16 MAY

U.S. special envoy Dennis Ross extends his stay in the region an extra day to follow up on Palestinian Authority (PA) complaints regarding U.S. mediation (see 5/15); meets separately with PA head Yasser Arafat, Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu, PA Local Government M Saeb Erakat, Arafat chief dep. Mahmoud Abbas. Israel, PA say that they are no closer to resuming negotiations. (AFP, al-Dustur 5/16 in WNC 5/19; NYT, WP, WT 5/17; MM 5/19, 5/20; ITV 5/17 in WNC 5/22)

European Union (EU) special envoy Miguel Moratinos says that U.S. special envoy Ross's failed mission to the region highlights the need for a larger European role in the peace process. (AFP 5/16 in WNC 5/19)

At Secy. of State Madeleine Albright request, Israeli FM David Levy comes to Washington to discuss the peace process. (MM, NYT, WT 5/16; ITV 5/16 in WNC 5/19; MM 5/19)

Israeli amb. to the U.S. Eliahu Ben Eliassar accuses the U.S. of spying on the Israeli embassy; says that PM Netanyahu should "strenuously object" to U.S. wiretapping of embassy phones, which, he claims, is how the U.S. obtained information on Mega, an alleged Israeli spy. Officially, Israel says that Mega is Mossad's nickname for the CIA desk officer for Israel affairs—a legitimate intelligence contact. The U.S. says only that the case is still open. (MM 5/16; YA 5/16 in WNC 5/19; WP, WT 5/17) (see 5/6, 5/8)

17 MAY

U.S. special envoy Ross returns to Washington after 9 days of unsuccessful talks. (ITV, al-Manar 5/17 in WNC 5/22) (see 5/16)

In advance of Jordan's 11/97 parliamentary elections, King Hussein unveils a new press law that sets sweeping restrictions on reporting, stiffens fines for offenders, places crushing financial obligations on opposition-dominated weekly newspapers. (al-Ra'i 5/18, Star 5/22 in WNC 5/23; MM, WP, WT 5/19)

18 MAY

In Tel Aviv, U.S. Ambassador to Israel Martin Indyk gives speech to the U.S.-Israel Chamber of Commerce, criticizing Israel's trade policy, which he views as discriminat- ing against, and at times in violation of Israel's free trade agmt. with the U.S. (MM 5/19)

A 2d Palestinian accused of selling land to Israelis, Habib Abu Sara, is found slain nr. Ramallah. The PA, which declared 5/5 that any Palestinian selling land to Jews would face the death penalty, denies involvement. (ITV 5/18 in WNC 5/22; NYT, WP 5/19; IDF Radio 5/19 in WNC 5/21; WP 5/20, LAW 5/21; WJW 5/22, 5/29; JP 5/31) (see 5/9, 5/11)

9 days after his murder, slain Palestinian land dealer Farid Basha. is secretly buried. His family had been unable to find a place to bury him earlier due to allegations that he had sold Palestinian land to Jews. (NYT, WT 5/19; LAW 5/21) (see 5/11)

In a Jerusalem court, Israel's most-wanted Hamas mbr., Hassan Salameh, who was captured by the IDF 5/17/96, pleads guilty to 46 counts of murder resulting fr. suicide bombings he plotted. (WP 5/19) (see 7/4/96)

Jordanian journalists issue statement, vowing to oppose King Hussein's new press law. All mbrs. of the Jordan Press Assn., governing mbrs. of the Jordanian Professional Assns., threaten to resign if law not revoked. (RMC 5/18 in WNC 5/22; MM, WT 5/19; JT 5/19, 5/20 in WNC 5/21) (see 5/17)

19 MAY

PM Netanyahu's personal atty. Yitzhak Molho (acting as the PM's special envoy), PA Local Government M Erakat meet in an attempt to create momentum for higher level mtg. No progress is made. (QY 5/20 in WNC 5/21)

In Doha, Syrian FM Faruq al-Shara' asks Qatari emir Shaykh Hamad Bin Khalifa al-Thani to suspend, or at least not invite Israel to, the Middle East and North...

The pro-Iraqi Kurdish Democratic Party (KDP) joins forces with the Turkish military; attacks rival PKK offices in Irbil, killing 58 PKK mbrs., losing 53 men. (NYT 5/20) (see 5/17)

20 MAY

PA police detain al-Quds t.v. owner, Palestinian-American journalist Daoud Kuttab, for airing live the Palestinian Council (PC) weekly session, focusing on PA corruption. (WP 5/21; LAW, NYT, WP 5/22; MM 5/27) (see 4/30)

Israeli dep. finance M David Magen submits his resignation for 2d time (see 5/2), citing disapproval of PM Netanyahu's policies. (Globes [Internet] 5/20 in WNC 5/21)

After discussions with FM Levy, Oded Eran rescinds his resignation fr. his post as Israeli amb. to Jordan. (WP 5/21; JP 5/31) (see 5/13)


21 MAY

In Cairo, Egyptian pres. Husni Mubarak, Arafat discuss deterioration of the peace process. (RE 5/21 in WNC 5/22; RE 5/22 in WNC 5/23)

In Moscow, Syrian FM Faruq al-Shara', Russian FM Yevgeny Primakov discuss bilateral relations, peace process. (SANA 5/21 in WNC 5/22; Interfax [Moscow], SATN 5/21 in WNC 5/23)

In Abu Dhabi, Syrian VP Khaddam discusses with UAE FM Shaykh Hamdan Bin Zayid al-Nahayan the peace process, Doha economic summit, Turkish incursion into n. Iraq. Khaddam then leaves for Oman. (MM 5/22) (see 5/19)

Under pressure fr. Trade M Natan Sharansky (Yisra'el B'Aliya) and Security M Avigdor Kahalani (Third Way), PM Netanyahu replaces top foreign-policy adviser Dore Gold, appointing him amb. to the UN (a position left unfilled for over a yr.), replacing him with Uri Arad, head of Mossad research. (MM, WT 5/22; YA 5/22 in WNC 5/23; WJW 5/29; JP 5/31)

Palestinian prisoner in Israel custody, Khalid Abu Da'iyya, dies hrs. after being brought to a hospital fr. jail. PA accuses Israel of torturing him. (LAW 5/22; LAW, WP 5/23)

22 MAY

Senate Foreign Relations Chmn. Jesse Helms (R-NC), House International Relations Comm. Chmn. Benjamin Gilman (R-NY) send letter to Secy. of State Albright, saying that they will oppose all aid to the PA until they are assured that it had no role in the deaths of 2 Palestinian land dealers. (WT 5/23) (see 5/18, 5/21)

Syrian VP Khaddam leaves Bahrain after brief visit, returns to Syria after having traveled to the UAE, Yemen. (WAKH [Manama] 5/22 in WNC 5/23; SATN 5/22 in WNC 5/27; al-Shab 5/23 in WNC 5/31) (see 5/21)

23 MAY


1 Hizballah mbr. is killed, 3 are wounded in clash with IDF in s. Lebanon. (RL 5/24 in WNC 5/28)

24 MAY

In Aqaba, Egypt's Pres. Mubarak, Jordan's King Hussein hold talks on the peace process. (RJ 5/24 in WNC 5/28; JT 6/5 in WNC 6/6)

In the 1st official criticism of corruption within the PA since self-rule began in 1994, a PA General Control Office (GCO) audit ordered by Arafat shows that the PA misused $326 m. in public funds in 1996, $223 m. thus far in 1997. (NYT, WP 5/25; MM 5/27, 6/4; CSM 6/18)

Israel High Court rules that a sale of land in the Palestinian village of Silwan to...
the Jewish settler land acquisition company Elad was illegal, based on fraudulent documents; orders the property to revert to the Palestinian inheritors. (LAW 5/24)

Turkish military officials say that during the army's offensive into n. Iraq, which began 5/14, 1,445 of the estimated 4,000 PKK mbrs. have been killed, 184 wounded, 121 captured. 10s of Turkish soldiers, at least 27 KDP mbrs. have also been killed. At least 25,000 and possibly more than 50,000 Turkish troops may now be in Iraq. (WP 5/26; AFP 6/13 in WNC 6/17)

25 MAY

In Israel, Mubarak adviser Osama Baz meets with PM Netanyahu in preparation for Mubarak-Netanyahu mtg. 5/27. Netanyahu refuses to freeze construction at Har Homa as a gesture to the PA, but agrees to temporarily suspend demolitions of Palestinian homes in East Jerusalem. (IDF Radio, ITV 5/25 in WNC 5/28; WP 5/26; HA 5/26 in WNC 5/28)

26 MAY

In Cairo, Mubarak, Arafat hold mtg. to coordinate views in advance of Mubarak-Netanyahu mtg. 5/27. (MM, WT 5/27; RE 5/27 in WNC 5/28)

Syrian VP Khaddam visits Algeria to discuss peace process. (SATN 5/26 in WNC 5/28) (see 5/22)

The UN Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) announces that it is technically bankrupt, makes an urgent plea for $25 m. to meet its $312-m. 1997 budget. (NYT 5/27)

27 MAY

In Sharm al-Shaykh, Pres. Mubarak, PM Netanyahu meet for 2 hrs., make progress toward resuming PA-Israeli talks but say positions are still far apart, no final communique is issued. (CSM, MM 5/27; IDF Radio 5/27 in WNC 5/28; MM, NYT, WP, WT 5/28; MA, al-Quds 5/28 in WNC 5/29; WJW 5/29; MEI 5/30) (see Peace Monitor)

PA releases journalist Kuttab. (WP 5/28) (see 5/20, Peace Monitor)

Trial of Ahmad Daqamsa, the Jordanian soldier who shot and killed 7 Israeli girls 3/13, begins at a military base nr. Amman. If convicted, Daqamsa could face the death penalty. (JTV 5/27 in WNC 5/29; WT 5/28; JP 5/31; JT 6/3 in WNC 6/5; JT 6/10 in WNC 6/11; MEI 6/13) (see 4/7)

U.S. says it will not alter its policy toward Iran because of Khatami's election as pres. (WT 5/28)

28 MAY

Israel's inner cabinet holds 1st discussion of final status talks with PA. (MM 5/28, 5/29; IDF Radio, YA 5/29 in WNC 5/31; MM 5/30; al-Quds 5/30 in WNC 6/3) (see Peace Monitor)

In Cairo, Pres. Mubarak, Arafat discuss new Egyptian plan to resume PA-Israeli talks. (NYT 6/9)

Syrian VP Khaddam leaves Libya after brief visit to encourage a united Arab stand on the peace process. (Libyan Television Network 5/28 in WNC 5/31) (see 5/26)

Israeli crews begin tearing down a Palestinian home in East Jerusalem. Israeli court stops the demolition midway, pending a hearing. (WT 5/29) (see 5/25)

UN renews until 11/30/97 mandate for peacekeeping on the Israeli-Syrian border, set to expire 5/31. (UN press release 5/28)

29 MAY

PM Netanyahu appoints his long-time personal friend, Leonard Davis, fmr. head of AIPAC's Jerusalem office, to be the embassy's no. 2 man. Davis, a dual citizen who has never held a diplomatic position or worked with the FMIn., will give up his U.S. citizenship. (WT 5/30) (see 5/19)

Jordanian PM 'Abd al-Salam al-Majali announces plans to open a Human Rights Unit under his office. (RJ 5/29 in WNC 5/31) (see 11/30/96)

U.S. intelligence says that Egypt hopes to buy advanced SAM missiles fr. Russia. Congress is concerned Egypt will use its U.S. military aid to purchase the SAMs, which would be illegal; 90% of U.S. aid is tied to purchases of U.S. goods. (WT 5/30)

UN Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) complains that 7 Hizballah gunmen halted and damaged a UN vehicle in s. Lebanon, performed mock executions on the 2 UNIFIL soldiers. In a separate incident nr. Tyre, 5 Hizballah gunmen stop, interrogate 2 UNIFIL soldiers driving in a marked UN truck. It is the 1st time in 10 yrs. that Hizballah has harassed UNIFIL soldiers. (AFP, RL 5/30 in WNC 6/2)

30 MAY

In the Golan, 2 Austrian UN soldiers are shot dead, most likely, according to the UN,

**IDF** soldier is killed in a **Hizbullah** mortar attack in **S. Lebanon**. (VOL 5/30, 6/1 in WNC 6/3; JP 6/7)

In a 3d incident, 7 **Hizbullah** gunmen halt 2 UNIFIL vehicles in **S. Lebanon**, dis-arm, threaten the UN soldiers. (AFP, RL 5/30 in WNC 6/2) (see 5/29)

31 MAY

Top **PA** negotiators, Saeb Erekat and Hasan Asfour, arrive in Cairo to discuss Egypt's mediation effort with **Israel**. (AFP 5/31 in WNC 6/3; ITV 5/31 in WNC 6/5)

Palestinian Ali Muhammad Jumhur, recently questioned by the PA on suspicion of having sold land to Jews, is found shot dead in Ramallah. (NYT, WP, WT 6/1; ITV, QY 6/1 in WNC 6/3; WJW 6/5; PR 6/6; JP 6/7; MEI 6/13; JP 6/14) (see 5/29)

1 JUNE

**PM Netanyahu**, Mubarak adviser **Baz** discuss bridging proposals to resume Israeli-PA talks. (IDF Radio, YA 6/1 in WNC 6/3; MM 6/2; PR 6/6)

In separate incidents in **S. Lebanon**, 1 **Hizbullah** mbr. is killed in clash with the **IDF**. 4 Lebanese civilians are wounded during **Israel**i air raid; IDF detains a number of Lebanese civilians before releasing all but 3 alleged **Hizbullah** mbrs. (RL, VOL 6/1 in WNC 6/3; MM 6/2)

2 JUNE

**Israeli inner cabinet** holds discussion on the Palestinian presence in **Jerusalem**. (ITV 6/2 in WNC 6/3; MM 6/3) (see Peace Monitor)

In Cairo, Pres. **Mubarak** receives Syrian VP Khaddam for discussions on the peace process. (SATN 6/2 in WNC 6/3) (see 5/28)

**PA military court** convicts 5 **PA General Intelligence officers** of murder in ambush of car nr. Ramallah 4/18. 1 officer is sentenced to 5 yrs. in prison, 1 to 1 yr., 3 to 2 mos. (Mandela Institute press release 6/2)

**Syria** reopens 3 border crossings with **Iraq**—the 1st to be opened in 17 yrs. (RMC 6/2 in WNC 6/3; MM 6/3, 6/15; al-Ra'i 6/11 in WNC 6/13; MM 6/23) (see 5/19; Peace Monitor)

In Amman, 100 reps. of **Jordanian opposition** parties, professional unions, civil establishments announce plans to boycott the 11/97 elections if the government does not rescind the press law. (al-Ra'i 6/3 in WNC 6/5; Star 6/5 in WNC 6/6) (see 5/20)

In Tyre, 100s of **Lebanese fishermen** protest the **Israeli** naval blockade against **S. Lebanon**, detention of fishermen. (RL 6/2 in WNC 6/3) (see 5/30)

3 JUNE

Fmr. **IDF** Chief of Staff Ehud Barak wins **Labor** party elections for party leader, defeating MKs Yossi Beilin, Shlomo Ben-Ami, Ephrahim Sneh; says he would not join a unity government with Likud. **Fmr. PM Shimon Peres** did not run or endorse any of the candidates. (MM, WT 6/3; MM, WP, WT 6/4; ITV 6/4 in WNC 6/9; IDF Radio, YA 6/4 in WNC 6/5; MEI 6/13) (see 5/13)

4 JUNE


In Cairo, **Arafat**, **Mubarak**, **Saudi Arabia**'s **Crown Prince Abdullah** hold tripartite mtg. on the peace process, Egyptian mediation. (RE 6/4 in WNC 6/5; MM 6/5)

Based on the 5/24 GCO corruption report, the **PA** fires **Atty. Gen. Khalid al-Kidra**. Publicly, Kidra resigns, citing poor health, but is placed under house arrest immediately. (MEI, PR 6/13; JP 6/14; CSM 6/18; JP 6/21; WP 7/30)

**IDF** storms Baty Fajjar village nr. Bethlehem, detains 27 **Palestinians** allegedly connected to **Hamas**. (ITV 6/4 in WNC 6/5; MA 6/5 in WNC 6/6)

**UN Security Council** unanimously approving 6-mo. extension to Iraq's oil-for-food deal. (WP 6/5)

4 explosive devices are detonated on a **S. Lebanon** road, killing 1 **Lebanese civilian**, wounding 2 others. 1 **South Lebanon Army (SLA)** mbr. is killed in a separate explosion. (AFP, RL 6/4 in WNC 6/5)

5 JUNE

In Washington, Egypt's **Baz** briefs U.S. **National Security Adviser Sandy Berger** on Egyptian mediation efforts. (RE 6/5 in WNC 6/6; PR 6/6)
IDF arrests several Palestinian fishermen on charges of smuggling missiles into Gaza by sea. (PR 6/13) (see 6/2)

6 JUNE

Jordan, Israel agree to formula for joint administration of the future peace airport at Aqaba. (RJ 6/6 in WNC 6/9)

7 JUNE

In Cairo, Arafat meets with Egyptian pres. Mubarak in advance of a PA-Israeli mtg. 6/8. (NYT 6/9)

8 JUNE


Arafat appoints a team of officials, headed by his secy. Tayyib 'Abd al-Rahim, to investigate the 5/24 GCO corruption report. (MEI 6/13) (see Peace Monitor)

In Baghdad, a Syrian Chamber of Commerce delegation signs $20 m. worth of commercial contracts with Iraq—the 1st since Syria, Iraq broke off relations in 1980s. A Lebanese business delegation is also in Baghdad to discuss holding an industrial exhibition there in 9/97. (MM 6/9; VOL 6/10 in WNC 6/11) (see 6/2)

Survivors of the 1967 Israeli attack on the U.S.S. Liberty hold a memorial service at Arlington Cemetery. Liberty skipper Capt. William Mcgonagle calls on Israel, the U.S. to release details of the assault, which killed 34, wounded 171 Americans. (WT 6/9)

Israel-Lebanon Monitoring Group (ILMG) blames Israel/SLA for the death of 1 Lebanese civilian, wounding of 2 others 6/4; blames unnamed Lebanese rebels for death of SLA mbr. the same day; warns all parties to adhere to the 4/96 understanding. (Radio Free Lebanon 6/9 in WNC 6/13; al-Safir 6/10 in WNC 6/12)

9 JUNE


Iraqi pres. Saddam Hussein's son Uday leaves a Baghdad hospital 6 mos. after an assassination attempt against him. (WT 6/10, 7/2, 7/10) (see 1/28)

10 JUNE

Netanyahu adviser Gold is confirmed as Israel's new amb. to the UN. To assume the post he has to give up his U.S. citizenship. (WT 6/11; MEI 7/25) (see 5/21, 5/29)


Israeli court rejects the compensation claims of families of Palestinians killed by Baruch Goldstein in the 2/25/94 al-Imam mosque attack, says government is not accountable for Goldstein's actions. Israel had offered $25,000 each to the parents of 19 single men killed and $63,000 to the widows of married victims. The 19 families took the money, but the widows sought $150,000-$300,000 each. (WP 6/11; MEI 7/25)

11 JUNE


At the close of a 2-day mtg., donor, host governments pledge $4.1 m. to the UNRWA general fund for 1997. (UNRWA press release 6/12, 6/19) (see 5/26)

At the Western Wall, Orthodox Jews, angered by men and women praying together, attack Conservative Jews, then attack Palestinians nr. the Old City, spray tear gas at Israeli police who try to stop them. (NYT 6/13; WT 6/16, JP 6/21)

12 JUNE

Egypt's Baz arrives in Jerusalem for talks with PM Netanyahu, Arafat on possibility
of holding 3- or 4-way summit with Pres. Mubarak/King Hussein. (MM 6/12; QY, YA 6/13 in WNC 6/17) (see 6/8)

In Istanbul, the culture Ms representing the Group of Eight Developing Islamic Countries (D-8) hold preparatory mtg. in advance of the 1st D-8 summit on 6/15; issue declaration vowing to pursue cultural, tourism cooperation agmts. The D-8, which encourages cooperation on all levels btwm. member states, comprises Bangladesh, Egypt, Indonesia, Iran, Malaysia, Nigeria, Pakistan, Turkey. (Anatolia [Ankara] 6/12 in WNC 6/17)

In Gaza, IDF soldiers, settlers clash with Palestinians protesting the confiscation of land belonging to Khan Yunis for Morag settlement. 2 Palestinians are wounded by live ammunition, 1 dies of a heart attack. Nr. Gush Qatif settlement, 1 settler shoots, wounds 2 Palestinians. IDF moves more tanks into Gaza. (MM, NYT 6/13; JP 6/21; MEI 6/27; MM 6/30)

13 JUNE

PM Netanyahu cancels planned visit to Washington in late 6/97 to avoid a difficult mtg. with Pres. Clinton over the peace process. (ITV 6/13 in WNC 6/17; WT 6/14; NYT, WT 6/15)

UNGA votes (66-2, with 59 abstentions) that Israel should pay $1.7 m. to cover costs of the 4/18/96 Qana attack, marking the 1st time that a single country has been held accountable for peacekeeping costs. Israel rejects the decision. (AFP 6/13 in WNC 6/17; AFP 6/13, RL 6/15 in WNC 6/17; MM, WT 6/16; WJW 6/19; JP 6/21) (see 6/8)

Israeli cabinet approves plan to offer cheap land, housing in n., s. Israel to lure Israelis away fr. the overcrowded Tel Aviv area. (WT 6/14; JP 6/21)

14 JUNE

Egypt's Baz shuttles bwn. Netanyahu, Arafat in an attempt to ease tensions, jump-start PA-Israeli. (WT 6/15)

In Hebron, IDF troops firing rubber bullets wound 30 Palestinians protesting the 6/10 House vote on Jerusalem. (NYT, WT 6/15; MM, NYT, WT 6/16; MEI 6/27)

Unidentified gunman shoot, wound an Israeli settler outside Har Adar settlement in the West Bank. IDF detains 6 Palestinian suspects fr. Biddu. (NYT, WT 6/15)

In Damascus, an Iraqi trade delegation holds series of mtgs. with Syrian Ms of economy, health, transportation to discuss export of Syrian medicines to Iraq under the UN oil-for-food deal. Head of Syria's chamber of commerce says that work is underway to repair the telephone network bwn. the 2 countries, which has been unused for 17 yrs. (RMC 6/14 in WNC 6/17; MM 6/16, 7/4) (see 6/8)

Hizballah releases 3 UNIFIL soldiers it detained 6/13 for filming nr. the homes of several Hizballah cmdrs. in the Burj al-Barajina district of Beirut. (RL 6/14 in WNC 6/17; WT 6/16) (see 5/30)

15 JUNE

In Cairo, PA delegation headed by Local Government M Erakat discusses means of salvaging the peace process with Egyptian FM 'Amr Musa, pres. adviser Baz. (RE 6/16 in WNC 6/17)

In Los Angeles, special envoy Ross discusses the PA-Israeli impasse with Israeli DM Mordechai. (MA, YA 6/16 in WNC 6/17)

In Istanbul, the 1st D-8 summit opens. (IRNA 6/15 in WNC 6/17; MM 6/16-18, 6/23) (see 6/12)

Israeli High Court rejects (4-1) a petition to prosecute PM Netanyahu, Justice M Tshai Hanegbi over the Bar-On affair. (MM, NYT, WP, WT 6/16; JP 6/21) (see 5/14)

In Hebron, IDF fires rubber bullets at Palestinian protesters, injuring 28. For the 2d day in a row, PA police were absent. (MM, NYT, WT 6/16; CSM 6/18; MEI 6/27) (see 6/15)

16 JUNE

With PM Netanyahu's knowledge, Israeli Infrastructure M Ariel Sharon secretly holds mtg. with Arafat dep. Abbas to discuss each side's position on final status negotiations. FM Levy, DM Mordechai are not told of the mtg. (NYT, WT 6/29; MM 6/30; YA 6/30 in WNC 7/2; MM 7/1, 7/2; CSM 7/3; FR 7/4; JP 7/5; SA 7/8 in WNC 7/9; MEI 7/11)

In Hebron, IDF shoots, wounds 8 Palestinian demonstrators. (MM 6/16)

Palestinian Hakam Subhi Qamhawi dies in the PA General Intelligence interrogation center in Jericho. General Intelligence says he died of a heart attack. (LAW 6/17)

In s. Lebanon, 1 IDF soldier is killed, 3 are wounded when their tank hits a Hizballah land mine. (MM 6/16; VOL 6/16 in WNC 6/17)
17 JUNE

In Amsterdam, a 2-day mtg. of EU leaders closes. Attendees issue statement for the 1st time urging Israel not to rule out the possibility of a Palestinian state. (MM 6/18) (see Doc. A1)


The Senate passes a version of House Res. 1757 that contains a section prohibiting most financial transactions with "state sponsors of terrorism," including Syria. A conference comm. must now work out the differences bwn. the bills. (WJW 7/24; MEI 7/25) (see 6/11)

6 wks. after the IDF forcibly evacuated settlers fr. their outpost nr. Yitzhar settlement nr. Nablius (5/6), several settler families are living on the disputed site, guarded by IDF reservists, while IDF bulldozers break ground to build a permanent IDF lookout. (YA 6/17 in WNC 6/19) (see 5/7)

Hani 'Abd al-Rahim Sayigh, the Saudi accused of participating in the 26/5/96 al-Khobar barracks bombing, is extradited to the U.S. from Canada to provide testimony that could link Iran, Syria to the attack. Under his deal with the FBI, Sayigh will plead guilty to plotting a different attack that never took place in exchange for telling all he knows about the al-Khobar incident. (WP, WT 6/18; MM, NYT, WP, WT 6/19; MM 6/24) (see 3/30)

In Hebron, IDF troops clash with Palestinian demonstrators for the 4th day, wounding 17 Palestinians. An AP photographer is attacked, kicked in the head by a Jewish settler; IDF soldiers do not intervene. (WP, WT 6/18; MEI 6/27)

Visiting delegation of American Reform and Conservative Jewish leaders convinces PM Netanyahu to shelve the legislation that would give Orthodox rabbinical courts exclusive jurisdiction over government recognition of conversions to Judaism (see 4/1), form 7-mbr. comm. (comprising 5 Orthodox, 1 Reform, 1 Conservative) to investigate the issue. (WT 6/20)

18 JUNE

In Washington, U.S. cosmetics heir Ron Lauder holds confidential mtg. with Syrian Amb. Moualem to discuss ways of restarting the Syrian-Israeli talks, then briefs Secy. of State Albright. Israel's Dir. of Policy Planning Bar-Ilan says that the mtg. was not authorized, but was welcome, by Israel. (MM 7/7)

Israeli finance M Dan Meridor, a Likud mbr., resigns, saying he has lost faith in Netanyahu's leadership. (MM 6/18; Globes [Internet], ITV 6/18 in WNC 6/19; MM, NYT, WJW, WP, WT 6/19; YA 6/19 in WNC 6/20; Globes [Internet] 6/19 in WNC 6/23; ITV 6/19, MA 6/20 in WNC 6/23; Globes [Internet] 6/19 in WNC 6/24; CSM, MM 6/20; WP 6/26; MEI 6/27)

Sen. Mitch McConnell (R-KY), Senate Appropriations Subcomm. chm., announces that the subcomm. will forward legislation to the full Appropriations Comm. without the annual $21 b. in foreign aid to Egypt; says Egypt is obstructing the peace process by refusing to attend multilateral talks, refusing Pres. Clinton's invitation to Washington 9/96, leading the effort to reimpose the Arab boycott, moving closer to Libya. State Dept. says that the administration stands behind its foreign aid request. (al-Wafd 6/20, al-Quds al-Arabi 6/23 in WNC 6/25; WT 6/21; MM 6/25; MM 8/14)

Syrian VP Khaddam arrives in Iran for talks with Pres. Rafsanjani on the peace process, Turkish intervention in n. Iraq, 6/10 House decision. (IRNA 6/18 in WNC 6/19; SA 6/19 in WNC 6/20)

After 11 mos. in office, Turkish PM Erbakan resigns. (AFP 6/18 in WNC 6/19; MM, NYT, WP, WT 6/19; MEI 6/27)

UN Secy. Gen. Annan accepts a U.S. deal (passed by the House 6/11, the Senate 6/17) under which the UN would agree to reduce U.S. dues to 20% of the total budget by 1999, reduce U.S. peacekeeping to 25% by 1999, tighten the UN budget, reduce staff in exchange for the U.S. paying off $819 m. of its $1.3-b. debt over 3 yrs. The draft legislation must now be approved by the full Congress. (WT 6/19)

In Hebron, IDF clashes with Palestinians for 5th straight day, wounding 5. (MM 5/18; NYT 6/19; MEI 6/27)

In Lebanon, 3 SLA soldiers, 1 civilian are killed, 2 civilians are wounded by a roadside bomb. Israel blames Hizballah; responds by making an incursion into Jezzin, far n. of the self-declared security zone, ar-
resting a number of youths, including a Lebanese soldier. (VOL 6/18 in WNC 6/19; MM 6/26; MEI, MM 6/27)

19 JUNE

Iranian pres. Rafsanjani sends Health M Ali Reza Mirandi to Iraq to invite Saddam Hussein to attend the 12/97 Organization of the Islamic Conference mtg. in Tehran. Mirandi also asks Hussein to release some of the 5,000 Iranian POWs taken during the 1980–88 Iran-Iraq war. (MM 6/20)

In Amman, PM Majali receives Iraqi PM Tariq ‘Aziz for talks on bilateral relations. (RJ 6/19 in WNC 6/24)

U.S. investigators report that 2 Hasidic Jews fr. New York, suspected of laundering huge quantities of drug money for a Columbian drug cartel, recently purchased millions of dollars worth of land nr. the settlements of Mahseya, Zanoah in the Jerusalem corridor. The aty. who represented the Hasidim in the land deals is Shlomo Deri, brother of Shas's Arye Deri. (YA 6/19 in WNC 6/20)

In s. Lebanon, residents of Jazzin appeal to the government, Ilmg to investigate the 6/18 explosion; Ilmg says it will do so 6/23. Later, the SLA raids Jazzin, arresting civilians on charges of collaborating with Hizballah. (RL 6/19 in WNC 6/20; RL 6/20 in WNC 6/23; MM 6/26, 6/27)

10 Jordanian opposition parties, not incl. the Islamic Action Front (IAF), announce they are forming a united list for the 11/97 elections. (Star 6/12 in WNC 6/13)

20 JUNE

In Hebron, IDF troops in H2 clash with Palestinian demonstrators in H1, shooting across the dividing line bwn. the 2 sections of town, wounding at least 40 before PA security forces are able to disperse the crowd. Palestinians chant “PLO, Israel no!” Settlers complain that the IDF should use live ammunition instead of rubber bullets, the ½ of Hebron turned over to the PA should be retaken. (NYT, WP, WT 6/21; MEI 6/27)

21 JUNE

Israeli communications M Limor Livnat resigns her job as coordinator bwn. the government, parliament, saying she cannot defend Netanyahu's administration in a no-confidence vote 6/24. She does not resign her cabinet seat. (ITV 6/21 in WNC 6/24, WT 6/22, 6/24; WP 6/26)

In Hebron, IDF wounds 24 Palestinian demonstrators. In Nablus, 1,000s of Palestinians hold anti-U.S./Israel rally to protest the 6/10 House decision on Jerusalem. (NYT, WT 6/22; MEI 6/27)

6 Irish UNIFIL soldiers are wounded while trying to clear Israeli mines fr. a road leading to their post on the edge of Israel's self-declared security zone. Israel has mined all roads in the area to “protect” an SLA post from resistance attacks, forcing the UN to communicate with its base solely by helicopter. (RL, RTE Radio One Network [Dublin] 6/21 in WNC 6/24; MEI 6/27) (see 6/14)

22 JUNE

In Denver, at the close of the annual Summit of Eight, major industrial nations issue final communiqué on the peace process. (Palestine and the UN 7/97) (see Doc. A2)


IDF enters the village of Arnun in s. Lebanon, orders all residents to assemble, threatens to arrest youths and burn fields if any operations against the Israeli forces are carried out fr./nr. the village. (RL 6/22, 6/23 in WNC 6/24)

23 JUNE

In exchange for the Yisrael B’Aliya’s support in the 6/24 no-confidence vote, PM Netanyahu agrees to transfer $63 m. to the Immigration Min. to settle Russian immigrants. (MM 6/24; NYT, WP, WT 6/25; CSM 6/27)

Israel orders the demolition of 17 Palestinian homes nr. a settler bypass road nr. Hebron. The homes, some dating back to the 1960s, house over 160 persons. (LAW 6/23; MM 7/8)

ILMG meets to discuss violence in Jazzin (see 6/18, 6/20), Arnun and Maghdusha (6/22); warns all sides to prevent endangering civilians. (RL, RMC 6/23 in WNC 6/24; RL 6/24 in WNC 6/25; MM 6/26, 6/27)

24 JUNE

Egyptian FM Musa arrives in Amman for talks with Jordanian PM Majali, FM Fayiz Tarawneh on the peace process, bilateral
relations. (JTV, RJ 6/24 in WNC 6/25; al-Ra'i 6/25 in WNC 6/26)

Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Abdullah arrives for 3-day visit to Syria to coordinate positions on the peace process. (MM 6/24; Saudi Arabian Kingdom Radio 6/24, 6/25 in WNC 6/26; MM 6/25; SA 7/1 in WNC 7/2)

PM Netanyahu wins (55-50) no-confidence vote. 15 MKs, including 11 mburs. of his coalition (most notably PM Levy) stay away or abstain. (CSM, MM, NYT, WP, WT 6/25; MA 6/25 in WNC 6/26; WJW, WP, WT 6/26; CSM 6/27) (see 6/23)

25 JUNE

Lebanese police arrest citizen Bilal Atif Jum'a'h for collaborating with and passing information to Israel. (RL 6/25 in WNC 6/26)

26 JUNE

Damascus Declaration states close 2-day mtg. in Latakia, Syria; issue final statement calling for Israeli withdrawal fr. all occupied territories, denouncing 6/10 House decision on Jerusalem, suggesting formation of an Arab common market, taking no firm position on the Doha economic summit. (MM 6/26; SATN 6/26 in WNC 6/27; MM 6/30; MEI 7/1)

Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Abdullah leaves Syria for 3-day visit to Lebanon. (MM 6/26; RL 7/1 in WNC 7/2)

Retired CIA agent Warren Marik goes public with the details of the U.S. operation, which he directed, to overthrow Iraqi pres. Saddam Hussein. (WP 6/26; MM 7/2; al-Urdun 8/2 in WNC 8/5)

27 JUNE

7 Palestinians are wounded by IDF soldiers during clash in Hebron. (NYT, WT 6/28)

28 JUNE

In Hebron, Palestinians protest posters depicting the Prophet Muhammad as a pig. IDF soldiers shoot rubber bullets at protesters, injuring 1; arrest settler for distributing the posters. In Jerusalem, Palestinians protest Israel's failure to release prisoners, scuffle with IDF soldiers. (WT 6/29; al-Quds 6/30, AFP 7/1 in WNC 7/2; al-Ra'i 7/2 in WNC 7/3; PR 7/4; TJT 7/4 in WNC 7/8; MEI 7/11; JP 7/13)

29 JUNE

Arafat meets with IDF Brig.-Gen. Herzl Getz to discuss security coordination. (NYT 7/2; PR 7/4)

In Jerusalem, 50,000 Israelis call on PM Netanyahu to resign, hold new elections. (CSM 6/30)

Palestinian militants in East Jerusalem strike to protest Israeli taxes. (JP 6/30; PR 7/4; MEI 7/11)

30 JUNE

Israeli PM Levy threatens to quit the cabinet after news of Infrastructure M Sharon's secret mtg. with Arafat dep. Abbas 6/16 is leaked to the press. (CSM, MM 6/30; NYT, WT 7/1; WJW 7/3; PR 7/4)

Palestinian Nasir Radwan dies as a result of injuries sustained in a beating by PA Force 17 mburs. hrs. after his arrest 6/23. Arafat orders 8 officers to be tried by PA military court on assault charges. (LAW, WP 7/1; PR 7/4)

Israeli court releases on bail Nahum Korman, the settler arrested in the beating death of an 11-yr.-old Palestinian boy in Hussein, West Bank, on 10/28/96. (LAW 7/1) (see 11/1/96)

Turkey's Pres. Suleyman Demirel approves new, fully secular government coalition led by Motherland Party's Mesut Yilmaz as PM. (NYT, WP, WT 7/1; Istanbul Zaman 7/1 in WNC 7/2; MM 7/2; WJW 7/10)

2 Hizballah mburs. are killed in clash with IDF in S. Lebanon. (Voice of the Oppressed [Ba'albeck] 7/1 in WNC 7/2)

1 JULY

Under pressure fr. Egypt and the U.S., Arafat agrees to resume security coordination with Israel. (MM 7/1, 7/2)

In Hebron, Palestinians escalate protests against posters depicting the Prophet Muhammad as a pig. IDF soldiers shoot, wound 25 Palestinians. A crude pipe bomb is thrown at the soldiers, injuring 2. PA calls for 1-hr. general strike 7/2. Pro-Oslo factions stage march in support of the PA's stand, but only 500 persons, rather than the 1,000s that organizers anticipated, take part. (IDF Radio 7/1 in WNC 7/2; CSM, NYT, WT 7/2; YA 7/2 in WNC 7/3; PR 7/4) (see 6/28)

8 Force 17 mburs. indicted in the beating death of Nasir Radwan plead not guilty. 1,000s of Palestinians protest brutality of PA security forces at Radwan's funeral in Gaza. (NYT, WP, WT 7/2; JP 7/5) (see 6/30)
Saudi Arabian envoy visits Iran to deliver to Pres. Rafsanjani messages fr. King Fahd, Crown Prince Abdullah on expanding bilateral relations. (WP, WT 7/2)

1 Hizballah mbr. is killed in clash with IDF in s. Lebanon. (RL 7/2 in WNC 7/3)

2 JULY

PA security officials say that they have arrested 2 Palestinians, Ayash Daoud and Husni Fayiz, on charges of selling Palestinian land to Jews in the 1980s. (WT 7/3) (see 6/10)

PA Preventive Security Force (PSF) arrests Fathi Ahmad Subuh, a prof. at al-Azhar University's Gaza campus, for asking 2 questions regarding PA, al-Azhar University corruption on his final exam 6/21. (LAW 7/7; PR 7/18; JP 7/19; NYT 8/16)

In Gaza, settlers fr. Gush Qatif settlement bulldoze land belonging to Palestinians fr. Dayr al-Balah, precipitating Palestinian demonstration. IDF soldiers fire on protesters with live ammunition, killing 1, wounding 6. (MM 7/2; NYT 7/3; PR 7/4)

In Hebron, Palestinians observe general strike, hold demonstrations to protest anti-Muslim posters, throw demonstrations to protest antitrust suits against soldiers. IDF snipers fire on the demonstrators, wounding 7 with live ammunition, 30 with rubber bullets. (MM 7/2; NYT, WT 7/3) (see 7/1)

Jordan abolishes its 50% non-Jordanian equity ownership ceiling in the Amman Financial Market, transportation, insurance, banking, telecommunications, agricultural sectors. (JT 7/2 in WNC 7/3; JT 7/6 in WNC 7/8)

In s. Lebanon, 1 Lebanese civilian is wounded by IDF shelling. Later, 1 SLA mbr. is killed, 3 are wounded in a Hizballah attack nr. Jazzin. (RL 7/2 in WNC 7/3)

3 JULY

The UNSCO in Gaza closes an annual 2-day mtg., attended by over 20 UN agencies active in the West Bank and Gaza, to coordinate future plans, strategies. Participants drafted a UN Program of Cooperation, due to be made public later in 8/97. (UNSCO press release 7/3)

In advance of congressional debate on renewal of the Middle East Peace Facilitation Act (MEPFA), which permits U.S. aid to the PLO, Netanyahu's director of policy planning David Bar-Ilan endorses the distribution to congressmen of video tapes showing Arafat calling for jihad, praising anti-Israeli attacks. The tapes are distributed by Reps. Jim Saxton (R-NJ), Robert Andrews (D-NJ). (WJW 7/3)

PA military court sentences 3 Force 17 officers to death for the fatal beating, allegedly over a personal dispute, of Nasir Radwan. 2 other officers are sentenced to 5 yrs. in prison, 1 is given 6 mos., 2 are acquitted. Arafat must approve the death penalties. (LAW, WP 7/4; JP 7/12) (see 7/1)

Israeli special forces infiltrate a group of Palestinian protesters in the PA-controlled section of Hebron, draw weapons to make series of violent arrests. (MM 7/3; WP 7/5; JP 7/12)

Hizballah fires several rockets fr. s. Lebanon toward n. Israel. The rockets land along the Israeli-Lebanese border, causing no damage or injuries. (RL 7/3 in WNC 7/7)

4 JULY

Unnamed Western, Arab diplomat reports that Syria is concentrating 3–4 army divisions at strategic points nr. Israel, including moving the 14th Special Forces Division to the Mount Hermon foothills, the 51st Division e. of Lebanon's Biqa' Valley. Syria says the redeployments are defensive. (WT 7/5)

Jordon announces that it has submitted to the World Bank 58 water sector proposals that would provide Jordan with 676 mcm of additional water fr. 1997 to 2000. (JT 7/5 in WNC 7/8)

IDF bans entry into the PA-controlled enclave of Hebron (H1) to prevent Palestinians fr. outside Hebron fr. entering H1 to take part in demonstrations. (Hatzofe 7/6 in WNC 7/8)

In Nablus, 30,000 Palestinians angered by distribution of anti-Muslim posters in Hebron stage protest, clash with IDF. Demonstrations also continue in Hebron, where the IDF wounds 6 Palestinians with live ammunition, 29 with rubber bullets. Netanyahu accuses Arafat of doing nothing to halt the protests. (NYT, WP, WT 7/5) (see 7/2)

In Ba'albek, 10,000 Lebanese join the unauthorized "Revolution of the Hungry" demonstration called by fr. Hizballah chief Shaykh Subhi Tufayli (who split with Hizballah Secy. Gen. Hassan Nasrallah in protest over Hizballah's decision to participate in the 1992, 1996 elections) to protest the government's economic policies, neglect of the Biqa' region. Lebanese army sends many troops, military police to monitor protesters. No clashes are reported. (MM
7/4; RL, RMC 7/4 in WNC 7/8; al-Safir 7/5 in WNC 7/9; al-Diayar 7/6 in WNC 7/11; MEI 7/11; MM 7/14; MEI 7/25)

5 JULY

Intervening in a longstanding dispute b/w. rival denominations of the Russian Orthodox Church, the PA forcibly evicts expatriate monks, nuns fr. Hebron’s only Christian church, turns control over to reps. of the Russian Patriarch in Moscow. The emigre church leaders recently refused a PA req. to lease some church-owned land to the Authority. (NYT 7/11; JP 7/19)

Taunted by stone-throwing settlers cursing the Prophet Muhammad, Palestinians clash with IDF soldiers guarding the Jewish enclaves of Hebron. IDF opens fire with rubber bullets, wounding 1 Palestinian. (NYT, WP, WT 7/6)

In Damascus, Syria, Oman hold talks on military cooperation. (SANA 7/5 in WNC 7/8)

6 JULY

Higher Iranian-Syrian Comm. ends 2-day mtg. in Damascus. The 2 countries agree to expand bilateral ties; reach accords on export of Iranian tractors to Syria, technical cooperation, economic and industrial cooperation. (IRNA, SATN 7/6, IRNA, SA, VIRE 7/7 in WNC 7/8)

London Times reports that the FBI has a National Security Council employee under surveillance on suspicion of being Mega, an Israeli mole. (London Times 7/6) (see 5/16)

Muhammad al-Hindi, a senior Islamic Jihad military leader, is released fr. PA prison in Gaza. (YA 7/11 in WNC 7/14)

Hizballah mbrs. ambush an IDF-SLA patrol in s. Lebanon, killing 1 IDF soldier, wounding 1 SLA mbr. IDF strikes Hizballah targets in response, wounding 7 Lebanese civilians. Hizballah retaliates, firing at least 7 rockets into n. Israel, causing no damage or injuries. (IDF Radio, VOL 7/6 in WNC 7/8; MM, NYT 7/7; JP 7/19)

7 JULY

Israel approves operation of PA buses b/w. Gaza, West Bank to allow “freer passage.” (HA, YA 7/8 in WNC 7/9; Hatzofe 7/10 in WNC 7/11; PR 7/18) (see Peace Monitor)

PM Netanyahu survives no-confidence motion by vote of 48-39. In an agmt. signed before the vote, Netanyahu promises FM Levy control in talks with the PA in ex-

change for his support on the no-confidence motion. (MM, WT 7/8) (see 6/24)

IMLG blames Israel shelling for injuring Lebanese civilians 7/2, 7/6; determines 1 Hizballah rocket landed inside Israeli territory 7/3; urges both sides to adhere to the 4/97 agmt. (VOL 7/7 in WNC 7/8; RL 7/8 in WNC 7/9)

2 Hizballah mbrs. are killed in clash with IDF in s. Lebanon. (Radio Free Lebanon 7/7 in WNC 7/9)

8 JULY

PM Netanyahu finishes cabinet reshuffle, promising coalition mbrs. $1.4 b. (which he does not have available in the budget) for projects; denying Infrastructures M Sharon positions as finance M, in the policy-making inner cabinet; giving Yaacov Neeman finance position; appointing MK Michael Eytan science M for 1 yr., after which the job will rotate to Likud’s Silvan Shalom. (MM 7/8, 7/9; WP 7/10) (see 6/18)

The House passes (377-33) the Prohibition of Financial Transactions with Countries Supporting Terrorism Act of 1997, closing a loophole in 1996 antiterrorism legislation that permitted transactions with Syria, Sudan. This bill is separate fr. the House res. passed by the Senate 6/17. (Near East Report 7/14; RMC 7/21 in WNC 7/22; WJW 7/24; MEI, MM 7/25)

Israeli court sentences Hamas mbr. Hassan Salameh to 46 consecutive life terms for engineering 3 suicide bombings that killed 46 persons. (WT 7/9; AFP 7/9 in WNC 7/10; WJW 7/10; JP 7/19)

Iran, Saudi Arabia sign 4 memoranda of understanding on agricultural cooperation, transport and communications, joint investment, and transit trade to Central Asia. (MM 7/9)

9 JULY

Mtg. at Egyptian amb. Muhammad Basyuni’s home in the presence of U.S. Amb. Indyk, Israeli M Mordechai, PA Planning M Nabil Shaath make some progress toward expediting operations at Rafah airport; resuming talks on construction of Gaza port, safe passage. (MM 7/10; PR 7/18; JP 7/19)

Citing Jordan’s new voting system, recent curbs on freedom of expression, the Muslim Brotherhood announces that it will boycott the 11/97 parliamentary elections. The Brotherhood’s political affiliate, the IAF,
must decide whether or not it will follow suit. (al-Dustur, JT, 7/9 in WNC 7/10; RJ 7/9, al-Dustur, JT, al-Rai’s 7/10 in WNC 7/11; MM 7/10, 7/14; MEI 7/25) (see 5/17)

Under pressure fr. the Gulf states, Lebanon non visas to Iraqi athletes due to compete in the 8th Arab Games, which open in Beirut 7/12. (MM 7/9, 7/11; AFP 7/11 in WNC 7/14; MM 7/14)

IDF abducts Lebanese journalist Roger Nahra, 2 relatives fr. Nahra’s home in s. Lebanon. (MM 7/10; WT 8/13)

10 JULY

UNRWA launches an emergency appeal for an additional $11 m. for Palestinian refugees in Lebanon, saying its current budget is insufficient to meet refugees' basic needs. (UNRWA press release 7/10)

Angered by a speech made by UK Secy. of State for Overseas Development Clare Short sympathizing with the plight of the Palestinians, Israel asks Labor MK Beilin to cancel a planned mtg. with her. He refuses. (Independent [London] 7/11 in WNC 7/14)

Turkey resumes border trade with Iraq for the 1st time since 1991. (WT 7/12)

11 JULY

Netanyahu’s media adviser Shai Bazaq confirms reports that Israeli, Palestinian teams have been holding unofficial talks on final status arrangements, briefing Netanyahu, Arafat. (MM 7/11; MA, al-Summara [Nazareth] 7/11 in WNC 7/14; MM 7/14) (see Peace Monitor)

In Hebron, Palestinians toss pipe bomb into a school seized by IDF soldiers. Troops fire rubber bullets at rioters. 20 Palestinians are injured, including 1 boy who is paralyzed. (WT 7/12)

12 JULY

In Nablus, a bomb explodes nr. an IDF vehicle passing by Joseph’s Tomb, injuring 2 soldiers. The IDF closes the main roads to the nearby villages of Bayt Furik, Bayt Dajan. (PR 7/18)

In Hebron, 25 Jewish settlers start stone-throwing riot with Palestinians, prompting the IDF to intervene, wounding 9 Palestinians. IDF also places cement barriers along Shalala Street, which divides the PA-Israeli-controlled enclaves; closes 50 Palestinian shops in Israeli-controlled downtown Hebron in retaliation for nearly 2 wks. of Palestinian protests, clashes. (NYT, WT 7/13; LAW 7/14)

In Ramallah, mbrs. of the PLO Exec. Comm. join in demonstrations to protest the expansion of Jewish settlements, anti-Muslim posters in Hebron. (PR 7/18)

Claiming they saw suspicous movements, IDF soldiers in s. Lebanon fire a shell at a 70-yr.-old Lebanese man collecting fodder for his cattle, killing him. Israel apologizes for the “accident.” (RL 7/12 in WNC 7/16)

13 JULY

DM Mordechai meets with U.S. Amb. Indyk, says that the IDF will consider reentering parts of Hebron if the PA does not get the security situation in H1 under control. Indyk relays the message to Arafat, who agrees to a mtg. btwn. IDF, PSF officers. (MM 7/14; ITV 7/14 in WNC 7/16; MM 7/15)

As clashes continue in Hebron, 16 Palestinians, including 5 journalists are injured by IDF rubber bullets. The Foreign Press Assn. accuses the IDF of targeting media personnel. (CSM, LAW, MM, NYT, WP, WT 7/14; PR 7/18)

14 JULY

Following talks 7/13, 200 PA policemen resume joint patrols with the IDF in Hebron in an attempt to quell riots. IDF allows some shops in the downtown area to reopen (see 7/12). (MM 7/14; CSM, MM, NYT, WT 7/15; MM 7/16; MEI 7/25)

IDF arrests 3 PA policemen who were allegedly planning an attack on the Jewish settlement of Har Bracha nr. Nablus. This is the 1st time that the IDF has arrested any mbr. of the PA security services. (ITV 7/16 in WNC 7/17; PR, WT 7/18; ITV 7/18 in WNC 7/22; MEI 7/25)

In Bayt Sahur, an explosion in an apartment kills 1 Palestinian man, wouning a woman. IDF claims that the man, Issa Khalil Shukah, was a mbr. of Hamas. (PR 7/18)

Palestinians clash with IDF in the West Bank town of Bayt Sahur. 1 Palestinian boy is killed by rubber bullet to the head. (WT 7/17; PR 7/18)

In s. Lebanon, 2 Lebanese civilians are killed, 1 is wounded by Israeli shelling. (RL 7/14, 7/15 in WNC 7/16)

15 JULY

In Amman, Jordanian PM Majali discusses with Arafat dep. Abbas ways of coor-
In an emergency session, the UNGA adopts (131-3, with 14 abstentions) a resolution condemning Israeli settlement policy, threatening to cut back Israel rights within the UN. Israel, Micronesia, the U.S. vote against (see 7/10); Russia abstains. (MM 7/15; IDF Radio 7/15 in WNC 7/16; MM, NYT, WT 7/16; ITV 7/16 in WNC 7/17; CSM, MM 7/17; Hatzofe, Interfax [Moscow], RE 7/17 in WNC 7/18; Xinhua [Beijing] 7/17, SAPA [Johannesburg] 7/21 in WNC 7/24; MM, PR 7/18; MEI 7/25; JP 7/26) (see Peace Monitor, Doc. A4)

Higher Jordanian-Qatari Comm. ends 2-day session in Doha. The 2 states sign agmts. on land transport, commercial shipping and ports, judicial affairs; agree to expand bilateral cooperation in all fields, particularly economics. (RJ 7/15, 7/16 in WNC 7/17; JT 7/16 in WNC 7/18)

Hizballah fires at least 2 katyusha rockets fr. s. Lebanon toward n. Israel. One lands inside Israel, causing no damage. (RL 7/16 in WNC 7/17) (see 7/7)

Jordan's Council of Presidents of Professional Assns. (CPFA) announces a preliminary decision to call on all mbrs. to boycott the 11/97 Jordanian elections. However, several member assns. disagree with the decision. Meanwhile, the Higher Comm. for Coordination Among the Opposition Parties (HCCAOP) defers decision on whether to boycott until the IAF announces its position. (al-Dustur 7/15, al-Dustur, al-Ra'y 7/16 in WNC 7/17; MM 7/16; JT 7/16, 7/17 in WNC 7/18; MM 7/22) (see 6/19, 7/9)

16 JULY

Israeli DM Mordechai, PA Planning M Shaath meet, discuss Rafah airport. Egyptian amb. Basyni attends, says no progress is made. (MM 7/16; IDF Radio 7/17 in WNC 7/18)

In Cairo, Pres. Mubarak, Labor Chmn. Barak discuss future of the peace process. (MM 7/16; IDF Radio 7/16 in WNC 7/17)

Israeli administration informs ministers to prepare for "action plans" to increase Israeli control in East Jerusalem. (MA 7/17 in WNC 7/18) (see Peace Monitor)

The IDF declares PA-controlled cities in the West Bank closed military zones, effectively sealing them. (ITV 7/16 in WNC 7/17)

Senate passes version of the 1998 foreign aid bill that includes $1.3 b. in military aid, $850 m. in economic aid for Egypt. (al-Ahram al-Masa'il 7/19 in WNC 7/29) (see 6/18)

ILMG concludes that 7/12, 7/14, 7/15 incidents were unintentional violations of the 4/96 understanding. Before the mtg. convenes, Hizballah fires some 30 katyushas toward n. Israel. (RL 7/16 in WNC 7/17; RL 7/17 in WNC 7/18)

17 JULY

In Washington, PA Local Government M Erakat meets with special envoy Ross. (MM, WT 7/22; WJW 7/24)

In Gaza, Arafat, Shin Bet head Ami Ayalon discuss Israel's arrest of 3 PA policemen 7/15. Later, Egyptian amb. Basyni hosts mbr. brown. Israeli DM Mordechai, PA Planning M Shaath to discuss tensions surrounding arrest. The policemen have reportedly "confessed" under interrogation, prompting the IDF to detain the head of the PA forces in the Nablus area. (IDF Radio, ITV, QY 7/17 in WNC 7/18; MM, WT 7/18; ITV 7/18, MA 7/19, 7/20, Hatzofe 7/21 in WNC 7/22; JP 7/26) (see 7/9)

In Bir Nabala, IDF demolishes 19 Palestinian homes housing 47 persons. Soldiers do not let residents remove their belongings fr. the homes before destroying them. (LAW 7/7)

18 JULY

Likud MK Sharon, Labor MK Peres discuss the possibility of establishing a national unity government. Sharon has already discussed the possibility with fmr. Finance M Meridor (see 6/18). (ITV, QY 7/18 in WNC 7/22; MEI 7/25) (see 7/8)

In its 1st wk. in office, Turkey's new government ratifies a trade agmt. with Israel. (WT 7/20) (see Peace Monitor)

19 JULY

In Washington, PA Local Government M Erakat meets with Undersecy. of State Thomas Pickering; says that the U.S. is working on a new initiative, based on a "package deal," to help restart peace talks. Pickering later meets with PM Netanyahau's political adviser Uzi Arad to discuss issues pertaining to Iran, Syria. (MM, WT 7/21; MM 7/22; WJW 7/24; MEI 7/25)

In Nablus, PA court opens the trial of 3 mbrs. of Force 17, 1 civilian on charges of kidnapping, collaboration with Israel. (AFP 7/19 in WNC 7/29) (see 7/3)
Syria halts broadcasts, closes offices of the Voice of Iraq, Iraqi opposition radio, which has operated in Damascus for 17 yrs. (AFP 7/20 in WNC 7/29; SA 7/24 in WNC 7/25; MEI 8/8) (see 7/13)

Jordanian military court finds Daqamsa guilty of killing 7 Israeli girls, wounding 7 on 3/13 but rules out premeditation (which carries the death penalty); sentences him to life in prison with hard labor. (NYT, WT 7/20; MM 7/21; JP 7/26) (see 5/27)

Jordan’s CPPA adopts decision to boycott 11/97 elections. All assns. except the Auditors Assn. and Press Assn., which do not attend, approve the decision. (al-Ra'i 7/20 in WNC 7/22; MM 7/22) (see 7/15)

20 JULY

In Ramallah, Arafat holds mtg. with Netanyahuto talk. Molho to discuss Israeli arrest of 3 PA policemen 7/15, resumption of security coordination, hopes for resumption of negotiations. (MA 7/22 in WNC 7/23)

At EU special envoy Moratinos’s invitation, Israeli FM Levy, PA Planning M Shaath meet to discuss possible confidence-building measures as part of EU bid to advance the stalled peace process ahead of a mtg. of EU FMs 7/22. The pair also discusses Israeli allegations regarding 3 PA policemen (see 7/17). (WT 7/21; JP 7/26)

Israeli cabinet approves legislation to block compensation to Palestinians wounded by the IDF, the families of those killed during the intifada. The Knesset must now vote on the measure. (WT 7/23; MEI 7/25; MM 7/29)

Israeli Infrastructures M Sharon proposes amendment to the direct-election law that would reduce fr. 80 to 61 the number of MKs needed to oust the PM without dissolving the Knesset. (ITV 7/20; QY, YA 7/21 in WNC 7/22; MEI 7/25) (see 7/18)


In Amman, University of Jordan students stage an on-campus procession to denounce the 7/19 Daqamsa verdict, settler provocations in Hebron. (MM 7/21; JT 7/21 in WNC 7/22)

21 JULY

Netanyahusends Cabinet Secy. Nave to Washington to present U.S. special envoy Ross with “bridging proposals” for resuming PA-Israel talks. (MA, YA 7/21 in WNC 7/22; NYT, WT 7/22; ITV 7/22 in WNC 7/23; WT 7/23; WJW 7/24; YA 7/25 in WNC 7/28) (see Peace Monitor)

Israel’s Labor faction forms an unofficial “shadow cabinet,” assigning party mbrrs. to monitor, react to the activities of each ministry (e.g., MK Bellin on FMin., MK Ori Or on DMin., MK Binyamin Ben-Eliezer on Housing Min.). After 6 mos. the assignments will rotate, though party chmn. Barak will remain the “shadow PM,” tracking Netanyahou. (YA 7/21 in WNC 7/29)

Labor Chmn. Barak flies to Amman at King Hussein’s invitation to discuss ways of restarting Israeli-PA talks. (IDF Radio 7/21 in WNC 7/22; NYT 7/22)

Netanyahou loses (49-44) a no-confidence vote in the Knesset but is not deposed under the direct-election law. (MM 7/22) (see 7/20)

The ‘Abd al-Rahim comm. to investigate the PA GCO report on financial corruption submits its final report to Arafat. (NYT 7/22) (see Peace Monitor)

PA police announce that based on inquiries into Shukah’s death 7/14, they have uncovered a Hamas bomb-making factory in Bayt Sahur, containing 66 lbs. of explosives, IDF uniforms, Jewish prayer shawls and caps. (MM 7/21)

PA police arrive at the home of al-Azhar’s Dr. Subuh, confiscate the student answers to the exam he gave 6/21. The PSF is still detaining Subuh. (LAW 7/24; NYT 8/16) (see 7/2)

22 JULY

On the sidelines of the EU FMs’ mtg. in Brussels, Arafat, Israeli FM Levy hold the highest Israeli-PA mtg. since the pair met in Malta 4/15. Afterward, both men say that they made significant progress toward resuming Oslo II implementation negotiations. (MM 7/22; MM, NYT, WP, WT 7/23; YA 7/25 in WNC 7/28)

In Washington, Israeli cabinet secy. Nave holds 2d mtg. with U.S. special envoy Ross. (MM, NYT 7/23; WJW 7/24) (see 7/21)

In Jerusalem, Israeli pres. Ezer Weizman discusses with Arafat dep. Abbas ways of restarting the peace talks. (NYT 7/24)
On their way fr. attending a Fatah rally in Nablus in support of PA policeman Col. Musaymi (see 7/20, 4 PC mbrs. (all Fatah mbrs.) are arrested by the IDF, detained for 5 hrs. (PR 7/25)

In Tel Aviv, an Israeli Arab wielding a sword and knife stabs 2 Israeli women at a sidewalk cafe, lightly injuries 11 others. In a separate incident in Gaza, a Palestinian woman stabs, slightly wounds an Israeli border guard nr. a Jewish settlement; is arrested by PA police. (WP 7/23; PR 7/25; JP 8/2)

PA reports that the IDF has sent 8 tanks, several armored personnel carriers, long-range 175-mm. Howitzer guns into Gaza to reinforce Gush Qatif settlement bloc. (al-Hayat al-Jadida 7/22 in WNC 7/23)

Syria allows businessmen to travel to Iraq individually, voiding restrictions on travel to Iraq placed on Syrian passports since 1980. (RMC 7/22 in WNC 7/23) (see 7/19)

23 JULY

Unidentified assailants fire 4 tracer bullets at IDF Maj. Gen. Matan Vilna'i's helicopter as it overflies the Palestinian village of Salfit in the West Bank. IDF has no leads. (ITV 7/24 in WNC 7/28)

In keeping with the 9/17/96 press law, Lebanon's Council of Ministers issues new licenses for television, radio companies; orders authorities to shut down 5 television stations, 20 radio networks whose licenses are not renewed. (RL 7/24 in WNC 7/25; al-Nahar, RL 7/25 in WNC 7/29; SA 8/1 in WNC 8/4; RL 8/7, 8/8 in WNC 8/11)

24 JULY

Senior coalition MKs charge that Dr. Nimrod Novick, a frm. adviser of Peres, delivered a document to the U.S. administration, outlining a U.S. initiative for resumption of Israeli-PA talks. (MM 7/24; YA 7/24 in WNC 7/25; ITV 7/24 in WNC 7/28) (see Peace Monitor)

At Erez checkpoint, Arafat, Labor Chmn. Barak meet; agree to set up joint comm. to exchange updates about the peace process. (IDF Radio 7/24 in WNC 7/25)

Ma'ariv publishes excerpts of what it claims are secret government documents about the permanent arrangement with the PA. According to the excerpts, which have similarities to the Abbas-Bellin proposal (see Doc. C3 in JPS 101), the Likud-led government would "agree to the existence of an independent Palestinian entity," with long-term restrictions on sovereignty. The documents reportedly also list in descending order of preference various options for each final status issue. Netanyahu admits the position paper was written but dismisses it as "not important," a draft, not policy. (MM 7/24; MA 7/24 in WNC 7/25, 7/28; MM 7/25)

Israeli Mayor of Jerusalem Olmert gives immediate permission for a right-wing American Jewish developer, Irving Moskowitz, to break ground for a new 70-unit Jewish settlement in the Palestinian neighborhood of Ras al-Amud. Netanyahu says the move is legal, but the timing is wrong; he will block the plan. (MM, NYT 7/25; IDF Radio 7/25 in WNC 7/28; NYT, WP, WT 7/26; ITV, YA 7/27, IDF Radio 7/28 in WNC 7/29; WJW 7/31; JP 8/2, 8/9)

Backed by Israel's Histadrut labor federation, 60,000 workers at state-owned companies observe 1-day strike in solidarity with Bezeq telephone company employees, who are protesting government privatization programs. (NYT 7/25, 7/26)

Pres. Mubarak says that Iran is seeking military cooperation with Egypt to counter the growing military ties b/wn. Israel, Turkey, Egypt will not take an immediate decision on the request. (al-Ahram 7/24 in WNC 7/29)

Syria opens 4th border crossing with Iraq. (see 7/22)

IAF's consultative council votes (80-16) to boycott Jordan's 11/97 elections. (MM 7/24, 7/25; RMC 7/24 in WNC 7/25; al-Dustur 7/25 in WNC 7/28; al-Dustur 7/29 in WNC 7/30) (see 7/19)

In s. Lebanon, 5 SLA mbrs. are wounded by 2 car bombs. In a separate incident, 1 IDF soldier is injured when an IDF artillery gun misfires while shelling Hizballah positions. (RL 7/24 in WNC 7/25; WT 8/6)

25 JULY

State Dept. says that the proposed Ras al-Amud plan will not help put the peace process back on track. The Arab League, Jordan also condemn the project. (al-Ra'i, RE, RJ 7/26 in WNC 7/29; WT 6/27) (see 7/24)

Ma'ariv reports that Israeli defense officials have prepared a blacklist of 70 PA policemen who allegedly fired shots at the IDF during the 9/96 riots and who can be detained for interrogation if they travel b/wn. the West Bank, Gaza. The list reportedly has been given to the PA, which removed listed
men fr. joint patrols, senior positions. At the same time, Israel's military advocate general ruled that IDF actions during the riots came under the “framework of war,” meaning troops cannot be prosecuted, while PA actions did not. (MA 7/25 in WNC 7/30)

26 JULY

Miami developer Moskowitz postpones plans to build Jewish housing at Ras al-Amud, saying he wants to construct more units than the Interior Min. permit allows. (NYT, WP, WT 7/27; YA 7/27, ITV 7/28 in WNC 7/29; MM, WT 7/28; al-Dustur 7/28 in WNC 7/29) (see 7/25)

The U.S. decides not to oppose a $1.6 b. pipeline that would carry huge quantities of natural gas fr. Turkmenistan across Iran to Turkey and Europe, marking the 1st significant easing of Iran's economic isolation since 1979. (NYT, WP 7/27; MM 7/29; WT 7/30; MEI 8/8)


27 JULY

As the 8/12 expiration date of the MEPFA approaches, key congressmen say that they doubt an extension can be approved before Congress goes into recess 8/1. If no extension is passed then aid to and contacts with the PLO must be cut off at least temporarily. (WP 7/27; MM, WT 7/29; WJW 7/31; JP 8/2; WP 8/13)


6 Jordanian opposition parties announce plans to boycott 11/97 elections unless Jordan suspends the new press law, stops all official normalization with Israel, ensures the right of parties to equal use of all mass media, halts violations of public freedoms and democracy, treats parties as national institutions. (al-Ra'i 7/28 in WNC 7/29) (see 7/26)

28 JULY

Israeli FM Levy, PA Planning M Shaath announce that within days, they will partially resume talks on the 8 subcomms. established to address outstanding Oslo II issues. Netanyahu's media adviser says that the PM is prepared to carry out the 2d redeployment on schedule. (ITV 7/28 in WNC 7/29; CSM, MM, WP, WT 7/29; MA 7/29 in WNC 7/30; CSM, MM 7/30; JT 7/30 in WNC 7/31)

A Labor-Likud forum headed by MKs Beilin, Eytan hold mtg. to discuss the 2d FRD, resuming talks with the PA. (YA 7/29 in WNC 7/30)

The Israeli Interior Min. suspends the permit granting construction at Ras al-Amud. (MM 7/28; WP 8/28) (see 7/26)

In response to 3 homemade bombs thrown at Israeli soldiers 7/26-27, the IDF closes Palestinian-owned shops in the Israeli-controlled section of Hebron (H2), detains 20 Palestinians for questioning. (WT 7/29)

Off the coast of Tyre, Lebanese Israeli naval vessels fire on 6 Lebanese fishing boats, seize 2 of the boats, detain and interrogate 2 fishermen for several hrs. (AFP, RL 7/28 in WNC 7/29) (see 6/5)

29 JULY

PC special investigative comm. into PA corruption reads its report to the council; says up to $340 m. (half of the PA budget) has been misspent (including foreign aid donations), half of the EA mbrs. are implicated in misappropriation of funds, others are unqualified; calls on Arafat to dissolve the cabinet, put 3 EA mbrs. (Planning M Shaath, Civil Affairs M Jamil Tarifi, Transportation M Ali al-Qawasmi) on trial. The PC report's conclusions are non-binding. (CSM, WP, WT 7/30)

Egyptian pres. Mubarak makes previously unannounced visit to Damascus to discuss the peace process with Pres. Asad, who expresses “no hope” under current conditions. Mubarak then heads to Amman to meet with King Hussein. (RJ, SANA 7/29 in WNC 7/30; RJ 7/29 in WNC 7/31; MM, WT 7/30; MEI 8/8)

In Amman, King Hussein, FM Tarawneh meet with Israeli FM Levy, say that they are optimistic that Netanyahu's decision to block Ras al-Amud development will jump-start the peace process. (RJ 7/29 in WNC 7/30, 7/31; WT 7/30)

Israeli commandos enter Tulkarm (area A) to capture Islamic Jihad mbr. Ghassan Mahdawi, who had escaped fr. an Israeli prison in 8/95. (al-Quds 7/29 in WNC 7/31; MM 7/31; CSM, NYT 8/1; JP 8/2)
Nr. Elon Moreh settlement in the West Bank, a Palestinian stabs an IDF soldier in the shoulder, is shot and killed by a 2d soldier. (ITV 7/29 in WNC 7/30, 8/1; JP 8/9)

A poll of young bedouin in the Negev conducted by Bersheeba University shows that 48% believe that Israel does not have a right to exist, 70% prefer to go to jail than serve in the IDF, 70% believe the term "Palestinian" describes them, 45% prefer to live in Israel than in an Arab state or the West. (YA 7/29 in WNC 7/31)

30 JULY

2 suicide bombers dressed as ultra-Orthodox Jews detonate explosives in a crowded market in Jerusalem, killing 13 Israelis, wounding more than 170 Israelis, Palestinians. IDF immediately seals the West Bank, Gaza, preventing even town-to-town movement; suspends recognition of Palestinian passports; sends troops to seal the PA-controlled cities. A letter signed by Hamas’s military wing, Izzeddin al-Qassam Brigades, takes responsibility, but Israeli security question its authenticity, Hamas political leader ‘Abd al-Aziz Rantisi says Hamas was not involved. (MM 7/30; IDF Radio, ITV, RE 7/30 in WNC 7/31; IDF Radio, ITV, JTV 7/30, MA, RAI Uno Television [Rome], RE, YA 7/31 in WNC 8/1; CSM, NYT, WP, WT 7/31; ITV 7/31 in WNC 8/6; CSM, WT 8/1; AFP, MAP [Rabat], VOA 8/1 in WNC 8/4; NYT 8/3; al-Dustur, al-Majd 8/4 in WNC 8/7; CSM 8/5; WJW 8/7; MEI, PR 8/8; JP 8/9; CSM 8/11)

In the wake of the bombings, PM Netanyahu, FM Levy phone Secy. of State Albright, demand that the U.S. put pressure on Arafat. The Israeli cabinet suspends all contacts with the PA until Arafat acts against Islamists “with determination,” destroys their infrastructure. However, 1 mtg. brwn. Israeli, PA security officials is held. Overnight, an IDF helicopter hovers over Arafat’s Gaza headquarters, an Israeli warplane circles the Gaza Strip. (MM 7/30; ITV 7/30 in WNC 7/31; MM, NYT, WP, WT 7/31; YA 7/31 in WNC 8/4; WT 8/1)

As a result of the bombings, U.S. special envoy Ross cancels plans to leave today for the Middle East to meet with Arafat, Netanyahu. (MM, WT 7/30; NYT, WP, WT 7/31)

State Dept. lifts the 12-yr. ban forbidding Americans to travel to Lebanon after that government agrees to take new steps to improve security at various locations, pledges to ratify an international convention against hostage-taking. The decision does not include lifting the ban on flights by Lebanese carriers to the U.S. or by U.S. carriers to Lebanon. (MM, WP 7/30; RL, RMC 7/30 in WNC 7/31; WT 7/31; al-Safir 7/31 in WNC 8/1; RL 8/4 in WNC 8/5; WT 8/6; al-Safir 8/6 in WNC 8/8; MEI 8/8)

Saudi Arabian dissident Sayigh backs out of a plea agmt. with the FBI to cooperate in the al-Khobar bombing case; says that he is innocent of any wrongdoing; was pressured by Canadian immigration officials to make statements on the bombing to avoid being deported to Saudi Arabia, where he faces execution. (NYT, WT 7/31) (see 6/30)

UN extends the UNIFIL mandate for 6 mos. (RL 7/30 in WNC 8/1)

Israeli naval forces detain 5 Lebanese fishermen off the coast of s. Lebanon, interrogate them before releasing them. (RL 7/29 in WNC 7/30) (see 7/28)

31 JULY

In Ramallah, the PC votes (56-1) to urge Arafat to dissolve the EA within 1 mo., appoint a new cabinet. After the session, Israel prevents 18 PC mbrs. fr. returning to their homes in Gaza. (CSM, WP, WT 8/1; LAW 8/7; PR 8/8)

With less than 24-hrs. notice, Syrian pres. Assad travels to Iran as head of a delegation comprising his VP, FM, several senior military cmdrs.; discusses Syrian-Iranian relations with outgoing Pres. Rafsanjani. (MM 7/31; RMC 7/31 in WNC 8/1; MM 8/1; SATN 7/31; IRIB Television [Tehran] 8/1 in WNC 8/4; MA 8/3 in WNC 8/5; MEI 8/8)

Following a mtg. with his inner cabinet, PM Netanyahu threatens to send commandos into PA areas to preempt any new anti-Israeli attacks, to halt transfer of all tax revenues to the PA, to jam all Palestinian radio and television broadcasts; calls on the U.S., international donors to halt aid to the PA. (MM 7/31; RMC 7/31 in WNC 8/1; CSM, WP, WT 8/1)

IDF detains families of 2 missing Palestinians, but they are unable to identify the 7/30 bombers’ bodies. Israeli cabinet orders the arrest of PA’s Gaza police cmdr. Brig. Gen. Jabali for encouraging attacks on Israeli settlements (see 7/20). PA police arrest 28 Hamas mbrs., including Rantisi, PA, Israeli security forces hold 2 mgs. during the day. (MM 7/31; IDF Radio, QY, RMC 7/31 in WNC 8/1; CSM, NYT, WP, WT 8/1)

New York City police seize 5 pipe bombs, arrest 1 Egyptian, 2 Jordanians in
a raid on a Brooklyn apartment. Police were tipped to the bombs by a man who believed that his friends, Ghazi Ibrahim Abu Mayzar and Lafi Khalili (who both identify themselves as Palestinian), were planning to bomb the New York subway. Abu Mayzar previously has been arrested in Israel on charges of "being a mbr. of a terrorist organization." The 3d man, Egyptian ‘Abd al-Rahman Musabah, is detained as a witness. Hamas denies any connection to the men. (NYT, WP, WT 8/1; RJ 8/1 in WNC 8/4; NYT, WP 8/2; AFP 8/2 in WNC 8/5; NYT, WT 8/3; al-Hadath [Amman] 8/4 in WNC 8/5; NYT 8/5; WJW 8/7; MEI 8/8)

Unnamed Gulf diplomats reveal that Sidi al-Madani al-Ghazi Mustafa al-Tayyib, financial director for Saudi dissident and alleged “terrorist financier” Osama bin Laden, has been in custody in Saudi Arabia since 5/97. Saudi authorities have passed some of Tayyib’s revealed information to the CIA, FBI to track militant groups in Detroit, New York. (WT 8/1)

Lebanese court sentences 5 Japanese Red Army mbrs. to 3 yrs. in jail on charges of forging official stamps, illegal entry into Lebanon, forging passports. (VOL 7/31 in WNC 8/1; CSM, WP 8/1) (see 6/9)

1 AUGUST

Arafat convenes the EA to discuss the 7/30 bombings. In response to the PC vote 7/31, all but 2 EA mbrs. (Planning M Shaath, Information M Yasar ‘Abid Rab-buh) offer to resign so that Arafat may rebuild the cabinet, defuse Palestinian resentment over PA corruption report. (NYT, WP 8/2; NYT, WT 8/3; PR 8/8; JP 8/9) (see 7/31)

In reaction to the 7/30 bombings, Israel arrests 10s of Palestinians in an attempt to identify the bombers, sets up a naval blockade against Palestinian fishing boats off Gaza; refuses to transfer $20 m. (half the PA’s monthly budget) in VAT revenues owed the PA today. (MM 8/1; NYT 8/2, 8/4; MM, NYT 8/5; RMC, VOL 8/6 in WNC 8/7; PR 8/8; al-Hayat al-Jadida 8/10 in WNC 8/12) (see 7/29)

The Israel Broadcasting Authority refuses a government request to turn over one of its transmitters to help jam Voice of Palestine radio. (MA 8/4 in WNC 8/6)

Congress recesses without extending MEPFA legislation. (WP, WT 8/5; WT 8/6) (see 7/27, Peace Monitor)

In Tehran, Syrian pres. Asad meets with Pres.-elect Khatami, becoming 1st head of state to do so. (MM 8/1; IRIB Television [Te-hran], SA, SATN 8/1 in WNC 8/4; Tishrin 8/2 in WNC 8/6; MA 8/3 in WNC 8/5; MM 8/7; al-Watan al-Arabie 8/8 in WNC 8/11)

UN approves a Syrian-Iraqi border crossing as a new entry point for goods going into Iraq under the oil-for-food deal. (MM 8/6) (see 7/27)

2 AUGUST

Arafat travels to Alexandria to ask Pres. Mubarak’s support against the “dangerous measures” taken by Israel since the 7/30 bombings. (NYT, WT 8/3; RE 8/2, MA 8/3 in WNC 8/5; MM 8/8)

Israeli, PA security officials discuss security conditions. (NYT 8/4)

The Russian Orthodox Church Outside say that the PA has apologized for seizing its monastery in Hebron, barring the patriarch of Moscow when he arrived for a visit; has returned the monastery to the church. (JP 8/2) (see 7/5)

Israel’s Civil Aviation Administration reports that during the 1st half of 1997, the number of tourists coming to Israel dropped by 13%. (JP 8/2)

3 AUGUST

PM Netanyahu tells his cabinet that Israel will not honor its peace agmts. with the PLO unless Arafat cracks down on Islamists. (MM 8/4)

14-mbr. Knesset Internal Affairs Comm. delegation representing almost all Israeli parties (except Moledet, Shas, Tsomet) arrives in Amman for a 2-day visit to discuss the current impasse in PA-Israeli talks resulting fr. the 7/30 bombings; encourages King Hussein to personally mediate btw. the sides. Jordanian parliamentary mbrs. boycott the delegation. (RJ 8/3, 8/4 in WNC 8/5; JT 8/5 in WNC 8/6; SA 8/5 in WNC 8/7)

Israel continues arresting Palestinians following the 7/30 bombings, bringing the total arrested to 116; also demolishes 3 Palestinian homes allegedly built without permits nr. Jerusalem. (WP 8/4; LAW 8/5; PR 8/8)

Nr. the West Bank Jewish settlement of Karmel, a Palestinian is fatally shot fr. a passing car bearing Israeli license plates. (ITV 8/3 in WNC 8/5; MM, WP 8/4; NYT 8/5)

Iraq, Syria form a joint tourism company, which will run 2 daily trips to transport businessmen btw. the countries. (RMC 8/4 in WNC 8/5) (see 8/1)

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4 AUGUST

EU special envoy Moratinos meets separately with Arafat, Netanyahu. Arafat then heads to Jordan for talks with King Hussein. King Hussein telephones U.S. Secy. of State Albright, Egypt's Pres. Mubarak, PM Netanyahu to discuss mediation btw. the PA, Israel. (MM 8/4; AFP 8/4 in WNC 8/5; RJ 8/4, 8/5 in WNC 8/6; MM, WT 8/5; MM 8/8)

Despite warnings fr. the U.S. that the decision could exacerbate the present situation, Israeli cabinet approves list of retributive measures against the PA drawn up by the inner cabinet 7/31, blocks transfer of $15 m. in tax payments owed the PA. Netanyahu says he will use a “sliding scale,” relaxing some of the economic measures as the PA takes steps against Islamists. (MM, NYT 8/5; al-Ayyam [Ramallah], YA 8/5 in WNC 8/6; CSM 8/6; al-Hayat al-Jadida 8/10 in WNC 8/12; WP 8/14)

Israel arrests 29 Palestinians suspected of “terrorist activity,” demolishes 5 Palestinian homes allegedly built without permits in East Jerusalem. Since Israel has arrested 145 Palestinians. Arafat calls the actions collective punishment meant to humiliate the Palestinians. (IDF Radio, ITV 8/4 in WNC 8/5; LAW, NYT, WP, WT 8/5; MM 8/8)

Iran’s Khatami is sworn in as pres. (CSM 8/5)

An elite Israeli Egoz unit is flown n. of Israel’s self-declared security zone in s. Lebanon; plants explosives nr. the home of 2 Hizballah cmdrs.; later detonates them by remote control, killing 5 Hizballah mbrs., wounding 2 Hizballah mbrs. and 3 civilians. (MM 8/4; AFP, ITV, RL, RMC 8/4 in WNC 8/5; MM, NYT 8/5; NYT, WT 8/6; Independent [London] 8/6 in WNC 8/7; JP 8/16)

5 AUGUST

At the PA’s request, the Arab League calls an emergency session in Cairo to discuss events in Israel, the occupied territories. Mbrs. issue an unusually harsh statement, accusing Israel of bringing the 7/30 violence upon itself. (WP 8/5)

In Amman, Arafat meets with PM Majali, returns to Gaza. (RJ 8/5 in WNC 8/6)

The U.S. urges Israel to practice restraint in dealing with the Palestinians following the 7/30 bombings, not to take security steps (such as withholding tax money) that will undermine the PA. (NYT 8/5; WT 8/6)

In Cairo, Pres. Mubarak meets with Israeli FM Levy, encourages Israel to go ahead with peace talks as the only way to avoid future “terrorism.” (MM 8/5; RE 8/5 in WNC 8/6; RJ 8/5, RE 8/6 in WNC 8/7; NYT, WP, WT 8/6; MM 8/8)

IDF arrests 11 more Palestinians, demolishes 3 Palestinian homes nr. Hebron for allegedly being built without a permit; 1 home was built in PA-controlled area B, with a PA permit. (MM 8/5; LAW, NYT 8/6)

IDF shells suspected Hizballah bases in the Biqa’ Valley, n. Lebanon, killing 2, wounding 4 Lebanese civilians. (MM 8/5; RL 8/5 in WNC 8/6; NYT 8/6)

In s. Lebanon, a roadside bomb is detonated as a car passes, killing 1 Lebanese civilian. Israel blames Hizballah, which denies the charge. (MM 8/5; Voice of the South 8/5 in WNC 8/6; Voice of the South 8/6 in WNC 8/7)

6 AUGUST

U.S. Secy. of State Albright endorses PM Netanyahu’s plan for accelerated final status talks with the PA, stresses that no progress can be made until Israel is certain that the PA is making 100% effort to fight “terrorism”; says that she will travel to the region at the end of the mo. (MM 8/6; ITV, QY 8/6 in WNC 8/7; NYT, WP, WT 8/7; IDF Radio, IGPO, ITV, MA, YA 8/7, Hatzele 8/8 in WNC 8/8; MM, NYT 8/8; NYT 8/9; al-Thaurra 8/9, IDF Radio 8/10 in WNC 8/12) (see Doc. D4)

Jordan’s Crown Prince Hassan, PM Majali meet with PM Netanyahu in Jerusalem. The crown prince recommends Israel adopt a softer line with the Palestinians, invites Netanyahu to visit Amman next wk. (MM, NYT 8/6; ITV, JTV, RJ, YA 8/6 in WNC 8/7; CSM 8/7; MA 8/7 in WNC 8/8; al-Ra’i 8/7 in WNC 8/11)

In Amman, King Hussein meets delegation fr. Israel’s Histadrut Labor federation. (JTV 8/6 in WNC 8/8)

The U.S. group Builders for Peace, initiated by VP Al Gore to promote economic development in the territories, announces it is closing its doors, saying that “political conditions in the region . . . render the prospects of success for any given project remote.” (Builders for Peace press release 8/6)

For the first day since the 7/30 bombings, Israel allows flour, vital goods, medical supplies to enter the West Bank, Gaza. (NYT 8/7; WT 8/8)

5 UNIFIL soldiers are killed when their helicopter crashes in s. Lebanon. UN suspects mechanical failure. (AFP, London Press
Association 8/6; RL 8/7 in WNC 8/8; WP 8/7; JP 8/16)

In s. Lebanon, 1 SLA soldier is killed when Hizballah detonates a roadside bomb as his car passes. Hizballah also fires several katsyushas toward n. Israel, but they land in s. Lebanon, causing no injuries. (MM 8/7; Voice of the South 8/7 in WNC 8/8; MM 8/8)

7 AUGUST

Jordan’s Crown Prince Hassan travels to Cairo to brief Pres. Mubarak on his talks with PM Netanyahu. (RE, RJ 8/7 in WNC 8/8)

IDF demolishes 2 more Palestinian homes in Jerusalem ostensibly for having no permit. (LAW 8/7; CSN 8/8)

Israel says that it is no longer seeking the arrest of PA police cmdr. Brig. Gen. Jabali. (ITV 8/7 in WNC 8/8) (see 7/31)

Jordan’s al-Mustaqbal Party announces that it will boycott the 11/97 elections. (al-Ra’i 8/7 in WNC 8/11) (see 7/28)

As violence in s. Lebanon escalates to levels not seen since the 4/96 understanding, 1 Lebanese woman, 2 children are killed by a roadside bomb planted by unknown assailants; 1 SLA mbr. is killed by a bomb planted in his car; 1 farmer is killed by IDF retaliatory shelling. (RL 8/7 in WNC 8/8; WP 8/6)

Israel releases Lebanese reporter Roger Nahra. (RL 8/7 in WNC 8/8) (see 7/9)

8 AUGUST

A delegation of 46 Israeli Arabs, incl. 7 MKs, arrives in Syria for an unprecedented 12-day visit to show their support for the Syrian position on talks with Israel. (RMC 8/8 in WNC 8/11; SATN 8/9; IDF Radio, MA 8/11 in WNC 8/12; MM 8/11, 8/12) (for background see RMC 8/3, SA 8/4 in WNC 8/5; MM 8/4; see Peace Monitor for details)

Israel eases the “inner closure,” allowing Palestinian movement bwn. Jericho, Nablus; reopens the Rafah border crossing bwn. Gaza, Egypt. (WT 8/10)

Katyusha rockets hit Kiryat Shimona in n. Israel, damaging a synagogue, injuring 1 woman. DM Mordechai blames Hizballah for the attack: IDF responds by shelling PFLP-GC bases outside Beirut. Hizballah denies responsibility. (AFP, RL, VOL 8/8 in WNC 8/11; WP, WT 8/9; WT 8/10; YA 8/10 in WNC 8/12)

9 AUGUST

U.S. special envoy Ross arrives in Jerusalem for talks with PA, Israel aimed at easing tensions, resuming security contacts that would pave way for visit by Secy. of State Albright, resumption of negotiations. (NYT 8/9; Radio France Internationale 8/9 in WNC 8/12; NYT, WT 8/10; JP 8/16)

Arafat calls emergency session of the PC to discuss conditions in the territories since the 7/30 bombings. (NYT, WT 8/10)

Nearly 2 wks. after the 7/30 bombings, Israel is still unable to identify the bombers. Unnamed Israeli, PA officials claim that several indicators (the labels on the bombers clothing had been cut off, their finger prints are not on file, their bombs left no chemical residue, they carried Jordanian dinars) suggest that the bombers came fr. abroad, perhaps fr. Lebanon. Lebanese FM Faris Buwayz says that Israel is propagating these rumors to justify its recent intensification of attacks on Lebanon. (RL 8/9, al-Hayat al-Jadida 8/10 in WNC 8/12; WP 8/11, WT 8/16)

Israel eases the “inner closure” to allow Palestinian movement bwn. Janin, Qalqilya, Tulkarm. Bethlehem, H1 in Hebron, Ramallah are still sealed. Palestinians are permitted to cross the border into Jordan, but the overall ban on Palestinians entering Israel remains in effect. (WT 8/10, 8/13)

PA police uncover a cache of weapons, explosives in Qalqilya, arrest several Palestinians. (NYT 8/10; YA 8/10 in WNC 8/12; NYT 8/11; LAW 8/20)

Israeli Air Force stages 2 attacks targeting Hizballah, PFLP-GC training camps in the Biqa’ Valley, killing 1 Hizballah mbr. and 1 PFLP-GC mbr., wounding 4 Hizballah mbrs. 1 SLA mbr. is wounded in a separate clash with Hizballah. (RL 8/9 in WNC 8/12; NYT, WT 8/10; MM 8/11)

10 AUGUST

U.S. special envoy Ross meets with Arafat in Ramallah, Netanyahu in Jerusalem. Taking Secy. of State Albright’s lead (8/6), Ross adopts the Israeli demand that the PA take the 1st steps to revive the peace process, in return promising more aggressive U.S. mediation. In the evening, PA, Israeli security officials meet with Ross; Arafat, Netanyahu envoy Molcho present. (NYT, WP, WT 8/10; MM 8/11; JP, MA 8/11 in WNC 8/12; JP 8/16)
1 IDF soldier is killed, 3 are wounded clash with Hizballah in s. Lebanon. In a separate incident, 8 Katyusha rockets land in s. Lebanon, wounding 2 civilians, damaging an orphanage. Israel blames Hizballah, which denies the charge. (ITV, RL 8/10, AFP, SA 8/11 in WNC 8/12; MM, NYT 8/11)

11 AUGUST

U.S. special envoy Ross continues shuttling between Netanyah, Arafat; says that as the 1st step toward salvaging the peace talks, Israel, the PA must work together to determine the identity of the 2 men responsible for the 7/30 bombings; says some progress has been made toward this end. In the evening, U.S., PA, Israeli security officials meet. (MM 8/11; ITV 8/11 in WNC 8/12; CSM, NYT, WP 8/12; MA 8/12 in WNC 8/12; JP 8/16)

During a brief confrontation, Palestinian youths angry over the closure clash with IDF troops at a checkpoint in Ramallah. (NYT 8/12)

1 Israeli injured in the 7/30 bombing dies, bringing toll to 16, including the 2 bombers. (WP 8/12)

In Jerusalem, 150 Conservative, Reform Jewish men, women attempt to pray together at the Western Wall. They are jeered by Orthodox Jews, who call them “terrorists,” “Hamas,” “Christians”; are forcibly removed fr. the wall by Israeli police. (NYT 8/12) (see 6/17)

Israel encourages Germany to take action against Hamas supporters suspected of operating in Berlin, Aachen. Israel charges that some 70 Hamas supporters have been fundraising in Germany since 1994. (Der Spiegel 8/11 in WNC 8/12)

Fmr. Jordanian FM in. official Muhammad al-Khalili announces the founding of Voice of Peace, a new newspaper to be published in Arabic, English, Hebrew. Israeli authors will be among the contributors. (al-Quds 8/11 in WNC 8/14)

IDF prevents an Amnesty International team fr. visiting al-Khiyam prison in s. Lebanon. (RL, VOL 8/11 in WNC 8/12)

12 AUGUST

U.S. special envoy Ross announces that Israel, the PA have resumed security cooperation. (MM 8/12; AFP 8/12 in WNC 8/13; MM, WP, WT 8/13; MM, CSM, NYT 8/14) (see Peace Monitor)

In Nablus, 10,000 Palestinians march to protest U.S., Israeli efforts to press Arafat to crack down on anti-Israeli militants in the West Bank, Gaza. Palestinians in Gaza stage a smaller rally. (CSM, WP, WT 8/13)

Syria formally rejects an Israeli proposal for a new formula to resume negotiations. (MM 8/13; YA 8/13 in WNC 8/14; YA 8/14 in WNC 8/15) (see Peace Monitor)

MEPFA expires, forcing the PLO to close its office in Washington. The U.S. will continue diplomatic contacts with the PA. U.S. assistance to Palestinian projects will not be interrupted. (NYT, WP, WT 8/13; MM, WP 8/14; PR 8/15) (see 8/1; Peace Monitor)

PA military court finds 3 Force 17 members, guilty of treason for “spying for the Israeli intelligence service”; condemns 1 to death, 1 to life with hard labor, 1 to 15 yrs. with hard labor. (NYT, WP, WT 8/13) (see 7/19)

Israel eases restrictions on produce crossing fr. the West Bank and Gaza, allowing 3 trucks of eggplants into Israel. (IDF Radio 8/12 in WNC 8/13; WT 8/13)

SLA vacates 7 Lebanese villages s. of Sidon, turning them over to the Lebanese army. (RL 8/12 in WNC 8/13)

Israel releases Joseph, Jean Nahra, who were kidnapped in s. Lebanon by the IDF 7/9, taken to al-Khiyam prison. Israel has never explained their detention. (WT 8/13) (see 7/9, 8/7)

13 AUGUST

Before leaving for Washington, U.S. special envoy Ross says that Secy. of State Albright is planning to make her 1st trip to the region, possibly in 9/97. Timing will depend on how well/quickly PA-Israeli-U.S. security coordination develops. (MM 8/13; al-Dustur 8/13, ITV 8/14 in WNC 8/15; MM, NYT, WP 8/14; MM, NYT, WT 8/15)

In Aqaba, King Hussein, PM Netanyahu discuss the current impasse in the peace process. (MM 8/13; JT, JTV, al-Ra’a; RJ 8/13 in WNC 8/14; RJ 8/13, JT, RJ, YA 8/14 in WNC 8/15; CSM, NYT, WP 8/14; NYT 8/15)

IDF demolishes 10 more Palestinian homes—8 in East Jerusalem, 2 in the West Bank. (LAW 8/13; WP 8/14)

In Baghdad, Syrian, Iraqi FM. officials begin discussions on the demarcation of borders btwn. their countries. (SA 8/14 in WNC 8/15) (see 8/6, Peace Monitor)

ILMG concludes mtgs. begun 8/10, voices extreme concern over the escalation of serious incidents, urges all parties to refrain fr.
conducting attacks that can affect civilian-populated areas. (RL 8/13 in WNC 8/14) (see 8/11)

14 AUGUST

Israel slightly eases the closure around Hebron, Ramallah, allowing Palestinians to leave the cities for the 1st time in 2 wks. (CSM, NYT 8/15) (see 8/9)

IDF demolishes 2 Palestinian homes in East Jerusalem. (NYT 8/15)

15 AUGUST

PLO Political Dept. head Faruq Qaddumi and delegation arrive in Damascus for talks with Pres. Assad. (SANA 8/15 in WNC 8/18)

In Aqabat Jabr refugee camp, Israeli police find the auto of an Israeli taxi driver who disappeared en route btwn. Jerusalem and the West Bank settlement of Bet Ha’arava 8/14. Israeli police place a curfew on the Jericho area. Israeli police, IDF, PA police begin search. (ITV, QY 8/15 in WNC 8/18)

Hrs. after they are released by the PA atty. gen., 10 Hamas mbrs. are rearrested by the PSF. The PSF also detain 2 PA officials for complying with the atty. gen.’s orders. (LAW 8/19)

Chronology compiled by Michele L. Kjorlien