Chronology: 16 August–15 November 1999
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Chronology

16 August–15 November 1999

This section is part sixty-four of a chronology begun in JPS 23, no. 3 (Spring 1984). Chronology dates reflect Eastern Standard Time. For more detail on events related to the peace process, see the Peace Monitor in this issue.

16 August

After a 5-hr. mtg., Israel, the Palestinian Authority (PA) agree to draw up a list of prisoners for negotiation in the next stage of prisoner releases required under the Wye agmt. (al-Jumhuriyya 8/17 in WNC 8/19; WT 8/18, 8/24) (see Peace Monitor).

In Sidon, Lebanon, 2 roadside bombs explode, killing Hizballah cmdr. Ali Hassan Deeb. Hizballah blames Israel, which previously tried to assassinate Deeb in a helicopter attack on 3/30/96. (VOL 8/16 in WNC 8/17; NYT, WP 8/17; CSM, WT 8/18; MEI 8/20)

17 August

Massive earthquake strikes northwestern Turkey, leaving at least 14,000 and as many as 40,000 dead, over 33,000 injured. Greece, Israel, the U.S. are among the countries who send teams to aid in the rescue effort. (ATL 8/17 in WNC 8/18; MM 8/18; NYT, WP, WT 8/18–23; Athens News Agency 8/18 in WNC 8/19; MEI 8/20; NYT 8/28; MEI 9/3, 9/17)

In retaliation for the assassination of a Hizballah cmdr. on 8/16, Hizballah clashes with the IDF in S. Lebanon, killing 2 IDF soldiers, wounding 7. (MM 8/17; RL, VOL 8/17 in WNC 8/18; CSM, MM, NYT, WP 8/18; MEI 8/20)

18 August

Israeli-PA talks on prisoner release collapse after 2 days of talks on how to decide which prisoners would go free. (MM 8/18; MM, NYT, WT 8/19; WT 8/24; JP 8/27)

Israeli PM Ehud Barak's chief of staff Danny Yatom heads a delegation to Amman to discuss ways to promote peace with Jordan; delivers letter to King Abdullah, apologizing for the Mishal affair. (MA 8/19 in WNC 8/20)

19 August

IDF reopens part of Shuhada Street, the main thoroughfare in Hebron, which has been closed since Jewish settler Baruch Goldstein gunned down 29 Muslim worshipers at al-Ibrahimi Mosque in 1994. (MM 8/19; NYT 8/20; JP 8/27)

20 August

The Paris-based al-Watan al-Arabi reports 2 sources as saying that neither Syrian pres. Hafiz al-Asad nor his son and heir-apparent, Bashar, attended the funeral of King Hassan of Morocco on 7/25 because the U.S. warned that it had evidence a coup might be staged while they were abroad. (al-Watan al-Arabi 8/20 in WNC 8/23)

21 August

In Damascus, Iran, Syria hold talks on expanding economic relations. (IRNA 8/21 in WNC 8/23)

22 August

Following a mtg. on the peace process with Egyptian pres. Husni Mubarak in Alexandria, PA head Yasir Arafat calls on the U.S. to step in and help break the PA's impasse with Israel over the Wye implementation timetable. The PA is now asking Israel to complete Wye implementation by 11/30, but Israel says it cannot be completed until 2/00. (MENA 8/22 in WNC 8/23; NYT, WT 8/23; AYM 9/23 in WNC 8/26) (see Peace Monitor)

In Cairo, PA head Arafat opens talks with Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) leader Nayif Hawatmeh on uniting Palestinian factions ahead of Israeli-PA final status talks. This is the 1st time the pair has met since Oslo was signed in 9/93. (MENA 8/28 in WNC 8/23; MM, NYT, WP 8/23; MM 8/24; al-Ahram 8/25 in WNC 8/30; Jerusalem Times 8/27 in WNC 8/31) (see Peace Monitor)

Hizballah, the IDF clash in S. Lebanon, leaving 2 IDF soldiers wounded. (RL, VOL 8/22 in WNC 8/23; NYT, WP 8/23)
23 AUGUST

PA chief negotiator, Local Government M Saeb Erakat, says that Israel, the PA have agreed to begin construction on Gaza port on 10/1, open a 2d safe-passage route on 1/1/00. (MM, WT 8/24; JP 9/3)


In Cairo, Arafat, Hawatimah agree to set aside their differences over the Oslo process, work for a united Palestinian position in talks with Israel. (MENA 8/23 in WNC 8/24; NYT, WP, WT 8/24; MEE 9/3; al-Quds 10/14 in WNC 10/18) (see 8/22)

Israel military delegation leaves for Ankara to discuss Turkey's aid needs in light of the recent earthquake, its ability to pay for defense deals with Israel, which are valued at 100s of millions of dollars. (MA 8/23 in WNC 8/24)

24 AUGUST

After another round of Israeli-Pa talks on the Wye timetable, PA chief negotiator Erakat says that an agmt. on implementation is near, that there is "suddenly an atmosphere of trust between the two sides." (WP 8/25; YA 8/27 in WNC 9/1)

The PA suspends talks with Israel on the Wye prisoner release, citing lack of progress. Hisham 'Abd al-Raziq, head of the PA team, calls the mgs. "a waste of time." (NYT 8/25; AYM 8/25 in WNC 8/27)

Israel says that PM Barak has phoned European leaders to urge them to aid Turkey's earthquake victims out of concern that militant Islamists might seek to gain political advantage fr. the Turkish government's inep response to the crisis. Islamic groups have worked intensively to help victims fr. the 1st day of the disaster, whereas the Turkish military did not join rescue efforts until several days after the quake, and the government has also prevented Islamic humanitarian groups from providing relief. Israel also announces plans to assemble 1,000 prefabricated housing units for Turkish quake victims. (ATL 8/24 in WNC 8/25; WT 8/25; NYT, WP, WT 8/27; WP 8/29; ATL 8/31 in WNC 9/1)

Jordanian Artists Association expels one of its senior mbrs., Nadir Omar, for "normalizing" relations with Israel by inviting Israeli artists to participate in a theater festival earlier this yr. (JT 8/26 in WNC 8/27)

25 AUGUST

In s. Lebanon, 5 South Lebanon Army (SLA) mbrs. are wounded in a clash with Hizballah. (VOL 8/24 in WNC 8/25)

PA chief negotiator Erakat delays his trip to Washington to meet with U.S. Secy. of State Madeleine Albright, originally set for 8/26, until 8/27, saying that the PA, Israel appear close to a compromise on the Wye implementation timetable. (MM, NYT 8/26)

In Amman, Jordan, Israel hold technical comm. mtg. to discuss ways of providing Jordan with water directly fr. the Yarmuk River to ease drought effects. (JT 8/25 in WNC 8/27)

Setting aside objections of religious parties, Israeli High Court orders giant turbine components to be moved on the Sabbath to avoid traffic problems. United Torah Judaism threatens to withdraw from Barak's ruling coalition in protest. (MM, NYT, WP 8/26; NYT 8/27) (see 8/15)

A group of 13 American scholars working in Iran is ordered to pull out of Tehran 10 days ahead of schedule. Under orders fr. "the highest authorities in Washington," they are ordered to leave on the 1st plane available and are instructed not to discuss their travel plans with Iranian friends, contact anyone to cancel appointments, send e-mail, or call home. U.S. officials refuse to comment, saying the situation is "very sensitive." (WP 9/3, 9/4)

American Arab organizations issue a report documenting a pattern of cases in which the State Dept. did the bare minimum for Arab Americans detained by Israel, but rushed to the aid of non-Arab Americans detained by other foreign governments. (WP 8/26; MM 8/27; al-Riyad 8/28 in WNC 9/1)

The Kurdish Workers Party (PKK) separatist group begins to pull out of Turkey a wk. ahead of schedule. Over the past yr., the PKK has suffered major military defeats at the hands of the Turkish military, lost Syria as its patron, suffered the arrest of its leader, Abdullah Ocalan. On 8/5, the party agreed to heed the call of Ocalan, who has been sentenced to death by Turkey, to end its 14-yr. insurgency for self-rule, take its cause to the political arena. (WP 8/26)

26 AUGUST

Hamas, PA officials say that PA police have detained 40 Hamas activists in Gaza, 50 in the West Bank in the last few days on
charges of plotting attacks on Israelis. (HJ, SA 8/26 in WNC 8/30; NYT, WP 8/27)

**PA military court** sentences to death Palestinian Ayman Abu Saada for fatally injuring **PA police It. Hani Abu Zayna** during a confrontation btw. 2 families on 8/23; Abu Zayna died on 8/25. Human rights groups denounce the summary trial, capital sentence. (PCHR 8/27; AYM 8/27 in WNC 8/30; LAW 8/28; JP, MEI 9/3)

**Lebanese military court** sentences 29 fmr. SLA mbrs. to prison terms of 6 mos. to 2 yrs. for collaboration with **Israel**. 83 of the 200 SLA mbrs. who surrendered when the SLA withdrew fr. Jazzin in 5–6/99 have been convicted. (NYT 8/27)

**Amal** attacks an SLA patrol in **s. Lebanon**, wounding 2 SLA mbrs. (RL, VOL 8/26 in WNC 8/27)

### 27 AUGUST

PA chief negotiators **Erakat, Mahmud Abbas** make 1-day trip to Washington to hold talks with Secy. of State **Albright** on the Wye timetable impasse with Israel, Albright's upcoming trip to the region. Erakat asks the U.S. to intervene with **Israel** regarding the Wye prisoner release, the last point of disagreement blocking an agmt. on a re-negotiated Wye implementation schedule. (WT 8/29)

**United Torah Judaism** agrees not to resign from **Barak**'s coalition over transportation of turbine components on the Sabbath after the government arranges for a non-Jew to drive the truck. (MM 8/27; NYT 8/28) (see 8/25)

### 28 AUGUST

PA chief negotiator **Erakat** returns fr. Washington, resumes talks with **Israel** - chief negotiator **Gilead Sher** on the prisoner release issue. (WT 8/29; JP 9/3)

### 29 AUGUST

A **Barak aide** meets with **Arafat** in an "urgent" attempt to reach a Wye implementation agmt. before U.S. Secy. of State **Albright** arrives on 9/1. **Barak** warns that if Israeli, PA teams fail to close a deal "within hours," he could carry out the Wye agmt. unilaterally, as he sees fit. Barak's office also issues a statement, saying that the PA is not providing "satisfactory answers" on the further redeployment (FRD) issue, prisoner release. (WP 8/30; CSN, NYT 8/31; MEI 9/3)

In Amman, **Jordan, PA** discuss transportation of goods btw. Jordan, the West Bank. (RJ 8/29 in WNC 8/30)

2 bombs explode btw. **Fatah** offices in 'Ayn al-Hilwa refugee camp in **s. Lebanon**, wounding 3 Palestinians. A 3d bomb is discovered, disarmed. No one takes responsibility. (RL 8/29 in WNC 8/30)

In **s. Lebanon**, 4 **Lebanese civilians** are wounded, several homes are damaged by **IDF** shelling. (VOL 8/29 in WNC 8/30)

### 30 AUGUST

In Jerusalem, **Erakat, Sher** meet again on Wye implementation. (NYT 8/31; QA 8/31 in WNC 9/2; NYT, WT 9/1)

**Jordanian security forces** arrest 12 **Hamas** activists, close Hamas's Amman offices. (MBC 8/30 in WNC 8/31; MM, NYT, WP, WT 8/31; MM, WP, WT 9/1; al-Ra'i 9/2 in WNC 9/3; JP 9/3; MEI 10/1)

2 **Israelis** are murdered by unknown assailants nr. Megiddo forest, a nature reserve that straddles Israel, the West Bank. (MM, WP 8/31; MM, NYT 9/1; MA 9/1 in WNC 9/2)

The U.S. gives **Jordan** $50 m. in additional economic aid to help the kingdom reduce its debt burden, support its balance of payments. (NYT, WT 8/31)

**Israeli military court** finds fmr. **PA policeman** **Ammar al-Zibben** guilty of helping to carry out 2 **Hamas** suicide bombings that killed 26 people. Sentencing is deferred. (NYT 8/31)

### 31 AUGUST

Erakat, Sher continue talks on Wye implementations. (MM 8/31; WT 9/1)

**Arafat** goes to Cairo to discuss with Pres. **Mubarak** the outstanding issues blocking an agmt. with **Israel** on Wye implementation. (NYT 8/31; MENA 8/31 in WNC 9/1)

**Jordan** issues arrest warrants for 4 **senior Hamas officials** (Ibrahim Ghashshah, Musa Abu Marzuq, Khalid Mishal, Muhammad Nazzal). **Hamas spiritual leader** **Shaykh Ahmad Yasin** condemns Jordan's crackdown on Hamas as appeasement of Israel, the U.S. in advance of Secy. of State **Albright**'s visit to the region. (AFP 8/31 in WNC 9/1; WP, WT 9/1; JT, SA 9/1 in WNC 9/2; Tehran Times 9/1, AFP, QA 9/2 in WNC 9/3; AYM 9/1, 9/2, 9/4, al-Sabil 9/7 in WNC 9/8; MM 9/2; MEI 9/3; QA, SA 9/3 in WNC 9/7; MM 9/5; QA 9/8 in WNC 9/9; WWJ 9/9; SA 9/10 in WNC 9/13)

**PLO Exec. Comm.** convenes national unity mtg. in Ramallah, attended by reps. of

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the Arab Liberation Front (ALF), DFLP, Fatah, FIDA, Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP). Hamas, Islamic Jihad do not attend. PFLP urges PA to halt negotiations with Israel. DFLP recommends that all groups agree on “red lines” that the PA would not cross in final status negotiations. (AYM 9/1 in WNC 9/8; al-Istiqlal 9/2 in WNC 9/9; al-Ra‘i 9/5 in WNC 9/7)

In s. Lebanon, Amal shells an SLA post, wounding 1 SLA mbr. (RL 8/31 in WNC 9/1)

1 SEPTEMBER

After 2-wk. delay, U.S. Secy. of State Albright arrives in Morocco on her 1st tour of the Middle East since the 5/17 Israeli elections. State Dept. bills the tour as a “taking stock” trip, with no specific goals. (WP 9/1; NYT, WJW, WP, WT 9/2; MM 9/3)

In Jerusalem, Erakat, Sher continue prisoner release talks. The PA is now demanding that Israel release 400 prisoners, while Israel is saying that it would release no more than 350. Midday, Barak announces that, in his opinion, the talks have ended in failure. Later, he allows talks to continue, apologizes to Arafat by phone for the statement. Arafat cuts short a trip to Holland to go to Alexandria to meet with Mubarak. At the end of the day, Erakat says that the sides have agreed to begin final status talks on 9/10. (MM 9/1; MENA 9/1 in WNC 9/2; CSM, NYT, WP, WT 9/2; al-Istiqlal 9/2 in WNC 9/9)

In Damascus, Jordanian, Syrian trade officials agree to expand the list of tax-exempt goods traded bwn. their countries, increase overall volume of trade. (Petra-JNA 9/1 in WNC 9/2)

In s. Lebanon, 1 Hizballah mbr. is fatally wounded by IDF shelling. (VOL 9/2 in WNC 9/3)

2 SEPTEMBER

Secy. of State Albright meets with Egyptian pres. Mubarak in Alexandria. Albright, Mubarak had hoped to host the signing of a revised Wye accord, but Israel, the PA still differ over the prisoner release issue. Albright phones Barak in Israel, meets with Arafat in Alexandria, then flies to Jerusalem to meet with Barak for 3 hrs. Despite her efforts, Israeli officials say talks are over: “We’re looking for . . . answers. It’s not a negotiation.” Barak issues statement again saying that if the PA does not accept Israel’s terms by 9/3, Israel will implement Wye “as written.” (AFP, MBC, MENA 9/2 in WNC 9/3; CSM, MM, WP, WT 9/3; WT 9/4)

Fmr. Israeli FM Ariel Sharon wins position as head of Likud with 53% of the vote, beating Jerusalem mayor Ehud Olmert, MK Meir Shitreet. (MM 9/3; WJW 9/9) (see 5/27)

Israeli police arrest an Israeli Arab for the murder of 2 Jews nr. Megiddo on 8/30. (MM, WP 9/3)

In exchange for a 24-yr. sentence, American Jewish teenager Samuel Sheinbein pleads guilty in an Israeli court to murdering another teenager in Maryland. Sheinbein, who fled to Israel and claimed citizenship through his father, who was born in Mandatory Palestine, could be tried in the U.S. if he were ever to return. (WP 9/2–3; see also NYT, WP, WT 8/25–26; WJW 8/26; JP 9/3, 9/10; WP 10/12; NYT, WP, WT 10/25; WJW 10/28) (see 4/19)

Hizballah fires rockets toward n. Israel in retaliation for IDF shelling that killed Lebanese civilians. (MM 9/2)

3 SEPTEMBER

After further shuttering bwn. Arafat, Barak by Secy. of State Albright, Israel, the PA reach agmt. on revised Wye accord (Wye II). A signing ceremony is planned for 12/4 in Sharm al-Shaykh, Egypt. PA negotiator Erakat says that a U.S. letter of guarantees to the PA attached to this agmt. reiterates U.S. support for the Palestinians “to determine their future on their own land.” (MM 9/3, AFP, MENA 9/3 in WNC 9/7; NYT, WP, WT 9/4; PCHR 9/9; JP 9/10) (see Peace Monitor, Special Document Section)

4 SEPTEMBER

Before attending the Wye II signing, Secy. of State Albright makes a quick trip to Damascus for talks with Pres. Assad on resuming negotiations with Israel. (AFP, MENA, RL, VOL, XIN 9/4, JT, MENA, SA, XIN 9/5, Interfax 9/6 in WNC 9/7; NYT, WP, WT 9/5; MM 9/6; RL 9/7 in WNC 9/8; al-Nahar 9/8 in WNC 9/9; MM 9/9; MEI 9/17)

In Sharm al-Shaykh, Egypt, Arafat, Barak sign Wye II accord. Secy. of State Albright, Pres. Mubarak of Egypt, King Abdullah of Jordan also sign as witnesses. Palestinian opposition groups denounce the agmt. for containing more “gratuitous concessions” to Israel, further weakening the Palestinian negotiating position. (NYT, WP, WT 9/5; MM 9/6; AYM 9/6 in WNC 9/10; WJW 9/9; JP 9/10; AFP 9/11 in WNC 9/13; MEI 9/17) (see Peace Monitor)

In Amman, Jordan arrests 4 mbrs. of the Muslim Brotherhood—including Islamic Action Front parliament mbr. Muhammad Khalil Aqil—attending a mtg. expressing solidarity with Hamas. (AFP 9/13 in WNC 9/14)

5 SEPTEMBER

Israeli cabinet approves (21-2) Wye II accord. (MM, NYT, WP, WT 9/6)

Car bombs explode in Haifa, Tiberias, killing 3 suicide bombers, injuring 1 Israeli. No one claims responsibility. PA says it has arrested 50 alleged Hamas mbrs. over the past few wks. as a “precautionary measure” in advance of a revised Wye agmt. Sources close to Hamas report that the PA has arrested 300 Hamas mbrs., sympathizers since 7/99. (AFP 9/5 in WNC 9/7; MM, NYT, WP, WT 9/6; ATL 9/6 in WNC 9/7; HJ 9/6, SA 9/7 in WNC 9/8; MM 9/7; WT 9/8; WJW 9/9; JP, MEI 9/17)

Palestinians in East Jerusalem stage general strike to protest Wye II. 10s of Palestinians stage sit-in at Orient House to protest the agmt.’s clauses on prisoner releases. (AFP [Internet] 9/5)

6 SEPTEMBER

PA Executive Authority (EA) approves the Wye II accord. (WT 9/8)

In Port Said, Egypt, Pres. Mubarak is slightly injured by a knife-wielding assailant, who is shot, killed by security guards. (NYT, WT 9/7; al-Safir 9/8; al-Ahram 9/9 in WNC 9/13; JP 9/17)

Israel’s High Court rules that security forces have acted illegally by routinely inflicting mental and physical pain on Palestinian detainees. (LAW 9/6; MM, NYT, WP 9/7; AYM 9/7 in WNC 9/10; WT 9/8; MM, WJW 9/9; JP, MEI 9/17) (see Doc. B)

Israeli police arrest 5 individuals in connection with 2 car bombings on 9/5, issue order barring public identification of the suspects, who are thought to be Israeli Arabs. (AFP 9/6 in WNC 9/7; CSM, NYT, WP, WT 9/7; YA 9/9 in WNC 9/10; JP, MEI 9/17) (see 9/2)

In Aqaba, Israeli-Jordan joint transport comm. discusses reactivation of some 17 bilateral agmts. that were suspended due to the impasse in the peace process. (JT 9/6 in WNC 9/7)

In Ankara, Israel, Turkey hold preliminary discussions on water transfer fr. Turkey. (MM 9/6; ATL 9/6 in WNC 9/7; ATL 9/7 in WNC 9/8; JP 9/17) (see Peace Monitor in JPS 113)

7 SEPTEMBER

King Abdullah of Jordan ends 2-day visit to Kuwait, officially marking a new stage in bilateral relations, which soured during the 1990–91 Gulf War. (MM, NYT, WP 9/7; MENA, Radio Kuwait 9/7 in WNC 9/8; WP, WT 9/8; JT 10/18 in WNC 10/19) (see Peace Monitor)

Israel confirms that the 3 bombers who staged the 9/5 suicide attacks were Israeli Arabs, marking the 1st time that Arab citizens have taken part directly in such attacks. Israeli security forces arrest 7 Israeli Arabs in connection with the bombings, as part of a hunt for an Islamist network inside Israel. (MM, NYT, WT 9/8; CSM 9/10; JP 9/17; MEI 9/22; JP 9/24) (see 9/6)

8 SEPTEMBER

Knesset approves (54-23) Wye II. Israeli cabinet also meets to approve (17-1, with 1 abstention) maps for 1st stage of Wye II FRD. Shas boycotts the vote because of a budget dispute with Barak. National Religious party mbrs. vote against, even though they are in Barak’s coalition. 2 of 3 Yisrael Ba’Allya mbrs., also in the coalition, vote against. (MM 9/8; NYT, WT 9/9; MM 9/13; JP 9/17)

Israel, Jordan hold tourism talks in Amman. (Petra-JNA 9/8 in WNC 9/10) (see 9/6)

In Tunis, PA, Tunisian trade Ms discuss prospects for industrial cooperation. (Tunisian Republic Radio Network 9/8 in WNC 9/9)

9 SEPTEMBER

Israel releases 1st 199 of 350 Palestinian prisoners, 4 days late by the new Wye II timetable. (MM 9/9; NYT, WP, WT 9/10; VOA 9/10 in WNC 9/13; JP 9/17) (see Peace Monitor)

Israel turns over to Arafat the maps of the 1st stage of the Wye II FRD. (WT 9/10)
10 SEPTEMBER

Israel transfers 7% (147 mi²) of West Bank land fr. area C (full Israeli control) to area B (Israeli security, PA civilian control). Under Wye II, this FRD was to have taken place on 9/5. (NYT, WP, WT 9/11) (see Peace Monitor)

11 SEPTEMBER

Israel's Interior M Natan Sharansky suspends the revocation of the Jerusalem residency card of al-Quds University prof. Musa Budeiri. (NYT 9/12; MEI 9/17; JP 9/24) (see 7/22)

Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Abdullah sends a special envoy to Tehran to discuss with Iranian pres. Mohamed Khatami joint security cooperation, increased collaboration in stabilizing the oil market. (GIU 9/14)

12 SEPTEMBER

2-day Arab League session opens in Cairo; will discuss the peace process, reconciliation btwn. Iraq and the Gulf states. Arafat gives an address, calling on Arab states to oppose resettlement of Palestinian refugees in their host countries. (MENA 9/12 in WNC 9/13; MM 9/13; QA 9/13 in WNC 9/14; HJ 9/13 in WNC 9/16; MM 9/16)

Barak says that if Israel, the PA fail to agree on an outline for a final status agmt. by 2/00, as planned, they may have to forgo a final peace accord and instead, by mutual consent, negotiate long-term interim agmts. on most issues. (JP [Internet] 9/14)

13 SEPTEMBER

On the 6th anniversary of the Oslo I signing, Israel, the PA hold ceremony at Erez crossing to mark official resumption of final status talks. PA chief negotiator Abbas, Israeli FM Levy host the event. U.S. special envoy Dennis Ross, Russian FMin. dir. for the Middle East Alexander Saltanov, EU special envoy Miguel Moratinos attend. (MM 9/13; XIN 9/13 in WNC 9/14; NYT, WP, WT 9/14; ITAR-TASS, Sa, al-Wafid 9/14 in WNC 9/15; VOA 9/15 in WNC 9/16; WJW 9/16; MEI 9/17; JP 9/24)

While the Erez ceremony is taking place, Barak convenes ministerial comm. on Jerusalem to discuss consolidating Israeli sovereignty over Jerusalem "especially in this year of intensive discussions on the permanent status agreement." (MM 9/14)

PA Culture and Information M Yasir 'Abid Rabbuh says that the PA will not unilaterally declare a Palestinian state before the end of the 1-yr. period allotted under Wye II for completion of a final status agmt. (AFP 9/14 in WNC 9/15; WT 9/15; VOA 9/15 in WNC 9/16)

King Abdallah of Jordan arrives in Lebanon for 2 days of talks, meets with PM Salim al-Huss. (MM 9/13; RL 9/13 in WNC 9/14; JT, RL, VOL 9/14 in WNC 9/15; NYT 9/15) (see Peace Monitor)


14 SEPTEMBER

PM Barak tours Ma'ale Adumim, which he vows will remain "forever part of Israel"; vows to "strengthen" the settlement. (Qol Yisra'el 9/14 in WNC 9/15; MM, NYT 9/15)

In Aqaba, Jordanian, Israeli transportation Ms discuss Aqaba airport expansion project, transportation of goods across their common border. (JT 9/15 in WNC 9/16) (see 9/6)

In Ramallah, FIDA, Palestine People's Party (PPP), Palestinian Popular Struggle Front (PPSF) meet to discuss final status negotiations, call on PA to press Israel to halt arbitrary measures against Palestinians, Judaization efforts in Jerusalem; end all settlement activity; release Palestinian prisoners. (HJ 9/16 in WNC 9/21)

15 SEPTEMBER

Donors' Joint Liaison Comm. meets in Gaza. (AYM 9/16 in WNC 9/21) (see Peace Monitor)

PA gives Israel a list of names of its 30,000 police officers, fulfilling a Wye obligation. Israel wanted the list to make sure that none of the security forces are involved in anti-Israeli acts. (MM, WP 9/16; JP 9/24)

Arafat appoints Local Government M Erakat to head the team to oversee Wye II implementation and issues arising fr. the interim agmts., passing him over for the job of chief negotiator for final status talks. (AFP 9/16 in WNC 9/17)

Israeli police question fmr. PM Benjamim Netanyahu in connection with allegations that a contractor carried out private work for him, billed the government. (MM
PA Preventive Security Force (PSF) arrests popular television talk show host Maher al-Diwasiqui on incitement charges after guests on his show, the mothers of Palestinians imprisoned by Israel, criticize the PA, denounce Arafat for failing to secure their sons' release. (LAW 9/16, 9/20; JP 10/1; NYT 10/14)

Walt Disney Corp. meets with reps. of the Arab League, officials fr. the UAE, Morocco, and Arab American groups to discuss Israel's plans to host an exhibition entitled Jerusalem, Capital of Israel at Disney's Epcot Center. Arab states have threatened to boycott Disney products if the exhibition takes place. (NYT, WT 9/18, al-Quds 9/18, IRNA, Tehran Times 9/19 in WNC 9/21) (see 8/12)

16 SEPTEMBER

Inside Israel, Arafat holds 3 hrs. of secret talks with Barak. After mtg. is leaked to the Israeli press, Barak's office says that the PM wants to establish a pattern of regular mtgs. with Arafat so that the 2 leaders can closely monitor negotiations. (MM 9/17; NYT, WP, WT 9/18, WJW 9/23; JP, MEI 10/1)

Arafat appoints PA Culture and Information M 'Abid Rabbuh to lead final status talks with Israel. Arafat adviser Mahmud Abbas will oversee both the final status and interim negotiating teams, liaise bwtn. teams and Arafat. (AFP 9/16 in WNC 9/17; WP 9/21, 9/22; MM 10/6, 10/26)

In Amman, Arafat, King Abdallah hold their 1st mtg. since the resumption of bilateral negotiations, agree to forge a common position on final status issues. (JT 9/19 in WNC 9/21)

Barak's adviser for settlement affairs, Shilo Gal, says that some Jewish settlers in the West Bank may be forced to relocate, some settlements may be dismantled under a final peace agmt. with the PA. For 20 yrs., Gal headed the Gush Etzion settlement council, which is opposed to Israeli withdrawals fr. the occupied territories. (MM, WP, WT 9/17; MEI 10/1)

Israel approves PA request to allow Abu Ali Mustafa, the dep. secy. gen. of the PFLP, to return to the occupied territories to live. (MM 9/16; WP 9/17; JP 9/24)

In Amman, Jordanian PM Rawabda, Israeli Regional Cooperation M Shimon Peres meet for talks on joint projects, promoting the economic objectives of the Jordan-Israel peace treaty and the greater peace process. (Petra-JNA 9/16 in WNC 9/17)

In Amman, Jordanian, Israeli communications Ms discuss bilateral ties, agree to link fiber optic networks. (Petra-JNA 9/16 in WNC 9/17; JT 9/18 in WNC 9/21) (see 9/14)

An explosive charge goes off at a car parts store in 'Ayn al-Hilwa refugee camp in s. Lebanon, causing damage but no injuries. (VOL 9/16 in WNC 9/17)

In s. Lebanon, 1 IDF soldier, 1 civilian IDF employee are injured by Hizballah shelling. (AFP 9/16 in WNC 9/17)

17 SEPTEMBER

Disney says Israeli exhibit on Jerusalem will go forward, but will not make reference to Jerusalem as the capital of Israel. Arab states say that they may still boycott Disney depending on what the exhibit actually shows when it opens. Israeli PM Barak denounces the Arab lobbying, sends his own delegation to meet with Disney officials. (MM 9/17; WP, WT 9/18; MENA 9/20 in WNC 9/23; HJ 9/20, MENA 9/21 in WNC 9/24; MM, WT 9/21; MM, WJW 9/23; CSN, MM 9/24; MM 9/27)

18 SEPTEMBER


19 SEPTEMBER

Syrian security forces controlled by Pres. Asad's son Bashar begin an arrest campaign against supporters of Asad's brother Rifat. (MM 9/22; GIU 9/28) (see 8/20)

20 SEPTEMBER

UN General Assembly (UNGA) opens its annual session in New York. UN Secy. Gen. Kofi Annan names Terje Larsen of Norway as UN special coordinator for the Middle East peace effort and as his personal envoy to the PLO/PA; Israel protests. (MM, WT 9/21; MENA, YA 9/21 in WNC 9/24; MM, WP 9/22) (see Peace Monitor)

On the sidelines of the UNGA mtg., Secy. of State Albright meets with a delegation of 16 Iraqi opposition leaders who are in New York to lobby for support of their efforts to overthrow Iraqi pres. Saddam Hussein. Albright urges other UN delegates to "join us in listening to these brave, free
voices of Iraq." Of the 16, 13 are mbrs. of the 
IrAi National Congress (INC), 3 represent 
Kurdish groups. (MM 9/21, 9/24, 10/4)

Israel announces approval of some 14 
military orders to seal off large areas of agri-
cultural land belonging to some 79 Palestin-
ian villages in the West Bank. (LAW 9/30; 
MEI 10/15; AYM 10/21 in WNC 10/25)

21 SEPTEMBER

PM Barak arrives in Berlin for talks with 
German chancellor Gerhard Schroeder. 
Barak is on the 1st leg of a tour of Germany 
and France to discuss Israel's position on fi-
nal status negotiations. Israel hopes that the 
EU nations, which provide the PA with 
much of its donor assistance, will press the 
PA to accept Israel's positions. (MM 9/21; 
Bild 9/21 in WNC 9/24; NYT, WT 9/22; NYT 
9/23; WJW 9/30)

In s. Lebanon, 2 SLA mbrs. are killed by 
Amal sniper fire. Most attacks on the IDF, 
SLA in s. Lebanon are by mortars or antitank 
missiles; sniper fire is rare and may mark a 
tactical shift. (RL 9/21 in WNC 9/24; MA 9/22 
in WNC 9/25)

22 SEPTEMBER

In Paris, PM Barak discusses with Pres. 
Chirac the role of France, the EU in re-
starting the peace process. Chirac stresses 
that he has conveyed no messages btwn. 
Barak and Syrian pres. Asad, whose FM was 
in Paris on 9/18. (MM 9/22; AFP, France-Info 
Radio, LCI Television 9/22 in WNC 9/25; MM, 
NYT 9/23; MA 9/23 in WNC 9/26)

On the sidelines of the UNGA mtg. in 
New York, Secy. of State Albright holds a 
breakfast mtg. with Egyptian FM 'Amr- 
Musa to discuss the peace process, Iraq, bi-
lateral ties; urges Egypt to take the lead in 
resuming multilateral talks now that Wye 
II has been signed and final status talks for-
mally resumed. Egypt has not decided 
whether the time is right for multilateral 
working groups to restart mtgs. (MM 9/22; 
MENA 9/22 in WNC 9/25; MM, WT 9/23; MEI 
10/1)

Later in the day, Albright meets with Syr-
lian FM Shara' to discuss resuming Israeli-
Syrian negotiations. (MM 9/22; MENA 9/22 in 
WNC 9/25; MM, WT 9/23; MM 9/24; RMC 
9/25 in WNC 9/27; MEI 10/1)

This evening, Albright hosts a reception 
for Israeli FM Levy. 12 Arab, several EU 
reps. attend. Lebanese PM Huss, Syrian FM 
Shara' stay away. The U.S. and Russian 
cohorts urge attendees to resume multilat-
eral talks regardless of the degree of pro-
gress in other negotiations. (MM 9/22; MENA 
9/22 in WNC 9/25; MM, WT 9/23; MM 9/28; 
WJW 9/30; MEI 10/1, 10/29) (see Peace 
Monitor)

Jordan arrests 3 Hamas leaders (Abu 
Marzuq, Ghaswagen, Mishal), 4 bodyguards 
on their return to Amman fr. Iran, charging 
them with membership in an illegal organi-
zation and possession of handguns. Abu 
Marzuq, a Yemeni-passport holder, is de-
ported to the UAE, his point of departure for Jordan. (MM 9/22; AFP 9/22 in WNC 9/25; 
MM, NYT, WP 9/23; AFP, RMC 9/23 in WNC 
9/26; CSM, MM 9/24; WT 9/26; MM 9/27; 
WJW 9/30; JP, MEI 10/1; NYT, WP 10/7; MEI 
10/15) (see 9/13)

In s. Lebanon, a Lebanese soldier is 
killed, 6 are wounded by IDF shelling. (WP 
9/23; RL 9/23 in WNC 9/26; WP 9/24)

23 SEPTEMBER

Arafat addresses the UNGA, then goes to 
Washington to meet with Pres. Clinton on 
final status negotiations. (MM 9/23; NYT 
9/24; AYM 9/25 in WNC 9/30; JT 9/26 in 
WNC 9/27; WJW 9/30; JP 10/1)

Also in Washington, the U.S.-Palestinian 
Bilateral Comm. meets. (AYM 9/25 in WNC 
9/30) (see Peace Monitor)

In Paris, PM Barak, French PM Lionel 
Jospin hold talks on the peace process, 
Israel's economic ties with the EU. Barak 
says that he still plans to pull the IDF out of 
S. Lebanon by 7/00. Barak returns to Israel 
today, but 1 mbr. of his delegation, Chief of 
Staff Yatom, stays on in Europe on an undis-
closed mission thought to be linked to nego-
tiations with Syria. (MM 9/23)

At the close of 3 days of Central Comm. 
talks in Damascus, the DFLP says that it 
would join final status negotiations with 
Israel on condition that the political frame-
work for talks is clearly defined, that talks 
take place in line with international law and 
Palestinian demands; calls on Arafat to con-
vene a mtg. of all PLO factions to discuss the 
minimum demands a Palestinian team would 
accept. (AFP 9/23 in WNC 9/26; AYM 9/23 in 
WNC 9/27)

Israel begins construction of a new 
neighborhood of 52 units in Ben Yehuda 
settlement on the Golan Heights, bringing 
the total number of new units under con-
struction there to around 700. (MM 9/22, 
9/23, 9/27; WJW 9/30)

Hizbullah fires rockets at IDF targets in 
s. Lebanon in response to IDF shelling that
killed a Lebanese army soldier on 9/22. No injuries are reported. PM Barak warns Syria that Hizballah attacks could jeopardize the resumption of Israeli-Syrian negotiations. (WP 9/24; GIU 10/7)

24 SEPTEMBER

In Amman, 3,000 Palestinians stage a sit-in demonstration to show their support for Hamas in the face of the Jordanian government’s crackdown. (WJW 9/30) (see 9/22)

Reports indicate that the Syrian government may have arrested as many as 1,000 supporters of Rifaat al-Assad in Damascus, Latakia since the crackdown began on 9/19. Other reports say the number is lower, but that “scores” have been arrested and “scores” of homes have been surrounded in the operation. (MM 9/24; QA 9/24, YA 9/26 in WNC 9/27; MM 10/4)

25 SEPTEMBER

In Paris, Arafat, French pres. Chirac discuss the peace process. Later in the day, Chirac meets with fmr. Lebanese PM Rafiq Hariri. (AFP 9/25 in WNC 9/27)

26 SEPTEMBER

Egyptian FM Musa says that Egypt is of the opinion that the resumption of multilateral talks should be conditioned on Israel’s resumption of bilateral negotiations with Syria, Lebanon, and the PA. (MENA 9/26 in WNC 9/27) (see 9/22)

In reaction to recent attacks by Israeli Arabs (i.e., 9/5), Israel says that it will intensify scrutiny of publications, organizations, individuals, funding linked to the Islamic Movement and increase involvement in the appointment of imams. Some Israeli security authorities criticize the government proposal as “far too weak,” recommend extensive clampdown. (MM 9/27; WP 9/29; WJW 9/30; HA 10/1; JP 10/8)

27 SEPTEMBER

In New York, Israeli FM Levy briefs Secy. of State Albright on the difficulties Israel envisions in meeting Barak’s ambitious timetable for the peace process. Apparently in response to Egyptian FM Musa’s statement (9/26) on resumption of multilateral talks, Levy says that Israel rejects efforts to link “wider Middle East peace” to resumption of talks with Syria. (MM 9/28, 9/29; WJW 9/30)

Israeli Housing Min. reports that in the 1st 3 mos. of Barak’s government, it has authorized construction of 2,600 new housing units in West Bank settlements, mostly nr. Jerusalem. Under fmr. PM Netanyahu, the ministry approved an average of 3,000 new units a yr. (MM 9/27; NYT 9/28; AYM 9/30, MENA 10/3 in WNC 10/4; MEI 10/1)

In s. Lebanon, Hizballah detonates a roadside bomb, killing a top SLA official, wounding another SLA mbr. In a separate Hizballah attack on an SLA post, 5 SLA mbrs., 1 IDF soldier, 1 Hizballah mbr., 1 civilian are injured. The IDF stages 15 air raids against Nabatiyya, Iqlim al-Tuffah during the day. (RL 9/27 in WNC 9/28; WP 9/28; VOL 9/28 in WNC 9/30)

28 SEPTEMBER

Reps. of 13 West Bank Palestinian refugee camps reject the PA’s order to surrender illegal weapons. The PA has reportedly arrested at least 17 residents of Balata camp for refusing to turn in their arms. (NYT 9/29; JP 10/8)

In Amman, Fatah, PFLP hold mtg. to discuss final status negotiations, democratic reform of the PLO. They do not reach an agmt. on participation in talks with Israel, but issue final statement urging all PLO factions to take part in an upcoming PLO Central Council session to discuss organizational matters, “coming political challenges.” (DUS, JT 9/29 in WNC 9/30; AYM 10/4 in WNC 10/8; AYM 10/28 in WNC 11/2) (see 9/23)

PA police in Ramallah, Gaza arrest 4 Palestinian journalists for writing stories “harmful to the PA.” (AFP 9/29 in WNC 9/30; LAW 9/30; JP 10/8)

Jordanian police detain fmr. MP ‘Abd al-Munim Abu Zant, a Muslim Brotherhood mbr., for questioning regarding a Friday sermon and 2 articles in alArab al-Yaum in which he condemned the government crackdown on Hamas. He is the 2d fmr. parliamentarian in a wk. to be arrested for a pro-Hamas sermon. (MM 9/30; MEI 10/15)

29 SEPTEMBER

At the invitation of the White House, Syrian FM Shara’ takes time out fr. the UNGA session in New York to meet with Pres. Clinton in Washington. Shara’ then returns to New York to meet with Albright. (MM 9/30; JT 10/2 in WNC 10/4; JP, MEI 10/15; JP 10/22) (see Peace Monitor)
In his address to the UNGA, Israeli FM Levy says that UN intervention in the peace process would be detrimental, that Syria should restart talks quickly. Nasser al-Kidwa, head of the PLO mission to the UN, walks out during Levy's speech. (MENA 9/29 in WNC 9/30; MM, WJW 9/30; JP 10/8; MEI 10/29)

Jordanian police release fmr. MP Abu Zant on bail, but arrest Azzam Yunis, editor of al-'Arab al-Ya'am, on incitement charges for publishing Abu Zant's articles. Later in the day, police rearrest Abu Zant. (MM, NYT 9/30; JT 9/30 in WNC 10/3; JT 10/3 in WNC 10/4; JP 10/8; MEI 10/15) (see 9/28)

Israeli amb. to the U.S. Zalman Shoval addresses opening of Israeli exhibit at Disney World; praises Disney for not bending to Arab, Muslim demands to remove Israel's Jerusalem display. The content of the exhibit is unchanged, though the title is no longer Jerusalem, Capital of Israel. (CSM, WJW, WT 9/30, 10/1; NYT 10/2; MENA 10/2 in WNC 10/4; al-Shraq al-Awsat 10/4 in WNC 10/8; MM 10/6; WJW 10/7; JP 10/8; CSM 10/20) (see 9/17)

Hizballah detonates a roadside bomb in s. Lebanon, killing 3 PLA mbrs., wounding 2. (RL 9/29 in WNC 9/30)

30 SEPTEMBER

In Tel Aviv, the U.S.-Israeli Defense Police Advisory Group holds its 1st mtg. on bolstering bilateral defense cooperation. (JP 10/8) (see Peace Monitor)

PA police release 3 Palestinian journalists after detaining them for 24 hrs. of questioning regarding articles critical of the PA that they published in the London daily al-Shraq al-Awsat. (WP 10/2) (see 9/28)

PFLP official Mustafa returns to the West Bank after a 32-yr. exile. (HA 10/1; JP, MM 10/8; AYM 10/21 in WNC 10/25) (see 9/10)

Jordan releases al-'Arab al-Ya'am editor Yunis, fmr. MP Abu Zant. (JT 10/3 in WNC 10/4; MEI 10/15) (see 9/29)

1 OCTOBER

Jordanian police rearrest fmr. MP Abu Zant for 3d time in a wk., again charging him with incitement for criticizing the government crackdown on Hamas. (JT 10/3 in WNC 10/4; MEI 10/15)

2 OCTOBER

Israel, the PA delay opening s. safe-passage route linking the West Bank, Gaza after failing to reach an agmt. on security procedures; plan to resume talks on 10/4. Under the Wye II agmt., Israel, the PA were to have concluded a protocol on safe passage by 9/30, opened the route by 10/1. Israel demands that it retain sovereignty over the 28-mile route, which will utilize existing Israeli roads; that it have sole control over which Palestinians use the road; that it be able to arrest Palestinians on the road, escort busses. (AFP 10/2 in WNC 10/4; WT 10/3; AYM 10/3 in WNC 10/5; NYT, WP 10/4; JP 10/8; MEI 10/15)

3 OCTOBER

PA, Israel continue safe-passage talks in Jerusalem. Both sides upgrade their delegations: Internal Security M Shlomo Ben-Ami for the Israeli, chief negotiator Erakat for the PA. The main disagreement is over which side will issue entry permits. (MM 10/4; AFP 10/4 in WNC 10/5)

Barak officially opens new archaeological ruins nr. Temple Mount in Jerusalem, vows the city will remain under Israeli sovereignty. (MM 10/3)

4 OCTOBER

Israel, PA reach agmt. on safe-passage route fr. Tarqumiyya in the West Bank to Erez crossing in Gaza, which could open in days. Signing is set for 10/5. (MM 10/4; AFP 10/4 in WNC 10/5; MM, NYT, WP, WT 10/5; AFP 10/5, QA 10/6 in WNC 10/8; CSM, NYT, WP 10/6; WJW 10/7; DUS 10/7 in WNC 10/11; JP, MEI 10/15) (see Peace Monitor)

Syrian FM Shara', who has been in charge of Syria's foreign policy throughout the peace process, is admitted to a Beirut hospital for emergency heart surgery. (AFP, RL 10/4 in WNC 10/5; MM 10/5)

PSF releases talk show host Disouqi, who was arrested 9/15. Disouqi announces on his program that he was tortured during questioning by PA police, names his interrogators on the air, dares them to arrest him again. (LAW 10/4; NYT 10/14; WP 10/15)

A Palestinian prisoner dies soon after being transferred to the hospital fr. the PA's Hebron jail. His family accuses the PA police of torturing him during his 2 days of detention. (LAW 10/5)

Iraq's Dep. FM Tariq Aziz meets with Jordanian FM Rawabida in Amman, gives him a message (verbal by most accounts, written by some) to deliver to the U.S. No details of the message are released, but reports speculate that Iraq wants to open a di-
5 OCTOBER

Israel says that it is considering legalizing casinos in the Negev in light of the success of the Palestinian casino in Jericho and the Egyptian casino in Taba, which cater primarily to Israelis, who spend millions of dollars there every mo. (NYT 10/6; MM 10/7; WJW 10/14; JP 10/15)

Israeli, PA trade Ms preside over the inauguration of an industrial estate in Jinin, on land recently transferred fr. area C to area B. Companies should begin operating in the zone in the nr. future. (HJ 10/5 in WNC 10/11)

In Tehran, Iranian, Saudi Arabian officials hold talks on expanding bilateral investment. (WT 10/6)

IDF says that since 6/99, it has scaled back deployment of ground troops in s. Lebanon and increased airstrikes in order to reduce its casualties. Today, Israel conducts 6 strikes on Hizbollah targets, destroying 1 Lebanese home, injuring 1 civilian. (RL, YA 10/5 in WNC 10/8; MM, NYT 10/8; MEI 10/15) (see 9/21)

6 OCTOBER

PA Planning M Nabil Shaath receives Jordanian FM Abdallah Khatib for talks on the peace process, briefs him on Arafat's recent visit to Washington. The 2 men also discuss holding 3-way (Egypt, Jordan, PA) and 4-way (including Israel) ministerial mtgs. on displaced persons. (DUS 10/7 in WNC 10/11)

Israel's Education M Yossi Sarid urges Israeli teachers to mark the anniversary of the 1996 Kafr Qasim massacre in their classrooms for the 1st time this yr.; says Israel owes it to its Palestinian citizens to commemorate the incident in which the IDF shot dead 47 Israeli Arabs (including 15 women, 11 children) as they returned to the village of Kafr Qasim, unaware of a military curfew that barred movement after dark. (NYT, WT 10/7; MM 10/12; WJW 10/14)

Saying that the incident had nothing to do with Iran, Iranian pres. Khatami rejects a request fr. Pres. Clinton for help in investigating the 1996 Khobar barracks bombing in Saudi Arabia in which 19 U.S. soldiers were killed. Clinton secretly sent a letter to Khatami in late 8/99 asking for assistance. (WP 10/7; see also MM 9/10)

Jordan's State Security Court issues new charges against detained Hamas political chief Mishal, spokesman Ghawshah, 2 of which can carry the death penalty. (MM 10/7, 10/8; MEI 10/15) (see Peace Monitor)

In s. Lebanon, 2 civilians are wounded by IDF shelling. (RL 10/6 in WNC 10/8)

7 OCTOBER

Israel presents list of 151 names for the 2d stage of the prisoner release outlined in Wye II, but the PA rejects it. Israel postpones the release, saying that the choice of prisoners is its alone. (MM 10/7; MM, WP, WT 10/8; MM 10/11; JP, MEI 10/15) (see 9/9)

French FM Hubert Vedrine, in Israel to follow up on PM Barak's 9/22 visit to France, holds talks with Barak, FM Levy on expanding bilateral relations. Barak asks France to support Israel's bid for membership in the European group at the UN. (AFP 10/7 in WNC 10/11; AFP 10/8 in WNC 10/13)

8 OCTOBER

King Abdullah of Jordan arrives in the U.S. on a semi-official visit. (MEI 10/15)

9 OCTOBER

Israeli settlers attack a Jordanian parliamentary delegation visiting the PA-controlled sector of Hebron. An IDF detachment guarding the Tomb of the Patriarchs reportedly observes the incident but does not intervene. (MM 10/13; MEI, NYT 10/15; SA 10/15 in WNC 10/18; JP 10/29) (see Peace Monitor)

An explosion in an apartment building in Nablus kills a Palestinian man with ties to Islamic Jihad. Police suspect he was in the process of building a bomb. (WP 10/10)

10 OCTOBER

Israel, PA discuss prisoner release dispute. (WT 10/11)

Israeli cabinet comm. gives PM Barak authority to close 42 Jewish enclaves that have been established since the 10/98 Wye agmt. (MM, WP, WT 10/11; al-Quds 10/12 in WNC 10/15)

11 OCTOBER

In Luxembourg, Israeli FM Levy meets with EU FMs to discuss "reinvigorating" Is-
ra-EE relations. (EU press release 10/11; MEI 10/15)

A day after his cabinet gives him permission to remove 42 settlements constructed since Wye, PM Barak approves Housing Min. tenders for new housing units in West Bank settlements. (NYT 10/12; CSM, WJW 10/14) (see 9/27)

Lacking sufficient evidence to prove his complicity in the 1996 Khobar barracks bombing, the U.S. deports suspect Hani 'Abd al-Rahim Sayigh to Saudi Arabia, which is expected to try and execute him for the crime. The U.S. does not have an extradition treaty with Saudi Arabia, which did not want Sayigh back. The U.S. Justice Dept. refused Sayigh's request that he be granted asylum since he would probably be executed if extradited. (NYT, WP, WT 10/12; MM 10/13) (see 10/6)

12 OCTOBER

In Washington, King Abdallah, Pres. Clinton hold talks on the peace process, bilateral economic ties. Previously, Abdallah said he would bring with him a message for Clinton fr. Iraqi pres. Saddam Hussein (see 10/4); the U.S. says Abdallah brought no message, though one might exist. Some reports maintain that U.S. officials told Jordan that Abdallah should not pass the message to Clinton, since the U.S. was not interested in a dialogue with Iraq. (WP 10/13; DUS 10/13 in WNC 10/15; MEI 10/15; AYM 10/18 in WNC 10/19; WT 10/20; SA 10/20 in WNC 10/21)

Barak orders 15 of the 42 unauthorized settlements constructed after the Wye accord to be dismantled; allows 11 others to stay; says other 16 may remain for now, but new building is forbidden. (MM, NYT, WP, WT 10/13; JT, MENA 10/13 in WNC 10/15; CSM 10/14; AYM, al-Quds 10/14 in WNC 10/18; JP 10/22) (see 10/10)

Israel says it will let DFLP head Hata-timah into the occupied territories now that he has expressed support for the peace process. (WP 10/13; MEI 10/29)

The Israeli High Court rules that Muhammad Abbas, head of the Palestine Liberation Front, is immune from trial in Israel for the 1985 Achille Lauro hijacking during which hijackers shot dead U.S. citizen Leon Klinghoffer. (WP 10/13)

In Ramallah, Palestinian nationalist and Islamist organizations (including ALF, DFLP, Fatah, FIDA, Hamas, the Palestine Liberation Front, PFLP, PPP, PPSF) hold unity talks aimed at drawing up a list of principles for resolving the Palestinian-Israeli conflict. Participants call on Arafat to approve the Palestinian Council's (PC) law on the independence of the judiciary, release political detainees fr. PA prisons. (al-Quds 10/14 in WNC 10/18)

13 OCTOBER

Israel, PA agree on revised list of 151 prisoners to be freed in the 2d stage of the prisoner release outlined in Wye II, which is now set for 10/15. (NYT, WP 10/14; MEI 10/15)

After a day of talks with settlement leaders who threaten to stage a showdown over his plans to evacuate 15 unauthorized settlements, PM Barak says he does not agree to evacuate residents fr. 3 of the 15 encampments, preserves a school at a 4th, allows livestock to remain at a 5th. Settlers may move mobile homes fr. 10 other enclosures to nearby settlements. In return, settlers will willingly vacate the 10 enclosures. (MM, WP 10/14; AYM 10/15 in WNC 10/18; MM, NYT 10/15; al-Quds 10/15 in WNC 10/20; LAW 10/18; WP 10/19; AYM 10/25 in WNC 10/28; MEI 10/29) (see 10/12)

14 OCTOBER

Donor's Ad Hoc Liaison Comm. opens 2-day mtg. in Tokyo. (JT 10/16 in WNC 10/18; JP 10/22; AYM 10/25 in WNC 10/27) (see Peace Monitor)

Syrian FM Shara' leaves the hospital after successful heart surgery. (al-Safrir 10/15 in WNC 10/18; MM 10/18)

Israeli Knesset speaker Avraham Burg sends letter to his Jordanian counterpart, 'Abd al-Hadi Majali, apologizing for the 10/9 incident in Hebron in which Jordanian lawmakers were harassed by settlers. (JP 10/22)

Israel, Greece sign a memorandum of understanding on defense cooperation and arms production, which in effect revives a 1994 Greek-Israeli defense pact that was never implemented. (Ta Nea [Athens] 10/14, Athens News 10/15 in WNC 10/18; JP 10/22) (see Peace Monitor)

In Amman, 100s of Hamas supporters participate in march, organized by the Muslim Brotherhood, calling for Jordan to release jailed Hamas mbrs. (NYT 10/15)

15 OCTOBER

PM Barak's office says that despite a 2/00 deadline, Israel will not begin final status talks until Barak decides on Israel's strat-
egy, names a negotiating team. According to his spokeswoman, Barak is considering using informal mtgs., such as the secret mtg. with Arafat on 9/16, to hammer out a framework agmt. by 2/00. (WT 10/16)


100s of Palestinians in Whidat refugee camp in Amman hold a rally in support of Hamas. (JT 10/16 in WNC 10/18; AYM 10/20 in WNC 10/21)

16 OCTOBER

PA denounces Barak’s decision to allow 32 of 42 “illegal” settlements established after the Wye I signing to remain, stressing that all Israeli settlements are illegal under international law. (WT 10/17) (see 10/13)

After mtg. with Jordanian PM Rawabida in Amman, DFLP leader Hawatmeh announces that Jordan has offered to host reconciliation talks bwn. the DFLP and Fatah, as well as a larger national dialogue among all Palestinian factions. (DUS 10/17, JT 10/18 in WNC 10/19; MEI 10/29)

Hamas’s rep. in Lebanon, Usama Hamdan, says that Hamas has rejected 2 offers fr. the Jordanian government: (1) Mishal and Ghashshah would be released if they agreed to leave the kingdom; (2) they would be deported and allowed to return at a later date. Hamas says Jordan should release the men 1st, discuss its relationship with the movement later. (SA 10/16 in WNC 10/18; DUS 10/18 in WNC 10/19; SA 10/23 in WNC 10/25)

17 OCTOBER

At the weekly cabinet mtg., PM Barak says that although he still has not found a suitable person to lead the final status team, comprehensive staff work has been done to formulate Israel’s position in the political-security sphere and on the subject of economic separation. (MM 10/18; al-Quds 10/19 in WNC 10/20; AYM 10/21 in WNC 10/25; WT 10/23) (see Peace Monitor)

Opening of s. safe-passage route, scheduled for today, is delayed for 2d time, because Israeli, PA officials cannot agree on the location of a joint office in Gaza that would hand out travel permits to Palestini-
tinian territories, s. Lebanon, the Golan Heights. (WP 10/20; PANA [Dakar] 10/20 in WNC 10/21; MM 10/21; WP 10/25; MM 10/26)

Lebanese PM Huss receives a message fr. U.S. Asst. Secy. of State for Political Affairs Thomas Pickering expressing support for Lebanon’s position on the need to implement UN Res. 425, on refusing to delink the Lebanese and Syrian peace tracks. (RL 10/19 in WNC 10/20; SA 10/27 in WNC 10/28)

A small group of ultranationalist settlers prevent mbrs. of the YESHA settlers’ council fr. hauling away the lone shipping container marking Shvut Rachel (also known as Hill 804), one of the enclaves that Barak ordered dismantled. The IDF is present, but does not intervene. After dark, YESHA mbrs. manage to dismantle a water tower, the only structure at the site of a 2d, uninhabited enclave, Hill 827. (MM 10/19; AFP 10/19 in WNC 10/20; WP, WT 10/20; CSM 10/27)

Jordan Press Association expels 3 reporters (fr. al-Dustur, Jordan Times, al-Ra’i), bars them fr. practicing journalism for violating a ban on normalization with Israel. The reporters recently went on a tour of Israel for journalists fr. the Arab world, sponsored by Haifa University. (NYT, WT 10/20; JT 10/20 in WNC 10/21; JT 10/21 in WNC 10/22)

20 OCTOBER


The White House announces Pres. Clinton’s plans to meet Barak, Arafat in Oslo on 11/2 in an effort to promote a final peace settlement. Mtg. will take place on sidelines of a 2d celebration in honor of slain Israeli PM Yitzhak Rabin. (NYT, WP, WT 10/21; AFP 10/21 in WNC 10/22)

Syria announces that it has shut an “illeg- al port” in Latakia built by Rifat al-Asad and taken “legal measures” against Rifat and several army officers. Some sources believe the government story is a cover for a raid on Rifat’s Latakia house, where his supporters have been holed up since the government crackdown against them began last mo. (MM 10/21, 10/22; SA 10/22 in WNC 10/25; Le Monde 10/25 in WNC 10/28; MEI 10/29) (see 9/24)

100s of ultraorthodox settlers set up a makeshift synagogue at Havat Maon, 1 of the “illegal” enclaves ordered dismantled by Barak. (NYT 10/21; WT 11/11)

Israeli police arrest Maj. Naftali Halevi, head of the permits section at Erez crossing. 2 other Israeli Erez employees, 3 Palestinians on charges of taking bribes to issue permits to enter Israel. A senior official in the PA Agriculture Min., who has not been arrested, was allegedly getting a cut of the profits. (AYM 10/26 in WNC 10/28)

Israeli police search fmr. PM Netanyahu, seize 10s of valuables in an attempt to recover government property he allegedly took with him when he left office. (NYT, WP, WT 10/21; MM 10/25) (see 9/15)

In Gaza, FIDA, PFLP officials hold coordina- tion mtg.; agree on need to hold broad national dialogue on final status, combat Israeli settlement expansion and land confiscations, preserve the Arab character of Jerusalem. (AYM 10/21 in WNC 10/25)

21 OCTOBER

Israel police question fmr. PM Netanyahu for 9 hrs. regarding items confiscated fr. his home on 10/20. (NYT, WP, WT 10/22; WT 10/23; MM 10/25)

In Hebron, 16 Palestinians are killed, 20 are injured in a fire at an illegal factory. Most of the dead and injured are women and children. (LAW 10/24; JP, MEI 10/29)

22 OCTOBER

CIA Dir. George Tenet arrives in Israel for a wk. of talks with Israeli, PA political and security officials on prevention of terrorism, the “Iranian threat.” (WT 10/28)

YESHA mbrs. dismantle another uninhab- ited settlement in the West Bank. They had tried to clear it earlier, but were blocked by protesting yeshiva students. 5 of the 12 illegal settlements ordered removed by Barak have been vacated. (NYT 10/23; MEI 10/29)

The London-based al-Sharq al-Awsat re- ports that Sabri al-Banna (Abu Nidal) has asked Egyptian pres. Mubarak to halt a crackdown on his organization. Banna claims Egyptian security services raided and shut his Fatah Revolutionary Council (FRC) office in Cairo on 9/6, confiscating papers, detaining FRC mbrs., and freezing the organization’s assets, which amount to $4 m. Egypt denies the report. (SA 10/22, 10/23 in WNC 10/25; MM 10/22; NYT 10/23) (see 1/26)
23 OCTOBER

In Hebron, 10s of Palestinians demonstrate to demand the resignation of Mayor Mustafa Natshie in connection with the Hebron factory fire that killed 16 on 10/21. The mayor is responsible for licensing companies, monitoring compliance. (JP 10/29)

24 OCTOBER

At the weekly cabinet session, Barak reiterates his belief in the need for physical separation btwn. Israel and the Palestinians. (MM 10/25)

25 OCTOBER

Israel opens the s. safe-passage route linking Gaza, the West Bank. (MM 10/25; NYT, WP, WT 10/26; WJW 10/28; NYT 10/31; JP 11/5) (see Peace Monitor)

In Gaza, British FM Robin Cook meets with Arafat. (LPA 10/25 in WNC 10/26; MM 10/26)

In Ankara to inaugurate a housing complex that Israelis have built for Turkish earthquake survivors, PM Barak pledges to boost military cooperation, economic ties with Turkey; discusses with Pres. Suleyman Demirel possible bilateral military trade, water projects. (MM 10/25; ATL 10/25 in WNC 10/26; ATL 10/25, 10/26 in WNC 10/27; MM, WP 10/26; JP 11/5)

At Rachel's Tomb in Bethlehem, an IDF soldier fatally shoots a Palestinian man. Officially, the IDF says the man came at the soldier with a knife, but a number of Palestinian witnesses claim that the soldier's gun went off accidentally, and, after leading the distraught soldier away, other IDF troops planted the knife. The incident prompts demonstrations by 100s of Palestinians who throw stones, bottles at the troops, who respond by firing rubber bullets and tear gas, injuring 15. (MM, NYT, WP 10/26; MEI 10/29; JP 11/5)

Israel approves Arafat's request to allow DFLP leader Hawatmah to take up residence in the PA self-rule areas. Hawatmah currently lives in Damascus. (MM 10/25; NYT 10/26; AYM 10/28 in WNC 11/2)

The IDF demolishes a Palestinian home in East Jerusalem. (LAW, MM 10/26; MM 10/28)

26 OCTOBER

Barak names Amb. to Jordan Oded Eran to head final status negotiations with the PA. (MM 10/26; NYT 10/27; AYM 10/27 in WNC 10/28; AYM 10/30, 11/1 in WNC 11/3; NYT 10/31; JP 11/5) (see Peace Monitor)

Israel announces that David Ivri, who is now Israel's national security adviser, will replace Zalman Shoval as amb. to the U.S. Washington reportedly asked for Ivri's appointment, just as Barak asked for Indyk to return as U.S. amb. to Israel (see 10/20). (MM, WP, WT 10/27; MM 10/28; JP 11/5)

U.S. special envoy Ross arrives in Israel for talks with Arafat. Barak in advance of the 11/2 Oslo summit. During their meeting in Gaza, Ross, Arafat also discuss Israeli settlement activity, land confiscations, house demolitions. (AYM 10/26 in WNC 10/28; WT 10/27; AYM 10/30, 11/1 in WNC 11/3)

British FM Cook meets with Orient House head Faisal Husseini at the American Colony Hotel in East Jerusalem for talks on Jerusalem's contested identity. Israeli, Palestinian security officials scuffle over who should guard Cook. (MM, NYT, WT 10/27; JP 11/5) (see Peace Monitor)

In Bethlehem, Palestinians, IDF troops clash for 2d day. Although the city is under PA security control, IDF troops are deployed to guard Rachel's Tomb, a Jewish religious site. A total of 30 Palestinians, 2 Israelis have been injured since 10/25. (MM, WP 10/27)

The IDF demolishes 2d Palestinian home in East Jerusalem in a 24-hr. period. (LAW 10/26)

In s. Lebanon, IDF shelling injures 4 civilians, damages 30 homes, an electricity station, and a water network. (RL 10/26 in WNC 10/27; RL 10/28 in WNC 10/29)

On the 5th anniversary of the assassination of its leader Fathi Shiqaki by Mossad, the Palestinian Islamic Jihad, aided by Hizballah, detonates a roadside mine in s. Lebanon, targeting IDF and SLA forces. This is the 1st time Islamic Jihad has staged an attack in Lebanon. No injuries are reported. (NYT 10/28; MEI 11/12)

27 OCTOBER

U.S. special envoy Ross meets with PM Barak in advance of the Oslo mtg. 11/2. (MM 10/29; JP 11/5)

Israeli-Palestinian ad hoc economic comm. meets to discuss economic requirements of the Wye II agmt., adjourns without taking any decisions. (al-Quds 10/29 in WNC 11/2)

In Gaza, the PA-Egypt-Jordanian trilateral comm. on displaced persons meets; calls for convening quadripartite comm. (Egypt, Israel, Jordan, PA) on displaced persons.
Under Wye II, the quadrilateral comm., which has not met since 1997, was to have resumed mtgs. by 10/1. (MENA 10/27; MENA, *al-Quds* 10/27 in WNC 10/28; DUS 10/28 in WNC 11/2)

Iranian pres. Khatami arrives in France for 3 days of talks on improving bilateral relations, meets with Pres. Chirac. (MM, WT 10/27; CSM, NYT, WP 10/28; MM, WP 10/29; WT 11/3; MEI 11/12)

Clashes in Bethlehem btwn. Palestinian demonstrators, IDF continue for 3d day, leaving 12 Palestinians injured. (MM 10/27; NYT, WP 10/28)

A *Lebanese military court* issues a death sentence in absentia against Sultan Abu al-Aynayn, a senior Fatah official who has lived in Lebanon for yrs., for heading a subversive armed group. (APF 10/27 in WNC 10/28; RL 10/28 in WNC 10/29; APF 10/28, RL 10/29, 10/31 in WNC 11/2; WT 10/29; AYM 10/30 in WNC 11/3)

The Clinton administration authorizes the 1st direct military training for *Iraqi opposition* forces, which will begin next wk. (NYT 10/28; WT 10/29)

**28 OCTOBER**

Israel-Pa ad hoc economic comm. resumes mtgs., but PA delegation walks out to protest Israel's threat to not turn over tax money collected on the PA's behalf until the PA halts all thefts of Israeli cars by Palestinians who sneak into Israel and take cars back to the territories. (*al-Quds* 10/29 in WNC 11/2)

PLO constitution comm. opens 2 days of mtgs. in Gaza. (AYM 10/29 in WNC 11/4) (see Peace Monitor)

*Mauritanian, Israel* sign agmt. to upgrade their exchange of trade reps. and ambs. (MM 10/28; WP, WT 10/29; *al-Quds* 10/30 in WNC 11/2; AYM 10/30 in WNC 11/4; WJW 11/4; JP 11/5; *al-Quds* 11/7 in WNC 11/8; MEI 11/12) (see Peace Monitor)

**29 OCTOBER**

Heads of the *Israelis*, PA final status teams hold their 1st mtg. since the 9/13 official ceremony reopening talks, set 11/7 as the start date for permanent status negotiations. (APF 10/29 in WNC 11/2; WP 10/30; NYT 10/31; AYM 11/1 in WNC 11/3)

PM Barak reinstates a ban, lifted 4 days ago, on DFLP leader Hawai'tmah’s return to the occupied territories after he voices support for armed struggle against Israeli occupation. (MM, NYT, WP, WT 10/30; AYM 10/31, 11/2 in WNC 11/4; MM 11/2; JP 11/5)


In Irbid, *Jordanians* emerging fr. Friday prayers gather to express solidarity with *Hamas* mbrs. detained by the government. (DUS 10/30 in WNC 11/2)

In New York, the USC opens 4-day assembly mtg., funded with $3 m. fr. *Congress*, to elect a new leadership to serve as a credible alternative to the Saddam Hussein regime. The mtg. opens with an address by U.S. Amb. at Large for War Crimes Issues *David Scheffer*, will close 11/1 with a speech by Asst. Secy. of State *Pickering*. (NYT 11/1; WP, WT 11/2)

**30 OCTOBER**

U.S. Asst. Secy. of State *Indyk* arrives in Cairo to discuss the peace process with Egyptian FM *Musa*. (MENA 10/30 in WNC 11/2)

Mr. Tarquimiyya, in an Israeli-controlled section of the West Bank, unidentified assailants open fire on a bus, injuring 5 *Israelis* dr. Kiryat Arba settlement. (NYT, WT 10/31; JP 11/5)

**31 OCTOBER**

Israel opens Shuhada Street in Hebron to Palestinian taxis. According to Wye II, the route should have been opened to all traffic by 10/30. (WP 11/1) (see Peace Monitor)

**1 NOVEMBER**


In Oslo, Israeli negotiator *Eran*, PA negotiator *Abid Rabbuh*, UN special envoy *Larsen* discuss final status talks, agree that 1st negotiating session to draft framework agmt.
will be held on 11/8, not 11/7 as planned on 10/29. (MM 11/1)

2 of 4 Jewish settler families are evacuated fr. Mitzpe Hagit, 1 of 10 settlements ordered removed by Barak. (WP 11/3)

In a compromise agmt. btwn. Israel's Chief Rabbinate (an umbrella group of municipal rabbis) and Israel's tourism industry, Christians celebrating millennial holidays in Israel will have to confine their festivities to closed-off hotel halls to preserve the Jewish character of public places, particularly in Jerusalem, Tel Aviv. The ban includes displaying Christmas trees, which the Chief Rabbinate claims “defile Judaism and undermine Israel's Jewish character.” (WT 11/3)

At the close of 4 days of mtgs. in New York, 300 INC delegates elect a 65-mbr. central council, 7-mbr. leadership team (including "independents," Kursd, an Islamist, and a monarchist). (MM 11/1; MM, NYT, WP, WT 11/2)

In s. Lebanon, 4 civilians are injured, 2 by IDF shelling, 2 by an IDF land mine. (RL 11/1 in WNC 11/2, 11/3)

2 NOVEMBER

In Oslo, Pres. Clinton meets with Arafat, Barak together to nudge them to move forward with talks on a framework agmt. on final status. Barak, Arafat pledge to meet regularly before the 2/00 deadline; Clinton says he will send special envoy Ross to the region every couple of wks., Secy. of State Albright at least once before 2/00. (MM 11/2; CSM, MM, NYT, WP, WT 11/3; JT, Le Monde 11/3 in WNC 11/4; WJW 11/4; DUS 11/4 in WNC 11/5; al-Quds 11/4 in WNC 11/8; MEI 11/12) (see Peace Monitor)

In Damascus, PLO political dept. head Faruq al-Qaddumi meets heads of the DFLP, PFLP for talks on final status negotiations. (WT 11/3; al-Quds 11/7 in WNC 11/9)

The Jordan Bar Association threatens to expel 2 of its mbrs. unless they drop their defense of 3 Jordanians accused of illegally selling Palestinian land to Israelis. (JT 11/3, 11/4 in WNC 11/5) (see 10/17)

3 NOVEMBER

Jordan Press Association reverses its 10/19 decision to expel 3 journalists for having visited Israel. (JT 11/3 in WNC 11/4; NYT 11/4; MEI 11/12)

Israeli Roman Catholic, Orthodox Christian leaders say they will close their churches in Israel 11/22-23 to protest the government's approval of plans to construct a mosque nr. the Church of the Annunciation in Nazareth. They will keep churches in PA-controlled areas open, because "the Palestinians have proved that they are better at protecting minority rights." (NYT 11/4; WT 11/6)

4 NOVEMBER

Barak signs the map for the 2d stage of the Wye II reddeployment, which is set for 11/15. Israel is set to transfer 3% fr. area C to area B; 2% fr. area B to area A. (MM 11/4, 11/5) (see Peace Monitor)

Barak says that by 11/5 settlers must dismantle all 10 settlements that he ordered removed on 10/13 or the IDF will do the job. (MM 11/4, 11/5)

After strong protests from the U.S., Israel halts broadcasts on its Amos-1 satellite of Yugoslavian pres. Slobodan Milosevic's government television channel. (BETA [Belgrade] 11/4 in WNC 11/5; WP, WT 11/5)

5 NOVEMBER

In Paris, Egyptian pres. Mubarak discusses the peace process with French pres. Chirac. Mubarak has been in France since 11/1 for medical checkups. (AFP 11/5 in WNC 11/8)

6 NOVEMBER

PM Barak extends until 11/9 the deadline for settlers to voluntarily evacuate all 10 enclaves ordered removed on 10/13, or face ejection by the IDF. The enclaves were to have been dismantled by 11/5, but some were not. (WP 11/7; MM 11/8)

Arafat chairs the 1st mtg. of the Fatah Emergency Comm., established to review the organizations daily operations in the occupied territories. (al-Quds 11/8 in WNC 11/10)

In Cairo, Egyptian, Iranian officials discuss expanding bilateral economic cooperation, boosting bilateral trade, possibly opening direct flights btwn. Cairo and Tehran. (MENA 11/6 in WNC 11/8)

7 NOVEMBER

A day before PA-Israeli final status negotiations are to begin, 3 pipe bombs explode in Netanya, Israel, slightly injuring 27 people, including a number treated for shock; a 4th pipe bomb is dismantled. Israeli police arrest and later release 2 Palestinians on suspicion of planting the devices; no group claims responsibility for the act. Israeli au-
thorities think the crude bombs mark the work of individual Arabs, not Hamas or Islamic Jihad. PM Barak, PA negotiator ‘Abid Rabbuh condemns the bombing but says talks will not be delayed. (MM, NYT, WP, WT 11/8; WP 11/9; WT 11/12; MEI 11/12)

PM Barak tells his cabinet that UN Res. 242 is not applicable to the West Bank, Gaza on the grounds that the res. deals with sovereign states and not organizations. (AFP 11/8 in WNC 11/9; al-Quds 11/9 in WNC 11/12; MEI 11/12 (see Peace Monitor)

In Paris on his 1st high-level official visit, 
Syrian heir apparent Bashar al-Asad
meets with Pres. Chirac, discusses resuming Israeli-Syrian talks. (AFP 11/7 in WNC 11/8; MM, WT 11/8; SA 11/10 in WNC 11/12; MM 11/11; MEI 11/12)

8 NOVEMBER

In Ramallah, PA, Israeli; teams start talks on a framework agmt. on final status. Mtgs. focus on procedures for future talks, which will be held 2–3 times per wk., alternating b/wn. Jerusalem, Ramallah. (MM 11/8; AFP 11/8 in WNC 11/9; al-Quds 11/8, 11/9 in WNC 11/10; MM, NYT, WP, WT 11/9; ITAR-TASS 11/10 in WNC 11/12; MEI 11/12) (see Peace Monitor)


Jordan arrests leading Hamas activist ‘Abd al-Aziz Umary (also known as Izzat Rushuq), the 22d Hamas mbzr. to be detained since the government crackdown began in 8/99; 2 other individuals are arrested, released on $5,000 bail each for “harboring” Umary. Hamas considers the arrest an escalation of hostilities. (MM, WP, WT 11/10; JT 11/10 in WNC 11/12; NYT 11/11; DUS 11/12 in WNC 11/15)

9 NOVEMBER

Barak, Arafat hold generally positive mtg. on the sidelines of the Socialist International congress in Paris, but Barak sparks controversy afterward by saying that Israel no longer sees UN Res. 242, one of the bases of the Oslo process, as fully applicable to the West Bank and Gaza Strip. In his speech to the congress, Barak says that while Israel wants political separation fr. the Palestinian areas, “economic cooperation between us must and will continue”; calls on Syrian pres. Asad to resume bilateral negotiations. (MM 11/9; AFP 11/9 in WNC 11/10; AYM 11/9 in WNC 11/12; MM, WT 11/10; MEI 11/12)

In Paris, Egyptian pres. Mubarak holds talks on the peace process with Israeli PM Barak, condemns the PM’s position on UN Res. 242. (MENA 11/9 in WNC 11/10; AFP 11/11 in WNC 11/12)

With the passage of the 2d deadline for the voluntary evacuation of 10 West Bank settlement enclaves, Israel announces that the IDF will forcibly evacuate the remaining occupied outpost, Havat Maon. Over the past few days, some 300 ultranationalist settlers have joined the 4 families originally encamped at the site, hoping to make it impossible for the government to remove the settlement. Barak cuts his trip to Paris short to return home to deal with the evacuation. (MM 11/9; NYT, WP 11/10; al-Quds 11/10 in WNC 11/12)

10 NOVEMBER

Israeli cabinet approves plan for 2d stage of Wye II FRD. (MM, NYT 11/11) (see Peace Monitor)

In Beirut, Syrian heir apparent Bashar al-Asad, Lebanese pres. Lahoud reaffirm the unity of the Syrian and Lebanese tracks of the peace process, discuss resuming ties with Israel. (MM 11/11; RL 11/11 in WNC 11/12)

Before dawn, the IDF moves into Havat Maon, forcibly evicts settlers fr. the enclave. (MM 11/10; MM, NYT, WT 11/11; CSM, MM 11/12; WTJW 11/18)

First Lady Hillary Clinton arrives in Israel on a 2d day visit intended to boost her chances of winning a Senate seat in New York. (NYT, WP 11/12)

In s. Lebanon, an SLA soldier is wounded in a clash with Amal. (RL 11/10 in WNC 11/12)

11 NOVEMBER

Israeli negotiators present Arafat with the map for the 11/15 FRD, but Arafat refuses to sign it, saying some areas are too thinly inhabited, areas do not link existing islands of PA control. (AFP 11/12 in WNC 11/15; WP 11/13)

In Ramallah, Eran, ‘Abid Rabbuh resume final status meetings, continue work on drafting an agenda for talks. (MM, NYT 11/11)

French FM Vedrine arrives in Damascus to follow up with Pres. Asad on Bashar al-Asad’s 11/7 mtg. with Chirac regarding Is-
raeli-Syrian negotiations. (AFP 11/11 in WNC 11/12; MM 11/12; RFI 11/12 in WNC 11/15)

First Lady Hillary Clinton visits Ramallah briefly to attend a grant-giving ceremony hosted by Suha Arafat, who gives a speech condemning Israel's occupation of the West Bank for causing ecological and health disasters. Israeli and American Jews condemn Clinton for failing to denounce Arafat's statements supporting establishment of an independent Palestinian state. (MM 11/12; NYT, WP, WT 11/12; NYT, WP, WT 11/13)

12 NOVEMBER

Israel's Internal Security M Ben-Ami meets with Arafat to discuss differences over the map for the 2d stage of the Wye II FRD. No agmt. is reached. (MM 11/12; WP 11/13)

In Beirut, French FM Vedrine discusses the peace process, Palestinian refugees, possible unilateral Israeli withdrawal fr. s. Lebanon with Lebanese pres. Lahoud, PM Huss. (AFP, RFI, RL 11/12; RL 11/13 in WNC 11/15)

Turkey suffers its 2d massive earthquake in 3 mos. Since the epicenter is in the less populated mountain region of Duzce, fatalities are in the 100s rather than the 1,000s. Israel, Greece are among the 1st nations to dispatch relief teams to aid in the rescue of survivors. (NYT, WP, WT 11/13; ATL 11/13 in WNC 11/15; CSM 11/15; MEI 11/26)

Islamic Jihad carries out 2d attack on IDF, SLA targets in s. Lebanon, causing no injuries. (RL 11/12 in WNC 11/15) (see 10/26)

Chronology Source Abbreviations

AFP (Agence France-Presse, Paris)
ATL (Anatolia, Ankara)
AYM (al-Ayyam, Ramallah)
CSM (Christian Science Monitor, Boston)
DUS (al-Dustur, Amman)
GIU (Global Intelligence Update, Austin)
HA (Ha'aretz, Tel Aviv)
HJ (al-Hayat al-Jadida, Gaza)
IRNA (Islamic Republic News Agency, Tehran)
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)
MBC (Middle East Broadcasting Centre, London)
MEI (Middle East International, London)

13 NOVEMBER

On the last leg of his regional tour, French FM Vedrine meets with Egyptian FM Musa in Cairo. Talks focus on resuming talks bwn. Israel, Syria. (MENA, RFI 11/13 in WNC 11/15)

In Beirut, Iranian, Lebanese officials hold talks on expanding bilateral relations. (IRNA 11/13 in WNC 11/15)

14 NOVEMBER

In Tel Aviv, Arafat, Barak meet to discuss differences over next FRD, but fail to reach an understanding. Israel says the transfer does not require Palestinian agmt.; it may go ahead with the 2d stage as planned and take PA concerns into account in planning the 3d stage, set for 1/00. PA says it will not take control of territory if there is a unilateral pullout. U.S. special envoy Ross heads to the region to meet with both sides. (NYT, WP, WT 11/15; WJW 11/18; MEI 11/26)

PA, Israeli final status teams continue mtgs. on the agenda for talks on a framework agmt. (NYT 11/15)

15 NOVEMBER

With no resolution in sight, Israel delays 2d stage of the Wye II FRD, but orders IDF to begin dismantling some outposts nonetheless. U.S. special envoy Ross meets separately with Arafat, Barak to discuss Wye II, final status issues. (WP, WT 11/16; WJW 11/18; MEI 11/26)

The IDF demolishes a Palestinian home in East Jerusalem. (Gush Shalom press release 11/15)
Issa Ahmed Tayeh, one of the 199 Palestinians freed on 9/9, being greeted in Qalandia refugee camp by his daughter Jihad, left, who was born after he was jailed 13 years ago. (Rina Castelnuovo/NYT)