16 MAY

In the 3d straight day of clashes sparked by Palestinian marches commemorating al-Nakba—the dispossession of the Palestinians as a result of Israel's creation in 1948—the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) wounds 10 Palestinians in Hebron, East Jerusalem. In Amman, 1,500 Jordanian students hold commemorative rally at University of Jordan campus. (NYT, WP, WT 5/17; JT 5/17 in WNC 5/19; PR 5/22)

In Amman, Jordan's King Hussein, Palestinian Authority (PA) head Yasir Arafat discuss foundering peace process, latest outbreak of violence. (JTV, RJ 5/16 in WNC 5/19; WP, WT 5/17; al-Bilad 5/20 in WNC 5/21) (see 5/14, 5/15)


Jordan, Syria open 2-day talks on exploiting Yarmuk River waters, joint construction of al-Wahda Dam. (al-Ra'i, RJ 5/17 in WNC 5/19; al-Ra'i 5/19 in WNC 5/21)

Labor Chmn. Ehud Barak visits settlements of Ofra, Beit El; promises that settlements will "remain forever." (MEI 6/5)

In s. Lebanon, Amal, Hizballah discuss need to coordinate. (VOL 5/16 in WNC 5/19) (see 5/10)

17 MAY

After attending a breakfast reception in his honor hosted by New York City Mayor Rudolph Giuliani (attended by 2,000 guests) and taking part in a Salute to Israel parade, Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu returns to Washington to meet with U.S. special envoy Dennis Ross, where he reportedly says that Israel would accept 2-stage 13% further redeployment (FRD) if the 3d FRD were eliminated. Following mtg., Netanyahu addresses annual American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) meet-

ing. Ross flies to London to meet with Secy. of State Madeleine Albright, who arranges mtg. with Arafat for 5/18 to brief him on Netanyahu's latest proposal. (MM 5/18; IDF Radio 5/18 in WNC 5/19; MEI 5/22)

In s. Lebanon, 4 Amal mbrs. are wounded in clash with the IDF. (RL 5/18 in WNC 5/19)

18 MAY

In London, Secy. Albright asks Arafat to consider Netanyahu's "refinements" to the 13.1% FRD plan. Arafat rejects proposal for cancellation of 3d FRD (see 5/17). Speaking with reporters, Pres. Clinton refuses to characterize Netanyahu's position in talks with U.S. officials, saying that to do so "would almost certainly reduce the chances of our being able to get agreement which would move parties to final status." (MM 5/18, CSM, NYT, WP, WT 5/19; MM 5/20, PR 5/22)


At the G-8 mtg. in London, Pres. Clinton agrees to ask Congress for greater authority to waive sanctions required under 2 U.S. laws that threaten to affect firms fr. France, Israel, Malaysia, Russia: Helm's-Burton Act, which requires sanctions against foreign firms that make use of confiscated U.S. property in Cuba (see Peace Monitor in JPS 107), and the Iran-Libya Sanctions Act, which punishes Iran, Libya for sponsoring "terrorism" by threatening sanctions against 3d countries that enter large economic agmts. with them (see 9/28/97). (NYT, WP, WT 5/19; MEI 6/5)

3 Amal mbrs. are wounded in clash with IDF in s. Lebanon. (RL 5/18 in WNC 5/21)
19 MAY

PA Planning M Nabil Shaath arrives in Amman for 4 days of economic talks. (RJ 5/19 in WNC 5/23; RJ 5/22 in WNC 5/27)

PA Elections Appeals Court cancels the Gaza by-election set for 5/20 to fill Haidar ‘Abd al-Shafi’s seat on the Palestinian Council (PC). (PCHR 5/21; PR 5/29) (see Peace Monitor)

Israeli DM Yitzhak Mordechai discusses with Russian special envoy Viktor Posuvalyuk Israel’s conditional withdrawal proposal for s. Lebanon, Russian military assistance to Iran. Posuvalyuk then heads to Amman for talks with Jordan’s Crown Prince Hassan. (IDF Radio, QY, RJ 5/19 in WNC 5/21; JTV 5/19 in WNC 5/27)

AIPAC holds rally on Capitol Hill to commemorate Israel’s 50th anniversary. Senators addressing the rally include Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott (R-MS), Senate Minority Leader Tom Daschle (D-SD), House Speaker Newt Gingrich (R-GA), House Minority Leader Dick Gephardt (D-MO). (MM 5/20; Near East Report 6/1)

Kuwait releases last of 13 Jordanian detainees pardoned 4/26. (JTV 5/19 in WNC 5/21) (see 5/13)

Jordanian court pardons opposition leader Laith Shubilat, sentenced 5/12 to 9 mos. in prison for inciting anti-U.S. riots in Ma’an in 2/98, pending withdrawal of his appeal. Shubilat is already free on appeal. (RJ 5/19, JT 5/20 in WNC 5/21)

Roadside bomb explodes in s. Lebanon, killing 2 civilians. South Lebanon Army (SLA), Hizbollah blame each other. (RL 5/19 in WNC 5/21)

20 MAY


European Union (EU) reps. meet with Israeli Finance M Yaakov Neeman to discuss Israel’s export of goods fr. the occupied territories with “Made in Israel” labels. (JP 5/30; see also AFP [Internet] 5/19) (see Peace Monitor)

In Amman, the PA, Jordan open 2 days of talks on the peace process, coordination bwn. the PC and parliament. (JTV 5/20, RJ 5/21 in WNC 5/23; JTV 5/21 in WNC 5/27)

A panel of Israel’s High Court judges holds hearing on 6 petitions by Palestinian prisoners challenging the use of torture in interrogations by Israeli security services. Intelligence officials testify that use of “moderate physical pressure” has prevented anti-Israeli attacks. (WP 5/21; NYT 5/22; LAW 5/23)


21 MAY

Syrian FM Faruq al-Shara’ arrives in Washington for 2-day official visit. (YA 5/21 in WNC 5/23; MM 5/22) (see Peace Monitor)

In Moscow, Israel’s Trade M Natan Sharansky gives Russian officials list of Russian firms that are allegedly providing military technology to Iran. Russia says it is working to block illegal transfers, asks Israel to stop pressuring U.S. to impose sanctions on Russian firms. (Interfax [Moscow], MA, QY 5/21 in WNC 5/23; WT 5/22; HA, MA 5/22 in WNC 5/27) (see 5/18)

Iran agrees to sell Turkey 3 b. cu. m. of natural gas beginning in 1999. (Anatolia, Mil- liyet 5/22 in WNC 5/27)

Pres. Clinton gives order to reduce the number of military personnel in the Gulf by roughly half now that the crisis with Iraq, which flared in 2/98, seems to have passed. (NYT, WP 5/27; WP 6/7)

In s. Lebanon, 3 civilians, 2 Hizbollah mbrs. are killed during clash bwn. Hizbollah, IDF. (RL 5/21 in WNC 5/23)

22 MAY


At the request of the White House, House Speaker Gingrich cancels plans to lay a symbolic cornerstone at the proposed site of the new U.S. embassy to Israel in Jerusalem during his 4-day trip to Israel, which starts 5/23. (WT 5/23; al-Quds 5/23 in WNC 5/27; WT 5/26)

Senate approves (90-4) the Iran Missile Proliferation Sanctions Act (IMPSA)—a bill that will place sanctions on foreign companies providing missile technology to Iran. White House has said it will veto the measure. (WP, WT 5/23) (see 5/21)

23 MAY

House Speaker Gingrich, House Minority Leader Gephardt lead a congressional del-
egation to Israel to celebrate Israel’s 50th anniversary and Jerusalem Day, marking Israel’s capture of the eastern half of the city in 1967. (WP 5/23; WT 5/25; MM 5/26; NYT 5/28; PR 5/29; MEI, MM 6/5; JP 6/6).

In Damascus, Hamas’s Shaykh Yasin meets with the leaders of the 10 Damascus-based Palestinian opposition groups. (al-Majid 5/25 in WNC 5/27) (see 5/20)

In s. Lebanon, Hizballah detonates roadside bomb, killing 2 SLA mbrs. (VOL 5/23 in WNC 5/27)

24 MAY

PM Netanyahu, Arafat adviser Mahmoud Abbas meet secretly at Netanyahu’s home for talks on the peace process before Netanyahu leaves for China. (MM 6/12)

To mark Jerusalem Day, Israel stages largest military parade (13,000 troops) through West Jerusalem since 1973, attended by U.S. congressional delegation. Groups of right-wing Israelis try to enter al-Aqsa Mosque, march on Orient House. IDF bans Palestinian entry into Jerusalem for the day, sparking clashes b/w IDF, Palestinians in Bethlehem. (al-Dustur, RJ 5/24 in WNC 5/27; WT 5/25; PR 5/29; MEI 6/5).


In Cairo, Pres. Mubarak briefs Arafat on his trip to France. Arafat then heads to Saudi Arabia to discuss possible Arab summit. (MENA 5/24, RJ 5/26 in WNC 5/27)

Syria asks Iran’s help in constructing steel mills. Both countries agree to expand cultural, art exchanges to pave way for closer bilateral relations. (IRNA 5/24, 5/25 in WNC 5/27)


1st Lebanese municipal elections since 1963 begin. Elections are held on 4 consecutive Sundays. (RL 5/25, 5/26 in WNC 5/27; MM 5/26; al-Safir 5/27 in WNC 6/1; WP 6/1; MEI 6/5).

25 MAY

30 Jewish settlers from the Ateret Cohanim group accompanied by Israeli police and guard dogs evict a Palestinian woman fr. her rented home in East Jerusalem. Lay foundations for 9 new buildings on adjacent 2,000-sq.-m. plot (apparently without permits). (IDF Radio 5/25 in WNC 5/27; LAW, NYT 5/26; MM, NYT 5/27; PR 5/29; ITV 6/3 in WNC 6/4; MEI 6/5; PR 7/3).

Arafat returns to Cairo to meet with Pres. Mubarak. (MENA 5/25 in WNC 5/27) (see 5/24)

Iran, Syria sign mining cooperation agmt. (IRNA 5/25 in WNC 5/27)

Jordan refuses to grant entry to Hamas’s Shaykh Yasin, who planned to arrive 5/27. Meanwhile in Damascus, Yasin meets with Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) leader George Habash on ways to strengthen relations btwn. their groups. (AFP, MENA 5/25, AFP, RJ 5/26 in WNC 5/27; WT 5/26; al-Sabil 6/2 in WNC 6/3; MEI 6/5; JP 6/6; Shihan 6/6 in WNC 6/8) (see 5/24)

At the owner’s request, PA security forces evict tenants of a Palestinian house in Ramallah and demolish the building, which has been the focus of a rent dispute. (Birzeit press release 5/25; JP 6/6).

In s. Lebanon, 1 Hizballah mb. is killed, 1 SLA mb. and 4 civilians are injured in several clashes. (VOL 5/25, RL 5/26 in WNC 5/27)

26 MAY

PM Netanyahu arrives in China for 3-day visit. (MM 5/26)

In Cairo, Arafat attends Arab League mtg. called to commemorate al-Nakba; calls for Arab summit on the peace process. (MENA, RE 5/26 in WNC 5/27)

Egyptian FM ‘Amr Musa arrives in Amman for talks with King Hussein on Mubarak’s trip to France, possible Arab summit; says Pres. Mubarak is discussing summit idea with other Arab leaders, including Morocco’s King Hassan, who arrived in Cairo today for 3-day official visit, and Syria’s Pres. Assad. (MENA, RE, RJ 5/26 in WNC 5/27; MM 5/27, 5/28)

In Tel Aviv, Israel’s DM Yitzhak Mordechai meets with Turkey’s dep. chief of staff, Gen. Cevik Bir, for talks on the peace process, furthering military cooperation, possible joint arms projects. (WT 5/27)

Saudi Arabia’s FM Prince Saud al-Faisal arrives in Iran for 2-day talks on improving bilateral ties. (WT 5/27)

In East Jerusalem, Israeli border policemen clash with Palestinians protesting illegal construction by Jewish settlers (see 5/25). To halt violence, Jerusalem Mayor
Ehud Olmert bans the construction in the name of Israel's Antiquities Dept., orders the demolition of the settlers' illegal dwellings. (ITV 5/26 in WNC 5/27; MM, NYT 5/27; WJW 5/28; MM 6/3; MEI 6/5; WT 6/9)

Yemen reports that over the past 2 days, Saudi troops have seized the island of Harim in the Red Sea to pressure Sana'a to make concessions in the 2 countries' border demarcation negotiations, which resumed last wk. The island is 1 of 3 uninhabited but strategically significant Red Sea islands in dispute. (MM 5/26)

3 SLA mbrs., 3 Hizballah mbrs. are killed in 2 clashes in s. Lebanon. 4 civilians are injured, over 100 flee their homes. (ITV, RL, VOL 5/26 in WNC 5/27)

27 MAY

Egyptian FM Musa arrives in Saudi Arabia for talks with Crown Prince 'Abdullah on possible Arab summit. Trip was prompted by Arafat's surprise visit to the kingdom, which ended 5/26. (MM 5/27, 6/1)


Iran, Saudi Arabia sign wide-ranging cooperation agmt. (WP, WT 5/28) (see Peace Monitor)

Knesset passes (50-45, with 1 abstention) 1st reading (of 3) of motion to change Israel's election system back to pre-5/96 process, eliminating direct election of PM. Motion is expected to be overturned. (MM 5/28; MEI 6/5)

In s. Lebanon, 2 Golani Brigade mbrs. are killed, 2 wounded by Hizballah roadside bomb. Separately, 1 civilian is injured by IDF shelling. (MM 5/28; RL 6/3 in WNC 6/4; JP 6/6)

28 MAY

In Amman, EU special envoy Miguel Moratinos discusses peace process with Crown Prince Hassan, PM Majali, FM Anani. (RJ 5/28 in WNC 6/1)

In s. Lebanon, Hizballah ambushes IDF patrol, killing 2 soldiers, wounding 2. In response, SLA detains 10s of civilians for questioning on suspicion of “harboring” Hizballah mbrs. (WP, WT 5/29)

29 MAY


30 MAY

In Beirut, French pres. Jacques Chirac calls on Israel to leave s. Lebanon. Golan Heights, saying Israel must realize that it cannot have security without peace. (WP, WT 5/31; MM 6/1)

Hizballah, IDF clash n. of Israel's self-declared security zone in Lebanon, leaving 1 Hizballah mbr. dead, 2 wounded. In separate incidents IDF shoots, kills 2 Lebanese, possibly affiliated with Hizballah; Hizballah wounds 1 SLA mbr. (ITV 5/31 in WNC 6/30)

31 MAY

Saudi Crown Prince Abdullah arrives in Damascus for talks with FM Shara' on possible Arab summit. (MM 6/1; MBC 6/1 in WNC 6/3; al-Watan al-Arab 6/12 in WNC 6/15)

During 2d round of Lebanese municipal elections, fighting breaks out in 2 locations in n. Lebanon, leaving 6 persons wounded, 30 under arrest. (WP 6/1; MM 6/2)

1 JUNE

Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, Tunisia, Syria, the PA, the Arab League hold mtg. in Lebanon to prepare for Euro-Mediterranean meeting next wk. in Italy; also discuss possible Arab summit on the peace process. (SANA 6/1, RL, VOL 6/2 in WNC 6/3; WT 6/2; MM 6/4; al-Jumhuriyya 6/6 in WNC 6/9)

In Amman, Jordan's King Hussein opens 2 days of talks with Saudi Crown Prince Abdullah on possibility of holding an Arab summit. (MM 6/1; al-Aswaq, JTV, MBC, RJ 6/1, AFP, al-Dustur, RJ 6/2 in WNC 6/3; VOA 6/3 in WNC 6/4; al-Ittihad, al-Ra'i 6/3; al-Ra'i 6/5 in WNC 6/8, 6/9; MM 6/12; al-Watan al-Arabi 6/12 in WNC 6/15; MEI 6/19) (see Peace Monitor)

U.S. Supreme Court rules (6-3) to send case against AIPAC brought by 6 fnr. government officials back to the Federal Election Comm. (FEC) for a decision based on new election laws. The 6 officials, led by James Akins, claim that AIPAC should be treated legally as a political action comm., meaning its membership lists, donations.
records would be made public. (WJW 6/4) (see 1/14)

   Nr. Hebron, Jewish settlers fr. Kiryat Arba set fire to 2 Palestinian-owned cars. (WT 6/3)

2 JUNE

   U.S. asks Arab states to give it a wk. to announce outcome of U.S. FRD proposals before making a decision on holding an Arab summit. (al-Quds al-Araji, RJ, RMC 6/2 in WNC 6/3; MM, WT 6/3; al-Ahram 6/5 in WNC 6/8) (see 6/1)

   In Beirut, Egyptian FM Musa discusses possible Arab summit with Lebanese PM Rafiq Hariri. Qatar also voices support for summit. (AFP, MENA 6/2 in WNC 6/3)

   At Mubarak’s invitation, Israeli DM Mordechai flies to Cairo for talks on the FRD issue, s. Lebanon conditional withdrawal proposal. (MM 6/2; IDF Radio, MENA 6/2 in WNC 6/3; JTV 6/7 in WNC 6/9; JTV 6/18 in WNC 6/19)

   IDF demolishes 6 Palestinian homes, 2 in Jerusalem, 4 in the West Bank just n. of Jerusalem. (JTV 6/2 in WNC 6/3; LAW 6/16)

   Knesset votes to dismantle the shrine to Baruch Goldstein, who massacred 29 Palestinian worshippers in Ibrahim Mosque in Hebron in 2/94, which has become a pilgrimage point for Jewish extremists. Settler leader Baruch Marzel vows “to go to battle, to war” if the government touches the site. (WT 6/2, 6/9)

3 JUNE

   Arafat arrives in Oman for talks on possible Arab summit. (Oman Television Network 6/3 in WNC 6/8)

   Algeria, Jordan sign 2 cooperation agmts., a free trade agmt.; discuss peace process, possible Arab summit. (RJ 6/3, ENTV [Algiers], JT 6/4 in WNC 6/8)

   Egypt invites FBI agents into the country to arrest, extradite Palestinian bomb maker Muhammad Rashid, a mbr. of the 15th of May group known for placing bombs on international flights during the 1980s, including on a 1982 Pan Am flight in which 1 person died. (NYT, WP 6/4; WT 6/16)

4 JUNE

   In Palermo, Italy, 2-day Euro-Mediterranean mtg. (attended by 15 EU FMs, 12 Mediterranean FMs) closes. This is an ad hoc mtg., outside the normal cycle of “Barcelona” conferences, held to set priorities for preparation for the 4/99 Euro-Mediterranean conference planned for Stuttgart, Germany. The Barcelona process focuses on 3 areas for Mediterranean cooperation, unification: politics and security; economics and finance; social and cultural issues. The last mtg. was held in 3/97. (RJ 6/4, SA 6/5 in WNC 6/8; JTV 6/5 in WNC 6/9; JP 6/13)

   Jordan. U.S. end their annual 1-mo. joint military maneuvers in the Jordanian desert. (JTV 6/4 in WNC 6/8)

   Palestinian High Court orders PA police to release Hamas spokesman ‘Abd al-Aziz Rantisi, who was arrested 4/9. PA police refuse to comply. (PCHR press release 6/4) (see Peace Monitor in JPS 108)

   After 2 days of closed door briefings, Richard Butler, exec. chmn. of the UN Special Comm. (UNSCOM) in charge of Iraqi weapons inspections, gives the UN Security Council (UNSC) a “road map” of missing information UNSCOM needs before it can lift sanctions; says Iraq could fulfill obligations by 10/98 if it continues its recent cooperative attitude. Iraq rejects agenda as nonstarter. (WP 6/5; NYT, WP 6/6; MM 6/26)

5 JUNE

   al-Sharq al-Awsat reports that Syria has recently released 225 political prisoners, including mbrs. of the Muslim Brotherhood, Salah Jadid group (breakaway Ba’thists), communists. (SA 6/5 in WNC 6/8)

   Hizballah attacks IDF post in s. Lebanon, wounding 1 soldier. (RL 6/6 in WNC 6/9)

6 JUNE

   Jordan’s Justice M Riyadh al-Shaka ends 4-day visit to the PA areas, where he met with Arafat. PA legal and judicial authorities. (RJ 6/6 in WNC 6/9) (see Peace Monitor)

   In Amman, Jordan, Turkey reach preliminary agmt. under which air force pilots fr. the 2 countries would be able to use each other’s airspace for military training purposes. (Petra-JNA 6/6, AFP 6/8 in WNC 6/9; Anatolia 6/10 in WNC 6/11)

   In s. Lebanon, a 120-mm shell fired by the SIA lands in the UN compound housing the Nepalese contingent, causing extensive damage, no injuries. UN sends official protest to Israel. (RL 6/8 in WNC 6/9)
7 JUNE

U.S. Amb. to Israel Edward Walker hosts mtg. btwn. cochairs of the Palestinian-Israeli Steering and Monitoring Comm., which last met 6 wks. ago, to discuss Rafah airport, Qarni industrial estate. (WT 6/8)

In Amman, **King Hussein**, Israeli DM Mordechai discuss Israeli plans for 2d FRD. (ITV, JTV 6/7 in WNC 6/9; MM 6/15)

**Lebanon** holds 3d round of municipal elections. 13 persons are arrested in minor election-related scuffles, but no large-scale violence is reported. (RL 6/7 in WNC 6/9; MM, WP 6/8; AFP 6/8 in WNC 6/9; WT 6/9)

8 JUNE

In a predawn operation carried out with Israeli police protection, Jewish settlers affiliated with Elad take over 5 Palestinian apartments in 2 buildings, a plot of land in the Silwan neighborhood of **East Jerusalem**, fighting with Palestinians who try to stop them. Israeli police drag away 20 Peace Now mbrs., who arrive to protest the confiscation. (MM 6/8; LAW, NYT, WP, WT 6/9; JT 6/10 in WNC 6/11; PR 6/19, 7/3)

With Mayor Olmert’s permission, Ateret Cohanim begins “archaeological dig” at same 2,000-sq.-m. plot of Palestinian land in **East Jerusalem** that it occupied 5/25. The same settlers evicted 5/26 are allowed back on the disputed site to work as “guards” and dig “volunteers.” (WT 6/9; JT 6/10 in WNC 6/11; MM 6/11; JP 6/13; ITV 6/13 in WNC 6/17; LAW 6/16)

**Israeli Education Min. Dir. Gen. Bentziyon Dal** recommends that the Israeli curriculum be enforced in **East Jerusalem** schools in order to block the Palestinian education system. (YA 6/8 in WNC 6/10) (see Peace Monitor in JPS 105)

**Jordan** rejects 2d request for Hamas’s Shaykh Yasin to visit the kingdom. Hamas spokesman Ibrahim Ghash salah says that Iraq also rescinded an invitation to Yasin 4 days after it was extended. (SA 6/9 in WNC 6/10; SA 6/14 in WNC 6/17) (see 5/29)

9 JUNE

PC gives Arafat until 6/15 to reshuffle the Executive Authority (EA; the PA’s cabinet) or face no-confidence vote. (WP 6/12; MEI 7/3) (see Peace Monitor)


In Vienna, Jordan’s **Crown Prince Has san** discusses peace process with Chancel lor Viktor Klina, who assumes the EU presidency on 7/1. (RJ 6/9 in WNC 6/10, 6/11; Der Standard 6/12 in WNC 6/15)

In Tel Aviv, **Jordan, Israel** discuss imp ort of Jordanian agricultural goods, farm products to Israel, occupied territories. (JT 6/11 in WNC 6/12)

**Iran, Turkey** convene economic summit in Tehran. (IRIB Television 6/9 in WNC 6/11; IRNA 6/10 in WNC 6/12)

**Switzerland** opens a 3-day experts-level mtg. **Israel**, the PLO, with the International Comm. of the Red Cross, to examine ways of effectively applying the Fourth Geneva Conventions in the occupied territories. (Palestine and the UN 6/98) (see Peace Monitor)

**Israeli Interior Min.** approves construction of 58 housing units for Jewish settlers nr. the Mount of Olives in **East Jerusalem**. (Palestine and the UN 6/98)

**U.S.** government arrests without charge **Muhammad Salah**, a naturalized U.S. citizen once arrested in Israel for being a mbr. of Hamas, seizes his home, bank accounts worth $1.4 m.; hopes its investigation will lead to an indictment on charges of funding Hamas “terrorism.” (NYT 6/14; WP 6/19; Shihan 7/11 in WNC 7/14)

10 JUNE

In Cairo, Pres. Mubarak, Saudi FM **Prince Saud al-Faysal** discuss peace process, possible Arab summit. (MENA 6/10 in WNC 6/11; MENA 6/12 in WNC 6/15)

In Gaza, Arafat, Jordanian PM Majali discuss peace process, possible Arab summit. Majali hands Arafat a letter fr. **King Hussein**, outlining Netanyahu’s position on FRD as transmitted to the king via Israeli DM Mordechai on 6/7. (ITV 6/10 in WNC 6/12; Shihan 6/27 in WNC 6/30; al-Dustur 7/1 in WNC 7/2) (see Peace Monitor)

**Syria**, the PLO reopen discussions on refugee issues. (RMC 6/12 in WNC 6/15) (see Peace Monitor)

During their 2d day of talks, Iran, Turkey sign memorandum of understanding on setting up a joint chamber of commerce, beginning engineering and technical cooperation on natural gas. (IRIB Television 6/10, MENA 6/11 in WNC 6/12; IRNA 6/11, 6/13 in WNC 6/17)

In Hebron district, **IDF** bulldozes 70 dunams of Palestinians orchards, saying it has warned Palestinians not to farm “state land.” Trees on the land were 5-10 yrs. old.
(Christian Peacemaker Teams press release 7/14)

In East Jerusalem, Israeli peace activists protesting settlement activity clash with Israeli police. (CSM 6/11)


11 JUNE

Arafat asks PC to delay no-confidence motions set for 6/15, agrees to reshuffle the EA. (WP 6/12; MEI, PR 6/19; PR 6/26; MEI 7/3) (see 6/9)

IDF grants Ariel settlement nr. Nablus “city status,” making it the 2d Israeli “city” in the West Bank after Ma’ale Adumim; grants permission for establishment of civil guard units in the West Bank (which basically allows settlers to form paramilitary units). (MM 6/12; PR 6/19, 7/10)

In s. Lebanon, Hizballah shells SLA convoy, killing 1 SLA mbr., wounding 1. (RL 6/12 in WNC 6/15)

12 JUNE

Arafat meets with Pope John Paul II at the Vatican, invites him to attend Bethlehem 2000 celebrations. (WP 6/13; WJW 6/18)

13 JUNE

Egypt, Iran sign protocol for bilateral cooperation in industry, investment. (MENA 6/15 in WNC 6/17)

14 JUNE

In Cairo, Pres. Mubarak, Arafat discuss peace process. (MENA 6/14 in WNC 6/17; WT 6/17)

Egypt, Iran sign memorandum of understanding trade issues. (VIRI 6/15 in WNC 6/17; IRIB Television 6/17 in WNC 6/18)

Iraq, UNSCOM agree on 2-mo. plan to speed up disarmament verifications. (NYT, WP, WT 6/15; MA 6/16 in WNC 6/18; MM 6/17, 6/19) (see 6/4)

Lebanon holds last round of municipal elections. Hizballah-supported candidates win only 5 of 21 seats in Baalbeck, while Amal-supported candidates win 16. (AFP 6/14, RL 6/15, 6/16 in WNC 6/17; MM 6/16; MM, WP 6/17; MEI 6/19; MM 6/23)

15 JUNE


PC grants Arafat’s request to delay no-confidence motion for 10 days to give him a chance to form new cabinet. Hamas, Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, Islamic Jihad, Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine say that they will not join the EA. (MM 6/15; WP 6/16; WT 6/17; MEI 6/19; JP 6/20; PR 6/26; MEI 7/3)

Israeli Interior Min. demolishes 3 Palestinian homes in Jerusalem, saying that they were built without permits on areas zoned as “open space.” U.S. calls on Israel to refrain fr. such “provocative acts.” (LAW, MM, NYT 6/16; JTV 6/16 in WNC 6/17; ITV 6/19 in WNC 6/23; PR 6/26; JP 6/27)

In Rabat, Jordan’s PM Majali, Morocco’s King Hassan set up joint higher comm. for coordination in all fields, discuss peace process, possible Arab summit. (MKR 6/15, MAP 6/16 in WNC 6/17)

16 JUNE

In Damascus, Syrian pres. Asad, FM Shara’, Saudi FM Prince Saud al-Faysal discuss bilateral cooperation, peace process. (SATN 6/16 in WNC 6/18)


Iran, Jordan sign accords on shipping, resuming flights brwn. their countries. 1st Jordanian flight in 18 yrs. lands in Tehran. (IRBD Television 6/16 in WNC 6/17; Petra-JNA 6/16 in WNC 6/1)

Jewish settlers occupy a vacant, Palestinian-owned home adjacent to, but not in, Hebron’s Jewish enclave. (MA 7/3 in WNC 7/7)

17 JUNE

Secy. Albright unveils a new policy initiative on Iran that could lead to normalized relations. Sanctions will remain in place for
now, but U.S. plans to make confidence building gestures. (NYT, WP, WT 6/18; CSM, MM 6/19; ITV 6/21 in WNC 6/23; MEI 7/3)

After 2 days of talks, Iran, Turkey sign border security agmt. (IRNA 6/17 in WNC 6/18; IRNA 6/18 in WNC 6/19)

Jordanian PM Majali ends 2-day visit to Morocco after signing several agmts. including a free trade agmt., protocols on building cultural, social, economic ties; leaves for Libya. (JTV 6/17, JT, SA 6/18 in WNC 6/19; JANA [Tripoli] 6/19 in WNC 6/22; RJ 6/20 in WNC 6/23)

In Baghdad, Egypt, Iraq agree to expand trade relations. Trade M Ahmad Guei'y's visit is the 1st to Iraq by an Egyptian official since the Gulf War. (WP 6/18)

State Dept. says it is planning new effort funded by Congress to build up opposition to Iraqi pres. Saddam Hussein by working with 73 opposition groups outside Iraq. (WP 6/18) (see 2/18)

2 Israeli teenagers fr. settlement nr. Hebron are jailed for killing a Palestinian farmer by hitting him with a wooden pole fr. a passing van. (MM, NYT 6/18; PR 6/19)

IDF demolishes 2 Palestinian homes in Bayt Hanina, n. of Jerusalem, for being built without a permit in an area zoned as "open space." (LAW 6/17) (see 6/15)


18 JUNE

PM Netanyahu presents draft plan to extend Jerusalem's municipal boundaries, tighten Israel's control over the city, support Jews moving into East Jerusalem (particularly Har Homa/Jabal Abu Ghusayn); tells reporters, "I think this is a basic change in Jerusalem's status that will be remembered as a turning point." (MM, NYT, PR, WP 6/19; al-Ahram al-Masa'i, ITV, RE 6/20, JTV, MENA, RJ 6/21, MENA 6/22 in WNC 6/23; al-Thawra 6/21 in WNC 6/23; WJW 6/25; PR 6/26; JP 6/27; MEI 7/3; JP 7/4) (see Peace Monitor)

In Washington, Refugee Working Group opens 2-day intersessional mtg. (USIS Washington File 6/19) (see Peace Monitor)

Commenting on Albright's 6/17 speech, Iran says that words are inadequate, U.S. should take actions (such as halting aid to Iranian opposition groups, unfreezing funds in U.S.) to show its good will. (MM, NYT, WT 6/19; MEI 7/3)

UNSCOM head Butler submits report that Iraq is refusing to turn over documents about its missiles, biological and chemical weapons. Iraq claims documents do not exist. (WP, WT 6/19; al-Ahram 6/19 in WNC 6/22; al-Ahram 6/21 in WNC 6/23; MM 6/24) (see 6/14)

IDF demolishes 6 Palestinian homes nr. Bethlehem. (ITV 6/18 in WNC 6/22)

19 JUNE


In Sana', 1,000s of Yemenis protest government's implementation of 25-55% increase in fuel prices to meet conditions to receive $80 m. in IMF loans. (WP 6/21; MM 6/22; WP 6/24; MM 6/29)


A roadside bomb explodes in Jazzin, killing an SLA mbr., his son (see 3/31). In a separate incident in Beirut, a car bomb kills 2 fmrs. mbrs. of the Lebanese Forces Christian militia, one of whom was an explosives expert, leading to speculation that the men accidentally triggered a bomb they were planting. (VOL 6/19 in WNC 6/22; WP 6/20; MM 6/23; RL, RNC 7/2 in WNC 7/6; VOL 7/7, al-Nahar 7/8 in WNC 7/13; MEI 7/17)

20 JUNE

Israel rejects U.S. criticism of Jerusalem development plan, saying plan does not call for annexing more West Bank land, "only improving services with an administrative re-organization." (WP, WT 6/21; NYT 6/22; JP 6/27) (see 6/19)

In Doha, Jordanian PM Majali discusses possible Arab summit, bilateral relations with Qatar's amir, Shaykh Hamad Bin-Khalifa al-Thani. (al-Rai 6/21 in WNC 6/23)

In Baghdad, Iraq, Iran hold follow-up talks on POWs fr. their 1980-88 war. (NYT 6/21) (see 4/20)
In Sana’, **100s of riot police, soldiers** clash with **1,000s of Yemenis** in 2d day of protests against fuel price increases. (WP 6/21; MM 6/22; WT 6/23; WP, WT 6/24; MM 6/29) (see 6/19)

**21 JUNE**

Ignoring U.S. protests, **Israel’s cabinet** unanimously approves 6/18 plan to extend Jerusalem’s municipal authority. **PA** calls move “de facto annexation” of the settlements. **Netanyahu** accuses PA of creating an “artificial storm” for political gain. Israelis in areas likely to be annexed complain that their taxes would rise by being brought under the poorer Jerusalem municipality. (CSM, MM, NYT, WP, WT 6/22; MA 6/22 in WNC 6/23; RJ 6/23 in WNC 6/25; MEI, PR 7/3) (see 6/20)

**PA Higher Education M Hanan Ashrawi** arrives in Turkey on 4-day official visit aimed at improving bilateral relations, education cooperation. (Anatolia 6/22 in WNC 6/23)

The settler group **Elad** takes over another **Palestinian home** in Silwan, plans to occupy 4 more homes soon. (ITV 6/21 in WNC 6/23; AFP 6/25 in WNC 6/16) (see 6/8)


**Kuwait** grants **Syria** a $263-m. loan toward the Nahr Sinn irrigation project. (SANA 6/21 in WNC 6/23)

**Iran** beats the **U.S.** (2-1) at World Cup soccer match in Lyon, France. (MM, NYT, WT, WP 6/22; CSM 6/23; YA 6/23 in WNC 6/25; MEI, MM 7/3)

**22 JUNE**

Mbrs. of **Elad settler group** raid a Palestinian bakery in **East Jerusalem**, claim that it is located on land which is to be confiscated by Israel. (PR 6/26)

**Egypt, Turkey** sign memorandum of understanding on construction of pipeline which would transport natural gas fr. Egypt to Turkey via the Mediterranean. (Anatolia 6/22 in WNC 6/23)

**UNSCOM** claims to have proof, based on evidence obtained in confidential U.S. army laboratory analysis, that Iraq put VX nerve gas in missile warheads before the 1991 Gulf War. (WP 6/23; MM 6/24, 6/25) (see 6/18)

Hamas’s **Shaykh Yasin** arrives in **Egypt** fr. the **Sudan** on his way home to Gaza. (MENA 6/22 in WNC 6/23) (see 6/8)


**23 JUNE**

Pres. **Clinton** vetoes IMPSA; says bill is inflexible, will not stop missile proliferation, will needlessly harm relations with **Russia**. IMPSA passed by 392-22 in the House on 11/12/97, 90-4 in Senate on 5/22/98, meaning that veto will be overridden are high. (YA 6/26 in WNC 6/29)

Pres. **Clinton** sends letter of response to **CPMAJO’s** 5/14 letter, saying that the U.S. will not pressure **Israel** to take decisions, will not make decisions on Israel’s behalf regarding Israeli security. (PR 7/3)

Egyptian FM **Musa** arrives in **Saudi Arabia** for talks on bilateral relations, possible Arab summit. (MENA 6/23 in WNC 6/25)


**IDF** demolishes 5 **Palestinian homes** nr. Hebron, evicts 30 **bedouin families**. (LAW 6/25; PR 6/26)

New U.S. amb. to Syria, **Ryan Crocker**, presents his credential to **FM Shara’.** Crocker has also served as amb. to Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Lebanon, Qatar. (MM, WP 6/24)

**Saudi Arabia, Yemen** say that they have agreed on demarcation of 66% of their common border. Border fr. Jabal al-Thar to Ras al-Mawaj, 3 Red Sea islands remain in dispute. (WT 6/24) (see 5/26)

**24 JUNE**

After the **PC** denies his request for a 2d postponement of the 6/25 no-confidence vote (see 6/15), **Arafat** formally accepts the resignations of 18 **EA** mbrs., which were submitted 8/1/97, giving himself until 7/9 to form a new cabinet. (PR 6/26; MEI, PR 7/3; MM 7/8; PR 7/17) (see Peace Monitor)

**Lebanon, Tunisia** sign economic cooperation accords, agree to resume (6/26) flights b/w their countries, discuss possible Arab summit. (AFP 6/24, RL 6/25 in WNC 6/26)

**Knesset Finance Comm.** increases construction budget for **West Bank settlements** by $24.6 m. to cover 400 new housing units, Mtn. of Education’s Torah culture budget by 86.7 m. **2 Labor MKs** vote for the measure. (Globes [Internet] 6/24 in WNC 6/25)
Hamas’s Shaykh Yasin returns to Gaza after 4-mo. regional tour. Israel had debated not allowing him to return. (WP, WT 6/25; WJW 7/2) (see 6/22)

UN extends sanctions on Iraq for another 60 days. (WT 6/25) (see 6/22)

25 JUNE

After wks. of debate, PM Netanyahu, senior advisers make final decision not to hold a national referendum on the FRD issue, despite polls that found that 62% of the public support such a vote. Netanyahu says that he will decide on holding a referendum only after an FRD agmt. has been reached. (CSM 6/25; ITV 6/25 in WNC 6/29; MM 6/26; ITV 6/28 in WNC 6/30; NYT 6/30)

In Cairo, the Arab League holds an emergency mtg. on Israel’s plan to expand Jerusalem’s municipal boundaries, urges EU intervention. (RE 6/15 in WNC 6/16)

In Amman, Iran, Jordan discuss expanding bilateral relations. (IRNA 6/25 in WNC 6/26)


In s. Lebanon, Hizballah detonates a roadside bomb, killing 2 IDF soldiers, wounding 4. (MM 6/25; AFP, VOL 6/25 in WNC 6/26; NYT, WP 6/26)

26 JUNE


27 JUNE

In Jerusalem, Palestinians observe general strike to protest Israel plans to expand the city’s municipal boundaries. (WT 6/28)

Washington Post reports that at a recent focus group, U.S. Republican party polster Frank Luntz advised Republican candidates (based on his polling data) to be “vocally and unconditionally pro-Israel” when campaigning this fall if they want to capture the traditionally Democratic Jewish voters. (WP 6/27; MM 7/3, 7/27)

In Beirut, 10,000s of Lebanese march in funeral procession for 28 Hizballah mbrs. whose bodies were returned by Israel 6/25. (WT 6/28; VOL 6/28 in WNC 6/30)

28 JUNE

Arafat visits Qatar, Bahrain; secures backing for Arab summit on the peace process. (MEI 7/3)

Outgoing IDF Chief of Staff Maj. Gen. Matan Vilnai says that the current Israeli defense doctrine is obsolete, incapable of meeting contemporary threats. (MM 6/29; IDF Radio 6/29 in WNC 6/30; GIU 6/30; MM 7/3)

In Abu Dhabi, Iran, Oman hold talks on expanding bilateral relations. (IRNA 6/28 in WNC 6/30)

29 JUNE

In Luxembourg, EU FM’s call for full, rapid implementation of trade cooperation agmt. with the PA, support European Commission’s efforts to ensure that exports fr. Israeli settlements do not enter the EU with “Made in Israel” labels. (MEI 7/3) (see 5/20)

In Jerusalem, PM Netanyahu attends fundraiser for Ateret Cohanim settler group, expresses solidarity with settlers in East Jerusalem. Ateret Cohanim says that it will use the proceeds fr. the $200-a-plate dinner to take over more East Jerusalem properties. (MM 6/30; IDF Radio 6/30 in WNC 7/1; ITV 6/30 in WNC 7/2)

Israeli pres. Ezer Weizman says that since PM Netanyahu has dropped idea of holding national referendum on FRD (see 6/25), the only solution to the stalemate peace process is to call new elections; says that he will no longer perform missions on behalf of the PM. Netanyahu accuses Weizman of politicizing the traditionally ceremonial office of the president. (MM 6/29; IDF Radio, ITV 6/29 in WNC 6/30; CSM, NYT, WT 6/30; ITV 6/30 in WNC 7/2; JP 7/4)

Jordanian Planning M Rima Khalaf arrives in Kuwait for talks on improving bilateral relations. She is the 1st Jordanian minister to visit Kuwait since the Gulf War. (al-Dustur 6/28 in WNC 6/30; Petra-JNA 6/29, JT, SA 6/30 in WNC 7/1; JT 7/1 in WNC 7/2)

Hizballah, SLA clash in s. Lebanon, leaving 2 SLA mbrs. dead. In a separate incident in s. Lebanon, 2 civilians are injured.
by Israeli shelling. (RL 6/29 in WNC 6/30; RL 6/30 in WNC 7/1)

30 JUNE

UNSC hold day-long debate on a resolution condemning Israel’s plan to extend Jerusalem’s municipal boundaries. (WT 6/30; MM, NYT, WT 7/1; al-Quds, RJ, SANA 7/1 in WNC 7/2; Petra-JNA, al-Quds, SANA 7/1 in WNC 7/6) (see Docs. A2, C1)

In Bethlehem, the PA, Vatican hold preliminary talks on establishing official status for the activities of the Roman Catholic church in the PA self-rule areas. (JT 7/1)

PM Netanyahu accuses Pres. Weizman of “siding with the Arabs” on the peace process. Weizman says that Netanyahu is “cut off from reality,” has deceived him repeatedly over peacemaking with the PA. (MM 6/30; YA 6/30 in WNC 7/1; ITV 6/30 in WNC 7/2; WP, WT 7/1) (see 6/29)

Israel takes delivery of the 1st of 3 German submarines capable of carrying nuclear-armed cruise missiles, which will make its nuclear arms less vulnerable to preemptive strike. Israel ordered the subs fr. Germany after failing to find a U.S. firm that would build what it wanted. Following disclosure that German companies supplied material to Iraq’s chemical weapons program, Germany agrees to pay for 2 of the 3 subs, which are the most technically advanced of their kind in the world. (WT 7/1; JT 7/4 in WNC 7/7; WT 7/5; JP, WT 7/11; Die Welt 7/11 in WNC 7/15; JP 7/18)

U.S. fires on Iraqi radar station in s. Iraq after it locks radar on a British plane patrolling the southern no-fly zone. The missile misses the station, hits a nearby reservoir. This is the 1st time since 11/96 that Iraq threatened to shoot at an allied plane. (MM 6/30; CSM, MM, NYT, WT 7/1; WT 7/2)

Yemen’s official news agency reports that 34 persons have been killed, 102 injured in ongoing violence that began 6/19. Nongovernment sources put the casualty figures twice as high. (MM 6/30; WP 7/1; MM 7/9; MEI 7/17) (see 6/20)

Egypt, Iran sign cooperation agrnt. on health. (IRNA 6/30 in WNC 7/2) (see 6/20)

In Amman, Iran, Jordan hold talks on expanding trade cooperation, agree to set up joint venture comm. in Amman. (IRNA 6/30 in WNC 7/2)

1 JULY

PM Netanyahu’s security cabinet holds session to discuss the “growing Palestinianization and religious radicalization among Israeli Arabs.” (MA 7/7 in WNC 7/15)

Israel’s Pres. Weizman, PM Netanyahu meet for 1st time in over a mo., agree to halt their public debate over the peace process. (MM 7/1; MM, WP 7/2; JP 7/11) (see 6/30)

Israeli air force (IAF) cmdr. Eytan Ben-Eliyahu says that most of the present aircraft fleet is outdated, IAF needs 100 modern fighter jets. (YA 7/1 in WNC 7/6) (see 6/28)

1st civil guard is formed in the Jewish settlement of Beitar Lilit. Other guard centers are being set up in Kiryat Arba, Ma’ale Adumim, Givat Ze’ev settlements. Units are planned in Efrat, Har Hadar, Oranit settlements. (PR 7/10) (see 6/11)

Syrian FMin. Undersecret. Adnan al-Homrani arrives in Turkey for 2-day visit to discuss normalizing diplomatic relations. (WT 7/1; Anatolia 7/1 in WNC 7/2; Anatolia 7/1, 7/2 in WNC 7/6; WT 7/3; Milliyet 7/4 in WNC 7/7; MEI 7/31) (see Peace Monitor)

In Cairo, Egypt, Iran discuss enhancing media cooperation. (IRNA 7/1 in WNC 7/6)

Group representing 800 U.S. finance officials threatens to boycott Swiss banks unless they settle Holocaust era claims. U.S. administration opposes the threat of sanctions, which could disrupt U.S.-Swiss relations, trigger free trade dispute. (WT 7/3)

Israel reinforces troops in s. Lebanon, sending in more than 20 vehicles, including Merkava tanks, 175-mm. guns, surveillance cameras. (RL 7/1 in WNC 7/2)

2 JULY

IDF demolishes 4 Palestinian homes in the West Bank nr. Jerusalem. (WP 7/2)

PA, Israeli security forces engage in 12-hr. standoff in Gaza over control of the Dayr al-Balah-Mouassi coastal road. (ITV 7/2 in WNC 7/6; MM, NYT 7/3; MM 7/6; YA 7/6 in WNC 7/7; MM 7/8; WJW 7/9; PR 7/10; JP 7/11; CSM, WT 7/13; MEI 7/17) (see Peace Monitor)

Hizballah attacks 18 Israeli SLA positions across s. Lebanon using 122-mm. artillery, wounding 3 IDF soldiers, 1 SLA mbr. and marking the 1st time Hizballah has used towed artillery—a qualitative escalation. 1 Hizballah mbr. is killed, several are wounded. (IDF Radio 7/2 in WNC 7/6; MEI 7/17)

3 JULY

Orient House head Faisal Husseini makes 1-day trip to Ankara to meet with
Turkish pres. Demirel, FM Cem. (Anatolia 7/2 in WNC 7/6)

Syrian pres. Asad appoints Gen. All Aslan to replace Gen. Hikmat Shihabi, who is retiring, as chief of staff for the Syrian armed forces. Aslan, an Alawite with a distinguished military career and no record of political involvement, is currently dept. chief of staff. (MM 7/3; al-Quds al-Arabi 7/3, al-Astvag 7/4 in WNC 7/7; al-Quds al-Arabi 7/5 in WNC 7/13; PR 7/17)

4 JULY

Egypt, Iran agree to set up joint company to market, export pharmaceuticals. (MENA 7/4 in WNC 7/7)

3 Jewish settlers ride horseback through the Palestinian sector of Hebron, smashing Palestinian cars with chains, iron bars. (WT 7/5; MM 7/6; WJW 7/9; JP 7/11)

Hizballah shells SLA post in s. Lebanon, wounding 2 SLA men. (VOL 7/4 in WNC 7/7)

5 JULY

In Cairo, Mubarak, King Hussein, Arafat hold tripartite summit to discuss latest developments in the peace process given the “deteriorating situation in the occupied Palestinian territories”; warn that tensions are reaching dangerous levels; discuss possible Arab summit. (AFP, ESC Television, IDF Radio, MENA, VOA 7/5, MENA, VOA 7/6 in WNC 7/7; MM, NYT, WP, WT 7/6; al-Akhbar 7/6 in WNC 7/13; CSM, PR 7/10; MEI 7/17)

PM Netanyahu, Public Security M Avigdor Kahalani, the head of the Shin Bet, reps. of other security bodies hold follow-up mg. on how to deal with the “worrisome phenomenon” of “Palestinianization” of Israeli Arabs. (MA 7/7 in WNC 7/13; PR 7/17) (see 7/1)

In the 2d of 4 days of talks in Amman, Jordan, Saudi Arabia discuss converting their current trade agmt. into a free trade agmt. (JT, RJ 7/5 in WNC 7/7)

Settlers torch 4 Palestinian produce stalls in Hebron market. (WJW 7/9)

6 JULY

PM Netanyahu gives diplomatic address to the Knesset for the 1st time in 8 mos. Most of his speech attacks the Labor-led opposition. (MM 7/7)

Knesset Justice Comm. approves for 1st reading a bill that would extend Israeli civil-
proposal; says PA will have to reopen talks with Israel itself. (MM 7/10; NYT 7/12; MEI, PR 7/17; WP 7/23) (see Peace Monitor)

The Israeli human rights group B’tselem reports that since 6/28, 100s of Israeli security forces have been conducting aggressive searches in East Jerusalem’s Shu’afat refugee camp. (B’tselem press release 7/9; MENA 7/13 in WNC 7/15; PR 7/17) (see Peace Monitor)

IDF demolishes 3 Palestinian homes nr. Ramallah. (LAW 7/10; PR 7/17)

In a 2d spy case, Lebanon’s military prosecutor charges 18 mbrs. of the Lebanese Forces (a banned Christian right-wing militia group active during the 1975-90 civil war) with colluding with Israel; carrying out bombings (including 12/18/96 bus attack in Tabarja), attacks aimed at assassinating Lebanese politicians. 11 of the accused are under arrest, 7 are at large. (MM 7/9; RL 7/9 in WNC 7/13; MM, WP 7/10; MEI 7/17; al-Watan al-Arabi 7/17 in WNC 7/23) (see 6/19, 7/8)

10 JULY

Israeli, U.S. officials say that they expect a conclusion to FRD negotiations by the end of the mo. Secy. Albright has spoken with PM Netanyahhu 7 times in the past wk.; some conversations have been “heated.” (NYT 7/12) (see Peace Monitor)

Egyptian FM Musa arrives in Washington for 4 days of high-level talks with the U.S. on bilateral relations, the peace process, including possible reduction in aid to Egypt. (RE, SA 7/10 in WNC 7/13; MENA, VOA 7/11, RE 7/12 in WNC 7/14; al-Riyad 7/12 in WNC 7/16; MM, WT 7/13; al-Ahram 7/14 in WNC 7/15; WP 7/15; WT 7/16; MEI 7/17) (see Peace Monitor)

In Amman, 2 days of elections for the Muslim Brotherhood’s 45-mbr. Shura Council end. Preliminary data suggests that traditional balance of power in the movement will be maintained despite solidification of a new centrist grouping. (JT 7/11, al-Aswaq, al-Dustur 7/12 in WNC 7/14; JT 7/14 in WNC 7/15; MM 7/15; JT, SA 7/25 in WNC 7/28; al-Ra’i 8/3 in WNC 8/6; MM 8/6)

12 JULY


In Cairo, Arab League opens 5-day conference on Palestinian affairs, including issues of refugees, economic and social conditions, Judaisation of Jerusalem. Reps. fr. Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, the PLO, Organization of the Islamic Conference attend. (MENA 7/13 in WNC 7/15; JT 7/15 in WNC 7/16)

In s. Lebanon, the IDF blows up 3 Lebanese homes nr. a crossing separating its self-declared security zone fr. unoccupied Lebanon. Off Tyre, the Israeli navy fires on Lebanese fishing boats, sinking one; the crew escapes. (RL 7/12 in WNC 7/14)

13 JULY

PC grants Arafat’s request to give him until 7/25 to appoint a new cabinet. (WT 7/15; PR 7/17) (see 6/24)

State Dept. announces that gaps on FRD have not narrowed, senior Israeli, PA officials have agreed to meet soon face to face for the 1st time in mos. to renew talks. Washington will not host the talks, and Secy. Albright is not optimistic about the outcome. (MM, USIS Washington File, WP, WT 7/14; al-Akhbar, YA 7/14 in WNC 7/15; WNW 7/16; PR 7/17) (see Peace Monitor)

UNSC issues nonbinding statement urging Israel to implement the Jerusalem municipal expansion plan or take any other steps which would prejudice the outcome of the peace process. (MM, NYT, WT 7/14; MENA 7/14 in WNC 7/15; WT 7/15; IRNA 7/15 in WNC 7/16; al-Baith 7/15 in WNC 7/20; PR 7/17; JP 7/25) (see 6/30; Peace Monitor, Doc. A4)

A bomb explodes 100 feet from Orient House in East Jerusalem, slightly injuring 1 Palestinian. No one claims responsibility, although Jewish extremists are suspected. (IDF Radio 7/13 in WNC 7/15; WP 7/14; PR 7/17)

In s. Lebanon, 1 Lebanese civilian, 2 UNIFIL soldiers are injured by IDF shelling. (RL 7/13, 7/14 in WNC 7/15)

14 JULY

In Amman, King Hussein discusses peace process with Labor Chmn. Barak. The king then leaves for the U.S. for an irregular
medical checkup to treat a fever he has been suffering from for almost 2 wks. (IDF Radio, JTV, RJ 7/14 in WNC 7/15; JTV 7/14, JT 7/15 in WNC 7/16)

Zalman Shoval replaces Eliahu Ben-Eliyasser as Israeli amb. to the U.S. (IDF Radio 7/17 in WNC 7/20; WJW 8/6)

Lawyers for Nahum Manbar seek to have his case declared a mistrial after learning that PM Netanyahu phoned the presiding judge during the proceedings to demand a harsh sentence for Manbar. (MM 7/14; WT 7/15) (see 6/17)

PA State Security Court (SSC) sentences PA Preventive Security Force agent Fahmi al-Tawil to death for the murder of another PSF officer, Hamdi al-Krajha. The SSC is outside the PA civilian, military court system; frequently holds secret trials, without legal representation. (LAW 7/15)


15 JULY

The House Appropriations Foreign Operations Comm. marks up the FY 1999 foreign aid bill, proposes cuts in Egyptian, Israeli aid. (WT 7/17; Abhbar al-Yawm 7/18 in WNC 7/21; WJW 7/23) (see 7/10; Peace Monitor)


IDF confiscates 200 sheep belonging to the semisedentary Rashaida tribe, claiming that they strayed into a military zone outside Bethlehem. 30 bedouin are injured trying to stop the soldiers. (al-Hayat al-Jadida 7/16; JP 7/25)

16 JULY

Syria’s Pres. Asad arrives in France for 2 days of talks with Pres. Chirac on the peace process, the French-Egyptian proposal for an international summit (see 5/18). This is Asad’s 1st trip to a Western nation in 22 yrs. (MM 7/16; AFP 7/16 in WNC 7/20; MEI, MM, WT 7/17; APF 7/17 in WNC 7/20; NYT 7/18; SANA, SATN, VOA 7/18, MA 7/19, Les Echos 7/20 in WNC 7/21; WT 7/21; Tishrin 7/21 in WNC 7/24; MM 7/23; al-Watan al-Arabi 7/24 in WNC 7/28; MM 7/27; MEI 7/31) (see Peace Monitor)

In Gaza, PA Local Government M Erakat, Egyptian amb. to Israel Basyuni discuss peace process, upcoming resumption of PA-Israel talks. (MENA 7/16 in WNC 7/20)

Palestinian land dealer Badawi Jawlani, suspected of selling Palestinian land to Jews, is found murdered nr. Ramallah. (YA 7/17 in WNC 7/20) (see 6/10/97)

17 JULY

The UN Diplomatic Conference of Plenipotentiaries on the Establishment of the International Criminal Court approves (120-7, with 21 abstentions) draft statute to create an international war crimes court. (MM, WT 7/20; MM, WT 7/21; IRNA 7/22 in WNC 7/23; MM 7/27; MEI 7/31) (see Peace Monitor)

IDF forces the evacuation of 40 bedouin families fr. the area nr. Tubas, where they have lived for decades. (PR 7/24)

18 JULY

In Tehran, EU, Iran hold 1st talks since Iran suspended dialogue in 4/97 after a German court implicated the Iranian government in the 1992 murder of Kurdish dissidents in Berlin. (WP 7/19; see also MM 6/29) (see 9/6/97)

Turkey complains that Syria’s damming of the Asil river is preventing adequate water flow to the Hatay/Alexandretta province, threatening crops there. (Anatolia 7/18 in WNC 7/21)

19 JULY

Israeli DM Mordechai, PA negotiator Abbas meet at U.S. Amb. Walker’s residence in Tel Aviv to discuss scope of Israeli FRD; make no progress but agree to continue mtgs. 7/20, set up small teams to discuss issues blocking FRD. (IDF Radio, ITV 7/19, MA 7/20 in WNC 7/21; CSM, MM, NYT, WP, WT 7/20; WJW 7/23; PR 7/24; JP, NYT 7/25; MEI 7/31) (see Peace Monitor)

Hrs. before Mordechai-Abbas mtg. begins, Israeli police in Jerusalem claim to foil attempted car bombing by Hamas. PA claims that Israel fabricated the story to pressure the PA team in the FRD talks. Hamas denies any connection to car’s driver. (IDF Radio, ITV 7/19 in WNC 7/21; CSM, MM, NYT, WP, WT 7/20; PR 7/24; YA 7/24 in WNC 7/28; JP 7/25; MEI 7/31)

In Jerusalem, PM Netanyahu receives Jordanian FM Anani for talks on the peace process. Anani then goes to Ramallah to meet with Arafat. (JTV, QY, RJ 7/19 in WNC 7/21; WP 7/20; al-Ra'i 7/20, MA, RJ 7/22 in
WNC 7/23; MM 7/23; Petra-JNA 7/23 in WNC 7/24; al-Dustur 7/25 in WNC 7/28)

In Sidon, s. Lebanon, Lebanese authorities arrest 3 Palestinians, including 1 fmr. 
Fatah mbr., on suspicion of being part of a pro-Israeli spy ring. (WT 7/22) (see 7/8)

Yemen accuses Saudi Arabia of attacking Duwayma island in the Red Sea with ships, long-range artillery, killing 3 Yemeni coast guards, wounding 9. (MM 7/20; MM; WP 7/21; RJ 7/21 in WNC 7/23; WP 7/24; NYT 7/26; MEI 7/31) (see 6/23)

20 JULY

PA, Israeli: teams continue negotiations on outstanding Oslo II issues. (MM 7/20; ITV 7/20 in WNC 7/23; MM, WP 7/21; WJW 7/23; PR 7/24) (see Peace Monitor)

In Gaza, EU special envoy Moratinos meets with Arafat, PA Planning M Shaath. (WJW 7/23)

Jordan, Israel: expand joint airport agmt. (Globes [Internet] 7/20 in WNC 7/21; JT 7/21 in WNC 7/23) (see Peace Monitor)

Joint Jordanian-Palestinian economic comm. convenes in Amman. (JT 7/21 in WNC 7/23; al-Ra'i 7/21 in WNC 7/24) (see Peace Monitor)

In Sidon, s. Lebanon, the Armed Struggle Command, the Palestinian police force responsible for security in the refugee camps, hands over to Lebanese authorities Ahmad al-Masri, a Fatah lieutenant who is suspected of being part of a pro-Israeli spy ring. Lebanese officials have asked that a 2d Fatah lieutenant, Khalid al-Qonn, also be turned in. (RL 7/21 in WNC 7/23; WT 7/22) (see 7/19)

21 JULY

PM Netanyahu says that he wants PA-Israeli negotiations to be expanded to include issues other than FRD. PA says that the sides agreed talks would address 2 issues only: FRD, the PLO charter. (ITV 7/21 in WNC 7/23; WT 7/22) (see Peace Monitor)

Arafat, Israeli DM Mordechai separately consult Egypt’s Pres. Mubarak regarding the latest round of negotiations. (MENA, RE 7/21 in WNC 7/23; WT 7/22; NYT 7/23)

EU special envoy Moratinos meets with Israeli FMin. officials. (WJW 7/23)

King Hussein announces that tests fr. his last visit to the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, MN, on 7/14 indicate that he has lymphatic cancer. (RJ 7/21, 7/22 in WNC 7/23, WT 7/22; RJ 7/22 in WNC 7/24; MM, WP 7/23; MEI 7/31)

At Rep. Gingrich’s invitation, a PA delegation led by PC Speaker Qurai’ arrives in Washington to meet with congressmen. This is the 1st time that Palestinian lawmakers have been invited to Capitol Hill since the PC was elected in 1/96. (WT 7/21; MM 7/23)

The Senate proposes some reductions in Egyptian, Israeli aid as the House did 7/15. Debates on the House and Senate versions will not be completed until 9/98 at the earliest. (WJW 7/23) (see Peace Monitor)

U.S. Principal Dep. Secy. of State for Near Eastern Affairs David Welch returns fr. leading delegation (including Turkish officials) on 5-day trip to n. Iraq to attempt to reconcile the Kurdish Democratic Party, the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan. The U.S. hopes to unite the 2 groups to increase pressure on Iraqi pres. Saddam Hussein. (GIU 7/17; MM 7/20, 7/30) (see 6/17)

Amal, Hizbullah meet to discuss ways of coordinating their actions against the IDF, SLA in s. Lebanon. (RL 7/22 in WNC 7/23)

In s. Lebanon, an SLA convoy triggers a roadside bomb, killing 1 mbr., wounding 2. (VOL 7/21 in WNC 7/23) (see 5/10)

22 JULY

Despite 7 phone appeals by Israeli DM Mordechai, U.S. rejects Israel’s request for new round of American mediation. (CSM, MM, NYT, WP, WT 7/23; MEI 7/31) (see Peace Monitor)

PA negotiator Abbas goes to Amman to meet with Crown Prince Hassan, who offers to host a round of negotiations. (JTV 7/22 in WNC 7/24; MM, NYT, WT 7/23) (see Peace Monitor)

Knesset passes (78-31, with 1 abstention) preliminary reading of a bill that would require an absolute Knesset majority of 61 MKs, a public referendum majority to approve any territorial concessions on, changes in the status of the Golan Heights. (MM 7/23; Tishrin 7/25 in WNC 7/30; JP 8/1)

Iran successfully tests medium-range missile that could hit all of Israel and Saudi Arabia, most of Turkey. (NYT, WP, WT 7/23; CSM, MM, NYT, WT 7/24; NYT, WP 7/25; MM, WP 7/30; MEI, MM 7/31; JP 8/1; MM 8/3, 8/4)

Yemeni: troops attempt to secure control of the disputed island of Duwayma but fail to oust Saudi Arabian troops, leaving both countries with a military presence on the island. (MM, WP 7/23; MM 7/24) (see 7/19)
23 JULY

Arafat meets with Netanyahu’s coalition chmn. Meir Shitreet. (ITV 7/23 in WNC 7/27; MM 7/24; MA 7/24 in WNC 7/28; NYT 7/25; MM 7/28)

CPMAJO initiates ad campaign in major U.S. papers, sends letter to Arafat calling on him to reprimand Palestinian journalists, officials who deny or belittle the Holocaust. Zio- onist Organization of America Pres. Morton Klein started the campaign in reaction to unattributed reports in the Palestinian press. PA says that “recognition of the immorality of the Holocaust is a basic moral component”; does not understand why CPMAJO is pursuing the unconfirmed reports at a crucial time in the peace process; notes that the PA has no authority over the content of the Palestinian press, criticisms should be sent to the papers directly. (NYT 7/24)

Turkish PM Mesut Yilmaz gives a public address full of veiled threats to Syria. Syria accuses Turkey of escalating tensions. (MM 7/24, 7/27, 7/31) (see 7/1; Peace Monitor)

24 JULY

In Ramallah, Arafat meets with Israeli Internal Security M Kahalani, who brings message fr. PM Netanyahu. After mtg., Arafat says that PA-Israeli talks will continue next wk. (MM 7/24; NYT, WP 7/25; MM 7/27) (see Peace Monitor)

25 JULY

Israeli DM Mordechai meets with PA negotiator Abbas, offers “concessions” on Israel's FRD plan. On the basis of the proposal, Abbas agrees to resume the working teams talks. (IDF Radio 7/26, HA, MA 7/27 in WNC 7/28; IGPO 7/27; ITV, al-Quds 7/27 in WNC 7/29; MM, PR 7/31) (see Peace Monitor)

Israel's Internal Security M Kahalani, MK Yehuda Harel meet with Arafat adviser Abbas. Abbas suggests that Israel release 100 Palestinian security prisoners as a good will gesture. Kahalani says he will raise the idea with Netanyahu. (IGPO 7/26; YA 7/30 in WNC 8/6; MEI 7/31)

In Tel Aviv, Israel, Turkey open talks on military issues ranging fr. joint production of defensive missiles to Israeli technological support to enhance Turkey’s border security. (Milliyet 7/25 in WNC 7/28)

IDF storms the town of Arnin in s. Lebanon. 3 people are killed in an explosion there, possibly when the IDF blows up a house. (RL 7/25 in WNC 7/28)

26 JULY


King Hussein begins chemotherapy for lymphoma at the Mayo Clinic. (AFP, SA 7/27 in WNC 7/28; NYT, WP, WT 7/29)

Israeli pres. Weizman warns PM Netanyahu that violence is likely if FRD agmt. is not reached soon, calls for early election. (MM, WP, WT 7/27; JP 8/1) (see 7/1)

Saudi FM Prince Saud arrives in Yemen for talks with Pres. Ali Abdullah Salih on recent clashes. The men sign minutes of the mtg., which outline steps toward resuming border demarcation negotiations. (MM 7/29) (see 7/22)

27 JULY

Knesset wins support (42-20, with 58 MKs abstaining or absent) for 3 no-confidence motions accusing PM Netanyahu of hindering peace talks with the PA, but motions fail to secure the 61-vote simple majority for passage, ousting the government. (MM, WP 7/28)

PM Netanyahu says that Israel is offering the PA a “10 + 5” FRD formula, is still demanding that the full PNC convene to void the PLO charter. He promises that if the government reaches an agmt. with the PA during the 3-mo. Knesset recess (7/30-10/18), the government will convene the Knesset immediately to discuss, approve the deal. (IGPO, MM 7/27) (see Peace Monitor)

In Paris, Egyptian FM Musa opens 2 days of talks with French FM Hubert Vedrine on the peace process, possible international summit. (MENA 7/27 in WNC 7/28; MENA 7/27, AFP, MENA 7/28 in WNC 7/29; MENA 7/28, VOA 7/29 in WNC 7/30)

In West Jerusalem, a Palestinian is stabbed, injured by a Jewish settler, who is captured and arrested. (PR 7/31)

28 JULY

In Tel Aviv, PA Local Government M Erakat, Israeli cabinet secy. Nave, atty. Molho discuss FRD issue. Separately, PA negotiator Abbas, Israeli Public Security M Kahalani agree to resume weekly meetings on outstanding Oslo II issues. (PR 7/31) (see Peace Monitor)
EU special envoy Moratinos arrives in Lebanon fr. Syria for talks on the peace process international summit proposal. Moratinos then heads to Amman to meet with Crown Prince Hassan. (VOL 7/28 in WNC 7/29; JTV 7/29 in WNC 8/6)

In Amman, Jordan, Saudi Arabia discuss expanding security cooperation. (RJ 7/28 in WNC 7/30)

IDF demolishes Palestinian home in Rafat that allegedly was built without a permit. (WT 7/29)

In s. Lebanon, an SLA convoy triggers a roadside bomb, killing 1 SLA mbr. (VOL 7/28 in WNC 7/29)

29 JULY

In a warning to PM Netanyahu, the Knesset passes (60-6, with 1 abstention, 53 coalition mbrs. boycotting) the 1st reading of a bill to dissolve parliament, which if enacted would effectively topple Netanyahu’s government. (MM 7/29; CSM, NYT, WP, WT 7/30; MENA 7/30 in WNC 8/6; MM 7/31)

In Casablanca, the Jerusalem Comm. of the Organization of the Islamic Conference opens 2-day mtg. to address recent Israeli decisions on Jerusalem, esp. 6/21 approval to expand municipal boundaries. On the sidelines, Egyptian FM Musa briefs Syrian FM Shara‘ on his trip to Paris 6/27-28. (MENA 7/29 in WNC 7/30; MENA 7/29; RE 7/31 in WNC 8/6; al-Wafd 7/31 in WNC 8/10; al-Dustur, RJ 8/1 in WNC 8/7)

In a press interview, Israeli Labor MK Ori Orr makes very derogatory statements against Sephardic Jews, causing uproar, highlighting ethnic tensions among Jews in Israel. (MM 7/30, 7/31)

Speaking before a congressional comm., Asst Secy. of State Indyk says that U.S. will continue efforts to contain Iraq, defines new policy toward Iran as being closer to the EU policy of “open dialogue,” effectively ending U.S. policy of dual containment. (GIU 7/31)

As part of the U.S.’s increasing attempts to destabilize the Iraqi regime, the U.S.-sponsored Radio Frec Europe/Liberty announces that it will soon begin broadcasting to Iraq. Iran fr. a secret location in Czechoslovakia. (WP 7/30) (see 7/21)

30 JULY

Noting King Hussein’s health troubles (7/26), PM Netanyahu transfers to Jordan the $50 m. that Israel owes the kingdom under the Peace and Stability Fund agmt. (IGPO 7/30) (see Peace Monitor)

In Casablanca, the Jerusalem Comm. closes 2-day mtg., agrees to set up fund to support Islamic institutions in the city, calls on mbrs. to reexamine their relations with Israel. On the sidelines of the mtg., Arafat meets separately with Iranian FM Kamal Kharrazi, Jordanian FM Anani, Syrian FM Shara‘ to discuss the peace process. (al-Quds 7/31 in WNC 8/10; MM 8/6; JP 8/8; MM 8/15)

PM Netanyahu receives EU special envoy Moratinos, who briefs the PM on his mtgs. in Syria, in Lebanon, with the PA. (IGPO 7/30)

The UK accepts Arab League proposal that 2 Libyan suspects in the 12/88 Lockerbie bombing be tried under Scottish law at The Hague. The U.S. agreed to the suggestion 7/29. (RE 7/30 in WNC 8/6)

In s. Lebanon, Hizballah ambushed an IDF patrol, killing 1 soldier, wounding 5. (VOL 7/30 in WNC 8/6; MM, NYT, WP 7/31; JP 8/8)

31 JULY

Arafat makes 1-day official visit to Turkey. (SA 7/31 in WNC 8/10; Milliyet 8/5 in WNC 8/6; MM 8/6) (see Peace Monitor)

In Cairo, EU special envoy Moratinos meets with FM Musa on peace process, possible international summit. (RE 7/31 in WNC 8/6; MENA 8/1 in WNC 8/7)

Israel’s Labor party punishes MK Orr for his anti-Sephardic statements by removing him fr. all his posts in the Labor parliamentary faction but does not ask for his resignation fr. the Knesset or the party. (MM 7/31, 8/5) (see 7/29)

In s. Lebanon, a car driven by an SLA mbr. triggers a roadside bomb, killing the SLA mbr., his sister. (VOL 8/4 in WNC 8/6)

The UNSC extends the UNIFIL mandate for s. Lebanon for another 6 mos. (RL 7/31 in WNC 8/10)

1 AUGUST

In Cairo, PA Local Government M Erakat briefs FM Musa on talks with Israel. (MENA 8/1 in WNC 8/10)

2 AUGUST

PA warns that talks set for 8/3 will be the last mtg. with Israel unless the Israeli team offers new ideas. (MM, NYT, WP, WT 8/3)

In Damascus, Iran, Syria hold talks on economic cooperation, expanding commercial ties. (IRNA 8/2 in WNC 8/10)
Israeli military police arrest 1 IDF tracker, 1 SLA mbr. suspected of smuggling 10 M-16 rifles, 5 handguns fr. Lebanon into Israel. (MA 8/2 in WNC 8/10)

3 AUGUST

PA-Israeli talks resume btwn. Netanyahu atty. Molho, PA Local Government M Erakat. Despite the lack of new ideas, the PA does not call a halt to talks. (CSM, MM 8/3; RE 8/3, AFP 8/4 in WNC 8/7; IGPO, MM, NYT 8/4) (see Peace Monitor)

In Amman, Crown Prince Hassan, Israeli MK Yossi Sarid hold talks on the peace process. (Petra-JNA 8/4 in WNC 8/6)

In Washington, Labor Chmn. Barak, MKs Yossi Beilin, Shlomo Ben-Ami, Ephraim Sneh (who are on a 5-day U.S. tour) meet with 12 AIPAC officials. The 4 men criticize AIPAC's recent lobbying efforts, such as the letter signed by 81 senators to Pres. Clinton (see Doc. C2 in JPS 108), saying that AIPAC is "looking for battles at the expense of Israeli security." Netanyahu calls the U.S. trip "subversive." (CSM, MM 8/3; IGPO, MM 8/4; WJW 8/6, 8/13; JP 8/15)

Palestinian archaeologists working on the 1st dig in the PA self-rule areas uncover remains of Canaanite homes they believe date fr. around 3000 B.C. (WT 8/5)

IDF demolishes reconstructed section of Palestinian home in Anata that was 1st knocked down 7/9. (LAW 8/3)

Off the coast of Tyre, Israeli naval forces seize a Lebanese fishing boat, arrest 2 fishermen. (RL 8/3 in WNC 8/7)

4 AUGUST

In Washington, the Israeli Labor party delegation meets with over 600 U.S. Jewish leaders, congressmen, mbrs. of the U.S. administration to brief them on Labor's positions toward the peace process. Party chmn. Barak says that despite the delegation's critical tone, they are not advocating U.S. pressure on Israel. (MM 8/5; MA 8/6 in WNC 8/7)

Iraq rejects UNSCOM proposal for accelerated inspection schedule, demands that the UN lift sanctions, says it will not cooperate further with inspectors. Publicly, the U.S. warns that noncooperation will insure that Iraq remains under sanctions indefinitely. Behind the scenes, Secy. Albright phones UNSCOM's Butler—as she reportedly has done several times in recent mos.—to urge him not to carry out 2 surprise “challenge inspections” planned for 8/6 so as to avoid a new crisis with Iraq. Butler agrees only to delay inspections until 8/9. (MM, NYT, WP, WT 8/5; MM 8/6, 8/7, 8/10; NYT 8/13; WP 8/14; WP, WT 8/15; NYT 8/17; WP 8/18) (see 6/24)

5 AUGUST

Arafat presents new cabinet to the PC. (MM 8/5; MM, NYT 8/6; LAW, MM, PR 8/7) (see Peace Monitor; Doc. B2)

By phone, Secy. Albright tells PM Netanyahu that the freeze in the peace process is harming U.S. interests in the Middle East, is affecting the U.S.’s ability to forge a coalition against Iraq (see 8/4). Netanyahu asks Albright to send Ross back to the region, but she refuses. (MA 8/6 in WNC 8/7)

In Damascus, Iran, Syria hold talks on financial cooperation, joint investments, elimination of double taxation. (IRNA 8/5 in WNC 8/7) (see 8/2)

2 Jewish settlers on patrol around Yitzhhar settlement nr. Nablus are shot, killed. IDF places curfew on nearby Palestinian villages, search for attackers but does not find them. PM Netanyahu authorizes expansion of Yitzhhar; settlers say that they will start work immediately. (MM, NYT 8/5; CSM, MM, WP, WT 8/6; MM 8/7; YA 8/7 in WNC 8/11; JP 8/15)

In s. Lebanon, 1 Hizbullah mbr. is killed, 1 is wounded by IDF shelling. (RL 8/5 in WNC 8/6; VOL 8/5, RL 8/6 in WNC 8/7)

6 AUGUST

PA Higher Education M Hanan Ashrawi, Agriculture M ‘Abd al-Jawad Salih resign in protest over Arafat’s new cabinet. (MM 8/6; CSM, MM, NYT, WP, WT 8/7) (see Peace Monitor, Doc. B2)

In Amman, PA Local Government M Erakat briefs Crown Prince Hassan on talks with Israel. Crown Prince Hassan later meets with Israeli Internal Security M Kahalani. (RJ 8/6 in WNC 8/7; JTV, RJ 8/6 in WNC 8/10)

In Washington, delegation of Labor MKs headed by party chmn. Barak meets with Secy. Albright. (MA 8/6 in WNC 8/7)

PM Netanyahu accuses the Vatican of bending to pressure fr. the PLO in appointing a Palestinian as archbishop of the Melchite (Greek Orthodox) church in the Galilee. (NYT 8/8) (see Peace Monitor)

In Damascus, Iran, Syria discuss expanding cooperation in the judicial sphere. (MM 8/6; IRNA 8/6 in WNC 8/10) (see 8/5)
7 AUGUST

Bombs explode almost simultaneously at the U.S. embassies in Kenya, Tanzania, leaving 256 dead, some 5,000 injured. The unheard of Islamic Army for the Liberation of the Holy Places claims responsibility, saying it wants Western troops out of Muslim countries. Egyptian Islamic Jihad, Saudi dissident Osama Bin Laden, Iraq are the prime suspects. (The CIA listening post monitoring Iraq is headquartered in Nairobi, and 8 yrs. ago today the 1st U.S. troops landed on Saudi soil following Iraq's invasion of Kuwait.) U.S., Israel immediately send rescue teams to Kenya, where there is significant damage. PM Netanyahu offers to investigate the incidents. (MM 8/7; AFP 8/7, AFP, al-Jumhuriyya, SA 8/8, AFP, al-Wafa, YA 8/9, al-Ahram 8/10 in WNC 8/11; NYT, WP, WT, Independent, WT 8/9; IGPO, NYT, WP, WT 8/10; MA 8/11 in WNC 8/12; al-Safir 8/11 in WNC 8/14; WP 8/12; SA 8/12 in WNC 8/13; MM 8/13; NYT 8/20; WT 8/24)

Israeli DM Mordechai phones U.S. special envoy Ross to ask him to come to the region to help move talks forward. Ross says he will not come until there are signs of real progress. (MA 8/9 in WNC 8/11)

High-level U.S. official phones UNSCOM head Butler to urge him to postpone “challenge inspections” planned for 8/9 so as to avoid a new crisis with Iraq. Butler orders the UNSCOM team to leave Baghdad to protest U.S.'s “go-slow” policy. (WP 8/14; WP, WT 8/15; NYT 8/17; WP 8/18) (see 8/4)

8 AUGUST

Russia's Security Council Secretary Andrey Kokoshin arrives in Israel for 3 days of talks on bilateral relations. (ITAR-TASS 8/9 in WNC 8/11; ITAR-TASS 8/11, NTV [Moscow] 8/12 in WNC 8/13)

9 AUGUST

After 2 days of heated debate, PC approves (55-28, with 3 abstentions) Arafat’s new EA. (WP 8/9; CSM, NYT, WP, WT 8/10; JP 8/15) (see Peace Monitor)

PM Netanyahu turns down invitation from Norway to attend 5th anniversary commemoration of the Oslo accords scheduled to be held in Oslo 8/25-24. Fmr. Israeli PM Peres, Arafat plan to attend. (HA [Internet] 8/10, 8/18)

Jordanian FM Anani arrives in Iran for 2 days of talks on bilateral cultural, economic, political ties; meets with Majles speaker Ali Akbar Nateq-Nouri. (JTV 8/8, IRNA 8/9, JT 8/10 in WNC 8/11; MM 8/14)

Jordan’s new amb. to Iraq, Hammud Katarnah, presents his credentials to Iraqi VP Taha Yassin Ramadan. Both men express desire to boost bilateral cooperation. (MM 8/12)

Israel’s Atty. Gen. Elaykim Rubenstein, State Prosecutor Edna Arbel, National Chief of Police Yehuda Vilk finalize new regulations for the IDF, police, Shin Bet that will eliminate special treatment for Jewish settlers who break the law in the occupied territories, especially in cases involving attacks on Palestinians. (HA [Internet] 8/11)

10s of Jewish settlers fr. settlements along the Lebanense border demonstrate outside PM Netanyahu’s office to protest government plans to reschedule the benefits granted the settlement leaders after Israel’s assault on Lebanon 4/11-26/96. (HA [Internet] 8/10)

Palestinian prisoner Walid Qawasmeh dies en route to a Nahalus hospital after 10 days in PA custody. PA says that he died of heat stroke. Autopsy concludes he had been tortured. (WP 8/11; LAW 8/12)

10 AUGUST

In Tel Aviv, Israel, Russia open talks on establishing bilateral consular relations. (ITAR-TASS 8/10 in WNC 8/11; Vesti 8/13 in WNC 8/14; Interfax 8/28 in WNC 8/20) (see 8/8)

U.S. gives Jordan a $54.3-m. grant to help cover costs of Jordan’s international debt, economic reform programs, employment generation. (RJ 8/10 in WNC 8/12)

In Tehran, Jordan, Iran discuss expanding technical, industrial cooperation. (IRNA, RMC 8/10 in WNC 8/11; JTV 8/11, VOA 8/12 in WNC 8/13) (see 8/9)

An IDF soldier, 1 Hizbballah mbr. are injured during a clash in s. Lebanon. (RL 8/10 in WNC 8/11)

11 AUGUST

On a trip to Washington brwn. treatments at the Mayo clinic, King Hussein meets with Asst. Secy. of State Pickering for talks on the peace process, regional issues. (RJ 8/11 in WNC 8/12)

On a 3-day visit to South Africa, Arafat meets with Pres. Nelson Mandela. (SAPA [Johannesburg] 8/11 in WNC 8/12, WT 8/12, 8/13)

Lebanon announces plans to reopen its embassy in Iraq for consular, trade activity. (Iraqi News Agency 8/11 in WNC 8/12)
Under U.S. pressure, Israel drops its opposition to UN talks on halting production of nuclear weapons material. Israel was the only mbr. of the 61-mbr. UN Conference on Disarmament to oppose discussion of the Fissile Material Cut-Off Treaty. PM Netanyahu emphasizes that the decision “does not mean we are taking a position on the treaty and its contents,” which could force Israel to open Dimona to inspectors or face sanctions. (MM 8/11; MA 8/11 in WNC 8/12; MM, NYT, WP, WT 8/12; Muslim [Islamabad] 8/13 in WNC 8/14)

Israel rounds up 2,000 Palestinians caught working inside Israel illegally. All but 2 are released, returned to the West Bank in a few hours. (WT 8/12)

YESHA council announces plans to place 100 “temporary structures” in settlements across the West Bank to be used by schools in the fall. The Israeli Civil Administration fears the trailers will be used to expand settlements. (IDF Radio 8/11 in WNC 8/12)

A Hizballah mbr. armed with a Kalashnikov infiltrates the IDF’s Sujud outpost in s. Lebanon, ends up in fist fight with soldiers in a tent, who manage to restrain him. Critics decry lax security at the base, question why soldiers did not kill the infiltrator. (IGPO 8/11; MM 8/13)

12 AUGUST

Knesset approves $543-m. increase to Israel’s $8.85-b. defense budget for FY 1999. Netanyahu cited the increased threat fr. Iran following the 7/22 missile test in requesting the additional funds. (MM 8/12, 8/13; Tishrin 8/15 in WNC 8/19; CSM 8/18)

In Jerusalem, Trade M Sharansky, Jordan’s Trade M Hani al-Mulqi discuss expanding bilateral trade. Mulqi also meets with PM Netanyahu, hands him a letter on the peace process fr. Crown Prince Hassan. (JT 8/10 in WNC 8/11; IGPO 8/12; RJ 8/12, JT 8/15 in WNC 8/14) (see Peace Monitor)

In Riyadh, King Fahd of Saudi Arabia has surgery to remove his gall bladder. (WP, WT 8/15)

Israel’s Peace Now reports that 2,888 of 42,000 apartments in the settlements stand empty, compared with 3,200 last yr.; 5,892 apartments are under construction, compared to 5,200 last yr; annual growth in the settlements is 3.2% while construction is increasing the housing supply by 15%/yr.

YESHA claims data are false, says only a few hundred apartments are empty while the final touches are applied before they can be occupied; claims 7,200 apartments are under construction to meet natural growth. (YA 8/13 in WNC 8/14)

13 AUGUST

Israeli Interior M Eli Suissa says that his ministry intends to force Palestinians fr. East Jerusalem to use the Israeli laissez-passer travel document for travel to Jordan rather than the permits which have been used since 1967. The more expensive, more difficult-to-obtain laissez-passer is used for travel to foreign countries, whereas the permits have been used to facilitate travel to Jordan by Palestinians holding pre-1967 Jordanian passports. Other officials say that the min. may instead offer a 2-yr. multiple entry travel permit for trips to Jordan that would improve upon the permits currently in use. (al-Quuds 8/13, 8/14 in WNC 8/18)

14 AUGUST

Jordan complains that Israel is flying only 1 flight/wk. to Aqaba airport rather than the 5 flights/wk. stipulated under the Aqaba airport trial accord. (al-Ra’i 8/15 in WNC 8/16)

The Israeli FMin. halts opposition to the Vatican’s appointment of Palestinian bishop to Galilee. (MA 8/17 in WNC 8/18) (see Peace Monitor)

15 AUGUST

Saying it would be “useless,” Arafat cancels scheduled mtg. with Israeli negotiator Molcho. (HA [Internet] 8/18; WJW 8/20)

Hamas mbr. Imad Awadallah, jailed by the PA for the 3/29 murder of Hamas mbr. Muhieddin Sharif, escapes fr. PA jail in Jericho. PA police conduct house-to-house search in Jericho, Ramallah; place curfew on central Jericho, marking the 1st time the PA has placed a curfew on Palestinians. (CSM, WP, WT 8/17)

Jordan’s parliamentary speaker arrives in Iran for 3-day visit, discussions on expanding bilateral economic, political, cultural relations. (IRNA, RJ 8/15, IRNA, JT 8/16, IRNA 8/17 in WNC 8/18)

Pakistan hands over to Kenya a suspect, Muhammad Saddiq Odeh, in the 8/7 U.S. embassy bombing in Nairobi, claiming that he admitted during interrogation that he helped carry out the Kenya, Tanzania bombings for Saudi dissident Bin Laden. In Nairobi, Kenyan, FBI officials question Odeh. (WP, WT 8/17; NYT 8/17)
# Chronology Source Abbreviations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Source Information</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AFP</td>
<td>Agence France Presse, Paris</td>
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<td>CSM</td>
<td>Christian Science Monitor, Boston</td>
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<td>GIU</td>
<td>Global Intelligence Update, Austin</td>
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<td>HA</td>
<td>Ha’Aretz, Tel Aviv</td>
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<td>IGPO</td>
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<td>MTV</td>
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<td>Jordan Times, Amman</td>
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<td>JTV</td>
<td>Jordan Television Network, Amman</td>
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<td>LAW</td>
<td>Palestinian Society for the Protection of Human Rights and the Environment, Jerusalem</td>
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Chronology compiled by Michele L. Kjorlien