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16 NOVEMBER 1995 -  
15 FEBRUARY 1996

This section is part forty-nine 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 NOVEMBER

Israeli FMin. Dep. Dir. Gen. Eytan Bentzur, Syrian FMin. Political Dept. head Rafiq Juwayjati meet on the sidelines of the Barcelona conference preparatory mtg. in Brussels. (MM 11/17; MA 11/17, QY 11/19 in FBIS 11/20)

In Damascus, PLO's Faruq Qaddumi meets with Syrian-based opposition groups to coordinate positions in advance of 1/20 elections. Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP), Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) call on their mbrs. to boycott. (SA 11/17 in FBIS 11/17; *al-Nahar* 11/16 in FBIS 11/22)

Bank of Israel reports that foreign investment in Israel more than doubled during the 1st 3 quarters of 1995, but foreign investment in real estate fell to \$123 m. (2d quarter 1995) fr. \$429 m. (2d quarter 1994). (JP 11/25; MA 12/8 in FBIS 12/8)

On the 25th anniversary of the "Corrective Movement" that brought him to power, Syrian Pres. Hafiz al-Asad sends to parliament a draft law providing general amnesty for certain political crimes. (MM 12/15)

17 NOVEMBER

Israel agrees to begin pullout fr. Bethlehem 12/18, 3 days earlier than planned, to allow for preparations for the city's 1st Christmas celebrations under Palestinian Authority (PA) control. (NYT, WT 11/18)

Lebanon establishes diplomatic relations with South Africa. (RL 11/17 in FBIS 11/20)

18 NOVEMBER

In Tel Aviv, U.S. special envoy Dennis Ross meets with heads of Israeli, PA negotiating teams (Israeli FMin. Dir. Gen. Uri Savir, PA Economics M Ahmad Qurai'). (QY 11/18 in FBIS 11/20)

In Doha, Israel, Qatar end 2 days of positive talks toward reaching an aviation agmt. Saudi Arabia says it will give authorization for overflights to Qatari jets headed to Tel Aviv. (MM 11/17; AFP 11/20 in FBIS 11/21)

Syria welcomes Israeli acting PM Shimon Peres's recent statements that he is willing to resume stalled peace talks. (WT 11/19)

PA approves formation of National Islamic Salvation Party (NISP). Hamas spokesman Mahmud Zahhar says NISP is

not officially a Hamas arm but confirms that Hamas mbrs. have set up the party with the movement's knowledge, approval. Hamas issues leaflet reaffirming it will not take part in elections, calls on Palestinians to boycott. (HA, QPAR 11/20 in FBIS 11/21; SA 11/23 in FBIS 11/24; *al-Hayat* 11/27 in FBIS 11/28)

At the opening of the Jordan Press Foundation Company, Jordanian PM Sharif Zaid Bin Shakir warns that the government will "support views and accept constructive criticism aimed at safeguarding national interests and achievements" but any "destructive criticism" denying these achievements "is tantamount to treason" and will not be tolerated. (JT 11/19 in FBIS 11/21)

Israeli security officials say Eyal head Avishai Raviv, arrested 11/8 in connection with PM Yitzhak Rabin's assassination and released 11/15, was a paid informer for Shin Bet. (NYT 11/19; NYT, WP, WT 11/20)

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#### 19 NOVEMBER

U.S. special envoy Ross meets with acting PM Peres in Jerusalem. (MM 11/20; CSM 11/21; JP 11/25)

Arafat convenes weekly PA cabinet mtg. in Janin for 1st time. 1,000s of Palestinians turn out to rally in his support. Cabinet discusses PLO Exec. Comm.'s suggested amendments to the PA election law. (VOP 11/19 in FBIS 11/20; NYT, WP 11/20; JP 11/25)

The Shamgar Commission of inquiry into the assassination of PM Rabin holds its first day of hearings. (MM 11/20)

Israeli cabinet approves formation of a special comm. to handle right-wing Jewish extremists, incitement, sedition; measures restricting the Law of Return to prevent supporters of illegal organizations from coming to Israel. National Religious Party calls decision a violation of the freedom of expression. (QY 11/19 in FBIS 11/20; MM 11/20)

In continuing naval blockade of s. Lebanon, Israeli gunboats stop fishing vessel off the Tyre coast, detain 2 crew mbrs. (RL 11/19 in FBIS 11/20) (see 9/6)

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#### 20 NOVEMBER

In Brussels, acting PM Peres signs trade accord with the European Union

(EU). (MM 11/20; IDF Radio 11/20 in FBIS 11/21; JP 11/25)

Fatah Central Comm. sets up council, subcommittees to oversee its election campaign. (VOP 11/21 in FBIS 11/21; *al-Hayat* 11/22, SA 11/29 in FBIS 11/30; MEI, PR 12/1)

Arafat meets with Australian FM in Gaza; holds telephone conversation with Saudi Arabia's Prince Sultan regarding Palestinian-Saudi Arabian relations. (VOP 11/20 in FBIS 11/21)

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#### 21 NOVEMBER

Acting PM Peres presents his new cabinet to the Labor Central Comm.; says he will also take the position of DM in the new government, make fm. army chief of staff and current Interior M Ehud Barak FM. Economics M Yossi Beilin will become "Minister in the Prime Minister's Office," a new position that will place him at Peres's disposal for critical assignments; the Economics Min. will be eliminated, melded into the premiership. Yehuda Amital, who is not an MK but a settler rabbi who advocates returning West Bank land to Palestinians, will joint the cabinet as minister without portfolio. To give Police Min. Moshe Shahal more power, Peres expands the Police Min. into a new Internal Security Min. (MM 11/21; CSM, NYT, WP 11/22; QY 11/21, 11/22 in FBIS 11/22; JP 11/25; JP 11/28 in FBIS 11/29)

Israeli Interior M Barak says investigations are underway to identify Jewish extremists in the U.S. to prevent their entry into Israel. (QY 11/21 in FBIS 11/21)

Israel grants citizenship to American spy Jonathan Pollard, arrested in 1985 for giving Israel 1,000s of classified U.S. intelligence documents. Though largely a nod to domestic constituents, some Israeli officials want to use the citizenship grant to extradite, free Pollard. (NYT, WP, WT 11/22; QY 11/21, ITV 11/22 in FBIS 11/24; WJW 11/30; JP 12/2)

Israel Defense Forces (IDF) soldier on border patrol is wounded by attacker firing fr. Jordan. Later, IDF shoots, kills armed man trying to cross border into the West Bank in the same area. (IDF Radio, QY 11/21 in FBIS 11/21)

Ohad Skornik, Michael Epstein, arrested 11/9 in connection with the Rabin assassination, are released on bail, placed under house arrest. 6 other suspects remain in custody. (MM 11/21)

IDF releases 5 detainees fr. al-Khiyam prison in s. Lebanon. (RL 11/21 in FBIS 11/22)

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## 22 NOVEMBER

Peres is sworn in as Israel's 12th PM after winning Knesset approval (62 to 8, with 38 abstentions) for his new cabinet, coalition, and platform. Coalition comprises Labor, Meretz, Yi'ud; commands 63-57 majority, incl. Arab parties. In his speech, Peres presents his policy statement; says he will try to complete a deal with Syria before next year's elections. Syria praises his comments. (MM 11/22; NYT, WP 11/23; SARR 11/22, 11/23, 11/24 in FBIS 11/24; SARR 11/25 in FBIS 11/27; WT 11/26; JP 12/2) (see Doc. C3)

IDF raids PA's Palestinian Bureau of Statistics in Ramallah. (PR 12/1)

Additional international observers arrive in Janin to monitor elections process. (QY 11/22 in FBIS 11/22)

On private visit to London, King Hussein holds 2 mtgs. with Iraqi opposition leaders to discuss current conditions in Iraq. (SA 11/23 in FBIS 11/24; MM 12/3)

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## 23 NOVEMBER

1st 150 IDF soldiers withdraw fr. Nablus in initial redeployment. (VOP 11/23 in FBIS 11/24)

In his 1st interview as FM, Barak says Israel plans to separate the Jewish and Palestinian populations; retain control of greater Jerusalem, Jordan valley, Etzion areas in final settlement. (QY 11/23 in FBIS 11/24; MM, WP 11/24; WT 11/26)

IDF raids PA Preventive Security Force (PSF) headquarters in Salfit. The IDF evacuated the Civil Administration offices in Salfit 10/10. (PR 12/1)

The Palestinian Arab Socialist Ba'th Party says it will run candidates in the 1/20 elections. (VOP 11/23)

Arafat claims 2 Islamic Jihad mbrs. who carried out the Beyt Lid bombing 1/22/95 spent time in IDF camps for Palestinians collaborators; warns of cooperation btwn. Israeli, Palestinian extremists opposed to the Oslo process. (EFE [Madrid] 11/23 in FBIS 11/24; *Le Nouvel Observateur* 11/23 in FBIS 11/27)

Eyal mbr. Dror Adani, being held in connection with the Rabin assassination, says Yigal Amir sent him to obtain halakic

approval for the assassination fr. Rabbi Moshe Tzuri'el. (ITV 11/23 in FBIS 11/24)

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## 24 NOVEMBER

Lebanese Pres. Ilyas Hrawi begins 2d 3-yr. term. (WP 11/26)

In Nablus, Fatah Black Panthers mbrs. detain, beat up 4 Palestinians for allegedly dealing weapons, drugs. (MEI 12/15) (see 11/14)

Nr. Janin, IDF arrests 11 Islamic Jihad mbrs. (NYT 11/26)

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## 25 NOVEMBER

In Amman, Joint Chiefs of Staff delegation meets with PM Bin Shakir, discusses bilateral military relations. (JTV 11/25, JTV, RJ 11/26 in FBIS 11/27)

IDF detains 14 Islamic Jihad mbrs. on suspicion of plotting attacks on Israeli targets. (QY 11/26, 11/27 in FBIS 11/27)

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## 26 NOVEMBER

Israel eases travel restrictions on Arafat. (QY 11/26 in FBIS 11/28)

Islamic Jihad announces it will not take part in elections. Islamic Jihad-Al-Aqsa Brigades faction says it will participate. (QY, VOP 11/26 in FBIS 11/27)

Israeli police question 2 West Bank rabbis, David Kav and Shmuel Dvir, suspected of giving Yigal Amir religious sanction to kill Rabin. (NYT, WP, WT 11/27; HA 11/27 in FBIS 11/27)

In s. Lebanon, Amal units attack IDF patrol. IDF fires back, killing 1 Amal mbr., wounding 3. (RL, VOL 11/26 in FBIS 11/27; MM 11/27)

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## 27 NOVEMBER

PM Peres address the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Comm.; says next stage of redeployment will begin in 8/96. Options then will be to move land fr. zone B to zone A, fr. zone C to zone B, or fr. zone C to zone A, based on the notion of "blocization"—creating blocks of settlements to be linked by bypass roads. Under no circumstances will land currently under PA control be remanded to Israeli

control. (QY 11/27, HA 11/28 in FBIS 11/28)

In Barcelona, 2-day Euro-Mediterranean economic conference opens. (MM 11/27; VOP 11/27 in FBIS 11/27; AFP 11/27, SARR 11/28 in FBIS 11/28; MM, NYT, WT 11/28; SARR 11/28 in FBIS 11/29; MM 11/29; JP 12/9)

NISP publishes list of mbrs. of its political bureau; 2 are women, 95 percent are Hamas mbrs. Party has not decided if it will participate in elections. (*al-Hayat* 11/27 in FBIS 11/28; *al-Quds* 12/8 in FBIS 12/8)

Damascus-based Alliance of Palestinian Forces issues joint statement calling on Palestinians to boycott 1/20 elections. (QPAR 11/27 in FBIS 11/28)

Hizballah fires 3 rockets into n. Israel, causing no damage. (MM 11/27; QY, RL 11/27 in FBIS 11/27; RL 11/27 in FBIS 11/28)

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## 28 NOVEMBER

15 PA officers arrive in Qalqilya to open district coordination office as 1st stage of IDF redeployment fr. the city. (IDF Radio, VOP 11/28 in FBIS 11/29)

PA takes over property tax collection for Tulkarm; announces Palestinian stamp has been released by the 7 West Bank, Gaza post offices under PA control. (VOP 11/28 in FBIS 11/29; PWR 12/5, 12/29)

PM Peres decides joint Israeli-PA industrial parks may straddle the Green Line, need not be fully in the self-rule areas, making operations in the parks more attractive to entrepreneurs who fear the economic ramifications of Israeli closures of the West Bank, Gaza. (IDF Radio 11/28 in FBIS 11/29) (see 6/8)

Israel's *Yedi'ot Aharonot* reports that for the past several days, at the request of PM Peres, FM Dir. Gen. Savir has been holding secret talks with a high-ranking Syrian official in a European capital, possibly Brussels. Savir refuses to comment. (QY 11/28 in FBIS 11/28; JP, YA 11/29 in FBIS 11/29)

PA police arrest manager of Hamas's *al-Watan*, Ramzi Hamad, owner and editor of Islamic Jihad's *al-Istiqlal*. (RMC 11/28 in FBIS 11/28)

In Bursa, Turkey, unidentified gunmen kill Jewish businessman Nesim Malki, claim retaliation for Fathi Shiquaqi killing in Malta 10/26. (NYT 11/29)

Nr. Hebron, IDF fires rockets at Palestinian house, shoots and kills wanted Hamas mbr. 'Abd al-Karim Masalma when he emerges. (WT 11/29)

Hizballah mbrs. in s. Lebanon fire 10s of rockets into n. Israel, wounding 8 Jewish settlers, causing considerable material damage. PM Peres blames Syria for failing to prevent the attack. Hizballah security comm. mbr. Hajj Sa'id Harb is killed in Israeli Air Force (IAF) retaliatory air strike. (MM 11/28; QY, RL, VOL 11/28 in FBIS 11/28; IDF Radio 11/28 in FBIS 11/29; CSM, MM, NYT, WP, WT 11/29; WT 11/30; JP 12/9)

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## 29 NOVEMBER

In Nablus, 3 Fatah Hawks capture, kill alleged Palestinian collaborator, drug dealer. (JP 12/9; MEI 12/15) (see 11/14, 11/24)

In wake of Hizballah attack 11/28, PM Peres meets with cabinet, sends more troops into s. Lebanon. Officials decide against a major strike. IAF hits Hizballah targets, killing 1, wounding 2. (IDF Radio, QY 11/29, HA 11/30 in FBIS 11/30; MM, NYT, WT 11/30; JP 1/29)

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## 30 NOVEMBER

In Nablus, IDF tries to break up demonstrations marking 4th anniversary of IDF killing of 4 Fatah Black Panther leaders, sparking massive riots, wounding 18 Palestinians. (MM 11/30; QY 11/30 in FBIS 11/30; IDF Radio, QY, VOP 11/30, QY 12/1 in FBIS 12/1; CSM, MM, NYT, WP, WT 12/1; WT 12/2; WJW 12/7; JP 12/9; MEI 12/15)

In Qabatiyya, Black Panthers temporarily kidnap 2 Israeli border policemen to prevent the rearrest of a recently released Palestinian prisoner. (MM 11/30; QY 11/30 in FBIS 11/30; IDF Radio, QY, VOP 11/30, QY 12/1 in FBIS 12/1; CSM, MM, NYT, WP, WT 12/1; WT 12/2; WJW 12/7; JP 12/9; MEI 12/15)

Nr. Janin, Palestinian gunman fires on Israeli army jeep escorting settlers' bus, wounding 2 soldiers. (MM 11/30; QY 11/30 in FBIS 11/30; IDF Radio, QY, VOP 11/30, QY 12/1 in FBIS 12/1; CSM, MM, NYT, WP, WT 12/1; WT 12/2; WJW 12/7; JP 12/9; MEI 12/15)

Informal Ad Hoc Liaison Comm. mtg. is held in Washington to prepare for 1/9 Paris donor mtg. (MA 12/5 in FBIS 12/5)

Arafat holds separate mtgs. with Norwegian, Irish, British delegations, regarding bilateral relations, joint venture projects with the PA. (VOP 11/30 in FBIS 12/1)

In Hebron, PA police demand the IDF remove all roadblocks in the city. IDF refuses, say settler security would be jeopardized. Sides agree to send matter to the Palestinian-Israeli Steering and Monitoring Comm. (PISMC) for review. (QY 11/30 in FBIS 11/30)

Amnesty International confirms that Syria has released some 1,200 political prisoners (most mbrs. of the Muslim Brotherhood) in the last 2 wks. in a step to improve its human rights record. (MM 11/30; WT 12/1; MM 12/14) (see 11/16)

2 IDF soldiers are wounded in gunfight with Hizballah fighters. UNIFIL (UN Interim Force in Lebanon) forces report IDF has been using internationally banned phosphorous shells in recent attacks on s. Lebanon. (AFP 11/30 in FBIS 11/30)

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## 1 DECEMBER

Gaza-based Palestine National Council (PNC) mbrs. hold mtg. to discuss draft election law. (VOP 12/1 in FBIS 12/4)

Russia, Israel sign 2-yr. memo of understanding on security. (*Davar*, QY 12/1 in FBIS 12/1; MM 12/4; JP 12/4 in FBIS 12/4; HA 12/5 in FBIS 12/7; JP 12/9; MM 12/21)

State Dept. issues PLO compliance report covering 6/1/95-11/30/95. (WJW 12/7; JP 12/23) (see Doc. D1)

International Commission of Jurists calls on Arafat to delay the 1/20 elections, amend the draft election law, switch to a proportional representation system fr. the current plan for direct election by districts. (MM 12/7)

PA military court sentences 2 Black Panthers, who kidnapped 2 Israeli border policemen 11/30, to 9 yrs. in prison for jeopardizing the security of Palestine. (PR 12/8)

In Gaza, Arafat briefs Meretz delegation on draft election law, U.S. embassy legislation, Libya's expulsion of Palestinians. (VOP 12/1 in FBIS 12/4)

Nr. Nablus, Palestinian youths throw rocks at passing IDF patrol. Soldiers open

fire, killing 1 Palestinian, wounding 2d. (QY 12/1 in FBIS 12/4)

Margalit Harshefi, arrested 11/15 in connection with the 11/4 assassination of Yitzhak Rabin, is released, placed under house arrest. (MM 12/1)

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## 2 DECEMBER

3-wk. EU voter registration campaign ends. (AFP 12/6 in FBIS 12/8) (see 11/12)

PA cabinet approves draft election law, sends it to the Judicial Min. for final revisions. (VOP 12/2, 12/3 in FBIS 12/4; WT 12/6)

To prevent leaks to the press, PM Peres decides not to form the ministerial comm. on national security affairs (the "inner cabinet") that approves special political-security decisions; instead, forms 3-minister team (Finance M Avraham Shohat, FM Barak, himself) to handle such duties. (QY 12/2 in FBIS 12/4)

In Gaza, Arafat briefs Labor party secy. Nisim Zvili on latest developments in the peace process. (VOP 12/2 in FBIS 12/5) (see 12/1)

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## 3 DECEMBER

IDF reports it generally has been pleased with the redeployment process, PA security as self-rule expands; will try to speed up rate of redeployment when possible. (HA 12/3 in FBIS 12/4)

After mtg. with Justice M David Liba'i, PM Peres agrees to cancel his 12/2 decision, form inner cabinet (incl. himself, Liba'i, M without portfolio Amital, M in the PM's office Beilin, Interior M Hayim Ramon, Education M Amnon Rubenstein, Internal Security M Shahal, Religious Affairs M Shimon Shetrit, Immigrant Absorption M Ya'ir Tzaban). (QY 12/3 in FBIS 12/4)

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## 4 DECEMBER

U.S. special envoy Ross begins Middle East tour, meets briefly with Israeli FM Barak, chief negotiator Uri Savir in Israel. (MM 12/4; QY 12/4, MA 12/5 in FBIS 12/5; CSM, WT 12/5)

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5 DECEMBER

U.S. special envoy **Ross** meets with Pres. **Asad** in Damascus, PM **Peres** in Israel. (MM 12/5; RMC, SARR 12/5 in FBIS 12/5; ITV, QY, SARR 12/5 in FBIS 12/6; CSM, MM, WT 12/6)

After several days of mtgs., PFLP Central Comm. decides to boycott 1/20 elections, with the view that the elections are being held with the specific purpose of legitimizing Arafat, Oslo process. (*al-Hayat* 12/7 in FBIS 12/8)

PM **Peres**, Chief of Staff Maj. Gen. **Annon Shahak**, DMin. Dir. Gen. **David Ivri**, Amb. to Washington **Itamar Rabinovitch**, senior DMin. officials begin initial discussion on whether Israel should ask the U.S. for a special defense pact in return for making peace with Syria; if so, what it should include. (HA, JP, YA 12/6, HA, QY 12/7 in FBIS 12/7)

Israeli Civil Administration begins confiscating weapons of West Bank Palestinian collaborators, fearing arms will be turned over to the PA after IDF withdraws. (QY 12/5 in FBIS 12/5; PR 12/15)

With the end of the 30-day mourning period for **Rabin**, Israeli prosecutors officially charge **Yigal Amir** with premeditated murder, aggravated assault; **Hagai Amir**, **Dror Adani** with conspiracy to kill **Rabin** and attack Arabs, weapons violations. Canadian businessman **Sam Spodak** will fund the defense for both **Amir** brothers. (QY 12/5 in FBIS 12/6; WP, WT 12/6; QY 12/9 in FBIS 12/11)

Israeli Central Command restricts the movement of 4 right-wing Jewish activists, giving 1 3-mo. administrative detention, barring 2 fr. entering the West Bank. (QY 12/5 in FBIS 12/5)

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6 DECEMBER

IDF releases revised timetable for withdrawal, showing some earlier departure dates: Tulkarm by 12/10, Nablus by 12/14, Qalqilya by 12/17, Bethlehem by 12/18. (MM 12/6)

In Amman, PM **Peres**, King **Hussein** conclude aviation agmt. (MM 12/6; RJ 12/6 in FBIS 12/6; QY, RJ 12/6, QY 12/7 in FBIS 12/7; CSM 12/7; MEI 12/15)

PA representative **Ziyad Abu Zayyad** says that **Israel**, **PA** have been holding informal talks on **Jerusalem** for over a yr. Israeli government does not confirm or

deny the claim. (JP 12/7 in FBIS 12/8; JP 12/16; JP 2/3)

In Jerusalem, PISMC meets with U.S. special envoy **Ross**. (MM 12/6; VOP 12/6 in FBIS 12/7)

In Gaza, **Arafat** meets with **Hamas** delegation to discuss elections. (VOP 12/7 in FBIS 12/7)

Jordan's King **Hussein** offers to host mtg. of Iraqi opposition leaders to discuss governing Iraq after **Saddam Hussein**. (NYT 12/7) (see 11/22)

**Amal** cadres attack IDF patrol in s. Lebanon, killing 1 soldier, wounding 6. Roadside bomb later wounds 3 South Lebanon Army (SLA) soldiers. IDF shells **Amal** positions in response, killing 1. (MM 12/6; VOL, QY 12/6 in FBIS 12/6; QY 12/6 in FBIS 12/7; CSM, MM 12/7; JP 12/16)

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7 DECEMBER

PA election law goes into effect. (FBIS special supplement 12/19)

In Gaza, **Arafat** meets with U.S. special envoy **Ross**. (MM 12/7; VOP 12/7 in FBIS 12/8)

PM **Peres** meets with Egyptian Pres. **Husni Mubarak** in Cairo; promises to launch investigation into reports that IDF soldiers killed Egyptian POWs during the 1956, 1967 wars (see 9/5; Docs. C1, C2). Pair agrees to put off further discussion of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT) until after an agmt. btwn. Syria, Israel is reached. (MM 12/7; QY 12/7 in FBIS 12/8; NYT 12/10; MEI 12/15; JP 12/16)

PA arrests **Iyad Sarraj**, head of the Independent Palestinian Commission for Citizens' Rights, after he publicly declares the PA has "a poor record on human rights"; demands he sign statement promising not to criticize the PA again; releases him though he refuses to sign. (HA 12/9 in FBIS 12/11; MEI, MM 12/15; JP 12/16; MM 1/4)

At the close of one of Egypt's most violent elections, Pres. **Mubarak's** National Democratic Party wins 317 of 444 seats. (NYT 12/8)

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8 DECEMBER

PM **Peres** meets with **Arafat**, agrees to issue 9,500 more work permits to Palestinians fr. Gaza. (QY, VOP 12/8 in FBIS

12/11; NYT 12/10; MM 12/11; MEI, PR 12/15)

**Arafat grants NISP permission to publish a party newspaper.** (MM 12/13)

In Nablus, **IDF soldier shoots, kills Palestinian during clash.** (QY 12/8 in FBIS 12/11; MM, WT 12/11)

## 9 DECEMBER

After strongly criticizing King Hussein during a press conference, **Laith Shubailat**, head of **Jordan's engineers' union** and leading opponent of normalization with Israel, is arrested on charges of inciting sedition that could get him up to 5 yrs. in jail. (NYT, WT 12/10; AFP, MENA, RMC 12/9, JT, *al-Ra'i* 12/10 in FBIS 12/11; MM 12/11; JT 12/12 in FBIS 12/12; JP 12/16; *al-Safir* 12/30 in FBIS 1/4)

In s. Lebanon, despite being warned that UN personnel are operating in the area, **IDF tanks mistakenly open fire on UN patrol, injuring 3 UNIFIL soldiers.** (QY 12/10 in FBIS 12/11; NYT, WP 12/11)

## 10 DECEMBER

**IDF completes withdrawal fr. Tulkarm.** (CSM, WP 12/10; VOP 12/10 in FBIS 12/11; WT 12/11; QY 12/10 in FBIS 12/12; WJW 12/14; MEI 12/15; JP 12/23)

**PM Peres begins visit to the U.S. to lay groundwork for resumption of talks with Syria, addresses memorial service for Rabin at Madison Square Garden, New York City, attended by 14,000, incl. 40 mbrs. of Congress, Rabin's widow, VP Al Gore.** (NYT, WP, WT 12/10; QY, YA 12/10 in FBIS 12/11; MM, NYT, WP, WT 12/11; WJW 12/14; MEI 12/15)

**Israeli Amb. to the U.S. Rabinovitch says Syria has dropped preconditions to talks regarding early-warning stations on the Golan.** (QY 12/10 in FBIS 12/11)

## 11 DECEMBER

**IDF declares Nablus area a closed military zone, begins final redeployment 6 days ahead of schedule. IDF arrests 13 yeshiva students, who refuse to leave Joseph's tomb, inside the closed zone; 40 other settlers who arrive at the tomb to confront the IDF are detained. After withdrawal, Jewish settlers who attend yeshiva**

**in the city will continue to receive IDF protection.** (IL, NYT, WP 12/12; QY 12/12 in FBIS 12/12; CSM 12/13; MEI 12/15)

**U.S. Pres. Bill Clinton holds positive telephone conversation with Pres. Asad, then meets with PM Peres.** Peres asks for assurances that money fr. its \$3 b. 1996 aid package will be received by 1/1/96 even if the foreign aid bill has not been passed (aid for FY 1996 was to begin 10/95); gives Clinton a letter, asking for **Polard's release** (see 11/21). (ITV, QY, SARR 12/11, QY 12/12 in FBIS 12/12; MM, NYT, WP, WT 12/12; MM 12/13; MA, SARR 12/13 in FBIS 12/13; WJW 12/14; MM 12/15; HA 12/15 in FBIS 12/15; CSM 1/4; WJW 1/18)

**Israel Amb. to the U.S. and chief negotiator with Syria Rabinovitch says Israel is ready to make unspecified "significant concessions" to Syria.** (WT 12/12)

**In Paris, PA, France sign \$15-m. cooperation agmt.** (VOP 12/11, 12/12 in FBIS 12/12; PR 12/29)

**PA announces creation of National Dialogue Office (NDO) to be headed by fmr. Hamas mbr. Faluji.** At the same time, Faluji announces the indefinite closure of *al-Watan*. NDO will promote dialogue btwn. the PA, other political, social forces amid recognition of the "changed reality" following fr. the Oslo process. (HA 12/12 in FBIS 12/14)

**In Gaza, Arafat, Hamas delegation meet to discuss Hamas-PA talks on elections scheduled for 12/18-21 in Cairo.** (VOP 12/12 in FBIS 12/12)

**In Gaza, Arafat discusses joint ventures opportunities with Poland's Construction M Barbara Blida, delegation of Polish businessmen.** (VOP 12/11 in FBIS 12/12)

**Syria grants special amnesty to fmr. secy. gen. of Syria's Muslim Brotherhood 'Abd al-Fattah Abu Ghuddah, allowing him to return to Damascus after 16-yr. exile.** (RMC 12/11 in FBIS 12/11; MM 12/14) (see 11/30)

## 12 DECEMBER

**IDF turns over control of Nablus to the PA.** (NYT 12/12; VOP 12/12 in FBIS 12/12; NYT, WP, WT 12/13; MM 12/14; PR 12/15; JP 12/23)

**PM Peres addresses a joint session of Congress. 300 American Jewish leaders are then briefed in Senate offices by Peres, U.S. special envoy Ross, U.S. Amb. to Israel Martin Indyk, and others.** (WT 12/



12; ITV 12/12 in FBIS 12/23; NYT, WP, WT 12/13; WJW 12/14)

**Hamas** expels **Imad al-Faluji** fr. all its bodies for failing to follow instructions after he declares he will run as an independent in the 1/20 elections, accepts position on panel to discuss draft election law with the PA, making statements in Hamas's name without approval; says his paper *al-Watan* will no longer serve as Hamas's mouthpiece. (AFP 12/12 in FBIS 12/13; MM 12/13) (see 12/11)

PA releases **Hamas** official, and editor of *al-Watan* **Sayyid Abu Musamih**. (MM 12/13; VOP 12/13 in FBIS 12/13) (see 5/14, 12/11)

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### 13 DECEMBER

On his return fr. the U.S., PM **Peres** stops in Morocco to visit **King Hassan**. (QY 12/13, HA 12/14 in FBIS 12/14; MM 12/14, 12/15)

8 **Hamas** mbrs. (incl. **Abu Musamih**, 'Abd al-Khaliq al-Natshe, **Muhammad Abu Shama'a**, **Zahhar**) travel fr. Gaza to Khartoum for 4 days of talks with diaspora **Hamas** leaders in advance of negotiations with the PA in Cairo 12/18-21. (MM, WT 12/13; IRNA [Tehran], VOP 12/13 in FBIS 12/14; MENA 12/16 in FBIS 12/18)

Syria releases 100s of **Muslim Brothers**, communists fr. jail, leaving only a handful of **Muslim Brothers** still in detention. (MM 12/15; RMC 12/17 in FBIS 12/18) (see 12/11)

**Jordanian** prosecutor general orders detention of *Sawt al-Mar'ah* chief editor for "slandering Iraqi president Saddam Hussein." (*al-Dustur* 12/18 in FBIS 12/19)

**Saudi Arabia's** Prince **Khalid Bin Sultan** calls for an end to sanctions on Iraq. (NYT 12/14)

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### 14 DECEMBER

PA temporary election commission begins accepting nominations for president, legislative council. (VOP 12/13, AFP 12/14 in FBIS 12/14; VOP 12/14 in FBIS 12/15; MM 12/15)

In Damascus, U.S. Secy. of State **Warren Christopher** meets with Pres. **Asad**. (MM, NYT, WT 12/15; SARR 12/15, 12/17 in FBIS 12/18)

Syria reports it has warned Syrian-based Iraqi opposition leaders against col-

laborating with Israel after detecting "stepped-up Israeli intelligence activity" in the Kurdish enclave n. of Iraq, receiving information that Israel has set up fixed intelligence-gathering outposts at border crossings with Turkey. (MM 12/14)

In **Hebron**, Palestinian stabs, wounds 2 Jewish settlers; is shot dead by Israeli border police. IDF places curfew on the city. (MM 12/14)

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### 15 DECEMBER

**Arafat** issues presidential decree concerning the distribution of legislative council seats. One new seat is added to Nablus, allocated to the Samaritans, bringing total number of seats to 83. (PR 12/15; VOP 12/15 in FBIS 12/18; MM 1/2)

**Arafat** makes his 1st visit to Nablus since IDF troops withdrew 12/11. IDF prevents 500-mbr. **Jordanian** delegation fr. entering territories to attend festivities. (MM 12/15; JTV, VOP 12/15, JT, VOP 12/16 in FBIS 12/18; NYT, WT 12/16)

Due to delays in constructing bypass roads, IDF postpones completion of **Bethlehem** redeployment until 12/21. (VOP 12/15 in FBIS 12/18)

Secy. of State **Christopher** meets with Pres. **Asad** in Damascus; then meets with **King Hussein** in Aqaba, **Arafat** in Jericho, PM **Peres** in Jerusalem. (MM 12/15; SARR 12/15 in FBIS 12/15; NYT, WT 12/16; SARR 12/15, RJ 12/16 in FBIS 12/18)

**Lebanon**, UN sign agmt. regulating the status of UNIFIL with the Lebanese government. UNIFIL has been operating without such an agmt. since it was established more than 17 yrs. ago. (RL 12/16 in FBIS 12/18)

10s of Israeli rabbis issue rabbinical ruling forbidding transfer of parts of "Greater Israel." Justice M **Liba'i** criticizes rabbis for issuing decrees on political, not religious, matters. (MM 12/15)

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### 16 DECEMBER

In Jericho, Secy. of State **Christopher** announces that Syria, Israel will resume negotiations in Washington 12/27. (ITV, QY, SATN, VOP 12/16, ITV 12/17 in FBIS 12/18; NYT, WP, WT 12/17; MM 12/18; JP 12/23)

In Gaza, 30,000 attend rally to celebrate **Hamas's** 8th anniversary. (WT 12/17; PR 12/29)

## 17 DECEMBER

Arafat submits to the PA temporary election commission his application of nomination to run in 1/20 presidential elections, with a check fr. the PA Interior Min. for \$3,000 and a certificate issued by Fatah, making him the 1st to officially enter the race. (VOP 12/17 in FBIS 12/18)

As scheduled, PA assumes control over Qalqilya. (NYT 12/17; VOP 12/16, 12/17 in FBIS 12/18; JP 12/23)

In Nablus, PA police round up, arrest 30 Fatah Hawks mbrs.; capture Fatah Hawk leaders Ahmad Tabuk, Amin Maqboul, 4 aides after brief shoot-out. (CSM, WT 12/18; NYT, WJW 12/21; JP 12/30; MEI 1/5) (see 11/29)

Jordanian prosecutor general orders detention of Jihad al-Mawmani, chief editor of the weekly *Shihan*, for publishing article on narcotics, legal violations by beauty salons without 1st reporting the crimes to the authorities. Amman court orders release of *Sawt al-Mar'ah* editor arrested 12/13. (*al-Dustur* 12/18 in FBIS 12/19) (see 12/13)

Jordan signs 3-yr. (1996-98) economic adjustment program with the International Monetary Fund meant to stimulate continued liberalization of the economy; signs debt rescheduling agmt. with Japan, World Bank, spreading the \$115 m. owed over 10 yrs. (instead of 3), giving Jordan an \$80-m. Japanese soft loan; approves regulations encouraging capital investment by foreigners. (JT, RJ 12/17 in FBIS 12/19; JT 1/1 in FBIS 1/3)

## 18 DECEMBER

PM Peres presents Knesset with 10-point plan to govern talks with Syria. (QY 12/18 in FBIS 12/18; MM 12/19; RL, SATN 12/19 in FBIS 12/20; WJW 12/21; WT 12/26) (see Doc. C4)

Jordanian prosecutor general orders detention of *al-Majd* Editor-in-Chief Fahd al-Rimawi for "disturbing the kingdom's relations with a foreign country" for publishing an article critical of Bahrain's government. If convicted, he could get 5 yrs. in jail. (*al-Majd* 12/18 in FBIS 12/18) (see 12/17)

IDF soldier is wounded in Hizballah attack in s. Lebanon. (QY, VOL 12/18 in FBIS 12/19)

## 19 DECEMBER

Jordan's Press and Publications Dept. cautions newspapers that it is illegal to publish proceedings of the *Shubailat* case (see 12/9). Press law states papers may only write on proceedings of a case once the court has issued a verdict, given permission for the article. (JT 12/19 in FBIS 12/19) (see 12/18)

UN comm. in charge of distributing reparations to Israelis who were injured by Iraqi missiles during the Gulf War transfers \$307,500 in damages to 93 persons who submitted claims of serious physical, emotional suffering. 430 claims have yet to be assessed. (IL 12/20)

Rand Institute, working on behalf of the U.S. Defense Dept., estimates Israel could build 70 nuclear weapons with its estimated 770 lbs. of weapons-grade plutonium produced by Dimona since 1964; estimates Dimona is producing 35 lb./yr. of plutonium (or 3 bombs/yr.). (HA 12/19 in FBIS 12/21; WT 2/7)

SLA soldier is wounded by roadside bomb in s. Lebanon. (IDF Radio 12/20 in FBIS 12/20)

## 20 DECEMBER

Arafat meets with Qatari officials in Doha. (MM 12/20)

Israel bars entry to 7 U.S. Jews, incl. Rabbi Abraham Hecht of New York, calling them security risks in light of the Rabin assassination. (QY 12/20 in FBIS 12/20; NYT, WT 12/21; JP 12/30; WJW 1/18)

Syrian parliament ratifies general amnesty agmt. (SARR 12/20 in FBIS 12/20) (see 11/16, 12/13)

IDF kills 3 Amal mbrs., wounds 2 in clash in s. Lebanon. (QY, RL 12/21 in FBIS 12/21)

## 21 DECEMBER

IDF completes withdrawal fr. Bethlehem. (MM 12/21; QY, VOP 12/21 in FBIS 12/22; CSM, NYT, WP, WT 12/22; JP 12/30)

At PISMC mtg. in Jerusalem, PA demands Israel withdraw immediately fr. Abu-Dis, Sawahirah villages nr. Jerusalem, both part of Bethlehem municipality under Oslo II. Israel says there was a mistake on the Oslo II maps, incorrectly plac-

ing the 2 villages in the withdrawal zone; it expects the PA to agree to the corrected maps that exclude them fr. the municipality. (QY 12/22 in FBIS 12/22)

**Samihah Khalil**, fmr. gen. secy. of the General Union of Palestinian Women and head of a respected West Bank charity, announces she will run against **Arafat** for the presidency as an independent in 1/20 elections. A PNC mbr., she says she will vote against amending the PLO covenant. (WT 12/28; CSM 1/4; WP 1/19)

**PA, Hamas** close 4 days of their 1st formal, high-level reconciliation talks in Cairo, agree talks were positive but fail to reach accord. Hamas refuses to sign pledge to participate in Palestinian elections, cease attacks on Israeli targets, but agrees not to call for election boycott. (MM 12/18; MENA, VOP 12/18, MENA 12/19 in FBIS 12/19; CSM, WT 12/19; MENA, VOP 12/19 in FBIS 12/20; MM 12/20; MBC, RE, VOP 12/20, MENA, VOP 12/21 in FBIS 12/21; MENA, RMC, VOP 12/21, RE, SA 12/22 in FBIS 12/22; CSM, NYT 12/22; *al-Quds* 12/22 in FBIS 12/26; JP 12/30) (see 11/18)

**Likud MK** and fmr. DM **Ariel Sharon** announces that he will not run for PM, endorses party chmn. **Benjamin Netanyahu**. (QY 12/21, JP 12/22 in FBIS 12/22; JP 12/30)

**Ahmad Tibi**, Arafat adviser and head of the Israeli Islamic Movement, says his movement has created a party, the **Arab Movement for Change**, to participate in the 10/96 Knesset elections. (ITV 12/21 in FBIS 12/22) (see 9/10)

In s. **Lebanon**, **IDF** clashes with **Amal**, killing 3 **Amal** mbrs. (WT 12/26)

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## 22 DECEMBER

**PA temporary election commission** extends deadline for accepting nomination applications for president, Palestinian Council to midnight 12/23. (VOP 12/23 in FBIS 12/26)

**Arafat** issues presidential decree forming the **Central Election Commission (CEC)** to replace the temporary election commission. Groups such as the Palestinian Centre for Human Rights immediately criticize the high percentage of **Fatah** mbrs. on the CEC, which is supposed to be entirely independent, with mbrs. chosen fr. among judges, academics, lawyers. (VOP 12/22 in FBIS 12/22)

**PM Peres** says Israel would be prepared to close its **nuclear program** if there was a regional peace in the Middle East, but does not admit **Dimona** is a nuclear facility. (NYT 12/23; ITV, QY 12/22, ITV 12/23, ITV, QY 12/24 in FBIS 12/26; QY 12/26 in FBIS 12/27; JP 12/30)

**IDF** kills 2 **Hizballah** mbrs. in clash in s. **Lebanon**. 2 **SLA** soldiers are killed in separate incident. (QY, VOL 12/22, RL 12/23 in FBIS 12/26)

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## 23 DECEMBER

**Arafat** issues presidential decree, calling for the establishment of an **election appeals court** composed of judges **Zuhayr al-Surani**, **'Abdallah Ghazlan**, **Imad Salim**, **Sami Saba**, **Shukri al-Nashashibi**; extends nomination period, set to close today, to 12/29. (*al-Nahar* 12/24 in FBIS 12/27)

**Arafat** arrives in **Bethlehem** to open the city's first Christmas celebrations under Palestinian rule. (NYT, WP, WT 12/23; CSM, WT 12/25, 12/26)

**Lebanese PM Rafiq Hariri** says **Lebanon** would be willing to negotiate a separate peace deal with **Israel** but would only sign it when an overall agmt. with **Syria** had been reached. (AFP 12/23 in FBIS 12/26)

In **Cairo**, **Egyptian Pres. Mubarak** meets separately with **Syrian Pres. Asad**, **Israeli FM Barak** in preparation for the opening of **Syrian-Israeli negotiations** 12/27. After the mtg., in his 1st public statement on resuming talks with **Israel**, **Pres. Asad** says **Syrian negotiators** will go into the talks with no preconditions. (WT 12/24; RE 12/23, ITV 12/24, 12/25 in FBIS 12/26; JP 12/30) (see Doc. B1)

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## 24 DECEMBER

**CEC** calls on **PA officials** running for the **Palestinian Council** to resign their posts. (VOP 12/24 in FBIS 12/26)

**Fatah** warns that any **Fatah** mbr. who runs in opposition to the **Fatah** list will be removed fr. the organization. (*al-Nahar* 12/24 in FBIS 12/27; NYT 1/6; WP 1/16)

**NISP** announces that, based on 12/18-21 **Cairo** talks, it will not field candidates in the 1/20 elections. (*al-Nahar* 12/24 in FBIS 12/27)

**DFLP, FFLP** call for direct elections based on proportional representation, 1 district. (*al-Quds* 12/24 in FBIS 12/27)

At Qarni crossing point in Gaza, IDF soldier is wounded by gunman firing fr. within the self-rule area. (QY 12/24 in FBIS 12/26)

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#### 25 DECEMBER

By agmt. with Peres, Arafat adds 5 seats to the Palestinian Council, increasing total number fr. 83 to 88, not incl. the extra seat for the pres. (HA 12/26, QY 12/27 in FBIS 12/27; JP 1/6) (see 12/15)

Jordan signs agmt. to buy 3.1 m. tons of oil fr. Iraq to cover its 1996 fuel needs. (AFP 12/15 in FBIS 12/27)

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#### 26 DECEMBER

IDF completes withdrawal fr. 60 West Bank villages nr. Hebron, Ramallah, completing its pullout fr. more than 400 West Bank villages as stipulated in Oslo II. (CSM, WT 12/27; NYT, WT 12/28)

Egyptian Pres. Mubarak, King Hussein meet in Aqaba. (JTV, MENA, RJ 12/26 in FBIS 12/27)

Fmr. PM Yitzhak Shamir announces he is retiring, will not run for reelection in 10/96. (CSM, WT 12/27)

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#### 27 DECEMBER

PA assumes control of Ramallah, al-Bireh. (WT 12/27; QY, VOP 12/27 in FBIS 12/28; CSM, NYT, WP, WT 12/28; NYT 12/31; JP 1/6)

After a 6-mo. hiatus, 3 days of initial talks btwn. Syria, Israel open in Maryland. Israeli team is headed by FM Dir. Gen. Uri Savir, incl. Amb. to the U.S. Itamar Rabinovich, head of IDF planning branch Maj. Gen. Uzi Dayan. Syrian team is led by Amb. to the U.S. Walid Mu'allim, FMin. Political Dept. head Juwayjati. (CSM, WP, WT 12/27; HA, MA, QY, SARR, VOL, YA 12/28 in FBIS 12/28; NYT, WJW, WT 12/28)

Israeli cabinet criticizes PM Peres for increasing the number of seats on the Palestinian Council without its approval. (IDF Radio 12/27 in FBIS 12/28) (see 12/25)

PM Peres's coalition government defeats 2 no-confidence motions against returning the Golan Heights to Syria. (CSM 12/28)

PSF arrests editor Maher al-'Alami after he ignores Arafat's request to run an article on Arafat's mtg. with the Greek Orthodox patriarch of Jerusalem on the front page of *al-Quds*. (NYT, WT 12/28; WT 1/1; MM 1/2; FT 1/3; MM, WJW 1/4)

Israeli Aircraft Industries (IAI) says Arrow missile project has overrun its budget by millions of dollars because of problems in the early stages of development. IAI may ask project cofunders, the U.S. and Israeli DMin., to cover the unanticipated costs. (HA 12/27 in FBIS 12/27)

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#### 28 DECEMBER

Anti-Defamation League (ADL), American Jewish Comm. (AJC) ask the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations (CPMAJO) to revoke memberships of the Zionist Organization of America, National Council of Young Israel for taking out ads criticizing the 12/10 rally at Madison Square Garden in memory of Rabin. ADL, AJC, CPMAJO cosponsored the event. (WJW 12/28)

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#### 29 DECEMBER

Arafat issues presidential decree delaying start of campaign period to 1/7. CEC calls on candidates to follow original campaign schedule. Nomination period is extended through 12/31 because of additional seats. Voter registration is reopened until 1/5. (JMCC, VOP 12/30 in FBIS 1/2; CSM 1/19)

1st round of Syrian-Israeli talks ends. Delegations decide to stay in Washington for further informal discussions until negotiations resume 1/3. (ITV, SATN 12/29, RMC 12/30, RMC, SARR 12/31 in FBIS 1/2; NYT, WP 12/30)

After rumors that Israel proposed an interim agmt. with Syria that would recognize the Syrian presence in Lebanon spark Lebanese-American fears of a shift in U.S. policy, Pres. Clinton issues statement reaffirming the U.S. commitment to "Lebanon's full independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity." (MM 12/14; WJW 1/18)

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#### 30 DECEMBER

10,000 Palestinians greet Arafat as he arrives for his 1st visit to Ramallah since

the IDF pulled out. Arafat then heads to Tulkarm, Qalqilya to celebrate the IDF's withdrawal there. (NYT, WP, WT 12/31; JP 1/6)

Hamas mbrs. Isma'il Haniyya, Khalid al-Hindi, Sa'id al-Namruti say they will run for seats on the Palestinian Council as independents. (JMCC 12/30 in FBIS 1/2)

In Madrid, PA, Spain sign joint cooperation agmt. (PWR 1/9)

PSF releases *al-Quds* editor 'Alami (arrested 12/27). (QY 12/31 in FBIS 1/2; NYT, WP 1/1; FT 1/3; CSM, WJW 1/4; JP 1/6)

After a Lebanese civilian is killed, 4 others wounded by IDF shelling, Hizballah fires rockets into n. Israel, wounds 2 IDF soldiers in clash in s. Lebanon. Israel blames Syria. (ITV, QY 12/30, QY 12/31, ITV 1/1 in FBIS 1/2; NYT, WT 12/31; MM 1/2; JP 1/6)

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### 31 DECEMBER

PM Peres tells cabinet that some understandings have been reached with Syria. However, FM Barak says talks thus far have not been substantive, Hizballah attacks 12/30 raise doubts as to Syria's intent. (QY 12/31, HA 1/1 in FBIS 1/2; WT 1/1)

In Amman, Imad Ghanim, aid to union head Shubailat (arrested 12/9), is detained on charges of slandering the king and queen. (JT 1/1 in FBIS 1/2) (see 12/19)

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### 1 JANUARY

EU Elections Unit (EUEU), charged with observing the elections process, criticizes Arafat for violating election laws, incl. shortening the campaign period fr. 22 days to 2 wks. and increasing the number of Palestinian Council seats fr. 82 to 88. The changes were made by Arafat, not by the CEC. (WT 1/2; *Guardian* 1/2 in FBIS 1/2; MM 1/2; CSM, WJW 1/4; JP 1/6; WJW 1/11)

Saudi Arabia's ailing King Fahd turns over royal authority to his half-brother Crown Prince 'Abdallah. Officially, Fahd's leave is temporary; 'Abdallah will serve as regent, deferring major political decisions to Fahd. (MM 1/2; WP 1/7)

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### 2 JANUARY

CEC declares campaign for Palestinian Council officially open. (NYT 1/4)

3 Hamas mbrs. withdraw their candidacy as independents under pressure fr. the organization. (CSM 1/4) (see 12/30)

In Gaza, Arafat briefs U.S. Senators Arlen Specter (R-PA), Richard Shelby (R-AL) on elections preparations. (VOP 1/2 in FBIS 1/3)

Force 17 detains Palestinian human rights activist Bassam Eid for 24 hrs. for criticizing PSF arrest of 'Alami. (CSM, MM, NYT, WP, WT 1/4; NYT 1/19) (see 1/1)

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### 3 JANUARY

2d 3-day round of Syrian-Israeli negotiations begins in Maryland. (MM, WT 1/3; ITV, SARR 1/3, QY, SARR 1/4 in FBIS 1/4; CSM, WP, WJW 1/4; WT 1/6; QY 1/7 in FBIS 1/11)

Israel decides against blanket compensation to Palestinians injured as a result of occupation. (IL 1/2; IL, MM 1/4; QY 1/4 in FBIS 1/4; CSM 1/5; JP 1/13)

Israel releases 5 Lebanese detainees fr. al-Khiyam prison in s. Lebanon. (RL 1/3 in FBIS 1/3) (see 11/21)

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### 4 JANUARY

Egypt-Israel-Jordan-PA technical comm. on refugees meets in Haifa. (QY 1/4 in FBIS 1/5)

PM Peres tells aides that talks with Syria are going better than he had thought; says Syrians are moderating positions, making concessions on matters of substance. At signs of progress, U.S. Secy. of State Christopher joins talks for several hrs., hosts dinner for negotiators. (MM 1/4; ITV 1/4, QY 1/5 in FBIS 1/5)

Israeli Justice M Liba'i cancels 1st mtg. of the joint Israeli-PA legal comm. in protest over PA Justice M Frayh Abu-Madayn's comments that Israel should not refuse to compensate Palestinians for the intifada while demanding Germany compensate Jews for the Holocaust. Liba'i, Abu-Madayn cochair the comm. (MM 1/4; QY 1/4 in FBIS 1/4) (see 1/3)

In Tel Aviv, UNIFIL Cmdr. Stanislaw meets with Israeli Chief of Staff Amnon Shahak to protest the IDF's use of nail

bombs in the attacks that wounded 3 UN soldiers 12/9; killed 1, wounded 4 Lebanese civilians 12/30. (RL 1/4 in FBIS 1/4)

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### 5 JANUARY

Voter and candidate registration for Palestinian elections closes. (JP 1/6; CSM 1/19; WT 1/20) (see Doc. B2 for breakdown by district.)

2d round of Syrian-Israeli talks closes in Maryland. (MM 1/5; ITV, MBC, SATN 1/5, SARR 1/6, ITV, RMC, SARR 1/7, QY, SARR 1/8 in FBIS 1/11; NYT, WP, WT 1/6; WT 1/8) (see "Peace Monitor" for details)

In Gaza, no. 1 on Israel's most wanted list, **Yahya Ayyash**, thought to be behind many of Hamas's major bombings, is killed when his booby-trapped cellular phone explodes. **Hamas, PA blame Mossad**. Israel neither confirms nor denies responsibility. **Arafat** pays condolences to Hamas's **Zahhar**. (IDF Radio, QPAR, QY 1/5 in FBIS 1/5; NYT, WP, WT 1/6; MM 1/8; WP, WT 1/9; ITV, QPAR 1/5, RMC 1/6, IDF Radio, HA, MA, MENA, QY, RMC 1/7, QY, RE 1/8, QY 1/9 in FBIS 1/11; MM 1/9; WJW 1/11; JP 1/13; NYT 1/14)

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### 6 JANUARY

More than 100,000 Palestinians attend **Ayyash's** funeral in Gaza. (VOP 1/6 in FBIS 1/7; NYT 1/7; MM 1/8; JP 1/13)

Citing security concerns, **IDF** seals West Bank, Gaza, banning Palestinians fr. entering Israel. (NYT 1/7)

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### 7 JANUARY

100s of Jordanians visit home of **Hamas** leader **Muhammad Nazzal** in Amman to pay condolences over **Ayyash's** death. (JT 1/9 in FBIS 1/11)

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### 8 JANUARY

**Knesset** passes 1st reading of bill on implementing **Oslo II**. (MM 1/9)

During a press conference, **PM Peres** offers **Lebanon** a limited withdrawal fr. part of s. **Lebanon** to test the Lebanese army's ability to keep border security. (AFP 1/8 in FBIS 1/1)

In Paris, **PA, France** sign economic agmt. (PWR 1/23)

In Jerusalem, U.S. **Defense Secy. William Perry** meets with **PM Peres**. (MM 1/8; IDF Radio 1/8 in FBIS 1/11; WT 1/9)

**Shin Bet** head **Karmi Gilon**, until now known only as "K," resigns under pressure for not preventing **Rabin** assassination. (IDF Radio, QY 1/8 in FBIS 1/11; MM, WP, WT 1/9; WJW, WP 1/11)

**Shin Bet** requests deportation of **American David Ben Ariel**, a mbr. of **Temple Mount Faithful** who was arrested 1/4 for plotting to blow up **al-Aqsa** mosque. (JP 1/8 in FBIS 1/11)

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### 9 JANUARY

Ministerial level donor mtg. (postponed fr. December) opens in Paris. (MM 1/9, 1/10; VOP 1/9 in FBIS 1/17; WT 1/14; VOP 1/14 in FBIS 1/16; JP 1/20; PWR 1/23) (see 11/22, "Peace Monitor")

**Lebanese FM Faris Buwayz** rejects **Israel's** offer of a limited withdrawal as invalid since it was made through the media; says **Lebanon** will consider the offer if it is made through formal channels, within the context of a full withdrawal. (VOL 1/9 in FBIS 1/11) (see 1/8)

**Saudi FM Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal** meets with **King Hussein** in Amman. (WT 1/10; *Akhbar al-Usbu'* 1/11 in FBIS 1/16)

**PA** calls for the arrest of **Kamal Hammad**, who allegedly gave the booby-trapped telephone to **Ayyash**. **Hammad** reportedly has fled to the U.S. with **Israeli** help. (VOP 1/7 in FBIS 1/11)

To avoid **Arafat** being subpoenaed, **PLO** agrees in principle to help finance a U.S. peace institute as settlement of a lawsuit by the family of **Leon Klinghoffer**, who was slain during **Abu-Abbas's** hijacking of the **Achille Lauro** in 1985. (WP 1/19; WJW 1/25)

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### 10 JANUARY

**Israel** releases 812 **Palestinian** prisoners as part of 2d stage of prisoner release. (MM 1/10; VOP 1/10 in FBIS 1/16; IGPO, WP 1/11; JP 1/20)

**Secy. of State Christopher** arrives in Jerusalem to begin 5-day shuttle mission aimed at narrowing difference btwn. **Syria, Israel**. (MM 1/10; ITV 1/10 in FBIS 1/11; WT 1/11; JT 1/18 in FBIS 1/19; JP 1/20)

In Tel Aviv, King Hussein meets with PM Peres, Secy. of State Christopher. (MM 1/10; ITV 1/10 in FBIS 1/11; WT 1/11; JT 1/18 in FBIS 1/19; JP 1/20)

Israel selects new Shin Bet head. Israeli media bends censorship rules, gives his full name—Rear Adm. Ami Ayalon. (MM 1/10; QY 1/10 in FBIS 1/11; CSM, WP, WT 1/11; NYT 1/14; JP 1/20)

### 11 JANUARY

Israel releases 230 Palestinian prisoners due to be freed in the 2d stage of the prisoner release. (IGPO, WT 1/11; ITV 1/11 in FBIS 1/16; JP 1/20; QY 1/30 in FBIS 1/30) (see 12/27)

PA, EUEU criticize Israel for hampering campaigning in East Jerusalem. (VOP 1/11, RMC 1/14 in FBIS 1/16)

IDF lifts closure on West Bank, Gaza imposed 1/6. (MEI 1/19)

### 12 JANUARY

Secy. of State Christopher meets with Pres. Asad in Damascus, then returns to Israel to brief PM Peres. (MM 1/11; IDF Radio, HA, MA, QY, SARR 1/11 in FBIS 1/11; IDF Radio 1/11 in FBIS 1/16; MM, WT 1/12)

Israeli police prevent fmr. PLO negotiator Hanan Ashrawi, who is running for a seat on the Palestinian Council, fr. entering Jerusalem to campaign; arrest 4 Palestinians in Bayt Safafa for putting up campaign posters. Israeli border police break up election rally for Fatah candidate, PA M Qurai' in East Jerusalem. (QY 1/13 in FBIS 1/16; PWR 1/23) (see 1/11)

### 13 JANUARY

In Gaza, Arafat meets with Secy. of State Christopher. (VOP 1/13 in FBIS 1/16; NYT, WP, WT 1/14)

In Vatican speech to foreign dignitaries, Pope John Paul II calls a just solution for Jerusalem the key to preserving peace, stresses city's international importance. (WT 1/14; MM 1/18)

### 14 JANUARY

CEC reopens voting registration until 1/16 for newly released prisoners. (Pales-

tine Centre for Human Rights press release 1/17)

In Yatta, West Bank, 1 Palestinian is killed, 2 are wounded, 40 are detained when PA police attempt to arrest Yatta mayor Isma'il Abu Hamid, who is running as an independent for a seat on the Palestinian Council, for collaboration with the Israelis. Abu Hamid is released an hour later to crowds of well-wishers. (AFP, RMC 1/14 in FBIS 1/16)

Israeli police again prevent legislative council candidate Hanan Ashrawi fr. bringing campaign posters into Jerusalem, arrest her driver. (AFP, VOP 1/14, QY 1/15 in FBIS 1/16; WP 1/15; NYT 1/19) (see 1/12)

### 15 JANUARY

Israel transfers 90 Palestinian prisoners to the custody of the PA in Jericho, releases 40 fr. Gaza. (MM 1/10)

Likud plasters posters throughout East Jerusalem, threatening to revoke the Jerusalem ID cards of Palestinians who vote in the 1/20 elections. Arafat protests. (AFP, JMCC 1/15 in FBIS 1/16)

U.S. VP Al Gore arrives in Tel Aviv for official visit, meets with Likud's Netanyahu. (IDF Radio 1/15 in FBIS 1/16; MM, WT 1/16; Davar 1/17 in FBIS 1/17)

### 16 JANUARY

Oslo II bill passes its 2d and 3d readings (48-44) in the Knesset. (MM 1/16, 1/17) (see 1/8)

Jerusalem mayor Ehud Olmert, Arafat adviser Faisal Husseini confirm that Israel (under the direction of M Beilin), the PA (under Husseini) have been holding informal discussions for some time regarding the principles on which to negotiate Jerusalem's final status. (Davar 1/17 in FBIS 1/17; VOP 1/18 in FBIS 1/19; QY 1/26, VOP 1/27, MENA 1/28 in FBIS 1/29)

Jordan, Israel sign transportation agmt. (QY 1/16 in FBIS 1/17; MM 1/17; JP 1/27)

U.S. VP Gore meets PM Peres, FM Barak in Israel, then meets with Arafat in Jericho. (MM 1/16; QY 1/16 in FBIS 1/16; VOP 1/16 in FBIS 1/17)

In 1st fatal attack since redeployment, 2 IDF soldiers are shot, killed in Hebron. The previously unknown Mujahidin of Is-

lam claims it carried out the attack in retribution for Ayyash slaying 1/5. IDF puts curfew on surrounding villages for several hours to search for gunmen. (MM, NYT, WP 1/17; QY 1/17 in FBIS 1/17; CSM 1/18; JP 1/27)

In an address to the German parliament, Israeli Pres. Ezer Weizman says Israel cannot forgive Germany for the Holocaust though it is grateful for current strong bilateral ties. Germany announces plans to provide monthly pensions (of around \$400; estimated \$1.5 b. over next 10 to 15 yrs.) to German, German-speaking Jews who survived the Holocaust. Most now live in Israel, U.S. (NYT, WT 1/17)

Lebanese military prosecutor issues warrant for SLA Cmdr. Antoine Lahd on charges of collaboration with Israel, usurping state sovereignty, kidnapping, murder. (RL 1/16 in FBIS 1/17)

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#### 17 JANUARY

PM Peres demands Lebanon stop "mistreating" the SLA, warns no peace can be made with Lebanon without a full agmt. for integrating the SLA into the Lebanese army, says warrant on SLA Cmdr. Lahd is "an insult to . . . a great Lebanese patriot, and we will not ignore it." (IGPO 1/17 in FBIS 1/18; MM 1/30) (see 1/16)

Knesset rejects bill to expand Jerusalem jurisdiction to include Beitar, Givat Ze'ev, Gush Etzyon, Ma'ale Admunim. Bill was sponsored by Likud and supported by 42 MKs fr. Likud, Moledet, National Religious Party, Shas, Tsomet, United Torah Judaism. 48 MKs fr. Labor, Meretz, Arab parties vote against. (JP 1/18)

Meretz leader MK Shulamit Aloni announces she is leaving the party but says she will remain active in politics. (ITV 1/17 in FBIS 1/18; MM 1/18; QY 1/28 in FBIS 1/30)

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#### 18 JANUARY

Palestinian campaign period officially ends. (WT 1/17)

Israeli o.t. coordinator Shahor assures Jerusalem Palestinians that they will not lose their ID cards if they vote in the 1/20 elections. (VOP 1/18 in FBIS 1/19)

Jordan, Israel sign last 4 bilateral agmts. required by their peace treaty to normalize relations. (IGPO 1/18; JTV 1/

18 in FBIS 1/19; MM 1/29; JP 1/27) (see "Peace Monitor" for details)

In Ramallah, PSF arrests prominent PFLP activist Ahmad Sadat for security reasons, says he will be released after elections. (QY 1/18 in FBIS 1/18)

IDF begins to bar Israelis fr. travelling on roads through Hebron, forcing them to use bypass roads until Palestinian elections are held. (WP 1/18; QY 1/18 in FBIS 1/18)

In Amman, King Hussein meets with Iraqi oppositionists at close of a symposium on the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. (SA 1/18 in FBIS 1/19)

Lebanese military judge Nasri Lahhud recommends death penalty for SLA Cmdr. Lahd, refers case to First Military Investigating Judge Riyad Tali' for indictment. (AFP, VOL 1/18 in FBIS 1/19) (see 1/17)

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#### 19 JANUARY

Israeli FM Barak arrives in Morocco for 2-day visit with King Hassan. (IL 1/18)

In Ramallah, PA police break up anti-election demonstration by 100 opposition activists. (WT 1/20)

IDF shoots, kills 3 Hamas mbrs. after they open fire on IDF roadblock nr. Janin, wounding 1 soldier. PA police disperse 1,000s of Palestinians who then march through neighboring Janin in protest. (QY 1/19 in FBIS 1/22; NYT, WP, WT 1/20)

IDF seals West Bank, Gaza to prevent violence during elections. (MM 1/19; WT 1/20)

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#### 20 JANUARY

Palestinian elections are held; 676 candidates run for the Palestinian Council, 2 for president. (WP, WT 1/20; ITV 1/20, QY 1/21 in FBIS 1/22; NYT, WT 1/21; CSM, MM, WT 1/22; WJW 1/25; JP 1/27; WJW 2/1; MEI 2/2; JP 2/3) (see "Peace Monitor," "Notes on the Elections," and Andoni article for details)

In East Jerusalem, 51 Arabs and Jews are arrested for incitement, disturbing the voting process. 3 are slightly injured. Kach mbrs. attack Arafat adviser Faisal Hussein, spray tear gas at Palestinians, damage Palestinian shops. Heavy IDF deployments around polling stations keeps voter turnout low. (ITV, QY, VOP 1/20 in FBIS 1/22)



All Palestinian refugee camps in s. Lebanon—except al-Rashidiyya, which is strongly pro-Arafat—call general strikes to protest elections in the self-rule areas. (RL 1/20 in FBIS 1/22; MM 1/22)

PM Peres invites all PNC mbrs., incl. rejectionists and Islamists, to return to the self-rule areas (but not Jerusalem) for discussions on amending the PLO charter. (ITV, QY 1/20, JT, QY 1/22 in FBIS 1/22; MM 1/22)

IDF closes central Hebron after settler is stabbed, forcing voters to find international observers who will escort them to the polls. Voter turnout estimated at 25 percent as a result. (QY 1/20 in FBIS 1/22; NYT, WT 1/21; WT 1/22)

McDonnell Douglas agrees to purchase \$750 m. of equipment fr. Israeli defense companies in a buy-back deal under which the IAF will purchase 25 of McDonnell Douglas's F-15I planes for \$2 b. (JP 1/20)

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## 21 JANUARY

Ramadan begins. (NYT 1/22)

Independent observer, fmr. U.S. Pres. Jimmy Carter calls elections "free and fair," says irregularities were not on a scale that would have altered the outcome. Initial election results show Arafat winning the presidency with 88.1 percent of the vote, compared to Khalil's 9.3 percent; 2.6 percent were left blank, perhaps as a protest vote. (AFP, IDF Radio, VOP 1/21 in FBIS 1/22; CSM, MM, NYT, WP, WT 1/22; CSM, WP, PWR 1/23; NYT, PR 1/24; MM 1/25; WJW 2/1; MEI 2/2; JP 2/3) (see "Peace Monitor," "Notes on the Elections," and Andoni article for details)

Labor party unanimously nominates PM Peres as its candidate for PM in the upcoming elections. (MM 1/22)

IDF lifts closure on West Bank, Gaza. (IDF Radio, QY 1/21 in FBIS 1/22)

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## 22 JANUARY

CEC calls for recount of Gaza ballots after numerous charges of irregularities. (WT 1/23)

In Washington, Israeli FM Barak, U.S. Defense Secy. Perry, Secy of State Christopher meet. (ITV 1/22 in FBIS 1/23; WJW 1/25)

Israel special ministry comm. extends for 3 mos. Shin Bet's authority to use

physical force on Palestinian suspects during interrogation. (QY 1/22 in FBIS 1/23) (see 10/20)

IDF imposes curfew on several Palestinian villages nr. Hebron after gunfire is heard in the area. (QY 1/22 in FBIS 1/23)

Jordan lowers its ceiling on its exports to Iraq fr. \$400 m./yr. to \$200 m./yr. (*al-Majd*, RMC 1/22 in FBIS 1/24; MM 1/23; JT 1/23, *al-Aswaq*, *al-Hayat*, JT, *al-Ra'i* 1/24, *al-Dustur*, *al-Ra'i* 1/25 in FBIS 1/25; JT 1/29 in FBIS 1/29)

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## 23 JANUARY

FM Barak meets with National Security Adviser Anthony Lake, senior mbrs. of Congress, then heads to New York to meet with the CPMAJO. (MM 1/23; WJW 1/25; MM 1/30)

Arafat calls elections important springboard for establishing a Palestinian state that will unite with Jordan in a confederation, says he is waiting for "a sign" fr. King Hussein to begin the confederation process. (VOP 1/23 in FBIS 1/23)

PSF arrests Hebron lawyer Hussayn Shuyukhi for "spreading false information and claiming that the elections were rigged." Earlier, Shuyukhi had claimed that 49 ballot boxes were lost for 36 hrs. before being found unattended in various places in Hebron. The independent Palestinian Domestic Monitoring Comm. confirms his allegations. (MEI 2/2)

PM Peres tells Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Comm. that the PA has been exerting admirable efforts to stop attacks fr., collect weapons in the self-rule areas. (QY 1/23 in FBIS 1/24)

Fmr. Arafat aide Bassam Abu-Sharif returns to the West Bank after 28 yrs. in exile. (ITV 1/23 in FBIS 1/24; CSM 1/25)

Lebanese First Military Investigating Judge Tali' seconds death sentence for SLA Cmdr. Lahd. (RL 1/23 in FBIS 1/24) (see 1/18)

Amir trial on charges of assassinating PM Rabin begins in Tel Aviv. (QY 1/23 in FBIS 1/23; NYT 1/24) (see 12/5)

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## 24 JANUARY

CEC decides to rerun voting at 2 polling sites in Gaza on 1/31 because of disputes over initial results and recount. International supervisors will be present. (VOP 1/24 in FBIS 1/24) (see 1/22)

Syrian, Israeli teams (incl. military experts) resume exploratory talks in Maryland. (MM, WP 1/24; IDF Radio, ITV, *al-Hayat*, SATN, SARR 1/24, SARR 1/25 in FBIS 1/25; WJW, WT 1/25)

IDF detains 9 Lebanese citizens in s. Lebanon, releases 3. UNIFIL demands release of remaining 6. (RL 1/24 in FBIS 1/24, 1/25)

In special ceremony, Israeli Interior M Hayim Ramon signs passport and certificate of citizenship of Jonathan Pollard, officially making him an Israeli citizen. U.S. Amb. to Israel Martin Indyk says U.S. will continue to consider Pollard an American. (QY 1/24 in FBIS 1/25; *Davar* 1/26 in FBIS 1/26) (see 12/11)

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## 25 JANUARY

Jordanian FM 'Abd al-Karim Kabariti, Arafat meet in Gaza. (JTV, RJ 1/25 in FBIS 1/25)

U.S. Federal Election Commission data for the 1st half of 1995 (the latest figures) show that 53 percent of the nearly \$400,000 in contributions fr. pro-Israeli political action comms. to congressmen, presidential candidates for the 1996 campaign went to republicans, compared to 27 percent during the same period prior to the 1994 congressional race. (WJW 1/25)

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## 26 JANUARY

Syria, Israel end 3 days of talks in Maryland, reportedly hit an impasse. Israeli Environmental M Sarid blames FM Barak. (MM 1/25, 1/26; QY, SARR 1/26, IDF Radio 1/27, HA, MA, QY, YA 1/28 in FBIS 1/29; WT 1/27; MM 1/29; JP 2/3)

Without admitting responsibility, Israel gives \$400,000 in restitution to widow of Moroccan man (mistakenly believed to be PLO intelligence chief Hassan Salameh) allegedly killed by Mossad agents in Norway in 1973. (NYT, WP 1/27)

Congress passes (371-42 House, 82-8 Senate) 1996 foreign appropriations bill as part of continuing resolution to fund the government through 3/15. Resolution allows full payment to Israel within 2 wks. of \$3 b. in civilian and military aid, \$80 m. for refugee resettlement; includes provisions giving Israel equal-to-NATO status

for stockpiling of U.S. weapons, preventing U.S. defense contractors fr. legally overcharging Israel. (QY 1/28 in FBIS 1/29; JP 2/3, 2/10)

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## 27 JANUARY

Arafat arrives in Amman for 2-day visit with King Hussein. (JTV 1/27, RJ, JTV 1/28 in FBIS 1/29; MM 1/29)

In Damascus, Lebanese Pres. Hrawi, Syrian Pres. Asad open 2-day Syrian-Lebanese Higher Council mtg. (SARR 1/27, 1/28 in FBIS 1/29; MM 1/29; *al-Hayat* 1/31 in FBIS 2/1)

IDF kills 4 suspected Hizballah mbrs. on maneuvers in s. Lebanon. Israeli gunboats fire on fishermen off coast of Tyre. (QY 1/27 in FBIS 1/29) (see 10/29)

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## 28 JANUARY

PM Peres says Jerusalem will not be on the agenda during May's final status talks. (CSM 1/29; JP 2/3) (see 12/6)

PA reaches reconciliation agmt. with Hamas; releases 12 Hamas mbrs. (incl. Shaykh Ahmad Nimr, who was arrested 3/3/95 for giving an anti-Arafat sermon) as a confidence-building gesture. (AFP, QY 1/28 in FBIS 1/29; CSM 1/29; RE 1/29 in FBIS 1/30) (see "Peace Monitor" for details)

Following reports that Israel has secretly discarded nearly all blood donated by Ethiopian immigrants for fear of spreading AIDS, 1,000s of Ethiopians demonstrate in Jerusalem to protest racial discrimination. When protesters converge on the PM's office, throw rocks at police, police attack crowd with rubber bullets, batons, water cannons, tear gas; 17 protesters, 30 policemen injured. (MM, NYT, WP, WT 1/29; WJW 2/1; NYT 2/4; CSM 2/7)

Jordan denies entry to Hamas mbr. Shaykh Jamil Hamami. Hamami was to speak on the Palestinian elections at Jordan University. (JT 1/29 in FBIS 1/29; *al-Bilad* 1/30 in FBIS 2/1)

Confessed assassin Yigal Amir takes over his own defense after 1 of his lawyers resigns, 2d lawyer (an American immigrant) cannot be understood by the court because his Hebrew is too poor. (WT 1/29)

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29 JANUARY

After a 2-day break, **Israel, Syria** resume talks in Maryland. (MM 1/29; QY, SARR 1/29, *al-Hayat*, JP 1/30 in FBIS 1/30; MM 1/30)

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30 JANUARY

285 Palestinian policemen arrive in Egypt fr. **Libya**, on their way to assume their duties in the self-rule areas. (ITV, VOP 1/29 in FBIS 1/30; HA 1/31 in FBIS 2/1)

**Egypt, Israel, Jordan, PA** hold 3d quadripartite ministerial mtg. on regional economic planning at the Hague. (*Davar* 1/31 in FBIS 1/31) (see "Peace Monitor")

**Hamas** mbr. stabs, killed **IDF** soldier inside DCO nr. **Janin**. (QY 1/30 in FBIS 1/30; QY 1/30 in FBIS 1/31; MM 1/31; JP 2/10)

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31 JANUARY

Election rerun is held without incident in 2 voting districts in North Gaza. (VOP 1/31 in FBIS 2/1; VOP 2/1 in FBIS 2/2) (see 1/24) (see "Peace Monitor")

2d round of **Syrian-Israeli** talks closes in Maryland. (QY 1/31 in FBIS 1/31; ITV, SARR 1/31, QY 2/1 in FBIS 2/1; SARR 2/1 in FBIS 2/2; MM 2/1, 2/2; NYT 2/7; JP 2/10)

**IDF** appoints its 1st imam to provide religious services to Muslim soldiers stationed in n. **Israel**. (IL 1/31)

**IDF** closes off **Ramallah** to Israeli traffic after Palestinians throw stones at passing vehicles. (QY 1/31 in FBIS 1/31)

**PSF** launches manhunt for 2 men possibly affiliated with **Abu Nidal** who illegally entered Gaza with 1st 54 policemen allowed in fr. **Egypt** 1/30; 3d man is arrested immediately. **IDF** freezes entry of remaining policemen until issue is resolved. (VOP 1/30 in FBIS 1/31; HA 1/31, QY 2/1 in FBIS 2/1)

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1 FEBRUARY

**Israel** expels to **Jordan** **Muhammad Rujub Salama Muhammad**, a Palestinian fr. **Bayt Jala**, on charges of spying on mili-

tary bases for **Iran**. (QY 1/31 in FBIS 2/1; **IDF** Radio 2/2 in FBIS 2/2; JT 2/3 in FBIS 2/5; JP 2/10)

**Jordan** signs agricultural trade deals with **Iraq, Syria**. Under the agmt. with **Iraq**, **Jordan** will export \$250 m. of food-stuffs left over fr. its 1995 trade protocol's account, meaning food exports to **Iraq** will slightly increase for 1996 (see 1/22). (*Akhbar al-Ushbu'* 2/1 in FBIS 2/1)

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2 FEBRUARY

**Arafat** announces that the 2 men who infiltrated **Gaza** 1/30 have been captured. (QY 2/2 in FBIS 2/2) (see 1/31)

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3 FEBRUARY

In **Gaza, PA** police shoot, kill 2 **Islamic Jihad** mbrs. during an attempt to arrest them in connection with the 1/22/95 **Beit Lid** bombing. (AFP, QY 2/3 in FBIS 2/5; WT 2/4)

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4 FEBRUARY

**Arafat** appoints comm. to draw up **Palestinian constitution**. (*al-Quds* 2/4 in FBIS 2/5)

**U.S. Secy. of State Christopher** arrives in **Jerusalem** on his 17th tour of the region and his 2d shuttle btwn. **Syria, Israel** this yr. to bridge gaps btwn. the pair following their latest round of talks. (QY, SARR, YA 2/4, SARR 2/5 in FBIS 2/5)

In **Jordan, King Hussein** replaces **PM Bin Shakir** with **FM Kabariti**, who is more supportive of the king's normalization with **Israel**; reshuffles cabinet, excluding the **Islamic Action Front**. (JT, JTV, RJ 2/4 in FBIS 2/5; MM, WT 2/5; RJ 2/5 in FBIS 2/6; CSM 2/6)

1,000s of **Islamic Jihad** supporters attend funeral of 2 mbrs. killed by **PA** police 2/3, call for revenge against **Arafat**. (MM 2/5)

Nr. **Nablus, Palestinian** boy is shot on his way to school allegedly by **IDF**. (CSM, WP, WT 2/5)

**Israeli naval forces** detain 3 **Lebanese** fishermen off the coast of **Tyre, s. Lebanon**; stop, search ship arriving fr. **Europe**. (RL 2/4 in FBIS 2/6) (see 1/19)

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5 FEBRUARY

U.S. Secy of State Christopher meets with PM Peres in Israel. (MM 2/5; IDF Radio, ITV 2/5 in FBIS 2/6; NYT, WP, WT 2/6)

As the likelihood of PM Peres calling an early election rises, Tsomet leader Rafael Eitan agrees to abandon his run for PM, endorses Netanyahu in exchange for no. 2 spot on Likud's ticket (usually considered a promise of the DM position if the slate wins). (MM 2/5; ITV 2/5 in FBIS 2/6; CSM, MM, WT 2/6; JP 2/6 in FBIS 2/7; MM 2/7, 2/8)

Israeli naval forces release 3 Lebanese fishermen detained 2/4, fire on other fishing boats off coast of s. Lebanon. (RL 2/5 in FBIS 2/6)

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6 FEBRUARY

At close of a 2-day mtg. in El Arish, Egypt, PLO Exec. Comm. mbrs. delay indefinitely setting date for PNC mtg. to amend 12 articles of the PLO charter. (MM 2/6; MENA, RE, RMC 2/6 in FBIS 2/6; VOP 2/6 in FBIS 2/7; CSM, WP 2/7; WT 2/8)

In Damascus, Secy. of State Christopher, Pres. Asad hold 3 hrs. of talks after which Asad agrees to hold 3d round of talks with Israel in Maryland 2/26. (MM 2/6; SARR 2/6 in FBIS 2/6, 2/7; NYT, WP, WT 2/7; WT 2/8)

PM Peres visits SLA Cmdr. Lahd in Marja'uyun, s. Lebanon, to check on the status of troops in the self-declared security zone. (QY 2/6 in FBIS 2/7; MM, WT 2/7) (see 1/23)

Lebanese military prosecutor files lawsuit against 89 fmr. Lebanese army soldiers for collaborating with Israel. (WT 2/7) (see 1/16)

Jordan's state security court sentences Atta Abu Rushteh, spokesman of the banned Islamic Liberation Party, to 3 yrs. in jail for slandering King Hussein by giving a statement critical of Jordan's normalization with Israel. (WP 2/7) (see 12/19)

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7 FEBRUARY

Secy. of State Christopher meets with Arafat in Gaza, PM Peres in Tel Aviv. (MM 2/7; QY, VOP 2/7 in FBIS 2/8; MM, WP, WT 2/8)

In s. Lebanon, 2 IDF soldiers are wounded in Hizballah attack. (QY, RL 2/7 in FBIS 2/8)

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8 FEBRUARY

Syrian FM Faruq al-Shara' meets with Lebanese Pres. Hrawi in Beirut. (WT 2/14)

In Amman, King Hussein, PM Kabariti receive congressional delegation, incl. Senators Claiborne Pell (D-RI), Charles Robb (D-VA), James Inhofe (R-OK). (RJ 2/8 in FBIS 2/9; RJ 2/8 in FBIS 2/12)

Israeli Agriculture, Internal Security Mins. order official inquiry into kibbutz debts to banks after initial study suggests such debts total \$4.8 b., much higher than expected. The sum is considered problematic but not destabilizing since the debts were already considered bad debts by the banking sector and factored accordingly. (JP 2/8 in FBIS 2/9)

Hizballah and Amal commands hold unity and coordination meeting in s. Lebanon. (RL 2/8 in FBIS 2/8)

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9 FEBRUARY

IDF bans Palestinians fr. entering Israel in private vehicles for 24 hrs., citing rumors of a car bomb attack; bans Israelis fr. entering Nablus for 24 hrs. because of rally scheduled by Hamas supporters. (MM 2/9; IDF Radio 2/9 in FBIS 2/9; WT 2/11)

Sweden, PA sign \$26-m. aid agreement in Jericho. (VOP 2/9 in FBIS 2/9)

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10 FEBRUARY

Iraq, Syria open 6-day meeting on water issues in Damascus. (RMC, SARR 2/10 in FBIS 2/12; *al-Safir* 2/10, *al-Hayat* 2/13, *al-Dustur* 2/14 in FBIS 2/14; RMC 2/12 in FBIS 2/13; MM 2/15)

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11 FEBRUARY

CEC releases final results of the 1/20 elections and recounts. (MM 1/12) (see Doc. B3)

PM Peres announces early elections, tentatively set for 5/21. (ITV, QY 2/11, MA 2/12 in FBIS 2/12; MM, NYT, WP, WT 2/12; CSM, WT 2/13)

**King Hussein** begins 2-day trip to Saudi Arabia. (RJ 2/11 in FBIS 2/12; MBC, JTV 2/12 in FBIS 2/13)

**PA police** bar Israelis fr. **Bethlehem** and the main road through the city in protest over the **IDF** unilaterally building wall, narrowing road in front of Rachel's Tomb as part of its security measures at religious site. (NYT 2/12; WT 2/13)

**IDF** declares **Qalqilya** a closed military zone after a stone-throwing incident. (VOP 2/12 in FBIS 2/12; MEI 2/16)

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12 FEBRUARY

**Arafat** is sworn in as pres. of the PA; takes his oath on the Qur'an in front of PNC head **Salim Za'nun**, while PA police band plays Palestinian national anthem. (CSM, NYT, WT 2/13; WJW 2/15)

**U.S. State Dept.** says start date of next round of Syrian-Israeli talks has been moved to 2/28 because of scheduling conflicts. (MM 2/13)

After 1st banning Palestinians fr. **Qalqilya**, **Ramallah** fr. entering Israel, the **IDF** seals the West Bank, Gaza until further notice, citing security concerns related to the end of the 40-day mourning period for **Ayyash**, coming end of Ramadan. (QY, VOP 2/12 in FBIS 2/12; VOP 2/12, 2/13 in FBIS 2/13; CSM, MM 2/13; NYT 2/14)

200 **Palestinians** protests **IDF** construction at Rachel's Tomb in Bethlehem. (WT 2/13)

2 **SLA** soldiers are killed, 1 wounded in roadside bombing in s. **Lebanon**. (QY, VOL 2/12 in FBIS 2/13)

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13 FEBRUARY

In Oslo, **Israel**, **Jordan**, **PA** initial agmt. on managing scarce water resources. (QY 2/13, JP 2/14 in FBIS 2/14; WT 2/14)

**Egypt-Israel-Jordan-PA** technical comm. on refugees opens 2-day mtg. in Cairo. (MENA 2/13 in FBIS 2/13, 2/14; MENA, QY 2/14 in FBIS 2/15)

**EU troika** meets with Pres. **Asad** in Damascus. (MM 2/14) (see 1/22)

**Arafat** receives congressional delegation in Jericho. (VOP 2/13 in FBIS 2/14) (see 2/8)

**PA police** arrest 2 **Islamic Jihad** mbrs. in the West Bank on charges of plotting a bombing inside Israel. (QY 2/13 in FBIS 2/14)

**Israeli** gunboats fire on Lebanese fishing vessels off the coast of Tyre, s. **Lebanon**, sinking 1 boat. (RL 2/12 in FBIS 2/12) (see 2/5)

In Saudi Arabia, **King Fahd** resumes his full duties. (MM 2/13) (see 1/1)

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14 FEBRUARY

At the initiation of **MKs Beilin**, **Ramon Haggai Merom**, **Labor** party holds internal discussion on eliminating a clause fr. its 11/91 manifesto which opposes the establishment of a Palestinian state. (MM 2/15)

**EU troika** meets with **Arafat** in Gaza, **Peres** in Jerusalem. (VOP 2/14 in FBIS 2/15)

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15 FEBRUARY

**U.S. State Dept.** says it will keep Syria on its 1996 list of nations supporting terrorism, due out in April. (MM, WP 2/16)

**IDF** eases closure on West Bank, allowing residents over age 30 to enter Israel. (NYT 2/16) (see 2/12)

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CHRONOLOGY SOURCE ABBREVIATIONS

AFP	(Agence France Presse, Paris)
CSM	( <i>Christian Science Monitor</i> , Boston)
FBIS	(Foreign Broadcast Information Service <i>Daily Report</i> , Near East & South Asia)
FT	( <i>Financial Times</i> , London)
HA	( <i>Ha'Aretz</i> , Tel Aviv)
IGPO	(Israeli Government Press Office, Jerusalem)
IL	(Israel Line, New York)
ITV	(Israel Television Network, Jerusalem)

JMCC	(Jerusalem Media and Communications Center, Jerusalem)
JP	( <i>Jerusalem Post International Edition</i> , Jerusalem)
JT	( <i>Jordan Times</i> , Amman)
JTV	(Jordan Television Network, Amman)
MA	( <i>Ma'ariv</i> , Tel Aviv)
MBC	(Middle East Broadcasting Centre, London)
MEI	( <i>Middle East International</i> , London)
MENA	(Middle East News Agency, Cairo)
MM	( <i>Mideast Mirror</i> , London)
NYT	( <i>New York Times</i> , New York)
PR	( <i>Palestine Report</i> , Jerusalem)
PWR	( <i>Palestine Weekly Review</i> , Gaza)
QPAR	(Al-Quds Palestinian Radio, clandestine)
QY	(Qol Yisra'el Radio, Tel Aviv)
RE	(Republic of Egypt Radio, Cairo)
RJ	(Radio Jordan, Amman)
RL	(Radio Lebanon, Beirut)
RMC	(Radio Monte Carlo, Paris)
SA	( <i>al-Sharq al-Awsat</i> , London)
SARR	(Syrian Arab Republic Radio, Damascus)
SATN	(Syrian Arab Television Network, Damascus)
VOL	(Voice of Lebanon, Beirut)
VOP	(Voice of Palestine, Jericho)
WJW	( <i>Washington Jewish Week</i> , Rockville, MD)
WP	( <i>Washington Post</i> , Washington, DC)
WT	( <i>Washington Times</i> , Washington, DC)
YA	( <i>Yedi'ot Aharonot</i> , Tel Aviv)

Chronology compiled by Michele L. Kjørlien