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16 MAY

A day before Israeli elections, 2 minor candidates—Center party's Yitzhak Mordechai, Herut's Benjamin Begin—withdrew fr. the race for PM, fearing their campaigns undermine efforts to unseat incumbent PM Benjamin Netanyahu. (NYT, WP, WT 5/16; MM 5/17; al-Ahram 5/18 in WNC 5/19)

On the 2d day of his visit aimed at improving bilateral relations and regional security, Iranian pres. Mohamed Khatami meets with Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Abdallah. (MM, NYT, WP, WT 5/17; MEI 5/21) (see 5/15)

17 MAY

Israelis elect One Israel's Ehud Barak as PM with 56.1% of the vote, meaning no 6/1 runoff is needed. In the Knesset, 6 of the 15 parties to win seats are new, including the anti-Orthodox Shinui, formed 2 mos. ago, which won 6 seats. Control of right-wing parties shrinks, as Russians, other centrists gain, changing the balance of power. The ultra-Orthodox Shas, however, gains 7 new seats for total of 17 seats, securing its place as the 3d largest party after Labor/One Israel (27, down fr. 34 seats), Likud (19 seats, down fr. 32 seats). The 1st Israeli Arab woman, Husniyya Jabara of Meretz, is also elected to parliament. Arab, Asian, European states, the U.S., and Russia welcome Barak's victory, hope it means the peace process will resume soon. (MM 5/17; AFP, LPA 5/17 in WNC 5/18; CSM, MM, NYT, WP, WT 5/18; AFP, al-Ahram, Chungang Ilbo [Seoul], Interfax, JT, Kyodo [Tokyo], MENA, MKR, RE, RNE-1 Radio Network [Madrid], SANA, SAPA [Johannesburg], Taiwan Central News Agency, VOL, Xinhua [Beijing] 5/18 in WNC 5/19; al-Akhbar 5/18 in WNC 5/20; MENA 5/18, Athens News Agency, Interfax, ITAR-TASS, JT, LPA, RE, 5/19 in WNC 5/20; CSM, NYT, WP, WT 5/19; CSM, NYT, WJW 5/20; CSM, MEI, MM, NYT 5/21; JP 5/28; CSM 6/17)

In a victory speech, PM-elect Barak lists 4 "red lines" for peace negotiations with the Palestinian Authority (PA), promises to put any final status agmt. to a referendum by the Israeli public. (MM 5/18; JT 5/19 in WNC 5/20; MEI 5/21) (see Peace Monitor)

On the 3d day of his Washington visit, King Abdullah of Jordan meets with U.S. Secy. of State Madeleine Albright, calls for lifting sanctions on Iraq. U.S. urges France, Germany, other creditors to cancel Jordan's debt; encourages Jordan to seek additional U.S. economic assistance. In the afternoon, the king discusses trade issue with U.S. Commerce Secy. William Daley, receives reps. of various American Jewish groups at Blair House. (JT 5/17 in WNC 5/18; WP, WT 5/18; al-Ra'i 5/18 in WNC 5/20; MEI 5/21)

Venezuela signs $20 m. deal to buy Israeli antiaircraft defense system. (YA 5/18 in WNC 5/19)

In s. Lebanon, Israel Defense Forces (IDF) shelling kills 2 civilians. (RL 5/17 in WNC 5/18; NYT, WP 5/18; RL 5/18 in WNC 5/19; WT 5/19)

18 MAY


Britain, Iran end 20-yr. rift, restoring ambassadorial relations. (NYT, WT 5/19; GIU 5/20)

Jewish settlers begin digging foundations for a new housing complex in Palestinian neighborhoods of Har Homa/Jabal Abu Ghunaym, Ras al-Amud in Jerusalem. (NYT, WT 5/19; WT 5/24; JP 5/28; MEI 6/4) (see 1/12)
To enhance his party's chance for a place in the new Israeli government, Arye Deri, who was sentenced to jail after being convicted on fraud and bribe-taking charges, gives up his Knesset seat but says that he will stay on as chmn. of Shas. (MM, NYT, WT 5/19; WT 5/20; NYT 5/21; JP 5/28) (see 4/15)

In Tehran, Iran, Jordan open 2 days of talks on expanding bilateral judicial relations, including fighting drug trafficking, exchange expertise, conducting joint studies on crime prevention. (IRNA 5/18 in WNC 5/19; IRNA 5/19 in WNC 5/20)

Hizballah responds to IDF attack of 5/17, firing 4 rockets into n. Israel. (MM, NYT, WP 5/18; WT 5/19; MEI 5/21)

19 MAY

In Damascus, European Union (EU) special envoy Miguel Moratinos discusses with Syrian FM Faruq al-Shara' resuming the Syrian-Israeli negotiating track. Afterward, Moratinos says that the Syrians "respect Barak a lot, and they think Labor can achieve the final peace with Syria," possibly within a yr. (MM, WT 5/20, 5/21; WJW 5/27; CSM 6/8)

Russia, Syria sign agmt. on using atomic energy for peaceful purposes, including scientific, technical, economic cooperation. (ITAR-TASS 5/19 in WNC 5/20; al-Bayan 5/23 in WNC 6/1)

In Washington, King Abdullah of Jordan meets with congressional leaders to urge them to approve the $300 m. in Wye supplemental aid for the kingdom. (WT 5/20; MM 5/21; NYT 5/23)

Iranian pres. Khatami ends 5-day visit to Saudi Arabia, heads to Qatar for talks on expanding bilateral cooperation, Muslim issues. (MM 5/19; IRIB Television, IRNA, Radio Qatar 5/19 in WNC 5/20; GIU, MM 5/20; IRNA, VRI 5/20 in WNC 5/21; IRNA 5/21 in WNC 5/25) (see 5/16)

Israel's National Union party head Benjamin Begin, the ultranationalist son of fmr. PM Menachem Begin, resigns his Knesset seat, leaves the party (which won only 4 seats in the 5/17 elections), retires fr. politics. (NYT 5/20; WT 5/23; JP 5/28)

In Hebron, IDF demolishes Palestinian reservoirs that local Palestinians built to collect rainwater to irrigate their crops during the ongoing drought. (WP 5/20)

In Damascus, Armenian, Syrian officials hold talks on expanding bilateral ties, particularly in the economic sphere. (Snark [Yer- evan] 5/20 in WNC 5/21)

In 'Ayn al-Hilwa refugee camp in Lebanon, unidentified gunmen kill Amin Kayid, an official in PA head Yasar Arafat's Fatah organization, and his wife, possibly in retaliation for the murder of Shaykh Hisham Shreidi in 1990. (RL 5/29 in WNC 5/20; NYT 5/20; MEI 6/4; al-Safir 6/30 in WNC 7/2)

20 MAY

In his 1st major statement since elections, PM-elect Barak reiterates promise to seek withdrawal of IDF fr. s. Lebanon within a yr. (MM 5/20; YA 5/20 in WNC 5/21; al-Sunnara 5/20 in WNC 5/25; NYT, WP, WT 5/21; NYT 5/23; MEI 6/3)

Turkey sentences to death top aide to Abdullah Ocalan, head of the Turkish separatist Kurdish Workers Party (PKK). The aide, Semdin Sakik, was convicted of treason for masteringmind 191 PKK attacks that killed 283 people. (WP 5/21; Zaman 5/26 in WNC 5/28) (see 3/11)

In Paris, Jordanian Finance M Michel Martu meets with the Paris Club, which agrees to reschedule $1.15 b. of Jordan's debt. (RJ 5/20 in WNC 5/21; JTV 5/27 in WNC 6/1; MEI 6/18)

Jordan, Syria sign agricultural cooperation agmt. (SANA 5/20 in WNC 5/21)

In Beirut, Iranian, Lebanese officials discuss expanding bilateral relations, resuming direct flights bwn. Tehran, Beirut. (IRNA 5/21 in WNC 5/25)

At the end of Iranian pres. Khatami's 2-day visit, Iran, Qatar sign 8 cooperation agmts. (IRNA 5/20 in WNC 5/21; IRNA 5/22 in WNC 5/28; MM 5/24)

21 MAY

Syria's official radio station calls on Israeli PM-elect Barak to resume peace talks with Syria, Lebanon simultaneously. (WP 5/22; WJW 5/27)

UN Security Council (UNSC) extends Oil-for-Food program for Iraq for another 6 mos., keeps sanctions in place. New proposals for easing/lifting sanctions are not debated. (NYT, WP, WT 5/22; WP 5/23; CSM 5/25; MEI 6/4)


In 'Ayn al-Hilwa, in Lebanon, a booby-trapped car explodes, seriously injuring Ja-
22 MAY


PA Preventive Security Force (PSF) detains editors Ghazi Hamad and Mahmud al-Bardawil, reporter Wisam Afifa of Hamas’s weekly newspaper al-Risala for questioning regarding an article on the torture in PA custody of Ayman al-Amsi (see 5/11); holds them without charge for several hours. (PCHR 5/24; LAW 5/25; MEI 6/4) (see 4/27)

23 MAY

In Cairo, Arafat, Egyptian pres. Husni Mubarak hold talks on the peace process, call on Israel to implement Wye agmt. immediately, halt settlement activity. (MENA 5/23 in WNC 5/27; MM 5/24)

In s. Lebanon, 2 Lebanese civilians are wounded by IDF shelling. (RL 5/23 in WNC 5/27)

24 MAY

In Washington, King Abdallah of Jordan meets with mbrs. of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, says that he believes Syria will conclude a peace agmt. quickly with the new Israeli government. (NYT 5/25; WJW 5/27)

Clinton administration announces plans to submit to Congress its 1st request for aid to the Israeli opposition under the 1998 Iraq Liberation Act. The first allotment will pay for setting up opposition offices in London, New York. For 1st time, Secy. of State Albright meets with 12 opposition leaders. Egypt, Syria, Turkey condemn U.S. support of the Iraqi opposition. (MM 5/24; MM, NYT, WP, WT 5/25; MM 5/26; MEI, MM 6/4; al-Quds 6/6 in WNC 6/10; MEI 6/18) (see 4/7)

In Burj al-Shamali in s. Lebanon, Amal, Hizballah mbrs. clash, leaving 2 Hizballah mbrs. wounded. Lebanese security forces intervene, detain several suspects. (VOL 5/24 in WNC 5/25, 5/26)

25 MAY

High-level Israeli, PA security officials discuss ways of facilitating movement of Palestinian goods and people though checkpoints, border crossings. (AYM 5/27, al-Majd 5/31 in WNC 6/1)

Israel’s Peace Now says that Jewish settlers have established 3 new settlement enclaves nr. Nablus since 5/17 elections in a race to grab occupied Palestinian land before PM-elect Barak takes office. (NYT, WT 5/26)

Hizballah, South Lebanon Army (SLA) clash in s. Lebanon, leaving 2 Hizballah mbrs., 1 SLA mbr. dead. (AFP 5/26 in WNC 5/27)

26 MAY

Anticipating resumption of Arab-Israeli negotiations, Arafat meets with King Abdallah in Gaza to set a common agenda, discuss possible 5-way summit (Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, PA, Syria). PA informs Israel that it would not reject Jordanian participation in final status talks on Jerusalem. (al-Quds 5/26 in WNC 5/27; al-Bayan 5/26, VOA 5/28 in WNC 6/1; MM, NYT 5/27; JP 6/4)

PM Netanyahu appears in public, convenes his inner cabinet for the 1st time since the 5/17 election. The Israeli media has accused him of abandoning his office, which he holds until Barak forms a government. (NYT, WP 5/27)

In s. Lebanon, 1 SLA mbr. is killed, 2 are wounded when a rocket fired by Hizballah hits their car. 2 Hizballah mburs. are killed by IDF shelling. (NYT 5/27)

27 MAY

At a Likud Central Comm. mtg., PM Netanyahu resigns his Knesset seat, formally announces his resignation fr. politics. The comm. picks PM Ariel Sharon as interim head of the party. (WP, WT 5/27; MM, WJW 6/3; JP 6/25; MM 6/28)

In Damascus, Jordan’s Chief of the Royal Court ‘Abd al-Karim Kabariit briefs Syrian pres. Hafiz al-Asad on King Abdallah’s recent international tour; discusses possible 5-way summit to coordinate on the peace process; relays request fr. Arafat to visit Damascus, which Syria turns down. (SANA 5/27 in WNC 5/28; MM 5/28; al-Dustur 5/28 in WNC 6/1; MM 6/3)

In Jerusalem, Israeli police clash with Palestinians, Israeli Peace Now activists demonstrating against Ras al-Amud settle-
ment construction. (LAW 5/27; MM 5/28; MEI 6/4) (see 5/18)

In **s. Lebanon**, 1 Lebanese **civilian** is wounded by **IDF** shelling. (RL 5/27 in WNC 5/28)

**28 MAY**

**Israeli DM Moshe Arens** approves master plan extending boundaries of the **Ma‘ale Adumin settlement** to Jerusalem. The **PA** calls on U.S. **special envoy Dennis Ross** to intervene, urges PM-elect **Barak** to rescind the decision and halt settlement construction when he takes office. (MM 5/28; NYT, WT 5/29; HJ 5/30 in WNC 6/1; LAW 5/31; al-Quds 5/31 in WNC 6/2; MA 6/1 in WNC 6/2; JP, MEI 6/4; JP 6/25)

Pres. **Clinton** phones Syrian pres. **Asad** to say that he would personally oversee relaunching of Syrian-Israeli negotiations. (WT 5/29; CSM 6/8)

**Turkish PM Bulent Ecevit** forms 3-party coalition (Democratic Left, Nationalist Movement, Motherland) to govern Turkey for the next 5 yrs. (MM 5/28; NYT, WP 5/29; MEI 6/4) (see 4/18)

In Vilnius, **Israeli, Lithuanian** officials hold 1st ever talks on bilateral, intercultural relations. (BNS [Tallinn] 5/28 in WNC 6/1)

**29 MAY**

In the 1st such visit in 25 yrs., **Lebanese pres. Emile Lahoud** makes 1-day trip to Jordan for official talks on regional issues with **King Abdullah**. (RL 5/29 in WNC 6/1; WA 6/4 in WNC 6/18)

**Egyptian FM Musa** goes to Damascus for brief consultation with Pres. **Asad, FM Shara’** on the peace process. (MENA 5/29 in WNC 6/1)

**30 MAY**

In Cairo, **King Abdullah** of Jordan opens 2 days of talks with Pres. **Mubarak** on the peace process, possible 5-way summit. (MENA 5/30, al-Bayan 5/31 in WNC 6/1; MENA 5/31 in WNC 6/1; WT 6/2)

**PA officials** call on Palestinians to observe “day of rage” on 6/3 to protest, “physically confront” Israeli settlement expansion. **U.S.** denounces **Israel’s** decision to annex more land to Ma‘ale Adumin settlement. (NYT, WT 5/31; JP 6/4) (see 5/28)

**Clash b/wn. IDF, Hizballah in s. Lebanon** leaves 1 Hizballah mbr. dead. (RL 5/30 in WNC 6/1)

**31 MAY**

Without any security guarantees from **Lebanon, SLA** forces begin unilateral pull-out fr. **Jazzin**, an area n. of Israel’s self-declared “security zone” that the SLA has occupied on behalf of the IDF since 1985. This is the 1st major **Israeli** retreat in 14 yrs. 1 SLA mbr. is killed when a roadside bomb goes off soon after the pullout begins. (VOL 5/30 in WNC 6/1; RL 5/31 in WNC 6/2; MM, NYT, WP, WT 6/1; MEI 6/4; JP 6/11)

**Turkey** opens treason trial of PKK leader **Ocalan**, who asks court to spare his life, says he is willing to work for peace with the government. **PKK** supporters are divided over whether to support Ocalan’s statement or view it as a betrayal of the Kurdish cause. (CSM, MM, NYT, WP, WT 6/1; NYT 6/2; AFP 6/2 in WNC 6/3; MM 6/3; MEI 6/4; MM 6/8; WP 6/16; MEI 6/18)

In **s. Lebanon**, an Irish **UN** peacekeeper is killed, 2 are wounded when a shell fired by the **SLA** lands inside a UN compound. (LPA, RL 5/31 in WNC 6/1; NYT 6/1; **Irish Times** 6/1 in WNC 6/2; Interfax, RL 6/3 in WNC 6/8)

**1 JUNE**

In Cairo, Egyptian FM **Musa** holds talks on the peace process with EU special envoy **Moratinos**, who says that the EU expects Israeli PM-elect **Barak** to restore confidence b/wn. the parties to the peace process by freezing settlement activity, urges him to restart talks with Syria. (MENA 6/1 in WNC 6/2; al-Quds 6/2 in WNC 6/8; MEI 6/18)

In Tunisia, **King Abdullah** of Jordan holds talks with Pres. **Zein al-Abidine Ben Ali** on the peace process, bilateral relations. (Tunis-7 Television 6/1 in WNC 6/2; Tunisian Republic Radio Network 6/2 in WNC 6/3)

For 2d day, **Hizballah** strikes **SLA** mbrs. evacuating **Jazzin**, killing 2, wounding 1. In response, the **IDF** shells Hizballah targets. Hizballah returns mortar fire, injuring 2 more SLA mbrs. In separate raids, **IDF** injures 1 **Lebanese army soldier, 3 civilians**. (MM 6/1; RL 6/1 in WNC 6/2; CSM, MM, NYT, WP, WT 6/2; RL 6/2 in WNC 6/3; ‘U’az 6/2 in WNC 6/8; WT 6/3; JP 6/11) (see 5/31)

**2 JUNE**

**PLO Executive Committee (PLOEC)** meets in Ramallah to discuss resumption of the 4/27–29 **PLO Central Council (PCC)** mtg. to continue discussion on possible dec-
loration of a Palestinian state. (*al-Ra'i* 6/2 in WNC 6/3; *al-Quds* 6/4 in WNC 6/11)


In talks with Syrian pres. *Asad* in Damascus, *Crown Prince Abdallah of Saudi Arabia* offers to mediate b/wn Asad, *Arafat* if it would help coordinate a unified Arab stand on the peace process. (*al-Nahar* 6/2 in WNC 6/3; MM 6/3, 6/4)

IDF suspends export licenses of the Israeli company *Orill* based on reports that Orill stole U.S. night-vision equipment purchased for the IDF, sold it to "Far Eastern" countries. (Globes [Internet] 6/2 in WNC 6/3)

3 JUNE

Yugoslavia accepts an international peace plan negotiated by *Russia, Finland* (acting for NATO) for ending Kosova conflict. The plan provides "substantial autonomy" for Kosovo, return of all 850,000 ethnic Albanian refugees. U.S. expresses cautious optimism, says air war, which began 3/24, will continue until treaty is fully implemented. (MM, NYT, WP, WT 6/4; WP 6/5; GIU 6/7; MM 6/11; GIU 6/14)

In Damascus, Saudi Arabia's *Crown Prince  Abdallah* holds a 2d round of talks with Pres. *Asad* before leaving for Amman, where he meets with *King Abdallah*. (*'Ukaz* 6/2 in WNC 6/8; MM 6/4)

SLA *Lebanese government* says it will not grant amnesty to the 203 SLA mbrs. who elected to surrender to Lebanese authorities rather than evacuate. (MM 6/3; RL 6/3 in WNC 6/8; NYT, WT 6/4; JP 6/11)

Fewer than 3,000 Palestinians across the territories observe the PA's "day of rage" to protest Israeli *settlement* expansion. In Bethlehem, Gaza, Hebron, Nablus, and Tulkarm, demonstrators clash with IDF soldiers, who respond with tear gas and rubber bullets, injuring 36 Palestinians, killing 1. (MM 6/3; HI 6/3 in WNC 6/8; *al-Akhbar*, *al-Quds* 6/5 in WNC 6/9; CSM, NYT 6/4; *al-Quds* 6/4 in WNC 6/11; LAW 6/6, MM 6/7; JP 6/11; MEI 6/18) (see 5/30)

At a roadblock nr. Yattir settlement in the West Bank, an IDF soldier fatally shoots a *Palestinian* motorist who allegedly tried to run him over. (CSM, NYT 6/4)

4 JUNE


5 JUNE


In Hebron, a *settler* opens fire on a Palestinian car, killing a passenger. (LAW 6/5)

In Bethlehem, *Palestinians* protesting Israeli *settlement* activity clash with IDF troops. No injuries are reported. (AP [Internet] 6/5)

6 JUNE

In Cairo, *PCC, Arab League* comm. hold consultations on drafting a Palestinian constitution. (MENA 6/6 in WNC 6/10; *al-Quds* 6/6 in WNC 6/11) (see Peace Monitor)

PM-elect *Barak* says he is having trouble forming a broad-based coalition because of *Likud* demands that he continue *settlement* expansion. Under draft guidelines for a coalition government, no new settlements would be established, no existing settlements would be dismantled, settlements would not enjoy preferred status. (CSM, MM, NYT, WP, WT 6/7; MEI 6/18)

In Cairo, *Egyptian-Palestinian joint comm.* open 2 days of talks on the peace process; sign agmts. on cultural, economic, trade, technical cooperation. (MENA 6/7 in WNC 6/9)

In Amman, *Jordanian, Syrian* officials discuss transportation cooperation. (RJ 6/6 in WNC 6/10)

7 JUNE

The most splintered *Israeli parliament* in history, including 15 parties, is sworn in. Prior to the ceremony, PM-elect *Barak* vows to stop *Jewish settlers* fr. establishing new settlement enclaves, to reevaluate settlement decisions taken by outgoing PM *Netanyahu*. (MM, NYT, WP, WT 6/8)
Israel agrees to allow 1,500 Palestinian refugees from Egypt to return to Gaza over the next 2 yrs. (NYT, WP 6/10; JP 6/18) (see Peace Monitor)

Ending a 30-yr. dispute, Qatar, Saudi Arabia sign agmt., maps defining their common border. (WT 6/9)

IDF demolishes a Palestinian home in East Jerusalem. (LAW 6/9)

Israeli military court rules that a Palestinian fatally shot by an IDF soldier at a West Bank checkpoint on 6/3 did not try to run the soldier over as claimed, sentences the soldier to 30 days in jail for wrongful death. (AFP [Internet] 6/7)

8 JUNE

The Arab Liberation Front, Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP), Fatah, FIDA, Palestinian Liberation Front, Palestinian People’s Party (PPP), Palestinian Popular Struggle Front (PPSF), Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) hold unity mtg. in Ramallah, call on PA to hold municipal elections before the end of the yr., urge Palestinians to confront Israeli settlement construction. (HJ 6/10 in WNC 6/14)

Israeli mayor of Jerusalem Ehud Olmert announces bid to lead the Likud party. Other contenders to replace Netanyahu as party head are outgoing FM Sharon, outgoing Finance M Meir Shitreet. (WP, WT 6/9; MM 6/10; JP 6/18; MM 6/30)

Israel, the U.S. call on Iran to immediately release 13 Iranian Jews who have been jailed since 4/99 on charges of spying for Israel. (MM 6/8; MM, NYT, WT 6/9; IRIB Television, IRNA, TT 6/9 in WNC 6/10; NYT 6/10; WT 6/11, 6/13; JP, MEI, NYT 6/18; GIU, WP 6/22; WP 6/23, 6/29; IRNA 6/30 in WNC 7/1; WJW 7/1; WP 7/3) (see Peace Monitor)

In an unprecedented attack, unidentified gunmen open fire on a Lebanese courtroom in Sidon, killing 3 judges, a prosecutor, wounding 5 others, but not freeing any of the defendants in the room. (NYT, WP, WT 6/9; RL, al-Sa‘fr 6/9 in WNC 6/10; NYT 6/11; RL 6/11 in WNC 6/14; al-Riyadh, Tishrin 6/12 in WNC 6/15; al-Thawra 6/12 in WNC 6/16; MM 6/14; MEI 6/18, 7/16) (see 5/24)

9 JUNE

In Amman, PA, Jordanian officials hold talks to coordinate steps ahead of PA-Israeli final status negotiations. (JT 6/10 in WNC 6/11; JT 6/20 in WNC 6/21)

In Riga, Israel, Latvia hold talks on expanding bilateral relations, possible joint ventures. (BNS [Tallinn] 6/9 in WNC 6/11)

In s. Lebanon, 1 IDF soldier is killed, 1 is wounded in clash with Hizballah. (MM 6/10; RL 6/10 in WNC 6/11; JP, MEI 6/18)

10 JUNE

NATO halts its air campaign, as Yugoslav forces begin pullout fr. Kosovo. Yugoslav military has 11 days to fully withdraw or face renewed bombing. As they evacuate, 50,000 NATO troops will move in to set up a peacekeeping force. (AYM 6/10 in WNC 6/14; NYT, WP, WT 6/11; MEI 6/18)

PA security officials report that a statement attacking PA officials for financial, moral corruption has been circulating in the West Bank, Gaza. The tract, signed by a group calling itself the Free Officers, also threatens to overthrow, execute Arafat. Security officials do not know who is behind the statement and differ on how much importance to give it, but agree that it contains details that only well-placed insiders would know. (SA 6/10 in WNC 6/11; al-Ittihad 6/18 in WNC 6/21; al-Ahram 6/21 in WNC 6/23)

In Tehran, Egyptian, Iranian officials discuss expanding economic relations. (IRNA 6/10 in WNC 6/14)

Sen. Larry Craig (R-ID), the no. 3 ranking Republican in the Senate, rejects calls fr. the Muslim community to fire his foreign policy analyst James Jatras, citing the right to free speech. In 5/98, Jatras publicly stated that Islam has a “fraudulent self-depiction as a pacific creed,” arises fr. “the darkness of Arabiy,” rivals communism as one of the “gigantic Christian-killing machines.” (WP 6/11; MEI 6/18)

An IDF helicopter crash-lands in s. Lebanon during a clash with Hizballah, causing no injuries. Hizballah claims it brought down the helicopter; IDF does not comment. (RL 6/10 in WNC 6/11; MEI 6/18)

11 JUNE

At the UN, U.S., Libyan officials hold 1st mtg. in 18 yrs. U.S. says it will not support full lifting of sanctions until Libya halts support of international terrorism, acknowledges responsibility for and compensates victims of Pan Am 103 bombing. (NYT, WT 6/12; JANA [Tripoli] 6/12 in WNC 6/14) (see 4/5)

An IDF officer is wounded during a clash with Hizballah in s. Lebanon. (VOL 6/12 in WNC 6/14)
12 JUNE

In Aqaba, King Abdullah of Jordan receives Shaykh Hamad bin Isa al-Khalifa of Bahrain for 2 days of talks on bilateral, regional issues. Both men express support for an independent Palestinian state. (WT 6/13; RJ 6/13 in WNC 6/14)

In Algiers, Egypt's Pres. Mubarak, Algeria's Pres. 'Abd al-'Aziz Bouteflika hold talks on bilateral, regional issues, including the peace process. Mubarak then heads to Morocco for 2 days of similar talks with King Hassan. (MENA 6/12 in WNC 6/14; JUM, RE 6/14 in WNC 6/15; MM 6/15)

13 JUNE

Multilateral Refugee Working Group begins 5-day gavel mission to refugee camps in Jordan. (JT [Internet], Petra-JNA [Internet] 6/17) (see Peace Monitor)

At the close of 2 days of mgs., the Egyptian-Moroccan Joint Comm. issues a communiqué calling on Israel to implement the Oslo, Wye agmts. and resume peace talks quickly. (MKR 6/13 in WNC 6/14; RE 6/14 in WNC 6/15; MM 6/16)

Israel bans the return to Ramallah fr. Amman of fmr. PLO guerrilla and current Palestine National Council mbr. Muhammad Oudeh who publicly admitted (5/3) to planning hostage taking of Israelis at the 1972 Munich Olympics. Oudeh, who has lived in Ramallah since 1990, says that Israel's move contradicts an Israeli-PA agmt. not to prosecute violent acts that predate the Oslo peace accords. Germany also has issued a warrant for Oudeh's arrest. (RMC 6/13 in WNC 6/14; NYT, WP, WT 6/14; JT, SA 6/14 in WNC 6/15; JT 6/26 in WNC 6/28)

14 JUNE

The Abu Dhabi Daily al-Ittihad reports that Arafat has asked King Abdullah to intervene with Fatah mbrs. in Jordan to dissuade them fr. taking part in an "internal conspiracy." Arafat reportedly alleges that senior Fatah leaders in Amman, Cairo, Damascus, Tunis have begun a serious movement, supported by Hamas and Jordan's Muslim Brotherhood, to overthrow him for having made too many concessions to Israel. PA denies the report. (al-Ittihad 6/14 in WNC 6/15; al-Ittihad 6/18 in WNC 6/21) (see 6/10)

In Damascus, Iranian, Syrian officials discuss cooperation in water, electricity industries. (IRNA 6/14 in WNC 6/15)

15 JUNE

Iran hosts 3-day founding mtg. of the Organization of Islamic Parliaments, which aims to promote Muslim unity and interests. Syria, Senegal are elected co-chairs. (MM 6/16; IRNA 6/16 in WNC 6/17; IRNA 6/29 in WNC 6/30)

In Cairo, Arafat, Mubarak discuss the peace process; agree that a full Arab summit should be held in the next few mos. to discuss the regional issues, including the peace process. (MENA, RE 6/15 in WNC 6/16; MM 6/16; al-Bayan 6/16 in WNC 6/21)

In Amman, King Abdullah receives PSF officials for talks on security cooperation, training. (JTV 6/15 in WNC 6/16)

Aye Deri resigns as head of the Israeli Shas party, bolstering chances that PM-elect Barak will include Shas in a coalition government. (MM, NYT, WP 6/16; MM 6/17, 6/18) (see 5/18)


In Damascus, Iranian, Syrian energy officials discuss linking electricity grids. (IRNA 6/16 in WNC 6/17)

2 Lebanese civilians are wounded by IDF shelling in S. Lebanon. (RL 6/15 in WNC 6/16)

16 JUNE

PA summons Palestinian construction workers to police stations, orders them to quit their jobs in Jewish settlements in Gaza to block the enclaves' expansion. (NYT 6/17; JP 6/25; NYT 7/2)

DFLP, Fatah, FIDA, PFLP, PPP, PPSF call on the PA to implement the NGO law that was approved by the Palestinian Council (PC) over a yr. ago urging Palestinians to recognize the role of NGOs in combating occupation and bolstering democracy. (AYM 6/17 in WNC 6/21) (see 6/8)

In Amman, Jordanian-Tunisian Higher Comm. ends 5 days of talks on bilateral relations, regional issues. Comm. issues final statement calling for a greater Arab free-trade zone, urging Israel to resume negotiations on all tracks quickly. (Petra-JNA 6/16 in WNC 6/17)

U.S. supports for the 1st time a British-Dutch proposal for partial suspension of sanctions against Iraq, China, France, Russia remain opposed, preferring removal of
sanctions. (MM, NYT, WP, WT 6/17; WT 6/18)

17 JUNE

Jordan imposes austerity measures to reduce the budget deficit, ordering ministries to cut their budgets by 5%. (NYT 6/18; JT 6/19 in WNC 6/21)

Iranian FM Kamal Kharrazi arrives in Lebanon for talks on upgrading bilateral ties in all fields. (IRNA 6/17 in WNC 6/18; IRNA, RL 6/18 in WNC 6/19; Iran News [Internet], IRIB Television, IRNA 6/19 in WNC 6/21; MM 6/25)

In Damascus, Iran, Syria sign an energy cooperation agmt. (IRNA 6/17 in WNC 6/18; Jomhuri-ye Eslami, TT 6/20 in WNC 6/21) (see 6/15)

In Tehran, Egyptian, Iranian officials discuss expanding cultural, political relations. (IRNA 6/17 in WNC 6/18)

IDF demolishes 2 Palestinian homes in Ramallah, damaging an adjacent house in the process. (LAW 6/21)

18 JUNE

Pres. Clinton waives the 1995 Jerusalem Embassy Act requiring the State Dept. to relocate the U.S. embassy in Israel fr. Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. If Clinton had not acted, the State Dept. would have forfeited about $500 m. in current funding for security, improvements at other emb. around the world. (WP, WT 6/19; RJ 6/19 in WNC 6/21; MM 6/21; JT 6/21 in WNC 6/22; MEI 7/2)

PM-elect Barak says that he will move quickly to construct the s. safe-passage route linking Gaza, West Bank. (MM 6/18; NYT, WP, WT 6/19; MM 6/21; AYM 6/23 in WNC 6/28; JP 6/25; MEI 7/2)

Mtg. in Cologne, the G-8 (Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Russia, UK, U.S.) decides against forgiving Jordan's debt, moves instead to forgive debt of the 33 poorest debtor nations. (NYT, WP 6/19; MM 6/25)

Iraq rejects the British-Dutch proposal, presented to the UN on 6/16, to ease sanctions in exchange for a new weapons inspection regime. (MM 6/18; NYT, WP 6/19; MM 6/22, 6/24, 6/25)

19 JUNE

Iranian FM Kharrazi arrives in Amman fr. Lebanon for talks with Jordanian FM 'Abdallah Khatib on expanding bilateral political, economic relations. This is the 1st high-level visit by an Iranian to Jordan in 30 yrs. (IRNA, RL 6/19, IRNA, JTV, RMC 6/20 in WNC 6/21; WT 6/20; 'Ukaz 6/23 in WNC 6/28)

In Cairo, Egypt, Yemen sign 12 cooperation agmts. (MENA 6/19 in WNC 6/21) (see Peace Monitor)

In Cairo, Egypt, Slovenia discuss expanding political, defense, economic relations. (MENA 6/19 in WNC 6/21)

20 JUNE

Last Serbian troops pull out of Kosovo. NATO declares air war over. (NYT, WP, WT 6/21) (see 6/10)

Rival Christian sects who divide caretaking of the Church of the Holy Sepulcher in Jerusalem agree to build a 2d door to the shrine to ease passage of millions of pilgrims expected to visit in 2000; will decide door's location by 7/99. The Nusseibeh and Joudeh families, who have held the key to the existing entrance for the past 800 yrs., will relinquish their gatekeeping duties. (WP, WT 6/21; JP 6/25)

Israeli authorities demolish a Palestinian home in the Israeli Arab section of Lod, Israel. (NYT 6/23)

In s. Lebanon, an IDF shell hits a Lebanese home, wounding 3 civilians. (RL, VOL 6/20 in WNC 6/21; MM 6/21)

21 JUNE

PLO delays resumption of its PCC session on the end of the Oslo interim period, adjourned 4/29 and planned to be reopened in late 6/99, after the formation of the new Israeli government, which must be completed by 7/9. (NYT 6/22) (see Peace Monitor)

Israel's Housing Min. issues tenders for construction of 22 new homes in the Neve Dekalim settlement in Gaza. Peace Now claims there are already 600 empty houses in the settlement. (WT 6/23)

Ireland's DM Michael Smith arrives in Tbilisn, s. Lebanon, to review Irish troops serving with the UN Interim Force (UNIFIL), warns that Ireland may end participation in UNIFIL unless Israel provides solid assurances that it will halt indiscriminate shelling of UNIFIL areas of operations. (RTE Radio One 6/21 in WNC 6/22) (see 5/31)
22 JUNE

U.S. special envoy Ross confirms that Israel, Syria have recently been holding an indirect dialogue on resuming negotiations. (WT 6/23)

Acting Likud leader Sharon tells his party that he has held 2 mtgs. with PM-elect Barak in the past 24 hrs., he expects Likud to take a central role in the next government. (MM 6/22; AYM 6/22 in WNC 6/28; MM, NYT, WP 6/23)

In Lod, Israeli police open fire with rubber-coated bullets on Palestinians demonstrating against the demolition of a Palestinian home on 6/20. Israeli Arab MK Azmi Bishara, 16 other demonstrators are wounded. Meanwhile, the IDF demolishes another Palestinian home in East Jerusalem. (MM 6/22; MM, NYT, WT 6/23)

In s. Lebanon, Amal attacks an IDF-SLA post, wounding 1 IDF soldier. (VOL 6/22 in WNC 6/23)

In 'Ayn al-Hilwa refugee camp in Lebanon, Fatah mbrs. loyal to Arafat clash with mbrs. of the al-Ansar Islamic League (also known as the Abu Muhjin Group) over control of security functions in the camp. (al-Diyar 6/23, WA 6/25 in WNC 6/29) (see 5/21)

23 JUNE

Syrian pres. Asad, Israeli PM-elect Barak trade public compliments in the press, which is read as another sign that their nations are moving toward resuming peace talks. (MM 6/23; MM, NYT, WP, WT 6/24; MENA 6/24 in WNC 6/28) (see Peace Monitor)

In Ramallah, the U.S.-Palestinian Bilateral Comm. meets for the 3d time. (MM 6/23; al-Quds 6/23 in WNC 6/28; JP 7/2) (see Peace Monitor)

Israeli-Pa joint aviation comm. meets in Gaza. (AYM 6/24 in WNC 6/28) (see Peace Monitor)

Iran announces that it has set up a $128-m. fund to pay compensation for some factories seized after the 1979 revolution. Claims must be filed by 8/23. (NYT, WT 6/24)

Jewish settlers fr. Efrat seize a 25-acre plot of land belonging to the Palestinian village of Khadr that they plan to use for a graveyard, set up six mobile homes on a nearby hill. (AFP [Internet] 6/23)

IDF intensifies shelling of Hizballah targets in s. Lebanon, wounding a Lebanese boy and his grandfather. Hizballah responds by firing mortars at an IDF-SLA base nr. the Lebanese-Israeli border. (NYT 6/24)

24 JUNE

SLA shells a village in s. Lebanon, killing 1 Lebanese civilian. In response, Hizballah fires 12 rockets into n. Israel, causing no injuries. In retaliation, outgoing PM Netanyahu orders the IDF to strike bridges along Lebanon's coastal highway, main power station in Beirut, power substation in Baalbek, in total killing 8 civilians, wounding 62, causing a blackout in Beirut. 5 of the dead are fire fighters killed during a 2d IDF raid on the Beirut power plant, where they were trying to contain a blaze started by the 1st attack. (Netanyahu informs PM-elect Barak of the operation after it has begun.) Hizballah strikes back, firing 36 rockets into n. Israel, killing 2 Israeli civilians, injuring 5—the 1st civilian deaths in n. Israel related to the Lebanon conflict in 4 yrs. (AFP, RL, VOL 6/24 in WNC 6/25; MM, NYT, WP, WT 6/25; AFP, IDF Radio, IRIB Television, IRNA, JTV, KSC Television [Kuwait], MENA, RJ, RL, RMC, Saudi Arabia Kingdom Radio, VlR, VOL 6/25, AFP, Iran News, IRNA, MBC, Petra-JNA, RL, RMC 6/26, IRNA, AFP 6/27 in WNC 6/28; NYT, WP, WT 6/25; al-Quds 6/27, ATL, INA, IRNA, QA, RMC 6/28 in WNC 6/29; AYM 6/27 in WNC 7/1; WP 6/26; WT 6/30; WJW 7/1; JP, MEI 7/2, MEI 7/16) (see 6/23)

Israeli, PA teams hold mtg. on civil issues, including advancing tourism in the framework of Bethlehem 2000. (YA 6/25 in WNC 6/28)

The Israeli daily Maariv reports that the IDF is renovating, fortifying positions along the n. border with Lebanon, suggesting that the IDF may be making plans for a withdrawal fr. s. Lebanon. (MA 6/24 in WNC 6/25)

25 JUNE

King Abdallah of Jordan phones U.S. Secy. of State Albright to urge the U.S. to halt Israeli aggressions against Lebanon. France condemns Israel's 6/24 attack as an "overreaction," dispatches a special envoy, FMin. Dir. for the Middle East Yves Aubin de la Messuziere, to Lebanon, Syria, Israel, the PA areas to examine the Lebanese situation, current status of the peace process. (JTV 6/25, AFP, RMC 6/26, AFP 6/27 in WNC 6/28)
26 JUNE

French special envoy Aubin de la Messuziere arrives in Damascus for talks with Pres. Asad, FM Shara'. (AFP; SANA, SATN 6/26 in WNC 6/28; SA 7/2 in WNC 7/6)

27 JUNE


28 JUNE


Acting Likud head Sharon walks out of coalition talks with PM-elect Barak, saying Barak refused to commit himself to continued aggressive settlement construction, particularly in disputed areas of Jerusalem, or to rule out a broad withdrawal fr. the Golan Heights. (CSM, MM, NYT, WP, WT 6/29; al-Quds 7/29 in WNC 7/2)

UNSC begins closed-door debates on a new weapons inspection regime for Iraq (WP 6/29)

29 JUNE

A joint mtg. of the PA donors' Joint Liaison Comm., Local Aid Coordination Comm. is held in al-Barid, nr. Jerusalem. (AYM 6/30 in WNC 7/1; AYM 6/30, 7/1 in WNC 7/6) (see Peace Monitor)

Arafat meets with King Abdallah in Amman for talks on the peace process, coordinating positions in advance of final status talks; also reportedly undergoes medical checkup. (RMC 6/29 in WNC 6/30; al-Ra'i 6/20 in WNC 7/2)

In Washington, Egyptian pres. Mubarak meets with Secy. of State Albright, encourages U.S. to support 7/14-15 mtg. of the signatories to the Fourth Geneva Convention. U.S. says it still opposes the mtg. (NYT, WT 6/30; MEI 7/16)

IDF Chief of Staff Shaul Mofaz announces that outgoing DM Arens has issued instructions to the IDF to ignore the 1996 April understandings, suspended Israel's participation in the Israeli-Lebanon Monitoring Group (ILMG), claiming that Hizbollah's 6/24 rocket attacks on n. Israel voided the 4/96 agmt. The April understandings, which ended Israel's 1996 Grapes of Wrath campaign against Lebanon, called on all parties in s. Lebanon to avoid harming civilians. (RL, RMC 6/29 in WNC 6/30; MM, WT 6/30; RL 6/30 in WNC 7/1; RL 7/3 in WNC 7/6; MM 7/5; JP 7/9)

Turkish court finds PKK leader Ocalan guilty of treason, a charge that automatically carries a death sentence and is automatically appealed. Turkey has not carried out an execution since 1984. Public response is muted as the verdict was widely expected. (AFP, ATL, La Une Radio [Brussels], LPA, MITI [Budapest], NTV [Moscow], RAI Televideo [Rome], RNE-1 Radio [Madrid], SAPA [Johannesburg], Xinhua [Beijing] 6/29 in WNC 6/30; CSM, MM, NYT, WP, WT 6/30) (see 6/21)

30 JUNE

Shas becomes 7th party to agree to join PM-elect Barak's government, cementing a broad-based coalition (mixing left- and right-wing, secular and religious parties) that should give Barak a strong majority in the Knesset. (Xinhua 6/30 in WNC 7/1; NYT, WP, WT 7/1)

U.S. signs 3 new grants for Jordan, giving the kingdom $134.7 m. to support balance of payments, technical and training assistance, water and sewage projects. (Petr-JNA 6/30 in WNC 7/1)

1 JULY

In Washington, Egypt's Pres. Mubarak meets with Pres. Clinton. Discussions include peace process, bilateral economic issues. Both men welcome news that Israel's Barak has cobbled together a broad-based coalition, call on Israel to halt construction of new settlements. Clinton says that Palestinian refugees should be allowed to settle "wherever they want to live." State Dept. quickly says that Clinton's statements do not suggest any change in U.S. policy. (MM, NYT, WP 7/2; NYT, WT 7/3; HJ 7/3 in WNC 7/8; MM 7/5; MM 7/7; WJW 7/8; JP, MM 7/9; MEI 7/16)
IDF forces shoot, wound a youth in s. Lebanon. A 2d civilian is injured by IDF shelling. (RL 7/1 in WNC 7/2)

2 JULY

Israeli PM-elect Barak phones Arafat for their 1st official conversation since Barak won the 5/17 elections. They agree to meet soon to restart peace talks. (NYT, WT 7/3; MENA 7/3 in WNC 7/6; JP 7/9)

As part of her "listening tour" of New York to assess her chances of winning a Senate seat if she were to run, First Lady Hillary Clinton sends a letter to the New York-based Orthodox Union saying that contrary to administration policy, she considers Jerusalem "the eternal and indivisible capital of Israel," favors shifting the U.S. embassy fr. Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. State Dept. stresses that she is expressing her personal views, not the opinion of the government. (MM, WP, WT 7/9; MEI 7/16)

A Lebaneze girl is injured by IDF shelling in s. Lebanon. (RL 7/2 in WNC 7/6)

3 JULY

In Paris, Egyptian pres. Mubarak discusses the peace process with Pres. Chirac. Mubarak makes a brief stop in Algeria before returning to Cairo in the evening. (MENA 7/3 in WNC 7/6; NYT 7/5)

France, the U.S. assure Lebanon that the April understandings are still in force, will not be amended. Lebanon says it will continue to abide by the 1996 agmt. (RL 7/3 in WNC 7/6) (see 6/29)

4 JULY

Egyptian pres. Mubarak, Syrian pres. Asad discuss peace process by phone. (MENA 7/4 in WNC 7/7)

Jewish settlers fr. Bet Arye settlement uproot, confiscate trees fr. 30 dunams of nearby Palestinian land. IDF soldiers block the Palestinian owners' access to the area. (LAW 7/28)

5 JULY

Syrian pres. Asad arrives in Moscow for talks with Russia on a 5-yr., $2-b. arms deal to upgrade the Syrian military, which would enhance Syria's negotiating position with Israel. (Sabah 7/5 in WNC 7/7; NYT; WP 7/6; MM 7/7, 7/9) (see Peace Monitor)

In Cairo, the Ramallah-based Interna-

tional Alliance for Arab-Israeli Peace opens a 3-day conference on the peace process, Arab normalization with Israel. Some 700 Egyptian intellectuals, political leaders hold counterconference to protest normalization in advance of comprehensive peace. (AFP, MENA 7/5 in WNC 7/7; MENA, SATN 7/7 in WNC 7/8; AYM 7/7 in WNC 7/12; MM 7/8; Rose al-Yusuf 7/10 in WNC 7/15) (see Peace Monitor)

In Zagreb, a high-level Israeli military delegation holds military cooperation talks with Croatian officials. (Vecernji List [Zagreb] 7/6, Vjesnik [Zagreb] 7/7 in WNC 7/8; Slobodna Dalmacija 7/12 in WNC 7/13)

In Ramallah, the 1st mtg. of the Palestin-

ian-Kurdish Friendship Association is held. Reps. of the PLO factions, PA ministries, governmental and private organizations attend. (AYM 7/6 in WNC 7/12)

PA police summon the editor of Islamic Jihad's daily newspaper, al-Istiqla, to warn him against publishing articles critical of the PA. (HJ 7/6 in WNC 7/9)

6 JULY

New Israeli government is sworn in. PM Barak's 7-party governing coalition—comprising the Center party, Meretz, National Religious party, One Israel, Shas, United Torah Judaism, Yisrael Ba'Aliya—will give him control of 75 of the 120 Knesset seats. One Israel's David Levy, who resigned as Netanyahu's FM 18 mos. ago, resumes the FM position. Fmr. Labor PM Shimon Peres is given the new position of regional development minister, which aims to promote economic integration btwn. Israel, Arab states. Oslo architect Yossi Beilin (One Israel) will hold the justice portfolio; Yossi Sarid (Meretz), education; Natan Sharansky (Yisrael Ba'Aliya), interior; Avraham Shohat (One Israel), finance. Barak will serve as DM as well as PM. Shas party mbrs. are given health, infrastructure, labor, religious affairs portfolios. Barak says he will make peace process his priority; wants to hold simultaneous negotiations with PA, Syria and withdraw troops fr. s. Lebanon. Arafat, Asad issue statements saying they are willing to work with Barak for peace. (MM 7/6; CSM, MM, NYT, WP, WT 7/7; AFP, France-Info Radio, IDF Radio, JT, JTV 7/7 in WNC 7/8; WJW 7/8; Interfax, MA 7/8 in WNC 7/9; MM 7/9; MEI 7/16)

Arafat makes 1-day trip to Cairo to dis-

cuss the peace process with Pres. Mubarak. (WT 7/7)
Syrian pres. Asad leaves Russia after 2 days of talks. Russia, Syria agree to step up technical, military cooperation but do not finalize arms deal. U.S. warns Moscow that it might cancel $50 m. in aid to Russia if it completes a deal with Damascus. (MM, NYT, WP, WT 7/7; Interfax 7/8 in WNC 7/9; MM 7/9; MEI 7/16)

Palestinian High Court orders the PA to release Hamas mbr. Muhammad Jadallah, who has been detained without charge since 3/24/96. (alQuds 7/8 in WNC 7/12)

In the West Bank, IDF storms Palestinian homes in 3 villages nr. Hebron, arrests 5 alleged Hamas, Islamic Jihad mbrs. on charges of planning an attack in Israel. At least 36 Palestinian have been arrested in similar raids in the Hebron area over the past mo. (MM, WP 7/7; AYM 7/7 in WNC 7/12)

7 JULY

Israel, Jordan agree to move forward with long-delayed construction of Aqaba-Elat airport, expand flight service b/wn. Amman and Haifa, Tel Aviv. (JT 7/8 in WNC 7/9)

Lebanon bans flights to and from Lebanon by newly privatized Bulgarian Airlines after learning that 2 Israeli companies have bought 75% of the airlines' shares. (RL 7/7 in WNC 7/8)

8 JULY

PM Barak's 1st domestic initiative, a bill to increase the number of cabinet ministers fr. 18 to 24, meets strong opposition fr. his own One Israel party (including new Knesset speaker Avraham Burg), the Likud party, and his newly appointed ministers Beilin and Peres. Barak claims that because his coalition includes 7 parties he needs the extra seats in the cabinet, while his opponents say the increase would bloat the government, only serve as a political payoff to coalition mbrs. (NYT 7/9)

In his role as DM, Barak instructs the IDF to resume adherence to the April understandings on Lebanon, attending ILMG mtgs. (MM 7/9) (see 6/29)

Under pressure fr. Jewish groups, U.S. Rep. Dick Gephardt (D-MO) withdraws his nomination of an Arab American Muslim, Salam al-Marayati, for a position on the National Commission on Terrorism, a congressional advisory body. Some Jewish leaders accused Marayati of "condoning terrorism" for asserting that Israel shares the blame for inciting Palestinian violence. (NYT 7/10; WJW 7/15; MEI 7/16; MM 7/23; NYT 7/31)

Iran's parliament passes stronger curbs on press freedoms, immediately closes leading reformist newspaper, Salam. Angry Tehran University students stage protests, calling for accelerated government reform, crackdown on corruption, end to conservative dominance in security apparatuses. Mbrs. of the conservative Ansar-e Hezbollah group clash with students. (NYT 7/11; GIU 7/13; MEI 7/16)

9 JULY

Israeli PM Barak travels to Alexandria for talks with Egyptian pres. Mubarak on reviving the peace process. Mubarak praises Barak's recent statements on resuming negotiations with Lebanon, the PA, Syria, but stresses that Israel should complete implementation of the Wye agmt. first as a goodwill gesture. Barak promises to carry out Wye in full, but wants the 3d stage of the 2d further redeployment (FRD) as outlined under the agmt. to be implemented as part of a final status agmt. PA rejects the idea. (MM 7/9; MENA 7/9 in WNC 7/12; JUM 7/9 in WNC 7/13; NYT, WP, WT 7/10; NYT 7/11; CSM 7/12; JP, MEI 7/16)

More than 100,000 students continue protests at Iran's Tehran University, clashing again with Ansar-e Hezbollah supporters. Iranian police stage violent raid on a university dormitory to break up demonstrations, killing at least 1 student, injuring 100s, arresting around 200. Pres. Khatami denounced the police action, vowing to dismiss officials who ordered it, and demands release of those detained. (NYT 7/11; GIU 7/13; MEI 7/16)

10 JULY

1,000s of Iranian students continue proreform demonstrations in Tehran; smaller rallies are held at Gilan, Tabriz Universities. Some clashes b/wn. students and police, Ansar-e Hezbollah supporters occur. (NYT 7/11; GIU 7/13; MEI 7/16)

11 JULY

Barak, Arafat meet at Erez crossing for 1st Israeli-PA summit on the peace process in 7 mos. Barak says he will move quickly to implement the Wye accord, but defers discussion on settlements and all other issues until he returns fr. his mtgs. with Pres. Clinton in the U.S. next wk. (CSM, MM, NYT, WP
7/12; VOA 7/12 in WNC 7/13; *al-Quds* 7/12 in WNC 7/15; MEI 7/16) (see Peace Monitor)

Despite Pres. Khatami's dismissal of senior police officials responsible for storming a Tehran University dormitory on 7/9, **15,000 students** there continue to demonstrate. Students in towns across Iran hold "sympathy marches" in solidarity with the Tehran rally. (CSM, NYT, WP, WT 7/12; GIU 7/13; MEI 7/16)

**12 JULY**

Syrian pres. **Asad** receives Jordanian chief of the royal court **Kabariti**, who was sent to Damascus by King Abdallah to assess the Syrian position on the peace process in advance of the king's mtg. with Israeli PM Barak on 7/13. (SATN 7/12 in WNC 7/13; WP 7/13; *al-Bayan* 7/14 in WNC 7/15)

Unnamed sources in Amman claim that the **Jordanian government** has begun cracking down on **Hamas**, aiming to end its political presence in the kingdom. The move reportedly comes in response to Hamas attempts to take control of the Jordanian Muslim Brotherhood in a power play against the less radical Hamas leadership in Gaza. Others say that Jordan is clamping down on Hamas, the Brotherhood in anticipation of confederation talks with the PA in the wake of a final settlement bwn. the PA, Israel. Hamas leaders do not comment. (MM 7/12; *al-Itthad* 7/12, QA 7/16 in WNC 7/19; MM 7/16; *al-Majd* 7/19 in WNC 7/20; YA 7/25 in WNC 7/26; WA 7/26 in WNC 8/2)

**Student demonstrations** continue in Iran for the 5th day. **Iranian police, Ansar-e Hezbollah mbrs.** beat protesters, injuring 50. **24 senior Iranian military officers** send letter to Pres. Khatami warning him that they are running out of patience with his reformist agenda, blaming him for student protests. (MM 7/12; CSM, GIU, NYT, WP, WT 7/13; MEI 7/16; MM, NYT, WP, WT 7/21; WP 7/22)

A roadside bomb explodes in **s. Lebanon**, injuring an **SLA mbr.** (VOL 7/12 in WNC 7/13)

**13 JULY**

In Rome, **King Abdallah** of Jordan holds talks with **Italian officials**, who agree to forgive or reschedule $130 m. of Jordan's debt. The king then heads to Aqaba, where he receives Israeli PM **Barak** for brief talks on the peace process. Barak promises to honor all agmts. with the Palestinians, includ-
After 6 days of proreform student protests in Iran, crowds across the country (including 100,000 people in Tehran alone) turn out for counterdemonstrations organized by conservative officials. (CSM, NYT, WP 7/15; CSM, MEI, MM 7/16; MM 7/19; WJW 7/22)

Jordan holds local municipal elections.

Islamic Action Front, the main Islamist opposition, wins majority of seats in Irbid, Rusayfa, Zarqa; takes 5 of 20 elected seats in Amman. (Petra-JNA, RJ 7/14 in WNC 7/15; MM 7/16; NYT 7/17; MEI 7/30; MM 8/5)

Syrian pres. Asad grants amnesty to 150,000 prisoners, jailed for cheating on food rations, dodging military service, smuggling, economic offenses. 100s of Palestinians, Jordanian nationals are among those freed. A number of Jordanians held as political prisoners will not be released. (MM 7/14; NYT 7/15; JT 8/3 in WNC 8/5)

Iran wins $50 m. contract to construct a power plant, repair several existing plants in Syria. (Iran News 7/15 in WNC 7/19)

IDF dismantles, confiscates a telephone communications network serving 16s of residents in the Palestinian neighborhood of al-Ram in East Jerusalem. The network was set up 18 mos. ago by the Palestinian Communications Company. (AYM 7/15 in WNC 7/19)

For the 1st time since the Barak government was sworn in, the IDF demolishes a Palestinian home in the West Bank. (INFOPAL [Internet] 7/30)

15 JULY

In Washington, PM Barak, Pres. Clinton hold private 2½-hr. mtg., without aides or note-takers, to discuss framework for resuming Israeli-Arab negotiations. Barak reportedly tells Clinton his conditions for peace agmt. with Syria, saying Israel would never return to the pre-1967 borders (as Syria demands), and promises to implement the Wye agmt. with the PA, but says that “most” Jewish settlers would remain in the West Bank and Gaza. Publicly, Barak urges the U.S. to reduce its role in negotiations and in enforcing existing agmts., arguing that Israel, the PA have to work out their differences on their own, specifically asking the U.S. to end CIA’s role in monitoring PA adherence to Wye security requirements. Clinton agrees that the U.S. has become “overly intrusive in the Middle East dialogue.” This evening, the Clintons and Baraks have private dinner at Camp David. (CSM, MM 7/15; Xinhua 7/15 in WNC 7/16; al-Quds 7/15 in WNC 7/19; MM, NYT, WP, WT 7/16; NYT, WP 7/17; NYT 7/21; WJW 7/22; CSM 7/28; MEI 7/30)

In Geneva, the signatories to the Fourth Geneva Convention meet at the UN’s request to discuss Israel’s human rights violations and settlement activity in the occupied territories, but adjourn after only 30 mins., with no debate, after approving a statement declaring settlements illegal. Australia, Canada, Israel, the U.S. boycott. (LAW, WT 7/15; AYM 7/17, Interfax 7/20 in WNC 7/21; al-Ahram 7/18 in WNC 7/19; JP 7/23; MEI 7/30) (see 7/13; Doc. A1)

Arafat, Egyptian FM Musa confer on the peace process in Helsinki, where Arafat is on an official visit. Finland currently holds the EU presidency. (MENA 7/15 in WNC 7/16; MENA 7/16 in WNC 7/19)

16 JULY

In Washington, Israeli PM Barak meets with U.S. Secy. of State Albright, Asst. Secy. of State Martin Indyk, special envoy Ross; discussion focuses on resumption of Israeli negotiations with Syria. Barak meets separately with Defense Secy. Cohen to discuss Israeli arms purchases. Barak then heads to New York, where he encourages American Jewish leaders to support the peace process. (MM 7/16; NYT, WP, WT 7/17; NYT 7/18; IRNA 7/18 in WNC 7/19; NYT, WT 7/19; TT 7/19 in WNC 7/20; MM 7/20; VJR 7/20 in WNC 7/21; WJW 7/22; JP 7/23; MEI 7/30)

Turkish pres. Demirel meets with Arafat in Gaza, then goes to Aqaba to meet with Jordan’s King Abdullah. (JT 7/15 in WNC 7/16; Petra-JNA 7/16 in WNC 7/19; WT 7/17; MII 7/17 in WNC 8/2)

17 JULY

PA security officials in Gaza report that Jewish settlers aided by the IDF have bulldozed some 200 dunams of Palestinian land nr. Khan Yunis, placed 15 trailers on the site, begun constructing greenhouses. (AYM 7/18 in WNC 7/21; MM 8/3)

Israel releases longest-held Palestinian detainee, Osama Barham, after 6 yrs. in prison without charge or trial. (NYT, WP, WT 7/19)

18 JULY

Israeli officials announce that PM Barak has told U.S. officials that he has set a target deadline of 15 mos. for achieving a comprehensive framework for Middle East peace.
His plan calls for simultaneous negotiations with Lebanon, the PA, Syria. Today Barak returns to Washington fr. New York to attend dinner in his honor hosted by First Lady Hillary Clinton; 400 guests attend. (MM, NYT, WT 7/19; MENA 7/19 in WNC 7/20; WJW 7/22; JP 7/23)

Iran claims, Turkey denies that Turkish jets today attacked an Iranian military base and a tribal encampment inside Iran's western border, killing 5, injuring 10. (IRIB Television 7/18 in WNC 7/19; WP 7/19; ATL; IRNA, TT 7/19 in WNC 7/20; HUR 7/19 in WNC 7/22; GIU, MM, WP 7/20; IRNA 7/25 in WNC 7/26)

19 JULY

In Washington, PM Barak holds 2d round of talks with Pres. Clinton, who announces plans to expedite approval of the $1.9 b. in additional economic aid that the U.S. promised Israel, the PA, Jordan after Wye talks (see Peace Monitor in JPS 111). Congress had refused to approve the disbursements since fmr. PM Netanyahu suspended Wye implementation on 12/2/98. Barak, Clinton also agree to create a Strategic Policy Planning Group composed of senior Israeli, U.S. security officials that would report to them every 4 mos. (CSM, GIU, MM 7/19; MENA, Petra-JNA 7/19 in WNC 7/20; AYM 7/19 in WNC 7/21; MM, NYT, WP, WT 7/20; WJW 7/22; JP, MEI 7/30)

In Damascus, Spanish PM José María Aznar discusses peace process with Pres. Asad: announces that Spain will loan Syria $55 m. in development aid, marking the 1st loan by an EU state to Damascus. (ABC [Madrid], SATN 7/19 in WNC 7/20; MBC 7/20 in WNC 7/21; MM, WP 7/21)

Damascus-based PLO opposition groups report that Syrian VP 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam has met with the heads of Fatah Uprising, PFLP, PFLP-General Command (PFLP-GC), Sa'qa to ask them to end their armed struggle against Israel, switch focus to political activities. Unnamed Syrian officials confirm the report, say no discussion has been held with Hamas, Hizballah, Islamic Jihad. (JT 7/19 in WNC 7/20; AYM, al-Manar 7/19, SA 7/24 in WNC 7/26; CSM, MM, NYT, WT 7/20; SA 7/20 in WNC 7/21; WT 7/21; QA, RMC, SA 7/21 in WNC 7/22; MM, WJW, WT 7/22, MEI 7/30; NYT 8/8) (see 6/16)

DPLP delegation led by Taysr Khalid meets with Fatah delegation headed by Arafat to discuss a reconciliation agmt. that would bring the DFLP into the final status negotiating process. (AYM 7/21 in WNC 7/26)

For the 1st time, 4 non-Jews are appointed to the Knessel Foreign Affairs and Defense Comm: Israeli Arab MKs Hashem Mahameed (United Arab List) and Nawaf Massalha (One Israel), Druze MKs Salah Tarif (One Israel) and Ayoub Kara (Likud). (NYT, WT 7/20; MM 7/21, 7/22; JP 7/23; MA 7/23 in WNC 7/28; MM 7/29; JP 8/13)

IDF begins work on relocating its Jinn headquarters in anticipation of the resumption of FRD fr. the West Bank. (NYT 7/20)

Israel's new internal security M, Shlomo Ben-Ami, says Israel will allow Orient Monser to remain open, after finding that the PLO has ceased conducting political activity fr. the building. (NYT 7/20; WP 7/22) (see 5/11)

Israeli Justice M Beilin says that he plans to cancel the legal basis for holding Lebanese detainees without charge or trial. Beilin also says that he will work toward ending administrative detention for Palestinians. (WP 7/20, 7/22)

A roadside bomb explodes in s. Lebanon, killing 1 SLA mbr. (VOL 7/19 in WNC 7/20)

20 JULY

Pres. Clinton phones Syrian pres. Asad to brief him on his talks with Israeli PM Barak, encourages Syria to resume negotiations with Israel. (MM 7/20; WT 7/21)

Meeting on the peace process with Pres. Mubarak in Cairo, Arafat says that Barak's 15-mo. timetable for final settlement is unacceptable; says that when the PLO agreed in 5/99 to put off its unilateral declaration of a Palestinian state, it was assured by the EU and the U.S. that an extension would not exceed 1 yr. (MENA 7/20 in WNC 7/21; MM 7/21; CSM, NYT, WJW 7/22, MEI 7/30)

In Washington, Israeli PM Barak holds 2d round of talks with Sency. of State Albright, meets with congressional leaders, departs for London to meet with British PM Tony Blair. Barak tells congressional mbrs. that they should not push for implementation of the Jerusalem Embassy Act now. (WT 7/20; MM, NYT, WT 7/21)

Israel's new interior M, Sharansky, says he wants to stop Israel's policy of stripping Palestinians of their residency rights if they leave Jerusalem for more than 7 yrs. (CSM, NYT 7/21; LAW, WP 7/22; JP 7/30)
In Gaza, **IDF** troops fire rubber bullets at **Palestinians** protesting Jewish settlement expansion, injuring 9. (CSM 7/21)

**21 JULY**

In Cairo, Egyptian FM **Musa**, Jordan's Chief of the Royal Court **Kabarrat** confer on the peace process. Kabarrat brings a message fr. King **Abdallah** to Pres. **Mubarak**. (MENA 7/21 in WNC 7/22; JT 7/24 in WNC 7/26)

Spanish PM **Aznar** holds talks on the peace process with **Lebanese** pres. **Emile Lahoud**, PM **Salim al-Huss** in Beirut. Aznar, Huss also sign a $100-m. trade agmt. (al-Nahar 7/21 in WNC 7/22)

In Ankara, **Israeli**, **Turkish air force cmdrs.** hold talks on military training cooperation. (ATL 7/21 in WNC 7/22)

In Amman, **Arafat aide Tayyib 'Abd al-Rahim** meets with **PFLP** Dep. Secy. Gen. **Abu Ali Mustafa** to discuss a possible reconciliation mtg. btwn. Fatah, the PFLP (ideally bwn. Arafat, as head of Fatah, and **PFLP** head **George Habash**). (RMC 7/21 in WNC 7/22; AYM 7/22 in WNC 7/27; JP, MEI 7/30; IDF Radio 8/5 in WNC 8/6) (see 6/16, 7/19)

**IDF** reports that in the past 3 wks., attacks on **IDF**, **SLA** troops in **s. Lebanon** have dropped to their lowest level in several yrs. (QA 7/21 in WNC 7/22; WP 7/22; WT 7/28; JP 7/30)

**22 JULY**

PM **Barak**'s chief of staff **Danny Yatom** says that **Israel** is prepared to restart talks with **Syria** fr. the point at which they left off in 3/96, as Syria demands, but disagrees with Syria about what that point is. Syria claims that fmr. **PM Yitzhak Rabin** had agreed to withdraw to the 6/4 border. Israel claims the 6/4 discussion was only hypothetical. (NYT 7/23; WT 7/24)

In Israel, PM **Barak** receives Spanish PM **Aznar** for talks on the peace process, Aznar's mtg. with Syrian pres. **Asad** on 7/19. Aznar says that Syria asked him to relay "some specific issues" to Israel but does not elaborate publicly. Barak asks Aznar to convey messages to Arafat, Asad. (MM 7/22; RNE-1 Radio 7/22 in WNC 7/23; NYT, WT 7/23; MA 7/23 in WNC 7/26) (see 7/19)

**Israel's Interior Min.** refuses to renew the **Jerusalem** residency card of respected **Palestinian prof.** **Musa Budeiri**, gives him 30 days to leave Israel. (Guardian [Internet] 8/5; CSM 8/12; MEI 8/20) (see 7/20; Peace Monitor)

**Iran** captures 2 **Turkish soldiers** inside its territory. (VIRI 7/23, ATL 7/25 in WNC 7/26; HUR 7/26, 7/27 in WNC 7/28; WP 8/10) (see 7/18)

**23 JULY**

**King Hassan II** of **Morocco** dies of a heart attack, is succeeded by his son, **Sidi Muhammad VI**. Israeli PM **Barak** cancels mtgs. with Arafat and Mubarak, scheduled for this weekend, to attend the funeral. (NYT, WP, WT 7/24; NYT, WP 7/25; CSM 7/26; WJW 7/29; JP, MEI 7/30)

**24 JULY**

**Damascus-based Palestinian opposition groups** meet in Damascus to discuss a new 5-point strategy regarding restructuring the PLO, recent DFLP, PFLP national unity talks with Fatah. (AYM 7/22 in WNC 7/27) (see 7/21)

**25 JULY**

World leaders attend funeral of **King Hassan II of Morocco** in Rabat. Egypt's Mubarak, Israel's Barak, Jordan's **King Abdallah**, PA's Arafat, U.S.'s Clinton attend. Although Syria's Asad stays in Damascus to avoid meeting Barak, his brother, Rifat, attends, grants an interview to the Israeli daily Ma'ariv afterward. On the sidelines, Barak holds brief, warm mtg. with Algerian pres. Bouteflika; also speaks with leaders of Kuwait, Qatar, the UAE, Yemen. **Kuwaiti crown prince Saad Abdallah Sabah** refuses to shake hands with Arafat. Clinton speaks briefly with Arafat, Barak, Mubarak about the peace process. (ATL, MAP [Rabat], MENA 7/25 in WNC 7/26; CSM, MM, NYT, USIS Washington File, WP, WT 7/26; RE 7/26 in WNC 7/27; MM, WT 7/27; MA, QA 7/27 in WNC 7/28; MM, WP 7/28; QA 7/28 in WNC 7/29; MEI, MM 7/30; al-Watan [Algiers] 7/31 in WNC 8/2; Le Monde 8/1-2; JP 8/6)

**Israeli** PM **Barak** sends the **IDF** to remove 5 mobile homes placed by **Jewish settlers** on a West Bank hilltop on 7/23 to expand an existing encampment, Shvut Rahel. Barak does not order the dismantling of Shvut Rahel itself—1 of 25 new settler enclosures that have been set up since the Wye agreement was signed in 10/98. (NYT, WP 7/26)
In Amman, Iran, Jordan hold talks on expanding cooperation in culture, religion, tourism. (IRNA, RJ 7/25 in WNC 7/26)

IDF bulldoes the temporary shelter constructed by the Palestinian family whose home was demolished on 7/14. (INFOPAL [Internet] 7/30)

26 JULY

Jordan’s King Abdallah stops in Damascus on his way home fr. Morocco to hold previously unannounced talks with Pres. Asad on strategies for reviving Israeli-Syrian negotiations. On his return to Amman, the king phones PM Barak to brief him on his talk with Asad. (JTV, RJ 7/26 in WNC 7/27; WP, WT 7/27; QA, SA 7/27 in WNC 7/28; YA 7/28 in WNC 7/29; QA 7/29 in WNC 8/2; NYT 7/30)

PC speaker Ahmad Qurai visits the Knesset as a guest of the new Knesset speaker, Burg. (MM 7/26; MM, NYT, WT 7/27; NYT 7/28; WT, MEI 7/30; JP 8/6)

In the Knesset, the Likud brings a no-confidence motion against Barak, charging that he informed Arab leaders of his peace plans before briefing his own government. Few MKs show up for the vote, and the motion fails by a large majority. (NYT 7/27)

In Cairo, Pres. Mubarak receives Turkish pres. Demirel for talks on the peace process, regional issues. (ATL, MENA 7/26 in WNC 7/27)

The IDF enters the West Bank village of Aqaba, dismantles and removes the village’s electricity system, which residents had installed at their own expense, because the Israeli Civil Administration had never provided them with electricity. (Israel Peace Bloc press release 8/5)

27 JULY

Israeli PM Barak meets with Arafat at the Erez crossing to discuss Wye implementation, allay Palestinian fears that Israel will prioritize talks with Syria over negotiations with the PA. Barak asks Arafat to agree to delay implementation of Wye FRDs until a final status agre. is close to completion, but says he would implement Wye as signed if the PA objects. Arafat says he prefers Wye to be implemented in full as soon as possible, but agrees to Barak’s request to have a PA-Israeli comm. examine ideas for a delay over the next 2 wks. before giving a final answer. (MM 7/27; MA, QA 7/27 in WNC 7/28; CSM, MM, NYT, WP 7/28; MENA 7/27, MENA, RMC, SA 7/28 in WNC 7/29; al-Quds, QA 7/29 in WNC 7/30; CSM 7/29; AYM 7/29 in WNC 8/2; MEI 7/30; JP, MM 8/6; MEI 8/20)

Israel, the PA agree to begin work on a joint industrial park, modelled on Gaza’s Qarni industrial zone, to be located along the Israel-West Bank border in Jinin. (WT 7/28)

Georgia, Israel sign a memorandum of understanding on defense cooperation. (Radio Tbilisi 7/27 in WNC 7/28)

Israel, Uganda sign an agre. to expand economic relations. (Radio Uganda 7/27 in WNC 7/29)

Hadassah, the Women’s Zionist Organization of America, awards Hillary Clinton, who is considering a run for a New York Senate seat, its highest honor for humanitarian service. Some Hadassah mbrs. protest the decision to honor Clinton, given her statements in 5/98 in favor of a Palestinian state. (WP, WT 7/27; WT 7/28; WJW 7/29; see also WJW 7/15; WJW 8/5)

After 2 days of talks in Damascus, the PFLP Central Comm. recommends accepting Fatah’s invitation to engage in national unity talks. (al-Dustur 7/27 in WNC 7/28) (see 7/24)

Hamas says it is not opposed to taking part in national unity talks with the PA, but says it will not take part in final status talks, since doing so would imply Hamas accepts the Oslo process. (al-Dustur 7/27 in WNC 7/28)

28 JULY

Turkish officials visit Iranian border camp to investigate Iran’s claims that Turkish jets attacked the area on 7/19. They conclude that the area was hit by accident during a strike on a nearby PKK base inside Turkish territory, apologize for the incident, promise compensation. (MM 7/28; WT 7/29; IRNA 7/29 in WNC 7/30; MM 7/30)

29 JULY

PA-Israeli comm. to examine the Wye implementation timetable holds its 1st mtg. The PA team is headed by Local Government M Saeb Erakat. The Israeli team is headed by PM Barak’s chief negotiator, Gilead Sher. (WJW 8/12) (see 7/27)

The PA Executive Authority meets to discuss Israel’s proposal for a delay in implementing the Wye FRDs. (MM 7/29; NYT 8/1)

In Alexandria, Israeli PM Barak, Pres. Mubarak hold talks on the peace process.
Barak asks Egypt to urge the PA to agree to a delay in carrying out the Wye FRDs. (MM 7/29; MENA, RE 7/29 in WNC 7/30; MM, NYT, WP 7/30; al-Akhbar 7/30 in WNC 8/2; JP 8/6)

Express rail service btwn. Jordan, Syria begins. (NYT 7/30)

In s. Lebanon, 4 Lebanese youths hunting in the brush run into IDF troops on patrol, leading to a shootout which wounds 1 IDF soldier, 3 youths, kills the 4th youth. (RL 7/29 in WNC 7/30)

30 JULY

Rep. Gephardt nominates 2d Arab American, Juliette Kayyem, to U.S. panel on terrorism. Kayyem is Christian, whereas the previous candidate, Marayati, was Muslim. (NYT 7/31; MM 8/6; WJW 8/12) (see 7/8)

PFLP head George Habash convenes the PFLP Political Bureau in Amman to discuss a PFLP Central Comm. paper on possible dialogue with the PA. (WA 7/30 in WNC 8/2) (see 7/27)

Amal attacks an SLA post in s. Lebanon, injuring 2 SLA mbrs. (RL 7/30, 7/31 in WNC 8/2)

31 JULY

Following the Executive Authority meeting on 7/29, PA officials say that Israeli PM Barak’s request to delay Wye implementation is unacceptable, therefore the 2-wk. delay to examine the issue agreed to by Arafat on 7/27 is a “waste of time.” Barak reiterates concerns that the 3d stage of the FRD outlined in Wye, which would isolate several Jewish settlements, could spark violence. (NYT, WT 8/1; MM 8/3; JP 8/6; WJW 8/12)

In Alexandria, Arafat, Mubarak discuss their latest mtgs. with PM Barak and his proposal to delay Wye implementation. (MENA 7/31 in WNC 8/2)

Also while in Cairo, Arafat leads a mtg. of the Fatah Central Comm. (FCC), seeking to unify Fatah’s ranks ahead of final status talks. (NYT, WP, WT 8/1; MENA 8/1 in WNC 8/2) (see Peace Monitor)

In Ramallah, Jordan, the PA sign a protocol to improve agricultural cooperation. (JTV 7/31 in WNC 8/2)

1 AUGUST

PA chief negotiator Erakat, Israeli chief negotiator Sher hold their 2d mtg. on Wye implementation, which breaks up suddenly with the PA accusing Israel of trying to avoid carrying out FRDs, Israel accusing the PA of inflexibility. As a goodwill gesture, Israeli PM Barak sets a target date of 10/1 to carry out the 2d stage of the Wye FRD, but still hopes the PA will agree to a delay of the 3d stage. (MM, WP, WT 8/2; IDF Radio, QY, RE 8/2 in WNC 8/3; CSM 8/3; MM 8/6; WJW 8/12; JP 8/13)

Knesset approves legislation allowing PM Barak to expand the cabinet. The bill does not place a limit on the number of ministers Barak can add. (WJW 8/5)

2 AUGUST

After being briefed by PA negotiator Erakat on his 8/1 mtg. with Israeli negotiator Sher, Arafat accuses Israel of a breach of trust, saying Israel is trying to “avoid the accurate and honest implementation of what has been agreed upon” under Wye. (NYT 8/3; MA, al-Quds 8/3 in WNC 8/5; MM 8/6)

Israeli PM Barak meets with Russian pres. Boris Yeltsin in Moscow for talks on the peace process, urges Russia to halt transfer of military technology to Iran, Iraq. (MM 8/2; Interfax, ITAR-TASS, NTV [Moscow] 8/2 in WNC 8/3; NYT 8/3; MM 8/4; Ekho Moskvy 8/6 in WNC 8/9)

In Cairo, PFLP closes 2 days of reconciliation talks with Fatah, PC mbrs. Although PFLP’s Habash refuses to meet with Arafat, both groups describe the mtg. as positive, agree to set up a follow-up comm. to outline principles of a comprehensive national dialogue to create a unified position on final status talks with Israel. (NYT, WP, WT 8/2; al-Arabi, al-Quds 8/2 in WNC 8/5; MM, WT 8/3; al-Sha'b 8/6 in WNC 8/9; AYM 8/8 in WNC 8/10; MM 8/9) (see 7/30)

Israeli Finance M Shohat, PA Trade M Mahir al-Masri discuss Wye articles on economic issues, resuming mtgs. of the joint Israeli-Palestinian economic comm., which has not convened for 2 yrs. (AYM 8/3 in WNC 8/5)

Israel’s Environmental M Dalia Itzik tours Gaza with her PA counterpart Yusif Abu Safiyya. The pair discuss water pollution, destruction of green areas, possible joint projects. (NYT 8/4)

2-day Jordanian-Syrian Higher Comm. mtg. opens in Amman. Talks focus on economic relations. (JTV 8/2 in WNC 8/3; PetraJNA, RJ 8/3, JT 8/4 in WNC 8/5) (see 7/22, Peace Monitor)

In Athens, a small homemade bomb explodes outside the offices of the Greco-Israeli Friendship Society, causing damage but no injuries. A caller claims responsibility for the attack. (AP 8/2)
on behalf of the previously unknown **Black Star Group**. (Athens News Agency 8/3 in WNC 8/5)

**3 AUGUST**

In the Israeli-controlled section of Hebron, unidentified assailants shoot, wound 2 Jewish settlers. (MM, NYT, WP, WT 8/4; JP 8/13)

**PA police** release Hamas spokesman ‘Abd al-‘Aziz Rantisi, who has been detained without charge for 15 mos. (AFP 8/3 in WNC 8/5) (see 4/9/98)

In Rabat, Malcolm Hoenlein, exec. vice-chmn. of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, meets with King Muhammad, who says that **Morocco** hopes to speed normalization with **Israel** now that the peace process is getting back on track. (JP 8/13)

**4 AUGUST**

In Jerusalem, Dep. FM Yiannous Kranidiotis of Greece holds talks with FM Levy on trade, military cooperation. (Athens News Agency 8/5 in WNC 8/6; GIU 8/6)

In response to the 8/3 shooting, IDF seals **Hebron**, imposes a curfew on Palestinians in the Israeli-controlled sector of the city. (AP [Internet] 8/4)

**5 AUGUST**

PM Barak expands his cabinet to 23 mbrs., appoints MK Nawaf Masalha (One Israel) as 1st Arab dep. FM. Barak’s One Israel party holds 12 of the 23 cabinet seats. (MM 8/5; MM, NYT 8/6; al-Riyad 8/6 in WNC 8/10; WJW 8/12) (see 8/1)

**Arafat** orders the Palestinian press to stop printing pieces that insult **Syria**, particularly DM Mustafa Tlas, who had been attacked in the press for accusing Arafat (on 8/2) of selling out the Palestinian cause. (al-Wafa 8/5, MBC 8/7 in WNC 8/9; WT 8/6; MM 8/9)

In Gaza, **PA police** detain Palestinian human rights activist Eyad Sarraj for questionning regarding an article in which he criticized the PA’s human rights record. Sarraj is released after 2 hrs. but is forbidden to travel abroad until further notice. (LAW 8/5, 8/7)

**PKK** says it will heed Ocalan’s 8/2 call to abandon its 14-yr. insurgency for self-rule, pull out of Turkey by 9/1. **Turkey** dismisses PKK’s announcement as an attempt to convince Turkey to stay Ocalan’s execution, vows not to negotiate with the PKK. (CSM, MM, NYT, WP, WT 8/6; MM 8/9; WP 8/10)

**6 AUGUST**

Israeli PM Barak asks U.S. Secy. of State Albright to delay her trip to the region until the dispute with the PA over Wye implementation is resolved. Albright had planned to arrive in the region 8/17 to follow up on Barak’s visit to the U.S. (WP 8/9, JP 8/13)

Israeli Justice M Bellin, PA Justice M Frayh Abu Madayn discuss the issue of Palestinians wanted by Israel, agree to resume mtgs. of the Israeli-PA law comm., which has not convened for 3 yrs. (WT 8/7; NYT 8/9)

PFLP-GC head Ahmad Jibril says that his organization will not hold national unity talks with Fatah, the PA, or any other group that supports the Oslo process. (al-Quds 8/6 in WNC 8/9) (see 8/2)

**7 AUGUST**

1,000s of Palestinians are bussed to Arafat’s headquarters in Gaza for a pro-Arafat demonstration in protest of a speech made by Syrian DM Tlas (8/2) accusing Arafat of having sold out the Palestinian cause. (WP 8/8; MM, WJW 8/12; MM 8/13) (see 8/5)

Hamas’s armed wing, Izzeddin al-Qassam Brigades, takes responsibility for shooting 2 Jewish settlers in Hebron on 8/4. (WT 8/8; IDF Radio 8/8 in WNC 8/9) (see 8/4)

High-level Romanian military delegation arrives in **Egypt** for talks on military cooperation. (MENA 8/7 in WNC 8/9)

**8 AUGUST**

The Israeli cabinet releases a statement saying that “in the absence of agreed-upon changes, the countdown for implementation of the [Wye] agreement will begin on September 1.” **Arafat** welcomes Israel’s plan to resume implementation in 9/99, but still does not approve of PM Barak’s plan to draw out the Wye schedule. (CSM, MM, WT 8/9; CSM 8/10)

At the request of PM Barak and after consulting with **Arafat** and Syrian pres. **Asad**, Secy. of State Albright postpones her trip to the Middle East, which was to start the following wk. (IDF Radio 8/8 in WNC 8/9; MM, WP, WT 8/9; MM, NYT, WP 8/10; WJW 8/12; JP 8/13) (see 8/6)
Shaykh Hamad Bin-Khalifa al-Thani, emir of Qatar, meets with Arafat in Gaza, making him the 1st Gulf leader to visit the occupied territories since the PA was established. The emir is on a regional tour, which will also take him to Lebanon (8/8–9), Algeria (8/9–10), Morocco (8/11). (RL 8/8 in WNC 8/9; al-Quds 8/9, MAP [Rabat], TT 8/11 in WNC 8/13)

In Damascus, the PFLP briefs 8 Syrian-based opposition groups on its reconciliation talks with Arafat in Cairo 8/1–2; some groups recommend halting contacts with the PFLP if it holds further mtgs. with Fatah, the PA. DFLP is not invited to the briefing; it has been banned fr. opposition mtgs. since Nayif Hawatimah shook hands with Israeli pres. Weizman at King Hussein's funeral in 2/99. (AFP, MBC, 8/9 in WNC 8/10) (see 8/6)

IDF lifts curfew on Palestinians in the Israeli-controlled sector of Hebron. (LAW 8/8) (see 8/4)

PA announces that it has arrested 3 Hamas leaders in Gaza. Israel had been pressuring the PA to crack down on Hamas since the Qassam Brigades claimed responsibility for shooting 2 Jewish settlers in Hebron on 8/3. (WP 8/9) (see 8/7)

9 AUGUST

PM Barak discusses his proposal for delayed implementation of Wye with PA chief negotiator Mahmud Abbas. Abbas says that Arafat would agree to delay the 2d stage of the FRD to 10/1, but wants full implementation of the agmt. completed by 11/99. (MM, WT 8/11; MEI 8/20)

State Dept. reports that both houses of Congress have refused to approve Wye aid, omitting the $1.2 b. for Israel, $400 m. for the PA, and $300 m. for Jordan fr. their drafts of the FY 2000 foreign aid bill. According to congressional staff mbrs., the money fell victim to the overall squeeze on foreign aid, pessimism that the Wye agmt. will be implemented. (WP 8/10; MM 8/11, 8/13)

As a goodwill gesture in advance of security talks with Turkey on 8/10, Iran releases 2 Turkish soldiers captured inside Iran on 7/22. (WP 8/10)

10 AUGUST

In Amman, King Abdallah receives Israeli FM Levy for talks on the peace process. (MM 8/10; NYT, WT 8/11)

A Palestinian twice deliberately plows his car into a group of IDF soldiers hitchhiking along a road nr. Jerusalem, injuring 12 before being fatally shot. (MM 8/10; CSM, NYT, WP, WT 8/11; JUM 8/11 in WNC 8/13; MEI 8/20)

An unidentified assailant shoots, wounds a Jewish settler nr. Jinin. IDF seals off several nearby Palestinian villages in a search for the attacker. (NYT 8/12; MA 8/12 in WNC 8/13)

With PM Barak's approval, Israeli police working under the cover of darkness wall up a window at the Haram al-Sharif compound that Waqf officials had enlarged to make a new door. (MM 8/10, 8/11, 8/13)

11 AUGUST

The 2-wk. period for the PA to consider Israeli PM Barak's proposal for a delay in Wye implementation ends. Negotiators Erakat, Sher meet to discuss the FRD timetable, but reach no agmt. (MM 8/11, 8/12; al-Quds 8/12 in WNC 8/13) (see Peace Monitor)

Israeli Justice M Bellin travels to Washington to deliver a message fr. Barak to Sycy, of State Albright, also meets with NSA Berger, Atty. Gen. Janet Reno. Albright tells Bellin that the U.S. believes that Israel should carry out the Wye FRD as agreed but would accept "modest adjustments" in the timetable if the PA approved. (MM 8/11; Xinhua 8/12 in WNC 8/13; MM 9/13)

Israeli PM Barak phones Pres. Clinton to discuss ways to make Sycy. of State Albright's upcoming tour of the Middle East "productive." (MM 8/11; WT 8/12)

Israel's Office of the Judge Advocate General issues a legal opinion stating that 30 of the 42 settlement enclaves established since the Wye agmt. was signed in 10/98 are illegal. (MM 8/12)

Israel's Interior Min. demolishes 2 Palestinian homes in the Wallaja neighborhood of Jerusalem, sparking clash b/w. Israeli police, Palestinians in which 1 policeman is injured. (JP [Internet] 8/12)

12 AUGUST

In Ramallah, Jordanian PM 'Abd al-Rauf al-Rawabida, Arafat consult on the peace process (al-Ra'i 8/14 in WNC 8/16)

As a gesture to Israeli PM Barak, Cyprus pardons 2 Israeli spies, sends them back to Israel. (Cyprus Broadcasting Corporation Radio 8/12 in WNC 8/13; Cyprus News Agency 8/12, I Simerini 8/13 in WNC 8/16; WT 8/13) (see 1/29)
**13 AUGUST**

Israeli PM Barak phones Pres. Clinton for 2d time this wk. to discuss Secy. of State Albright's upcoming visit. (WT 8/15) (see 8/11)

In his 1st coalition battle, Barak faces losing his Knesset majority as the Shas party threatens to resign in protest of a government decision to transport a large electrical turbine by vehicle on the Sabbath. (MM 8/13; WP 8/14; NYT 8/15; MEI 8/20)

Iran, Turkey end 4 days of security talks in Ankara, agree to set up a hotline to coordinate their attacks on Kurdish rebels. The teams fail to reach other agmts., such as Turkish compensation for the 7/19 border strike on Iran. (IRNA 8/13; TT, VIRI 8/14 in WNC 8/16; NYT, WP 8/14)

**14 AUGUST**

In Jerusalem, negotiators Erakat, Sher resume talks on new Wye timetable. They agree that the clock would start ticking on 9/1, Israel would begin 2d stage of Wye FRD on 10/1, disagree on when 3d stage of the FRD would be carried out. PA wants it completed by mid-11/99, in keeping with the original Wye schedule, but Israel wants to stretch it into 2000. (WT 8/14; RMC 8/14, 8/15 in WNC 8/16; WP 8/15; NYT 8/16; MEI 8/20)

**15 AUGUST**

Defusing the crisis with Shas over the government relocation of a turbine on the Sabbath (see 8/13), Israeli PM Barak promises that the government will consider weekday alternatives for similar projects in the future. (NYT, WP 8/16; MEI 8/20)

Iran orders 7 top security officials (including Tehran's chief of police and senior antiterror officers), several mbrs. of Ansar-e Hezbollah to stand trial for raiding a dormitory at Tehran University on 7/9. (WP 8/16; MEI 8/20) (see 7/9)

In the PA-controlled section of Hebron, an explosion destroys a Palestinian shop, causing no injuries. PA police suspect the store served as a bomb factory. (NYT, WP, WT 8/16; WT 8/17; MEI 8/20)

PA police arrest the chief editor, a reporter fr. Hamas's al-Risala newspaper; order them detained for 48-hrs. to investigate allegations that they distorted an interview with a PA prosecutor. (HJ 8/15 in WNC 8/16)
Lebanese soldiers inspect a burning electrical substation outside Beirut that the IDF bombed twice on 24 June. The second IDF attack killed five fire fighters trying to contain the blaze. (AP photo/H. Malla)