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Chronology

16 May–15 August 2000

This section is part sixty-seven 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 May

Across the West Bank and Gaza, clashes subside b/wn. Israel Defense Forces (IDF) and Palestinian demonstrators as the IDF, Palestinian Authority (PA) police cooperate to disperse the protesters, who are marking the 52d anniversary of the Nakba and demanding the release of Palestinians held by Israel. Around 50 Palestinians suffer light injuries. (CSM, WP 5/17; MENA 5/16 in WNC 5/17; WP 5/18) (see 5/15)

U.S. special envoy Dennis Ross meets with PA head Yasser Arafat in Ramallah, Israeli PM Ehud Barak in Jerusalem. (CSM, NYT, WP 5/17; al-Quds 5/17 in WNC 5/18)

In preparation for a withdrawal fr. Lebanon, the IDF turns over its naval radar station at Ras Bayada on the Mediterranean to its proxy militia, the South Lebanon Army (SLA), and begins moving heavy equipment out of Surayqi post nr. Marja’uyun. (WT 5/17; NYT 5/18) (see 5/15)

Also in Lebanon, an elementary school in Arab Salim is hit by 3 IDF shells. Fortunately, the strike occurs during recess, when children are outside the building, so there is some material damage but no injuries. A similar incident at the same school on 12/16/99 injures 20 students. (MM, WT 5/17)

17 May

In the West Bank and Gaza, sporadic clashes b/wn. Palestinians, IDF continue for the 4th day. No injuries are reported. (NYT 5/18)

U.S. special envoy Ross returns to Washington. (State Dept. press briefing 5/17)

In the Knesset, 2 opposition bills that would limit PM Barak’s margin of maneuver in the peace talks with the PA pass initial readings. MKs approve, however, the cabinet’s 5/15 decision to transfer 3 Palestinian villages nr. Jerusalem (Abu Dis, Azariyya, Sawahara al-Sharqiyia) to full PA control, which is expected to take place before PM Barak leaves for the U.S. (MENL, MM 5/17; CSM, WP 5/17; WNC 5/22; MM, NYT 5/18; al-Quds 5/23 in WNC 5/24; al-Quds 5/26 in WNC 5/31)

The Acting Council of the Palestinian Bar Association revokes the accreditation of a 38th Palestinian lawyer working for a human rights organization in Jerusalem. (LAW 5/18) (see 5/9)

Palestinian teachers cancel their strike and return to classrooms to express solidarity with Palestinians injured in recent clashes with the IDF. They have still not reached a settlement with the PA regarding their salaries. (MENL 5/17) (see Peace Monitor in JPS 116)

18 May

PA, Israel resume their Stockholm channel of final status talks. IsRN, MM 5/18; NYT 5/20

In the heaviest fighting in 2 wks., 2 IDF soldiers, 2 SLA marbs., 1 Hizballah mbr., 1 soldier with the UN Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), and 4 Lebanese civilians are injured in Lebanon. Recently, Hizballah has stepped up attacks on the IDF and SLA, wanting Israel’s withdrawal fr. Lebanon to occur under pressure. Hizballah has also increased videotaping its attacks, so they can be aired on Lebanese television. (MM, NYT, WP 5/19)

The PA High Court voids the Acting Council of the Palestinian Bar Association’s revocation of the certification of 38 Palestinian lawyers, allowing them to practice legally again. (MENL 5/18) (see 5/17)

19 May

In Gaza, Palestinians holding a demonstration for the release of Palestinian prisoners held in Israeli clash with IDF troops nr. a large Jewish settlement. 1 soldier, 1 PA policeman, 4 Palestinians are wounded by live ammunition. (MM 5/19; NYT, WT 5/20; AYM 5/22 in WNC 5/23)
20 MAY

On their 7th straight day, Palestinian demonstrations in the West Bank and Gaza escalate again (see 5/14–15), leaving 100 Palestinians injured. The worst fighting takes place in Hebron, Jinin, Nablus, Ramallah, Tulkarm. Since 5/14, 5 Palestinians have been killed, some 600 injured. (NYT, WP, WT 5/21; AYM 5/22 in WNC 5/23)

In s. Lebanon, the IDF attacks a Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine–General Command (PFLP-GC) base a mile fr. the Syrian border, destroying 10 tanks, killing 3 PFLP-GC mbrs., wounding 3 others. (WP, WT 5/21)

With increased fighting in s. Lebanon and the occupied territories, PM Barak cancels plans to leave today for the U.S. to meet with Pres. Bill Clinton (5/22–23) and American Jewish leaders (5/21) and to address the annual American Israel Public Affairs Comm. (AIPAC) conference (5/22). (NYT, WP, WT 5/21; AYM 5/22 in WNC 5/23, 5/24)

21 MAY

King Abdallah of Jordan flies to Damascus to hold talks with Syrian pres. Hafiz al-Asad before heading to Washington to meet with Pres. Clinton next wk. (IsRN 5/21; DUS 5/21 in WNC 5/22; MM 6/8)

In the PA-controlled West Bank city of Jericho, a molotov cocktail is thrown at a car, critically injuring an Israeli child. In response, Barak recalls his negotiators fr. final status talks with the PA in Stockholm; postpones today's transfer of 3 Palestinian villages nr. Jerusalem (Abu Dis, Azariyya, Sawahara al-Sharqiyya) fr. jointly controlled area B to PA-controlled area A; and bans Israeli travel to Jericho, which makes its revenue fr. a casino that is popular with Israeli tourists. (CSM, MM, NYT, WP, WT 5/22; AYM, al-Quds 5/22 in WNC 5/23; AYM 5/22, al-Quds 5/23 in WNC 5/24; WT 5/23; MEI 6/2)

Israel begins its withdrawal from s. Lebanon, 6 wks. before its target date of 7/7. The SLA begins to disintegrate, leaving IDF positions exposed. (MM, NYT, WP 5/22; Politiken [Copenhagen] 5/22 in WNC 5/23; CSM 5/24; MEI 6/2) (see Peace Monitor)

The PA Preventive Security Force (PSF) shuts al-Watan TV, accusing the station of inciting violence with its broadcasts of recent Palestinian protests. (al-Haq press release 5/22) (see 5/10)

Fmr. Syrian PM Muhammad Zu'bi, who had been replaced when the new government was installed on 3/13 and who had been expelled fr. the Ba'th party on 5/10 for financial corruption, commits suicide in Damascus. (MM 5/22, 5/23; MM 5/30; MEI 6/2; al-Majallah 6/4; MEI 6/16)

22 MAY

As the IDF withdraws fr. s. Lebanon, Hizballah mbrs. enter vacated areas, Lebanese civilians arrive en masse fr. the north to celebrate and visit, SLA mbrs. desert or flee toward Israel seeking asylum. Israeli tanks and warplanes repeated fire close to crowds to halt their advance, killing 6 civilians, including a Lebanese driver for BBC, and wounding 10s. Israeli planes also bomb IDF tanks, artillery, armoured personnel carriers abandoned by the SLA. (MM 5/22; CSM, MM, NYT, WP, WT 5/23; Interfax, al-Quds 5/23 in WNC 5/24; WP, WT 5/24; MEI 6/2, 6/30)

With cabinet approval, Barak orders an accelerated evacuation of IDF troops fr. the remaining half of s. Lebanon still under Israeli control and sends tanks and troops fr. deep inside Israel to reinforce the northern border. 1,000s of Israelis leave their homes in towns nr. the Lebanese border and stream south, fearing cross-border shelling fr. Hizballah. (MM 5/22; MA [Internet], MM, NYT, WP, WT, YA [Internet] 5/23; CSM, WP 5/24; AYM 5/24 in WNC 5/26)

To speed UN verification of Israel's withdrawal fr. Lebanon, UN Secy.-Gen Kofi Annan recommends that the UN immediately expand UNIFIL fr. 4,500 to 5,600 troops and draft a separation line ("blue line") conforming to, but not constituting, the internationally recognized border. (MM, NYT, WP 5/23; MM, WT 5/24) (see Peace Monitor)

23 MAY

Israel withdraws its last troops fr. s. Lebanon, marking the end of 18 yrs. of occupation. The IDF blows up each of its remaining posts and destroys major roads leading north as it pulls out. Just before the pullout is complete, 4 Hizballah mbrs. are killed in an IDF air raid. (MM 5/23; DUS, IRNA, MENA 5/23 in WNC 5/24; IRNA 5/23, CTK [Prague], IRNA, ITAR-TASS, MENA, XIN 5/24 in WNC 5/25; CSM, MM, NYT, WP, WT 5/24; AYM, DUS 5/24 in WNC 5/26; CSM, WJW, WP 5/25; AYM, DUS 5/25, CNA, IRNA, MENA 5/26; ATL 4/27 in WNC 5/30; AYM 5/25 in WNC
24 MAY

UNIFIL adviser Timur Goksel says the situation in Lebanon is remarkably calm following the IDF pullout and says that the real credit for this goes to Hizballah, which “has been acting very responsibly.” UN special envoy Terje Larsen arrives in Beirut on the 1st leg of a 1-wk. shuttle mission to coordinate the UN’s next steps with Israeli, Lebanese, Syrian officials. (MM, WT 5/24; NYT, WP, WT 5/25; ANSA, XIN 5/25 in WNC 5/26; MM, WP 5/26; MA 5/26, DUS 5/27 in WNC 5/30; MA 5/30 in WNC 5/31; JP, MEI 6/2)

Israel’s Interior M Natan Sharansky meets with UN High Commissioner for Refugees Sadako Ogata, informs her of Israel’s intention to establish a national body to handle requests for asylum fr. 1,500 SLA mbrs. and their families, totaling 6,420 persons in all, who have fled Lebanon with the IDF pullout. (MM 5/25; WJW 6/1; JP, MEI 6/2)

Hizballah gen. secy. Hassan Nasrallah says that his organization will turn over to the Lebanese authorities tanks, guns, and ammunition abandoned by the IDF and SLA but does not offer to disarm itself. Nasrallah says Hizballah refuses to commit its military resources to either Syria or the Palestinians in their quests to liberate their land fr. Israel, though it supports both goals. (NYT, WP 5/26)

The IDF lifts the ban on Israeli travel to Jericho. (NYT 5/26; JP 6/2) (see 5/21)

26 MAY

UN cartographers begin tracing the blue line to determine whether Israel’s withdrawal is complete. (MM 5/26; NYT, WP 5/27; JP, MEI 6/2)


The PSF arrests without charge Ahed Yusif, a human rights activist with the Palestinian organization Addameer who has previously criticized the PA. (B’Tselem press release 6/1)

27 MAY

In Cairo, Arafat, Egyptian pres. Husni Mubarak discuss Israel’s withdrawal fr. Lebanon, the Stockholm talks with Israel. (MENA 5/27 in WNC 5/30)

28 MAY

U.S. Pres. Clinton phones Israeli PM Barak to congratulate him on Israel’s pullout fr. Lebanon, to discuss the peace process. Barak agrees to meet Clinton in Berlin on 6/1. (WT 5/29)

In s. Lebanon, a crowd of Lebanese, Palestinian demonstrators shouts insults and occasionally throws rocks across the border with Israel. When at least 1 Lebanese runs several yards into Israel to plant a Hizballah flag, the IDF opens fire with rubber bullets, injuring 4 demonstrators. In 2 other incidents, 2 Lebanese children are killed and 7 Lebanese wounded when their car hits an IDF land mine in a newly vacated area of s. Lebanon, and a Hizballah mbr. shoots and kills a Lebanese Christian in the 1st such incident since the Israeli withdrawal. (NYT, WP 5/29; MEI 6/2)

Across the West Bank and Gaza, Palestinians hold rallies to celebrate Israel’s withdrawal fr. Lebanon, congratulate Hizballah. (IRNA 5/28 in WNC 6/1)


Fmr. Syrian dep. PM for economic affairs Salim Yasin is arrested in a crackdown on corruption. His assets and those of Mufid ‘Abd al-Karim, a fmr. transport-
tion official arrested a wk. ago, are seized. (MM 5/30; WT 5/31; MM 6/5) (see 5/21)

29 MAY

Following the cross-border incident on 5/28 and citing “uncertainty about the future,” Barak authorizes the Israeli government to distribute weapons to residents along the border with Lebanon, telling them they may fire into Lebanon if fired upon 1st. (NYT, WT 5/30)

A Tel Aviv court delays its ruling, set for today, on the legality of the continued detention of Lebanese prisoners Shaykh 'Abd al-Karim Obeid, Mustafa al-Dirani. Obeid, Dirani have been held without charge or trial since the IDF abducted them fr. Lebanon in 1989 and 1994, respectively, to hold them as “bargaining chips” to swap for missing IDF airman Ron Arad. (NYT, WP 5/30; AYM 5/30 in WNC 6/1) (see 4/19)

30 MAY

In Jericho, PA interim issues negotiator Saeb Erakat, Israeli chief negotiator Oded Eran hold talks on Palestinian prisoners. Erakat reportedly threatens to suspend talks unless Israel agrees to release more prisoners, improve their living conditions. After Barak, Arafat discuss the issue by phone, Eran announces that Israel agrees in principle to carry out another release, still plans to carry out the 3d further redeployment (FRD) by 6/23, as required by the Wye II accord. (AYM 5/31 in WNC 6/2)

Israel's Interior M Sharsansky sends a letter to PM Barak asking him to respond to rumors of a secret deal almost completed btwn. Israel, the PA that would eventually give the PA control of more than 90% of the West Bank. Barak dismisses the substance of Sharsansky's letter as “nonsense.” (IMRA [Internet], MA [Internet], YA [Internet] 5/31; NYT 6/24) (see Peace Monitor in IPS 116)

As of this date, Hizballah has taken control of providing services in s. Lebanon, including running hospitals previously supported by the IDF, dispatching mobile clinics, sending architects to plan reconstruction of Lebanese homes damaged (1,200) or destroyed (1,600) by the IDF and SLA, trucking in drinking water to compensate for the IDF shutting off a pipeline fr. Israel, clearing debris, repairing roads, sending veterinarians to check livestock, and spraying insecticides. (NYT 5/31)

Israel agrees to accept temporary membership in the UN's Western Europe and Other Group while it works toward permanent membership in its natural regional bloc, the Asian Group. (WP, WT 5/31; NYT, WWJ 6/1) (see Peace Monitor)

The PSF shuts al-Nasr and al-Manara TV stations without giving cause. (LAW 5/30; WP 6/16) (see 5/24)

31 MAY

U.S. Amb. to Israel Martin Indyk, U.S. Consul General John Herbst meet with Arafat to assess the gaps btwn. the Israeli, PA sides on final status issues. This evening, Pres. Clinton phones Arafat to discuss plans to meet with him soon in Washington. (MM 6/1; NYT, WP 6/2; AYM 6/4 in WNC 6/8)

Some 500 Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails end their 31-day hunger strike under pressure fr. the PA, which feared that the death of a hunger striker could lead to mass popular protests that could derail final status talks, which the sides hope to resume within days. In return, Israel grants prisoners more liberal family visitation, moves 5 prisoners out of solitary confinement. (AYM 5/31 in WNC 6/2; NYT 6/1; JP 6/2, 6/9) (see 5/30)

1 JUNE

In Lisbon, Clinton, Barak hold talks on all tracks of the peace process, strengthening their bilateral relationship. Afterward, Clinton says a framework agmt. on permanent status (FAPS) is “within view,” but Barak and Arafat are not ready to hold a summit to finalize a deal. He will send Secy. of State Madeleine Albright to the region on 6/5 to work with both leaders on narrowing their differences. (MM 6/1; DUS, RTP 6/1 in WNC 6/2; CSM, MM, NYT, WP 6/2)

Arafat approves formation of a Higher Judicial Council for all Palestinian districts, to be headed by PA Chief Justice Radwan al-Agha. (LAW 6/3; PCHR 6/4) (see Peace Monitor)

The PSF shuts al-Mahid TV in Bethlehem, arrests station owner Samir Qumsieh for protesting the PA's intervention in broadcasters' affairs, attempts to silence dissent. (LAW 6/2; WP 6/16) (see 5/30)

More than 150 IDF soldiers, armed with automatic weapons, tear gas, and water cannon, storm the Gaza airport transit hall to arrest a wanted man, Nabil Akl, injuring 20 bystanders. (PCHR 6/1; PR 6/7)
2 JUNE

Some 1,000 Palestinians fr. Lebanese refugee camps, their 300 Palestinian relatives fr. Israel flood the border gate nr. Yarina, s. of Tyre. When the IDF is unable to disperse the crowd, it allows all 800 Palestinian Israelis to cross into Lebanon for a brief reunion. (United Press International [Internet] 6/2)

3 JUNE

Lebanese PM Huss claims that there are still small areas of s. Lebanon that are under Israeli occupation, calls on Israel to complete immediately its withdrawal fr. Lebanese territory. (MENA 6/3 in WNC 6/5)

In Ramallah, Birzeit University students hold a rally to celebrate “Hizballah’s victory over Israel” in s. Lebanon. Hizballah dep. secy-gen. Na’im Qasim addresses the crowd by phone link. (AYM 6/4 in WNC 6/7)

4 JUNE

Israeli, PA teams, led by Internal Security M Shlomo Ben-Ami and Palestinian Council (PC) Speaker Ahmad Qurai, respectively, end their 3d round of final status talks. No details are released, but gaps are reportedly still wide on major issues. Israel reportedly refuses to discuss Jerusalem. (Reuters [Internet] 6/4; JP [Internet] 6/7)

Israeli, PA teams led by Israel’s Eran, PA’s Erekat hold talks on outstanding interim issues. Eran says Israel still intends to carry out its 3d FRD fr. the West Bank by 6/23, as stipulated by the Wye II agmt. (Reuters [Internet] 6/4)

Reacting to rumors that Israel has made major concessions to the PA in secret final status talks, Barak says that his negotiators have been under strict orders not to discuss Jerusalem in talks with the PA. (CSM, MM, NYT, WP, WT 6/5; MA 6/5 in WNC 6/6; MM 6/6; PR 6/7; see also MM 5/30, al-Quds 5/30 in WNC 6/1)

In Cairo, FMs of the Damascus Declaration states (the 6 Gulf Cooperation Council states, plus Egypt and Syria) meet to coordinate their positions on the peace process. (MENA 6/4 in WNC 6/5, 6/6; MM 6/7, 6/16) (see Peace Monitor)

5 JUNE

U.S. Secy. of State Albright, special envoy Ross arrive in Israel for 2 days of meetings with Israeli, PA officials that the U.S. hopes will pave the way for a 3-way summit among Arafat, Barak, Clinton by the end of 6/00. (MM, WT 6/5; CSM, NYT, WP 6/6; XIN 6/7 in WNC 6/9; MEI 6/16)

Sensing that secret final status negotiations with the PA have reached the end-game, MKs of Barak’s governing coalition, led by Interior M Sharan, request that Barak convene an emergency session to brief them on what is really happening in the talks, warning that they might quit the government if he does not begin to include them in his decision making. (NYT 6/6; MA [Internet] 6/6)

Barak survives (38-33, with 13 abstentions) a no-confidence motion in the Knesset based on the concessions he is presumed to have made to the Palestinians in secret final status talks. (NYT 6/6)

In Umm al-Faham, 500 Israeli Arabs attend a rally organized by MK Azmi Bishara to celebrate “Hizballah’s victory over Israel” in s. Lebanon. (MA 6/6 in WNC 6/7; MM 6/14, 6/19)

The IDF demolishes a Palestinian home in East Jerusalem. (PR 6/7)

2 Americans file a claim in Israeli court against Arafat, Palestine Liberation Front (PLF) head Muhammad Abbas (Abu Abbass), seeking $5 m. in damages for their suffering in the 1985 Achille Lauro hijacking. Lawyers acted after learning Abbas had been in Jerusalem to attend Palestinian mtgs. In early 1999, Abbas dropped his opposition to the Oslo process, reconciled with Arafat. On that basis, the Israeli High Court decided on 10/12/99 against prosecuting him for the raid. (NYT 6/6; WJW 6/8; JP 6/16)

6 JUNE

After meeting with Arafat and Barak, Albright announces that Arafat will go to Washington to meet with Pres. Clinton on 6/14 and Israeli, PA final status teams will resume talks in Washington on 6/12, with the goal of narrowing gaps bwn. their positions enough to allow a 3-way summit at the end of the mo. (MM, NYT 6/6; CSM, NYT, WP, WT 6/7; MENA 6/7 in WNC 6/8; XIN 6/7 in WNC 6/9; MM, WT 6/9; MEI 6/16)

At the invitation of the White House, King Abdallah of Jordan meets with Pres. Clinton in Washington for talks on bilateral relations, including a free-trade agmt., and the peace process. (DUS 6/6 in WNC 6/7; NYT, WT 6/7; DUS 6/8 in WNC 6/12) (see Peace Monitor)
The UN finishes drafting the blue line that will be used to verify Israel’s withdrawal fr. Lebanon. UN special envoy Larsen turns over maps to the Israeli and Lebanese governments, which both have minor objections. (NYT, WT 6/7)

Jewish settler councils fr. Gaza, the West Bank, the Golan Heights form a joint action comm. to coordinate more intensive protests against exchanging land for peace. (MA 6/7 in WNC 6/8)

The PSF questions Palestinian journalist Mahir al-Alami regarding his recent article on PA corruption, detains him without charge. (al-Quds [Internet] 6/7; LAW 6/13; WP 6/16)

Palestinian Khalid Muhammad Yusif, arrested by the PA on 5/25, dies in the PA jail in Hebron. The PA claims that the 35 yr. old died of a heart attack. (PR, WT 6/7)

Syria’s fmnr. chief of staff Gen. Hikmat Shihabi leaves for the U.S. via Beirut for “medical treatment” after learning that he has been targeted in the anticorruption campaign headed by Syria’s heir apparent Bashar al-Asad. Shihabi served as chief of staff for 24 yrs. and was part of Syria’s delegation to talks with Israel. Analysts see the recent step-up in the anticorruption campaign as a showdown of sorts b/n the old guard and Bashar’s new guard in the run-up to the Ba’th party congress, set for 6/17, which should elect Bashar to a party post for the 1st time. (MM 6/6, 6/8, 6/9, 6/13; SA 7/30 in WNC 7/31) (see 5/28)

7 JUNE

Secy. of State Albright meets with Syrian FM Shara’ during a stopover in Cairo to brief Pres. Mubarak on her talks with Barak, Arafat. Albright exchanges ideas with Shara’ on possible formulas for renewing Syrian-Israeli talks but tells both him and Mubarak that the Clinton administration’s priority in its remaining mos. will be the Israeli-P.A. track. (MENA 6/7 in WNC 6/8; CSM, NYT, WJW, WP 6/8; MENA 6/8 in WNC 6/9; MEI 6/16)

UNIFIL begins patrolling s. Lebanon to ensure that the IDF is behind the blue line. (WT 6/7; NYT 6/8)

The donors’ Ad Hoc Liaison Comm. (AHLC) opens a 2-day mtg. in Lisbon. (AYM 6/7 in WNC 6/8; AHLC press release, MENL 6/8; PR 6/28; UN press release 7/28) (see Peace Monitor)

The Knesset passes (61-48, with 11 abst.) a preliminary motion to dissolve parliament, call new elections. (CSM, IsRN, MA [Internet], MM 6/7; CSM, MM, NYT, WP, WT 6/8; CSM 6/9; NYT 6/10; AYM 6/10 in WNC 6/13; MEI 6/16) (see 6/5)

8 JUNE

In Gaza, around 25 PA intelligence officers open fire on each other at their headquarters, injuring 2 agents. (NYT 6/9)

9 JUNE

UN officials say that UNIFIL verification of Israel’s withdrawal fr. Lebanon has been delayed by a dispute over at least 1 point along the border, another 24-48 hrs. may be needed to complete the verification. (JP 6/9; NYT 6/10; MEI 6/16) (see 6/7)

IDF soldiers fire across the border with Lebanon at a crowd of Palestinian refugees throwing stones at them, wounding 1 child. (Reuters [Internet] 6/9)

10 JUNE

Syrian pres. Hafiz al-Asad dies of heart failure. The Syrian government quickly initiates a transfer of power to his son, Bashar al-Asad. VP ‘Abd al-Halim Khaddam, the acting pres., assembles parliament to vote to reduce the minimum age to be pres. fr. 40 to 34. (ATL, Interfax, ITAR-TASS, LPA, MENA 6/10, ATL, CNA, DUS, Interfax, IRNA, ITAR-TASS, LPA, MENA, RIA [Moscow], XIN 6/11 in WNC 6/12, NYT, WP, WT 6/11; AYM 6/11, ATL, CTK [Prague], Hatzofe, IRNA, Interfax, ITAR-TASS, Tanjug [Belgrade], Turan [Baku], XIN 6/12 in WNC 6/13; CSM, MM, WP 6/12; al-Quds 6/12 in WNC 6/14; MM, WJW 6/15; JP, MEI 6/16; MEI 6/30; Le Monde Diplomatique 7/00)

11 JUNE

Bashar al-Asad is promoted to lt. gen., named cmdr. of the Syrian army, and unanimously nominated by the Ba’th party as its candidate for pres. Across Syria, masses of mourners hold public rallies, candlelight ceremonies to commemorate the late pres., praise Bashar. 100s of Druze, Arabs on the Golan Heights hold memorial rallies. (MENA 6/11, MENA, XIN 6/12 in WNC 6/13; MM, NYT, WP, WT 6/12; AYM, IRNA 6/12, ITAR-TASS 6/13 in WNC 6/14; CSM 6/13; MM 6/15; MEI 6/16)

12 JUNE

In Washington, U.S. special envoy Ross holds separate mgs. with the heads of the
PA-Israeli teams on final status (Qurai' and Ben-Ami, respectively) and interim affairs (Erakat and Eran, respectively). The mtgs. are 1 day behind schedule because of Asad's funeral. (AYM 6/12 in WNC 6/13)

Rifat al-Asad issues a statement fr. Spain, where he has lived in exile since staging a 1983 coup against his brother, the late pres. Hafiz al-Asad, condemning the transfer of power to Bashar al-Asad as antidemocratic, unconstitutional. Syrian authorities have reportedly issued a warrant to arrest Rifat if he enters the country to attend Hafiz's funeral. (MM 6/12; NYT, WP, WT 6/13; NYT, WT 6/14; MM 6/15; MEI 6/16)

13 JUNE

Israeli, PA teams open 2 sets of talks nr. Washington: final status issues at Andrews air force base (AFB) and interim issues at Bolling AFB. (MM, WT 6/13; NYT, WP, WT 6/14; WP 6/15)

Funeral ceremonies for Syrian pres. Hafiz al-Asad are held in Damascus, Latakia, and Asad's childhood home of Qardaha, where he is laid to rest in the family mausoleum. Attending are the heads of state of Egypt, France, Iran, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Turkey, and Yemen; the heads of the PA and Hizballah; plus senior reps. from Iraq, Russia, the U.S. Secy. of State Albright meets alone with Bashar al-Asad for 15 mins., says he is ready to continue discussions on talks with Israel. (MM, WT 6/13; ATL, DUS, HINA [Zagreb], Interfax, IRNA, ITAR-TASS, MENA, al-Quds, Rompres [Bucharest] 6/13 in WNC 6/14; CSM, NYT, WP, WT 6/14; MA, al-Quds 6/14 in WNC 6/15; JP, MEI MM 6/16; Sabah [Istanbul] 6/15 in WNC 6/21; MIL 6/19 in WNC 6/27; MM 6/20; MEI 6/30)

After a wk. of coalition bargaining to keep his government together following the 6/7 Knesset vote, PM Barak's main partner, Shas (17 Knesset seats), announces it will quit the coalition at the next cabinet mtg. unless Barak agrees to bail out its financially strapped schools, to remove its schools fr. Education Min. oversight, and to legalize its pirate radio stations. Shas's departure would leave Barak with a minority government. (MM 6/13; MM, NYT, WP, WT 6/14; MM 6/15; MA 6/16 in WNC 6/19; WP 6/20; WJW 6/22)

The IDF bulldozes a Palestinian home in East Jerusalem to make way for a road. This is the 13th house demolition in East Jerusalem this yr. (WT 6/14)

14 JUNE

In Washington, the PA teams suspend talks, citing Barak's announcement today that he has reduced the territory in the Abu Dis and Azariyya area to be transferred to full PA control and decided to release only 3 Palestinian prisoners and Eran's revival of Israel's demand to implement the 3d FRD in "the context of" a final status agmt. (MA Internet, WP 6/15; AYM, al-Quds 6/15 in WNC 6/16; WP 6/16; WJW 6/22; MEI 6/30) (see 5/30)

This evening, PM Barak phones Pres. Clinton to urge him to press Arafat to agree to a 3-way summit mtg. soon after 7/4. (NYT, WP 6/16)

The IDF demolishes a Palestinian home in East Jerusalem. (LAW 6/14)

15 JUNE

In Washington, Arafat, Clinton hold 3 hrs. of talks on final status issues. Arafat tells Clinton he would resign before compromising on East Jerusalem, that he would not attend a summit until the 3d FRD is implemented. Afterward, the U.S. says that Israel, the PA are still too far apart for a 3-way summit; Arafat's instance on the 3d FRD could jeopardize a final settlement. (AYM, XIN 6/15, XIN 6/16, DUS 6/17 in WNC 6/19; MEI, MM, NYT, WP, WT 6/16; AYM 6/19 in WNC 6/22; WJW 6/22; AYM 6/21 in WNC 6/22; PA Information Min. press release 6/26; al-Quds 6/26 in WNC 6/29; MM 6/27; MEI 6/30)

IDF soldiers fire warning shots across the border into Lebanon that strike 10 ft. fr. a UNIFIL team verifying the Israeli withdrawal. Israel apologizes, promises a full investigation. (NYT, WP, WT 6/16) (see 6/9)

16 JUNE

UN Secy.-Gen. Annan certifies that Israel has completed its withdrawal fr. Lebanon, says UNIFIL will begin redeploying to new positions inside s. Lebanon immediately. Lebanonese Pres. Lahoud and PM Huss, however, claim the IDF still holds 6 or 7 spots inside the blue line; request the UN delay endorsing the certification until the areas are checked. (NYT, WP, WT 6/17; MM 6/20; WJW 6/22)

17 JUNE

PA-Israeli talks at Andrews and Bolling AFBs end. (HA [Internet], IsRN 6/18)
The UNSC meets to endorse Secy.-Gen. Annan's certification of Israel's withdrawal fr. Lebanon, but after 10 hrs. of discussion, mbrs. remain deadlock over accepting the verification given Lebanese claims (see 6/16). After U.S. Secy. of State Albright intervenes, the UNSC recesses, tentatively agreeing to endorse Annan's decision tomorrow. Annan threatens to cancel his visit to Lebanon, set for 6/19, if the UNSC does not fully back his statement. (NYT, WP, WT 6/18; CSM, NYT 6/19; IRNA, al-Quds 6/19 in WNC 6/21; MM 6/20; TT 6/23 in WNC 6/27)

At its 1st conference in 15 yrs., the Syrian Ba'th party unanimously elects Bashar al-Assad as party leader. (NYT, WP, WT 6/18; NYT, WP, WT 6/19; CSM 6/20; MEI 6/30)

18 JUNE

After 6 more hrs. of debate, the UNSC endorses Annan's certification of Israel's withdrawal fr. Lebanon, but notes "serious concern" regarding Lebanon's protests. (XIN 6/18 in WNC 6/21; NYT, WP, WT 6/19; MM 6/20; JP 6/23)

PM Barak cancels a planned mtg. to avoid Shas mbrs. submitting their resignations. Instead, he convenes his security cabinet to brief them for the 1st time on the secret Stockholm talks. (HA [Internet], YA [Internet] 6/18; MM 6/19, 6/20) (see 6/13)

King Abdullah of Jordan dismisses conservative PM 'Abd al-Rauf Rawabda, replaces him with Ali Abu Raghib, a liberal-leaning politician with strong business credentials. The main reason behind Rawabda's dismissal reportedly is his refusal to endorse the king's pet project to turn Aqaba into a special economic zone to attract foreign investment; Abu Raghib has been heading the task force overseeing the project. (MM, WP, WT 6/19; DUS 6/20 in WNC 6/21; WT 6/21; JT 6/22 in WNC 6/27; MEI 6/30; see also MM 6/15, 6/16) (see 4/21)

19 JUNE

In Beirut, UN Secy.-Gen. Annan asks Pres. Lahoud to recognize the UN verification of Israel's withdrawal and send troops to help UNIFIL patrols, promising that the UN will quickly clear up Israel's minor violations. (MM, WP 6/20; NYT 6/21, 6/22; al-Safir 6/21 in WNC 6/27; MM 6/23; Le Monde 6/24 in WNC 6/29; JP 6/30)

Israel frees 3 Palestinian prisoners that Barak decided to release on 6/14. Arafat describes the release as "an insult." (NYT 6/20; WJW 6/22; MEI 6/30)

YESHA settlers council organizes a rally of 40,000 Jewish settlers outside the Knesset, followed by a march to PM Barak's residence to protest any further transfers of land to PA control. The 40,000 figure includes 10,000 children bused in fr. their schools in the West Bank. (MM, NYT 6/20)

Jordan's new PM Abu Raghib forms a new 29-mbr. cabinet, including 9 Palestinians and 1 mbr. of the Muslim Brotherhood's (MB) Islamic Action front (IAF). The cabinet is heavy with technocrats and businessmen, emphasizing its economic reform agenda. (MM 6/20; MM, WT 6/21; MM 6/22; JT, SA 6/22 in WNC 6/27; MEI 6/30)

20 JUNE

4 Shas cabinet mbrs. submit their resignations, which do not take effect for 48 hrs., giving PM Barak a last chance to strike a deal with the party to keep it in the coalition. Meretz cabinet mbrs., including Education M Yossi Sarid (see Peace Monitor in JPS 116), tell Barak they are willing to resign if it will help him reach an agmt. with Shas that would preserve the coalition. (MM 6/20; MM, NYT, WP, WT 6/21; AYM 6/21 in WNC 6/22; CSM, WJW 6/22; MEI 6/30) (see 6/13)

The PA says that per a request by U.S. Pres. Clinton, it will not push Israel to carry out the 3d FRD by the 6/23 deadline in light of Barak's coalition troubles. (State Dept. press briefing 6/20; AYM 6/20, 6/23 in WNC 6/27; NYT 6/21; MEI 6/30) (see 6/15)

Arafat convenes the PLO Exec. Comm. (PLOEC) to brief mbrs. on the Stockholm talks, to discuss status of the peace process, to set 7/2-3 as the date for a PLO Central Council (PLOCC) session to debate a unilateral declaration of a Palestinian state. (SA 6/29 in WNC 6/30; AYM 7/3 in WNC 7/5)

Agents fr. Force 17, Arafat's "presidential" guard, raid the Gaza office of 'Abd al-Fattah Ghanem, 1 of Arafat's advisers on refugee affairs, confiscating files, documents. (LAW 6/26)

PA General Intelligence Service arrests without charge al-Sharq al-Awsat correspondent Abdallah Isa. The arrest comes 1 wk. after Isa was released fr. 2 mos. of detention without charge or trial. (SA 6/22 in WNC 6/27)

Nt. Qarni crossing in Gaza, a Jewish settler is lightly injured when a roadside bomb explodes nr. a convoy of settler cars escorted by the IDF. (IsRN 6/21; JP 6/30)
21 JUNE


In Ramallah, the PSF arrests Ghanem, Arafat's adviser for refugee affairs, for criticizing the PA's handling of the refugee issue. (MENL 6/25; LAW 6/26; MEI 6/30; LAW 7/4, 8/1) (see 6/20)

22 JUNE

In advance of Secy. of State Albright's upcoming visit, U.S. special envoy Ross arrives in Israel for a wk. of talks with PA, Israeli negotiators on possible compromises on final status issues that would bring the sides close enough together to make a 3-way summit possible. (IsRN 6/22; State Dept. press briefing 6/26; AYM 6/26 in WNC 6/29; HA [Internet] 6/27; WP 6/28)

Israeli planes overfly Beirut and Tyre, violating Lebanon's airspace. (NYT 6/23; JP 6/30)

The PSF frees teachers union leader Omar Assaf (detained on 5/5), journalists Mahir al-Alami (detained on 6/6) and Fathi Barkawi (detained in early 6/00), and dir. gen. of the PA Youth and Sport Min. Abu Ali Muqabil (detained on 4/00), who all were detained for criticizing PA corruption. (Palestinian Human Rights Monitoring Group press release 6/22; JP 6/30) (see 5/22)

An IDF unit shoots, seriously wounds Islamic Jihad activist Radi al-Safi outside Bayt Sahur, in area C. Palestinian witnesses say Safi was ambushed; IDF says Safi pulled a gun at an IDF roadblock and threatened to shoot soldiers. (al-Quds 6/23 in WNC 6/27; JP 6/30)

Jewish settlers fr. Barka settlement in the West Bank shoot, wound 4 Palestinian farmers attempting to take down a fence that settlers had erected on their property to expand Barka's boundaries. (Palestine Chronicle [Internet] 6/23; al-Quds 6/23 in WNC 6/27)

23 JUNE

In Jerusalem, Israeli police beat, detain Palestinian human rights field worker Shafich Shkirit when he intervenes to stop the officers' harassment of a handicapped Palestinian. (LAW 7/24)

24 JUNE

Nr. Marja'uyun, IDF troops fire across the Israel-Lebanon border as 2 of some 200 people celebrating the IDF withdrawal, including 150 Jordan trade union reps., try to cross the border fence. A Lebanese, 3 Jordanians are wounded. (WP, WT 6/25; DUS, JT 6/25 in WNC 6/27; al-Safir 6/24, JT 6/26 in WNC 6/29; DUS 7/28, JT 7/3 in WNC 7/5)

25 JUNE

Arafat, Israeli chief negotiator Ben-Ami hold a 5-hr. mtg. on final status issues, a possible 3-way summit. (WT 6/27; NYT 6/29)

PM Barak dispatches Justice M Yossi Beilin to Cairo to ask Pres. Mubarak to urge Arafat to take part in a 3-way summit on final status with Israel, the U.S. (YA [Internet] 6/26; NYT 6/29)

In Jerusalem, arson severely damages a Conservative synagogue in what Israeli police believe to be the 4th in a string of attacks on Conservative and Reform institutions stemming fr. tensions btwn. the non-Orthodox and the Orthodox and ultra-Orthodox establishments. (NYT, WP 6/26; WT 6/27; HA [Internet] 6/29; WJW 7/13; WJW 8/3; JP 8/4)

26 JUNE

Barak's government survives (57-32) a vote on 2 no-confidence motions in the Knesset. (IsRN 6/26; WT 6/28)

Palestinian refugees fr. Lebanon march to Fatima Gate on the border with Israel in a peaceful demonstration in support of their right of return. (Islamic Association of Palestinian Students press release 6/26)

The Jordanian High Court dismisses an appeal by 4 Hamas leaders, all Jordanian citizens, who were deported to Qatar on 11/21/99 and are requesting to return home. Lawyers for the 4 will appeal the ruling. (NYT 6/27; DUS, JT 6/27 in WNC 6/29; JT 7/4 in WNC 7/5; al-Quds 7/17 in WNC 7/19) (see Peace Monitor in JPS 115)

27 JUNE

U.S. Secy. of State Albright arrives in Israel to meet with Barak and Arafat, assess the possibility for a 3-way summit. Israel
strongly supports the idea, but the PA says the sides need more time to prepare and Israel must first fulfill its interim obligations. (DUS, SA 6/27; MA, al-Quds 6/28 in WNC 6/29; WP, WT 6/28; WJW 6/29; MEI 6/30)

The Knesset legal counsel orders an inquiry against MK Bishara for incitement to violence, support of a terrorist group for hosting a rally in Umm al-Faham celebrating the Israeli withdrawal fr. Lebanon as a “victory for Hizballah.” (WT 6/28) (see 6/5)

28 JUNE

After 2 days of mtgs. with Arafat and Barak, U.S. Secy. of State Albright concludes that a 3-way summit is not possible for the following wk. (MM 6/28; AYM, SA 6/28 in WNC 6/30; CSM, MM, NYT, WP, WT 6/29; AYM, DUS 6/29, SA 6/30 in WNC 7/1; MM, NYT 6/30; AYM 7/1 in WNC 7/6)

29 JUNE

PA negotiator Eragat says that the PA has lodged complaints with the U.S. and the European Union (EU) regarding Israel’s fortification of Jewish settlements in the West Bank and Gaza. The IDF acknowledges only that for the past 3 mos., troops have been undergoing low-intensity conflict training in case fional status talks fail, sparking violence. (MM 6/29; NYT, WT 6/30; MM 7/3)

30 JUNE

In Rabat, King Muhammad of Morocco meets with Israeli dep. PM Benjamin Ben-Eliezer, says he looks forward to visiting Israel “when the conditions are right.” (MA 7/2 in WNC 7/3)

1 JULY

Arafat goes to Paris to assess French support for a unilateral declaration of statehood. (al-Quds 7/2, Le Monde 7/4 in WNC 7/5; MEI 7/14; SA 7/15 in WNC 7/18)

In Ramallah, a Palestinian woman is fatally shot in a dispute btwn. her brother and another man over a stolen car. The shooting sparks riots in the city, including looting, shooting, arson of 2 restaurants. (LAW 7/2; NYT 7/4; AYM 7/4 in WNC 7/6)

In Shiraz, an Iranian court issues its verdict in the case of 13 Iranian Jews accused of spying for Israel. 10 defendants are found guilty, sentenced to terms ranging from 4-13 yrs. 3 others are acquitted. 2 Muslim accom-
4 JULY

The PA releases a 16-page report detailing $345 m. in financial holdings previously kept secret fr. the public. (WT 7/5; AYM 7/6 in WNC 7/10; NYT 7/7; JP 7/14) (see Peace Monitor)

5 JULY

Pres. Clinton announces that Arafat, Barak will come to Camp David, MD, on 7/11 to hold 3-way summit on final status issues. Talks are expected to end before Clinton leaves for a G-8 mtg. in Japan on 7/19. U.S. officials say that the PLOCC's 7/3 "threat" to declare a state as of 9/13 influenced Clinton's decision to hold the summit now. (MM 7/5; MENA 7/5 in WNC 7/6; XIN 7/5; ITAR-TASS, al-Quds, XIN 7/6 in WNC 7/7; NYT, WP, WT 7/6; AYM, XIN 7/6, ITAR-TASS, Le Monde, al-Quds, SA 7/7, DUS 7/8, JT, SA 7/9 in WNC 7/10; CSM, MM, NYT, WP 7/7; MEI 7/14)

In London, PM Barak urges British PM Tony Blair to press Arafat not to declare unilaterally a Palestinian state. Barak then leaves for Paris to hold similar talks with French pres. Jacques Chirac. (CNN [Internet], MM 7/5; MM 7/6) (see 7/1)

6 JULY

In Israel, Orthodox Jews are suspected in the vandalism of the Hebrew Union College, which educates Reform rabbis, houses a Reform synagogue. (NYT 7/7; WJW 7/13) (see 6/25)

7 JULY

UN special envoy Larsen returns to the Middle East to resolve ongoing claims that Israel has been violating Lebanon's border; says that once Israel guarantees its troops will no longer make forays across the blue line, UNIFIL troops will deploy throughout s. Lebanon. (NYT 7/8; al-Safir 7/14 in WNC 7/18; IRNA 7/15 in WNC 7/19)

8 JULY

The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) elects Abu Ali Mustafa as its new head, replacing George Habash, who announced his retirement on 4/27. (JP [Internet] 7/8; DUS 7/11 in WNC 7/17; al-Quds 7/23 in WNC 7/25)

9 JULY

PM Barak delays his departure for Camp David after 3 coalition parties—National Religious party, Shas, Yisrael Ba'Aliya—quit the government. In addition, PM David Levy announces he will not attend summit because Barak has failed to consult with him on planned concessions. The opposition schedules 2 no-confidence votes for 7/10. Yet, public opinion polls show that 61% of Jewish Israelis support the talks with the PA. (CSM, MM, NYT, WP, WT 7/10; AYM 7/11, Le Monde 7/12 in WNC 7/13; JP, MEI 7/14)

In Washington, Secy. of State Albright holds mtgs. with the Israeli, PA peace teams sent in advance of Barak, Arafat to prepare for the Camp David summit. The PA vows to hold a popular referendum for Palestinians inside and outside the territories on any agmt. that emerges fr. the talks. (JP [Internet], Reuters [Internet] 7/9; XIN 7/9 in WNC 7/11; WP 7/10)

In Cairo, Arafat meets with Pres. Mubarak on his way to the Camp David summit. Arafat then heads to London for a similar mtg. with PM Blair. (MENA 7/9 in WNC 7/10; Associated Press [Internet] 7/10; MENA 7/10 in WNC 7/11; MENA 7/11 in WNC 7/13)

Although the U.S. plans to have a media blackout surrounding the Camp David talks, PM Barak dispatches a media information team that will operate fr. New York, Washington during the summit. (Prime Minister's Office press release 7/9; MA 7/10 in WNC 7/11; SA 7/14 in WNC 7/18; MA 7/24 in WNC 7/25)

Jordanian PM Abu al-Raghib says Jordan has informed Israel, the PA, the U.S. of Jordan's "firm refusal" to absorb any additional Palestinian refugees "under any pretext," including a final status agmt. (JT [Internet], MM 7/10; JT 7/14 in WNC 7/18)

IDF soldiers open fire on a Palestinian car nr. Kafr Darom settlement in Gaza, killing a woman, wounding 5 others. The IDF says the shooting was an accident. (NYT 7/10; WJW 7/13; MEI 7/14)

10 JULY

In the morning, PM Barak goes to Cairo to discuss the final status talks with Pres. Mubarak. He then returns to Israel and narrowly survives a Knesset vote on 2 no-confidence motions, freeing him to depart for Camp David late tonight. (Arafat left earlier
11 JULY

At Camp David, MD, Arafat, Barak, Clinton open their 3-way summit on final status issues under a media blackout. According to the State Dept., Clinton 1st holds brief 1-on-1 mtgs. with Arafat, Barak. Then the 3 men meet briefly together. Then the Israeli, PA, U.S. teams hold a short opening session. Later in the evening, Clinton holds 2 mtgs. with Arafat, 1 with Barak. (MM, CMS, WJW 7/13; SCSM, NYT, WP, WT 7/11; JTP 7/21)

During their 1-on-1 talks, Barak informs Clinton that Israel has suspended the sale of AWACS technology to China. (MM, NYT, WJW, WP, WT 7/13; AFP, Zhongguo Tongxun She [Hong Kong] 7/13 in WNC 7/17; Le Monde, al-Quds 7/12 in WNC 7/13; CMS, JP [Internet], MM, NYT, WP, WT 7/12; MM, WJW 7/13; MEI 7/14) (see Peace Monitor)

In Nablus and Ramallah, 100s of Palestinian refugees hold a rally to urge Arafat not to back down on the refugees’ right of return. In Jerusalem, 1,500 Israelis rally to support Barak’s decision to go to Camp David. (MM, NYT 7/12)

A U.S. federal judge orders Iran to pay $327 m. to the families of 2 Americans killed in a suicide bombing in Israel on 2/25/96, saying the evidence shows that fmr. Iranian officials aided Hamas in staging the attack. This is the 4th time that a U.S. judge has ordered Iran to pay damages under a 1996 act that allows American victims of terrorist acts abroad legal recourse in U.S. courts. (WP 7/12; WJW 7/13)

12 JULY

PA-Israeli final status talks continue at Camp David. Pres. Clinton holds more 1-on-1 mtgs. with Arafat, Barak. Secy. of State Albright, special envoy Ross meet with Israeli, PA teams. PA, Israeli teams hold formal, informal sessions discussing “what the parties need to agree on in order to reach an overall agmt.” (White House press briefing 7/12; MM, NYT, WP 7/13; DUS 7/13 in WNC 7/17; AYM 7/13 in WNC 7/18)

In Bethlehem, 100s of Palestinians hold a rally calling on the PA to protect refugee rights at the Camp David talks. (BDL, Reuters [Internet] 7/12)

The Israeli High Court upholds the conviction of Shas leader Arye Deri on bribery, corruption charges. Deri is to begin serving his 3-yr. sentence on 8/13. (MM 7/12; MM, NYT, WP 7/13; MA 7/13 in WNC 7/17; JP 7/21) (see 3/17/99)

A Tel Aviv court issues a 3-mo. continuance in the case of IDF detainees Obeid and Dirani, saying they should remain jailed until their case is decided. (NYT 7/13; WJW 7/20) (see 5/29)

13 JULY

PA-Israeli final status talks continue for the 3d day at Camp David. The State Dept. characterizes the negotiations as “comfortable” and “informal” but refuses to discuss substance or progress. This evening, Arafat, Barak hold their 1st private mtg. Secy. of State Albright meets with Barak and with the PA and Israeli teams. Pres. Clinton spends the afternoon away fr. the talks, attending to other business, but returns in the evening and holds separate mtgs. with Arafat, Barak. (NYT, White House press briefing, WP, WT 7/14; AYM 7/14, 7/16 in WNC 7/24; al-Quds 7/15 in WNC 7/18)

14 JULY

At Camp David, PA, Israeli teams break into smaller groups to discuss core issues. The White House says discussions are tense at times. Pres. Clinton meets separately with PM Barak, Arafat. Secy. of State Albright goes to Emmitsburg, MD, to meet with reps. of the DFLP, PPP, PPSF, who had requested to meet with Arafat; the U.S. said allowing them access to Camp David would be a violation of the ground rules. (White House press briefing 7/14; AYM 7/14, SA 7/22 in WNC 7/24; NYT, WP, WT 7/15; WP 7/16; SA
7/17, 7/18 in WNC 7/19; JP 7/21; MEI 7/28; SA 8/1 in WNC 8/3) (see 7/5)

Reps. of SLA refugees in Israel meet with Israeli DMin. officials to demand permanent housing, schooling for their children, health services. Separately, in Kiryat Shmona and Kiryat Gat, 100s SLA refugees protest their conditions, demand to return to Lebanon. (YA [Internet] 7/16)

15 JULY

PA, Israeli teams take a break fr. formal talks, go sightseeing. After the Jewish Sabbath ends, Clinton holds a 3-way mtg. with Arafat, Barak. PM Barak also phones presidential candidates, VP Al Gore and Texas Gov. George W. Bush; no details are released. The White House also confirms that the PA, Israeli teams have begun meeting on noncore issues in Emmitsburg. (White House press conference, WT 7/16; DUS 7/16 in WNC 7/18; NYT, WP, WT 7/17; JP 7/21)

In Jerusalem, Israeli peace activists rally in support of the Camp David talks. In the PA areas, various groups supporting and opposing the talks hold demonstrations. In Hebron, 100s of Jewish settlers adamantly opposed to the peace process throw rocks at Palestinians, claiming they are disturbing the Sabbath, sparking a riot that lasts 3 hrs. 3 Palestinian cameramen are badly beaten by IDF soldiers while trying to film the incident. (LAW 7/15; WP, WT 7/16; al-Quds 7/22 in WNC 7/24; MEI 7/28)

Jewish settlers occupy a hilltop nr. Efrat settlement, clash with Israeli police who attempt to remove them. (IDF Radio [Internet] 7/16)

16 JULY

PA-Israeli talks continue at Camp David. In his 1st comments since talks began, Pres. Clinton says there has been some progress toward an agmt. "but I can't say I know we will succeed." Today, Clinton meets with both delegations. In Emmitsburg, the PA, Israeli technical comms. on noncore issues meet; some sessions are held with U.S. reps. present. (White House press briefing 7/16; NYT, WP, WT 7/17; al-Quds, SA 7/17 in WNC 7/19)

In Tel Aviv, some 100,000 Israelis, many of them Jewish settlers bused in fr. the West Bank, protest against the Camp David talks. In Nablus, some 1,000 Palestinians hold a rally in support of the summit. Another 1,000 Palestinians in Jinin call on the PA to secure Palestinian sovereignty over East Jerusalem as part of an agmt. (JP [Internet], MA [Internet], MM, NYT, WP, WT, YA [Internet] 7/17; CSM 7/18; MA 7/21 in WNC 7/25)

For a 2d day in Hebron, Jewish settlers throw stones at Palestinians and attack Palestinian property. (al-Quds 7/22 in WNC 7/24; MEI 7/28) (see 7/15)

Jewish settlers confiscate 50 dunams of Palestinian land nr. Salfit. (LAW 8/10)

In Qalqilya, West Bank Palestinians clash with Palestinian migrant laborers fr. Gaza. (WP 7/18) (see Peace Monitor)

In Markaba, 2 Hizbullah mbrs. are killed in a shootout with Amal mbrs.; up to 9 individuals fr. both sides are wounded. Both groups regret the incident, give no explanation of the cause. Reports suggest that Amal mbrs. picked a fight with Hizbullah mbrs. hanging campaign posters for upcoming parliamentary elections, and the incident devolved into a shooting match. (MM 7/17; MEI 7/28)

17 JULY

As PA-Israeli talks continue at Camp David, U.S. officials begin lowering expectations for an agmt. to be concluded, hinting that teams may take a break for a couple of wks., then resume mtgs. (MM, White House press briefing 9/17; MM, NYT, WP, WT 7/18; SA 7/23 in WNC 7/24; NYT 7/29)

Bashar al-Asad is sworn in as pres. of Syria at a special session of parliament. He gives an inaugural address in which he vows to continue to seek peace with Israel on the basis of Israel's full withdrawal fr. the Golan to the 6/4/67 lines and to implement economic and administrative reforms. (WT 7/17; ITAR-TASS, MENA 7/17; MENA 7/18 in WNC 7/19; CSM, MM, NYT, WP, WT 7/18; NYT, WT 7/19; MM 7/20, 7/21; JP, MEI 7/28)

In Qalqilya, clashes b/wn. West Bank, Gaza Palestinians continue for the 2d day. (WP 7/18)

Palestinians stone 4 Israeli busses that mistakenly enter Qalandiya refugee camp en route to a nearby Jewish settlement to pick up settlers holding a demonstration against the Camp David talks. 3 drivers abandon their busses and flee in the 4th bus, suffering light injuries. Qalandiya residents torch the 3 deserted busses. The IDF accuses the PA of incitement. (JP [Internet] 7/17)
18 JULY

On their 8th day at Camp David, PA and Israeli negotiators led by Pres. Clinton go into round-the-clock talks in hopes of reaching an agmt. before Clinton's scheduled departure for the G-8 on 7/19. (MM 7/18; AYM 7/18 in WNC 7/20; MM, NYT, WP, WT 7/19; DUS, al-Quds; SA 7/19 in WNC 7/20; AYM 7/19, 7/20 in WNC 7/24; JP 7/20; MEI 7/28; NYT 7/29)

Palestinians in al-Bireh, Hebron, Nablus hold demonstrations in support of Arafat's participation in the summit. (MENL 7/18)

19 JULY

After a full day of negotiations, during which Barak threatened to walk out and Clinton phoned Arab leaders to discuss proposals on Jerusalem, the White House announces that the summit has failed, Clinton will leave for Okinawa in the morning. An hour later, the White House says Arafat and Barak will stay at Camp David with Secy. of State Albright. The sides will discuss how to proceed when Clinton returns. (MM, White House press briefing 7/19; MENA, XIN 7/19 in WNC 7/20; CSM, MM, NYT, WP, WT 7/20; ANSA, MA, Le Monde, SA 7/20 in WNC 7/21; al-Quds 7/20, al-Quds, Renmin Ribao [Beijing] 7/21 in WNC 7/24; CSM, WP 7/21; NYT 7/23; WP 7/27; JP 7/28)

Pres. Bashar al-Asad of Syria, King Abdallah of Jordan meet in Damascus for their 1st talks as heads of state. Jordan reportedly offers to coordinate a resumption of Syrian-Israeli negotiations. (MM 7/19; JT 7/19 in WNC 7/20; WP, WT 7/20; SA 7/24 in WNC 7/25)

In the Qalqilya area, Jewish settlers fr. Qarni Shomron seize 100 dunams of land fr. 3 nearby Palestinian villages. In 2 separate land grabs, settlers level 20 dunams nr. Tulkarm, 22 dunams nr. Salit. (LAW 8/10)

20 JULY

At Camp David, PA-Israeli talks continue in a more informal atmosphere, under the guidance of Secy. of State Albright, who holds several 1-on-1 mts. with Arafat, Barak. Both sides say they have agreed to stay out of respect for Pres. Clinton, not because of optimism for an agmt., but U.S. officials say that Barak, not wanting to return home empty-handed, asked for negotiations to continue. (MM 7/20; MM, NYT, WP, WT 7/21; AYM, SA 7/21 in WNC 7/24; WP 7/22)

A Lebanese military court sentences 26 SLA mbrs. to prison terms of 5 wks. to 15 yrs. for collaborating with Israel. This is the 18th group of SLA mbrs. to be tried since the IDF pullout in 5/00. (NYT 7/21; WJW 7/27)

21 JULY

Low-key PA-Israeli talks continue at Camp David, with Secy. of State Albright shuttling bwn. negotiating teams. (MM, State Dept. press briefing 7/21; NYT, WP 7/22; al-Quds 7/22 in WNC 7/24)


Police in Charlotte, NC, arrest 18 people for a money laundering scheme in which they allegedly skimmed cigarette taxes, funneled the profits of upward of $1 m. to Hizballah in Lebanon. Hizballah denies any connection to those arrested. (WP, WT 7/22, NYT 7/24)

22 JULY

At Camp David, PA, Israeli teams break for the Jewish Sabbath. Secy. of State Albright meets with Arafat to discuss core issues. (NYT, WP, WT 7/23; SA 7/23 in WNC 7/24)

Jordanian FM 'Abd al-Ilah Khatib flies to Alexandria to discuss with Egyptian FM 'Amr Musa the Camp David summit. (MENA 7/22 in WNC 7/24; MM, NYT 7/24)

23 JULY

Pres. Clinton returns fr. Japan in the afternoon and goes straight to Camp David, where he meets with the U.S. peace team and then talks separately with Arafat, Barak to decide how to proceed. He then goes into talks with PA, Israeli negotiators that continue overnight, focusing on Jerusalem. (XIN 7/23 in WNC 7/24; CSM, MM, NYT, WP, WT 7/23; XIN 7/24 in WNC 7/26; MM 7/26)

Egyptian pres. Mubarak travels to Riyadh to discuss the final status talks on Jerusalem with Saudi Arabia's King Fahd, Crown Prince Abdallah. (NYT 7/23; MENA 7/23 in WNC 7/24; MM, NYT, WP, WT 7/24; al-Quds 7/24 in WNC 7/26; MM, NYT 7/27)

Pope John Paul calls for Jerusalem to be granted "international status" under a permanent arrangement. (MM, NYT, WT 7/24; al-
Quds 7/24 in WNC 7/26; ANSA 8/2 in WNC 8/4 (see Peace Monitor)

In Okinawa, EU leaders say the G-8 states have agreed in principle to Pres. Clinton's request to share the cost of any Camp David peace agmt.; no figures were discussed. (WT 7/24)

Amid rumors that Arafat has conceded the refugees' right of return at talks in Camp David, PLOEC mbr. As'ad 'Abd al-Rahman resigns his position as PLO refugee affairs coordinator. (HA [Internet], MENL 7/23; SA 7/25 in WNC 7/27)

In Gaza, Hamas spiritual leader Shaykh Ahmad Yasin says he would declare a truce with Israel if Barak agreed to withdraw completely to the 1967 borders fr. Gaza, the West Bank, East Jerusalem. (NYT 7/24; WJW 7/17)

In Hebron, Jewish settlers assault a delegation of Arab Americans who arrived in the town on a solidarity visit. (MEI 7/28)

Without prior notice, the IDF seals off and begins leveling 4,000 dunams of Palestinian land nr. Bethlehem. When the owner, Ali Mahameed, and his family attempt to stop them, IDF soldiers assault them. (LAW 8/10)

24 JULY

At Camp David, Pres. Clinton continues talks with PA, Israeli teams until early morning, breaks for a few hrs., and then resumes mtgs., which continue all day. Late in the evening, Clinton, with Barak's prior approval, presents the sides with 3 proposals on Jerusalem, marking the 1st time Israel has officially agreed to discuss sharing control of the city. Talks on the proposals continue past midnight. (MM, White House press briefing 7/24; IRNA 7/24 in WNC 7/25; MM, NYT, WP 7/25; DUS 7/25, ABC [Madrid] 7/26 in WNC 7/27; DUS 7/25 in WNC 7/28; MM, WP 7/26; MA 7/27 in WNC 7/31; MEI 7/28; NYT 7/29; WP 7/30)

UN Sccy.-Gen. Annan tells the UNSC that Israel has corrected its violations of the blue line with Lebanon; UNIFIL can now deploy to fixed positions in new areas across the s. (UN press briefing 7/24; SA 7/24 in WNC 7/25; CSM, NYT, WP, WT 7/25; WJW 7/27; MEI 7/28)

25 JULY

At Camp David, Arafat passes a letter to Clinton saying he sees no reason to continue talks, since Barak has adopted a take-it-or-leave-it position regarding U.S. proposals on Jerusalem. After a final set of 1-on-1 mtgs. with Arafat and Barak, Clinton declares an end to the Camp David summit. The U.S., Israel, the PA issue a 5-point statement of negotiating principles, express hope that a deal may still be reached by 9/13. In announcing the failure of the summit, Clinton essentially lays the blame on Arafat, stating that Barak showed more flexibility. (Interfax, MENA 7/25 in WNC 7/26; MENA, XIN 7/25, ABC [Madrid], ATL, Interfax, IRNA, ITAR-TASS, MA, MENA, al-Quds, SA 7/26 in WNC 7/27; MM, NYT, PR [Internet], WP, WT 7/26; AYM, DUS 7/26, Le Monde, SA, TT 7/27 in WNC 7/28; Arab News [Jeddah] 7/26, JT 7/30 in WNC 7/31; HA [Internet], NYT, WJW 7/27; AYM 7/28 in WNC 8/2; MIL 7/28 in WNC 8/3; NYT 7/29; WP 7/30) (see Docs. A4, C, D2, D4)

UN Sccy.-Gen. Annan suspends the UNIFIL deployment in light of new Israeli violations of the blue line. (XIN 7/25 in WNC 7/27; WP 7/26; MEI 7/28)

The London-based daily al-Hayat reports that Syrian pres. Bashar al-Asad recently received fmr. chief of staff Shibabi on his return fr. medical treatment in the U.S., suggesting anticorruption charges against him have been dropped. (MM 7/25; SA 7/30 in WNC 7/31) (see 6/6)

Jewish settlers level 25 dunams of Palestinian land nr. Qalqilya. (LAW 8/10)

26 JULY

Arafat, Barak both return home. Arafat's homecoming is comparatively celebratory whereas Barak's is more muted. Each leader blames the other for the summit's failure, but both vow to continue negotiations, possibly as early as 7/30. The U.S. says it will not reveal details of the Camp David negotiations, but vows to keep pressure on Arafat to accept the deals offered at the summit. Special envoy Ross will return to the region to nudge the sides closer to an agmt. U.S. Asst. Sccy. of State Edward Walker will tour Arab states to brief leaders, urge them to press Arafat to compromise on Jerusalem. (MM 7/26; MENA 7/26 in WNC 7/27; CSM, Israel Radio [Internet], MM, NYT, WP, WT 7/27; MENA 7/27 in WNC 7/28; al-Quds 7/27 in WNC 7/28; MM 7/28; al-Quds 7/29 in WNC 8/3)

In Washington, Israeli amb. David Irzy suggests that given the failure of the Camp David summit, it is "the right time for the
United States to move its embassy to Jerusalem." (MA [Internet] 7/27; WP 7/28)

U.S. congressmen introduce bills in the House, Senate that would require aid to the PA to be suspended if Arafat unilaterally declares a Palestinian state. (JP [Internet], WT 7/27; MM 7/28; DUS 7/30 in WNC 8/1; WJW 8/3; JP 8/4)

Palestinian landowner Mahameed obtains a stop-work order fr. the Israeli authorities, suspending IDF bulldozing of his property nr. Bethlehem until a final decision is made. (LAW 8/10) (see 7/23)

27 JULY

PM Barak phones 5 U.S. congressmen to ask them to introduce legislation on moving the U.S. emb. fr. Tel Aviv to Jerusalem, reportedly receives a mixed response. (NYT 7/30; WJW 8/3) (see 7/26)

UNIFIL begins deploying to new posts across s. Lebanon, taking up positions at 2 border sites, but freezes the mobilization later in the day because of more Israeli incursions. In New York, the UNSC extends the UNIFIL mandate to 1/31/01. (XIN 7/27 in WNC 7/31; MM 7/28; NYT 7/29)

Lebanon calls on wealthy nations to donate to a $1.34 b., 5-yr. reconstruction fund for redeveloping s. Lebanon—part of a $6.3 b. investment plan for the whole country. (MEI, MM, NYT 7/28)

The Israeli Interior Min. reports that over the past yr., the Jewish settler population in the West Bank and Gaza has grown by 13,600 people, or 7.5%. There are now close to 200,000 settlers in these areas. (Israel Radio [Internet] 7/27)

28 JULY

In response to a request fr. Barak for White House assistance with his domestic political problems, Pres. Clinton agrees to be interviewed on Israeli TV. He praises Barak's courage during the talks, promises the U.S. will reward Israel with closer bilateral strategic relations for concluding an agreement with the PA, voluntarily raises the prospect of moving the U.S. emb. fr. Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. (MM 7/28; NYT, WP, WT 7/29; DUS, XIN 7/29, IRNA, MENA, al-Quds 7/30 in WNC 7/31; WP 7/30; HJ, DUS, Le Monde 7/30, HJ, JT 7/31 in WNC 8/1; AYM 7/30, IRNA 8/1 in WNC 8/2; MM 7/31; MENA, al-Safir 8/2 in WNC 8/3; WJW 8/3; MENA 8/3 in WNC 8/4; IRNA 8/6, MA 8/3 in WNC 8/8; MM 8/11) (see Doc. D3)

29 JULY

Arafat arrives in Paris on the 1st leg of a multination tour of Europe, the Middle East, Africa, Asia to brief leaders on the Camp David summit, seek backing for PA positions, assess support for a unilateral declaration of statehood. After he meets with Arafat, Pres. Chirac phones Egyptian pres. Mubarak to discuss the summit. (MENA 7/29 in WNC 7/31; WP, WT 7/30; Le Monde 7/30 in WNC 8/1; CSM, JP [Internet] 7/31; al-Quds 7/31 in WNC 8/1; Le Monde 8/1 in WNC 8/2)

More than 500 Palestinian children fr. refugee camps in the West Bank, Lebanon travel to Fatima Gate, Israel's fmr. border crossing into s. Lebanon, to meet and call for the right of return. (BDL 8/3)

30 JULY

In Jericho, Eran and Erakat, the Israeli and PA interim affairs negotiators, discuss PA-Israeli relations in the wake of the Camp David summit, agree to hold more msgs. this wk. to try to move final status negotiations forward. (WT 7/31)

The Israeli and PA senior negotiators on security affairs, Israel's Internal Security M Ben-Ami and the PA's Gaza PSF head Muhammad Dahlan, meet in Gaza to review security arrangements discussed at Camp David, discuss the release of more Palestinian prisoners. (Associated Press [Internet] 7/30; JP [Internet] 7/31)

The PA police arrest senior Hamas official 'Abd al-'Aziz Rantisi on charges of incitement for criticizing the PA's handling of the Camp David talks. (al-Quds 7/31 in WNC 8/2; LAW 8/3; HJ 8/3 in WNC 8/4; al-Quds 8/10 in WNC 8/14)

UNIFIL resumes its deployment in s. Lebanon, setting up bases at 4 points along the blue line. (WT 7/31; WJW 8/3)

After receiving assurances for his safety fr. pres. Lahoud, Fmr. pres. Amin Gemayel, a Christian leader who was forced into exile over his alliance with the U.S. against Syria during the Lebanese civil war, returns to Lebanon for the 1st time in 8 yrs. Some 3,000 supporters rally to welcome him in his hometown of Bikfayya. (WP 7/31; MM 8/3; see also MM 7/19)

Jewish settlers erect 30 mobile homes on 3 sites (Qaryat, Jaloud, Lubban) nr. Nablus and confiscate 50 dunams of Palestinian land in Mawasi, nr. Rafah, begin constructing 50 greenhouses. (PA Information Min. press release 7/30; LAW 8/10)
31 JULY

U.S. Asst. Secy. of State Walker arrives in Egypt for a mtg. with Pres. Mubarak. This is Walker’s 1st stop in a 15-day trip to Algeria, Bahrain, Egypt, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Morocco, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Tunisia, Yemen, and the UAE to urge Arab leaders to put pressure on Arafat to accept compromises on Jerusalem. (MM 7/31; MENA 7/31 in WNC 8/1; MM 8/1; WT 8/2; WJW 8/3; DUS 8/6 in WNC 8/7)

PM Barak survives Knesset votes (50-50, with 8 abstentions, 12 MKs absent; 53-48) on 2 no-confidence motions. (MM 7/31; NYT, WT 8/1)

The Knesset elects (63-57) the relatively obscure Iranian-born Likud MK Moshe Katsav over One Israel MK Shimon Peres, a 3-time PM and Nobel laureate, to replace Weizman as pres. Israeli public opinion polls prior to the vote showed Peres as the popular choice over Katsav by 63% to 20%, with 17% undecided. Katsav captured the votes of Sephardic and Russian MKs (with Shas voting as a bloc for him) because of his Sephardic background and of ultra-Orthodox MKs, who voted for him as a protest against Barak, who openly favored Peres. (MM 7/31; ATL 7/31 in WNC 8/1; CSM, MM, NYT, WP, WT 8/1; ATL 8/1, SA 8/2 in WNC 8/3; WJW 8/3; JP, WP 8/11)

Acting on a tip, Israeli police arrest a Jewish resident of Jerusalem found with 3 rifles and a great deal of ammunition in his car. Police suspect he was en route to the West Bank to sell the arms, ammunition to settlers planning an attack on Palestinian targets. (MA 8/1 in WNC 8/2)

1 AUGUST

PM Barak announces that the U.S. plans to move its emb. to Jerusalem and “will rent offices by January 20.” Spokesmen for the State Dept., White House say they have no information that Pres. Clinton has made a decision on the issue. (State Dept. press briefing, WP 8/2)

At the Vatican Secy. of State Albright consults with Vatican diplomatic chief Jean-Louis Tauran on a settlement for Jerusalem. Tauran reiterates the Vatican’s long-standing position that the city should be accorded international status. (ANSA 8/1 in WNC 8/2; MM, WP, WT 8/2; ANSA 8/2 in WNC 8/3, 8/4; MM, WJW 8/3) (see Peace Monitor)

In New York, the family of an Israeli-American man killed in a Hamas bus bombing in Jerusalem in 1996 files a suit against Syria, claiming Damascus is liable for the man’s death and the family’s suffering because it provided Hamas with “material resources” by allowing the group to have offices and allegedly train militants in Syria and Lebanon. (NYT 8/2; WJW 8/10)

Jewish settlers level another 30 dunams of Palestinian land nr. Qalqilya. (LAW 8/10) (see 7/25)

2 AUGUST

Israeli FM Levy resigns fr. the cabinet, accusing PM Barak of betraying his promises to the people by offering to divide Jerusalem. Afterward, the Knesset votes in favor of 5 preliminary motions to dissolve the government, hold new elections. (MM 8/2; MA, XIN 8/2, al-Quds 8/3 in WNC 8/4; CSM, MM, NYT, WP, WT 8/3; CSM, JP 8/4; SA 8/4, MENA 8/5 in WNC 8/7)

Jewish settlers level 30 dunams of Palestinian land nr. al-Mughir, uprooting 1,600 fruit trees. (LAW 8/10)

3 AUGUST

PM Barak goes to Alexandria, Egypt, to brief Pres. Mubarak on the Camp David summit. Mubarak says Egypt will help Israel reach a final status agreement but will not pressure Arafat to make concessions on Jerusalem, saying, “It is not our role to ask any side to accept, without discussion, a stand proposed by the other side.” (MENA 8/3 in WNC 8/4; MM, NYT, WP, WT 8/4; MENA 8/5 in WNC 8/7)

The Knesset recesses for the summer, will reconvene on 10/29. (MM, NYT, WP 8/3)

4 AUGUST

In Amman, Jordanian riot police break up a demonstration by 500 Palestinians who planned to march to the UN offices in protest of Israel’s Camp David refusal to grant Palestinians sovereignty over East Jerusalem or to recognize the right of return as part of a final peace agmt. No one is arrested. (DUS 8/5 in WNC 8/7)

5 AUGUST

UNIFIL completes its deployment across s. Lebanon, with some troops taking over posts fr. Hizballah. (IRNA 8/5 in WNC 8/7; NYT, WP, WT 8/6; CSM 8/7)
6 AUGUST

In Damascus, the Joint Syrian-Iraqi Comm. meets for the 1st time in 20 yrs. to discuss expanding bilateral relations. (RMC 8/6 in WNC 8/7)

7 AUGUST

VP Al Gore selects Sen. Joseph Lieberman of Connecticut, who drafted the 1995 Jerusalem Embassy Relocation Act, as his running mate for the presidential elections. Lieberman, who is Orthodox, is the 1st Jew to be selected to run on a national ticket for a major party. (CSM, MM, NYT, WP, WT 8/8; MM, WT 8/9; WJW 8/10)

A day after formally taking over the FMInst. portfolio fr. Levy, who quit on 8/2, PM Barak withdraws Israel's envoys to Britain, France, South Africa because they are Levy loyalists and recalls the Israeli envoy to Switzerland, who is a mbr. of the National Religious Party, which quit the coalition on 7/9. (JP [Internet], MM, NYT, WT 8/8; MM 8/9)

IDF soldiers fire across the border with Lebanon at youths throwing stones, bottles at them. 1 youth, 2 journalists are wounded. (NYT 8/8; WJW 8/10)

Palestinians in Dura al-Qari' village receive a military order for the confiscation of 9 dunams of their land. Jewish settlers have made repeated attempts over the past 25 yrs. to grab the same plot. (LAW 8/10)

8 AUGUST

Jewish settlers resume construction at 11 unauthorized outposts in the West Bank, also confiscate another 50 dunams of land fr. Kafr Thulth village nr. Qalqilya. (WT 8/9; LAW 8/10)

9 AUGUST

The Lebanese government sends 500 soldiers, 500 special police troops into s. Lebanon to support UNIFIL forces. This is the 1st time since 1976 that Lebanese forces have asserted any control over the border area. (CSM, NYT, WP, WT 8/10; NYT 8/13)

10 AUGUST

Palestine National Council Speaker Salim Za'nun announces that Arafat will convene the PLOCC in early 9/00 to ask mbrs. approval to delay a unilateral declaration of a Palestinian state. Za'nun says Arafat took the decision after his tour of Europe, where EU leaders advised him against declaring statehood unilaterally on or around 9/13. (WJW 8/10; WT 8/11; WT 8/12; AYM, DUS 8/13 in WNC 8/14)

Barak taps chief negotiator Ben-Ami to serve as acting FM. (MM 8/10; ATL, MIL 8/10 in WNC 8/14; WT 8/11)

In Alexandria, Egyptian pres. Mubarak receives Britain's Lord Michael Levy, who is carrying a message to the pres. fr. PM Blair regarding the "peace process following the Camp David summit." Lord Michael previously has been involved in back-channel negotiations on the Syrian-Israeli track. (MENA 8/10 in WNC 8/14)

U.S. Israeli officials report that they recently held 3 days of talks this wk. on strengthening strategic relations. (WP 8/11; WJW 8/17; WT 8/18) (see Peace Monitor)

11 AUGUST

A 25-yr.-old Palestinian dies under suspicious circumstances in Israeli custody at el-Nafha prison in Israel. He was serving a 3-yr. term for entering Israel without a permit. (PCHR 8/12)

12 AUGUST

Israel's Ben-Ami and the PA's Erakat are both in Spain to brief Spanish, EU officials on the Camp David summit, but there is no evidence that they meet. (EFE [Madrid] 8/12 in WNC 8/14; SA 8/14 in WNC 8/15)

13 AUGUST

In an off-the-record briefing, a U.S. official says that Pres. Clinton is prepared to reconvene the Camp David summit talks, but only if he is assured that Israel, the PA are ready to settle all outstanding issues, including Jerusalem. The official also says "the Egyptians have made it clear to us that they are prepared to be helpful" in persuading Arafat to compromise. (NYT 8/14)

14 AUGUST

King Muhammad of Morocco says he will convene the Jerusalem Commn. of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, of which he is the head, on 8/28 to discuss the fate of Jerusalem under a final status agmt. (WP 8/15; NYT 8/16)

The IDF demolishes 2 Palestinian homes in East Jerusalem. (Gush Shalom press release 8/14; LAW 8/15)
15 AUGUST

Lebanon's daily *al-Nahar* runs an interview with Lebanese pres. *Lahoud* in which he says Lebanon declined an offer of $20 b. to give Palestinian refugees in the country permanent status. (JP [Internet], Reuters [Internet] 8/15; MENA 8/15 in WNC 8/16; JT; MM, WT 8/16) (see Peace Monitor)

In Cairo, a delegation of senior PA negotiators (comprising Arafat deputy Mahmoud Abbas, Information M Yasir 'Abid Rabbulh, Local Government M Erakat, PC Speaker Qural') discusses strategies for the PA-Israeli talks with Egyptian FM *Musa*, reportedly briefs him on a new U.S. proposal for Jerusalem. (MENA 8/15 in WNC 8/16; MM 8/16; MENL 8/17; HA [Internet] 8/18)

Led by *MK Ariel Sharon*, the Likud party calls a special session of the Knesset that votes (39-1, with 80 MKs absent) to convene a 2d special session on 8/28 to debate a resolution that would bar *Barak* fr. renewing the peace talks with the PA without 1st holding new elections. (MM, NYT, WT 8/16)

The PA begins construction on the Gaza port. (HJ 8/15 in WNC 8/17; JT [Internet], MA [Internet], MENL 8/16)

**Chronology Source Abbreviations**

**AFP** (Agence France-Presse, Paris)  
**ANSA** (Associated National Press Agency, Rome)  
**ATL** (Anatolia, Ankara)  
**AYM** (al-Ayyam, Ramallah)  
**BDL** (BADIL Resource Center, Bethlehem)  
**CNA** (Cyprus News Agency, Nicosia)  
**CSM** (Christian Science Monitor, Boston)  
**DUS** (al-Dustur, Amman)  
**HA** (Ha'aretz, Tel Aviv)  
**HJ** (al-Hayat al-Jadida, Ramallah)  
**IRNA** (Islamic Republic News Agency, Tehran)  
**IsRN** (Israel Radio News, Internet)  
**JP** (Jerusalem Post International Edition, Jerusalem)  
**JT** (Jordan Times, Amman)  
**LAW** (Palestinian Society for the Protection of Human Rights and the Environment, Jerusalem)  
**LPA** (London Press Association, London)  
**MA** (Ma'ariv, Tel Aviv)  
**MEI** (Middle East International, London)  
**MENA** (Middle East News Agency, Cairo)  
**MENL** (Middle East Newsline, Internet)  
**MIL** (Milliyet, Ankara)  
**MM** (Mideast Mirror, London)  
**NYT** (New York Times, New York)  
**PCHR** (Palestinian Center for Human Rights, Gaza)  
**PR** (Palstat Report, Jerusalem)  
**RFI** (Radio France Internationale, Paris)  
**RMC** (Radio Monte Carlo, Paris)  
**RTP** (RTP Internacional Television, Lisbon)  
**SA** (al-Sharq al-Awsat, London)  
**TT** (Tehran Times, Tehran)  
**WJW** (Washington Jewish Week, Rockville, MD)  
**WNC** (World News Connection [Internet], Washington, DC)  
**WP** (Washington Post, Washington, DC)  
**WT** (Washington Times, Washington, DC)  
**XIN** (Xinhua–New China News Agency, Beijing)  
**YA** (Yediot Aharonot, Tel Aviv)

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