Iran begins moving troops to its border with Afghanistan for war games. (GIU, WT 9/17) (see 9/11)

17 SEPTEMBER

U.S. envoy Ross holds mtg. in Gaza with PSF head Muhammad Dahlan; also meets with families of Palestinian prisoners, Palestinian businessmen. (HA [Internet] 9/18)

In a drive-by shooting nr. Beitunia in the West Bank, Jewish settlers open fire on 12 Palestinian teenagers walking home fr. school, killing 1, injuring 2. 1 settler, Avshalom Ladoni, turns himself in to Israeli security. PA denounces Netanyahu for fail-
ing to condemn the attack. (HA [Internet], LAW, MM, NYT, WP, WT 9/18; WP 9/21; MM, WJW 9/24; MEI 10/2)

PM Netanyahu affirms plans to build 600 new homes in Yitzhar settlement, where 2 settlers were killed 8/5. (MM 9/17; QY, YA 9/17 in WNC 9/18; MM, WT 9/18; PR 9/25; MEI 10/16) (see 8/26)

Israeli police evict 25 mbrs. of the Beitar youth movement, connected with PM Netanyahu's Likud party, fr. an encampment they set up at Har Homa/Jabal Abu Ghunaym in East Jerusalem to demand faster settlement construction at the site. (MM 9/17; MEI 10/16)

As part of U.S. efforts to organize the Iraqi opposition, the State Dept. announces that it has brokered a settlement btwn. 2 rival Iraqi Kurdish groups, the Kurdish Democratic Party (KDP) and the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK). The agmt. provides for elections next yr. to reestablish a regional assembly in n. Iraq, which could lead to creation of a Kurdish federation. (al-Rayyah 9/17 in WNC 9/18; MM, NYT, WP 9/18; MM 9/21; LAT 9/23 in WNC 9/24; MED Television 9/23 in WNC 9/28; MM 9/25; MED Television 9/25 in WNC 9/29; LAT 9/30 in WNC 10/1; MM 10/1, 10/12, MEI 10/16)

18 SEPTEMBER

U.S. envoy Ross, who was to return to Washington today, extends his visit to 9/19; meets with Arafat. (HA [Internet] 9/18; WP, WT 9/19)

Jordan bans 2 rallies to protest the 9/10 Awadallah killings. A few days ago in Amman, 1,000s of Palestinians held a rally to protest the killings. (JT 9/19 in WNC 9/22; al-Sabili 9/22 in WNC 9/25)

IDF reimposes full closure on the occupied territories until 9/23 for the Rosh Hashanah holiday. (HA [Internet] 9/18; NYT, WP 9/19) (see 9/14)

In al-Bireh, 3,000 Palestinians attend memorial rally for Awadallah brothers. Afterward, 100s of Palestinians clash with IDF troops, leaving 32 Palestinians injured. (NYT, WT 9/19)

19 SEPTEMBER


Palestinians clash with IDF troops outside Ramallah. (NYT 9/20)

By order of an Israeli court, Israeli police place Jewish settler Ladani under house arrest in a Jerusalem hostel so that he can have visitors for Rosh Hashanah. (WP 9/21; MM 9/24; MEI 10/2) (see 9/17)

SLA, Hizballah clash in s. Lebanon, leaving 1 SLA mbr. injured. (RL 9/19 in WNC 9/22)

20 SEPTEMBER

Iraqi trade center opens in Syria. (SANA, VIRI 9/20 in WNC 9/22; al-Bayyarn 9/22 in WNC 9/25) (see 9/3)

21 SEPTEMBER

Videotape of Pres. Clinton's testimony on Lewinsky before grand jury, in which he details their affair, is aired in its entirety nationwide and on Israeli television. (WP 9/21; MM, NYT, WP, WT 9/22; ITV 9/22 in WNC 9/24; MM 9/24; al-Akhbar 9/22 in WNC 9/25)

PSF detains 3 mbrs. of an Israeli special unit caught traveling through the PA-controlled enclave of Hebron carrying machine guns, pistols. (PR 9/25)

Muhammad Muqbal, dir. gen. of the PA Youth and Sports Min., is arrested by Force 17 after giving a speech in Ramallah protesting the killing of the Awadallah brothers 9/10. (PR 9/25)

22 SEPTEMBER

IDF prevents 20 Israeli peace activists fr. entering Hebron to protest the ongoing closure, settlement expansions. (WT 9/23)

In s. Lebanon, 2 IDF soldiers are killed, 2 are wounded in accidents. (MM 9/22; ITV 9/22 in WNC 9/24)

23 SEPTEMBER

On the sidelines of the UNGA mtgs. in New York, PM Netanyahu meets with Egyptian FM Musa, Secy. Albright. (MENA 9/23 in WNC 9/25; MM, WT 9/24; MEI 10/2)

In New York, Egyptian FM Musa, French FM Vedrine discuss plans for an international summit on the peace process. (RMC 9/13 in WNC 9/24; SA 9/24 in WNC 9/25) (see Peace Monitor)

24 SEPTEMBER

Arafat, Netanyahu agree to go to Washington next wk. to meet separately with Pres. Clinton. No 3-way mtg. is planned. Clinton
last met with the 2 leaders in 1/98. (MM, NYT, WP, WT 9/25; ITV 9/25 in WNC 9/29)


A small bomb explodes at a Jerusalem bus stop during rush hour, injuring 1 IDF soldier. (WP 9/25; PR 10/2)

IDF searches the Palestinian village of Arura nr. Ramallah, detains 30 alleged Hamas mbrs. for "being involved in hostile activities." (ITV 9/25 in WNC 9/29)

25 SEPTEMBER

The state-owned Israel Aircraft Industries wins a $71-m. contract with Turkey to upgrade 48 Turkish F-5 aircraft. (MM 9/25; JP 10/3)

In s. Lebanon, 2 SLA mbrs. are wounded in a clash with Hizballah. In 2 other incidents, 2 Lebanese civilians are wounded by IDF shelling. (VOL 9/25 in WNC 9/28; VOL 9/26 in WNC 9/29)

26 SEPTEMBER

In New York, Secy. Albright meets with PM Netanyahu, Arafat, Egyptian FM Musa, Lebanese FM Hariri. Arafat, Musa also meet. (MENA, RI 9/26, MENA 9/27 in WNC 9/29; WT 9/28; MEI 10/2)

Turkey upgrades its diplomatic relations with Iraq to the ambassadorial level in response to a U.S.-backed agmt. brwn. the KDP, PUK (see 9/17), which it fears will encourage Kurdish separatists in Turkey. (ATL 9/26/95 in WNC 9/29; NYT, WT 9/27; MM 10/1; MIL 10/3 in WNC 10/1; MEI 10/9)

In Maryland, Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Abdullah meets with executives fr. 7 U.S. oil companies to discuss allowing them back into the kingdom for the 1st time since the Saudi oil industry was nationalized in 1973. (WP 9/30; MEI 10/2)

Iran resumes maneuvers on the border with Afghanistan. (WP, WT 9/27) (see 9/16)

27 SEPTEMBER

After a 2d round of separate mtgs. (see 9/26), Secy. Albright holds unexpected mtg. with PM Netanyahu and Arafat together to discuss FRD. Arafat agrees to tone down his speech to the UNGA to "improve the atmosphere for peace-making." (IDF Radio 9/27 in WNC 9/29; NYT, WP, WT 9/28; MEI, PR 10/2)

100s of Israeli border police descend on Umm al-Fahm, nr. Haifa, to break up 3-wk.-old sit-in by Israeli Arab residents protesting IDF confiscation of 62 acres of the town's olive groves for a firing range. After 10 hrs. of clashes in which more than 100 (maybe as many as 500) Israeli Arabs, 15 police are injured, the IDF agrees to allow residents to harvest the groves for another 6 mos. (JTV 9/27 in WNC 9/29; HA [Internet], MM, NYT, WP, WT 9/28; JT 9/29 in WNC 9/30; MEI, PR 10/2; MM 10/5, 10/6; JP 10/10) (see 7/5)

The family of Alisa Flatow—awarded (3/11) $247,5 m. by a U.S. court in a case that found Iran liable in Flatow's death in an Islamic Jihad suicide bombing in Israel in 4/95—lobbies Capitol Hill to pressure the U.S. government to give them 12 Iranian properties (including the fnr. embassy building), other frozen assets to defray the settlement. (WP 9/27, MM 10/12; see also MM 9/18)

28 SEPTEMBER

In Washington, Pres. Clinton meets with Netanyahu and Arafat, who agree on essentials of a 13% FRD but differ on "parallel" Palestinian actions to ensure Israeli security. Announce plans for another 3-way mtg. in the U.S. in mid-10/98 to finalize agmt. (MM 9/28; ITV 9/28 in WNC 9/29; HA [Internet], MM, NYT, WP, WT 9/29; Les Echos 9/29 in WNC 9/30; CSM 9/30; al-Akhbar 9/30 in WNC 10/1; WJW 10/1; MEI, MM, PR 10/2; JP 10/3, 10/10) (see Peace Monitor)

Arafat returns to New York City to address the UNGA. Under pressure fr. the U.S., he does not mention declaring a state in 5/99. (MM, NYT, WP, WT 9/29; CSM 9/30; MM 10/1; MEI, MM, PR 10/2; JP 10/10) (see 9/23)

Fmr. UNSCOM inspector Ritter reveals that for 4 yrs., Israel analyzed intelligence data on Iraq for UNSCOM. (MM 9/28; HA [Internet], WP 9/29; MM, WT 9/30; al-Thauara 9/30 in WNC 10/6; MM 10/1; WP 10/11, 10/12) (see 8/26, Doc. D2)

In Umm al-Fahm, Israeli Arabs, Israeli security forces clash for 2d day, with some police firing live ammunition, leaving 11 residents wounded. Town observes general strike to protest police brutality. (MM 9/28; MM, WT 9/29; MEI, PR 10/2; MM 10/5; JP 10/10)
Israeli police free settler who killed a Palestinian boy 9/17. (MEI, PR 10/2) (see 9/19)

29 SEPTEMBER

Arafat returns to Washington to meet with Pres. Clinton, then briefs Egyptian FM Musa. (MM 9/29; MENA 9/29 in WNC 9/30; CSM, MM, NYT, WP, WT 9/30; MM 10/1)

IDF places 2-day closure on occupied territories for Yom Kippur holiday. (NYT, WT 9/30; MM 10/1; PR 10/2)

1 Palestinian is killed, 2 are wounded in Beitunia, West Bank, when a bomb blows up in their car. PA police say the 3 alleged Hamas mbrs. had just collected a bag they believe to contain weapons, which detonated as they left the rendezvous. Later, the PSF arrests 4 Israeli Arabs in the Hebron area for selling arms to the men. (CSM, NYT, WP, WT 9/30; ITV 9/30 in WNC 10/2; PR 10/2, 10/9) (see 9/21)

PA security forces raid a suspected Hamas building in Hebron, find 640 lbs. of explosives. (ITV 9/30 in WNC 10/2; MM, WT 10/1)

Clashes bwn. Israeli Arabs, police in Umm al-Fahm continue for 3d day, spread to Nazareth (Israel's largest Arab city). Arabs throughout Israel strike to protest police brutality. Palestinians in Bethlehem also hold solidarity protest, clash with IDF. (MM 9/29; NYT, WT 9/30; MM 10/1; MA 10/1 in WNC 10/2; MEI, PR 10/2; Shihan 10/3 in WNC 10/5; ITV 10/2, 10/3 in WNC 10/6; MM 10/5; JP 10/10; JTV 10/19 in WNC 10/21)

30 SEPTEMBER

Turkey's national security council discusses accusations that Syria is aiding the PKK; considers imposing diplomatic, economic sanctions on Syria. (WT 9/30; MIL, Zaman 10/1 in WNC 10/6; NYT 10/4) (see 9/1)

In Hebron, an unidentified Palestinian throws 2 grenades at an IDF post, wounding 13 soldiers, 11 Palestinians, 1 Israeli border policeman. IDF shoots, wounds the attacker, who flees into PA-controlled territory. IDF reimposes curfew on Palestinian residents in Israeli-controlled area of the city. (ITV 9/30 in WNC 10/2; LAW, MM, NYT, WP, WT 10/1; CSM 10/2; WJW 10/8; PR 10/9; JP 10/10)

In Biddu, West Bank, 100s of Palestinians clash with IDF troops after the funeral of the alleged Hamas mbr. killed 9/29. 6 Palestinians are injured. (MM, WP 10/1)

Dutch newspaper NRC Handelsblad reports that the El Al cargo plane that crashed in Amsterdam in 1992 was carrying 3 of the 4 chemicals used to make sarin nerve gas, including 50 gallons of dimethyl methylphosphonate (DMMP). According to the plane’s cargo manifest, the chemicals were sent fr. a U.S. factory in Pennsylvania to the top secret Israeli Institute for Biological Research. (ITV 9/30 in WNC 10/2; MM, WT 10/1; NRC Handelsblad 10/3 in WNC 10/6; Sunday Times [London] 10/4; WT 10/7; JP 10/10; MEI 10/16)

1 OCTOBER

In Cairo, Arafat briefs Pres. Mubarak on his talks with Pres. Clinton, Secy. Albright, discusses idea of holding international summit on the peace process. (MENA 10/1 in WNC 10/2)

Turkey sends 10,000 troops to its border with Syria. Pres. Suleyman Demirel threatens to “counter” Syrian support of Kurdish separatists. (ATL 10/1 in WNC 10/2; HUR 10/1, ATL 10/2 in WNC 10/5; HUR 10/2 in WNC 10/6; MM, WP, WT 10/2; MM 10/6; MEI 10/16) (see 9/30)

El Al confirms that the cargo plane that crashed in Amsterdam in 1992 carried DMMP with the permission of the U.S. Dept. of Commerce. (Globes [Internet] 10/1 in WNC 10/2; NYT, WT 10/2; al-Bath 10/2 in WNC 10/6; WP 10/3; MEI 10/16) (see 10/1)

Palestinians, IDF troops clash in Hebron for 2d day, injuring 8 Palestinians. (HA [Internet], WP 10/2)

2 OCTOBER

Israel seals borders with the occupied territories to prevent what DM Mordechai claims are plans for an “unprecedented, horrid” attack by Hamas. (MM 10/2; ITV 10/2 in WNC 10/6; WT 10/3)

Syria calls for dialogue with Turkey on security issues, accuses Israel of being behind Turkey’s recent belligerent tone. (MM 10/2; SANA 10/2 in WNC 10/5; Sabah, SATN 10/2, ATL, JT, SA, SATN 10/3 in WNC 10/6; WP, WT 10/3; NYT 10/4; ATL 10/5 in WNC 10/7) (see 10/1)

A British analyst claims that Israel is the government referred to in a passage of the Starr report (see 9/19) in which Lewinsky testified that Clinton said that he suspected a foreign emb. of tapping his phones. The analyst claims that Mossad installed the tap after the FBI began looking into reports
of an Israeli mole, Mega, in the administration (see 5/6/97); used its recordings of more than 30 sexually explicit calls btwn. Lewinsky, Clinton to force Clinton to call off the Mega investigation. A Washington source confirms that Israeli bugging, blackmail halted the FBI hunt. (MEI 10/2; see also MM 9/18)

In Hebron, 7 Palestinians are injured as clashes with the IDF continue. (WT 10/3)


3 OCTOBER

In Amman, PA negotiator Abbas briefs Crown Prince Hassan on Albright and Ross’s upcoming visit. (JTV 10/3 in WNC 10/6)

Turkish jets buzz the Syrian border, while in Riyadh, Egypt’s Mubarak discusses Turkish-Syrian situation with Saudi Arabia’s King Fahd. Jordan also offers to mediate. (ATL, JTV, MENA, Petra-JNA, SATN 10/3, MENA 10/4 in WNC 10/6; MM, WP, WT 10/5, MIL 10/5 in WNC 10/8; MM 10/6) (see 10/2)

4 OCTOBER

Egyptian pres. Mubarak meets with Syrian pres. Asad in Damascus on 1st leg of shuttle aimed at avoiding military conflict btwn. Syria, Turkey. Syria also accepts Iran’s offer to mediate. To reassure Syria, Israel scales back its routine maneuvers in the Golan. (IRIB Television, Radio Kuwait, SATN 10/4, ATL, MENA, RL, VOA 10/5 in WNC 10/6; CSM, MM, NYT, WP, WT 10/5; HUR, Sabah 10/5, MA, al-Quds 10/6 in WNC 10/7; al-Quds al-Arabi 10/6 in WNC 10/14; MM 10/6, 10/7; WP 10/8) (see 10/5)

U.S. holds 1-day naval exercise with Algeria as part of a quiet effort to rebuild ties; says maneuvers are a reward to Algeria for allowing foreign groups to investigate human rights allegations, not backing of its war against Islamists. However, State Dept. says that “we’re not going to . . . join their war until we’re sure they are for reform and the human rights situation gets better.” (WP 11/12)

Clashes btwn. Palestinians, IDF continue in Hebron, spread to Halhul. IDF says curfew will remain in place indefinitely. PSF arrests 2 prominent Hamas activists, 10 other suspected Hamas mbrs. in Hebron. (ITV 10/4 in WNC 10/6; HA [Internet] 10/6; PR 10/9)

Jewish settlers at the Ma’ate Hever settlement nr. Hebron move their boundary fences to enclose another 7 acres of Palestinian land. (MEI 10/16)

5 OCTOBER

Secy. Albright, envoy Ross, Asst. Secy. of State Martin Indyk arrive in the Middle East to prepare for talks in Washington beginning 10/15. Albright meets with Netanyahu, then travels to Gaza to meet with Arafat. (MM 10/5; HA [Internet], WT 10/6)

Turkish pres. Demirel postpones mtg. with Egyptian pres. Mubarak that was set for today. Jordan’s Crown Prince Hassan phones Demirel to urge him to find a diplomatic solution to crisis with Syria. (MM 10/5; ATL, JT, RJ, RL 10/5 in WNC 10/6; IRIB Television, JTV, Petra-JNA, SATN 10/5, IRNA, Petra-JNA, Sababt 10/6 in WNC 10/7; CSM 10/6; MEI 10/16) (see 10/4)

In a mtg. with outgoing Lebanese pres. Ilyas Hrawi in Damascus, Syrian pres. Asad taps army chief Gen. Emile Lahoud as the next Lebanese pres. Lahoud is widely considered to be an incorrupt, popular “new face,” untainted by politics and unlikely to draw the military into the government. (RL, SANA 10/5 in WNC 10/6; AFP, RL, al-Safa’a, SANA 10/5, RL, VOL 10/6 in WNC 10/7; MM, WP, WT 10/7; RL 10/7 in WNC 10/8; RL, RMC 10/8 in WNC 10/9; al-Watan al-Arabi 10/9 in WNC 10/15; Petra-JNA 10/11 in WNC 10/14; MM 10/12; MEI 10/16)

In s. Lebanon, Amal detonates 2 bombs as an IDF-SLA patrol passes, killing 1 IDF soldier, wounding 4. (AFP, RL, VOL 10/5 in WNC 10/6)

6 OCTOBER

Secy. Albright holds 2d round of mtgs. with Arafat, Netanyahu. Netanyahu then heads to Ariel settlement for celebration marking Ariel’s new city status (see 6/11) also attended by DM Mordechai, Infrastructures M Ariel Sharon. (MM 10/6; ITV 10/6, JT 10/7 in WNC 10/8; NYT, WP 10/7; ITV 10/7 in WNC 10/9; NYT 10/8; PR 10/9; MEI 10/16; JP 10/17)

CIA Dir. George Tenet meets with Israeli, PA officials on security MOU. Israel, PA reach understanding on long-delayed opening of Gaza industrial park after an FRD agmt. is finalized, discuss forming an “anti-in-
citement” comm. (WP 10/8; ITV, QY 10/13 in WNC 10/15; MEI, PR 10/16) (see 9/8)

While Egypt’s Mubarak shuffles bwn. Turkey’s Demirel in Ankara and Syria’s Asad in Damascus, Turkish PM Mesut Yilmaz cancels leaves for all troops, gives Syria a “last warning” on support for Kurdish separatists. (MM 10/6; ATL, ESC Television, INA, ITAR-TASS, MENA 10/6 in WNC 10/7; MENA, al-Sabii, SATN 10/6, ATL, al-Dustur 10/7 in WNC 10/8; CSM, MM, WP, WT 10/7; ATL, HA, HUR, Iran News, al-Liwa’, MENA, MIL 10/7, ATL, MIL 10/8 in WNC 10/9; MM 10/8; MA 10/9 in WNC 10/14) (see 10/5)

In s. Lebanon, Hizbullah mbrs. detonate roadside bombs as an IDF convoy passes, killing 2 soldiers, wounding 6. (MM 10/6; WT 10/7; JP 10/17)

7 OCTOBER

Albright, Arafat, Netanyahu hold 3-way mtg. at Erez border crossing. Afterward, Netanyahu accepts spontaneous invitation by Arafat to lunch in Gaza, marking the 1st time Netanyahu has entered PA-controlled area. Albright returns to the U.S.; Arafat, U.S. Asst. Secy. Indyk head to Cairo to brief Pres. Mubarak, Ross stays for more preparatory mtgs. (MM 10/7; IDF Radio 10/7 in WNC 10/8; MENA 10/7 in WNC 10/9; al-Akhbar 10/7 in WNC 10/14; CSM, MM, NYT, WP, WT 10/8; IDF Radio 10/8 in WNC 10/9; al-Thawra 10/9 in WNC 10/15; MEI, PR 10/16; JP 10/17; HA [Internet] 11/15)

Jewish settlers lay foundations for permanent homes at Tal Rumayda settlement in Hebron. (AFP [Internet]; MM 10/7, 10/8; MEI, PR 10/16; JP 10/17) (see 9/4)

8 OCTOBER

PM Netanyahu meets with his security cabinet to discuss upcoming Washington talks; for the 1st time presents Ms with 2 2d FRD maps. (ITV 10/8 in WNC 10/14; NYT 10/10)

U.S. envoy Ross, Palestinian-Israeli Steering and Monitoring Comm. (PISMCC) heads Saeb Erakat and Dani Nave discuss security at Gaza airport. (ITV 10/8 in WNC 10/14)

U.S. Asst. Secy. Indyk phones Syrian FM Shara’ fr. Cairo to discuss crisis bwn. Syria, Turkey. Shara’ calls on the U.S. to adopt a clear stand, back mediation efforts. Indyk publicly calls on Turkey to exercise self-restraint, then heads to Jordan to brief Crown Prince Hassan on Albright trip. (MENA 10/8 in WNC 10/9; SATN 10/8, RJ 10/9 in WNC 10/14)


Iran reports clash with Talibain troops along the border with Afghanistan, marking the 1st significant military incident in their 2-mo.-old standoff. Talibain denies any clash took place. 270,000 Iranian troops are facing 10,000 Talibain troops along the border. (NYT, WP, WT 10/9; MEI 10/16) (see 9/16)

Iranian FM Kharrazi arrives in Syria for talks with senior officials on lowering tensions with Turkey. (IRNA, SANA 10/8 in WNC 10/9; MM 10/9; IRNA, SANA 10/9 in WNC 10/14)

In a ceremony attended by Israeli mayor of Jerusalem Ehud Olmert and 50 mbrs. of the Ateret Cohanim settler group, 3 Jewish settler families move into a home in East Jerusalem. Israel also announces that 150 new housing units will be added to Ma’ale Mikhmas settlement nr. Ramallah. (AFP 10/9 [Internet])

In continuing clashes in Hebron, IDF troops open fire, killing a Palestinian protestor, seriously wounding a news photographer, 20 other Palestinian protesters. (MM 10/8; CSM, NYT, PR, WT 10/9; WP 10/10; MEI, PR 10/16; JP 10/29)

9 OCTOBER

PM Netanyahu appoints current Infrastructures M Sharon as FM and chief negotiator with the Palestinians to head upcoming Washington talks, final status negotiations. He also keeps his position as infrastructures M. (MM 10/9; ITV, RMC 10/9, JT, MENA, al-Nahar, al-Rai 10/10, al-Akhbar, Petra-JNA, al-Rai, VOA 10/11 in WNC 10/14; NYT, WP, WT 10/10; WT 10/11; MM 10/12; CSM 10/14; MM, WJW 10/15; MEI, PR 10/16; MA 10/16 in WNC 10/19; JP 10/17, 10/29) (see 10/8)

In Ankara, Iranian FM Kharrazi discusses Turkish-Syrian tensions with Turkish FM Cem, then phones Egyptian FM Musa to brief him on his mediation efforts. (IRIB Television, IRNA, MENA, SANA 10/9 in WNC 10/14; IRNA 10/15 in WNC 10/16)

Yemen, Eritrea accept ruling of a London-based international arbitration panel that Eritrea should return to Yemen most islands in the disputed Red Sea...
chipelago that it occupied in 1995. (MM 10/12; JT 10/13 in WNC 10/14)

In continuing clashes in Hebron, 32
Palestinians are wounded by rubber bullets fired by the IDF. (NYT 10/10)

A Palestinian stabs to death an IDF soldier as she gets off a bus in Tomer settlement nr. Jericho. (MM 10/9; NYT, WP 10/10; PR 10/16)

A Palestinian woman dies of complications during labor when the IDF refuses to let her through a checkpoint to reach the Hebron hospital due to the ongoing closure. (PR 10/16)

10 OCTOBER

Syrian FM Shara' meets with Pres. Mubarak, publicly expresses Syria's "sincere" wish to settle differences with Turkey. (MENA, RE, SATN 10/10, al-Bayan, al-Dustur 10/11 in WNC 10/14; WT 10/11; MEI 10/16)

In s. Lebanon, 2 Hizballah mbrs. are killed in a clash with the IDF. (VOL 10/11 in WNC 10/14)

11 OCTOBER

N. Ramallah, Palestinian schoolboys throw stones at an IDF jeep. When they ignore soldiers' order to halt and run away, the soldiers open fire, leaving 1 boy in a coma. (HA [Internet] 10/13)

In s. Lebanon, Amal leader Shaykh Ahmad Trad's booby-trapped car explodes, slightly injuring his son, causing him no harm. Elsewhere in the south, a Lebanese civilian is wounded by IDF shelling. (RMC, VOL 10/11 in WNC 10/14)

12 OCTOBER

In Amman, Arafat consults with Crown Prince Hassan on upcoming Washington talks. (RJ 10/12, al-Dustur 10/13 in WNC 10/14)

Egyptian FM Musa shuttles brwn. Ankara, Damascus to mediate their dispute. Turkey, Syria say that they see signs of defusing the crisis. (MM 10/12; ATL, al-Hadath, MENA, SATN 10/12, MENA 10/13 in WNC 10/14; WP, WT 10/13; AFP, MENA, Sabah 10/13, SA 10/14 in WNC 10/15; MEI 10/16)

In Tehran, Iran, Turkey set up comm. to demarcate their common border. (IRNA 10/12 in WNC 10/14)

13 OCTOBER

PA, Israeli security teams work on draft security MOU. (QY 10/15 in WNC 10/16) (see 10/6)

Unidentified gunmen open fire on 2 Israelis at a spring nr. Jerusalem, killing 1. IDF places curfew on the nearby Palestinian village of Walaja. (MM 10/13; MM, NYT, WP, WT 10/14; MA 10/14 in WNC 10/16; CSM, WJW 10/15; JP 10/29)

Turkish DM Ismet Sezgin says that PKK leader Ocalan has left Syria, that Syria has closed some PKK camps, which could help defuse tensions. Meanwhile, Ocalan tells PKK mbrs. to prepare for end to cease-fire on Turkey (see 9/1). (ATL, MIL 10/13 in WNC 10/14; MM, WP, WT 10/14; MENA, MIL, VOA 10/14 in WNC 10/15; ATL 10/15 in WNC 10/16; HUR 10/19 in WNC 10/20; MED Television 10/19 in WNC 10/22) (see 10/12)

Lebanese parliament amends the constitution to allow the election of Gen. Lahoud as the next pres. on 10/15. Only 4 legislators, all associated with Druze leader Walid Junblatt, opposed amending article 49, which requires senior public employees to leave their posts 2 yrs. before seeking the presidency. (RL 10/13 in WNC 10/14; WP, WT 10/14; al-Quds al-Arabi 10/14 in WNC 10/27) (see 10/5)

Israel eases closure on the occupied territories (allowing 25,000 Palestinian workers, 8,000 businessmen into Israel) but says it will not be lifted until after Washington talks. The curfew on Palestinians in Israeli-controlled Hebron, imposed 9/30, is lifted. (HA [Internet] 10/13; ITV 10/14 in WNC 10/16; NYT 10/15; MEI 10/16)

14 OCTOBER

PM Netanyahu, FM Sharon stop in Amman to brief Crown Prince Hassan on talks with the PA before heading to Washington. (MM 10/14; RJ 10/14 in WNC 10/15; NYT 10/14; JTV, al-Dustur 10/15 in WNC 10/17; YA 10/18 in WNC 10/20; MM 10/19; al-Watan al-Arabi 11/6 in WNC 11/12)

1,000s of right-wing Israelis outside PM Netanyahu's home demonstrate against FRD. (ITV 10/14 in WNC 10/16)

Turkey announces preparations for talks with Syria. (MENA 10/14 in WNC 10/15; MIL, Sabah 10/14 in WNC 10/16; IRNA 10/19 in WNC 10/20) (see 10/13)

The UN secures the Taliban's agrmt. to hold talks with Iran in Jiddah, Saudi Arabia, toward ending the military standoff along their common border. (WP 10/17) (see 10/8)

N. Nablus, a Palestinian boy is critically injured, his mother lightly wounded when a munition fr. an IDF firing range 700 meters

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away detonates after landing unexploded in
the family’s olive grove. (Infopal News Bulle-
tin [Internet] 10/14)

Construction begins on 1,200 new houses for Jewish settlers in the West Bank. Con-
tractors claim the new buildings are an ex-
pansion of Alei Zahav settlement, which is
over a mile away. Alei Zahav has 330 resi-
dents (90 families). (Infopal News Bulletin
[Internet] 10/15)

15 OCTOBER

After a brief 3-way mg. at the White
House, Pres. Clinton, Arafat, PM Netan-
yahu, their delegations head to Wye Planta-
tion in Maryland for negotiations. (MM, WJW
10/15; MM, NYT, WP, WT 10/16; YA 10/16 in
WNC 10/19; al-Akhbar 10/16 in WNC 10/20)

Egypt’s Pres. Mubarak, Jordan’s King
Hussein discuss Wye talks by phone. In
Cairo, Jordanian PM Tarawneh briefs
Mubarak on Crown Prince Hassan’s mtgs.
with Arafat (10/12), Netanyhu (10/14).
(MENA 10/15 in WNC 10/16; JTV 10/15 in
WNC 10/19)

Lebanese parliament elects (118-0, with
10 absentees, including Druze leader Jun-
blatt, his bloc) Gen. Lahoud as Lebanon’s
new pres. He will take office 11/24. (MM
10/15; RL 10/15 in WNC 10/16; SATN 10/15
in WNC 10/19; al-Nahar 10/15, RL 10/18 in
WNC 10/20; NYT, WP, WT 10/16; RL 10/16
in WNC 10/19; al-Ittihad 10/18 in WNC
10/23; IRNA 10/19 in WNC 10/21; MM 10/28)
(see 10/13)

Turkey rejects Syrian offer to discuss
water sharing, says Syria must first drop sup-
port for Kurdish separatists. (NYT, WP 10/16;
HUR 10/16 in WNC separatists) (see 10/14)

PSF detains 2 Israelis outside PA negoti-
ator Abbas’s home in al-Bireh. The Israelis,
who turn out to be settler security guards
dressed in civilian clothes, claim they en-
tered the PA area to pursue stone-throwers.
(PR 10/23)

30 Jewish settlers led by a Molodet
party MK occupy a vacant Palestinian
home in East Jerusalem, sparking scuffles
with Palestinians. 100 Israeli policemen are
brought in to quell the disturbances. (IDF
Radio 10/15 in WNC 10/19; NYT 10/16; PR
10/23)

Unidentified assailants fire bomb sev-
eral Palestinian homes in Bethlehem, seri-
ously damaging 1. Palestinians blame local
Jewish settlers. (AFP [Internet] 10/17)

16 OCTOBER

PA-Israeli: talks begin at Wye. Negotiat-
ing teams set up subcomms. on specific is-
sues. Secy. Albright, envoy Ross oversew

PA police detained, beat, shot at 2 of
their security guards. PA confirms 2 guards
were held briefly when they entered PA-con-
trolled territory armed but denies they were
mistreated. (NYT 10/17; JP 10/29)

The British daily Independent reports on
growing evidence linking the high number
of Iraqi civilians suffering fr. unexplained
cancers and the use of depleted uranium
shells by U.S., UK forces during the 1991
Gulf War. (Independent [Internet] 10/16)

17 OCTOBER

Pres. Clinton goes to Wye to hold infor-
mal talks with Arafat, Netanyahu; also con-
sults with Egyptian pres. Mubarak by
phone. Talks are off today for the Jewish
sabbath. (al-Awsaq, ITV, MENA, RE 10/17 in
WNC 10/20; NYT, WP, WT 10/18)

18 OCTOBER

After a day of talks attended by Pres.
Clinton and VP Al Gore, joined by Israeli
PM Sharon, DM Mordechai, teams decide
to extend mtgs. for another day; the U.S. had
hoped to host a signing ceremony this after-
noon. PM Netanyahu phones King Hus-
sein to brief him on talks. (al-Ahram, ITV,
Petra-JNA, RJ 10/18 in WNC 10/20; HA [In-
ternet], MM, NYT, WP, WT 10/19; NYT
10/20; JP 10/24)

When U.S. officials refuse to allow 2 Jew-
ish settler leaders into Wye to “join a
prayer quorum” with the Israeli team, PM
Netanyahu leaves the compound to meet
with them. U.S. protests. (Globes [Internet],
MM 10/19; YA 10/19 in WNC 10/20) (see
10/18)

N. Hebron, 3 Palestinians are wounded
when IDF soldiers open fire on their van,

Overnight, shots are fired, Molotov cocktails thrown at IDF post in Hebron, causing no damage or injuries. (IDF Radio 10/20 in WNC 10/21)

After 2 days of talks, Syria, Turkey reach agmt. under which Syria promises to halt all support to the PKK; arrest, bring to court any Kurdish rebels found in its territory; deny entry to PKK leader Ocalan, who, according to Turkish PM Yilmaz, has been in Russia for over a wk. (ATL 10/20, ATl, HUR, MENA 10/21 in WNC 10/22; MM, NYT, WP, WT 10/21; MM, NYT, WP 10/22; al-Ahram, MENA, RJ 10/22 in WNC 10/23; SATN 10/22, MIL 10/23 in WNC 10/26; MIL 10/23 in WNC 10/27; MEI 10/30) (see 10/19)

In s. Lebanon, SLA opens fire on a civilian car, injuring 1. In a separate incident, a child is injured by IDF shelling. (RL 10/20 in WNC 10/21)

21 OCTOBER

U.S. announces plans to present a text outlining what it believes to be the points of accord bwn. Israel, the PA reached thus far, which could be signed as a partial agmt. Fearing an ultimatum, Netanyahu threatens to send his delegation home, holds conference call with Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations to mobilize its support in an anticipated public row with the White House. Clinton cancels plans to return to Wye, Albright suspends U.S. participation until Netanyahu agrees to resume security talks. After several hrs. of security talks involving CIA Dir. Tenet, Netanyahu agrees to stay. (MM 10/21; IDF Radio, ITV 10/21 in WNC 10/22; ITV 10/21 in WNC 10/23; al-Akhbar, ITV 10/21, Globes [Internet] 10/22 in WNC 10/23; CSM, MM, NYT, WP, WT 10/22; ITV, al-Quds 10/22 in WNC 10/26; MM, WP 10/23; WP 10/24; NYT 10/25; MEI 10/30)

The U.S. asks Israel to investigate 2 incidents in 3/98 (3/10, 3/13) in which the IDF shot Palestinians, raising the issue for the 1st time under a U.S. law that can limit foreign aid when troops abuse human rights. (WP 10/22)

During morning rush hr., Jewish settlers block traffic at 3 major junctions in the West Bank to protest possibility of a compromise agmt. with the PA. (WP 10/22)

To block a rider on an unrelated issue, Pres. Clinton vetoes a bill that would pay $1 b. in late dues to the UN. Although a sepa-
rate spending bill has been passed to pay the UN enough to allow the U.S. to keep its voting rights in the UNGA. UN Secy. Gen. Kofi Annan says that the UN feels “deceived,” having carried out reforms demanded by Congress in exchange for payment of U.S. arrears. (NYT, WP 10/22)

Saying it impedes the ability of the pres. to conduct foreign policy in the interest of national security, Pres. Clinton signs a determination waiving legislation that allows property held by a foreign state to be subject to legal claim, blocking the Flatoms’ attempt to take possession of 12 Iranian holdings. (Federal Register 11/2) (see 9/27)

U.S. grants Turkey $823,000 in technical assistance to help plan its part of a proposed oil/gas pipeline linking Azerbaijan with the Turkish port of Ceyhan. (WP 10/23) (see 5/14)

22 OCTOBER

Pres. Clinton, King Hussein rejoin Wye talks. By evening, some agmts. have been reached, others are near. Over dinner, King Hussein gives an “impassioned speech,” calling on Arafat, Netanyahou to keep making progress. Egypt’s Mubarak phones Clinton to discuss the talks. (MM 10/22; VOA 10/22 in WNC 10/23; ITV, MENA 10/22 in WNC 10/26; CSM, NYT, WP, WT 10/23; JT, JTV, al-Ra‘i 10/22, Shihan 10/24 in WNC 10/23 [dates as published]; JTV 10/22, IDF Radio 10/23 in WNC 10/26; NYT 10/25)

State Dept., White House meet with major U.S. oil companies to press them to build a pipeline to bring Caspian crude fr. Azerbaijan to Turkey, avoiding Russia, Iran. Oil companies do not believe the region can export enough oil in the nr. future to justify the $3.7-billion project, which the U.S. does not want to fund. (WP 10/28; MEI, WP, WT 10/30) (see 10/21)

An Israeli court orders 3 border policemen detained on suspicion of having shot at a Palestinian van 10/18. (WP 10/23) (see 10/21)

Israeli police arrest a mbr. of a right-wing Jewish group for carrying out 7 knife attacks on Palestinians in Jerusalem bwn. 11/97 and 5/98, killing 1. (AFP [Internet] 10/22)

23 OCTOBER


24 OCTOBER

Arafat leaves the U.S. for Austria to ask European Union (EU) states to support the Wye agmt. (NYT 10/24; NYT, WT 10/25)

A poll of 505 Israelis by the Israeli Dahaf Institute shows that 74% approve of the Wye agmt. (YA 10/25 in WNC 10/27)

As part of clampdown on Hamas, PA police in Gaza detain 11 journalists on their way to interview Hamas’s Shaykh Yasin on Wye. Journalists call an open-ended strike to protest the PA actions. PA police also arrest al-Aqsa cleric Shaykh Hamid Bitawi, Islamic Jihad chief spokesman Nafiz Azzam for speaking against the accord. (ITV 10/24 in WNC 10/27; WT 10/25; LAW, MM, NYT 10/26; WP 10/29; MEI, MM, PR 10/30; MM 11/2)

25 OCTOBER

PM Netanyahou returns to Israel. (CSM, NYT, WP, WT 10/26; JP 11/2)

Arafat begins tour of Arab capitals to brief leaders on Wye. Clinton phones Pres. Mubarak to discuss the accord. King Hussein phones Mubarak to review the agmt. (JTV, MENA, RE, RJ 10/25 in WNC 10/27; WT 10/26; WP 10/27; SA 10/29 in WNC 10/30)

PA military intelligence officers attempt to seize unlicensed weapons, inspect files at Fatah’s Ramallah office. When Fatah mbrs. fight back, officers open fire, killing 1 Fatah mbr. (MM, NYT, WP, WT 10/26; MEI, PR 10/30; JP 11/2, 11/9)

Jewish settlers demonstrate, block roads across the West Bank to protest the Wye agmt. 20 settlers are arrested, 2 Israeli policemen are injured. (IDF Radio 10/25 in WNC 10/27; NYT, WT 10/26; MA 10/26 in WNC 10/27)
In s. Lebanon, the Lebanese army intervenes to break up a clash btwn. Amal, Hizballah. (al-Safir 10/26 in WNC 10/27) (see 9/8)

26 OCTOBER


In the Knesset, PM Netanyahu survives no-confidence motion, but Knesset Law Comm. agrees (9-7) to hear 1st reading of bill calling for the dissolution of parliament, new elections in 100 days. MKs criticize Netanyahu for linking Pollard with the peace process. (CSM, WP, WT 10/27)

In Gaza, the Arab Liberation Front, the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP), Hamas, Islamic Jihad, the Islamic National Salvation Party, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) issue statement denouncing the Wye agmt. (MENA 10/26 in WNC 10/27; PR 10/30)

200 Jewish settlers hold rally outside PM Netanyahu’s office in Jerusalem, protesting the Wye agmt. At least 24 are detained by Israeli police. (ITV 10/26 in WNC 10/27; WP 10/27; YA 10/27 in WNC 10/28; MM 10/28)

Jordan, Israel agree long-delayed $1.65m. joint project to build the ‘Adasiyya diversion wall to divert Yarmuk River water. (JT, RJ 10/27 in WNC 10/28; JP 11/9)

An Israeli settler is killed in Israeli-controlled Hebron in an apparent attack by Palestinians. IDF places curfew on Palestinians in Hebron’s Israeli-controlled zone. Later, the body of a Palestinian is found outside Itamar settlement nr. Nablus. An anonymous caller claims Palestinian was killed to avenge the settler’s death. (IDF Radio, ITV 10/26 in WNC 10/27; ITV 10/26 in WNC 10/28; CSM, LAW, MM, NYT, WP 10/27; MM 10/28; WJW 10/29; PR 10/30)

In Ramallah, Palestinians observe general strike, 100s of Fatah mbrs. march to protest 10/25 events, call on Arafat to punish security services. (NYT, WP 10/27; PR 10/30)

International experts submit final report on Iraqi missile fragments to the UNSC, say results are inconclusive. Tests by Switzerland show no traces of VX; 1 sample in the 3d test by France shows traces of nerve agent that could be VX. French, Swiss, U.S. tests all show traces of unknown compound that could mask biological agents. (NYT, WP 10/27; MEI 10/30) (see 6/22)

U.S. says that a UN proposal to try the Pan Am bombing suspects in the Hague under Scottish law, tentatively agreed to by all parties, is in jeopardy because of Libyan demands that the 2 suspects not be imprisoned in Scotland if found guilty. (WP 10/27; WT 10/28)

27 OCTOBER

PM Netanyahu cancels 10/29 Knesset vote on the Wye agmt. (which is expected to pass easily), predicting that the PA will not meet an 11/2 deadline to present the U.S. with a security work plan. (NYT, WP, WT 10/28; al-Ahram 10/28, VOA 10/29 in WNC 10/30; MM 10/29, 10/30; ITV 10/31, AFP 11/1 in WNC 11/6)

Israel begins construction of water reservoir for Almon settlement, Anaton IDF camp nr. Ramallah that will require confiscation of 100s of dunams of Palestinian land. N. Hebron, settlers place 3 trailers on 100 dunams of confiscated land for establishment of new Yatta settlement. (PR 11/6)

PA police arrests 2 Palestinians for 10/26 settler murder in Hebron. Israelis have not found killers of Palestinian slain in reprisal attack nr. Nablus, where today Palestinian protesters clash with IDF soldiers, leaving 9 injured. In addition, Fatah enforces general strikes in Bethlehem, Nablus to protest the PA’s 10/25 raid on its Ramallah office. (AFP [Internet] 10/27; IDF Radio, ITV 10/27 in WNC 10/29; NYT, WP 10/28; PR 10/30; JP 11/9)

In Sidon, a car bomb explodes, killing an Islamic Jihad official, wounding 3. An SLA mbr. is killed in a Hizballah attack in s. Lebanon. (VOL 10/27 in WNC 10/28; MA 10/28 in WNC 10/29; RL 10/28 in WNC 10/30; RL 10/31 in WNC 11/6)

28 OCTOBER

Arafat returns to Gaza. (NYT, WP 10/29)

In Jericho, PA military court sentences 4 military intelligence officers to prison terms of 3–4 yrs. for raiding Fatah office in Ramallah 10/25. (AFP [Internet] 10/28; PR 10/30)
IDF lifts curfew on Palestinians in Israeli-controlled Hebron. (AP [Internet] 10/28; PR 11/6)

In Damascus, Syria, Turkey hold follow-up security mtg., plan to meet again in early 11/98. (ATL, SATN 10/28 in WNC 10/29) (see 10/20)

Egypt upgrades its diplomatic mission in Iran. (WP 10/29)

Amal attacks an SLA patrol in s. Lebanon, wounding 4 SLA mbrs. (VOL 10/29 in WNC 11/2)

29 OCTOBER

In Gaza, an IDF jeep intercepts a car bomb, absorbing the blast before it can ram a settler school bus. IDF seals the Gaza Strip. Hamas claims responsibility. PA places Shaykh Yasin under house arrest, detains more than 100 alleged Hamas activists. (MM 10/29; AFP, IDF Radio 10/29 in WNC 10/30; ITV, JTV, QY 10/29 in WNC 11/2; MM, NYT, PCHR, WP, WT 10/30; SA 10/30, JT 10/31, al-Ahram 11/2 in WNC 11/6; NYT 10/31; PR 11/6; JP 11/9; MEI 11/16)

In Ankara, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Turkey, Turkmenistan, U.S., Uzbekistan sign a “political declaration of support” for construction of a Baku-Ceyhan pipeline. (Interfax 10/29 in WNC 11/2; MM 11/6) (see 10/22)

30 OCTOBER

The PA Executive Authority ratifies the Wye agmt. (NYT 10/31; WP 11/1)

Israeli FM Sharon sends letter to UN Secy. Gen. Annan on Wye agmt., UN stands on Israel, peace process (YA 10/30 in WNC 11/2; Reuters [Internet] 11/2; MM 11/3) (see Doc. C)

PSF arrests 10s of alleged Hamas mbrs.; searches Shaykh Yasin’s home, confiscating papers, weapons fr. his bodyguards. Netanyahu’s office dismisses crackdown as a “show” to save the Wye agmt. (MM 10/30; LAW, NYT, WT 10/31; NYT 11/2; PR 11/6)

PM Netanyahu announces allocation of nearly $1 m. for maintaining security of Israeli settlements in East Jerusalem. $60 m. for construction of bypass roads in the West Bank. (PR 11/6; MEI 11/16)

U.S.-sponsored Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty begins propaganda broadcasts to Iraq, Iran fr. Czechoslovakia. (WT 10/31; WP 11/4) (see 7/29)

31 OCTOBER

U.S., Israel sign memorandum on military cooperation. (WP, WT 11/1; YA 11/1 in WNC 11/6; CSM, MM, NYT 11/2; al-Nahar 11/3 in WNC 11/12; JP 11/9) (see Peace Monitor)


Pres. Clinton signs nonbinding Iraq Liberation Act of 1998, which envisions takeover of the Iraqi government by opposition forces. U.S. must designate 1 or more groups as eligible for $97 m. in military, political aid within 90 days. (Washington File 11/2)

In a move unanimously condemned by the UNSC, Iraq halts all UN weapons inspections. U.S. National Security Council holds emergency mtg. to discuss possible military retaliation. (GIU, WP, WT 11/1; MM, NYT, WP 11/2; GIU, NYT, WP 11/3; MENA 11/2, RE, RJ 11/4 in WNC 11/6; MM 11/6)

200,000 Iranian troops hold military maneuvers on the border with Afghanistan. (WP 11/1) (see 10/14)

1 NOVEMBER

Syrian pres. Assad goes to Sharm al-Shaykh for important discussion with Pres. Mubarak on Wye agmt. Joint press conference, scheduled for after the mtg., is canceled. (MENA, SATN 11/1 in WNC 11/6; MM 11/2)

Hamas’s Izzeddin al-Qassam Brigades threatens to ignore orders against attacking the PSF if crackdown continues. PSF has arrested more than 130 alleged Hamas mbrs. since the Wye agmt. was signed. PA, Hamas officials meet on reducing tensions. Hamas agrees to avoid issuing “fiery” statements denouncing the PA. PA releases Gaza spokesman Mahmoud Zahhar, arrested in recent sweeps, as good will gesture. (GSM, MM, WP, WT 11/2; MM 11/4; CSM, PR 11/6; JP 11/9; YA 11/12 in WNC 11/13)

PM Netanyahu approves construction of 200 housing units on 80 dunums of Palestinian land nr. Kiryat Arba. IDF says that settlers are setting up farms outside existing settlement boundaries to create facts on the ground before an FRD. Secy. Albright phones Netanyahu to discuss the matter. (ITV, MA 11/1 in WNC 11/6; MM, NYT 11/2; MM, WT 11/3; PR 11/6; MA 11/9 in WNC 11/12; LAW 11/11)
Jewish settlers erect barbed-wire fence around the area of Ras al-Amud in East Jerusalem, begin leveling land for new settlement. Settlers also place trailers on a hill nr. Ramallah. (AFP [Internet] 11/1; ITV 11/1, al-Quds 11/3 in WNC 11/6; NYT, WP 11/2; AFP 11/2, al-Ahram, ITAR-TASS 11/3 in WNC 11/6; MM 11/3; PR 11/6; JP 11/9) (see 8/27)

2 NOVEMBER

PA submits security work plan to the U.S. in keeping with the Wye timetable. PM Netanyahu, however, says he cannot implement the agmt. because it has not been ratified (see 10/27). The cabinet is now set to debate ratification 11/3-4, the Knesset 11/11-12. (MM 11/2; AFP, ITV 11/2 in WNC 11/6; NYT, WP, WT 11/3; al-Ahram, MA 11/3 in WNC 11/6; NYT, WT 11/4)

PM Netanyahu's government survives no-confidence motion by one vote in the Knesset, due to support fr. Israeli Arab MKs. (NYT 11/3)

PA president's office issues order regulating accreditation, movement of press correspondents. PA Information Min. denounces the president's office for acting outside its jurisdiction, claims new measures are null and void. (PR 11/6; PCHR 11/8)

Israel increases the number of Palestinian workers allowed into Israel fr. 47,000 to 60,000. (WT 11/4)

In East Jerusalem, fights break out brwn. Israeli police. Palestinians protesting Jewish settlers' continued preparations for a new settlement in Ras al-Amud. (MM, WP, WT 11/3) (see 11/1)

A Jewish settler wanted for killing a Palestinian nr. Nablus 10/26 surrenders to Israeli police, who order him held for 6 days. (NYT 11/3; WT 11/4; JP 11/9)

3 NOVEMBER

PM Netanyahu again postpones cabinet discussion of Wye agmt., demands that the U.S. obtain a written timetable fr. the PA for arrest of 30 fugitives, claims agmt. cannot pass ratification with oral assurances alone. State Dept. says that the PA has met its obligation, U.S. considers the agmt. to have entered into force 11/2. (MM 11/3; IDF Radio, ITV 11/3, MENA 11/4 in WNC 11/6; NYT, WP, WT 11/4; NYT 11/5) (see 11/2)

Arafat says that arrest of Hamas activists will continue, crackdown has not gone far enough. Since 10/29, 250-450 alleged Hamas activists have been arrested. (MM, WP 11/4) (see 11/1)

Israel arrests right-wing settler leader Rabbi Moshe Levinger on charges of incitement. (WT 11/4; JP 11/6)

Overnight, Jewish settlers move at least 10 trailers onto a new settlement site on a West Bank hill. Another 3 trailers appear on a hill nr. the existing Ma'ale Mikhmas settlement. 3 other new settlements have been founded since the 10/23 Wye signing. (WT 11/4; MM 11/9, 11/13)

In London, U.S. Secy. of Defense William Cohen begins tour of EU, Arab allies to gauge support for strike on Iraq, says forces would be ready for attack within days. Cohen's tour is unusually secretive; no journalists are accompanying him as usual, his schedule has not been released. (NYT, WP, WT 11/4; al-Dustur, Petra-JNA, al-Ra'i, RE, RJ 11/4 in WNC 11/6; JP 11/9) (see 10/31)

Lebanon calls on the EU, UN to halt Israeli: theft of fertile topsoil fr. s. Lebanon; says that 20-30 Israeli civilians, the IDF have taken 100s of tons of soil since 9/98. (RL 11/3, 11/5 in WNC 11/6; NYT 11/4, 11/6)

4 NOVEMBER

PM Netanyahu postpones cabinet discussion of Wye agmt. for 4th time, saying he will not convene cabinet until the PA clarifies when it will arrest 30 wanted Palestinians. Arafat accuses Netanyahu of adding new conditions to try to wreck the agmt. U.S. says Israel is seeking "extrapolations of commitments." (ITV, RE 11/4 in WNC 11/6; MM, NYT, WP, WT 11/5; SA 11/6 in WNC 11/12) (see 11/3)

In Cairo, PA Planning M Nabil Shaath, negotiator Qurait as discuss Israeli delays in Wye implementation with Pres. Mubarak, FM Musa; ask for Egypt's continued support of the PA. (MENA, RE 11/4, VOA 11/5 in WNC 11/6)

PKK leader Ocalan asks Russia for political asylum. (ATL 11/4 in WNC 11/6; NYT 11/3; ATL 11/6 in WNC 11/12) (see 10/20)

An SLA convoy triggers 2 roadside bombs nr. Jazzin in s. Lebanon, killing 3 SLA mbns., wounding 1. (VOL 11/4)

5 NOVEMBER

The PLO Exec. Comm. reaffirms 1/22/98 letter fr. Arafat to Secy. of State Christopher nullifying 28 of 33 articles of the PLO charter. Secy. Albright says that the PA is ahead of
the Wye implementation schedule. (Washington File 11/6)

After the U.S. assures Israel that the PA has arrested 18 of the 30 wanted men ahead of schedule, Netanyahu convenes cabinet to ratify Wye, but opens by vowing not to implement FRD unless the full Palestinian National Council votes to annul the PLO charter (see Peace Monitor). Netanyahu gives cabinet FRD maps for the 1st time. The cabinet demands clarification on charter issue, takes no vote on ratification. (ITV 11/5, MA, al-Quds 11/6, ITV, SANA 11/7, MA 11/9 in WNC 11/12; MM, NYT, WP, WT 11/6)

Israel defense officials present Wye maps to settler leaders, who demand 50 amendments. (AP [Internet] 11/5; Ha'atzofe 11/6 in WNC 11/12)

Arafat goes to Sharm al-Shaykh to discuss Wye implementation with Pres. Mubarak. Arafat had hoped to fly back, inaugurating the Gaza airport, but Israeli says agmt. must be ratified 1st. (MENA 11/5 in WNC 11/6; NYT 11/6)

UNSC unanimously passes resolution declaring Iraq in “flagrant violation” of UN resolutions, demands Iraq resume cooperation with the UN, but does not mention any use of force. U.S. Defense Secy. Cohen continues preparations for a strike on Iraq, but sets no deadline. Although Cohen has won no public support fr. Arab states, France, or Russia, Pres. Clinton says he believes that allies would back “whatever decisions we ultimately make.” (MENA 11/4, 11/5 in WNC 11/6; MTV 11/5 in WNC 11/12; NYT, WP, WT 11/6)

6 NOVEMBER

Car bomb explodes in Jerusalem market, wounding 21. The 2 suicide bombers were jailed previously as mbrs. of Islamic Jihad. Israeli cabinet puts off vote on Wye agmt. PM Netanyahu suspends implementation until he is satisfied that the PA is taking sufficient steps against terrorism. (MM 11/6; AFP, IDF Radio, ITV 11/6, JT, MENA, al-Ra'i 11/7, ITV, SA 11/8, ITV, al-Majd, VOA 11/9 in WNC 11/12; NYT, WP, WT 11/7; NYT, WP 11/8; CSM, MM 11/9; al-Akhbar, YA 11/10 in WNC 11/13; MM 11/11; JP, MEI 11/16)

PA arrests 7 DFLP, FLPF mbrs. for speaking out against the Wye agmt. 3 are released later in the day. (PCHR 11/8)

Israel confirms that its citizens were stealing topsoil fr. s. Lebanon, says IDF will prevent future thefts. (NYT, WP 11/7; RL 11/7 in WNC 11/12; RL 11/10 in WNC 11/13; WT 11/11) (see 11/3)

7 NOVEMBER

Israel, PA hold security mg. to discuss coordination in wake of 11/6 car bombing. Israel asks PA to ban Islamic Jihad, Hamas as political groups. PA refuses. (AP [Internet] 11/8)

Islamic Jihad’s Damascus spokesman takes responsibility for 11/6 car bombing, but Gaza headquarters denies it. PA says it has seized several mbrs. of Islamic Jihad, closed a nursery school in Bethlehem run by the group. (NYT, WP 11/8; SA 11/8 in WNC 11/13; NYT 11/9; JP 11/16) (see 11/6)

Cyprus arrests 2 Israelis caught in a sensitive military area, charges them with spying on behalf of Turkey. (ITV 11/7, MA, QY, YA 11/9 in WNC 11/12; WP, WT 11/8; MM, NYT 11/9; MM 11/10; WJW 11/12; NYT 11/13) (see 6/17, 11/2)

8 NOVEMBER

Turkey sends 20,000 troops into n. Iraq in pursuit of Kurdish rebels expelled fr. Syria since the 10/20 Turkish-Syrian security agmt. (WT 11/11)

9 NOVEMBER

Israeli FM Sharon sends envoy to Cairo with message for FM Musa on Wye implementation. No details are released. (MENA 11/9 in WNC 11/12)

Despite U.S. opposition, Turkey begins work on pipeline that will carry natural gas fr. Iran. Turkmenistan to Europe. (IRNA 11/9 in WNC 11/13) (see 10/29)

10 NOVEMBER

U.S. sends additional forces to the Gulf for possible strike on Iraq. UN pulls weapons inspectors, relief personnel out of Iraq. Pres. Clinton tells PM Netanyahu that Arab states are resisting backing U.S. moves because Israel has not begun Wye implementation. (MM 11/10; GIU, NYT, WP, WT 11/11; WP 11/12; Petra-JNA 11/12 in WNC 11/15)

Under “intense” U.S. pressure, PM Netanyahu says that he is now satisfied with PA security assurances, will convene cabinet 11/11 to ratify Wye. (MM 11/10; AFP 11/10 in WNC 11/13; NYT, WP 11/11)

In Washington, an Israeli DMin. delegation asks Pentagon, State Dept. for $15 b.
over the next 10 yrs. to modernize the IDF. (MA 11/11 in WNC 11/13)

Israeli municipal elections are held. Labor wins mayoralties in Tel Aviv, Beersheba, Haifa. Likud’s Olmert wins reelection in Jerusalem. Police report that this has been the most violent campaign in Israel’s history, with 313 cases of election-related violence, including 51 acts of serious property damage, 61 instances of bodily harm, numerous death threats. (MM, NYT 11/10; MM, NYT 11/11; CSM, WT 11/12; MM 11/13)

Israeli DM Mordechai approves plan to fortify 33 West Bank settlements that will be nr. area A after the 2d FRD. (Los Angeles Times 11/10; Ha’atzofe 11/11 in WNC 11/13)

Sr. Siden, Lebanon, a grenade is thrown in Mich Mich refugee camp, a bomb goes off in ‘Ayn al-Hilwa refugee camp. Explosions cause damage but no injuries. (VOL 11/10 in WNC 11/13)

11 NOVEMBER

U.S. continues buildup in the Gulf, raising its military strength there to 2/98 levels, costing taxpayers up to $600 m. UN Secy. Gen. Annan breaks off Africa tour to return to New York. UN officials complain of difficulty in getting information fr. the U.S. on its intentions toward Iraq, say U.S. is not trying to obtain UNSC approval for military action. Diplomats in Baghdad say situation is more tense than during the 2/98 crisis. France, Russia, Saudi Arabia, which days ago were against a strike, are reportedly falling into line with the U.S. (MM, NYT, WP, WT 11/12; WP 11/13; WT 11/16)

After 4 postponements, the Israeli cabinet ratifies (8-4 with 5 abstentions) the Wye accord, but sets conditions to its approval that could undermine the agmt. (MM 11/11; MM, NYT, WP, WT 11/12, YA 11/12 in WNC 11/13; CSM, MM 11/13) (see Peace Monitor)

12 NOVEMBER

U.S. continues preparations for strike on Iraq, including deployment of stealth, B-52 heavy bombers. Regarding a diplomatic resolution, White House spokesman Joe Lockhart says “We have made clear this is no time for negotiations.” Damascus Declaration states (Bahrain, Egypt, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria, UAE) issue statement saying that Saddam Hussein alone bears responsibility for consequences of his refusal to cooperate with the UN. (MM 11/12; MENA, Radio Qatar, al-Rayah, RE, SANA, SATN 11/12 in WNC 11/13; NYT, WT 11/13)

Italian police arrest PKK leader Ocalan when he arrives in Rome on flight fr. Russia. Turkey asks for his extradition. (WP 11/14; WP 11/15; NYT, WP 11/17) (see 11/4)

13 NOVEMBER

UN Secy. Gen. Annan sends letter to Saddam Hussein asking him to resume immediate cooperation with the UN. Some sources claim that Annan sent the letter on his own, despite protests from the U.S., citing an unnamed U.S. official as saying that Annan “went completely off on his own. We adamantly opposed the letter.” (MM 11/13; WP, WT 11/14; WT 11/17)

After several delays, U.S. envoy Ross arrives in Israel to oversee Wye implementation, meets with PM Netanyahu. (MM 11/13; WP 11/14)

Israel gives the PA the names of Israeli negotiators to sit on the various commms. created by the Wye agmt. (AP [Internet] 11/13)

IDF imposes curfew on Palestinian residents of Israeli-controlled Hebron after an unidentified assailant throws a grenade at an IDF outpost, causing no injuries. (AP [Internet] 11/13)

14 NOVEMBER

Citing Annan’s letter, Iraq agrees to resume cooperation with the UN, forcing Pres. Clinton to abort a strike already in motion. At the UNSC, the U.S. rejects Iraq’s announcement as “unacceptable”; Britain is skeptical but wants to leave options open; Secy. Gen. Annan, China, France, Russia welcome Iraqi decision but want clarifications. Annan warns that if the crisis resumes, “I doubt that there will be any time left for diplomacy.” (NYT, WP, WT 11/15; WT 11/17)

In an address to 1,000s of Palestinians in Nablus, Arafat says he will declare a state in 5/99. PM Netanyahu accuses Arafat of jeopardizing the Wye agmt. (WT 11/15; NYT 11/17)

15 NOVEMBER

For 2d day in a row, Pres. Clinton aborts a strike on Iraq, this time accepting Iraq’s clarifications on renewing cooperation with the UN. Clinton also halts new deployments to the Gulf, but warns that next time Iraq fails to comply, U.S. may not back down. Arab states welcome U.S. decision; Israel remains skeptical. (CSM, GIU, NYT, WP, WT 11/16)
In a radio address, Arafat says that Palestinians will retain the right to stage a new intifada if Israel blocks their access to Jerusalem's holy sites. (WP, WT 11/16; NYT, WP, WT 11/17)

Further escalating the rhetoric, Israeli FM Sharon urges Jewish settlers to “grab” unoccupied West Bank land so it does not fall under PA control in a final agmt. (AFP [Internet] 11/16; NYT, WP, WT 11/17)

The Sunday Times of London reports that Israel is working on a genetic weapon that would target Arabs but not Jews. Jane's, the respected British defense monitor, finds rumors credible. Porton Down, Britain's biological defense facility, says such a bacterial or viral weapon is theoretically possible. The British Medical Association has reportedly opened an investigation out of concern. (Sunday Times 11/15)

Chronology Source Abbreviations

AFP (Agence France Presse, Paris)
ATL (Anatolia, Ankara)
CSM (Christian Science Monitor, Boston)
GIU (Global Intelligence Update, Austin)
HA (Ha'aretz, Tel Aviv)
HUR (Hurriyet, Istanbul)
IGPO (Israeli Government Press Office, Jerusalem)
INA (Iraq News Agency, Baghdad)
IRNA (Islamic Republic News Agency, Tehran)
ITV (Israel Television Network, Jerusalem)
JT (Jordan Times, Amman)
JTV (Jordan Television Network, Amman)
LAW (Palestinian Society for the Protection of Human Rights and the Environment, Jerusalem)
MA (Ma'ariv, Tel Aviv)
MBC (Middle East Broadcasting Centre, London)
MEI (Middle East International, London)
MENA (Middle East News Agency, Cairo)
MIL (Milliyet, Ankara)
MM (Mideast Mirror, London)
NYT (New York Times, New York)
PCHR (Palestine Center for Human Rights, Gaza)
PR (Palestine Report, Jerusalem)
QY (Qol Yisra'el Radio, Tel Aviv)
RE (Republic of Egypt Radio, Cairo)
RJ (Radio Jordan, Amman)
RL (Radio Lebanon, Beirut)
RMC (Radio Monte Carlo, Paris)
SA (al-Sharg al-Awsat, London)
SANA (Syrian Arab News Agency, Damascus)
SATN (Syrian Arab Television Network, Damascus)
VIRI (Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Tehran)
VOA (Voice of the Arabs, Cairo)
VOL (Voice of Lebanon, Beirut)
WJW (Washington Jewish Week, Rockville, MD)
WNC (World News Connection [Internet], Washington, DC)
WP (Washington Post, Washington, DC)
WT (Washington Times, Washington, DC)
YA (Yediot Aharonot, Tel Aviv)

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