CHRONOLOGY

16 FEBRUARY

Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu meets with Mahmoud Abbas, adviser to Palestinian Authority (PA) head Yasser Arafat, and Palestinian Council (PC) Speaker Ahmad Qurai'. In separate mtgs., Arafat meets with Netanyahu adviser Yitzhak Molho. (QY, YA 2/17, YA 2/18 in WNC 2/21; IGPO 2/18)

Israel's Ciechanover Comm., charged with investigating Mossad's attempted assassination of Hamas mbr. Khalid Mishal in Amman 9/25/97, reports its findings to PM Netanyahu. (MM, WP, WT 2/16; ITV 2/16, JT 2/17 in WNC 2/21; CSM, MM, NYT, WP 2/17; IGPO 2/17 in WNC 2/24; NYT 2/18; WJW 2/19; JP 2/21) (see Peace Monitor; Doc. B1)

Jordan announces arrest of 5 Hizbollah mbrs. who infiltrated fr. Syria, allegedly to carry out attacks on Israeli, U.S. targets in Amman. (MM 2/17)

PA police in Bethlehem shut Shepherds Television station for airing report on pro-Iraqi demonstrations in West Bank. (LAW 2/19; NYT 2/20; IGPO 3/1) (see 2/14)

Israeli, Palestinian activists demonstrate outside U.S. consulate in Jerusalem to protest U.S. threats to strike Iraq. (PR 2/20)

Following talks with UK and France 2/14, U.S. draws up guidelines to limit any diplomatic compromise UN Secy. Gen. Kofi Annan might offer Iraqi pres. Saddam Hussein. Annan holds 3d mtg. with UN Security Council (UNSC) permanent mbrs., who fail to reach consensus on substance of the message that Annan should carry to Iraq. Meanwhile, U.S. envoy David Newton arrives in Cairo on 1st leg of regional tour to explain the U.S. position; he will also visit Saudi Arabia, the Gulf Cooperation Council countries, Syria, Lebanon, Jordan. (MM 2/16; MENA 2/16 in WNC 2/21; MM, NYT 2/17; MM 2/19)

17 FEBRUARY

Israeli Infrastructures M Ariel Sharon discusses further redeployment (FRD) proposals with Arafat advisers Qurai', Abbas. (YA 2/18 in WNC 2/21; IGPO 2/19; MA 2/24 in WNC 2/26; PR 3/6) (see 2/16)

In Bethlehem, 100s of Palestinians hold pro-Iraqi march. PA police prevent them fr. reaching an IDF roadblock. (WP 2/18)

Settlers at Kiryat Arba nr. Hebron stone Palestinian car passing by the settlement, injuring the driver. (PR 2/27)

Lebanese civilian is injured during IDF shelling of Hizbollah positions. (RL 2/17 in WNC 2/21; al-Safir 2/20 in WNC 2/24)

18 FEBRUARY

In Tel Aviv, Israel, Jordan hold talks on water, Jordan Valley development. (RJ 2/19 in WNC 2/24; Globes [Internet] 2/22 in WNC 2/26; JP 2/28) (see Peace Monitor)

Palestine-Israel Steering and Monitoring Comm. (PISMC) cochairs meet at U.S. Amb. to Israel Edward Walker's home. (IGPO 2/18; WJW 2/26; JP 2/28) (see Peace Monitor)

Syrian VP 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, FM Faruq al-Shara' leave Cairo after 2 days of talks on peace process, Iraq crisis with Pres. Mubarak, FM 'Amr Musa. (MENA, SATN 2/18 in WNC 2/21)

U.S. Secy. of State Madeleine Albright, Defense Secy. William Cohen, National Security Adviser (NSA) Sandy Berger hold 90-min. “town meeting” at Ohio State University on potential strike on Iraq, which is broadcast globally on CNN. Audience heckles officials and asks pointed questions on U.S. policy, some saying no military action should be taken, others asking why goals do not include ousting Saddam Hussein. After mtg., Berger warns Hussein that he should not misinterpret the audience reactions because “ultimately there’s only one man who decides, and he decides not based on the polls . . . but on our national interest.” (CSM

journal of Palestine Studies XXVII, no. 4 (Summer 1998), pp. 163-183.
2/18; NYT, WP, WT 2/19; WT 2/20; al-Ahram 2/21 in WNC 2/26)

PA Information Min. orders all 34 television, radio stations to obtain licenses fr. the Information Min. as well as Interior Min.; closes 9 West Bank stations that do not have such licenses. (LAW 2/19; NYT, PR 2/20; MEI, PR 2/27) (see 2/16)

U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum forces its director, Walter Reich, to resign. Mishandling of Arafat invitation to visit the museum (see 1/23) is cited as precipitating factor ending troubled tenure. (NYT 2/19)

19 FEBRUARY

In last effort to achieve a “diplomatic solution” preventing a U.S. airstrike, UN Secy. Gen. Annan leaves for Baghdad for weekend of talks with Iraqi officials. U.S. warns that it will challenge any agmt. that does not allow unrestricted access to all Iraqi sites, including 8 “presidential palaces,” which Iraqi pres. Saddam Hussein has deemed off-limits to inspectors as symbols of national sovereignty. (CSM, MM, WP, WT 2/19; MM 2/20)

U.S. Pres. Clinton calls on the UN to set a deadline for Iraqi compliance; orders VP Al Gore, Defense Secy. Cohen to cancel trip to South Africa set to begin 2/23 to keep them in Washington. (NYT, WT 2/20)

Secy. of State Albright travels to Tennessee State University to give 2d televised briefing on Iraq to some 200 hand-picked honors students, coached by the school’s administration to “give the opposite impression that was given at Ohio State” 2/18. Before Albright arrives, campus security removes all demonstrators fr. camera view. The secy. then heads to University of South Carolina for 3d, similarly controlled briefing. (NYT, WP 2/20)

UN begins evacuating staff fr. Iraq. All personnel should be out of the country by 2/21. (WP 2/19)

U.S. sends 10s of Patriot missiles to Israel as part of an “emergency aid” package. (MM 2/19; YA 2/19 in WNC 2/21)

Opponents of military action against Iraq stage demonstrations outside the U.S. embassies in Egypt and Belarus, British PM Tony Blair’s residence in London. Palestinians hold similar demonstrations in Dura, Bayt ‘Umar. (RE 2/19 in WNC 2/24; WT 2/20; PR 2/27)

Jordanian “popular delegation” heads to Baghdad to show solidarity with the Iraqi people. Reps. fr. all Jordanian political parties and professional organizations and fr. each governorate have agreed to make staggered trips to Baghdad over the next wk. (al-Dustur 2/19 in WNC 2/24)

Swiss police catch 5 Mossad agents in the process of installing a wiretap in a “foreigner’s” house in Bern. For unknown reasons, 4 agents are released, only 1 is detained. No mention of the incident is made public. (ITV 2/25 in WNC 3/3; MM, NYT, WT 2/26; MM, NYT, WT 2/27; WT 3/16)

Hamas spiritual leader Shaykh Ahmad Yasin arrives in Egypt to undergo surgery for bone infection. (MENA 2/19 in WNC 2/24; WP 2/20) (see Peace Monitor)

20 FEBRUARY

UN approves request by Secy. Gen. Annan to raise the amount of oil Iraq is allowed to sell under the oil-for-food agreement fr. $2 b. to $5.2 b. every 6 mos. (NYT 2/21, 2/22) (see 2/2)

State Dept. advises U.S. dependents, nonemergency personnel to leave Israel, Kuwait in anticipation of strike on Iraq. (WT 2/21)

In Ma’an, Jordan, march led by opposition leader Laith Shubailat to protest U.S. position on Iraq turns violent, with marchers setting fire to cars, breaking shop windows, firing guns at police. Police kill 1 protester; injure 3; arrest Shubailat for inciting a riot. (RJ, RMC, SANA 2/20 in WNC 2/24; WT 2/21; WP 2/23; MEI 2/27)

21 FEBRUARY

Jordanians in Ma’an continue to demonstrate against possible U.S.-British attack on Iraq, clash with troops; 20 are injured, 12 are arrested. Government imposes curfew, cuts phone service to town. Soldiers go house-to-house searching for arms, patrol streets. (MBC 2/20 in WNC 2/24; al-Dustur, JTV, RMC 2/21 in WNC 2/26; MM, WP, WT 2/23; MEI 2/27) (see 2/20)

1,000 Palestinians in Dheisheh, Aida refugee camps take part in demonstrations organized by Fatah to protest threats to attack Iraq. Over the weekend, smaller demonstrations are held in Bethlehem, Ramallah, Nablus, Khan Yunis. (MEI, PR 2/27)

22 FEBRUARY

UN Secy. Gen. Annan reaches agmt. (signed 2/23) with Iraq on resuming unrestricted inspections under which UN Special Committee (UNSCOM) teams of technical experts will be accompanied by senior
diplomats appointed by Annan to act as observers. The UNSC must approve the agmt. (RJ 2/22, TTV, MENA, RJ 2/23, al-Ahram, al-Ra'i, RL 2/24 in WNC 2/26; CSM, MM, NYT, WP, WT 2/23; Le Soir [Brussels] 2/25 in WNC 3/3; MEI, PR 2/27)

Violent clashes continue in Ma'an, Jordan, for 3d straight day. (TTV, MBC, RJ 2/22, JT, TTV, RJ 2/23 in WNC 2/26; MM, WP, WT 2/23; WP 2/26; MEI 2/27) (see 2/21)

In Cairo, 15,000 students fr. Ayn Shams, Cairo universities demonstrate against U.S. policy toward Iraq. (MENA, RMC 2/22 in WNC 2/26)

3 Palestinians are injured when IDF breaks up "pro-Iraq" demonstration at Birzeit. Another protest is held at al-Najah University in Nablus. (ITV 2/22 in WNC 2/26; PR 2/27)

Jordan arrests 3 Jordanians for plotting attacks on Israeli targets, possessing explosives. (SA 2/23 in WNC 2/26)

23 FEBRUARY

Pres. Clinton accepts in principle the new terms of the agmt. reached bwn. the UN and Iraq but reserves "the unilateral right to respond" if Iraq does not adhere to requirements. U.S. will maintain current level of forces in the region indefinitely. Although Joint Chiefs chmn. Gen. Henry Shelton says the military is pleased "to see the cup pass. . . . We had a tough time seeing where this thing was going to take us," Sen. Trent Lott (R-MS), who has led the call in Congress for a military overthrow of Saddam Hussein, accuses Clinton of having "subcontracted" U.S. foreign policy to the UN. (MM 2/23; CSM, NYT, WP, WT 2/24; JT 2/24 in WNC 2/26; WT 2/25; NYT, WT 3/2)

PM Netanyahu proposes Israel, the PA hold Camp David-style summit under U.S. auspices to discuss "core issues" in the stalled peace process. (WT 2/24; La Libre [Brussels] 2/25 in WNC 3/3)

PISMCo cochairs meet in Jericho. (IGPO 2/23; WJW 2/26; PR 3/6) (see 2/18; Peace Monitor)

Federal judge in Manhattan jails Abdelhaleem Ashqar, a Palestinian in the U.S. on a student visa, for refusing to testify before a secret grand jury investigating Hamas fundraising. (NYT 4/18)

1 South Lebanon Army (SLA) mbr. is injured in a clash with Hizballah in s. Lebanon. (IDF Radio 2/23 in WNC 2/26)

24 FEBRUARY

Arafat, King Hussein reject Netanyahu's proposal for Camp David-style talks. (WT 2/25; JT 2/25 in WNC 3/3) (see 2/23)

Mossad chief Yatom resigns. (MM, NYT, WP, WT 2/25; JT 2/25 in WNC 3/3; MM 2/26; WT 3/2; CSM 3/5; JP 3/7) (see 2/19)

100 mbrs. of Rafah party, banned by the Turkish government 1/16, form new Virtue party. (WP, NYT 2/25; NYT 2/26; MEI 2/27; Zaman [Istanbul] 3/8 in WNC 3/10)

3 Lebanese homes in s. Lebanon are damaged during Israeli air strike. (RL 2/24)

25 FEBRUARY

In Cairo, Arafat briefs Pres. Mubarak on PA plans for reenergizing the peace process now that the Iraq crisis has passed. (MENA 2/25)

After several days of clashes bwn. Palestinians and soldiers, the IDF seals the entrance to Qalandiya refugee camp in the West Bank. Palestinians continue to throw stones at troops, who fire live ammunition, tear gas. 1 Palestinian is severely beaten by soldiers, 5 are arrested. (NYT, WP 2/26)

In Amman, Jordan, Iran hold talks on improving bilateral tourism. (IRNA 2/25 in WNC 3/3)

State Dept. says it will ease visa process for Iranians wanting to visit the U.S. (NYT 2/26)

Jordan' State Security Court sentences 10 Jordanians with trying to smuggle weapons to the West Bank. (al-Dustur 2/26 in WNC 3/3)

In Bogota, 4 mnr. IDF officers are among 6 persons indicted on charges of training Colombian paramilitary units of the Medellin drug cartel in terror tactics in 1987-89. (WP, WT 2/27)

26 FEBRUARY

Swiss officials formally announce arrest of Mossad agent 2/19; say warrants have been issued for the other 4 agents, who are presumed to have left the country; refuse to comment on target of break in, reportedly an Iranian intelligence officer and Hizballah mbr. (IGPO, MM, NYT, WP 2/26; IDF Radio, QY, YA 2/26 in WNC 3/3; SA 2/27 in WNC 3/4; al-Aswaq 2/28 in WNC 3/5; CSM 3/5; JP 3/7; YA 3/8 in WNC 3/11; WT 3/16)
In s. Lebanon, Hizballah attacks IDF position, killing 3 soldiers, wounding 3. (RL, VOL 2/26 in WNC 3/3; MM, WP 2/27; JP 3/7)

27 FEBRUARY

Israel apologizes to Switzerland for spying in its country. (Swiss Radio International [Bern] 2/27 in WNC 3/4; WP, WT 2/28) (see 2/26)

Hizballah, IDF clash in s. Lebanon, killing 3 Hizballah mbrs. wounding 4 IDF soldiers. (VOL 2/27 in WNC 3/4; WT 2/28)

28 FEBRUARY

PM Netanyahu sends media adviser David Bar-Ilan to Washington to call on Jewish-American leaders, Christian Right, allies in Congress to fend off expected U.S. government initiative to press Israel for an FRD. (MM 3/3; WT 3/4; WJW 3/12)

Alerted by Jordanian security, IDF intercepts 2 boatloads of arms being smuggled to the West Bank via the Dead Sea, detains 1 Palestinian. (WT 3/1, 3/2; PR 3/6; JP 3/7)

Jordan lifts curfew on Ma'an. (WT 3/1) (see 2/22)

1 Hizballah mbr. is killed in an attack on an SLA post in s. Lebanon. (RL 2/28 in WNC 3/5)

1 MARCH

Referring explicitly to UN Res. 425, PM Netanyahu again offers to withdraw fr. s. Lebanon, if Lebanon provides security guarantees. Lebanon rejects the offer. (NYT 3/2; RL 3/2 in WNC 3/5; WP 3/3; al-Thawra 3/5 in WNC 3/10) (see 1/11; Peace Monitor)

Israel’s Cabinet Secy. Dani Nave, PM adviser Uzi Arad leave for Europe on a “political mission.” (MA 3/1 in WNC 3/5; MM, WT 3/2)

Jordan announces that it has secured $650 m. in grants, loans for water projects to be implemented over 5 yrs. as part of a $5-b., 14-yr. water resource management plan. (JT 3/2 in WNC 3/5)

2 MARCH

In Jerusalem, PM Netanyahu hosts mbrs. of Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations (CPMAJO), calls on them to fend off expected U.S. government initiative to press Israel for an FRD. (MM 3/3; WT 3/4; WJW 3/12; MM 3/18) (see 2/28)

UNSC unanimously approves 2/22 agmt., warning Iraq it will face “the severest consequences” if it breaks the agmt. China, France, Russia refuse to include explicit threat of force. Council settles for deliberately ambiguous language. U.S. officials stress that resolution does not prohibit an attack. (CSM, MM, NYT, WP 3/3; MM 3/4)

At close of 2-day mtg., Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Turkey, Turkmenistan express support for construction of a “Eurasian Energy Corridor” pipeline linking Baku, Azerbaijan, with Ceyhan, Turkey. (ITAR-TASS 3/2 in WNC 3/5; Interfax 3/13 in WNC 3/17) (see 12/28/97)

3 MARCH

Pres. Clinton meets with VP Gore, Secy. Albright, NSA Berger, special envoy Dennis Ross, Asst. Secy. of State for Near East Affairs Martin Indyk to discuss “new thinking” to revive peace process now that Iraq crisis has passed. (MM 3/4)

World Likud Chmn. Zalman Shoval, fmr. Israeli amb. to Washington, says that PM Netanyahu has enlisted him to start a “information campaign” targeting U.S. public opinion to lobby U.S. not to press Israel to make an FRD. (MM 3/3; WT 3/4) (see 3/2)

Hamas spiritual leader Shaykh Yasin arrives in Saudi Arabia. (MM 3/31; MM 4/9; WT 5/4) (see Peace Monitor)

In s. Lebanon, 1 Lebanese civilian is injured during IDF air strike on Hizballah target. (WT 3/4)

4 MARCH

Israeli High Court publicizes 4-mo.-old secret ruling that condones as a “vital interest of the country” Israel’s kidnapping, continued detention of 21 Lebanese men soley as “bargaining cards” for future prisoner exchanges, deals with Lebanese resistance; admits that the men, some of whom have been held for a decade, pose no security threat to Israel. (NYT 3/5; WT 3/11; MM 3/13; JP 3/14)

Israeli pres. Ezer Weizman is reelected (63-49) in race against Netanyahu-backed Likud candidate Shaul Amor, who ran a controversial campaign based on supporting Sephardic Jews against discrimination by Ashkenazis. (MM 3/4; NYT, WP, WT 3/5; WT 3/9)

PM Netanyahu names Efraim Halevy as new head of Mossad. (MM 3/4; MM, NYT, WP 3/5; SA 3/8 in WNC 3/10; WT 3/31) (see 2/24; Peace Monitor)
5 MARCH

Israeli DM Mordechai leaves on 4-day tour of France, the Netherlands to discuss s. Lebanon withdrawal proposal. (MM 3/5; MM 3/10; Algemeen Dagblad [Rotterdam] 3/10 in WNC 3/11; PR 3/27)

Shin Bet arrests 5 Palestinians, including 1 PA policeman, on charges of operating a large Hamas cell responsible for at least 10 attacks on Israeli targets. (WP, WT 3/6; IGPO 3/8; WJW 3/12; PR 3/13)

Without Secy. Gen. Annan’s knowledge, UNSCOM head Richard Butler dispatches a 50-mbr. team headed by Scott Ritter, previously accused by Iraq of being a U.S. spy, to Baghdad to test Iraqi compliance. The team resumes inspections without Iraqi interference at sites other than the 8 “presidential palaces.” (MM 3/6; WP 3/11; MM 3/12) (see 2/23)

6 MARCH

Acting in his capacity as head of the European Union (EU) troika (FM fr. the UK, Luxembourg, Austria), British FM Cook outlines the 6 steps that the EU believes Israel, the PA must take to restore confidence, trust, sense of progress in the peace process. (JTV 3/16 in WNC 3/19) (see Peace Monitor)

PM Netanyahu authorizes an Israeli embassy official in Washington to visit convicted spy for Israel Jonathan Pollard every month, assist him with anything he needs. (MA 3/8; YA 3/9 in WNC 3/10) (see 2/13)

7 MARCH

Arafat addresses opening of 1998 PC session. (NYT, WT 3/8; PR 3/13, 3/20) (see Peace Monitor)

8 MARCH

In London, PM Netanyahu ends unsuccessful 4-day EU tour (Spain, Germany, Norway, UK) to promote new peace initiative based on a Camp David-style summit with the PA, conditional s. Lebanon withdrawal. (MA 3/8, IDF Radio, MA, RJ 3/9 in WNC 3/10; CSM, MM, WP 3/9; MM 3/10) (see 2/23; Peace Monitor)


King Hussein makes brief trip to Cairo for talks with Pres. Mubarak. (JTV, MENA, RJ 3/8, RJ, VOA 3/9 in WNC 3/10)

Israel acknowledges that 18 mos. ago it began to make it harder for non-Jewish immigrants who have married Israelis to stay in the country by refusing to begin citizenship proceedings or by deporting them. Israel claims that “convenience marriages” are on the rise, while critics claim government has policy of religious discrimination. (WP 3/9)

UN Secy. Gen. Annan says that with the 3/2 UNSC statement, the U.S. would need to consult with—but would not necessarily require authorization of—the UNSC before mounting a military strike on Iraq. (WP, WT 3/9; WT 3/12)

PA Preventive Security Force (PSF) says that it recently uncovered a shop for making Uzi submachine guns in Gaza, does not know how many guns were made or sold. (QY, YA 3/8 in WNC 3/11)

9 MARCH


In s. Lebanon, 2 Hizballah mbrs. are killed in an exchange with IDF. (RL 3/14 in WNC 3/17)

10 MARCH


Jordan, Iran hold talks on allowing academic, collegiate exchanges bwn. their countries. (IRNA 3/10)

Nt. Hebron, IDF soldiers open fire on van of Palestinian laborers, killing 3, wounding 5. Israel arrests 2 soldiers, then releases them, claiming that they “followed regulations” when van tried to run them

Based on classified testimony fr. the FBI that cannot be viewed by lawyers, U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service orders 6 Iraqis who aided the CIA in failed attempts against Saddam Hussein to be deported because they pose “a danger to the national security.” (NYT 3/11)

11 MARCH

In Dura nr. Hebron, Palestinians demonstrate following the funeral for 3 Palestinian laborers killed by the IDF 3/10; 32 Palestinians, 1 Israeli border policeman are injured. Palestinians also protest in Bethlehem and Ramallah, where IDF injuries 9 Palestinians. Also nr. Ramallah, a Jewish settler whose car is hit by a stone opens fire with live ammunition, wounding 1 Palestinian. PA, Israeli security forces hold emergency migs. on containing the violence. (MM 3/11; CSM, NYT, WP, WT 3/12; WT 3/13)

PM Netanyahu appoints Reserve Maj. Gen. Meir Dagan as his adviser on intelligence affairs. The new position, recommended in the Ciechanover report (see 2/16), was created to enhance coordination bwn. the PM, the intelligence bodies. (YA 3/11 in WNC 3/12)

Based on legislation passed by Congress in 1996, U.S. district judge orders Iran to pay the family of Alisa Flatow, killed in an Islamic Jihad suicide bombing in Israel 4/95, $247.5 m. in damages. The court heard no evidence that Iran planned, carried out the attack, but lawyers presented testimony fr. fmr. FBI, Israeli intelligence officials that Iran has funded Islamic Jihad. Administration officials say “this case is not what we needed at this time” when the U.S. is trying to renew relations with Iran. (WT 3/12; MM 3/24) (see 2/26/97)

American Friends of Lubavitch (AFL) hosts its 5th annual Purim party for Capitol Hill staffers. AFL also hosts an annual Hanukkah party; plans to start bimonthly discussion groups, a mentoring program where senior Jewish staffers can help younger staffers just starting their careers. All projects are meant to “make politically minded Jews more politically involved.” (WJW 3/26)

12 MARCH

Palestinian-IDF clashes spread in West Bank, leaving at least 28 Palestinians injured.

PA police break up protests in Bethlehem, Hebron. Nr. Dura, a settler whose car is stoned opens fire on Palestinian demonstrators, seriously injuring 1. (MM 3/12; ITV 3/12 in WNC 3/16; NYT, WP, WT 3/13; MEI 3/27)

In Damascus, Syria, EU hold talks on expanding trade relations, technical cooperation. (SANA 3/12 in WNC 3/13)

A Palestinian is stabbed, wounded by unidentified assailant in West Jerusalem. He is the 3d Palestinian to be stabbed in West Jerusalem in 3 wks. (ITV 3/12 in WNC 3/12; PR 3/20)

13 MARCH

In Tehran, Iran, Syria discuss expanding transportation cooperation. (IRNA 3/13 in WNC 3/16)

West Bank demonstrations over deaths of 3 Palestinians 3/10 continue for 4th day. In Dura, 7 Palestinians are injured in clash with IDF, which is broken up by PA police; settlers stone Palestinian home. In Nablus, PA police, IDF fire tear gas at 1,000s of Palestinians to break up riot; 200 PA police keep protesters fr. reaching Jewish seminary at Joseph’s tomb. (NYT, WT 3/14)

A bomb explodes in East Jerusalem, wounding 4 Palestinians as they leave Friday prayers at al-Aqsa Mosque. (MM 3/13; NYT 3/14; PR 3/20)

In Hebron, 40 armed Jewish settlers march into PA-controlled area of Hebron, sparking riot. IDF fires on Palestinians with rubber bullets to break up clash, injuring 14 Palestinians, 8 journalists. Observers forming the Temporary International Presence in Hebron fault the IDF for allowing the settlers to get past them and into the PA sector. (QY 3/13 in WNC 3/16; NYT 3/14; WP 3/15; WP 3/16; LAW, MM 3/17; WJW 3/19; PR 3/20; MEI 3/27; JP 3/28)

14 MARCH

Palestinian demonstrations continue in Hebron after settlers reenter PA sector, smash car windows. PA police, IDF disperse protesters. From 60 to 100 Palestinians have been injured in West Bank clashes since 3/10. (WP, WT 3/15; ITV 3/16 in WNC 3/17; WT 3/16; MM 3/17) (see 3/13)

In Afula, Israel, a small bomb explodes in a bus station, injuring an Israeli man who was seen moving a box just moments before. (WP, WT 3/15; PR 3/20)
Arafat stops briefly in Cairo to confer with Pres. Mubarak on the peace process. (MENA 3/14 in WNC 3/17)

In Damascus, Iran, Syria discuss upgrading cultural relations, exchanges. (IRNA 3/14 in WNC 2/17) (see 3/13)


15 MARCH


Rallies are held across Lebanon to mark 20 yrs. of Israeli occupation of the south. (CSM 3/16)

16 MARCH


UK FM and EU Chmn. Robin Cook arrives in Egypt, the 1st stop on a 3-day Middle East tour; then heads to Jordan. (JTV, LPA, MENA 3/16 in WNC 3/17; JTV, MENA 3/16, RE 3/17 in WNC 3/19; NYT, WT 3/17; PR 3/20)

PA’s PSF head Col. Jibril Rajub that if settlers reenter the Palestinian sector of Hebron again to attack Palestinians, they will “not leave alive.” (ITV 3/16 in WNC 3/17; CSM, NYT, WP, WT 3/17; JTP 3/28) (see 3/14)

Vatican “repents” for failing to prevent, halt the Holocaust. Jewish leaders (including Israel’s chief rabbi; heads of the American Jewish Congress, Anti-Defamation League) say statement is “too little too late.” (NYT, WP, WT 3/17; WJW 3/19; MM 3/20; NYT 3/27; JP 3/28; NYT Magazine 4/26)

17 MARCH


UN General Assembly (UNGA) resumes emergency session (last held 11/13) on Israel’s construction at Har Homa. Issues new condemnation (by vote of 120-3, with 5 abstentions) of Israel’s failure to stop building at the site. U.S., Israel, Micronesia vote against; Australia, Bulgaria, Romania, Marshall Islands, Swaziland abstain. (MM, NYT, WT 3/18; MEI 3/27) (see Peace Monitor in JPS 106)

Palestinian child shot by IDF during Hebron demonstration 4/11 dies. (LAW 3/17; MEI 3/27)

18 MARCH

In Washington, Israel Trade M Sharonsky meets with VP Gore, urges him to dissuade the U.S. fr. presenting its own FRD proposal, requests mtg. with Secy. Albright but is refused. (ITV 3/18, MA 3/19 in WNC 3/20; MM 3/19; NYT 3/23; PR 3/27)

In Washington, Netanyahsu adviser Arad meets with Asst. Secy. of State Indyk to encourage him to dissuade the U.S. fr. presenting its 13.1% FRD plan. (MM 3/19)

In Beirut, Russian special envoy Viktor Posuvalyuk meets with Lebanese FM Faris Buwayz. (VOL 3/18 in WNC 3/20)


3 Israeli teenagers are detained, 2 American teenagers are questioned regarding an organized infiltration of Pentagon computer system, 100s of other government, corporate, university computers. (ITV 3/18 in WNC 3/20; NYT, WJW, WP 3/19; WP, WT 3/20; WP 3/21; MEI 3/27; JP 3/28)

19 MARCH

In Washington, EU troika, U.S. hold talks on how to proceed with the peace process. EU encourages U.S. to present its FRD proposal. (LPA 3/19 in WNC 3/20)


In Amman, Iran, Jordan discuss upgrading culture, information cooperation. (RJ 3/19 in WNC 3/20)


20 MARCH

Heads of IDF intelligence tell Netanyahu’s inner cabinet that it will be impossible to reach an agmt. on withdrawal fr. s. Lebanon without an Israeli commitment to withdraw fr. the Golan Heights. (YA 3/22 in WNC 3/24)

In Amman, Jordan, Israel discuss prospects for media coordination. (IRNA 3/20 in WNC 3/23)

In s. Lebanon, 5 IDF soldiers are wounded in clash with Hizballah. (ITV, RL 3/20 in WNC 3/23)

21 MARCH

Hizballah leader Said Hassan Nasrallah says that Hizballah would not patrol the Lebanese border with Israel if the IDF left s. Lebanon. (WP 3/22)

22 MARCH


2-day refugee conference opens in London. (PR 3/27; SA 4/12 in WNC 4/20) (see Peace Monitor)

In Hebron, IDF beats, arrests Palestinian family for rebuilding a house that the IDF had demolished twice before. Israeli Civil Administration says home will probably be torn down again since it was built without a permit. (LAW, WP 3/23; MEI, PR 3/27)

23 MARCH

Iran, Jordan hold 2d round of talks on expanding cultural ties. (IRNA 3/23 in WNC 3/24) (see 3/19)

24 MARCH


In Cairo, Arab League FM’s discuss status of the peace process, forming united Arab stance on ways to deal with Israeli government. (MENA 3/24 in WNC 3/25)

In Washington, Israel’s Communications M Limor Livnat urges congressmen to pressure Pres. Clinton not to publicize a U.S. FRD plan. (ITV 3/24 in WNC 3/25) (see 3/3)


In Jerusalem, Israeli officials, reps. fr. Russia’s leading gas producer Gazprom discuss possibility of constructing pipeline to bring Russian gas to Israel via Turkey. (Interfax 3/24 in WNC 3/25)


25 MARCH

U.S. special envoy Ross meets with Israeli DM Mordechai in Miami before leaving for the Middle East to “finalize” a U.S. proposal on resuming Israel-Palestinian negotiations. Mordechai is visiting the U.S. to lobby against a public U.S. FRD offer, for Israel’s conditional s. Lebanon withdrawal offer. (MM, WT 3/25; MM, WP 3/26; JP 3/28; ITV 3/28 in WNC 3/31) (see 3/5)

26 MARCH

In Jerusalem, U.S. special envoy Ross meets with PM Netanyakhu, who rejects U.S.
proposal for 13.1% FRD. (PR, WP, WT 3/27; JP 4/4)

Lebanese PM Hariri meets with Austrian Chancellor Viktor Klima to discuss Lebanon’s stand on Israel’s proposal for conditional implementation of UN Res. 425. (RL 3/26 in WNC 3/27)

For the 1st time, UNSCOM successfully searches 1 of 8 “presidential sites” that Saddam Hussein agreed on 2/22 to open. (NYT, WP 3/27) (see 3/5)

In s. Lebanon, 2 Lebanese civilians are wounded during IDF shelling. (VOL 3/26 in WNC 3/27)

27 MARCH


In a conference call to 10s of American Jewish leaders, Secy. Albright says that the U.S. is frustrated by the delays in the peace process but will not give Israel an ultimatum for redeployment fr. the West Bank. Malcolm Hoenlein, CPMAJO exec. dir., says that Albright has been holding conference call briefings on the peace process with Jewish leaders every 2 or 3 months. (MA 3/29 in WNC 3/20; MM, NYT 3/30; RE 3/30 in WNC 3/31)


In Ankara, PC delegation led by Speaker Qura’i discusses peace process with Pres. Süleyman Demirel. Qura’i says that PA respects Turkey’s military cooperation agmt. with Israel. (Anatolia 3/27 in WNC 3/30)

In Amman, bomb explodes outside Modern American School, causing material damage but no injuries. No one takes responsibility. (RJ 3/28 in WNC 3/31; RJ 5/10 in WNC 5/13) (see Peace Monitor)

28 MARCH

U.S. special envoy Ross meets again with PM Netanyah, insists that Israel add another 4% to its FRD proposal. Netanyah refuses, also says that Israel must have a role in monitoring PA security compliance in an FRD agmt. Ross then meets with Arafat. (WT 3/29; MA 3/29 in WNC 3/30; JP 4/4)

In Washington, Secy. Albright meets with Israeli DM Mordechai, warns him that the U.S. is reaching the point where it would simply let Israel, the PA work things out themselves. Mordechai briefs Albright on Israel’s proposal for conditional withdrawal fr. s. Lebanon. (MM 3/30; RMC 4/12 in WNC 4/15)

Iranian FM Kamal Kharrazi arrives in Syria for 2-day visit, meets with Pres. Asad. One focus of talks is Israel’s s. Lebanon withdrawal offer, which is opposed by both states. (IRNA, SANA 3/28, IRNA, SATN, VIRI 3/29, IRNA, VIRI 3/30 in WNC 3/31)

Iran’s Culture and Islamic Guidance M Atollah Mohajerani says that if Israel withdraws fr. s. Lebanon with guarantees for a fixed border, “there will be no further need for Hizbollah’s resistance operations there.” (MM 4/1, 4/2)

1,000s of Israeli Arabs hold march nr. Shaykh Danun, Israel, to mark the destruction of 418 Arab villages by Jewish forces in 1948. (NYT 3/29; MM 4/6)

In Nablus, IDF opens fire with rubber bullets on Palestinians holding antisettlement demonstration. (NYT 3/29)

29 MARCH

U.S. special envoy Ross meets with PM Netanyah, who again rejects U.S. FRD proposal, claiming that PA has not backed adequate reciprocal security steps. Ross then meets with Arafat. (CSM, WP 3/30; JP 4/11)


In Washington, senior Israeli diplomats meet with American Israel Public Affairs Comm. (AIPAC) leaders at the Israeli amb.’s residence to discuss AIPAC efforts to have congressmen sign a letter urging the U.S. not to pressure Israel on FRD. AIPAC Exec. Dir. Howard Kohr denies group is coordinating lobbying efforts with the Israeli government, claims letter was initiated independently by Sens. Joseph Lieberman (D-CT), Connie Mack (R-FL); emb. wanted briefing on the letter by AIPAC rather than the senators themselves because, according to Kohr, “no one knows more about the Hill than us.” (NYT 4/26)

The body of Hamas mbr. Muhieddin Sharif is found in the debris of a car explosion in Ramallah, in area A. Israel claims he was making a car bomb, but PA autopsy shows that he died from 3 gunshot wounds hours before the explosion. Sharif has been on the top of Israel’s wanted list for 2 yrs.
(MM 4/1; ITV 4/1, 4/2 in WNC 4/4; CSM, MM, WJW, WP, WT 4/2; MM 4/7; MEI 4/10; PR 4/17)

PSF announces seizure of 7 arms caches, weapons factories belonging to Hamas. (MM 4/14)

30 MARCH

U.S. special envoy Ross holds final unsuccessful mtg. with PM Netanyahu. State Dept. says that since no gaps were closed during Ross's tour, it is not considering a Washington summit; says that "one option has always been for us to disengage from this kind of direct catalytic role." Ross goes to Sharm al-Shaykh to brief Egyptian pres. Mubarak (MM 3/30; IDF Radio, MENA 3/30 in WNC 3/31; ITV, QY 3/30, al-Dustur, IDF Radio, ITV, JT, QY 3/31 in WNC 4/2; CSM, MM, NYT, WP, WT 3/31; CSM, MM 4/1; SA 4/1 in WNC 4/3; WJW 4/2; MENA 4/2 in WNC 4/4; MM 4/3; MEI 4/10; JP 4/11)


Jordan, Israel hold 1-day naval exercise in the Gulf of Aqaba. This is the 1st such joint exercise. (RJ 3/30, JT 3/31 in WNC 4/2)

Jordan receives 3 F-16s fr. the U.S. (al-Ray 3/31 in WNC 4/2; JT 4/4 in WNC 4/7)

Palestinians across the West Bank, Gaza mark Land Day, the anniversary of the 1976 incident in which the IDF opened fire on Palestinians protesting Israeli land confiscations, killing 6. Clashes with IDF are reported in Bethlehem, al-Bireh, Hebron, Jinnin, Nablus, Qalqilya, Ramallah; 17 Palestinians are injured. Israeli Arab leaders order general strike. (NYT 3/29; MM 3/30; al-Dustur 3/31 in WNC 4/2; MA 4/6 in WNC 4/7; JP 4/11)

Israeli High Court rejects appeal to prevent demolition of mosque in Jordan Valley, school and home nr. Nablus, home nr. Tulkarm. (LAW 3/31)

50 Christian evangelical groups make unprecedented promise not to carry out missionary activity in Israel, saying that they "rejoice in the presence of the Jewish people in this country of their ancestors" and will avoid "activities which . . . alienate them from their tradition and community." (WT 3/31)

Saudi Arabia ends its inquiry into 6/96 Khobar bombing, says bombers cannot be positively identified. U.S., which suspects Iranian involvement and has complained that Saudi Arabia has not been forthcoming with information, says its investigation is still open. (NYT 3/31; WT 4/1)

31 MARCH

Arafat, on visit to Amsterdam, tours Anne Frank House. (MENA 3/31 in WNC 4/2; IDF Radio 4/1 in WNC 4/3; WJW 4/9)

Lebanese FM Buwayz arrives in Rome for mtg. with Pres. Oscar Luigi Scalfaro, PM Romano Prodi; discusses Lebanon's demand for Israel's unconditional adherence to UN Res. 425. (RL 4/1 in WNC 4/3)

Mr. Nablus, IDF opens fire with rubber bullets on Palestinians protesting Israeli land confiscations, injuring 1. (WT 4/1)

Suspected Hizballah roadside bomb explodes in the Jizzin enclave in s. Lebanon, killing 6 civilians, wounding 1. IDF urgently contacts SLA to dissuade them fr. retaliating, which could spark fierce clashes similar to those that occurred in 8/97. (ITV 3/31 in WNC 4/1; MM, WP 4/1)

1 APRIL

In Sharm al-Shaykh, Arafat, Mubarak hold brief mtg. to discuss U.S. special envoy Ross's visit, possible Arab summit. (al-Ittihad [Abu Dhabi], MENA, RE 4/1 in WNC 4/3; MENA 4/2 in WNC 4/3) (see 3/30)

Israeli inner cabinet formally accepts UN Res. 425 of 1978. (MM 4/1; ITV 4/1 in WNC 4/4; MM, NYT, WP, WT 4/2; JP 4/11) (see Peace Monitor)

Lebanese pres. Hrawi arrives in Abu Dhabi for 2-day visit. (RL 4/3 in WNC 4/6, al-Ittihad 4/4 in WNC 4/7)

Jordan says it is planning to build a small nuclear reactor for educational, research purposes. The project would be jointly financed by the International Atomic Energy Agency. (JT 4/1 in WNC 4/3)

2 APRIL

In Washington, Secy. Albright discusses peace process with Israeli Trade M Sharan­sky. (IDF Radio, MA 4/3 in WNC 4/6)
Chronology

Secy. Albright receives letter fr. 6 senators praising U.S. Middle East policy. (WJW 4/2; NYT 4/7; MM 4/8; WJW 4/9; MEI 4/10; WT 4/13; NYT 4/26) (see Doc. C1; Peace Monitor)

In Ramallah, more than 6,000 Palestinians attend funeral for Hamas's Sharif. Afterward, 100s of mourners demonstrate outside nearby Jewish settlement. IDF fires teargas, rubber bullets at them, injuring 10. (MM 4/2; WT 4/3) (see 3/29)

In Um al-Sehali, n. Israel, Israeli authorities demolish 3 bedouin homes allegedly built without permits. Um al-Sehali is home to 8 bedouin families, 100s of Israeli Arabs. (MM, WT 4/6)

Iran, Iraq begin POW exchange. (WP 4/3) (see Peace Monitor)

3 APRIL

Arafat speaks with Secy. Albright, urges the U.S. to publicly present its 13.1% FRD plan. (WT 4/5)

81 senators send AIPAC-drafted letter to Pres. Clinton, urging him not to pressure Israel by publicly issuing a U.S. FRD proposal. CPMADO criticizes letter, saying AIPAC is creating an unnecessary sense of crisis. (WJW 4/2; NYT 4/7; MM 4/8; WJW 4/9; MEI 4/10; WT 4/13; NYT 4/26; MM 5/1) (see 3/29; Doc. C2)

Egypts calls for exchange of amb. with Iran. (IRNA 4/3 in WNC 4/6)

Some 10,000 Palestinians in the West Bank, Gaza hold rallies to denounce what they believe to be Israel's assassination of Hamas's Sharif. (MM 4/3; ITV 4/3 in WNC 4/6; WT 4/4) (see 2/2)

In s. Lebanon, Hizbollah detonates roadside bomb as SLA unit passes, killing 7 SLA mbrs. IDF shells area in response, damaging 2 civilian homes. (RL, VOL 4/3 in WNC 4/6)

4 APRIL

Egypt rules out Arab summit on the peace process in the nr. future; calls on U.S. to publicly present its 13.1% FRD plan. (MENA, al-Safir [Beirut] 4/4 in WNC 4/7; MENA 4/7 in WNC 4/8; JT 4/12 in WNC 4/15) (see 4/1)

Iran's Interior M Abdullah Nuri arrives in Saudi Arabia for talks on expanding bilateral relations. (WT 4/6)

100s of Israeli policemen are deployed in Um al-Sehali to prevent bedouin families fr. rebuilding homes demolishes 4/2, sparking clash with local Israeli Arabs. Overnight, clashes spread to nearby villages, leaving a total of about 24 protesters, 22 officers injured. (MM, WP 4/6; PR 4/17) (see 3/30)

Palestinian protests sparked by the murder of Hamas's Sharif continue in Gaza and East Jerusalem, where 6 are wounded by IDF gunfire. (NYT 4/5; YA 4/5 in WNC 4/7) (see 4/3)

5 APRIL

In Cairo, Arafat briefs FM Musa on U.S. envoy Ross's last tour. In Amman, Arafat adviser Abbas briefs King Hussein on the tour. (JTV, MENA, RJ 4/5 in WNC 4/7)

In Paris, French pres. Chirac meets with Syrian VP Khaddam. FM Shara, says that UN Res. 425 requires Israel's unilateral, unconditional withdrawal fr. s. Lebanon. (RMC 4/5 in WNC 4/7; MM 4/6; MEI 4/10)

Iran receives new amb. fr. Turkey. (IRNA 4/5 in WNC 4/7)

Shin Bet officials inform the Israeli cabinet that the PA is fighting terrorism, using full weight against Hamas. PM Netanyahu disagrees. (ITV 4/5 in WNC 4/7)

6 APRIL


Lebanon, Syria hold summit in Damascus to draw up plans to counter Israel's moves to promote its conditional s. Lebanon withdrawal offer. (MM 4/6)

Pres. Clinton receives letter fr. 33 House reps., praising their Middle East policy. (WJW 4/2; NYT 4/7; MM 4/8; WJW 4/9; MEI 4/10; WT 4/13; NYT 4/26) (see Doc. C3; Peace Monitor)

PA concludes that Hamas's Sharif was killed by a rival Hamas faction; says it has detained 30, arrested 5 Hamas suspects in the murder, is looking for a 6th accomplice. Hamas rejects report, saying PA is seeking an excuse to crack down on the movement as Israel demands. PM Netanyahu says investigation proves the PA is capable of fighting terrorism. (ITV 4/6 in WNC 4/7; MM 4/6; VRII 4/6, Corriere della Sera [Milan] 4/7 in WNC 4/8; CSM, NYT, WP, WT 4/7; MM 4/8; MM, WT 4/15; PR 4/17; CSM 4/21; MEI, PR 4/24; YA 4/26 in WNC 4/30) (see 4/4)

1,000s of Israeli Arabs hold general strike, protest march in the Galilee to denounce government discrimination against
Arab citizens. In Um al-Sehali, Israeli police watch, do not interfere as 3 bedouin families rebuild their homes. (MM 4/6; MM, WP 4/7; WT 4/8; MM 4/9; PR 4/17) (see 4/4)

Hrs. after being summoned to appear before the PA General Intelligence Service (GIS), Palestinian Muhammad Anqawi, previously arrested by the PA on suspicion of being a collaborator, is found shot dead in Ramallah. (PR 4/17; JP 4/25)

Iran-Iraq POW swap ends. (CSM 4/6; WT 4/8; WP 4/20) (see Peace Monitor)

Federal judge in Manhattan jails Ismail Elbarasse, a Palestinian American, for refusing to testify before a secret grand jury investigating Hamas fundraising in the U.S. (NYT 4/18) (see 2/23)

Pres. Clinton announces ban on foreign-made assault rifles that closes loophole in a 1994 weapons ban that allowed the continued import of Israeli Uzis, Galilis. Israeli Military Industries, which planned to sell 10,000 of the guns in the U.S. over the next 3 to 4 yrs., is considering manufacturing the guns in the U.S. to avoid the restriction. (Globes, YA 4/7 in WNC 4/8; WJW 4/9)

Roadside bomb detonates nr. the Lebanon-Israel border, killing 1 civilian, injuring 3. 1 IDF soldier is injured, 1 Hizbullah mbr. is killed in separate incident nr. the border. (RI 4/6 in WNC 4/7; WJW 4/9)

7 APRIL

In Jerusalem, IDF shoots to death a Palestinian motorist who allegedly failed to stop at a checkpoint, sparking clashes b/w Palestinians, IDF in surrounding Palestinian neighborhoods. (MM 4/7; NYT, WP 4/8)

8 APRIL

Netanyahu holds mtg. with inner cabinet to discuss offering a 9% FRD plus 2% to a newly defined area C-plus. Netanyahu adviser Molho travels to Washington to brief U.S. (MM 4/8) (see Peace Monitor)

EU special envoy Miguel Moratinos discusses Israel's proposal for conditional withdrawal fr. s. Lebanon with DM Mordechai, says any pullout must involve Syria. (RMC 4/8 in WNC 4/10)

9 APRIL

After Hamas issues leaflet, video tape accusing the PA of collaborating with Israel in Sharif's murder, PA arrests Hamas spokesman 'Abd al-'Aziz Rantisi on charges of breaking long-standing agmt. not to publicly criticize the PA leadership, closes Reuters's Gaza bureau for airing video. (MM 4/9; ITV 4/9 in WNC 4/10; CSM, NYT, WP 4/10; JP 4/11; PR 4/17; MEI 4/24) (see 4/6)

10 APRIL


Hamas, PA hold emergency mtg. to try to defuse tensions over Sharif killing. (NYT 4/10; JP 4/25; MEI 4/28) (see 4/9)

11 APRIL

Turkey receives new Iranian amb. (IRNA 4/11 in WNC 4/15) (see 4/5)

PA police arrest 10s of Hamas mbrs., including Imad Awadallah, who is the 6th suspect in 3/29 Sharif killing and has been wanted by Israel for over a yr.; Senior Izzeddin al-Qassam figure Ibrahim Muqadima, also on Israel's most wanted list; and Islamic Jihad spokesman 'Abdallah al-Shami. (NYT, WT 4/12; IDF Radio 4/13 in WNC 4/15; MM 4/14; LAW 4/15; MEI 4/28) (see 4/10)

In Nablus, 5,000 Palestinian students hold demonstration calling for revenge against Israel over Sharif's murder. (WT 4/12; CSM 4/13; MEI 4/28) (see 4/10)

12 APRIL

In Hebron's Jewish enclave, Israeli police clash with Israeli peace activists protesting a government sponsored celebration attended by 30,000 settlers and right-wing Israelis, marking Passover, Israel's 50th anniversary, the 30th anniversary of Jews' "return" to Hebron. 29 demonstrators are arrested, 5 officers injured. (WP, WT 4/13; MM 4/14; MM 4/16; YA 4/24 in WNC 4/27)

13 APRIL


Israel detains PSF officer Yahya Qadous on charges of spying for Syria. (PR 4/17)
PA police arrest more than 12 Hamas supporters who took part in an anti-Israeli rally in Nablus 4/11. (MM 4/14)

14 APRIL

In Paris, Lebanese FM Buwayz discusses Israel's s. Lebanon withdrawal proposal with French FM Hubert Vedrine. (RL, al-Safir 4/15 in WNC 4/16)

10s of Palestinians, Israeli Arabs escorted by Israeli police march fr. East Jerusalem to site of Dayr Yasin in West Jerusalem, where Jewish fighters massacred more than 100 Palestinians in 1948. (MM 4/14; WT 4/15; MM 4/17) (see 4/6)

Israeli Youth Movements Council announces launch of "My Brother Jonathan Pollard" campaign to encourage pressure on the U.S. to pardon the convicted spy. Campaign was initiated by the Knesset lobby for Pollard, headed by Cabinet Secy. Nave. (YA 4/14 in WNC 4/16) (see 3/19)

In s. Lebanon, 1 child is injured during shelling between IDF, SLA and Hizballah. (VOL 4/15 in WNC 4/16)

15 APRIL


King Hussein sends letter to PM Majali, asking him to prevent media criticism of Arafat, the PA, the peace process; to draft new press law that will "safeguard the interests of the kingdom." (JT 4/15 in WNC 4/16; al-Ra'i 4/21 in WNC 4/28) (see 1/26)

In Amman, Jordan, Iran discuss expanding cultural, religious relations. (IRNA 4/16 in WNC 4/17)

Israel releases administrative detainees Ahmad Qattamesh (held 5 yrs., 8 mos.), Hassan Fatatreh (held 4 yrs.). Both men are Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine activists. (MM 4/16; PR 4/17; JP 4/25)

Jordan releases opposition leader Shubailat, arrested 2/20 during Ma’an riots. (JT 4/15 in WNC 4/16; MEI 4/24)

16 APRIL


Roadside bomb explodes in s. Lebanon, killing an SLA mbr. (VOL 4/16 in WNC 4/17)

17 APRIL


In s. Lebanon, 4 IDF soldiers are wounded in attack by Amal. In 2 separate incidents, 1 civilian, 3 IDF soldiers are injured by Hizballah shelling. (RL 4/28 in WNC 4/21)

18 APRIL

Jordanian PM Majali sends letter to King Hussein, promising that the government will start drafting new press law immediately. (JT 4/19 in WNC 4/21) (see 4/15)


19 APRIL

Coordination Comm. of the Refugee Working Group opens 3-day mtg. in Montebello, Canada. (FOPOGNET Digest [Internet] 4/30; PR 5/1) (see Peace Monitor)

British PM Blair arrives in Jordan, visits the Palestinian refugee camp Baqa'a with Crown Prince Hassan, has lunch with King Hussein. Blair then leaves for Israel, where he discusses with PM Netanyahu EU ideas for reviving peace talks, including sug-

A small group of unarmed Palestinian shepherds encounters 3 armed Jewish settlers on a piece of disputed land nr. Hebron. In ensuing confrontation, 1 settler is shot dead, 1 Palestinian is seriously wounded, 1 settler is injured. Israeli police cannot determine who shot whom or how fight unfolded. No weapons are recovered. (MM, NYT, WP 4/20; PR 4/24; JP 4/25)

20 APRIL

In Gaza, British PM Blair, Arafat sign security cooperation agmt. After mtg, Blair announces that Arafat, Netanyahu have agreed to meet separately with him, U.S. Secy. of State Albright in a London summit beginning 5/4 in what the U.S. warns might be a last chance to save the peace process. (MM 4/20; MM, NYT, WP, WT 4/21; ITV, LPA, MA, RE, SA 4/21 in WNC 4/23; MM 4/23; PR 4/24, 5/1; JP 5/2)

Netanyahu invites extreme hard-liner retired Gen. Rehavam Ze'evi, his Moledet party to join the cabinet as minister without portfolio. Ze'evi has advocated deportation of Palestinians fr. Israel, occupied territories; warned Arafat in 1993 that he would be assassinated if he dared to visit Israel; publicly insulted Asst. Secy. of State Indyk when he was serving as amb. to Israel. (MM 4/22; al-Quds al-Arabi 4/23 in WNC 4/27; MM 4/24; WT 5/5; MM 4/27)

Iran, Iraq hold mtgs. to discuss freeing all remaining POWs, fate of MIAs. (CSM, WP 4/21)

In s. Lebanon, an SLA mbr. is injured when land mine explodes. (VOL 4/20 in WNC 4/21)

21 APRIL


Jordan urges its "neighbors" to prevent armed groups fr. infiltrating into the kingdom. Over the past wk, the Jordanian press has reported several attempts by Hizballah units to cross into Jordan fr. Syria, but government refuses to confirm or deny stories. (JT 4/21 in WNC 4/23)

22 APRIL

In Cairo, Egypt's Pres. Mubarak, PA's Arafat discuss peace process, British PM Blair's tour, upcoming visit by U.S. special envoy Ross. (MENA 4/22 in WNC 4/28)

In Beirut, Speaker Birri briefs Kuwait's National Assembly Speaker Ahmad 'Abd al-Azziz al-Sadun on Israel's proposal for conditional withdrawal fr. s. Lebanon. (RL 4/22 in WNC 4/28)

Arab League mbrs. sign 1st Arab antiterrorism convention, which exempts armed attacks against foreign occupiers. (WT 4/22; RE 4/23 in WNC 4/28; PR 5/1)

A bomb explodes outside the Jordanian Highway Patrol Directorate in Suwaylih, n. of Amman, causing damage but no injuries. No one claims responsibility. (RJ 5/10 in WNC 5/13) (see Peace Monitor)

An SLA mbr. is injured when a roadside bomb explodes in s. Lebanon. (VOL 4/22 in WNC 4/28)

23 APRIL

Iraq threatens to halt arms inspections unless UN lifts economic embargo by next wk. (NYT 4/24) (see 3/26)

24 APRIL


In Baden-Baden, King Hussein meets with Arafat, fmnr. Israeli PM Peres for talks on the peace process. (RJ 4/25 in WNC 4/28; JTV, Tunis-7 Television, Tunisian Republic Radio Network 4/29 in WNC 5/1; JTV 4/30 in WNC 5/5)

In Beirut, Lebanese FM Buwayz briefs the heads of the Australian, Asian, Iranian, Italian diplomatic missions on Lebanon's position regarding Israel's proposal for conditional withdrawal fr. s. Lebanon, interpretation of UN Res. 425. (IRNA, VOL 4/24 in WNC 4/27)

25 APRIL

In Jerusalem, U.S. special envoy Ross, Asst. Secy. of State Indyk meet with PM Netanyahu to discuss upcoming London mtgs. (NYT 4/26; ITV 4/26 in WNC 4/27; MM, NYT 4/27)

This content downloaded from 66.134.128.11 on Fri, 27 Feb 2015 16:55:27 UTC
All use subject to JSTOR Terms and Conditions

Iran's Majles speaker Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri arrives in Oman for talks on expanding diplomatic relations, trade ties. (IRNA 4/25, 4/26 in WNC 4/30; IRNA 4/30 in WNC 5/1)

A New York Times poll released today finds that if Israel seemed in danger of being defeated by Arab armies, 22% of Americans would favor sending troops, 24% would favor sending arms, 44% would want to stay out of the fighting. (NYT 4/26)

In s. Lebanon, 3 children are wounded by IDF shelling. (RL 4/25 in WNC 4/30)

26 APRIL


In Ankara, the presidents of Azerbaijan, Georgia, Turkey hold follow-up mtg. on transporting Caspian oil to Turkish ports, re-creating a Eurasian transport corridor, spurring regional economic growth. (ITAR-TASS 4/26, Bakinskity Rabochty [Baku], Sabah [Istanbul] 4/28 in WNC 4/30; Milliyet [Ankara] 5/11 in WNC 5/13) (see 3/2)

27 APRIL

Pres. Clinton hosts White House ceremony celebrating Israel's 50th anniversary. (MM 4/28)

UNSC decides to maintain current level of international sanctions against Iraq. U.S. acknowledges that Iraq has made progress in complying with UN disarmament efforts. This is the 1st of 2 comprehensive reviews of Iraqi sanctions. 2d review is set for 10/98. (NYT, WT 4/28; MM 4/29) (see 4/23)


Kuwait pardons 13 Jordanian detainees held in Kuwaiti jails since the Gulf War. The last batch of detainees were pardoned 2/25/97, released 10 days later. Kuwait is still holding 25 Jordanians. (RJ 4/27, JT 4/28 in WNC 4/30; JT 4/29 in WNC 5/1)

Hizballah detonates roadside bomb in s. Lebanon, injuring 5 IDF soldiers. 1 IDF soldier, 1 SLA mbr. are wounded in separate clash with Hizballah. 2 Lebanese civilians are injured in Israel's retaliatory shelling. (MM 4/27; RL 4/27 in WNC 4/30; WP 4/28)

28 APRIL


2-day Palestinian-Egyptian Higher Comm. mtg. opens in Gaza. (al-Quds 4/28 in WNC 4/30; NYT, WT 4/29; MENA 4/29 in WNC 5/1; MEI 5/8) (see Peace Monitor)

PM Netanyahu announces that world Likud chmn. Shoval, a fmnr. amb. to the U.S., will return to Washington this summer to replace current amb. Eliahu Ben-Elissar. (WT 4/29; WJW 4/30; JP 5/9)

Contradicting UN officials, Iraq claims that the 2/22 agmt. with the UN does not entitle inspectors to an unlimited number of visits over an indefinite period, wants to limit weapons inspections. (WP, WT 4/29; MM 5/1) (see 4/27)

29 APRIL

Israel's 2-day official celebration of its 50th anniversary (by the Jewish calendar) begins. Jubilee officials have banned any reference to the Oslo process during official programs; Pres. Weizman, who is critical of government's handling of peace process, has not been scheduled to speak. IDF places closure on the West Bank, Gaza for the long weekend. (CSM, MM, NYT, WP, WT 4/29; Tishrin 4/29 in WNC 5/6; NYT, WT 4/30; Interfax, Star 4/30 in WNC 5/1; JP 5/2)

Jordanian government bans rally planned by 13 opposition parties to highlight the 50th anniversary of Israel's occupation of Palestinian lands. (JT 4/30 in WNC 5/1; al-Majd [Amman] 5/4 in WNC 5/6; MEI 5/8)

Hamas spiritual leader Shaykh Yasin arrives unexpectedly in Iran. (MM 4/29; IRIB Television 5/2 in WNC 5/6; WT 5/4; MM 5/7; WT 5/13) (Peace Monitor)
Switzerland announces that Israel has paid a $2-m. bail to free Mossad agent arrested for spying 2/19. (WP 4/30; JP 5/9) (see 2/27)

In Amman, unknown assailants place bombs under the car of fmr. Jordanian intelligence chief Muhammad Kilani, outside the home of Senator Jawdat al-Subul. (AFP 4/29, al-Dustur 4/30 in WNC 5/1; MENA 4/30 in WNC 5/5; RJ 5/10 in WNC 5/13) (see Peace Monitor)

In s. Lebanon, a Lebanese civilian is seriously wounded by IDF shelling. (VOL 4/29 in WNC 5/1)

30 APRIL

U.S. VP Gore, PM Netanyahu address ceremony in Jerusalem marking Israel's 50th anniversary. Gore also meets with Pres. Weizman, Infrastructures M Sharon. (MM, NYT, WP, WT 4/30; ITV 4/30 in WNC 5/1; CSM, MM 5/1; al-Barth [Damascus] 5/1 in WNC 5/12; JP 5/9) (see Doc. C5)

In Beirut, EU special envoy Moratinos discusses Israel's s. Lebanon withdrawal offer with PM Hariri, Speaker Birri. says that EU supports unconditional implementation of UN Res. 425. (RL 4/30 in WNC 5/1)

In Jordan, a bomb explodes underneath a car parked at al-Quds International Hotel in the Rashid neighborhood of Amman, causing extensive damage but no casualties. No one claims responsibility. (MENA 4/30 in WNC 5/1; RJ 5/1 in WNC 5/5; RJ 5/10 in WNC 5/13) (see Peace Monitor)

1 MAY

5,000 supporters welcome Abu Abbas's return to Gaza to celebrate anniversary of Palestine Liberation Front, the group behind the 1985 Achille Lauro hijacking. Abbas, who now supports Arafat and the peace process, is still based in Iraq but occasionally visits Gaza, with Israel's permission. (YA 5/4 in WNC 5/6; WT 5/10)

2 MAY

VP Gore travels to Saudi Arabia to discuss peace process, bilateral relations with Crown Prince Abdullah. Gore then heads to Ramallah for late-night mtg. with Arafat. Secy. Albright says that she "has no reason to believe" that London talks will be successful. (NYT, WP 5/3; NYT, WP 5/4)

N. Beirut, Lebanon, Hizballah mbrs. clash with supporters of fmr. Hizballah chief Shaykh Subhi Tufayli, leaving 2 people wounded. Lebanese army units encircle the area, halt fighting. (RL 5/2 in WNC 5/6) (see 2/1)

3 MAY

After mtg. with Arafat late 5/2, VP Gore holds unscheduled 2 a.m. mtg. with Netanyahu to discuss peace process; then heads to Cairo for predawn mtg. with Pres. Mubarak regarding London talks, bilateral economic relations. Later in the day, Arafat flies to Cairo to meet with Mubarak before heading to London mtgs. (WP 5/3; ESC Television, MENA, RE 5/3 in WNC 5/6; NYT, WP, WT 5/4)

Iran calls on Turkey to expand bilateral economic relations. (IRNA 5/3 in WNC 5/6)


Israeli military court sentences Palestinian Riyad Abu Hamdiyya to 4 life terms in prison for participation in 1/9, 3/21/97 bombings in Tel Aviv. (NYT 5/4)

4 MAY

In London, Arafat, Netanyahu meet separately with PM Blair, then each hold 2 mtgs. alone with Secy. Albright. Netanyahu discusses (but does not offer) the C-plus option, which he hints could make an 11% FRD possible, but Albright refuses to budge fr. 13.1%. All teams agree to stay an extra day for further talks. (IDF Radio, JT, ITV 5/4 in WNC 5/6; ITV 5/4, al-Ashram, MA, YA 5/5 in WNC 5/8; CSM, MM, NYT, WP, WT 5/5; WP 5/6; WJW 5/7; MEI, PR 5/8; JP 5/9)

In Petra, Jordan, Israel hold talks on ways to increase bilateral trade, Jordanian exports to PA areas. (RJ 5/4 in WNC 5/6)

Turkey tells Iran that it is ready to cooperate with Iran in all fields, especially in transportation, trade. (Anatolia [Ankara] 5/4 in WNC 5/6; Zaman [Istanbul] 5/5 in WNC 5/8) (see 5/3)

Iran calls on Egypt to improve bilateral ties. (VIRI 5/5 in WNC 5/8; IRNA 5/9 in WNC 5/12)

Tel Aviv Mayor Roni Milo, one of Netanyahu's most powerful political allies, announces that he is planning to quit the Likud party when his term as mayor expires
in 11/98; set up new centrist party; run for PM in the next elections, which must take place by 5/2000. (MM, NYT, WT 5/5; Corriere della Sera [Milan] 5/5, ITV 5/6 in WNC 5/8; MM 5/6; ITV 5/10 in WNC 5/13; JP 5/16)

5 MAY

In London, Secy. Albright holds very brief final mtgs. with Arafat, Netanyahu. Albright sets deadline, summoning Arafat, Netanyahu to Washington 5/11. Acceptance of the “invitation” would require both sides to agree to the U.S. 13.1% FRD proposal (which Netanyahu still claims is impossible); and to begin accelerated final status negotiations at the 5/11 mtg., in advance of the redeployments. Arafat agrees, but Netanyahu says he must consult his cabinet at its weekly session 5/10. If Netanyahu fails to come to Washington, administration officials say they would be forced to “reevaluate and reexamine our role” in the peace process. Following the announcement, CPMAJO demands a conference call with Albright 5/6 to denounce pressure on Israel. (MM 5/5; IDF Radio, JTV 5/5, al-Dustur, MENA, VOL, YA 5/6, VOA 5/7 in WNC 5/8; CSM, NYT, WP, WT 5/6; NYT 5/7; CSM, MEI, MM, PR 5/8)

U.S., PA, Israeli teams stay in London to try to bridge gaps on FRD. U.S. presents Netanyahu’s C-plus idea to the PA team, which rejects it. (MM, NYT, WP, WT 5/6)

In Beirut, FM Buwayz discusses Israel’s conditional withdrawal proposal with Chinese amb. An Huishou. China says it supports Lebanon’s position but does not promise to use its veto should any amendments to UN Res. 425 come before the UNSC. (al-Safir 5/6 in WNC 5/8)

Hamas’s Shaykh Yasin arrives in the UAE (MM 5/7; al-Bayan [Dubai] 5/10 in WNC 5/13; MM 5/12) (see Peace Monitor)

Kuwait allows families of 25 Jordanians still detained for allegedly collaborating with Iraq during the Gulf War to fly to Kuwait to visit their relatives. (al-Ra'i 5/5 in WNC 5/8) (see 4/27)

PA GIS agents arrest without charge Reuters reporter Abbas al-Moumani, who delivered Hamas video tape to the PA on 4/9. (LAW 5/8)

6 MAY

PM Netanyahu meets with inner cabinet to discuss U.S. proposal for Washington talks 5/11, asks the U.S. to send special envoy Ross back to Israel for further talks before 5/10 cabinet mtg. (ITV 5/6, 5/7 in WNC 5/8; MM, NYT, WP 5/7)

House mbrs. led by Rep. Gingrich condemn the administration for pressuring Israel to accept its 13.1% FRD plan. Letter signed by 221 of 435 reps. is sent to Clinton urging him to change course. Pres. Clinton says that his purpose is to revive the peace talks while giving Netanyahu what he wants—immediate accelerated final status negotiations. (MM, WP, WT 5/7; ITV 5/7 in WNC 5/8; MEI 5/8, WP 5/14) (see Doc. C6)

In 3.5-hr. conference call, CPMAJO censures Secy. Albright for giving an “ultimatum” to Israel, “micromanaging” the peace process, breaking fmr. Secy. of State Warren Christopher’s pledge to let Israel decide when and how far to redeploy. Albright denies issuing dictat. (WP 5/7; WJW 5/14)

1st lady Hillary Clinton states in television interview that the creation of an independent Palestinian state would hasten peace in the Middle East. White House says statement reflects personal opinion, not policy. (MM, WP 5/7; MM, NYT, WT 5/8; IDF Radio 5/8 in WNC 5/11; WT 5/10; MENA 5/11 in WNC 5/12; Tishrin 5/12 in WNC 5/15; WJW 5/14; JP 5/16; WP 5/19) (see Doc. C8)


In Washington, Israeli Finance M Neeman ends 2-days of talks on restructuring U.S. aid to Israel. (Globes [Internet] 5/7 in WNC 5/8, JP 5/9) (see Peace Monitor)


In n. Israel, an IDF soldier shoots, wounds a 22-yr.-old Jordanian tourist. Jordan, Israel say incident is under investigation, offer no details. (al-Dustur 5/8 in WNC 5/11)

In East Jerusalem, a rabbinical student is stabbed to death by unknown assailant. Israeli police suspect a Palestinian attacker. In a separate incident nr. the West Bank settlement of Eli, a settler shoots and kills a Palestinian who allegedly tried to stab him. (MM 5/6; WP 5/7; LAW 5/8; JP 5/16)

7 MAY

U.S. special envoy Ross leaves for Israel to hold last-minute talks with PM Netanyahu on possible “face-saving ideas” that
would “redefine a part of the 13%” of the West Bank fr. which the U.S. proposes Israel withdraw, allowing Netanyahou to accept the U.S. FRD plan and come to Washington 5/11. (MM, NYT, WP, WT 5/8) (see 5/6)

Arafat stops in Cairo to brief Mubarak on London talks. (MENA 5/7 in WNC 5/8)

In Amman, PA Local Government M Er-akat briefs PM Majali on London talks. (RJ 5/7 in WNC 5/8) (see 5/6)

Urged to do so by Israel’s amb. to the UN Dore Gold, CPMAJO convenes emergency session to vote on whether to issue a public criticism of the Clinton administration. Motion fails by wide margin. (WP 5/8; YA 5/8 in WNC 5/11; WT 5/9) (see 5/6)

Clinton gives 1st speech to an American Arab organization (the Arab American Institute) by a sitting U.S. pres. (MM, WT 5/8, MM 5/13)

After 2 wks. of negotiations, Moledet leader Ze'evi turns down Netanyahou’s invitation to join the coalition government. (Vesti [Tel Aviv] 5/12 in WNC 5/13; JP 5/16) (see 4/20)

Kuwait frees 6 of 13 Jordanian detainees pardoned 4/26. (JTV 5/7 in WNC 5/11) (see 5/5)

8 MAY

After mtg. with U.S. special envoy Ross, PM Netanyahou announces he will not attend 5/11 Washington summit, saying that the deadline does not afford Israel enough time to come to terms with the U.S. proposed. U.S. says it would consider a brief postponement if Israel seems to be moving toward a deal. (MM 5/8; IDF Radio, ITV, QY 5/8 in WNC 5/11; NYT, WP, WT 5/9)


Uri Bar-Ner presents his credentials as Israeli amb. to Turkey, a post left vacant for 8 mos. (Anatolia [Ankara] 5/8 in WNC 5/12)

In s. Lebanon, 8 civilians are injured by IDF shelling. 1 SLA mbr. is killed in separate incident. (RL, VOL 5/8 in WNC 5/11)

In Beirut, shooting breaks out btwn. Hizballah, Amal mbrs., leaving 5 wounded. Lebanese army intervenes to halt fighting, wounding 2 others. (RL 5/9 in WNC 5/12)

9 MAY


FMs fr. Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Russia, UK, U.S. (in London to prepare for upcoming mtg. of the G-8 leading industrialized nations) unanimously call on Israel to accept the U.S. FRD proposal. (LPA 5/9, SANA 5/10 in WNC 5/12; WT 5/10)

At the Vatican, Lebanese pres. Hrawi discusses Israel’s conditional withdrawal proposal with Pope John Paul II, who expresses support for Lebanon’s stance. (RL 5/9, 5/11 in WNC 5/12)

ITV reports that it has uncovered a document signed by Infrastructures M Sharon in which the Likud promises Ultraorthodox leaders that in exchange for their votes for Netanyahou in the 1996 election, the party would make sure that 2 new settlements plus up to 79,000 new housing units in existing settlements would be constructed; would look into providing grants, loans, exemptions to cover settlers’ construction costs. PM’s Office says that it doubts the document could be considered a legal agmt., meaning that it would not have to have been submitted to the Knesset, does not constitute election bribery. (ITV 5/9 in WNC 5/12)

10 MAY

In 3d mtg. with U.S. envoy Ross, PM Netanyahou presents proposal for an “escrow” arrangement for FRD (see Peace Monitor). After presenting the idea to PA officials, who reject it, Ross returns home, having made no progress. (IDF Radio, ITV 5/10, IDF Radio, Les Echos [Paris] 5/11 in WNC 5/12; WP, WT 5/11; CSM, NYT 5/12)

PM Netanyahou does not raise U.S. FRD proposal, Washington invitation for discussion in weekly cabinet mtg. (WP, WT 5/11) (see 5/6)

DM Mordechai appoints Maj. Gen. Shaul Mofaz over Maj. Gen. Matan Vilnai to replace Lt. Gen. Amnon Shahak as IDF chief of staff. Netanyahou openly preferred Vilnai but would not overrule Mordechai’s choice. Previous chiefs of staff have all served for 4 yrs., but Shahak decided in 7/97 that he would not return after his 3d yr. ended in 1/98 because he does not like working with Netanyahou. (MM 5/11)

Jordan’s General Intelligence Dept. announces arrest of 7 Jordanians, 1 “Arab national” on charges of carrying out 5

Nr. Tyre in s. Lebanon, physical fight breaks out b/twn. Hizballah, Amal mbrs., leaving 5 injured. After mg. on recent clashes (see 5/8), the 2 groups issue a joint statement saying that the incidents were isolated, nonpolitical; they will turn brawlers to over to Lebanese authorities, abide by judicial ruling. (RL 5/10 in WNC 5/12)

11 MAY

Pres. Clinton asks Secy. Albright to cancel her trip to Europe for the G-8 summit, meet with PM Netanyahu in Washington 5/13 in another effort to “overcome the remaining differences.” (MM 5/11; MM, NYT, WP, WT 5/12)

In a 2d emergency session, CPM ngo mbns. vote 27-3 to ask for a mtg. with Clinton, to draft letter objecting to pressure on Israel, Hillary Clinton’s 5/6 statements. (WP, WT 5/12; WJW 5/14) (see 5/7)

In Ankara, Turkish PM Mesut Yilmaz, Dep. Chief of Staff Gen. Çevik Bir attend 50th anniversary reception at the Israeli embassy. (Anatolia 5/12 in WNC 5/13)

13 yrs. after denying him sanctuary claiming that he was not its spy, Israel officially recognizes Pollard as its agent in hopes of negotiating his release. (NYT, WP, WT 5/12; MA 5/13 in WNC 5/14; WJW 5/14) (see 4/14)

Iraq, Iran launch their 1st joint operation to search for remains of soldiers killed in their 1980-88 war. (WP 5/12)

Hamas’s Shaykh Yasin arrives in Kuwait. (MM 5/12) (see Peace Monitor)

In retaliation for SLA shelling of Lebanese village that wounded 2 civilians, Hizballah units in s. Lebanon fire rockets at IDF base just inside n. Israel, injuring 2 soldiers. (AFP, ITV, MBC, RL 5/11 in WNC 5/12; ITV, VOL 5/11 in WNC 5/13; WT 5/12; al-Diyar 5/12 in WNC 5/18)

12 MAY

In hastily scheduled address to the National Press Club, Secy. Albright gives long-planned speech, urging Israel to accept U.S. terms for renewing accelerated final status talks that she calls “balanced, flexible, practical, and reasonable.” Albright then heads to Capitol Hill for closed session with congressmen. She also holds hr.-long mtg. with small group of Jewish leaders. (ITV 5/12 in WNC 5/13; MM, NYT, WP, WT 5/13; WJW 5/14) (see Doc. C9)

In Amman, Arafat adviser Abbas briefs PM Majali on peace process given failure to convene 5/11 Washington summit. (RJ 5/12 in WNC 5/13)

Israel for the 1st time names an Arab judge, ‘Abd al-Rahman Zuabi, to the High Court. (WP 5/13)

Jordanian military court sentences opposition leader Shubailat to 9 mos. in prison for inciting anti-U.S. riots in Ma’an in 2/98. (RJ 5/12 in WNC 5/13; WP 5/13) (see 4/15)

Hizballah attacks IDF unit in s. Lebanon, wounding 2 soldiers. (WT 5/14)

13 MAY

In Washington, Secy. Albright meets with PM Netanyahu but fails to overcome differences keeping Israel fr. reaching an FRD agmt., resuming talks with the PA. Netanyahu again raises escrow idea. In a couched criticism of Israel, Clinton expresses suspicions that “some of the actors in the Middle East drama” are carrying out “a deliberate strategy of delay.” Netanyahu is at the start of a 5-dy U.S. visit to meet with congressional leaders, attend AIPAC, American Jewish Comm. mtgs. (MM, NYT 5/13; NYT, WP, WT 5/14; MA 5/14 in WNC 5/15)

Russian special envoy Posuvalyuk arrives in Beirut for 2 days of talks with PM Hariri on peace process, Israel’s s. Lebanon withdrawal offer. (RL, VOL 5/13 in WNC 5/14; RL 5/14 in WNC 5/15)

Kuwait releases 4 of the 13 Jordanian detainees pardoned 4/26. (JTV 5/13 in WNC 5/15) (see 5/7)

In Jerusalem, a Palestinian is stabbed to death by an Ultraorthodox Jew. He is the 6th Palestinian to be stabbed in Jerusalem since 2/17, the 1st to die of his injuries. (NYT, WP 5/14)

In the deadliest attack in more than 2 yrs., Israeli air force (IAF) bombs Fatah Uprising training camp in s. Lebanon, killing 10 Palestinians, wounding 26. IAF also targets nearby PFLP-GC camp, causing damage but no injuries. (MM 5/13; AFP, RL, VOL 5/13 in WNC 5/14; NYT, WP, WT 5/14)

14 MAY

In Washington, Secy. Albright, PM Netanyahu hold 2d day of fruitless talks aimed at restarting peace talks. Lower-level teams headed by U.S. special envoy Ross, Israeli
Cabinet Secy. Nave will work over the weekend. Netanyahu spends rest of day making courtesy calls to mbrs. of Congress, attending lunch in his honor hosted by the Comm. on International Relations; does not lobby mbrs. to pressure administration to moderate its position. (MM 5/14; NYT, WP, WT 5/15)

100,000s of Palestinians across the West Bank, Gaza, Jerusalem turn out for 2-minute moment of silence, nonviolent “March of 1 Million” to mark 50 yrs. of dispossession (known as al-Nakba). Marches in several areas (including Bethlehem, Gaza, Hebron, Jericho, Jerusalem, Jenin, Nablus, Ramallah) devolve into clashes with IDF, which fires live ammunition, rubber bullets, killing 5 Palestinians, wounding 200–400, making this the worst day of violence in the territories since 9/25/96. 20 Israeli soldiers, policemen, and 2 civilians are also injured. Netanyahu calls demonstrations a PA “pressure tactic.” (LAW, MM 5/14; IDF Radio, ITV 5/14 in WNC 5/15; NYT, WP, WT 5/15; JTV 5/14, Anatolia [Ankara] 5/15 in WNC 5/18; LAW 5/18; WP 5/19)

50,000 Palestinians in Syria hold march in Yarmuk refugee camp to commemorate al-Nakba. (JP 5/23)

In Jerusalem, fire damages one of the wooden doors of the al-Aqsa Mosque compound. Israeli police suspect Jewish extremists. (RJ 5/14 in WNC 5/15; WP 5/15)

In Ankara, Iran, Turkey hold talks on expanding ties. (IRNA 5/14 in WNC 5/18) (see 5/4)

In Ankara, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Turkey hold follow-up discussions on the Baku-Ceyhan pipeline project. (Anatolia [Ankara] 5/14 in WNC 5/15) (see 4/26)

15 MAY

In New York, PM Netanyahu meets with UN Secy. Gen. Annan, restates plans to withdraw fr. s. Lebanon but gives no time frame. (NYT, WP, WT 5/16)

Jordanian PM Anani arrives in Cairo to give FM Musa a message fr. King Hussein to Pres. Mubarak regarding their next steps in the peace process. (VOA 5/13 in WNC 5/14; al-Ahram 5/14 in WNC 5/15)

In Geneva, UN Committee Against Torture convenes to discuss Israel's use of torture against Palestinian detainees. (Human Rights Watch press release 5/15) (see Peace Monitor)

Responding to the 5/14 violence, UN High Commissioner for Refugees Mary Robinson calls on Israel to respect the Palestinians' right of peaceful assembly, avoid excessive use of military force. (WP, WT 5/16)

Reacting to 5/14 clashes, Palestinians leaving Friday prayers at al-Aqsa Mosque throw stones fr. the mosque compound at Jews at the Wailing Wall below, causing no injuries. In Hebron, IDF troops open fire on stone-throwing Palestinians along the dividing line bwn. PA, Jewish sectors, wounding an Israeli newspaper photographer. Similar clashes occur in Nablus. In Gaza, 100s of Palestinians attend funeral for nurse killed 5/14 while trying to evacuate the injured. In the Galilee, Israeli Arabs hold peaceful march to mark al-Nakba (see 4/14). (MM 5/15; ITV 5/15 in WNC 5/18; NYT, WP, WT 5/16)

Palestinian refugee camps in Lebanon observe general strike to commemorate al-Nakba. (RL 5/15 in WNC 5/18)

In Cairo, 800 Egyptians hold rally at al-Azhar Mosque to mark 50th anniversary of al-Nakba, protest Israeli policies toward the Palestinians. (AFP, MENA 5/15 in WNC 5/18)

Israel’s Cabinet Secy. Nave visits Pollard to inform him of Netanyahu’s 5/11 decision to recognize him as an Israeli agent. (ITV 5/15 in WNC 5/18; WP 5/17)
MBC (Middle East Broadcasting Centre, London)
MEI (Middle East International, London)
MENA (Middle East News Agency, Cairo)
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-Sharq 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)

Chronology compiled by Michele L. Kjorlien

Israeli soldiers harass a Palestinian in East Jerusalem 5/14 during a two-minute moment of silence marking al-Nakba. (Rina Castelnuovo/NYT Permissions)