16 AUGUST

In Gaza, Palestinian Authority (PA) head Yasir Arafat meets with Yitzhak Molcho, personal atty. and adviser to Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu. No details about the mtgs. are released. (WT 8/18)

The PA says it will match Israel’s freeze (imposed since the 7/30 bombings) on transfers of monies owed the PA with a selective boycott of Israeli goods, calls for national unity talks with Palestinian groups opposed to the Oslo process. (NYT, WT 8/17; CSM, NYT 8/18; PR 8/22)

Jordanian amb. to Israel Umar al-Rifai submits official complaint to Israeli, stating that he, Jordanian writer Nasir al-Din al-Nashashibi were harassed at an Israeli checkpoint into Israel. (al-Dustur 8/17 in WNC 8/20) (see Peace Monitor in JPS 105)

PA police arrest 3 Palestinian car thieves who murdered an Israeli taxi driver in Jericho 8/14. Within hrs. the 3 men are tried, convicted to long prison terms. Israeli police praise the move, but government says cooperation in criminal matters does not prove that the PA is cracking down on “terrorism.” (WT 8/17; NYT 8/18; CSM, WP 8/19; IGPO 8/28 in WNC 9/4)

Israel Defense Force (IDF) attacks Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command (PFLP-GC) bases in s. Lebanon, drawing fire fr. the Lebanese army. No injuries are reported. (RL 8/16, 8/17 in WNC 8/20)

17 AUGUST

U.S.-PA-Israeli security panel meets in Ramallah. All parties say talks were productive but agree to a general policy that information about these tripartite mtgs. will not be made public. (NYT, WT 8/18)

100 fmr. Jordanian Ms and senior officials, lawyers, academics, writers led by fmr. PMs Ahmad Obeidat, Taher Masri issue statement calling for a boycott of the 11/4 parliamentary elections. (MM 8/18, 8/26; MEI 8/29)

18 AUGUST

Israel decides to release ⅓ of the tax revenues ($12 m.) that it has withheld fr. the PA as a nod to the PA’s cooperation on the trilateral security panel 8/18. (MM 8/18; IDF Radio, IGPO 8/18 in WNC 8/20; CSM, NYT, WP, WT 8/19; PR 8/22)

PA police begin enforcing a boycott on the import of certain Israeli goods to the occupied territories, halting and searching commercial vehicles. (JT 8/18 in WNC 8/20; MM 8/21; CSM, NYT, PR 8/22) (see 8/16)

Citing the deadlock in the peace process, Indonesia rejects an Israeli request for PM Netanyahu to visit the country during a trip to Asia next wk. (YA 8/19 in WNC 8/20)

IDF demolishes 4 Palestinian homes nr. Hebron. (PR 9/5)

Jordan arrests 6 people, including an Israeli, who were trying to smuggle guns into the West Bank via the Dead Sea tourist area. (JT 8/27 in WNC 8/28; Shihan 9/6 in WNC 9/10; JP 10/11)

3 Lebanese civilians are killed by a roadside explosion in Jazin, which is controlled by the South Lebanon Army (SLA). In response, the SLA shells the largely pro-Hizballah city of Sidon, killing at least 6 civilians, wounding 38—the highest civilian toll since the 4/96 understanding. Hizballah, supported by Lebanese army artillery, then shells source of SLA fire (a village nr. Jazin), killing 1 civilian, wounding 2. Israel files a complaint with the Israel-Lebanon Monitoring Group (ILMG), blaming Hizballah for the initial roadside bombing; reprimands the “rogue commander” of the SLA who allegedly ordered the Sidon attack. (MM 8/18; RL, VOL 8/18 in WNC 8/20; MM, NYT, WP, WT 8/19; VOL 8/19 in WNC 8/21; CSM, WP 8/20; NYT 8/21; MM 8/22) (see 8/12)

Iraq announces plans to permit Iranian pilgrims to visit Shi‘i holy sites at Najaf, Karbala for the 1st time in 17 yrs. beginning 9/4. (MM 8/19)

At the invitation of the Lebanese Soccer Federation, the Iraqi national soccer team
arrives in Beirut to play match against Lebanon's team. (INA 8/18 in WNC 8/20) (see 7/11)

19 AUGUST

Arafat, Shin Bet head Ami Ayalon meet to discuss security coordination. (NYT 8/21) (see 7/10)

PA Planning M Nabil Shaath returns fr. official visit to Egypt, says Egypt will lead an intensive effort to unify the Arab position on the peace process before Secy. of State Madeleine Albright arrives in the region. (al-Hilah) [Abu Dhabi] 8/20 in WNC 8/21)

Israel allows 130 West Bank Palestinians, who have been trapped in Gaza since the 7/30 suicide bombings, to return to their homes. 4 Palestinians are forbidden to return. (PCHR 9/22)

IDF forcibly removes 15 mbrs. of a Jahalin bedouin family fr. their home nr. Azariyya in Jerusalem to facilitate expansion of Ma'ale Adumim settlement. (PR 8/22) (see 2/11)

The UN Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) informs Arafat that it must make cuts, reduce services to Palestinian refugees because of inadequate financing, $20 m. debt last quarter. (UNRWA press release 8/19; MEI, PR 8/29; PR 9/5; JT 9/5 in WNC 9/8)

Iraqi, Syrian industrial delegations meet in Aleppo to discuss expanding trade relations. (SANA 8/19 in WNC 8/21)

Saudi Arabia announces that Iran will resume weekly passenger flights b/wn. Jiddah, Tehran on 9/30. (MM 8/19)

In response to the SLA's 8/18 attack on Sidon, Hizballah fires 10s of katyusha rockets into n. Israel, slightly injuring 3 people. Netanyahu orders Syria to restrain Hizballah, says that he is prepared to launch massive retaliatory strikes if shelling continues. (MM 8/19; AFP 8/19 in WNC 8/21; CSM, NYT, WP, WT 8/20; YA 8/20 in WNC 8/21: WP, WT 8/21; MEI 8/29; JP 8/30)

20 AUGUST

In Gaza, Arafat opens 2-day national dialogue mtg., meets with Hamas leader 'Abd al-Aziz Rantisi, warns that Israeli actions in response to the 7/30 bombings could lead to another uprising. Islamic Jihad mbrs. also attend. (CSM, MM, NYT, WP, WT 8/21; RMC 8/21 in WNC 8/22; MM, NYT, PR, WT 8/22; RE 8/22 in WNC 8/25; PR 8/29; CSM 8/30, 9/8) (see 8/16)

In Amman, a 2-day "popular conference for the defense of Jerusalem" opens. (al-Dustur, JT 8/21 in WNC 8/22; JT 8/23 in WNC 8/26) (see Peace Monitor)

In Bethlehem, PA police beat Palestinian Salih Musa during a traffic dispute, take him to Bethlehem hospital. 6 policemen are later arrested in connection with the incident. Bethlehem is still under the internal closure imposed by Israel following the 7/30 bombings. (LAW 8/21)

In retaliation for Hizballah's 8/19 shelling, Israeli air force (IAF) strikes far n. of the self-declared security zone, hitting a Hizballah base, an area nr. the Lebanese army unit that took part in the 8/18 shelling, a power station, injuring 2 Lebanese civilians. ILMG holds an emergency mtg. to discuss the deteriorating situation. Israel says that strike on power station was meant to show the Lebanese government that "a situation in which Israeli citizens cannot live peacefully while the Lebanese continue to live their lives normally will not be tolerated." (MM 8/20; AFP, RL, VOL 8/20 in WNC 8/21; CSM, MM, NYT, WT 8/21; WT 8/25)

21 AUGUST

Netanyahu phones Egypt's Pres. Husni Mubarak, Jordan's King Hussein; asks them to pressure Arafat to take further actions against Islamists. (WT 8/25)

Arafat meets with a congressional delegation led by Rep. Benjamin Gilman (R-NY), chmn. of the House International Relations Comm. Delegation proposes forming a group of Palestinian Council (PC) mbrs., MKs, congressmen to help build confidence. (MM 8/22; WT 8/23; JP 8/30)

Ha'aretz publishes poll of 500 Israeli Jews' views of Israeli Arabs: 56.4% say Arab citizens should not be allowed to vote, 51.6% say Israeli Arabs should be transferred to a Palestinian state when it comes into being, 39.8% view Israeli Arabs as a threat to the country. (MM 8/21)

Labor Chmn. Ehud Barak fires more than half the staff at party headquarters, citing debt of NIS 80 m. (MA 8/29 in WNC 9/2; JP 8/30)

Israel sends Russia a "strongly worded" letter saying that its relations with Russia have been severely strained over Russian military aid to Iran for development of long-range missiles. (NYT 8/25)

Iraqi, Syrian industrial delegations meet in Latakia to discuss port capabilities, storage
capacities. (SANA 8/21 in WNC 8/25) (see 8/19)

In Jazin, a Lebanese civilian is killed by a roadside bomb. Hizballah, Israel blame each other. (AFP, RL 8/21 in WNC 8/22)

22 AUGUST

Israel announces plans to build a dam just inside the boundary of land claimed by Syria. U.S. criticizes the decision; Syria says that it proves that Israel does not want peace; Jordan says that it is “totally against the spirit” of the 1994 Jordan-Israeli peace treaty. (MM 8/22; AFP, RMC 8/24, RMC 8/25 in WNC 8/26; MM, NYT 8/26; al-Dustur, JT 8/26 in WNC 8/27; al-Dustur, al-Rai 8/27 in WNC 8/28; NYT 8/28; MM 10/28)

Netanyahu phones Secy. of State Albright to warn the U.S. that the peace process is in serious trouble, blames Arafat exclusively, claims PA is not abiding by understandings reached in mtgs. with U.S. special envoy Dennis Ross 8/10–13. (ITV 8/23 in WNC 8/26; WT 8/25)

PA Executive Authority (EA), PLO Exec. Comm. discuss report published in Jane’s Foreign Report that Israel military sources were considering setting up an ultra-secret special unit that would carry out “punitive actions” against Palestinian politicians. The report concludes that the group being considered might be similar to the Lakam unit of the 1970s, which reported only to the PM, was unknown to the Shin Bet, Mossad. (NYT 8/24; WT 8/25)

Netanyahu’s inner cabinet discusses Russian military aid to Iran. The cabinet proposes freezing economic cooperation projects with Russia if it continues to help Iran. (NYT 8/25) (see 8/21)

Hizballah detonates roadside bomb in s. Lebanon, killing 1 SLA mbr. (Voice of the South 8/22 in WNC 8/25; MEI 8/29)

23 AUGUST

Arafat claims that his intelligence shows that Israel is planning commando raids in area A as it threatened by the 7/30 suicide bombings. Netanyahu aide Bar-Ilan says no raids are imminent, but Israel retains the right to carry out such operations if the PA does not break the Islamists’ infrastructure. (NYT 8/24)

In Bethlehem, Palestinians protesting the continued closure occasionally skirmish with IDF troops manning checkpoints around the city. (NYT 8/24)

Car bomb kills mid-level Amal mbr. Khalil al-Musawi in Beirut. (VOL 8/23 in WNC 8/26)

24 AUGUST

Jordan, PA sign administrative cooperation protocol, set up follow-up comm. to meet every 6 mos. (RJ 8/24 in WNC 8/26)

PM Netanyahu arrives in China on 1st leg of Asian tour. (MM 8/26; WP, WT 8/27, CSM 9/3, JP 9/6) (see Peace Monitor)

In Bethlehem, IDF clashes with Palestinians protesting continued closure. (CSM 8/25)

IDF demolishes 1 Palestinian home in East Jerusalem. (PHRIC 10/21)

ILMG holds 2d emergency mtg. on the worsening situation in Lebanon; calls on Israel, Lebanon to do everything possible to halt attacks against civilians. Lebanon wanted ILMG to reprimand Israel for the SLA’s attack on Sidon 8/18, but the group, which operates by consensus, stays away from assigning blame for specific incidents. (NYT 8/25; RL 8/25 in WNC 8/26; al-Diyar 8/25, RL 8/26 in WNC 8/27) (see 8/20)

25 AUGUST


PM Netanyahu arrives in Japan. (IDF Radio, Kyodo [Tokyo] 8/25 in WNC 8/26; MM 8/26; MM, WP, WT 8/27; CSM 9/3; JP 9/6) (see 8/24)

Saying that the Oslo process must be “redefined,” Israeli mayor of Jerusalem Ehud Olmert promises to build additional housing projects, including some in disputed territories. (WT 8/26)

In Bethlehem, the IDF fires tear gas, rubber bullets at Palestinians protesting the continued internal closure. When troops move closer to the PA-controlled area, PA police take up positions behind walls, barricades. Only when troops pull back do they intervene to disperse the protesters. (WP, WT 8/26)

IDF demolishes 2 Palestinian homes nr. Bethlehem, 2 nr. Jerusalem for allegedly being built without permits. (LAW 8/25; WP, WT 8/26; IDF Radio 8/26 in WNC 8/27; PR 8/29)

Israeli police, Shin Bet agents break into the Golan Heights home of Ilham...
Abu Salih—a Druze who heads a student organization at Damascus University, representing 400 Golani Druze students; arrest her on suspicion of being a Syrian spy. Druze in Majdal Shams stage protests, burning tires, waving Syrian flags. Syria complains to the UN. (al-Anwar 8/29 in WNC 9/4; NYT, WP 9/4; JP 9/6)

After much criticism, Labor Chmn. Barak reverses the dismissal of Labor party personnel announced 8/21, saying he erred in abruptly laying off the workers. (MA 8/29 in WNC 9/2; JP 9/6)

As fighting continues in Lebanon, IAF fires rockets at PFLP-GC targets s. of Beirut, causing no injuries. Hizbullah detonates a roadside bomb in s. Lebanon, injuring 1 PLA mbr. (QPAR 8/25 in WNC 8/26; CSM, WP 8/26)

26 AUGUST

In Tel Aviv, Jordan, Israel hold talks on Jordan Valley development, water desalination project, protecting Jordan River fr. salt water pollution. (JT, JTV 8/26 in WNC 8/27; al-Dustur 8/27 in WNC 8/28; JT 8/28 in WNC 8/29)

More than 500 Jewish leaders, scholars fr. around the world gather in Basel, Switzerland, for 3-day commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the 1st Zionist Congress that launched the drive to create a Jewish homeland. The congress convened 22 times bwn. 1897 and 12/46. (WT 8/27; NYT 8/29; MM 9/2; WJW 9/4; JP 9/6)

Arafat says that he has resumed security cooperation with Israel to an extent that would permit U.S. Secy. of State Albright to visit the region next mo. Israel says the PA has not done enough, is encouraging demonstrations against the closure. (NYT 8/27)

In Bethlehem, Palestinians protest continued internal closure, clash with IDF troops at checkpoints leading out of town.

PA Police stand by but do not intervene. An elementary school is evacuated, 10s of girls are taken to the hospital when 7 IDF tear gas canisters land in the schoolyard. (Interfax [Moscow] 8/26 in WNC 8/27; MM, NYT, WP, WT 8/27; PR 8/29)

Israel releases 1 of the PA policemen arrested 7/15 on suspicion of plotting anti-Israeli attacks. (NYT 8/28)

IDF demolishes 3 Palestinian homes in the Ras al-Amud neighborhood of Jerusalem; 2 in Qusra, 1 in Beita, both nr. Nablus. (LAW 8/26; PR 9/5) (see 7/26)

The Israeli Justice Min. agrees to free a Palestinian, Imad Sabih, who has been jailed without charge for 2 yrs., to let him study in the Netherlands. Sabih will not be allowed to return to Israel or the occupied territories for 4 yrs. (NYT, WT 8/27; LAW 8/28; al-Ayyam 8/28 in WNC 9/4)

Iranian parliament passes bill allowing all foreign firms, excluding U.S. and Israeli, firms, to register in Iran. Registered firms may engage in all lawful business activities in economic, commercial, industrial fields. (IRNA 8/26 in WNC 8/27)

27 AUGUST


For the 1st time since the 7/30 suicide bombings, IDF, PA Police conduct a joint disaster drill in Gaza. (NYT 8/28; PR 9/5; JP 9/6)

Israel lifts the 4-wk.-old internal closure on Bethlehm, citing improved security coordination with the PA. However, Palestinian protests, which Netanyahu claims are orchestrated by the PA, continue. (IDF Radio, MA, QY 8/27 in WNC 8/28; CSM, MM, NYT, WP, WT 8/28; ITV 8/28 in WNC 9/4)

IDF seals a Hamas-run mosque, charity office in Bani Na'im in area B. (AFP 8/28 in WNC 8/28)

Israel says it has arrested Israeli Arab Nadia Fouad for spying for Egypt; orders media blackout. (IDF Radio 8/27 in WNC 8/28; ITV 9/1 in WNC 9/4)

In Rome, Italian police arrest Libyan Musbah Abdulghasem Eter, wanted in Germany in connection with the 1986 Berlin disco bombing that killed 2 U.S. soldiers, 1 Turkish woman, injured 230 persons. (RAI Televideo [Rome] 8/27 in WNC 8/28; NYT, WT 8/28)

28 AUGUST

With Israeli DMin. approval, Jewish settlers set up 13 trailers on hill nr. Talmon settlement in the West Bank; claim they are expanding Talmon, although their site is some distance away. (ITV 8/28 in WNC 9/4)

IDF demolishes 3 Palestinian homes, 2 barracks, water tanks, storage buildings in the Jordan Valley. (PR 9/5)

Iraqi delegation participates in Damascus trade fair. (SATN 8/28, INA 8/29, SANA 8/31 in WNC 9/4)
IDF troops in s. Lebanon shell Amal, Hizballah positions, killing 4 Amal mbrs., wounding 2 Hizballah mbrs. Later in the day, 4 IDF soldiers are killed, 6 are injured when friendly fire sparks a forest fire. (AFP, RMC 8/28 in WNC 8/29; MM, WT 8/29; RL 8/29 in WNC 9/2; VOL 8/29 in WNC 9/4; NYT 8/30; NYT 8/5; JP 9/6; MEI 9/12)

29 AUGUST

Secy. of State Albright says that she will leave for the Middle East 9/9. She will travel to Egypt, Israel, Jordan, the PA self-rule areas, Saudi Arabia, Syria, possibly Lebanon. (MM 8/29; NYT, WT 8/30)


IDF demolishes 1 Palestinian home in East Jerusalem. (PHRIC 10/21)

In preparation for 11/97 elections, King Hussein issues decree dissolving Jordan’s Lower House of parliament effective 9/1. (RJ 8/29, JTV 8/31 in WNC 9/4)

In New York, a federal grand jury indicts Gazi Ibrahim Abu Mayzar, Lafi Khalil (arrested 7/31) for allegedly plotting to bomb New York City subway. (WT 8/30)

In Los Angeles, 8 Iraqi mbrs. of CIA-backed resistance groups who say that they have been wrongly accused by the U.S. of spying for Iraqi pres. Saddam Hussein are ordered deported for failure to hold valid visas, work permits. The 8, who fear that Hussein will execute them for being U.S. spies, may still apply for political asylum. (WT 8/30)

30 AUGUST

Israel says that it is not obliged to carry out the 2d further redeployment (FRD) fr. the West Bank by 9/7, claims that it has until 11/97, but says that that timetable may be “complicated.” As a “conciliatory gesture” the Israeli cabinet agrees in principle to gradually lift the closure. (NYT 8/31; WT 9/1; MM 9/3; YA 9/4 in WNC 9/8; JP 9/6)

2 Israeli border policemen, 2 Palestinians are injured in clashes in the West Bank refugee camp of Qalandiya. (ITV 8/30 in WNC 9/4; WT 8/31)

A 2d Israeli injured in the 7/30 bombings dies, raising the toll to 17, including the 2 bombers. (JP 9/6) (see 8/11)

31 AUGUST

Jordan, Israel sign agmt. on Israeli use of Aqaba airport for trial period beginning immediately. (RJ 8/31 in WNC 9/4; al-Rai 9/28 in WNC 9/30) (see 8/21, Peace Monitor)

In Cairo, an Egyptian court convicts Israeli Arab Azzam Azzam of spying for Israel, sentences him to 15 yrs. hard labor. (MM, NYT, WT 9/1; WP 9/2; ITV 9/2 in WNC 9/4; WJW 9/4; JP 9/13) (see 11/2/96)

In Damascus, Syrian PM Mahmud Zuhbi, Iraqi Trade M Muhammad Mahdi Salih hold first high-level mtg. bwn. Syrian, Iraqi officials since 1980, discuss newly restored trade ties. (SANA 8/31, INA 9/1 in WNC 9/4; WT 9/1)

1 SEPTEMBER

Israel eases closure, allowing 4,000 Palestinian laborers, 2,000 merchants, 250 teachers, 200 PA employees into Israel. (CSM, NYT, WP, WT 9/2; CSM 9/3) (see 8/30)

In Moscow, Russia, Japan hold talks on the Middle East peace process, call for early resumption of negotiations on the basis of land for peace. (Interfax [Moscow] 9/2 in WNC 9/4)

Amal clashes with IDF, SLA in s. Lebanon, wounding 1 SLA mbr. 1 soldier with the UN Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) is wounded in the crossfire. (RL 9/1 in WNC 9/4)

2 SEPTEMBER

In Damascus, Pres. Hafiz al-Asad, European Union (EU) special envoy Miguel Moratinos end 2 days of talks on the peace process. (WT 9/3)

Israel, Turkey, U.S. announce plans to hold joint naval exercises in the Mediterranean 11/15-25. Egypt, Syria protest; Turkey says that they may send observers if they like. (MM 9/4)

In Hebron, Jewish settlers throw stones at Palestinian laborers, lay down in the street to disrupt work on a U.S.-financed project to renovate al-Shuhada street, which was outlined in the Agreed Minute attached to the Hebron Protocol. David Muirhead, the American overseeing the project, says that the Israeli police responded to the needs of the settlers only, did not come to the aid of the Palestinians, beat him and others, threw
him into a van and detained him until the
U.S. Consulate intervened. State Dept. calls
on Israel to ensure security for the workers,
calls incident "simply unacceptable." (NYT,
WT 9/3; PR 9/12; JP 9/13)

In s. Lebanon, an Israeli explosive de-
vice detonates, injuring 2 Lebanese civil-
ians. (RL 9/2 in WNC 9/4)

3 SEPTEMBER

Mossad acknowledges that during the
1970s and 1980s, special Mossad units
brought Jews fr. Ethiopia, Iran, Iraq,
Yemen to Israel. (YA 9/3 in WNC 9/8)
The American Israel Public Affairs
Committee (AIPAC) launches campaign to
promote PM Netanyahu's "Allon plus" fi-
nal status plan, which he announced 6/4.
(WJW 9/4) (see Peace Monitor in JPS 105)

4 SEPTEMBER

3 suicide bombers detonate explosive
devices in Ben Yehuda market in Jerusa-
lem, killing 4 Israelis, injuring 192. A faction
of Hamas's military wing, the Izzeddin al-
Qassam Brigades, claims responsibility. PM
Netanyahu cancels a security mtg. with PA,
GIA officials, saying "we're sick of talks";
resells borders with the West Bank, Gaza;
reinforces the internal closure on PA-con-
trolled cities; gives PA a list of 10s of Palestin-
ians it wants arrested. PA arrests 2 Hamas
leaders, 8 Hamas mbrs.; shuts Hamas news-
paper in Gaza. (MM 9/4; AFP, IDF Radio,
ITV, JTV, MENA, VOL 9/4, VOA 9/5 in WNC
9/8; NYT, WP, WT 9/5; AFP, IDF Radio,
YA 9/5 in WNC 9/9; WP, WT 9/6; NYT 9/7,
9/9; WJW 9/11; LAW, MEI, PR 9/12; JP, WP 9/13;
CSM 9/24)

State Dept. says that Secy. of State
Madeleine Albright will go ahead with her
trip to the region next wk.; that while there
has been increased security coordination, the
U.S. has "not been satisfied with the degree
of unilateral efforts to crack down on terror-
ist infrastructure." (MM 9/4; NYT, WP, WT
9/5; WT 9/7)

As part of the plan to "unify Jerusalem,"
Israel sets up 2 new police stations in East
Jerusalem. Each station will have 130 offi-
cers. (YA 9/4 in WNC 9/9) (see Peace Moni-
tor in JPS 105)

12 Sephardic Jews fr. Israel arrive in
Jericho, ask the PA for political asylum,
accuse Israeli authorities of trying to kill them.
PA puts them up in a local hotel. (WT 9/10)

5 SEPTEMBER

In the early morning hrs., Israel stages a
naval commando raid on Insariyya, deep in-
side Lebanon, most likely targeting Amal
headquarters there. Amal mbrs., Hizballah
mbrs., Lebanese army soldiers intercept the
commandos, killing 11, wounding 4, leaving
1 missing and presumed dead; 2 Lebanese
civilians are killed and 6 civilians, 6 militia
mbrs., 1 Lebanese soldier are wounded in
the fray. Fighting lasts several hrs. (MM, NYT,
WP, WT 9/5; IDF Radio, VOL 9/5 in WNC
9/8; MM 9/8; IDF Radio, ITV, RL 9/5, VOL
9/6 in WNC 9/9; WP, WT 9/6; WT 9/7; CSM,
NYT 9/8; al-Safir 9/8 in WNC 9/10; MEI
9/12; JP 9/13; NYT 9/19; WT 9/21; CSM 10/1;
WT 10/15)
The Israeli cabinet holds tense mtg. on 9/4
bombing, 9/5 commando raid; issues state-
ment, vowing to act against Islamists' infra-
structure, freezing any FRDs. (MM, NYT, PR,
WP, WT 9/5; RE 9/10 in WNC 9/11; PR 9/12)
U.S. Secy. of State Albright calls on the
PA to take unilateral action "to create a politi-
cal climate where there is no tolerance for
terror." (WT 9/9)

Iran, Syria sign protocol for construction of
Damascus metro. (al-Ba'th 9/5 in WNC
9/10)

6 SEPTEMBER

Netanyahu says Oslo accords are based
on reciprocity; recent suicide bombings are a
PA violation, meaning Israel no longer has to
honor accords. (ITV 9/6 in WNC 9/9)

Iran says that 15 EU ambss., who left Te-
hran in 4/97 after a German court ruled there
was high-level Iranian involvement in the
1992 assassination of 4 Kurdish dissidents in
Germany, may return. The German amb.
must arrive last. (WT 9/7; CSM 9/16) (see
4/10)

7 SEPTEMBER

In Cairo, Arafat, Egyptian pres. Muha-
rak, Jordan's King Hussein discuss 9/4
bombings, peace process, upcoming Albright
visit; issue statement calling on Israel to im-
plement outstanding Oslo II agmts., particularly
the 2d FRD. (NYT, WP, WT 9/7; CSM,
MM 9/8; MENA 9/7, 9/8; MENA 9/7, al-Hilal,
JT, MENA, RE, R1 9/8 in WNC 9/9; MM 9/8;
MENA 9/9 in WNC 9/10; MEI, PR 9/12)

Israel's inner cabinet meets to discuss
9/4 suicide bombings. Shin Bet believes that
Arafat is not behind, but rather against, "ter-
rorism"; IDF Intelligence Branch believes

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that Arafat approved acts, will never fight "terrorism." (IDF Radio, MA 9/8 in WNC 9/9; MM 9/26)

IDF says that it has arrested around 170 suspected Hamas mbrs. since the 9/4 bombings. (IDF Radio, QY 9/7 in WNC 9/9; CSM 9/8)

Jordanian authorities arrest local Hamas spokesman Ibrahim Ghawshah for making statements that "pose a threat to national security." (AFP, RJ, RMC 9/7, AFP, al-Ittihad, JT 9/8 in WNC 9/9; MM 9/8; AFP 9/11 in WNC 9/12; MEI 9/12; Shihan 9/13 in WNC 9/19; al-Wasat 9/15 in WNC 9/17)

Hizballah attacks an IDF position in s. Lebanon, killing 1 IDF officer. (RL 9/7 in WNC 9/9; CSM, MM, NYT 9/8; JP 9/12)

8 SEPTEMBER

On the eve of her departure, the State Dept. says it has abandoned hope that Secy. of State Albright will make progress during her tour of the Middle East; says she will not offer any new proposals for resuming PA-Israeli talks. (WT 9/9)

Local Aid Coordination Comm. (LACC) meets in Gaza. (PR 9/12) (see Peace Monitor)

Egyptian Trade Union Federation, the Central Comm. of the International Confederation of Arab Trade Unions hold emergency mtg., decide to halt normalization with Israel indefinitely due to the status of the peace process. (MENA 9/8 in WNC 9/9)

1 Israeli injured in the 9/4 bombings dies, bringing death toll to 8, including the 3 suicide bombers. (WP, WT 9/9)

The PA says that it has arrested 35 suspected Hamas mbrs. since the 9/4 bombings. Netanyahu says arrests are only "cosmetic." (MM 9/8; CSM, WP, WT 9/9; NYT 9/10; PR 9/12; WP 9/13)

After they post bail, Israel releases Ilham Abu Salih, a Druze arrested 8/25 on suspicion of spying for Syria, and Nadia Fouad, an Israeli Arab held since 8/27 on suspicion of spying for Iraq. (WP 9/9)

11 Jordanian opposition parties led by the Muslim Brotherhood call on the government to release Hamas spokesman Ghawshah. (AFP 9/8 in WNC 9/9) (see 9/7)

9 SEPTEMBER

PM Netanyahu presents 4-page list of new security demands that the PA must fill before it will be given control over any more land, other concessions. (WT 9/10) (see Peace Monitor)

En route to Tel Aviv, Secy. of State Albright says that the goal of her 1st trip to the Middle East will be to "establish the importance of mutual responsibility," that she cannot accept Israel's view that the Oslo process has failed and should be scrapped in favor of accelerated final status negotiations, that Israel must implement interim arrangements. (CSM, WP 9/10; MEI 9/12)

Under heavy Israeli, U.S. pressure, PA detains some 200 alleged Hamas mbrs. fr. Gaza for questioning, jails 50–100 of them. (NYT 9/10)

In Gaza, 1,000s of Palestinians hold rally to protest proposed cuts in UNRWA services. The rally coincides with a donor mtg. in Amman to raise emergency funds for the agency. (WT 9/10) (see 8/19)

UN announces that at the end of this yr., host countries will end a large resettlement program for Iraqi refugees fr. the 1990–91 Gulf War, leaving in question the fate of the 6,800 refugees still in camps in Saudi Arabia. (WT 9/10)

After the U.S. Justice Dept. drops charges against him for lack of evidence, Saudi Arabia asks the U.S. to extradite Hani al-Sayigh, a suspect in the 1996 al-Khobar barracks bombing. (WT 9/10) (see 7/30)

ILMG concludes 2-day mtg. on 9/5 Israeli commando raid; does not term raid a violation of the 4/96 understanding but warns all sides against targeting civilians, operating fr. civilian-populated areas. (RL 9/9 in WNC 9/10; RL 9/10 in WNC 9/11)

10 SEPTEMBER

In Jerusalem, Secy. of State Albright has breakfast with Israeli pres. Ezer Weizman, who urges her to be firm with Netanyahu. She then meets with PM Netanyahu, insists that security must come before negotiations but that Israel must implement interim agmts. and should make tax transfers to the PA, ease closure, halt "unilateral actions" that hinder confidence. (MM 9/9; IDF Radio, ITV, RE 9/10 in WNC 9/11; MM, NYT, WP, WT 9/11; YA 9/11 in WNC 9/12; PR 9/12; MM 9/15; PR 9/19; JP 9/20; MEI 9/26)

UNRWA reverses some cuts in services after donors give $19 m. toward the agency's $20 m. budget shortfall for the rest of the yr. (UNRWA press release 9/10; JT, RJ 9/10 in WNC 9/11; PR 9/12; MEI 9/26) (see 9/9)
11 SEPTEMBER

In Ramallah, Secy. of State Albright meets with Arafat; states PA must crack down on Islamists in a comprehensive, relentless, and sustained manner; says that she is encouraged by Arafat promises to do so. Albright then meets again with PM Netanyahu in Jerusalem, calls for a “time-out” on Israeli settlement expansion, land confiscation, house demolitions, confiscations of Palestinian IDs. (MM 9/11; AFP 9/11 in WNC 9/12; NYT, NYT, PR, WP, WT 9/12; MM 9/15; PR 9/19; JP 9/20; MEI 9/26)

Citing Russia’s role in helping Iran build missiles and nuclear weapons, PM Netanyahu orders his government to halt talks with Moscow on buying natural gas. (WT 9/13)

12 SEPTEMBER

Secy. of State Albright leaves Israel for Syria, saying that she has not made progress toward resuming Israeli-PA talks, she will not return until Israel, the PA “have made hard decisions.” After arriving in Damascus, she holds a 4-hr. talk with Pres. Hafiz al-Asad to assess possibility of resuming Israeli-Syrian negotiations. (MM 9/12; SATN 9/12 in WNC 9/16; NYT, WP, WT 9/13; MM 9/15; CSM 9/17; SA 9/17 in WNC 9/19; MEI 9/26)

PA presents a plan to break the infrastructure of Islamist groups to U.S.-PA-Israeli tri-partite security panel. CIA, Israeli officials say they are pleased with PA initiative. (WP 9/16; CSM 9/17)

Israel suspends all joint economic projects with Russia following reports that Russia is aiding Iran’s missile development. (MM 9/12 in WNC 9/19; WT 9/13) (see 9/11)

Heavy IDF-Hizballah clashes take place along the n. border of Israel’s self-declared security zone in s. Lebanon, leaving 4 IDF soldiers wounded, 2 Hizballah mbrs.—including the son of Hizballah Secy. Gen. Hassan Nasrallah—dead; IDF troops seize the bodies of the Hizballah mbrs. Soon after, the IAF hits Lebanese army positions n. of the self-declared security zone, killing 6 Lebanese soldiers and 1 civilian, wounding 5 soldiers. (WP, WT 9/13; ITV, RMC 9/13 in WNC 9/16; NYT, WP, WT 9/14; JP 9/20)

13 SEPTEMBER

Secy. of State Albright stops briefly in Egypt to meet with Pres. Mubarak before heading to Saudi Arabia for talks with King Fahd, urges both countries to participate in the 11/97 Doha economic summit. (MENA 9/13, RE 9/15 in WNC 9/16; NYT, WP, WT 9/14; al-Thauria 9/14 in WNC 9/17; MM 9/15; WP 9/18; MEI 9/26)

Israel’s urban planning commission approves plans by American Jewish developer Irving Moskowitz to build 70 housing units for Jews in the Palestinian neighborhood of Ras al-Amud in East Jerusalem. Under heavy police protection, 50 Jewish settlers (3 families, plus armed guards) fr. the radical group Ateret Cohanim move into 2 buildings, which purportedly were purchased by Moskowitz fr. local Palestinians. Israeli police say the occupation is legal. Netanyahu condemns the action but says little can be done to reverse it. (RL 9/13, ITV 9/14, IDF Radio 9/15 in WNC 9/16; LAW 9/14; WP 9/15; WT 9/16; CSM 9/17; WJW 9/18; PR 9/19; MEI, PR 9/26)

14 SEPTEMBER

Secy. of State Albright holds morning mtg. with Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) FMs in Abha, Saudi Arabia (see Doc. D2 for statement); then travels to Amman to meet with King Hussein. (JT, ITV 9/14, RJ 9/15 in WNC 9/16; MM, NYT, WP, WT 9/15; MM 9/16; MEI 9/26)

PM Netanyahu announces plans to release half of the money Israel has withheld fr. the PA since the 7/30 suicide bombings, to ease internal closure as goodwill gesture. (NYT, WP, WT 9/15)

Jordan, Israel discuss setting up free-trade zone in Irbid, Jordan. (al-Ra‘i 9/15 in WNC 9/16; al-Ra‘i 9/16 in WNC 9/17; JP 9/27) (see Peace Monitor)

PA says that it has arrested 123 suspected Hamas, Islamic Jihad mbns. since Albright arrived in the region 9/10. (WT 9/15)

Hizballah detonates a roadside bomb in s. Lebanon, killing 3 mbns. of the IDF’s Golani Brigade, wounding 2. (WP 9/15; JP 9/27)

15 SEPTEMBER

Secy. of State Albright ends her trip to the Middle East with an unscheduled stop in Beirut, where she calls on all foreign powers to get out of Lebanon. On her way home, she acknowledges that the situation in the region “is probably even worse than I thought”; says that if she can’t make a difference, she will concentrate on other international issues—“I can’t be occupied with this full time.” (RL 9/15 in WNC 9/16; CSM, NYT, WP 9/16; SA 9/17 in WNC 9/19; PR 9/19)
Egyptian pres. **Mubarak** receives **Arafat** in Alexandria. (MENA, RE 9/15 in WNC 9/15)

**EU FMs** meet in Brussels, agree to give PA additional $4.6 m. to help cover administrative deficits incurred due to the closure, call on Israel to release tax money. The Jordan-EU association agmt. is not signed because of technical differences, but the EU agrees to give Jordan $11.4 m. in special financial aid to help “meet the needs of the most disadvantaged sections” of Jordan’s population. (RF 9/24 in WNC 9/26)

Israel turns over $35 m. in tax money owed the PA, lifts the internal closure on PA-controlled cities. Palestinians are still barred fr. entering Israel. (WT 9/16) (see 9/14)

In **Ras al-Amud**, MKs representing Molodet, the **National Religious Party**, Tsomet, Gesher visit settlers to express their support. At the site, riot police break up protest by 40 Peace Now mbhrs., **MK Yael Dayan**, Meretz leader Yossi Sarid, Orient House’s Faisal Hussein. (MM 9/15; NYT, WP 9/16; RF 9/16 in WNC 9/17; WJW 9/18; MEI 9/26) (see 9/13)

Iranian pres. Muhammad Khatami says he is ready for talks with the U.S. only if they are based on mutual respect, noninterference in Iranian affairs. (WT 9/17)

Jordanian cabinet approves government decision to join the Chemical Weapons Ban Treaty, which took effect 4/97. (al-Ra’i 9/15 in WNC 9/16)

**16 SEPTEMBER**

PC reconvenes after summer recess, opens 2d term of 2d session. (PR 9/16) (see Peace Monitor)

PM **Netanyahu** cancels a trip to Romania, planned to begin 9/18, in order to defuse a crisis over Ras al-Amud. Israeli Internal Security M Avigdor Kahalani confirms that Netanyahu, the cabinet knew of the planned action nearly 2 wks. before it occurred. (MM 9/16; IDF Radio 9/16, ITV 9/17 in WNC 9/17; CSM, NYT, WT 9/17; MEI 9/26) (see 9/15)

Israel eases the closure on the West Bank, Gaza, allowing 7,300 Palestinians to return to their jobs in Israel. (PR 9/19)

**Israeli High Court** authorizes the Shin Bet to use force to interrogate a Palestinian, **Raghi Mahmud Saba**, who was arrested 3 wks. ago on suspicion of being a mbr. of the Qassam Brigades. (YA 9/16 in WNC 9/17; WT 9/17)

**17 SEPTEMBER**

EU special envoy **Moratinos** arrives in Jordan after 2-day visit to Egypt. (RE, RF 9/18 in WNC 9/19)

**Moskowitz** vows to go ahead with plans to build 130 apartments for Jews at Ras al-Amud. **Atteret Cohanim** prepares plans to move “thousands” of supporters to the neighborhood. Several **MKs** threaten to resign if the government forces an eviction. Meanwhile, 100s of **Israelis**, Palestinians protest at the heavily guarded site. At one point, **Israeli police** charge Palestinian protesters, beating them with batons, injuring several. (MM 917; CSM, NYT, WP, WT 9/18; MEI 9/26) (see 9/16)

**IDF** says that regular, reserve units have begun training for the 1st time for the prospect of “large-scale guerilla warfare” in the West Bank, Gaza. (WT 9/18)

**18 SEPTEMBER**

Syrian pres. **Assad** flies to Alexandria for several lrs. of talks with Egyptian pres. **Mubarak**, returns to Damascus. (MM 9/18; MENA, RE, SANA 9/18 in WNC 9/19)

**Moskowitz** agrees to Netanyahu’s “compromise proposal” to replace 3 Jewish families (totaling 11 mbhrs.) who moved into his Ras al-Amud housing with 10 rabbinical students. **Arafat** says decision does not solve the problem, but **State Dept.** says it is “good news.” (MM, WT 9/18; CSM, NYT, WP, WT 9/19; CSM, NYT 9/22; MEI 9/26; JP 9/27, 11/15) (see 9/17)

**Rabbi Menachem Porush**, once a se. lawyer and leader of the ultra-Orthodox Agudat Israel party, breaks a decades-long silence to confirm that bwn. 1948 and 1950, Jewish authorities stole 100s of babies fr. **Yemeni immigrants** and gave them to European Jews. (WT 9/18)

In **Egypt**, 3 unidentified men attack a tourist bus in downtown Cairo, killing the Egyptian driver and 6 Germans, wounding 24. No group claims responsibility for the attack, which comes 3 days after Egypt convicted 72 Islamists of subversion, sentencing 4 to death, 8 to life imprisonment. (MM 9/18; MENA 9/18 in WNC 9/19; MM, NYT, WP, WT 9/19; CSM 9/22; MEI 9/26)

**IDF**. SLA clash with **Hizballah** in s. Lebanon, leaving 1 IDF officer dead, wounding 7 civilians, 2 IDF soldiers, 1 SLA mbr. At least 2 of the civilians were wounded by Israeli shells that spray metal darts, which are banned under international conventions.
19 SEPTEMBER

Fearing Palestinian protests over the Ras al-Amud “compromise” (see 9/18) after Friday prayers, IDF reinforces troops in Jerusalem. (MM 9/19) (see 9/18)

20 SEPTEMBER

Jerusalem Post reports that Iran, Israel are holding contacts to resolve military tensions, settle Israel’s $1 b. debt to Iran, encourage commercial contacts. Israeli officials say Khatami’s election as Iran’s new pres. has spurred hopes of improving ties. A Russian diplomat confirms that Moscow has offered to mediate. (JP 9/20)

21 SEPTEMBER

At the close of its 3-day mtg., the Arab League issues a final communiqué, praising efforts by Secy. of State Albright to restart peace talks; denouncing Israel’s continued settlement expansion, particularly Ras al-Amud; ignoring Turkish-Israeli military maneuvers scheduled for 11/97; leaving it to individual mbrs. to decide whether to boycott the upcoming Doha economic summit (see 9/13). FMs also vote to ignore UN sanctions against Libya. (CSM, MM, NYT, WT 9/22; al-Itihad, MENA 9/23 in WNC 9/24; MM 9/25)

Palestinian owner of 1 Ras al-Amud house occupied by rabbinical students, Fuad Hadiya, returns from Romania to reclaim his property, asserting that he never sold it. Moskowitz claims that the Palestinian family willingly sold the building to Jews, who in turn sold it to him. (CSM, NYT 9/22; WT 9/24; PR 10/3) (see 9/18)

Israeli cabinet scy. Dani Nave leaves for Washington to prepare for FM Levy’s mtg. with Arafat adviser Mahmud Abbas, Secy. of State Albright 9/28-29. (MM, WT 9/22)

The Geneva-based World Council of Churches issues a letter condemning Israel’s “intransigent” policies toward Palestinians, including collective punishment. (WT 9/22)

Israeli elite paratrooper, undercover units arrest nearly 100 West Bank Palestinians in an extensive crackdown (concentrated in the area of Assira) on alleged Islamists. Until now, Israel has reported no leads in the 7/30, 9/4 suicide bombings. At the same time, IDF allows 4,000 Palestinian construction workers to enter Israel. 10,000 Palestinians were allowed entry last wk. (NYT, WT 9/22; WP 9/24; MEI 9/26)


22 SEPTEMBER


Israel submits official request to the PA for extradition of 36 Palestinians considered “terror suspects.” (IGPO 9/22; WT 9/24)

As of today, there are 103 West Bank Palestinians who have been stranded in Gaza since the 9/4 suicide bombings, 44 Gazans stranded in the West Bank. Israel has denied them permission to return to their homes. (PCHR 9/22) (see 8/19)

23 SEPTEMBER


Netanyahu says that 4 of the 5 suicide bombers fr. the 7/30, 9/4 attacks had escaped fr. PA jail in 1996; were on a list of Palestinians that Israel had pressed the PA to arrest; came fr. Assira (see 9/21). (If true, it would be the 1st time that families of Palestinian suicide bombers united in refusing to identify/to come forward to claim their relatives’ remains.) Netanyahu also claims that although the men came fr. area B, where Israel has security control, they were acting on orders fr. unnamed Hamas leaders in area A, meaning the PA is ultimately responsible for the bombings. Shin Bet is angry that Netanyahu released information on an ongoing investigation. (MM 9/23; JTV 9/23, IDF Radio, MA 9/24 in WNC 9/25; CSM, MM, NYT, WP, WT 9/24; YA 9/24 in WNC 9/25; PR 10/3; JP 10/4; MEI 10/10) (see 8/9)
24 SEPTEMBER

Defying Secy. of State Albright's plea (9/11), PM Netanyahu announces approval of plan to expand the West Bank settlement of Efrat by 300 units. State Dept. spokesman says that the decision is not "consistent with the environment [Albright] hoped to create." (MM, NYT, WP, WT 9/25; ITV, Radio, JP 9/26 in WNC 9/30; CSM, NYT 9/26; YA 9/28 in WNC 9/30; MM 9/29; PR 10/3)

Egyptian pres. Mubarak returns fr. 3-day visit to Russia. (MENA 9/24 in WNC 9/25)

Turkish FM Ismail Cem, Israeli FM Levy meet in New York. Both men express concern over reports that Russia has agreed to sell Syria long-range S-300 missiles. (WT 9/24; Bayrak Radio [Nicosia] 9/25 in WNC 9/26)

PA arrests 20 suspected Hamas mbrs., tightens security around jailed Hamas activists. (WT 9/25; ITV 9/26 in WNC 9/30)

Attorneys report that the number of Palestinian administrative detainees at Israel's Megiddo prison has doubled to 400 in the last 2 mos. (LAW 9/24)

Turkish military official confirms that 15,000 Turkish troops, with tanks, over 100 armored vehicles, entered n. Iraq over the past 4 days to attack Kurdish Workers' Party (PKK) forces. (NYT 9/25; MM, WP 9/26; MEI 10/10) (see 6/19)

25 SEPTEMBER

In Amman, local Hamas leader Khalid Mishal is admitted to hospital with convulsions apparently the result of an altercation with 2 Canadian tourists. His condition mysteriously worsens overnight, suggesting possible poisoning. Hamas claims Israel attempted to assassinate Mishal in retaliation for attack on embassy guards 9/22. (RJ, RMC 9/25 in WNC 9/26; NYT 9/26; RMC 9/26, al-Quds al-`Arabi 9/27, al-Ra'i 9/28 in WNC 9/30; WT 9/28; MM, NYT 9/29, 10/1; NYT 10/2, al-Ra'i 10/5 in WNC 10/7; JP 10/11; NYT 10/15; MM 10/23)

At the UN, Secy. of State Albright says that Israel's decision to expand Efrat settlement "is not at all helpful" to the peace process, calls on Israel to "honor the time-out" on construction. (MM, NYT, WT 9/26; YA 10/8 in WNC 10/9) (see 9/24)

PA shuts a Hamas television station; seals more than 20 Hamas-owned charities in Gaza offering social, welfare, education services; arrests 13 suspected Hamas mbrs. in Qalqilya. (LAW 9/25; ITV 9/25 in WNC 9/26; NYT, WT 9/26; PCHR 9/29; PR 10/3)

In Amman, Jordan, U.S. sign agmt. forgiving the remaining $63.4 m. of Jordan's debt to the U.S. Since 1994, the U.S. has written off $700 m. of Jordanian debts. (RJ 9/25 in WNC 9/26)

Jordan orders 7 newspapers (al-Bilad, al-Hadath, Hawwadith al-Sa'a, al-Majd, al-Mithaq, al-Sayad, Sawt al-Mara'a) to suspend publication for failure to comply with Article 24 of the new press law, which requires all weekly newspapers to raise their capital to JD 300,000. (JT 9/25 in WNC 9/26; MM 10/21)

2 SLA mbrs., 1 civilian are wounded by Hizballah shelling in s. Lebanon. (RL 9/25 in WNC 9/26)

26 SEPTEMBER

PM Netanyahu says that he will continue expanding settlements to "accommodate natural growth"; says he is surprised by U.S. criticism. (NYT, WT 9/27) (see 9/25)

Iranian, Syrian FMs meet in sidelines of UN General Assembly (UNGA) mtg. in New York. (SATN 9/26 in WNC 9/30)

IDF says it has arrested more than 500 Palestinians since 9/20. (PR 9/26)

27 SEPTEMBER

Palestinians protesting Israeli settlements outside Kfar Darom in Gaza pelt IDF soldiers with stones, injuring 1. Soldiers open fire on demonstrators with rubber bullets, injuring 2. (WT 9/28)


28 SEPTEMBER

PM Netanyahu, DM Yitzhak Mordechai, Infrastructures M Ariel Sharon secretly fly to Amman to discuss attack on Hamas's Mishal. King Hussein refuses to meet them, sends Crown Prince Hassan instead. (NYT 10/10) (see 9/25)

U.S. Secy. of State Albright, Israeli FM Levy, Arafat adviser Abbas meet on the sidelines of the UNGA session in New York. (NYT, WP, WT 9/29; MEI 10/10) (see Peace Monitor)

PM Netanyahu tells his cabinet that he has spotted the “first, preliminary steps” by the PA to crack down on Islamists; releases $17 m. of tax money withheld fr. the PA since the 7/30, 9/4 bombings; allows 8,000 more Palestinian workers into Israel. (CSM, NYT, WT 9/29)

At a Labor convention, party leader Ehud Barak asks forgiveness fr. Sephardic Jews for the way the party treated them in the early years of statehood. (NYT 9/30; JP 10/4; MM 10/22)

IDF demolishes 53 dwellings of 70 Jahalin bedouin families, a school nr. Azariyya in Jerusalem. (PHRIC 10/21) (see 8/19)

3 companies fr. France, Malaysia, Russia sign $2 b. deal to explore for gas in Iran, challenging for the 1st time a 1996 law sponsored by Sens. Alfonse D’Amato (R-NY), Edward Kennedy (D-MA) requiring the U.S. to impose sanctions on any company investing more than $40 m. in Iran. (NYT 9/29; NYT, WP, WT 9/30; NYT 10/1; MEI 10/10) (see 7/26)

In Tehran, Iran, Jordan discuss expanding bilateral relations in trade, tourism, transportation. (RJ 9/28 in WNC 9/30; JT 10/1 in WNC 10/2)

500,000 Israeli workers honor an 8-hr. strike called by Histadrut to protest the Likud government’s refusal to honor a Labor-initiated pension plan. (WT 9/28, 9/29)

29 SEPTEMBER

In talks in New York mediated by Secy. of State Albright, Israel, PA agree to resume joint subcomm. talks 10/6; to meet in Washington 10/13. Albright also meets with Syrian FM Faruq al-Shara’. (MM 9/29; MM, NYT, WP 9/30; ITV 9/30 in WNC 10/2; IDF Radio 9/30 in WNC 10/1) (see Peace Monitor)

Israel says it will not agree to a U.S. request to extradite American teenager Samuel Sheinbein, wanted for murder in Maryland; will try the case in Israeli court. Sheinbein’s father, who was born in Mandate Palestine in 1944 and left Israel in 1950, holds dual U.S.-Israeli citizenship, meaning—Israel says—that his son is automatically an Israeli citizen and by law cannot be extradited. (WP, WT 9/30; NYT, WP, WT 10/1; WJW 10/2; IGPO 10/9 in WNC 10/10; JP 10/18)

Iranian warplanes hit Mujahidin al-Khalq camps inside Iraq, injuring 2 Iraqi civilians. Mujahidin al-Khalq is an exiled Ira-
Canada recalls its amb. to Israel to protest Mossad’s use of forged Canadian passports in the attempted assassination of Mishal 9/25. It is the 3d time Mossad hit squads have used Canadian passports. (MM, CSM, NYT, WP, WT 10/3; WT 10/4; SANA 10/6, YA 10/6 in WNC 10/7; MM 10/8) (see 9/30)

3 OCTOBER

U.S. orders an aircraft carrier to the Gulf; officially warns Iran not to stage attacks against Mujahidin al-Khalq, which violate the Iraqi no-fly zone. (NYT 10/4) (see 9/29)

4 OCTOBER

Israeli Infrastructures M Sharon makes emergency visit to Amman. Jordan’s Crown Prince Hassan makes emergency trip to Washington to discuss Mishal incident with Pres. Clinton. (WP 10/6; NYT 10/7; RJ 10/8 in WNC 10/10; al-Watan al-Arabi 10/17 in WNC 10/22)

5 OCTOBER

After mtg. with Netanyahu, Labor Chmn. Barak says that the PM admitted approving Mishal’s assassination. Though the government does not admit to the attack, the cabinet issues statement affirming Israel’s right to “fight terror without compromise.” Newly released details suggest attackers sprayed a nerve toxin on Mishal; King Hussein threatened to break relations with Israel unless he received antidote, which Israel quickly supplied. Although King Hussein condemns the assassination attempt (see Doc. B3), he accepts the credential of the new Israeli amb. to Jordan Oded Eran (al-Ra’i 10/5 in WNC 10/7; MM, NYT, WP, WT 10/6; YA 10/6 in WNC 10/7; MM 10/7; WT 10/10, NYT 10/17)

An explosive device detonates in a s. Lebanon field, killing civilian woman, child. Hizballah blames Israel. (RL, VOL 10/5 in WNC 10/7)

6 OCTOBER

U.S. special envoy Ross holds separate mtgs. with Israeli FM Levy, Arafat adviser Abbas in preparation for Israeli-PA subcomm. talks 10/7. (NYT, WP 10/6; al-Quds 10/6 in WNC 10/7; MEI 10/10)

Hamas’s Shaykh Yasin returns to Gaza, is greeted by 30,000 Palestinians at Yarmuk stadium. (MM 10/6, RJ 10/6 in WNC 10/7; NYT, WP, WT 10/7; MEI, PR 10/10; JP 10/18) (see 10/2)

Israel frees 11 Palestinian prisoners. Jordanian detainees, says 50 others will be released over the next 2 wks. In exchange, Jordan allows the 8 Mossad agents (2 who carried out the attack, plus 6 who helped) involved in the assassination attempt against Mishal to return to Israel. (NYT, WP, WT 10/7; JT, JTV, MENA RMC 10/7 in WNC 10/8; SA 10/9 in WNC 10/10; MM 10/10)

7 OCTOBER

PA-Israeli subcomm. mtgs. resume for 1st time in 7 mos. with a security subcomm. mtg. in Tel Aviv. Joint Steering Comm. will meet once every 2 wks. to discuss progress of 8 subcomms. (ITV 10/7 in WNC 10/8) (see Peace Monitor)

LACC meets in Ramallah. (UNSCO press release 10/26) (see Peace Monitor)

In Washington, Pres. Clinton discusses status of peace process with Israeli pres. Ezer Weizman; rejects Weizman proposal for Camp David-style summit, saying sides are too far apart for success. (MM 10/8, WT 10/9; PR 10/10)

In Gaza, Hamas’s Shaykh Yasin meets with Arafat; says that suicide bombings could be abandoned under certain conditions, but full truce would require full Israeli withdrawal fr. West Bank and Gaza, removal of settlements; stresses that Hamas is not challenging PA authority. (CSM, NYT 10/8)

In Beirut, Iraq, Lebanon hold talks on expanding trade, economic ties. (RL 10/7 in WNC 10/8)

In response to U.S. dispatch of an aircraft carrier to the Gulf 10/3, Iran announces that 10-day naval exercises involving more than 50 ships will begin 10/11. (NYT, WT 10/8; NYT, WP, WT 10/13; WT 10/14)

8 OCTOBER

Before dawn at Erez checkpoint, Arafat, Netanyahu meet for the 1st time since 2/9, leave without speaking to reporters. (MM, NYT, WP, WT 10/8; IDF Radio 10/8 in WNC 10/9; CSM 10/9; PR 10/10)

King Hussein reveals that 2 days before the 9/25 attempt on Mishal’s life, he sent Netanyahu a letter informing him that Hamas might be ready to establish a dialogue, halt suicide attacks. Israeli officials claim that the letter reached the PM a day after the attack. Hamas denies letter was sent. Despite the statement, King Hussein phones PM Netanyahu
yahu to says that he wants to rebuild the relationship btwn. Jordan, Israel. (MM 10/8; ITV, YA 10/8, SA 10/9 in WNC 10/10; MM, WT 10/9; PR 10/10)

2 IDF soldiers, 1 SLA mbr. are killed, 6 IDF soldiers are wounded in clash with Hizballah in s. Lebanon. (IDF Radio, RL, VOL 10/8 in WNC 10/9; MM, NYT, WP 10/9; JP 10/18; MEI 10/24)

9 OCTOBER


In Damascus, Iran, Syria hold talks on agricultural, research cooperation. (IRNA 10/9 in WNC 10/14)

In Halhul, IDF arrests 10s of Palestinians after clash, which began when IDF troops demolished 10s of “illegal” vegetable stands along the main roads. (PR 10/17)

U.S. Amb. to Israel Martin Indyk is confirmed as asst. secy. of state for Near Eastern affairs. He will be replaced by Amb. to Egypt Edward Walker Jr., who will be replaced by Daniel Kurtzer. (see Peace Monitor). (Near East Report 10/20)

Results of the vote by American Jews for U.S. delegates to the World Zionist Congress are released: Reform and Conservative slate pulls 72.7%, Orthodox 10.8%, Labor 3.4%, Likud 1.9%. (NYT 10/10)

10 OCTOBER

A Jordanian trying to sneak into Israel is shot dead by the Israeli border guards. (ITV 10/11, al-Dustur 10/12 in WNC 10/15)

EU releases to Jordan $44 m. for economic reform projects. The $44 m. is part of a $110 m. package fr. the “MEDA project,” an aid instrument adopted in 7/96 following the 11/95 Barcelona conference to launch EU-Mediterranean partnership. (JT 10/18 in WNC 10/22)

11 OCTOBER

IDF demolishes Palestinian home in Hula, believed to have been used in an anti-Israeli attack. (VOL 10/11 in WNC 10/15)

Roadside bomb explodes in s. Lebanon, killing 2 SLA mbns. (RL 10/11 in WNC 10/15)

12 OCTOBER

In Amman, Jordan’s FM Tarawneh, Israel’s Amb. to Jordan Eran discuss peace process. Israel pledges not to violate 10/94 peace treaty, particularly articles pertaining to security. (RJ 10/12 in WNC 10/15; al-Quds, al-Ra‘i 10/15 in WNC 10/16)

Israel opens official inquiry into botched assassination of Hamas’s Mishal. (NYT, WP 10/13; JP 10/18; ITV 11/2, 11/3 in WNC 11/4)

Jordan, Iraq discuss expanding bilateral trade under UN oil-for-food deal. (RJ 10/12 in WNC 10/15)

In the 1st legal judgment against Israel’s nuclear reactor, a Tel Aviv court finds Dimona managers guilty of negligence by allowing at least 3 radioactive leaks since the 1960s. (YA 10/12, QY 10/13 in WNC 10/15; WT 10/13)

13 OCTOBER

Palestinian Observer Mission at the UN announces plans to introduce a resolution in the UNGA by early 11/97 that would deny Israel’s right to represent East Jerusalem, Golan Heights, meaning credentials for Israeli reps. would have to be issued fr. Tel Aviv, symbolically cutting Israel’s territory back to pre-1967 lines. The mission will also try to have its observer status upgraded to “special observer,” so that reps. can participate in plenary session, on comms. and working groups. (WT 10/14, 10/17; NYT 10/24)

Jordan, Syria end 2 days of mgs. on water; sign minutes of mgt., agreeing to go ahead with construction of al-Wahda dam on the Yarmuk River in Syrian territory. (RJ 10/13, JT 10/14 in WNC 10/15)

After Canada receives an official apology fr. Israel for using forged Canadian passports in Mishal attack 9/25, Canadian amb. returns to Tel Aviv. (Radio Canada International 10/13 in WNC 10/15) (see 10/2)

Israel releases 2d batch 9 Jordanian detainees, flies them to Amman. (JTV 10/13 in WNC 10/15; GMS, WT 10/14; NYT 10/15) (see 10/6)

4,000 Palestinians attend rally in Nablus to celebrate Shaykh Yasin’s return to Gaza. (WT 10/14) (see 10/6)

Turkey begins pulling troops out of n. Iraq after its latest incursion against the PKK, which began on 9/21. (WT 10/14)

14 OCTOBER

Israel releases $57 m. of tax money owed the PA. (MM, WT 10/15; MA 10/15 in WNC 10/16) (see 9/28)

Israel, Jordan hold 2 mtgs. in Israel aimed at enhancing security cooperation, es-
especially to prevent border infiltrations. (ITV, QY 10/14 in WNC 10/15; al-Ra'i 10/16 in WNC 10/20) (see 10/10)

**PA prisoner** dies in **PA** custody, reportedly as a result of a heart attack. (Palestinian Human Rights Monitoring Group press release 11/11)

**IDF** demolishes **2 Palestinian homes** in al-Arub refugee camp nr. Bethlehem; also plans to demolish homes of relatives of 3 suicide bombers identified 9/23, seal home of 4th bomber. (LAW 10/14; NYT, WT 10/15)

**SLA Cmdr. Antoine Lahd** warns that his men are likely to turn against **Israel** if the **IDF** unilaterally withdraws fr. **s. Lebanon**; thinks half would join **Hizballah**, half would form new anti-Israeli militia. (MM 10/14; ITV 10/14 in WNC 10/15; MM 10/17)

**Israel air force** attacks **Hizballah** radio station in **s. Lebanon**, causing extensive damage. (RL 10/14 in WNC 10/15)

**15 OCTOBER**

Germany officially protests to **Israel** that its amb., who has been in Tel Aviv for 18 mos., has not been received by **FM Levy** despite numerous requests. (YA 10/15 in WNC 10/16)

After the **U.S., UK** propose that the **UN** impose more sanctions on an increasingly recalcitrant **Iraq** in order to pressure it to better cooperate with the **UN Special Commission** (UNSCOM) in charge of overseeing the destruction of Baghdad’s weapons of mass destruction, **Iraq** threatens to halt cooperation altogether. (MM 10/17)

**16 OCTOBER**

**Israeli amb. to the UN** Dore Gold presents “code of conduct” that **PA** should adopt if it wants to resume negotiations. (WT 10/17) (see Peace Monitor)

**Egypt** announces that it is banning the import of **Israeli** goods produced in the West Bank, Gaza, Golan Heights. Origin of Israeli exports must now be certified by Egyptian embassy in Tel Aviv. (ITV 10/16 in WNC 10/20)

**17 OCTOBER**

Israeli police announce arrest of **10 Jewish building contractors** for illegal possession of 200 kg. of explosives. Contractors say they were planning to sell explosives to Palestinian quarries. **Israel** says explosives confiscated are same type used in recent suicide bombings. (IDF Radio 10/17 in WNC 10/20)

**IDF** shells **Hizballah** targets in **s. Lebanon**, wounding 1 **civilian**. (RL 10/17 in WNC 10/20; VOL 10/17 in WNC 10/22)

**18 OCTOBER**

In **s. Lebanon**, 1 **IDF** soldier is killed, 2 are wounded when their tank is hit by what is thought to be a **U.S.-made TOW antitank missile fired by Hizballah**. **IDF** is alarmed at Merkava tank’s vulnerability. (VOL 10/18 in WNC 10/22; WT 10/19, 10/22; MEI 10/24; see also YA 10/15 in WNC 10/16; MM 10/21; al-Sahira 10/23 in WNC 10/30; Hatzofe 11/12 in WNC 11/14)

**19 OCTOBER**

U.S. special envoy **Ross** returns to the Middle East; meets separately with **Netanyahu, Arafat**, listens to complaints fr. both sides to try to forge compromise package/new framework for further negotiations. (WT 10/19; MM, NYT, WT 10/20)

Sheikh Yasin announces that **Hamas** has temporarily halted attacks on **Israel**; cooling-off period will last if Israel halts punitive measures against Palestinians, such as economic sanctions, closures, house demolitions, land seizures. (WP, WT 10/20)

**Israel** agrees to extradite **Sheinbein**, must now fight appeal by Sheinbein’s lawyers. (WT 10/18; NYT, WP 10/20; JW 10/23; MEI 10/24) (see 9/29)

**Japan** creates $60 m. fund to support **Jordan**’s socioeconomic development, discusses possibility of rescheduling Jordan’s $72 m. debt to Tokyo. (JT 10/20 in WNC 10/22)

In **s. Lebanon**, **Hizballah** detonates roadside bomb as **SLA** vehicle passes, killing 2 **SLA** mbrs. (IDF Radio, RL 10/19 in WNC 10/22)

**20 OCTOBER**

In Jerusalem, U.S. special envoy **Ross** hosts mtg. btwn. **Israeli FM Levy**, Arafat adviser **Abbas**, encourages them to speed up subcomm. negotiations. Levy says Israel is willing to limit settlement construction to a “necessary minimum.” Ross also meets separately with **Netanyahu, Arafat**. (MM 10/20; IDF Radio 10/20 in WNC 10/22; CSM, MM, NYT, WT 10/21; MEI 10/24)

**Israel, Jordan** agree in principle to set up a joint authority to oversee Jordan Valley development (incl. tourism, water, agriculture, industrial park projects); **Israel** proposal for a Las Vegas-style tourism, commercial
center in the Aqaba-Elat area. (Globes [Internet] 10/20 in WNC 10/22) 

Jordan announces it will send high-level delegation to Doha economic summit. At mtg., Jordan plans to submit projects for transforming Aqaba region into free trade and tourist zone; improving water and waste-water infrastructure; enlarging petroleum refinery at al-Zarqa; creating small industries, magnesium plant in Dead Sea area; building railway, port; developing tourist sites. (RJ 10/20 in WNC 10/22; see also JT 10/19 in WNC 10/22; RJ 10/24, JT 10/26, al-Ra'i 10/27 in WNC 10/29)

In Beirut, 2 gunmen open fire on 2 of Abu Nidal relatives, killing Omar Banna, wounding Nasredeen Banna. Lebanese officials claim the shooting stemmed fr. intra-Palestinian disputes. (WP 10/21; WT 10/22; MM 10/29)

21 OCTOBER

In Gaza, Arafat, Israeli DM Mordechai discuss improving security cooperation, try to finalize accord on Rafah airport, butreach no agmts. U.S. special envoy Ross observes. (NYT, WP, WT 10/22)

Unaware that a live microphone is broadcasting his statements, PM Netanyahu tells Rabbi Yitzhak Kadourie that the “people on the Left have forgotten what it means to be Jewish. They think that if we . . . give [the Arabs] part of the land . . . they will look after us. Who has ever heard anything like it?” (MM 10/22; WP 10/23; MM 10/28)

22 OCTOBER

In Damascus, Iraq, Syria discuss regional water sharing; express regret that Turkey refuses to participate in talks. (INA 10/23 in WNC 10/28)

Unnamed Turkish cabinet mbr. says that 8,000 Turkish troops have been deployed in n. Iraq to establish a “security zone,” have installed sophisticated electronic surveillance system. Turkish FMin. does not confirm or deny, says only that Turkey has made most of n. Iraq “secure.” Arab League condemns Turkey’s actions. (MM 10/23; al-Ba‘th, RE 10/23 in WNC 10/28; MM 10/27; MEI 11/7) (see 10/13)

23 OCTOBER

UN Security Council (UNSC) passes resolution threatening to impose travel restrictions on Iraqi officials if UNSCOM is unable to certify in its 4/98 report that Iraqi has been cooperating with inspectors. (MM 10/24; MM 10/27; JT 10/29 in WNC 10/30) (see 10/15)

2-day Euro-Arab cooperation mtg. opens in Toledo, Spain. 30 experts fr. the region discuss political, economic, cultural issues. (RNE International [Madrid] 10/23 in WNC 10/28)

24 OCTOBER


25 OCTOBER

Russian FM Primakov begins 2-day visit to Syria, meets with Pres. Asad, FM Sharaf’. (ITAR-TASS [Moscow], SANA 10/25, SANA 10/26, Interfax [Moscow] 10/27 in WNC 10/29)

Jordan, PA hold talks on water, Jordan Valley development. (RJ 10/25 in WNC 10/29; MM 10/27) (see 10/20)

Lebanese PM Hariri arrives in Iran for 4 days of talks on expanding economic, political ties. (RL 10/25 in WNC 10/29; IRNA 10/25, 10/28 in WNC 10/29; MM 10/27; SA 10/29 in WNC 10/30)

In Bethlehem, Israeli police clash with Palestinians demonstrating in solidarity with Palestinian prisoners, injuring 11. Israel currently is holding some 3,000 political prisoners, a third of whom have never been tried. (WT 10/26)

26 OCTOBER

Russian FM Primakov arrives in Israel for 2-day visit, meets with PM Netanyahu, FM Levy. (IDF Radio, ITAR-TASS [Moscow], QY 10/26, Interfax [Moscow], ITV 10/27, YA 10/28 in WNC 10/29) (see Peace Monitor)


YESHA settlers council decides to build a new settlement west of Gush Etzion settlement nr. Bethlehem if Israel accepts any sort of settlement freeze at the upcoming Washington talks; says general plan for the new settlement was approved in the 1970s by PM Golda Meir, but exact location would be kept secret until the government’s stand
on settlements is clarified. (MM 10/27; JP 11/8)

**PA Preventive Security Force** arrests journalist and human rights worker *Khalid al-Amayreh* following the publication in an Israeli Arab newspaper of his report on the torture of *Hamas* activists arrested by the PA over the past few mos. (Palestinian Human Rights Monitoring Group press release 10/27)

**Israel** commutes to 24 yrs. the life sentence of *Alan Goodman*, a dual U.S.-Israeli citizen found guilty of killing 2 Palestinians, wounding 9 at al-Aqsa Mosque on 4/11/82; releases him after he agrees to spend the remaining 8 yrs. of his sentence in the U.S. (WT 10/27; WP 10/30)

**IDF** shells strike medical center affiliated with PFLP-GC in s. Lebanon, killing a nurse. (MM 10/27; RL 10/27 in WNC 10/29)

### 27 OCTOBER

Russian FM *Primakov* arrives in Amman for 3-day visit, meets with Jordanian FM *Tarawnah*, then leaves for unscheduled visit to *Syria*. (ITAR-TASS [Moscow], SANA 10/27, MBC, RMC 10/28 in WNC 10/29; WT 10/28; MM 10/29; RL 10/29 in WNC 10/30; MEI 11/7; JP 11/8)

PM *Netanyahu* gives address to opening of the Knesset’s winter session, which is interrupted frequently by hecklers; calls for peace with Arabs based on firm security, self-defense; vows to prevent creation of Palestinian state or return of Golan and to build more settlements. Labor Chmn. *Barak* gives speech, urging Netanyahu’s resignation. (ITV 10/27 in WNC 10/29; MM, NYT, WT 10/28; WJW 10/30)

**Yemen** announces plans to send low-level delegation to *Doha economic summit*, says its delegation will attend only to visit “a sisterly country . . . , not to hold talks with the Israeli government.” (ITV 10/27 in WNC 10/29)

**Israel** warns *Holland* that it may expel diplomat Ferdinand Schmidt if he does not stop criticizing Israel in the media. (IDF Radio 10/28 in WNC 10/29)

In *Beirut*, 2 bombs, one at the American University of Beirut (AUB) and one at a newly completed bus station, explode, causing no injuries. The bombing at AUB, which occurred just hrs. after a reception for AUB’s new pres., marks the 1st attack on a foreign institution in Lebanon in 4 yrs. (NYT 10/28; MBC, RL, RMC, VOL 10/28 in WNC 10/29; MM 10/29; RL 10/29 in WNC 10/30; *al-Quds* 10/29, RL 10/30 in WNC 11/3; WP 10/30)

### 28 OCTOBER

In Amman, Russian FM *Primakov* meets with *King Hussein, Crown Prince Hassan*. (ITAR-TASS [Moscow], JT, RJ 10/28 in WNC 10/29; MM 0/19; RJ 10/29 in WNC 10/30)

**Iraq, Syria** hold water talks in Damascus, again urge *Turkey* to join in 3-way discussion. (INA 10/28 in WNC 10/30; *al-Thawra* 10/31 in WNC 11/6) (see 10/22)

At the close of 4 days of mtgs., *Iran, Lebanon* have signed 4 agmts. covering land and maritime transport, dual taxation, boosting trade, encouraging investment b/w the 2 countries. Iran also agrees to request to provide Lebanon with crude oil at preferential prices. (SA 10/29 in WNC 10/30; see also MM 10/27, IRIB Television [Tehran] 10/27 in WNC 10/29)

PC mbr. *Musa Abu Sabha* is detained by *Israeli police* at Gaza checkpoint for driving a car reported stolen in Israel. PA atty. gen. demands that Abu Sabha’s immunity be lifted, but PC Legal Council refuses, saying that he cannot be tried while in Israeli detention, he must be extradited to PA. (PR 11/7)

**IDF** demolishes 3 *Palestinian homes* nr. Bethlehem. (LAW 10/29)

**IDF** clashes with *Hizballah* in s. Lebanon, leaving at least 2 Hizballah mbrs. dead. (ITV 10/28 in WNC 10/29)

### 29 OCTOBER

At FM Levy’s request, *Israeli inner cabinet* meets to try to decide on a unified negotiating position for FM Levy to take to Washington for much-delayed talks with PA negotiator *Abbas*. (MM 10/29; IDF Radio, QY 10/29 in WNC 10/30; ITV 10/29, 10/30 in WNC 11/3; CSM, MM, NYT 10/30; MM 10/31; *YA* 11/2 in WNC 11/4; WP 11/3) (see Peace Monitor)

Russian FM *Primakov* arrives in Egypt for 2-day visit—the last stop on his regional tour. (MM 10/29; MENA 10/29 in WNC 10/30; MENA 10/30 in WNC 11/3)

**Al-Shuhada Street** in Hebron partially reopens to Palestinian civilian traffic. (WP, WT 10/30)

41 yrs. after Israeli border policemen killed 49 Palestinians in *Qufr Qassim* on the day the 1956 war began, *Israeli Tourism M Moshe Katsov* returns to the village to give
official apology. On departing, he is booed by villagers. (MM 10/30)

U.S. agrees to sell China nuclear technology after China promises to stop aiding Iran's nuclear development program. (WP 10/30)

Iraq orders all 10 American UNSCOM mbrs. to leave the country and the U.S. to cancel planned U-2 intelligence flights. (MM 10/31; CSM 11/3) (see 10/23)

30 OCTOBER

In Cairo, Russian FM Primakov announces that Dep. FM Viktor Posuvalyuk has been named to the new position of Russia's special envoy to the Middle East. Primakov also outlines 12-pt. "code of conduct" for achieving peace. (MENA 10/30 in WNC 11/3; MENA 10/31 in WNC 11/4; JP 11/8)

Iraq forbids entry to 2 American UNSCOM mbrs. (see 10/29)

Afghanistan's Taliban, the militia which controls 3/4 of the country, says that it is holding Saudi dissident and alleged "terrorist financier" Osama Bin Laden under house arrest. (WP 10/31) (see 7/31)

31 OCTOBER

In s. Lebanon, Amal detonates roadside bomb as SLA vehicle passes, killing 2 SLA mbrs., wounding 1. (RL, VOL 10/31 in WNC 11/4)

1 NOVEMBER

In s. Lebanon, a Lebanese civilian is wounded during clash bwn. IDF, unknown resistance group. (RL 11/1 in WNC 11/4)

2 NOVEMBER

Iraq, Jordan sign agricultural cooperation accord. (IRNA 11/2 in WNC 11/4; RJ 11/3 in WNC 11/6)

Iraq again forbids entry to 2 American UNSCOM mbrs. U.S. says it has not ruled out a military response. Kuwait, other Arab states say that U.S. military action would be unacceptable. (CSM 11/3) (see 10/30)

3 NOVEMBER

In Washington, Israeli, PA delegations (led by Israeli FM Levy, Arafat adviser Abbas) open 4 days of high-level talks under U.S. auspices. (MM 11/3; MA 11/3 in WNC 11/4; NYT, WT, WP 11/4) (see Peace Monitor)

Jordan becomes the 1st Middle Eastern state to ratify the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC). Although Israel has signed the CWC, the government has not ratified it. (RJ 11/3 in WNC 11/6; WT 11/5)

As a "temporary security measure," IDF troops occupy Palestinian home in Azariyya, a Palestinian neighborhood of Jerusalem. PA lodges formal complaint with Israeli Military Liaison Office. (PR 11/7)

4 NOVEMBER

Jordan holds parliamentary elections. Progovernment independents win 62 of 80 seats. 9 opposition parties boycott, lowering voter turnout to just over 50%, but 8 Islamists win seats as independents (reducing Islamist parliamentarians by half). 10 seats are won by leftist, nationalist opposition and conservatives. 17 women run for seats (in comparison to 12 in 1989, 3 in 1993), but none wins.

New parliament is considered weak, centrist, with high tribal affiliation. (MM, WP 11/4; JTV, RJ 11/4, RJ 11/5 in WNC 11/6; WP 11/5; NYT 11/6; JTV 11/6 in WNC 11/8)

Israeli court rules against Infrastructures M Sharon, who sued each Uzi Benziman for libel in 1991 for writing that as DM, Sharon had deceived PM Menachem Begin during the 1982 war in Lebanon. Court states evidence shows that Sharon pursued a personal agenda in 1982, failed to inform the PM of his true intentions. (MM 11/4–6)

5 NOVEMBER

In Damascus, Syrian pres. Asad, EU special envoy Moratinos discuss peace process. (SATN 11/5 in WNC 11/8)

Italian pres. Oscar Luigi Scalfaro arrives in Lebanon for 4-day visit. Renews call on Israel to pull out of s. Lebanon. Netanyahu adviser says that some of Scalfaro's statements "could appear to encourage terrorist attacks." (11/5 in WNC 11/6; RAI Uno Television [Rome] 11/7 in WNC 11/10; RAI Radio Uno [Rome] 11/8 in WNC 11/12)

6 NOVEMBER

PA, Israeli delegations end 4 days of talks, gaining some ground on technical issues related to Oslo II but remaining deadlocked on FRDs, settlement construction. Secy of State Albright announces plans to hold separate mgs. with Arafat, Netanyahu on her way to the 11/16-18 Doha economic summit to move talks forward. (NYT 11/6; MENA, SA 11/6 in WNC 11/8; MM, NYT, WP,
WT 11/7; TJJ 11/7 in WNC 11/12) (see Peace Monitor)

Donor’s Ad Hoc Liaison Comm. meets in Washington. (PR 11/7)

After several days of Palestinian stone-throwing incidents nr. the al-Ibrahimi Mosque in Hebron, IDF begins taking pictures of crowds, installing cameras around the mosque to identify demonstrators; detains many Palestinians for questioning. (ITV 11/6 in WNC 11/8)

7 NOVEMBER

Arafat arrives in Cairo to brief Pres. Mubarak on 11/3–6 Washington talks with Israel. (MENA 11/7 in WNC 11/10; MENA 11/8 in WNC 11/12)

Egypt recalls its amb. to Qatar; says amb. is only returning for consultations, will return shortly. (al-Rayah [Doha] 11/8 in WNC 11/12; RE 11/11 in WNC 11/12)

Iranian FM Kamal Kharrazi arrives in Syria for 2-day visit—the first leg of a regional tour that then will take him to Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, UAE, Oman. (MM 11/7; SANA 11/7 in WNC 11/10)

8 NOVEMBER

200,000 Israelis hold rally in Tel Aviv to mark 2d anniversary of PM Yitzhak Rabin’s assassination, show support for the peace process. (NYT, WT 11/9; WP 11/10; JP 11/15)

9 NOVEMBER

Likud convention opens. Netanyahu aides lobby for abolition of party primary election system, which would give Netanyahu more control over selection of candidates. Netanyahu gives speech, condemning concessions to the PA. (NYT 11/10)

In Riyadh, Saudi Arabia’s King Fahd, Iranian FM Kharrazi discuss improving bilateral relations. (NYT 11/10)

Italy’s Pres. Scalfaro arrives in Syria to discuss EU-Mediterranean partnership, bilateral economic ties, cooperation in various fields. (SATN 11/9 in WNC 11/12)

Iran ratifies the CWC. (WP 11/10) (see 11/3)

Palestinian prisoner dies in PA custody, reportedly as a result of a heart attack. Family charges medical negligence. (Palestinian Human Rights Monitoring Group press release 11/11) (see 10/14)

2 Iraqi planes violate northern U.S. no-fly zone. (WP 11/13) (see 11/2)

In s. Lebanon, an explosive device detonates as SLA car passes, injuring 3 passengers, 1 civilian nearby. (VOL 11/8 in WNC 11/12)

10 NOVEMBER

UN Comm. Against Torture discusses Israeli torture of Palestinian detainees. (WT 11/12) (see Peace Monitor)

Vatican signs agmt. with Israel, defining church’s legal status in holy land for 1st time in 500 yrs. (WP, WT 11/11; WJW 11/13)

At the Likud convention, PM Netanyahu is booed, jeered off the stage by his own central comm. mbrs. when he attempts to give his speech as party head. (WT 11/12)

In Damascus, Iran, Syria discuss expanding economic cooperation, review draft agmt. on boosting bilateral trade. (IRNA 11/10 in WNC 11/12)

100s of Palestinians in West Bank, Gaza rally in support of Iraq in its current conflict with the U.S. (WP 11/11) (see 11/2)

11 NOVEMBER

In Cairo, PA negotiators brief Egypt’s Pres. Mubarak on 11/3–6 Washington talks with Israel. Citing the talks’ failure, Egypt announces that despite U.S. pressure, it will boycott the Doha economic summit. (MENA, RE 11/11 in WNC 11/12; NYT, WP, WT 11/12; WJW 11/13)

High-level EU delegation leaves Egypt for Jordan after visit of several hrs. (JTV, MENA 11/11 in WNC 11/12; RJ 11/12 in WNC 11/14)

At the Likud convention, Netanyahu rescinds call to abolish party primary elections in the face of pressure fr. party mbrs. (including fmr. Science M Benjamin Begin, fmr. Finance M Dan Meridor, Tel Aviv Mayor Roni Milo, DM Mordechai, Infrastructures M Sharon, Jerusalem Mayor Olmert) strong enough to split party, force new elections. (IDF Radio 11/11 in WNC 11/12; ITV, MA 11/12 in WNC 11/14) (see 11/9)

Israel’s 1st El Al flight lands at Jordan’s Aqaba airport. (HA, JT 11/11; al-Dustur 11/11 in WNC 11/12; JT 11/12 in WNC 11/14) (see 8/31, Peace Monitor)

Palestinian boy is left brain-dead when IDF opens fire with rubber bullets on crowd protesting reopening of the newly fortified Rachel’s Tomb, a Jewish shrine in an Israeli-controlled salient in Bethlehem. (NYT 11/12, 11/14)
12 NOVEMBER

Arab League, Bahrain, Morocco, UAE announce that they will not attend the Doha economic summit. Oman says it will send a low-level delegation. Israeli FM Levy says Israel will send a delegation, but he himself may not attend as previously planned. Iraq, Lebanon, Libya, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syria already have said that they will not attend. (MENA, Radio Oman [Muscat] 11/12 in WNC 11/14; CSM, NYT 11/13)

Israel lifts quotas on Palestinians working in Israel. (YA 11/12 in WNC 11/14)

In Amman, Jordanian security arrests an Israeli Arab businessman on suspicion of being a Mossad agent. The man’s office is located in the same building as Hamas leader Mishal’s. (YA 11/12 in WNC 11/14)

UNSC votes unanimously to ban international travel by Iraqi officials, to postpone review of sanctions until Iraq cooperates with UNSCOM by allowing Americans on inspection teams. Resolution does not threaten use of force, but U.S. Amb. to the UN Bill Richardson says U.S. is considering a military option. In the last 10 days, Iraq has turned back UNSCOM teams with American mbrs. 9 times. (NYT, WP, WT 11/13) (see 11/2)

U.S. says that over the past wk. and a half, it has moved 4 F-16s fighters, 5 KD-135 tankers to Incirlik air base nr. Adana, Turkey, to expand monitoring of n. Iraq no-fly zone. (WP 11/12)

13 NOVEMBER

Israel announces that FM Levy will not attend Doha economic summit, lower-level delegation will be sent. (NYT 11/14)

UNGA reconvenes its emergency session on Israel’s settlement construction, passes resolution condemning Israeli settlement policy. (NYT, WP, WT 11/14; WT 11/17) (see Doc. A4)

In response to the UN’s 11/12 decision, Iraq expels the 6 American UNSCOM mbrs. still in the country, prompting the UN to instruct the entire team to leave Iraq. Clinton convenes 2 long mgs. with security advisers to discuss issue. (NYT, WP, WT 11/14)

14 NOVEMBER

Secy. of State Albright meets with PM Netanyahu in London, en route to the Doha economic summit. (NYT, WT 11/15) (see Peace Monitor)

PA decides to boycott the Doha economic summit. (NYT 11/15)

In Bethlehem, 10s of Palestinians demonstrating for the release of Palestinian prisoners clash with IDF troops. (WT 11/15)

Russia arrests Iranian diplomat caught trying to buy missile diagrams. (NYT, WT 11/15)

15 NOVEMBER

Secy. of State Albright meets with Arafat in Bern, Switzerland. (NYT 11/15) (see Peace Monitor)

Chronology Source Abbreviations

AFP  (Agence France Presse, Paris)
CSM  (Christian Science Monitor, Boston)
HA  (Ha’Aretz, Tel Aviv)
IGPO  (Israeli Government Press Office, Jerusalem)
INA  (Iraqi News Agency, Baghdad)
IRNA  (Islamic Republic News Agency, Tehran)
ITV  (Israel Television Network, Jerusalem)
JT  (Jordan Times, Amman)
JTV  (Jordan Television Network, Amman)
LAW  (Palestinian Society for the Protection of Human Rights and the Environment, Jerusalem)
MA  (Ma’ariv, Tel Aviv)
MBC  (Middle East Broadcasting Centre, London)
MEI  (Middle East International, London)
MENA  (Middle East News Agency, Cairo)
MM  (Middle East Mirror, London)
NBT  (New York Times, New York)
PCHR  (Palestine Center for Human Rights, Gaza)
PHRIC  (Palestine Human Rights Information Center, Jerusalem)
Some 30,000 Palestinians turn out at Yarmuk Stadium (10/6) to greet Hamas spiritual leader Shaykh Yasin on his return to Gaza from Jordan. Yasin was released from Israeli prison to Jordan 10/1 in exchange for two Mossad agents involved in the attempted assassination of Hamas figure Khalid Mishal in Amman 9/25. (Rina Castelnuovo/NYT Pictures)