

Date and Time: Thursday, May 2, 2024 6:09:00PM EEST

Job Number: 223357973

Documents (100)

1. [*Thousands welcome Arafat in Hebron; Leader sees city as a springboard to separate state, writes Patrick Cockburn*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1987 to Dec 31, 1997

2. [*Palestinians mourn victim of land war; Escalation of violence on the West Bank surrounding Israel's settlement plan has left Arabs convinced peace process is over*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1987 to Dec 31, 1997

3. [*Palestinians in Bethlehem stage sixth day of protest: 'Co-operation buried with bulldozer'*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1987 to Dec 31, 1997

4. [*Group's Leader Is Said to Have Used Cult Tactics*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

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News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1987 to Dec 31, 1997

5. [*VINE OF ISLAMIC MILITANCY TAKES ROOT IN SUDAN*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

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News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1987 to Dec 31, 1997

6. [WORLD BRIEFLY](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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News

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Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1987 to Dec 31, 1997

7. [Caught between a rock and a hard place](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1987 to Dec 31, 1997

8. [The Week](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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News

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Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1987 to Dec 31, 1997

9. [Bomb threat prompts USF to move up exams](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

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News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1987 to Dec 31, 1997

10. [Israel 's blunt instrument](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

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News

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Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1987 to
Dec 31, 1997

11. [ISRAEL 'S BLUNT INSTRUMENT](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

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News

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Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1987 to
Dec 31, 1997

12. [In Embattled Hebron, Balloting Goes Smoothly](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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News

Narrowed by
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Dec 31, 1997

13. [Rules of engagement; Even if the Middle East peace talks take place later this month, they are unlikely to bring much comfort to the Gaza Strip. For in a place where God](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Dec 31, 1997

14. [One million set to vote in poll that may make a nation](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1987 to
Dec 31, 1997

15. [FIGURING THE PRICE OF MIDEAST PEACE](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

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News

Narrowed by

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1987 to Dec 31, 1997

16. [NEWS SUMMARY](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

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News

Narrowed by

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1987 to Dec 31, 1997

17. [Extinguishing the fires of radical Islamic politics](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

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News

Narrowed by

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1987 to Dec 31, 1997

18. [China's one-child policy spawns secret slaughter; Vast exercise in social engineering proves lethal to millions of girls and puts the population out of balance](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

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News

Narrowed by

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1987 to Dec 31, 1997

19. [World Digest](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

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News

Narrowed by

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1987 to Dec 31, 1997

20. [Foreign Affairs; Muffled Militants](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

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News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1987 to Dec 31, 1997

21. [BRIEFLY](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

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News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1987 to Dec 31, 1997

22. [briefly](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1987 to Dec 31, 1997

23. [UN panel struggles to define terrorism](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

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News

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Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1987 to Dec 31, 1997

24. [Please make it the last time: Danny Ben-Tal was looking forward to last Monday, when the PLO was to take over in Gaza. But of course it didn't happen. He was first there as an Israeli national serviceman in the mid-Eighties; here he describes this month's tour of duty, his fifth as a reservist](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1987 to Dec 31, 1997

25. [ISRAELI SENTENCED TO 7 LIFE TERMS MAN GUNNED DOWN SEVEN PALESTINIANS](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

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News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1987 to Dec 31, 1997

26. [Palestinian fatally stabs 3 Israelis](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

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News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1987 to Dec 31, 1997

27. [Victim reveals Israel 's regime of torture](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

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News

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Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1987 to Dec 31, 1997

28. [NEWS IN BRIEF](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1987 to Dec 31, 1997

29. [Israel PM moves to coalition with Left / Likud in move for coalition with Left](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

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News

Narrowed by
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30. [PLO DROPS CALL TO DESTROY ISRAEL < ARAFAT'S VICTORY GIVES A BOOST TO PEACE EFFORT](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

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News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1987 to Dec 31, 1997

31. [*Mid-East peace hopes plummet*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

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News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1987 to
Dec 31, 1997

32. [*ISRAELI CALLS MASSACRE AVOIDABLE WEST BANK GENERAL FAULTS NO-SHOW GUARDS FOR FAILING TO HALT MAYHEM IN MOSQUE*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

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Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1987 to
Dec 31, 1997

33. [*U.S. MIDEAST PEACE MISSION GETS ANGRY RECEPTION*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

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Narrowed by
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Dec 31, 1997

34. [*Army issued gun to deranged extremist*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

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News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1987 to
Dec 31, 1997

35. [*Turning from the abyss*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

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News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1987 to
Dec 31, 1997

36. [Turning from the abyss](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
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Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1987 to Dec 31, 1997

37. [Gunmen kill 11 in South Africa](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1987 to Dec 31, 1997

38. [TIME FOR PLO TO GIVE FOR PEACE](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

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News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1987 to Dec 31, 1997

39. [BRIEFS](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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News

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40. [BRIEFS](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

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News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1987 to Dec 31, 1997

41. [A dangerous victory for Arafat](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

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News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1987 to Dec 31, 1997

42. [METRO DIGEST](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

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News

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43. [Latest Mideast carnage has all too familiar ring](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

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News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1987 to Dec 31, 1997

44. [BRIEFS](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1987 to Dec 31, 1997

45. [ARAFAT LOADS DICE IN HISTORIC ELECTION](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

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Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1987 to Dec 31, 1997

46. [COUNCIL MUST MAKE GOOD ON PROMISES](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

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Narrowed by

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1987 to Dec 31, 1997

47. [*The game was alive, well in Pasco*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

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News

Narrowed by

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1987 to Dec 31, 1997

48. [*BOMB ATTACK LEAVES FIVE DEAD IN ISRAEL*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

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Narrowed by

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1987 to Dec 31, 1997

49. [*Long, hot, hate-filled hours in the coffee shop*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

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Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1987 to Dec 31, 1997

50. [*Relatives let into Israelis' jail of death; Robert Fisk reports on Khiam prison, in southern Lebanon , where many inmates are held in underground cells*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

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Narrowed by

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1987 to Dec 31, 1997

51. [*Palestinians Protest Over Arafat and Gaza Security Force*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

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News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1987 to Dec 31, 1997

52. [TELEVISION REVIEW; In 'Jihad in America ,' Food for Uneasiness](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1987 to Dec 31, 1997

53. [Israel in mourning after bomb horror](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1987 to Dec 31, 1997

54. [A REVIVAL SHAKES SECULAR TURKEY < THE MOVEMENT HAS CREATED UNEASE IN THE WEST.< BUT POOR, REPRESSIVE SOCIETIES SEE IT DIFFERENTLY.](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

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News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1987 to Dec 31, 1997

55. [U.S. mediator steps in to defuse Mideast tensions: Israelis, Palestinians refuse to budge from hardline positions](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

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News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1987 to Dec 31, 1997

56. [U.S. tries to cool Mideast passions: Flags burned as Palestinians broaden target of wrath](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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News

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Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1987 to Dec 31, 1997

57. [A PALESTINIAN CANDIDATE STUMPS THROUGH A NEW POLITICAL LANDSCAPE](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1987 to Dec 31, 1997

58. [MUSLIMS SEARCH FOR IDENTITY AS NEW CENTURY DAWNS](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1987 to Dec 31, 1997

59. [Palestinians Trying Out Elections, Warts and All](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1987 to Dec 31, 1997

60. [War softens Turkish PM's Islamic zeal; Kurdish struggle is forcing Erbakan to dilute his fervour, writes Hugh Pope](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1987 to Dec 31, 1997

61. [War softens Turkish PM's Islamic zeal; Kurdish struggle is forcing Erbakan to dilute his fervour, writes Hugh Pope](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

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News

Narrowed by

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1987 to Dec 31, 1997

62. [*War softens Turkish PM's Islamic zeal; Kurdish struggle is forcing Erbakan to dilute his fervour, writes Hugh Pope*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-**Search Terms:** Hamas**Search Type:** Natural Language - Expanded Results**Narrowed by:****Content Type**

News

Narrowed by

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1987 to Dec 31, 1997

63. [*P.L.O. Moderate Shot Dead, Raising Fears on Pact*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-**Search Terms:** Hamas**Search Type:** Natural Language - Expanded Results**Narrowed by:****Content Type**

News

Narrowed by

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1987 to Dec 31, 1997

64. [*TALKING TO A TERRORIST*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-**Search Terms:** Hamas**Search Type:** Natural Language - Expanded Results**Narrowed by:****Content Type**

News

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Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1987 to Dec 31, 1997

65. [*Whoever wins, Israel 's peace is still far away; Patrick Cockburn looks at the impact of this week's elections*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-**Search Terms:** Hamas**Search Type:** Natural Language - Expanded Results**Narrowed by:****Content Type**

News

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Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1987 to Dec 31, 1997

66. [*Threat Prompts University To Hold Tests a Week Early*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-**Search Terms:** Hamas**Search Type:** Natural Language - Expanded Results**Narrowed by:****Content Type**

News

Narrowed by

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1987 to

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67. [Oracle editor stands by her news decision](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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News

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68. [ARABS, ISRAELIS RESOLVE TO FIGHT TERRORISM; DESPITE ISRAEL 'S ACCUSATION, THE MIDDLE EAST SUMMIT DID NOT SINGLE OUT IRAN ; BUT IT PLEDGED TO CUT TERRORISTS OFF FROM FINANCING, ARMS, RECRUITMENT AND; SAFE HAVENS.](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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69. [Historic Vote Catapults Palestinians Closer to Peace and Nationhood](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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70. [ARAFAT RIDES ON LANDSLIDE YES VOTE](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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News

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Dec 31, 1997

71. [Arafat caught 'between a rock and a hard place'](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

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Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1987 to

Dec 31, 1997

72. [NEWS SUMMARY](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

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News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1987 to Dec 31, 1997

73. [Suicide bombers kill 13 in Israeli market blasts](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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News

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Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1987 to Dec 31, 1997

74. [WORLD IN BRIEF; Taylor wins presidency in Liberia](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

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News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1987 to Dec 31, 1997

75. [GOOD FRIDAY: CELEBRATIONS HELD AROUND THE WORLD; POPE CIRCLES THE COLOSSEUM; WOMEN, OTHERS CARRY CROSS](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1987 to Dec 31, 1997

76. [New Voices for Palestine](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1987 to Dec 31, 1997

77. [*Palestinian opinions make it hard to give peace a chance*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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78. [*Clinton calls for crisis talks with Netanyahu over bloodshed * MIDDLE EAST*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

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Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1987 to
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79. [*South Africa 's new gang wars: Maybe Vigilantes: Anti-drug protesters \(who may have ties to Iran \) battle affluent homeowners \(who probably sell drugs\)*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1987 to
Dec 31, 1997

80. [*Schoolgirl who became a top PLO terrorist*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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News

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Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1987 to
Dec 31, 1997

81. [*ISRAEL HANDS OVER CONTROL AS FIRST PALESTINIAN POLICE ENTER JERICHO*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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82. [HOLY WAR' TAPE CHILLS ISRAELIS; A VOICE LIKE ARAFAT'S URGES BATTLE' FOR CITY](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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83. [Peaceful sabbath raises hopes for talks](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

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News

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Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1987 to Dec 31, 1997

84. [That cliché 'du jour' really is nothing new](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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News

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Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1987 to Dec 31, 1997

85. [Radical change: Despite the violence in Israel and Algeria , militant Muslims are moving away from terrorist tactics in many countries](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1987 to Dec 31, 1997

86. [Jordan sets 20an example for Arab world](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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News

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Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1987 to Dec 31, 1997

87. [How Hanan Ashrawi plans to build a nation; The woman who spoke for Yasser Arafat before the historic Middle East peace agreement now prefers to fight for human rights rather than political power. Suzanne Glass met her](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1987 to Dec 31, 1997

88. [An Islam of slogans fed the riots, so did white Islamophobia. Paul Vallely reports; Kinship and pride: Bradford's Asian history](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

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Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1987 to Dec 31, 1997

89. [Border blockade brings pain to Gaza](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1987 to Dec 31, 1997

90. [Battlers signal new reality](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1987 to Dec 31, 1997

91. [Letters; Getting rid of Hezbollah is the key to Mideast peace](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1987 to Dec 31, 1997

92. [WEST BANK STREETS ARE ALIVE AS HISTORIC VOTE NEARS< A WAVE IS RIPPLING THROUGH RAMALLAH IN ANTICIPATION OF PALESTINIAN ELECTIONS.< IT'S THE CHAOS OF DEMOCRACY.](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1987 to Dec 31, 1997

93. [Nativity place](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1987 to Dec 31, 1997

94. [BRIEFS](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1987 to Dec 31, 1997

95. [NEWS SUMMARY](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1987 to Dec 31, 1997

96. [Palestinians charge their batteries to tune in to Arafat](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1987 to Dec 31, 1997

97. [Syrian 's Game: Both Ends Against the Middle](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1987 to
Dec 31, 1997

98. [PALESTINIANS, ISRAELI FORCES CLASH / AT LEAST 1,000 DEMONSTRATORS IN HEBRON HURLED STONES AND GAS BOMBS. ELSEWHERE, ISRAELI SOLDIERS WOUNDED TWO PALESTINIANS.](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1987 to
Dec 31, 1997

99. [Arabs turn on each other in 'peace' war; Robert Fisk at the Ein el-Helweh camp watches Arafat's gunmen do battle with embittered refugees](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1987 to
Dec 31, 1997

100. [Algeria now country of contradictions](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1987 to
Dec 31, 1997

Thousands welcome Arafat in Hebron; Leader sees city as a springboard to separate state, writes Patrick Cockburn

The Independent (London)

January 20, 1997, Monday

Copyright 1997 Independent Print Ltd

Section: TITLE; Page 1

Length: 678 words

Byline: Patrick Cockburn

Body

Hebron - By midday yesterday 25,000 people from Hebron were waiting on a hilltop which is crowned by the square fortress that used to be the Israeli military headquarters to greet the white helicopter carrying Yasser Arafat on his first visit to the city since the Israeli withdrawal.

"It is the beginning of the end the occupation," said Suleiman Khatib, a retired teacher who had put on a pin stripe suit to celebrate Mr Arafat's arrival. At the end of the day the 400 Israeli settlers, who hold a fifth of Hebron, were "just a drop in the sea compared to the 130,000 Palestinians here," he said.

Not that Mr Khatib believed Hebron's troubles were over in the short term: "The settlers see their dream of taking over Hebron is dying and everybody will resist death." He feared an attack. Others in the crowd said they were happy rather than euphoric. Ghassan Shahin was glad that Hebron university, where he taught computer science, was open again after nine months.

"But if there is no Palestinian state and Hebron stays an isolated canton like Nablus and Ramallah, there will be no peace," he said.

Speaking from a balcony in the military headquarters an ugly building built during the British Mandate, the Palestinian leader was in a conciliatory mood. "I tell settlers we do not want a confrontation," Mr Arafat said. Palestinian women prisoners would released in a few days. So would Sheikh Ahmed Yassin, the blind leader of Hamas, the Islamic movement, who is held in an Israeli prison. He said: "Hebron is a springboard . . . so that we can establish our independent Palestinian state."

In his office in the centre of Hebron, Khalid Amayreh, an Islamic commentator who has little sympathy for Mr Arafat said that feelings in the city were ambivalent: "Remember that 70 per cent of people in the city have known no rule other than the Israeli army," He did not think that the settlers were planning another massacre, like that of Baruch Goldstein who killed 29 worshippers in the mosque in 1994. "But they may start a reign of terror to drive people out of the Casbah the old covered market in the Old City," he said.

Traders in the narrow streets of the Casbah, which remains under Israeli control, were worried. Jamal Maraga, selling embroidered dresses and sheepskin coats, said: "If the Israeli army takes care of the settlers, then maybe things will get better. People are frightened of another massacre like that in the mosque."

Thousands welcome Arafat in Hebron; Leader sees city as a springboard to separate state, writes Patrick Cockburn

So far the settlers are belligerent but appear uncertain what to do. Their children mutter "slimeballs" in Hebrew at the foreign journalists. A Palestinian cameraman had a finger broken by a settler with a rifle. They reacted angrily yesterday to a speech by Jibril Rajoub, head of the Palestinian Preventive Security Service, who is moving his headquarters to Hebron from Jericho. He accused them of fomenting hate and suggested the city would be better off without them. "They are big stones on our chest and we have to take them off," he said.

Ironically, Mr Rajoub is said by the Israeli press to have allocated plain clothesmen to shadow settler leaders to prevent them being assassinated.

A bizarre aspect of the security arrangements in Hebron, negotiated in 1995 and spelled out in the protocol signed last week, is that what has happened is very different from the accord. Officially there are 400 uniformed Palestinian police in the city. In practice security, with Israeli assent, is largely in the hands of the Preventive Security Service - the militants of Fatah, Mr Arafat's political movement - who have another 1,000 men under arms.

Mr Amayreh says: "For every Palestinian policeman in uniform there must three who are not." Some Israeli collaborators have been rounded up and Mr Arafat's opponents wonder if they will be next in line.

Rafiq al-Natsche, a member of the Palestinian Legislative Council, says a security clamp down would be dangerous because everybody in Hebron is a member of a tribe - his own is 20,000 strong - which will come to his defence. Mr Rajoub promises his men will obey the law.

Load-Date: January 20, 1997

End of Document

Palestinians mourn victim of land war; Escalation of violence on the West Bank surrounding Israel's settlement plan has left Arabs convinced peace process is over

The Independent (London)

March 31, 1997, Monday

Copyright 1997 Independent Print Ltd

Section: INTERNATIONAL; Page 11

Length: 616 words

Byline: Patrick Cockburn Beit Sahour

Body

"He was shot through the heart," said Ibrahim Salah, the uncle of Abdullah Salah, a 20-year-old engineering student who was buried yesterday morning wrapped in a Palestinian flag. The burial took place within sight of the hill of Har Homa, known to Palestinians as Jabal Abu Ghneim, where Israel's construction of a new Jewish settlement started clashes throughout the West Bank 11 days ago.

Abdullah Salah was the first Palestinian to die in the riots. None of the mourners seated in the forecourt of his family house down a track in Beit Sahour, a village close to Har Homa, expected him to be the last. Ibrahim Salah, who said he had spent 10 years in an Israeli prison, added: "After Jabal Abu Ghneim and after yesterday, when they fired live bullets, I believe the Israelis want to escalate the situation and blame it on the Palestinians."

Some of the boys who attended Abdullah Salah's funeral had walked along the long ridge line to the nearest Israeli checkpoint at Rachel's Tomb. Using slings, and some even wearing gas masks, they stoned the Israeli soldiers sheltering behind low walls. The soldiers fired tear-gas and rubber bullets in return. A Palestinian security man said: "We have no orders to intervene." But there was little reason to. The rioters made no effort to break through to Rachel's Tomb itself.

Predictions of widespread violence by Palestinians on the West Bank and Israeli-Arabs in Israel as they marked Land Day, a day of protest against land confiscations, were largely unfulfilled.

At the southern entrance to Ramallah, at Arak checkpoint, where Abdullah Salah had died on Saturday, there was sporadic stone throwing from a barricade made up of the wreckage of three burned-out cars and a bus. Some 200 yards down the road the Israelis had brought up two Merkava tanks on transporters.

"He was killed up there on the hillside above the road," said Marwan Barghouti, the secretary on the West Bank of Fatah, the main Palestinian political movement, pointing at the spot where the student, from the local Bit Zeit university, had died.

"A sniper hit him. The situation was quiet at the time." He added that Palestinian boys who were too young to have taken part in the intifada in 1987-93 were eager to get involved.

Palestinians mourn victim of land war; Escalation of violence on the West Bank surrounding Israel's settlement plan has left Arabs convinced peace process is o....

In an interview with The Independent, Mr Barghouti, who is also a member of the Palestinian Legislative Council for Ramallah, agreed that Fatah was organising the demonstrations. He said: "Most of the extremists, like **Hamas** and Islamic Jihad, won't take part in the demonstrations. They say they are useless."

He said that in general, Palestinians were becoming more extreme: "People are beginning to lose hope. They think the Israeli government has decided to cancel the Oslo agreements."

Mr Barghouti angrily denied that he had ever sent "blessings" to the family of the suicide bomber who killed three **women** in a cafe in Tel Aviv.

He said: "This is quite untrue. We sent a message of solidarity to the village of Zurif, where the bomber came from, because it has been under total curfew for 10 days. A bomb in Israel is terror. It is different in the occupied territories."

The situation was deteriorating because of Israeli settlements. He said: "We might wait five years for a Palestinian state or three years for something to be done for the refugees."

"But we can't just let Israeli bulldozers work in Jerusalem and the West Bank putting facts on the map."

Despite the verbal rhetoric, Israelis and Palestinians were relatively restrained yesterday.

In the morning, at Arak checkpoint, members of Palestinian Preventive Security, in civilian clothes, but with pistols visible in their back pockets, were telling stone-throwers to go home.

Load-Date: April 1, 1997

Palestinians in Bethlehem stage sixth day of protest: 'Co-operation buried with bulldozer'

The Gazette (Montreal, Quebec)

March 26, 1997, Wednesday, FINAL EDITION

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Section: NEWS; Pg. B1 / BREAK

Length: 724 words

Byline: AP; NEW YORK TIMES

Dateline: JERUSALEM

Body

A Palestinian security chief responded defiantly yesterday to Israeli demands to crack down on Islamic militants, saying co-operation with Israel on security issues depends on progress in peace talks.

"Palestinian security co-operation was buried with the first bulldozer that went up on Jabal Abu Ghneim," said security chief Jibril Rajoub, using the Arab name for the hill where Israel is building a Jewish neighborhood in disputed East Jerusalem.

Palestinians in Bethlehem and Hebron staged a sixth day of violent protests against the project yesterday, with Israeli troops firing tear gas and rubber bullets at hundreds of stone-throwing Palestinians.

Eight Palestinians were injured by rubber bullets in Bethlehem and at least two Israeli soldiers were hurt.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has accused Palestinian President Yasser Arafat of giving the go-ahead to Islamic militants to carry out attacks against Israelis and has demanded Palestinians take steps to combat terrorism before peace agreements can go forward.

Israeli and Palestinian security co-operation has been frozen at every level because of the breakdown in relations, including putting a halt to joint Israeli-Palestinian patrols in most cities on the West Bank of the Jordan River.

Can't Return to Seminary

Yesterday, Palestinian police refused to allow a dozen Jewish students to return to their seminary in the West Bank city Nablus, saying it could not be co-ordinated with Israeli troops.

Israeli-Palestinian peacekeeping was one of the clear successes of the peace accords, with security officers on both sides building mutual trust and respect through their work together.

Using their homegrown intelligence sources, Palestinian forces would arrest militants if they had word a suicide bombing against Israel was in the works and Palestinians and Israelis met regularly on security problems.

Rajoub refused Netanyahu's demand to resume that co-operation, saying Netanyahu's decision to build Jewish housing in East Jerusalem is what sparked the crisis.

Palestinians in Bethlehem stage sixth day of protest: 'Co-operation buried with bulldozer'

"There will not be any security co-ordination as long as there is no political co-ordination," Rajoub said, adding he needs a "real commitment from the Israeli side and political progress . . . on the ground."

Security contacts with the Palestinians have been "severely weakened," acknowledged Dore Gold, Netanyahu's foreign policy adviser.

Gold insisted Israel has "hard intelligence data" that Arafat gave the go-ahead for Palestinian attacks against Israelis. In the worst recent attack, a suicide bomber killed himself and three women at a Tel Aviv cafe.

However, a senior Israeli security official told the legislature's foreign-affairs and defence committee there was no explicit evidence Arafat approved attacks, Israel Television reported. It did not name the official.

Many of the recent Palestinian riots have been organized by Arafat's Fatah movement, until now the strongest supporter of peace with Israel.

Kamel Ihmeid, a Fatah leader in Bethlehem, said he expects more violence unless Israel stops building in East Jerusalem.

Tough Policies

"In a week or two, if the Israelis don't stop building, we cannot control the situation," he said.

Ihmeid said Fatah leaders also are concerned about the growing popularity of the militant Hamas and Islamic Jihad movements as Palestinians become increasingly frustrated with Netanyahu's tough policies.

Meanwhile, Israel's attorney-general ruled yesterday that Police Minister Avigdor Kahalani could close four Palestinian offices in East Jerusalem because of their connection to Arafat's Palestinian Authority. Kahalani told legislators he is still deciding what action to take, Israel Radio said.

Netanyahu insisted yesterday the Israeli construction in East Jerusalem is "not the root of the problem but an excuse to spill blood."

Also yesterday, U.S. President Bill Clinton decided to send his special envoy for the Middle East, Dennis Ross, back to the region to try to stop a further spiral into violence, senior U.S. officials said.

Ross will try to get the two sides talking again, officials say, "so they can rebuild the confidence necessary to move forward on these sensitive issues." Settlements and Jerusalem are so-called "final status issues," subject to suspended talks.

Graphic

Photo: Arafat: Protecting militants?

Photo: Netanyahu: He has accusations

Load-Date: March 27, 1997

Group's Leader Is Said to Have Used Cult Tactics

The New York Times

November 13, 1996, Wednesday, Late Edition - Final

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Distribution: Metropolitan Desk

Section: Section B; ; Section B; Page 4; Column 1; Metropolitan Desk ; Column 1;

Length: 672 words

Byline: By RICHARD PEREZ-PENA

By RICHARD PEREZ-PENA

Body

The people arrested in Monday night's raid on a Brooklyn building were followers, the police say, of a labor organizer turned cult leader who died last year, a man whose past is clouded by aliases, murky organizations and questionable claims.

Gerald William Doeden, known for much of his life as Eugenio Perente-Ramos, was the founder and leader of the National Labor Federation, a group that, according to cult experts and the police, operated through a series of front organizations around the country. Some of the front groups were based in the three buildings on Carroll Street in Crown Heights where the police arrested 35 people and seized nearly 50 weapons.

On his death last year, Mr. Perente-Ramos -- who was also known by the name Gino Perenti -- was hailed by his followers in a handbill as "America's most experienced and successful labor leader." He and his organizations held themselves up as important labor groups and revolutionaries, but neither labor leaders nor more prominent radicals knew of them.

"I've never heard of these guys," said Stanley Cohen, a lawyer whose clients range from East Village squatters to Mousa Mohammed Abu Marzook, the political leader of *Hamas*, the Palestinian political group.

The police and people who investigate cults contend that Mr. Perente-Ramos's many groups were, in fact, nothing more than cults posing as radical political organizations. Chip Berlet, who has written extensively on cults and is a senior analyst for Political Research Associates in Cambridge, Mass., which studies extremist groups, said that Mr. Perente-Ramos's groups sought out troubled young people, housed them in communal quarters, deprived them of sleep and convinced them that they were the true leftist underground. Others also questioned the group's legitimacy.

"He was a small-time operator who obviously got kicks out of controlling 40 to 100 people," said Janja A. Lalich, a California researcher who writes about cults and has studied Mr. Perente-Ramos's followers. "I don't think money was the big thing for him. Power was the big thing, power and sex."

Group's Leader Is Said to Have Used Cult Tactics

In the 1970's and early 1980's, she said, female members of Mr. Perente-Ramos's organization were expected to sleep with him. She said the members were cut off from the outside world, and that Mr. Perente-Ramos would give hours-long lectures, beginning at 2 A.M.

Mr. Perente-Ramos adopted a partly Spanish surname, said he was of Mexican heritage and that he was born in Montana, in 1935. Cult researchers contend that he was not Hispanic and was born in Minnesota, in 1935 or 1937.

Ruth Mikkelsen, who was married to Mr. Perente-Ramos from 1960 to 1962, said he had changed his name several times and described him as mentally unstable. There seems to be agreement that in the 1960's, he worked as a disk jockey in San Francisco and ran a book store that sold Communist literature.

He often said he played a prominent role during the same period in the United Farm Workers, the union founded by Cesar Chavez, but Ms. Mikkelsen said those claims were greatly exaggerated. The farm workers union did not return telephone calls yesterday.

In the early 1970's, he moved to Long Island and organized the Eastern Farm Workers Association, and in 1972, led the group in a strike against the I.M. Young Company, a major potato processor.

When Mr. Perente-Ramos died last year at age 59, The New York Times published an obituary focusing on his labor efforts, based largely on information provided by his associates. After cult experts described his other activities, The Times ran a corrective article including that information.

After the Long Island strike, he largely receded from public view, but over the years he drew the attention of law enforcement. In 1984, the F.B.I. raided his Carroll Street headquarters, claiming it had evidence that the Provisional Party of Communists, led by Mr. Perente-Ramos, "planned a series of violent acts." But police officials said yesterday that none of the related groups was known to have a history of violence.

Load-Date: November 13, 1996

End of Document

VINE OF ISLAMIC MILITANCY TAKES ROOT IN SUDAN

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette (Pennsylvania)

June 27, 1993, Sunday,

FIVE STAR EDITION

Copyright 1993 P.G. Publishing Co.

Section: WORLD,

Length: 615 words

Byline: RUTH SINAI, THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Body

On a sweltering day in July 1990, a blind, barefoot Muslim cleric entered the U.S. Embassy in Khartoum, capital of Sudan, and got a permit to visit the United States.

Among the followers Sheik Omar Abdel-Rahman has since attracted in this country are five Sudanese arrested in a thwarted plot to unleash massive bombings on New York City.

Sudan, like Iran, is formally ruled according to Islamic law and is a busy breeding ground for the spread of Islamic militancy.

Although Sudan's government has not carried out any terrorist attacks itself, the United States has several times in recent months considered placing it on a list of countries supporting terrorism.

It's a case of guilt by association, say U.S. officials, who note that Sudan is hosting a growing number of Iranian-sponsored terrorist groups.

"The United States is very disturbed by the close relationship that Sudan has developed with Iran," State Department spokesman Mike McCurry said on Friday. "We know that Iran is a leading sponsor of international terrorism."

The relationship with Tehran began to develop soon after Iraq lost the Persian Gulf war and was no longer able to help its ally, Sudan.

Sudan's military government, which had overthrown civilian rulers in a 1989 coup, quickly turned to Iran where it found an eager benefactor.

Soon after, Iranian President Hashemi Rafsanjani visited Khartoum and Sudan's government announced the imposition of Islamic law. **Women** were to don veils and courts were to practice according to the Koran, Islam's holy book.

"The present military government ... has pursued religiously extremist policies," says the U.S. State Department's 1992 human rights report, which documents an aggressive drive to impose Islamic laws on Sudan's 25 million people.

VINE OF ISLAMIC MILITANCY TAKES ROOT IN SUDAN

This drive, and increasing evidence of severe human rights violations, further strained U.S.-Sudanese relations, resulting in a cutoff of all U.S. military aid and in the government's Nov. 3, 1992, ban of all U.S. commercial weapons exports to Sudan.

Meanwhile, Iran was providing millions of dollars to build Islamic centers, and has sent several hundred elite military troops to train an ideologically motivated, Muslim paramilitary force called the Popular Defense Force.

The Iranian Revolutionary Guards also began using Sudan as a base to train Muslim cadres from Tunisia, Egypt and Algeria so they can overthrow their secular governments and install Islamic rule, say U.S. and Israeli officials.

Sudan has offered offices and training facilities for several Iranian-backed terrorist groups, among them the Lebanon-based Hezbollah, or Party of God, as well as the Palestinian groups **Hamas** and Islamic Jihad, according to the State Department.

This helped Iran at a time when it was being forced to find a new home for some of its protege terrorist groups because Syria, under strong pressure from the United States, was shutting down some terrorist training facilities in Lebanon's Bekaa Valley.

Also enjoying Sudanese hospitality are members of the Libyan-financed Abu Nidal organization, a Palestinian terrorist organization which has been largely inactive in recent years, the State Department says.

In return for hosting these groups, Sudan has asked for -- and received -- weapons and training for its campaign to crush the non-Muslim rebels in southern Sudan with whom the government has been locked in a deadly war since the 1970s.

Iran already has sent Sudan six combat aircraft, according to Israeli and U.S. officials.

Iran also agreed to pay China \$ 300 million for weapons for Sudan, according to Mohammad Mohaddessin, a top Iranian opposition leader who has just published a book on Iran's export of its Islamic revolution.

Load-Date: September 20, 1995

End of Document

WORLD BRIEFLY

The Ottawa Citizen

May 13, 1993, Thursday, FINAL EDITION

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Section: NEWS; WORLD BRIEFLY; Pg. A8

Length: 646 words

Byline: CITIZEN NEWS SERVICES

Body

Pakistani narcotics agents seized about 12 tonnes of hashish destined for shipment to Montreal, officials said Wednesday. The drugs, packed in 300 cartons of cotton yarn, and valued at the equivalent of \$ 60 million on the international market, were discovered at Karachi's port Tuesday, an official of the Pakistan Narcotics Control Board said.

AFGHANISTAN

Rebels blast capital, kill 70, hurt hundreds

KABUL -- Guerrilla groups bombarded Kabul with rockets and artillery Wednesday, killing more than 70 people and wounding hundreds. More than 300 rockets and shells slammed into the Afghan capital in the two hours before dawn. Most rockets were fired from positions of the Hezb-e-Islami party led by prime minister-designate Gulbuddin Hekmatyar and its allies, the Iran-backed Shiite Hezb-e-Wahdat group, in hills to the south and west.

AZERBAIJAN

Five Russian soldiers sentenced to death

MOSCOW -- Five Russian soldiers were sentenced to death Wednesday by a military court in Azerbaijan, which found them guilty of fighting alongside its Armenian foes, the Interfax news agency said. The five Russian army privates, who had been based in Armenia, were convicted of taking part in raids on Azeri territory last June. The convicted men, from Russia's 7th Army, have no right of appeal and will be shot, Interfax said.

SWITZERLAND

UN agency to fight **female** circumcision

GENEVA -- The World Health Organization declared war Wednesday against the genital mutilation each year of millions of prepubescent girls. WHO experts estimate more than 80 million **females** from 30 countries have been subjected to the potentially lethal circumcision, mostly in Muslim states in East and West Africa. Officials say **female** circumcision is variously an attempt to suppress sexual appetite, to ensure monogamous behavior or to prevent rape.

ISRAEL

WORLD BRIEFLY

Arabs stab soldiers in West Bank attack

GAZA -- Two Arabs stabbed and wounded two Israeli soldiers, one seriously, in the occupied West Bank city of Nablus Wednesday in revenge for the killing of six Hamas guerillas on the Israeli-Egyptian border on Saturday and Monday. In Gaza, Israeli troops fired on Palestinians protesting the killing of the guerrillas. A 13-year-old boy was killed. Palestinians said another 30 people were injured, but hospitals reported treating only six.

IRAN

Cruise missiles added to arsenal

LONDON -- Iran has purchased eight supersonic cruise missiles from Ukraine to control the tanker route into the Persian Gulf, Britain's Observer newspaper reported. The purchase of the Sunburst missiles was characterized as being part of an aggressive program by Iran to regain military strength lost in its 1980-88 war with Iraq and to become a regional superpower. In addition to the eight missiles, Iran bought up to 50 MiG-29 and other combat aircraft, more than 200 T-72M1 tanks and the S-300 air-defence system, the paper said.

ITALY

Businessman latest corruption suspect

ROME -- Italy's unrelenting corruption scandal ensnared another major figure Wednesday. Police arrested Franco Nobili, chairman of IRI, Italy's huge state industrial conglomerate and its largest employer. He was charged with corruption and violating party financing laws, news agencies said.

GERMANY

Union threatens to spread strikes

BERLIN -- Germany's largest union threatened Wednesday to spread a metalworkers' strike across Eastern Germany, and said 300,000 workers rallied in solidarity throughout the country. Leaders of the IG Metall union were scheduled to resume contract talks with employers today. About 40,000 metalworkers, steelworkers and those in related industries have been on strike in Eastern Germany since May 3. Workers are demanding implementation of a pay raise of more than 20 per cent. Businesses say they can afford only nine per cent.

(Citizen news services)

Load-Date: May 14, 1993

Caught between a rock and a hard place

The Independent (London)

December 28, 1992, Monday

Copyright 1992 Independent Print Ltd

Section: INTERNATIONAL NEWS PAGE; Page 8

Length: 642 words

Byline: By CHARLES RICHARDS, Middle East Editor

Body

THERE is little Palestinians relish more than the opportunity to bemoan their fate as the victims of the machinations of foreign forces larger than themselves. And between them, the Israeli and Lebanese governments have conspired to fuel that sense of resentment and victimisation.

For sheer indifference to human suffering, there is little to choose between the Israeli and Lebanese governments over the plight of the 415 Palestinians deported by Israel to southern Lebanon. The Israelis refused permission for the Red Cross to take a food convoy through the Israeli enclave in southern Lebanon to alleviate the suffering of the Palestinians. And the Lebanese on Friday ordered that a small number of the deportees, who had been taken to hospital with various ailments, be discharged and sent back to their bleak campsite in the mountains.

But then the suspension of the Palestinians in this limbo somewhere between Israeli-controlled south Lebanon and Lebanese-administered south Lebanon reflects the divide in political cultures between the two, and has nothing to do with humanitarian concerns.

For the Israeli Prime Minister, Yitzhak Rabin, the situation is clear. The men are no longer on Israeli territory. Therefore they are no longer an Israeli responsibility. If the Lebanese or the Arab world are so concerned about their plight, perhaps they should do something about them.

For the Lebanese, their resolved stiffened by a new prime minister and an assertive Syria, the issue is also one of principle and precedent. Quite simply, they do not wish to permit the entry of the deported men lest sometime in the future Israel might decide to expel, say, 4,000 men in one go to Lebanon or Jordan. For even if those hardline Likud ministers who believed in the "transfer" of the Palestinian population across the Jordan are no longer in power, many Arabs suspect that the hidden Israeli solution to the Palestinian problem is its elimination through the enforced deportation of the population of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

There is little sympathy in Israel for the deported Palestinians. Many see the rise of obscurantist Islamist militancy as something beyond understanding. It has been suggested that Mr Rabin acted to appease his own hardline supporters. But polls show that 91 per cent of Israeli Jews supported the deportations, a near unanimity almost without precedent.

The incident which sparked the deportations again reflected the cultural divide between Israelis and Palestinians. Israelis regarded the kidnapping and murder of the border policeman Nissim Toledano as cowardly, dishonourable and barbarous. Palestinians saw him as a uniformed member of the armed forces which have occupied their land for the past 25 years and therefore a legitimate target in a resistance struggle. He was of course picked up in Israel

Caught between a rock and a hard place

proper: but Hamas sees Israel as an aberration, doomed to survive only a moment of history, like the Crusader kingdom, before Palestine reverts to Islamic rule. Palestinians ask why they should condemn an Israel border guard's killing when Israel shows little remorse in the killing of women and children in the intifada.

Deportations have always been the harshest sanction deployed by the Israelis. It has also been the most effective. For it is not merely rhetoric that makes Palestinians declare they would prefer death (or martyrdom as they invariably put it) to exile. For separation from the land of their forefathers cuts them off from what gives them their national specificity.

The targets are nearly always the political leaders the Israeli authorities wish to see out of the way, the journalists and doctors and trades union officials, accused usually of subversion and incitement. Palestinians suspected of acts of violence are nearly always tried and imprisoned.

Letters, page 12

(Photograph omitted)

The Week

The The Sunday Times (London) (London)

May 5, 1996; Sunday

Copyright 1996 Times Newspapers Limited

Section: Features

Length: 638 words

Byline: Walter Ellis; Mellor and Nolan;Letter

Body

An uplifting debate

The Opinion divides on the cleavage question. Berlei, the bra manufacturer, boasted last week it was its Bustier that gave a lift to the Bennet sisters in the BBC's epic literary soap, *Pride and Prejudice*. The corporation, for its part, insists Elizabeth, Jane, Lydia, Kitty and Mary reached into our living rooms without resorting to high-tech corsetry.

Nobody doubts that the bosoms of Jane Austen's heroines heaved prettily. Yet today's **women** can equally put on a bold front. Dannii Minogue, the television presenter, revealed last week how she boosted her bust from a compact 34B to a top-heavy, and painful, 34D. Pamela Anderson Lee, star of the thriller *Barb Wire*, has famously built an entire career around her enhanced embonpoint. Their forward-looking policy adds measurably to our viewing pleasure.

Windsor watch

The Queen on Monday graciously consented to a 1,000-horse equine pageant to celebrate her golden wedding anniversary in November next year. Prince Philip, one hopes, will have cheered up by then. He has been in mourning following the death of Helene Cordet, a 1940s cabaret star, rumoured to have caught his fancy. There was a mordant protestation from James Hewitt that he was prepared to die for his one-time lover, HRH The Princess of Wales. Ex-HRH the Duchess of York let it be known she was willing to take to the catwalk as the next Naomi Campbell.

Win of the week

While Derek Lewis, former head of the prison service, plans how to spend the Pounds 220,000-plus he won last week in settlement of his wrongful dismissal claim against the Home Office, spare a thought for his hapless replacement. Richard Tilt may be terrific at negotiating his way out of a riot but, fortunately for Michael Howard, he seems less adept at negotiating pay. He is to receive just Pounds 67,000 half of Lewis's salary. Criminal, I calls it.

Week in, week out

Not mad: Wimpy, the fast-food chain, announced it was to put British beefburgers back on the menu; Michael Barrymore was laid up, suffering from stress, in a psychiatric hospital.

Disgruntled: John Perry, the new Bishop of Chelmsford, complained his diocesan mansion, complete with pool, was simply not good enough.

The Week

Over the moon: Glenn Hoddle, the born-again Chelsea manager, was appointed England coach, with a mission to usher in a second renaissance on the pitch.

Theory of the week

Depressives have long enjoyed a particular cachet in the world of letters. Now, Dr Felix Post, a retired psychiatric consultant, tells us it is something to do with intensity of imagination". Then he says that half the poets whose cases he has examined were unable to achieve complete sexual union", while 42% of dramatists were known for their promiscuity.

What can this mean? Since only 31% of the poets in Post's psycho-anthology were alcoholics, against a hefty 54% of playwrights, brewer's droop does not appear to enter the equation. Are we to assume Shakespeare was an impotent soak and a womaniser? No wonder he died before his time.

Object of the week

Mobile phones. Once, they were a nuisance in restaurants. But the menace posed by telephone terrorism has recently become rather more than social. Dzhokhar Dudayev, the former Chechen rebel leader, is rumoured to have been assassinated, long-distance, via his mobile phone. The last thing he heard before being permanently disconnected, apparently, was a Russian operator telling him, one second please, putting you through. This was not the first use of new technology to cut off non-subscribers. In January, Shin Bet, the Israeli secret police, allegedly topped Hamas's chief bomb-maker, Dudayev-style.

The last word

Peggy Siegal, a New York publicist, on hearing that the Princess of Wales may be about to rent a home in the Hamptons, Long Island's exclusive summer retreat: There goes the neighbourhood."

Load-Date: May 10, 1996

Bomb threat prompts USF to move up exams

The Tampa Tribune (Florida)

April 16, 1996, Tuesday,

FINAL EDITION

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Section: NATION/WORLD,

Length: 667 words

Byline: CATHY CUMMINS; Tribune Staff Writer

Dateline: TAMPA

Body

Exams for the 28,000 students on USF's Tampa campus will come a week early this semester in response to a threat to bomb a campus building April 29, the university announced Monday.

Officials said they are concerned about setting a precedent of responding to threats, but decided to err on the side of caution after consulting with law enforcement officials.

Exams on the Tampa campus, originally set for April 26 through May 2, will begin Friday and end April 25. Exams on other campuses and televised classes will remain the same.

"There's some concern, but what are we supposed to do?" Kathy Stafford, vice president for development, asked after a morning news conference. "We can ignore it totally and hope nothing will happen, or we can shut down the campus completely, or we can try to ensure the safety of our students and faculty and hope that that's enough."

On March 25, the University of South Florida's campus newspaper, the Oracle, received a letter from "The One, the War Purgers," threatening to bomb an administration building, kill a white **female** professor and plant a fake device in an eating area.

The letter included references to the April 19, 1995, Oklahoma City bombing but threatened action on April 29, the second day of exams. The letter claimed the "War Purgers" were connected to the Palestinian terrorist groups **Hamas** and the Islamic Jihad as well as to neo-Nazis.

It also said Jihad leader Ramadan Abdullah Shallah, a former USF adjunct professor, was due an apology from the "biased, racist" American media and demanded the paper publish the letter.

Bomb threats aren't unknown at USF. Campus police usually search the area and inform staff members and sometimes evacuate buildings, said Sgt. Michael Klingebiel.

This threat is different because it was written in a letter and was specific, Stafford said.

"In the 20-plus years that I have been here, there has not been a threat like this or precautions that have been taken this extensively," said Associate Vice Provost Bernard Mackey.

Bomb threat prompts USF to move up exams

Moving one day's worth of exams wasn't feasible, he said. In Cooper Hall alone, more than 300 exams involving 6,000 students were scheduled for April 29, he said.

Reactions from students were mixed. Many worried about rescheduling study and work time, or whether professors would make allowances when grading their finals.

"I think the terrorist threat should be taken seriously, but I don't think (shifting finals week) is an appropriate response," said May Becker, 24, a geology major. "It makes it a little too easy for groups to influence the entire campus."

Emmanuel Michel, 19, a history major, disagreed.

"People's lives are at stake," Michel said. "Safety comes first."

The letter was turned over to university police and the Federal Bureau of Investigation. It has been sent to Washington, D.C., for analysis, said Capt. Pat Johnson of the USF police.

The investigation is continuing and FBI officials have been in touch with USF, spokesman Brian Kensel said, adding that the bureau did not tell the university to move exams.

Stafford said the university is not planning to publish the letter. The university will be "on an altered schedule" April 29, according to a memo from Provost Thomas Tighe, but details will be announced later this week.

Rules governing the state's nine public universities require a year-round session of 210 days, not including exam days, said Board of Regents spokesman Alan Stonecipher, but regents can approve exemptions. Stafford said USF President Betty Castor had talked to Chancellor Charles Reed about the university's plan and he concurred with it.

The university has offered a \$ 10,000 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the person or people responsible for the letter.

Anyone with information is encouraged to contact the FBI at 273-4566 or USF police at 974-2628.

USF also has set up recorded information lines for students and their parents: 974-7500 and 1-800-992-4231. The message will be updated as information is available.

Load-Date: April 18, 1996

Israel's blunt instrument

Evening Standard (London)

April 19, 1996

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Section: Pg. 9

Length: 655 words

Body

ONE of the principal objectives of terrorism is to provoke governments into acts of repression against a minority of activists, which in turn rouse the sympathy of a mass of the civil population against the oppressors. Hezbollah have succeeded triumphantly in this purpose on the Lebanese border. Their ineffectual rocket bombardment against Northern Israel stirred an Israeli government on the eve of a general election into a disproportionate military response. Inevitably, since force is a blunt instrument, the consequences for the civil population of southern Lebanon have been appalling. A single salvo of Israeli shells yesterday killed more innocent women and children than the Hamas suicide bombers in Jerusalem, whose actions provoked this retaliation. And since the Israeli shells were ordered by a government professing civilised standards, the world is likely to judge these acts more harshly than those of the terrorists, whose murderous acts are understood to be the work of only a fanatical faction. It may be argued, as did Anne Applebaum on this page yesterday, that Israel could not merely stand passive in the face of Hezbollah's attacks. But have Israel's deeds in southern Lebanon this week advanced the interests of her people, or the defence of their state, one iota? There must be a lesson here, and not only the terrible one learnt by those who died yesterday. Those who inflicted the carnage must now pause for thought.

Paying up

THIS Government has an unhappy knack of alienating its natural supporters.

The doctors, the judges, the farmers, the lawyers, the army, the church - if the Government had actually set out with the fixed and settled purpose of infuriating them, it could not have managed the job more effectively. Now, it seems, a new group of Tory-inclined middle-class folk has come into the Government's cross-hair sights, ready to be picked off: parents aspiring to send their children to independent schools. The Inland Revenue has announced that school fee annuity plans - set up to generate income to cover school fees - do not count as 'charitable' trusts and so will have tax slapped on them. Parents who have already paid considerable lump sums into these schemes will now suddenly find that, after tax, the interest is not as great as they had been promised, and they will have to struggle to make up the shortfall. It seems a gross breach of trust for people who are arguably taking pressure off the State system - for which they themselves are paying from their (increasing) tax bill. When Revenue officials proposed taxing homeowners' mortgage protection insurance last May, the Chancellor came down on them like a ton of bricks and that scheme was smartly withdrawn. Mr Clarke must do exactly the same thing now. If he does not, it will be a tax gaffe quite as bad as Clare Short's.

Hapless Mr Diggle

MANY readers yesterday may have felt a twinge of sympathy on reading of the conviction for being drunk and disorderly of Angus Diggle, the disgraced Scottish solicitor. Mr Diggle, it may be remembered, was convicted and

Israel 's blunt instrument

imprisoned for attempted rape after an incident with his date following a dance which many people will have felt did not deserve conviction on so grave a charge. Mr Diggle is plainly not a happy, or comfortable, or even endearing man. But heaven knows, he has suffered dreadful notoriety and professional ruin. It might have been charitable if the policemen with whom he had an altercation, or subsequently their senior officers, had decided not to press charges. Judging from the evidence at yesterday's hearing, Mr Diggle behaved with the boorishness alcohol brings upon many people. He was extraordinarily foolish to pick an argument with two policemen in the street. But did his behaviour really merit the full weight and majesty of another court appearance, another orgy of publicity for a man whose worst sin - if we are honest - is to behave like a nerd?

Load-Date: April 22, 1996

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ISRAEL'S BLUNT INSTRUMENT

Evening Standard (London)

April 19, 1996

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Section: Pg. 9

Length: 671 words

Body

ONE of the principal

objectives of terrorism is to provoke governments into acts of repression against a minority of activists, which in turn rouse the sympathy of a mass of the civil population. Hezbollah have succeeded triumphantly in this purpose on the Lebanese border. Their rocket bombardment against Northern Israel stirred an Israeli government on the eve of a general election into a disproportionate military response. Inevitably, since force is a blunt instrument, the consequences for the civil population of southern Lebanon have been appalling. A single salvo of Israeli shells yesterday killed more innocent women and children than the Hamas suicide bombers in Jerusalem. And since the Israeli shells were ordered by a government professing civilised standards, the world is likely to judge these acts more harshly than those of the terrorists, whose murderous acts are understood to be the work of only a fanatical faction. It may be argued, as did Anne Applebaum on this page yesterday, that Israel could not merely stand passive in the face of Hezbollah's attacks. But Syria, not its hapless client Lebanon, is the real architect of anti-Israeli terrorism. If Israel wants to retaliate, Syria is the only legitimate target. The Israeli government has made the cardinal mistake of adopting inappropriate military means to achieve largely political objectives. It is Mr Shimon Peres's fear of the mounting popularity of his extremist rivals in Likud which led him to adopt this course. But have Israel's deeds in southern Lebanon this week advanced the interests of her people, or the defence of her state, one iota? There must be a lesson here, and not only the terrible one learnt by those who died yesterday.

The legal scrum

NO-ONE could feel anything but

sympathy for the terrible injuries suffered by Mr Ben Smoldon, a rugby player who, at 17 years old, was paralysed for life when a scrum collapsed.

But, surely, we must feel extreme disquiet at today's news that Mr Smoldon has actually won a High Court legal action against the match referee, Mr Michael Nolan, on the grounds of having 'fallen below the standard of reasonable competence' and failing to understand or enforce crucial laws on scrummaging. The question of compensation, however - Mr Smoldon claims £1 million - has yet to be settled. Obviously, it is crucial that someone in a position of trust discharges his responsibility for young people's safety.

But this case has grave implications, not merely for sport, but for the rest of society as well. Increasingly, a new culture of litigiousness erodes the notion of individual responsibility. When we suffer injury or setback of any sort, we look around for someone to blame and someone to sue. In the end we will all pay for this madness - through increased insurance premiums.

ISRAEL 'S BLUNT INSTRUMENT

Because no-one will engage in any public, organised activity of any kind without being insured up to the hilt against lawsuits. We must not go down the American path to a lawsuit-crazed society. In this imperfect world, we are all subject to mishap. This cannot always be rectified in the courts.

The legal profession and the general public have to be reminded in these cases to keep within the bounds of common sense.¹⁰¹

Cave women

WE have long been accustomed to the

idea of the caveman as the macho hunter-gatherer, out and about all day whacking hairy mammoths while his hausfrau spouse keeps the cave spick and span. But Professor Anna Roosevelt, a Chicago archaeologist, has journeyed deep into the Brazilian Amazon and discovered traces of an 11,000-year-old politically correct primitive human settlement, where the food remains show a culture based on gathering nuts and berries. These tasks, says Professor Roosevelt, could just as easily have been carried out by women or even children. How intriguing that in the Americas of long ago, a distant ancestress of Hillary Clinton - her leopardskin pelt immaculately tailored - showing the way to the role-sharing culture American woman so enjoys today.

Load-Date: April 22, 1996

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In Embattled Hebron, Balloting Goes Smoothly

The New York Times

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Byline: By JOEL GREENBERG

By JOEL GREENBERG

Dateline: HEBRON, West Bank, Jan. 20

Body

Aref Jaber, a 21-year-old stone-cutter, knows what he wants most from the government Palestinians chose today in their first general elections.

"Through the legislative council we can get the settlers out of here," he said as groups of Jews, some wearing prayer shawls and guns, passed down the street from a Palestinian polling station. They were returning from Sabbath prayers at the Tomb of the Patriarchs shrine, where 29 Muslims were massacred by a settler nearly two years ago.

"Muslims and Jews are like fire and gasoline," Mr. Jaber added. "We can't live together, not us and not them."

But the explosive mix was mostly defused today by heavy reinforcements of Israeli soldiers and police, who formed a human buffer between Arabs and Jews in the center of this tense town of 100,000, where 450 settlers live in a heavily protected enclave.

Despite warnings this week of possible disruptions by settlers, the Palestinian elections in Hebron went smoothly, with the only violence coming from the Arab side, when a Palestinian stabbed and lightly wounded a 15-year-old Jewish girl near the local market.

The settlers seemed resigned to the voting, conceding that there was little they could do in the face of the massed troops and police officers.

"It's bad for us, because the elections give the Arabs more political power and world recognition," said Chani Lior, a woman from the neighboring settlement of Beit Haggai who strolled the streets with her family along with scores of other Jewish visitors who arrived this weekend to show support.

But other settlers said the elections were only a small facet of what they see as a larger disaster: the Israeli Government's handover of much of the West Bank to Palestinian control. "The elections are not the problem; it's the whole process," said Noam Arnon, the spokesman for the Jewish community here.

In Embattled Hebron, Balloting Goes Smoothly

Israeli troops are supposed to withdraw from most of Hebron in March, handing Arab neighborhoods to Palestinian policemen while remaining to protect the Jewish settlers. But unarmed Palestinian officers in uniform were already here today, watching polling stations along with plainclothes Palestinian security men.

In one station, a woman in traditional Muslim head-covering balanced a baby on her knees as she sat behind a cardboard booth, filling in red-and-white election forms under signs that said: "Be a part of the decision-making." Many women said that they were voting freely, and had not been told whom to vote for by their husbands.

Although Israeli forces stayed out of Arab neighborhoods, voter turnout in Hebron was lower than in other West Bank cities, reflecting wide support for the Islamic group Hamas, which rejects the agreements with Israel under which the elections were held. Religious feeling runs deep in Hebron, and many devout Muslims stayed away from the polls, arguing that the only legitimate government would be one based on the Koran.

But for many Palestinians who did vote here and in surrounding villages and refugee camps, the elections could only have one meaning.

"This is the first step toward a Palestinian state," said Abdel Qader Titi, who voted with his wife in the Al-Arub camp. "We're electing a Palestinian parliament that will make policy and pass laws. This is the cornerstone of a state."

Nadia Abu Sharar, a teacher who also voted at Al-Arub, said that voting was liberating. "It's the first step to begin to feel your independence, to feel at home again, that this your land," she said. "After years of occupation, it's good to feel free again and that you can choose your future. Really, it's a great feeling."

Graphic

Photo: While Palestinians voted in the West Bank city of Hebron yesterday, Jewish settlers put on a show of force by parading through the streets. Guarded by armed settlers, Rabbi Moshe Levinger walked in the city's center. (Rina Castelnovo for The New York Times)

Load-Date: January 21, 1996

Rules of engagement; Even if the Middle East peace talks take place later this month, they are unlikely to bring much comfort to the Gaza Strip. For in a place where God

The Independent (London)

October 20, 1991, Sunday

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Section: THE SUNDAY REVIEW PAGE; Page 8

Length: 2032 words

Byline: By MICHAEL SHERIDAN

Body

THROUGHOUT the hot afternoon of Monday 5 August a cream-coloured Peugeot 405 cruised up and down the alleyways of a Palestinian refugee camp called Shati, on the Mediterranean shore just north of Gaza City.

At half-past seven in the evening it was parked outside a building known to local people as the White Mosque. The mosque dominates a square where four dirt roads meet. In more pleasant coastal cities, it might be a gracious piazza. In Shati, a shanty town, it provides a focus of Islamic fervour and a rendezvous with the Israeli army, whose ritual patrols invite a furious reaction.

One needs to recall a few facts about the Gaza Strip. More than three-quarters of a million Palestinians are cooped up in its narrow territory. Their homes are spotless, their surroundings fetid. The Egyptians governed the place in corrupt and slovenly fashion for 19 years. The Israelis conquered it in the Six Day War. From sullen acceptance of the occupation, its people broke out into violent mutiny - the intifada - in 1987. Hundreds have died, shot by soldiers or butchered by their compatriots for "collaboration".

All this for a sliver of coast that is meaningless in military terms and of practically no economic worth. General Allenby skirted its Ottoman defences in the Palestine campaign of the First World War. Moshe Dayan did

not want the Israeli generals to invade it in 1967, and was furious when they did. Anwar Sadat did not even ask for its return when he negotiated his peace treaty with Israel. Since the peace with Egypt, even hard-line Israeli ministers have a tough time explaining just why Israel wants to stay in Gaza. One day, perhaps, it might be a bargaining chip in a diplomatic settlement. Until then, the Israelis fight a

covert "dirty war" against the Palestinian

underground and keep a tight lid on the camps. And on that Monday afternoon in August, the "dirty war" came to Shati.

"There were five men inside the car," recalled Mohammed Hammad, a 22-year-old student who was in the square. Its occupants appeared to be Arabs. "Two masked men were outside the mosque," Mohammed continued. "One began spraying a slogan on the wall and the other was handing out leaflets."

Rules of engagement; Even if the Middle East peace talks take place later this month, they are unlikely to bring much comfort to the Gaza Strip. For in a place

It was a convenient moment for agitation. Dusk was at hand. From the loudspeakers of the White Mosque there issued the call to sunset prayer. As the worshippers congregated, so the masked men, members of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, proposed to sow left-wing ideas in their souls.

"The first masked man had just written 'The Democratic Front calls for . . .' when one man jumped out of the car and put a pistol to his head," Mohammed said. "Then another man leapt from the car and began firing at the activist distributing leaflets. He shot him. The man collapsed. Then people went crazy."

The cream-coloured Peugeot contained an Israeli army undercover squad, intent on a quick "snatch" operation to capture activists. Their plans were about to go fatally wrong. Mohammed Hammad saw people hurling stones at the Peugeot. The Israeli gunmen, disguised in shabby clothes and Palestinian scarves, fired shots at them. Mohammed, too, picked up a rock and threw it at the car.

About three minutes' walk away, in a one- storey house, 17-year-old Rafa'at al-Fassis heard the screams and shooting.

The story of Rafa'at's family is a familiar recital of the woes of their nation. In 1948, Ibrahim al-Fassis took his young wife and fled south from the village of Yibna, inland from Ashqelon. In the eternally disputed circumstances of that year, thousands of Palestinian villagers ran for their lives to the Gaza Strip while the armies of the new state of Israel swept south from Tel Aviv. Yibna is now the Israeli town of Yavne, complete with new concrete apartment blocks for Soviet Jews and a BurgerRanch fast food outlet.

"We lived in tents for two years," recalled Ibrahim Al-Fassis, who is now 81. "Then we built this house with our own hands. We had many children, six sons and two daughters." From this tiny, cramped home, the al-Fassis boys made an astonishing drive for advancement. One son became an accountant, another a teacher. Rafa'at Al-Fassis, the youngest of the six sons, was finishing high school. But he had more on his mind than exams. "He was very religious," said his oldest brother, Zaki. "This made him polite at home and hard-working at school. We were hoping for him, too, to go on to higher education."

Zaki and the other brothers offered tea and showed a photograph album. Rafa'at, a wide- eyed baby, staring from his mother's arms in an old black-and-white print. Rafa'at with teenage friends, in T-shirts, jeans and Reeboks. A solemn Rafa'at, growing a wisp of a moustache, staring out from his Israeli-issued identity card. As the pages were turned, old Ibrahim al-Fassis grew rheumy-eyed and fell silent.

On that Monday evening, Rafa'at had been fasting. It was a voluntary act of self-denial. For while his brothers sympathised with Yasser Arafat, or the Popular Front, he had embraced a more profoundly affecting creed. Harakat al- Muqawama al-Islamiya, the Islamic Resistance Movement, or Hamas, is the fastest-growing revolutionary group in Gaza. It preaches fundamentalism, commitment, bravery and martyrdom. Its very name means "zeal". Rafa'at al-Fassis had more than once donned a mask and hurled stones in its service. He was one of the Hamas shebab - "the boys". When the shooting started, he had but one reaction.

"I saw Rafa'at come rushing from his house," Mohammed Harad recalled. "He was screaming and yelling. Everybody was. The whole camp was out. The Israelis were shooting in bursts to keep us back. We saw streaks

of fire pass between us. And nobody cared!

We just kept smashing them with stones." The

undercover squad, trapped, radioed for help to save their own lives.

IT IS NOT possible to find the men who were there that day. But I talked at length to an Israeli soldier who served in Gaza with a rescue team - Tsevet Chelutz is the army's Hebrew term - and who described an almost identical experience. "Our vehicles rushed to the scene shooting with everything we had except live rounds," he said. "There's incredible adrenalin

Rules of engagement; Even if the Middle East peace talks take place later this month, they are unlikely to bring much comfort to the Gaza Strip. For in a place

flowing. You're just hoping to get in and out as fast as you can. You check your helmet, visor, make sure your gun is strapped to you. There's incredible noise, rocks falling, people screaming, shock grenades exploding. We had to extract these undercover guys fast.

"We're given very strict rules about opening fire," the soldier explained. "If you break them, it's a court martial. But you just can't let the locals get too close. Every soldier knows what would happen. We're also told that if you believe your life is in danger, or you see the life of another soldier in danger, then don't hesitate. Shoot to kill. Don't even think about it."

No aspect of this story is in dispute. The Israeli army spokesman's office confirmed that its men opened fire in Shati camp that evening. The shebab do not dispute that they would have killed the undercover squad, had they got hold of them. The Israeli Defence Minister, Moshe Arens, has stated the policy with absolute clarity: "The open-fire procedures are clear and unequivocal," he said. "Whoever endangers a person's life, be it with live weapons or a stone, endangers his own life."

Rafa'at al-Fassis and the rest of the crowd, hurling rocks and stones, had surrounded the undercover unit. When three vehicles of the Tsevet Chalutz careered into the square by the White Mosque, they too were attacked in a frenzy. Rafa'at must have been conspicuous among the stone-throwers.

"One of the jeeps was only four or five metres away," Mohammed Harad said. "Rafa'at was screaming 'Allahu Akhbar! Allahu Akhbar! God is great! I saw him bend down to pick up another stone when a bullet hit him. I saw it. It went right into the top of his head. He fell down right away.'" The shebab picked him up. "He could still speak," Mohammed continued, his face lighting up at the recollection. "We said to him: 'You are dying, Rafa'at, you are dying. Say the Shahada, say it.' " As the group dragged him to an ambulance, Mohammed Hammad heard his friend gasp the profession of faith known to every Muslim - "There is no God but God" - over and over again.

The ambulance got him to Shifa hospital, near the camp, within minutes. Taher Shriteh, a Palestinian journalist who covers the Gaza Strip with great energy for Reuters news agency, arrived at the hospital shortly afterwards. "It was like a slaughterhouse," he said. "They had brought in the dying and injured from Shati camp. I saw blood all over the floor, on the mattresses and on the walls.

"People were crying out and weeping. I saw two women beating their faces with their hands. All the time the shebab were chanting 'Allahu Akbar'. They began confronting the army again outside."

Taher Shriteh is known for his accurate, eyewitness reporting of life and death in Gaza. Nobody has challenged his coverage of that day's events, and, in many respects, it tallies with the army's own. Except in one detail: the forensic reality of his account.

"Rafa'at al-Fassis was lying on a trolley in one corner of the room," he continued. "There were four medical staff working on him. One was ventilating his lungs. They were sucking blood out of his throat with a machine. He was connected to a heart monitor. But his eyes were already closed." The crown of his skull was gone.

The staff raised no objection when Taher Shriteh took a photograph. It shows the scene he described. The haemorrhage from the boy's head had spread like a red halo on the white Israeli-supplied sheet with its Hebrew markings. A doctor who was one of Shriteh's many friends in the hospital turned to the reporter. "It's just a waste of time for him," the doctor said. "This guy will die."

None the less, they were not ready to give up. In one of those bitter ironies with which this conflict abounds, Rafa'at was rushed out of the Gaza Strip for intensive care in Israel. An Israeli soldier had shot him; now Israeli doctors at the Hadassah Ein Kerem Hospital, in Jerusalem, would try to save him. But Rafa'at never regained consciousness. He died nine days later.

The al-Fassis family still speak with a certain wonder of the dedication that the Israeli staff at Hadassah put into a hopeless case. But there is where the charity ends. "They killed him in cold blood," said Zaki al-Fassis, his brother.

Rules of engagement; Even if the Middle East peace talks take place later this month, they are unlikely to bring much comfort to the Gaza Strip. For in a place

Two other young men had also received fatal wounds in the incident, and dozens of men, women and children were treated for injuries. "You have to remember," said the Israeli soldier who told me about the rescue squads, "that these incidents are very different from an ordinary confrontation. The soldiers were trapped. By the nature of things they become more likely to fire. The locals get braver. They don't run away. I have to say that for the army this sounds like a major own goal. And what did we get out of it - two graffiti sprayers?"

The army ordered Rafa'at to be buried at night and surrounded the Martyrs' Graveyard to enforce its command that only 20 people should attend his interment. "But about 170 people crept into the cemetery and they hid among the tombstones in the dark," Zaki recalled. "Then they slept among the graves until dawn, when the curfew was lifted." The brothers took two final photographs by flashlight before his body was laid in the muddy earth. The first shows the dead boy's face, still chubby like a child's, serene in a shroud that covers his wound. In the second, you can see the back of Ibrahim al-Fassis' head, for the old man has just stooped to give his son a farewell kiss.

- Author's note: "Mohammed Hammad" is the pseudonym of a Hamas activist who would risk arrest for his actions on 5 August if he were identified. He was interviewed in the presence of two witnesses and his account matched those of other people at the scene. The Israeli soldier cannot be named under military regulations. He served in an infantry unit in Gaza specialising in work with undercover squads. His name, rank, dates of service and unit have been verified.

One million set to vote in poll that may make a nation

Evening Standard (London)

January 19, 1996

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Length: 637 words

Body

A MILLION Palestinians are expected to go the polls tomorrow and cast a vote in a democratic election for the first time in their lives.

They hope that it will be the first step towards having their own state - and fear that the poll could be disrupted by extremists from among the Jewish settlers or the Islamic militants. Schoolteachers have been drafted in to register the voters and to explain the procedure. A day-and-night publicity campaign, on radio, television and hoardings, has been encouraging people to get out and cast their votes. An Austrian company, paid by the Austrian state, is running it.

Just under 700 candidates are competing for 88 seats on the Palestinian authority and there are two candidates for the post of president: Yasser Arafat and a woman veteran who knows she stands no chance.

For the vast majority, voting is a novelty, unless they have another nationality and are thus qualified to vote elsewhere, mostly in Jordan or Iraq. Nevertheless, it is still a first taste of democracy with all its pitfalls. Large numbers of international observers will be present to ensure that the vote is as free and fair as it ever gets in this part of the world. ***Hamas***, the Islamic fundamentalist movement, has withdrawn its candidates and discourages its supporters from voting but says that it will not take any intimidatory measures to stop people from going to the polls.

Jewish settlers have threatened to disrupt the vote in East Jerusalem by invading the post offices which will be used as polling stations and destroying the ballot boxes. Many in East Jerusalem will not vote because they fear losing the social security rights they have as residents of Israel.

There is a general fear on both sides that extremists will provoke violence between Palestinians and Israelis in order to get the Israelis to try to cancel the poll but Prime Minister Shimon Peres says that nothing is going to get in the way as far as he is concerned. Israeli troops have withdrawn according to plan from all the major towns except Hebron, where Jewish settlers still live in the centre, but Israel has banned them from using the road where two Israelis were shot dead this week.

Palestinian homes and shops are plastered with election posters and slogans, a bright new note where anti-Israeli graffiti dominated until recently. Millions of pounds have been poured into the campaign by the candidates - so much that the Palestinian authority will certainly introduce a clause in the new election law limiting expenditure next time.

As a first-time election organised in record time, this one is certainly going to have its hitches but it will result in a first-time democratically elected representation which can take some of the much-needed measures to stamp a Palestinian entity out of the hard-won ground.

One million set to vote in poll that may make a nation

"This election will teach us what kind of people we are," said one potential voter. The atmosphere is one of party time, a celebration of a new-found freedom. Women, who have been prevented by the restrictive rules of their Muslim society from standing for election in any numbers or from going to election rallies, are protesting that they, as 54 per cent of the population, should have their own voice.

Most men think the women will vote as they are instructed by their menfolk but the teachers are telling the women that the vote is secret, and that they should vote for whom they want.

Most of the results are expected to be in by the close of the weekend, in time for people to settle down to the start of Ramadan, the Muslim holy month where day-time fasting - and night-time feasting - inhibits most political and business activity.

Only one thing is certain: that the president will be Yasser Arafat, and that his Fatah movement will be in the majority, controlling the new authority from the start.

Graphic

POWER AT LAST: YASSER ARAFAT IS ASSURED OF BEING PRESIDENT

Load-Date: January 22, 1996

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FIGURING THE PRICE OF MIDEAST PEACE

Daily News (New York)

November 21, 1995, Tuesday

Copyright 1995 Daily News, L.P.

Section: Editorial; Pg. 27

Length: 624 words

Byline: BY RICHARD Z. CHESNOFF

Body

AMMAN, Jordan I saw the Mideast peace process at work during breakfast this morning. At one table in my hotel dining room sat eight bearded Saudi sheiks in long white flowing robes, fresh from prayers at a nearby mosque.

At another, a group of visiting American Baptists joined hands in grace. Nearby, a long table of Orthodox Israeli tourists, the men in yarmulkes, the women in modest long-sleeve dresses, made the Hebrew hamotzi blessing over bread.

Granted, these three groups weren't breaking pita together not yet, anyway. But at least they were in the same room, simultaneously and peacefully. It's something you would not have seen 14 months ago.

Open arms and applause

For anyone familiar with the old Mideast, the sight of busloads of Israelis visiting Jordan is as promising as it is startling. Even more encouraging is the politeness, even warmth, with which the 50,000 Israeli visitors who've crossed the border to date have been received in Jordan.

In turn, Jordanian visitors to Israel have received red carpet welcomes. Some of these first encounters underscore the human excitement of this still delicate peace.

Take Amman travel agent Metri Twal, a self-confessed "closet fan" of Israel's Maccabi Tel Aviv football team for more than two decades. When peace broke out, Metri told an American TV interviewer that he most looked forward to seeing Maccabi on its own playing field.

The Maccabi team heard about their No. 1 Jordanian fan and invited him to Tel Aviv as an honored guest. When Metri was introduced, an entire stadium of Israelis stood on its feet and cheered him!

To be sure, not every one of King Hussein's 3 million subjects is as happy about Jordan's peace accord with Israel as Metri Twal.

Some of this country's self-appointed "intellectuals" and a handful of hack journalists and trade unionists who are probably still on Saddam Hussein's payroll (buying support among Jordanians is an old Iraqi custom) have declared open war on the accord. The king has called on Jordan's silent majority whom he believes supports peace to speak out loudly. It's much the same message heard in Israel in the wake of the Rabin assassination.

FIGURING THE PRICE OF MIDEAST PEACE

The fly in the royal ointment is Jordan's economy. Though the U.S. already has forgiven some half billion dollars in Jordanian debts, the desert kingdom was banking on a major postpeace infusion of investment capital and American economic aid to help build confidence in its lagging economy.

Despite pleas from both Hussein and the late Yitzhak Rabin, the White House hasn't come through yet. The administration must move quickly. If Arab-Israeli peace is to succeed, it's going to be largely because people of the region see the economic benefits that can be reaped through peace.

The one group that even an economic boom won't convince is Jordan's religious fringe the Islamic extremists, who like their fanatical brethren in Gaza, the West Bank, Egypt and throughout the entire Mideast reject any thought of peace with a Jewish state.

Their Jewish soulmates at least when it comes to killing the peace accord are those fanatics of the Orthodox fringe who misinterpret Torah and halachic law to justify hatred and murder.

All nations especially those in the Mideast must do all legally possible to crush these anti-democrats. And the U.S. must demand that its friends and allies stop tolerating "religious" terrorists. As U.S. News & World Report reports this week, the car bomb that killed five Americans in Saudi Arabia just last week was probably the work of one of the same bevy of Islamic extremists that the Saudis have been financially supporting for years from **Hamas** in Gaza to Moro rebels in the Philippines.

If Mideast peace is to succeed, abominations by the phony faithful must be stopped!

Load-Date: November 21, 1995

End of Document

NEWS SUMMARY

The New York Times

January 8, 1996, Monday, Late Edition - Final

Copyright 1996 The New York Times Company

Distribution: Metropolitan Desk

Section: Section 1;; Section 1; Page 2; Column 5; Metropolitan Desk; Column 5;; Summary

Length: 708 words

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A MUSLIM APPEAL TO NATO

The Muslim authorities urged NATO to take over the Bosnian city of Mostar to avert more violence between Croats and Muslims there, but NATO officers said they would be very reluctant to expand their mission. 3

PITFALLS OF FOREIGN POLICY

Bosnia, Haiti and coming Russian elections have the potential to deeply embarrass President Clinton, who is now reveling in the mantle of a foreign policy President, some Administration officials say. 3

WILLY THE WHALE IS MOVED

Willy the Whale, who captivated children with his soaring leap to freedom in a Hollywood movie, is being freed from a tepid pool in an amusement park in Mexico City, his home for the last decade. 5

WALESA ATTACKS EX-COMMUNISTS

After Lech Walesa was defeated by a former Communist in presidential elections in November, he vowed to "take the Reds on again." He is doing that now with spying accusations against the new Premier. 6

ARAFAT ACCUSES ISRAEL IN SLAYING

Closing ranks with his Palestinian political opponents, Yasir Arafat accused Israel of assassinating the bomb-maker from the militant group Hamas in the Gaza Strip on Friday. 7

PERRY VISITS SAUDI PRINCE

Defense Secretary William J. Perry met with Saudi Arabia's acting leader and renewed a U.S. pledge of solidarity with regional allies. 7

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FIRST SHUTDOWN, THEN SNOW

The Federal Government was allowed to resume full operations, but the snowstorm that hit the East Coast hobbled work in the nation's capital. 1

POLICY REMAINS A PROBLEM

News Analysis: Not only do the Democrats and the Republicans remain hundreds of billions of dollars apart on certain budget items, those differences are slight compared to their policy divergences. 1

THE GAPS THAT REMAIN

The huge differences between the White House and Congress are most notably over Medicare, Medicaid and welfare. 14

SHUTDOWN'S EFFECTS LINGER

The 21-day shutdown may be over, but it has already taken its toll on workers, home buyers, contractors and businesses from media giants to tourist cabins. 12

LITTLE ALARM AMONG ECONOMISTS

Few economists at the annual meeting of the American Economic Association are alarmed about the deficit as a problem today. 13

SEEKING HOPE IN EGG DONATION

Special Report: Infertile couples are increasingly turning to egg donations, and the young women who can supply the eggs. 1

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Magic Johnson, the basketball star, is spending much of his time now patrolling the corridors of the Magic Johnson Movie Theaters in the heart of Los Angeles's black community. 8

WOMAN SEEKS OWN EXECUTION

Guinevere Garcia, an Illinois woman on death row, is fighting hard to have the State kill her without further delay. 8

LEGAL STUDY FIND SEX BIAS

A report said that despite surging numbers of women lawyers, bias against women remains entrenched in the legal profession. 9

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BLIZZARD CRIPPLES CITY

A monstrous, crippling blizzard that experts said would make history attacked the New York metropolitan region and blanketed much of the East with snow that was expected to be two feet deep before ending today. It disrupted travel, commerce and life for millions. 1

CLOSURES, DELAYS, DAYS OFF

As the blizzard moved across the region, the Coast Guard closed New York Harbor to shipping, frantic shoppers were emptying grocery stores, and students and teachers in New York City schools knew they would be staying home today. 1

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Extinguishing the fires of radical Islamic politics

The Tampa Tribune (Florida)

July 23, 1995, Sunday,

METRO EDITION

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Section: COMMENTARY,

Length: 725 words

Byline: THOMAS L. FRIEDMAN

Dateline: WASHINGTON

Body

During a visit to Turkey in May I met with a columnist for a leading Ankara newspaper and asked him in passing how circulation was. "Great," he told me. It was growing daily. What was their trick? I asked. More sports? Doonesbury? Ann Landers? No, no, he said, it's very simple. "We are giving away commentaries on the Koran with every new subscription."

Not only in Turkey, where the mayors of Ankara and Istanbul come from the Islamic party, but elsewhere in the Middle East, Islamic fundamentalism seems to be either going underground or going mainstream.

That is, fundamentalist groups are either engaging in more hard-core violence and losing to the secular authorities, or playing by the rules of the game and being co-opted by the secular political systems.

But whether their approach is the M-16 or MTV, Islamic fundamentalists seem no longer quite so threatening, their power no longer quite so invincible, their victory march no longer quite so inevitable. Indeed, for the moment - and it may only be a moment - the Islamic fundamentalist phenomenon has peaked.

The reasons are many. To begin with, the violent Islamic groups overplayed their hand. Their tactic of assassinating officials alienated large segments of the public in Egypt and Algeria and triggered a harsh counterreaction from these secular states.

Never underestimate the power of the secular state in the Arab world. These regimes have used all their resources - police, intelligence, the army and ruthlessness - to suppress the violent fundamentalists and to co-opt the nonviolent ones. Since Muslim militants in Egypt almost destroyed the tourism industry there in 1992, the regime has killed 800 fundamentalists in separate shootouts. As the Islamic expert Martin Kramer points out, every Arab ruler threatened by an Islamic opposition "has found a way to contain it or confront it."

They have been aided by the dismal failure of Iran, which has become a living, breathing advertisement against Islamic rule.

Islamic fundamentalism also seems to have lost some edge in places where the secular authorities have done a slightly better job of improving living conditions. The fact that Yasser Arafat today has 60,000 people on his payroll in Gaza has weakened the **Hamas** fundamentalist group, which tends to draw recruits from the desperate.

Extinguishing the fires of radical Islamic politics

Also, Islamic parties that have joined the system are under the same pressure to create jobs as secular parties. The Hezbollah fundamentalists in Lebanon have gone into the tourism business in Baalbek, where a few years ago the only foreigners were hostages who were bound and gagged.

Progress toward settling the Arab-Israeli conflict also seems to have diluted one of the main sources of anger used by fundamentalists to mobilize large constituencies. Jordan's Islamic Action Front was defeated this month in important municipal elections by a pro-government slate that favored peace with Israel.

But is this the start of a long-term trend or just the pause that refreshes before radical political Islam surges anew? A lot depends on whether governments use this pause to undertake serious reforms or avoid them.

Yes, the secular Arab states have quashed violent fundamentalists, but their heavy-handed bureaucracies have also quashed the free flow of information, commerce and entrepreneurship needed to alleviate the poverty that fuels fundamentalism. As the political economist Henri Barkey notes, most Arab regimes have cumbersome state bureaucracies more suited to keeping the ruler in power "than to fostering the growth of a modern competitive society."

That explains why when you cover international economics, you notice that there are two words that never come up: "Arab world."

Arab world growth prospects today are dim, because few Arab governments have instituted the educational reforms, liberation of women, privatization of state industries and downsizing of bureaucracies that countries from Brazil to Indonesia have done to compete in the 21st century. With 50 percent of the Arab world under the age of 18, that is not a healthy situation.

Whether it is the Internet or the global investment highway, the Arabs are not in the game. As long as that continues, the Arab world will stagnate and the environment for radical politics - Islamic or otherwise - will flourish. Thomas L. Friedman is a columnist for The New York Times.

Notes

OPINION; COMMENTARY

Graphic

SIGNATURE

Load-Date: July 25, 1995

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China's one-child policy spawns secret slaughter; Vast exercise in social engineering proves lethal to millions of girls and puts the population out of balance

The Independent (London)

April 10, 1994, Sunday

Copyright 1994 Independent Print Ltd

Section: FOREIGN NEWS PAGE; Page 13

Length: 1508 words

Byline: By RAYMOND WHITAKER

Body

MILLIONS of baby girls are believed to have been quietly put to death in China as a result of its rigid "one-child" policy of population control. In male- dominated rural areas, the pressure to have a son is so strong that girls often disappear shortly after birth, giving parents another chance to ensure their only child is a boy.

Now peasant tradition has found a modern reinforcement - pre-natal scanning. In one rural township where parents have been able to discover the sex of their children in the womb, more than three boys are being born for every two girls. The Communist Party committee in Zaozhuang, in the northern province of Shandong, has warned that officials who have used scanning to detect and abort female babies will be stripped of their posts and membership.

Obtaining evidence of this secret slaughter has never been easy, except for the growing disparity in population statistics. Normally 105 or 106 girls are born for every 100 boys, but the past three censuses in China have recorded more than 110 boys aged 12 months or less for every 100 girls. According to the semi-official China News Service, the gap is far wider in rural areas: newborn boys outnumber girls by an average 144.6 to 100. In Zaozhuang the ratio is 163.8 to 100, an imbalance the agency says is being blamed on pre-natal scanning.

The problem is by no means unique to China. Last week Punjab, where there are only 820 women to every 1,000 men, became the second Indian state after Maharashtra to ban pre- natal sex determination tests, following large-scale abortions of female fetuses. Doctors who abort girls after a test face up to three years in jail under the new law. Britain has no compulsory national guidelines, although the General Medical Council warns that it is unethical to perform abortions on sex grounds except in the case of genetic disorders which are passed on to the next generation only by one sex.

In China, the combined effects of two vast exercises in social engineering are proving lethal to girls. The one-child policy is brutal enough - transgression of it can result in houses being pulled down, peasants being fined a year's wages and heavily pregnant women dragged from their homes at night to be bullied into immediate abortions. Human rights groups say it is also being used to prevent ethnic minorities, who previously had fallen outside its net, becoming a larger proportion of the population.

In Tibet, it is feared that ruthless birth control and the influx of Chinese settlers are making Tibetans a minority within their own borders. But China's rulers are trying to improve the quality of the population as well as limiting the quantity. Theories of eugenics from the 1930s and 1940s, discredited elsewhere, are current: "Apart from failing to

China's one-child policy spawns secret slaughter; Vast exercise in social engineering proves lethal to millions of girls and puts the population out of balance

understand the general moral implications of eugenics policies, they seem unaware that scientifically they don't work," said Frank Dikotter of the School of Oriental and African Studies in London. "You can't improve quality by eliminating so-called 'bad strains'."

The Prime Minister, Li Peng, showed the official understanding of such matters, however, when he said in 1990: "Mentally retarded people will give birth to idiotic children."

Peking last year put forward a draft law on Eugenics and Health Protection "to avoid new births of inferior quality and heighten the standards of the whole population". It proposed that those with hepatitis, venereal disease or mental illness should be banned from marrying, pregnant women with "certain infectious diseases" should be advised to halt the pregnancy, and couples with diseases "should have themselves sterilised". The authorities were unapologetic when the bill provoked an international outcry.

Sheila Hillier, Professor of Medical Sociology at London Hospital Medical College, said China had an extensive programme of genetic counselling before marriage, aimed at eliminating inherited disabilities. "Unfortunately," she added, "many people seem to consider being a girl a genetic defect."

There are already frequent reports of men in parts of rural China complaining of the shortage of marriageable women. One result is the growing incidence of women being kidnapped and sold as brides, an offence for which traffickers have been executed. "It is an economic problem," Professor Hillier said. "Poorer men have trouble finding wives, while those with money can afford more than one."

But if birth control and eugenics continue to do their work, it is not simply going to be poor peasants who face a lifetime of celibacy. Some projections claim that the Chinese population, which the authorities admit will probably reach 1.2 billion this year and will continue growing at least until 2020, could plunge thereafter to 700 million. It is far more likely, however, that social attitudes will change well before then, even if there is little sign of that happening so far.

"If China is hoping that rising prosperity will encourage people to have fewer children, it had better think again," said Professor Hillier. "Demographers are beginning to revise their ideas. It now appears that both above and below a certain band of incomes, people feel they can afford a bigger family."

"Emancipating women, especially raising their educational level, is by far the strongest factor in limiting the number of births. In China it would have the double effect of making girls more valued and stabilising the reproductive capacity of the population as a whole. But it doesn't seem to be grasped as a major policy issue."

The elimination of baby girls in China, said Gerald Segal of the International Institute of Social Studies, "challenges the assumption that new technology and greater prosperity always make things better. It depends on all sorts of other factors, such as social attitudes and cultural bias. In China it is making the problem worse, because they are half a generation away from a peasant society."

(Photograph omitted)

ranks for a less autocratic style of leadership, Mr Arafat declared: "The PLO is one of the democratic oases in the Middle East." He could not resist a jibe at criticisms from salon Palestinians such as Edward Said, the academic based in New York: "More democracy, yes agreed to be "guided by the target dates" in the declaration, Israel had issued a statement saying merely that the negotiations of Gaza and Jericho may be finalised by the end of this month.

"May," said Mr Arafat. "We were preparing to send an advanced group of policemen two days ago but the Israelis refused, putting many excuses."

"But not only that," he added, getting to the bigger bone of contention. "They suspended our talks in Cairo because there was a commemoration of the Holocaust in Israel. Why did they not suspend the negotiation in the economic committee which is still continuing in Paris? What does this mean?"

China's one-child policy spawns secret slaughter; Vast exercise in social engineering proves lethal to millions of girls and puts the population out of balance

"I have the right to ask, is there one Israeli government or two? One government which accepts continuing in Pariddle East. "If there will be no peace, there will be complete confusion in this area, in the most strategic area in the world - confusion and Balkanisation." Asked when he thought he might be able to take up the reins in Jericho, he said: "I can't give you an answer because, as you see, I was supposed to be there since last December. But the Israelis have delayed the peace accord."

Both the West and extremists such as Hamas should take heed, however: "I am the leader of the Palestinian people, not of Fatah or Hamas, or the Popular Front, or the Arab Front, or any other organisation. I am the leader of the Palestinian people according to three elections in the Palestine National Council."

At their Cairo meeting in December, Mr Rabin had promised to return within 10 days and had still not done so. Mr Arafat recalled the words of Egypt's President, Hosni Mubarak: "Next time I will close one of these villas till the white smoke appears." Mr Arafat concluded: "It seems the Israelis do not want the white smoke to appear."

"It is my duty now to call upon the co-sponsors, the international community and the Security Council . . . to bear their responsibility and not to leave me alone."

(Photograph omitted)

, when we are in our own state. Not when we live in the United States, away from our people's daily needs."

Mr Arafat cautioned that further delays would lead to an escalation of extremist acts on both sides. On fundamentalism in general, he issued a covert warning to the US to learn from past mistakes: "This is part of what happened in Afghanistan. Do not forget how these fanatic groups were trained, armed and financed - and here we are. It is not me who has done it. It is the American administration. They gave all kinds of support. Remember? So here we are - the shadow of what was done in Afghanistan."

This was also an oblique reference to allegations that the United States' ally, Saudi Arabia, is financing fundamentalist groups across the M +C GG GC'cc# +C GG GC'cc# +C GG GC'cc# 00100494w0150

Load-Date: April 10, 1994

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World Digest

Hamilton Spectator (Ontario, Canada)

August 14, 1995 Monday Final Edition

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Section: NEWS; Pg. A5

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Body

NEW YORK: THREAT OF ATTACK PUTS THREE AIRPORTS ON ALERT

New York's three airports went on high-security alert after receiving information from law enforcement officers, officials said yesterday.

The heightened alert followed an FBI warning of a possible attack by Islamic radicals, the Long Island newspaper Newsday said.

The Port Authority -- which manages New York City's John F. Kennedy and La Guardia airports and the Newark, N.J., airport -- would not confirm that report.

Newsday said FBI anti-terrorist agents received detailed intelligence that the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, and Hezbollah were planning a possible "suicide massacre" strike.

SPECTATOR WIRE SERVICES

PARIS: ETHNIC TENSION RISES AFTER POLICE BEAT MAN

Three police officers were jailed yesterday in the savage beating of a Moroccan-born man, causing a scandal that could ignite new ethnic tension in Marseille, France's second-biggest city.

The attack comes at a time of simmering ethnic tensions across France. Many French, reeling under high unemployment, see recent immigrants as an economic threat. Authorities also are probing possible North African connections to the July 25 Paris subway bombing that killed seven people.

A judge late yesterday ordered the three officers -- a squad chief, his deputy and a patrol officer -- held indefinitely pending a probe of Friday night's vicious attack on Sid Mohamed Amiri, an unemployed Moroccan-born French citizen.

SRINAGAR, INDIA: NORWEGIAN HOSTAGE DECAPITATED BY REBELS

Kashmiri rebels decapitated a Norwegian tourist they kidnapped a month ago and threatened yesterday to kill their four other hostages unless India frees 15 jailed militants.

A group of women who had gone to fetch water yesterday found the body of Hans Christian Ostro near a canal in the Himalayan village of Seer, police said. The name of the separatist group, Al-Faran, was carved on his chest with a knife. His head was found later, 40 metres (130 feet) away.

The militants left a note in Ostro's shirt pocket threatening to kill the other hostages -- two Britons, a German and an American -- unless their 15 jailed comrades are released.

Indian officials have refused to consider a swap. But a spokesman declined to comment when asked after the killing whether that remains India's policy.

DURA AL-QARA, WEST BANK: DEADLY PROTESTS FOLLOW ISRAEL-PLO AGREEMENT

Protests turned deadly as Israel's cabinet approved an agreement yesterday with the PLO on expanding Palestinian autonomy in the West Bank.

Witnesses said settlers opened fire on Palestinians who ransacked their camp on a rocky West Bank hilltop, killing 22-year-old Kheiri al-Qaissi. Settlers denied they caused his death.

In Jerusalem, the cabinet approved an agreement under which Israeli soldiers would withdraw in stages from much of the West Bank no later than July 1997. The vote was 15-1, with two ministers abstaining.

Major gaps remained over sharing the West Bank's water and how to provide security for Hebron, where 450 Israeli settlers live among 80,000 Palestinians.

Israeli and Palestinian delegations were resuming talks last night in Taba, Egypt, on a detailed accord.

MOSCOW: RUSSIAN-CHECHEN ACCORD SHOWS SIGNS OF FAILING

Russia's interior minister has threatened to renew the fighting in Chechnya if rebels refuse to disarm, a further sign that a two-week accord is crumbling because of mistrust.

Representatives of the two sides met yesterday in the Chechen capital of Grozny to break the deadlock, but no agreements were reached, the Interfax news agency reported, quoting an unidentified Russian source.

Col.-Gen. Anatoly Kulikov, Russia's recently appointed interior minister, told the Itar-Tass news agency late Saturday that if Chechen fighters do not lay down their weapons "we will use force to disarm illegal armed formations."

In the accord to end military hostilities, signed July 30, the Chechens agreed to disarm if Russia withdrew most of its troops from the region.

The accord, widely hailed as a breakthrough toward ending the eight-month conflict, is collapsing in a welter of mistrust and mutual recriminations. The two sides also are deadlocked over an agreement to exchange prisoners.

Graphic

Photo: Sid Mohamed Amiri: in hospital

Load-Date: October 13, 2002

Foreign Affairs;
Muffled Militants

The New York Times

July 19, 1995, Wednesday, Late Edition - Final

Copyright 1995 The New York Times Company

Distribution: Editorial Desk

Section: Section A; ; Section A; Page 19; Column 5; Editorial Desk ; Column 5; ; Op-Ed

Length: 717 words

Byline: By THOMAS L. FRIEDMAN

By THOMAS L. FRIEDMAN

Dateline: WASHINGTON

Body

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The reasons are many. To begin with, the violent Islamic groups overplayed their hand. Their tactic of assassinating officials alienated large segments of the public in Egypt and Algeria and triggered a harsh counterreaction from these secular states. Never underestimate the power of the secular state in the Arab world. These regimes have used all their resources -- police, intelligence, the army and ruthlessness -- to suppress the violent fundamentalists and to co-opt the nonviolent ones. Since Muslim militants in Egypt almost destroyed the tourism industry there in 1992, the regime has killed 800 fundamentalists in separate shootouts. As the Islamic expert Martin Kramer points out, every Arab ruler threatened by an Islamic opposition "has found a way to contain it or confront it."

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Foreign Affairs; Muffled Militants

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That explains why when you cover international economics, you notice that there are two words that never come up: "Arab world." Arab world growth prospects today are dim, because few Arab governments have instituted the educational reforms, liberation of women, privatization of state industries and downsizing of bureaucracies that countries from Brazil to Indonesia have done to compete in the 21st century. With 50 percent of the Arab world under the age of 18, that is not a healthy situation. Whether it is the Internet or the global investment highway, the Arabs are not in the game. As long as that continues, the Arab world will stagnate and the environment for radical politics -- Islamic or otherwise -- will flourish.

Load-Date: July 19, 1995

BRIEFLY

The Ottawa Citizen

August 14, 1995, Monday, FINAL EDITION

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Section: NEWS; BRIEFLY; Pg. A6

Length: 736 words

Byline: CITIZEN NEWS SERVICES

Body

Colombian gunmen kill 38

in gun-running, drug war

BOGOTA -- Bands of heavily armed men shot dead at least 38 people in a series of raids in the Uraba region in northwestern Colombia, police said. The worst shooting occurred Saturday night in the town of Chigorodo, where about 40 gunmen stormed a bar, killing 18 people. Other bands killed 20 people in similar raids in the nearby towns of Apartado, Carepa and Turbo. Uraba produces most of Colombia's bananas for export and serves as a clandestine port for the illegal trade in arms, drugs and contraband goods.

Three gendarmes jailed

for beating Moroccan

PARIS -- Three gendarmes are in custody following the savage beating of a Moroccan-born man in Marseilles. The attack comes at a time of simmering ethnic tensions across France. The gendarmes -- a squad chief, his deputy and a patrol officer -- are charged with premeditated violence, civil rights offences and theft. Sid Mohamed Amiri, 29, an unemployed Moroccan-born French citizen, was kicked and beaten.

Disarm or face more war,

Russia tells Chechens

MOSCOW -- Russia's interior minister has threatened to renew the fighting in Chechnya if the rebels refuse to disarm, a further sign that a two-week accord is crumbling in an atmosphere of mistrust. Representatives of the two sides met Sunday in the Chechen capital of Grozny to break the deadlock, but no agreements were reached, the Interfax news agency reported, quoting a Russian negotiator.

British tactics endanger

Irish peace, says Adams

BELFAST -- Republican leader Gerry Adams said Sunday that Northern Ireland is living dangerously because of renewed violence. Adams challenged Britain to convene all-party talks to repair a fraying peace. At a huge rally, he

BRIEFLY

accused Britain of bringing the fledgling peace process to a standstill through its insistence that the IRA, which declared a ceasefire nearly 12 months ago, surrender its weapons.

Judge jails 55 neo-Nazis

to put stop to banned rally

BERLIN -- A judge ordered 55 neo-Nazis jailed for a week after police foiled their attempt to hold a rally to mark the eighth anniversary of the death of Hitler deputy Rudolf Hess. The skinheads were rounded up Saturday by police, who stopped thousands of cars on autobahns and boarded trains to snare neo-Nazi youths headed to a banned rally in Frankenberg, 160 kilometres south of Berlin.

Bermudans brace

for hurricane Felix

HAMILTON, Bermuda -- Bermudans stocked up on batteries and candles Sunday as hurricane Felix headed their way. Felix was moving northward at about 15 km/h, packing maximum sustained winds of 185 km/h. It is expected to pass 80 kilometres southwest of Bermuda on Tuesday afternoon, local forecasters said. The storm could delay Bermuda's referendum on the colony's independence from Britain, due to be held Tuesday.

New York airports

on high-security alert

NEW YORK -- New York's three airports went on high-security alert after receiving information from law enforcement officers, officials said Sunday. The alert followed an FBI warning of a possible attack by Islamic radicals, Newsday reported. Newsday said FBI anti-terrorist agents received detailed intelligence that the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, and Hezbollah were planning a possible "suicide massacre" strike.

Anti-nuke protesters claim attack on French train

BERN, Switzerland -- Opponents of French plans to resume nuclear testing in the South Pacific claimed responsibility Sunday for the second arson attack in a month against a French high-speed train. No one was hurt, but damage was estimated at more than \$ 1.14 million. Swiss police were alerted to the burning train in the capital, Bern, shortly after 3 a.m Sunday. An engine room was destroyed and several cars badly damaged by what police described as Molotov cocktails.

Pope praises women

for aiding disadvantaged

CASTEL GANDOLFO, Italy -- Pope John Paul, in the latest of a series of remarks on the role of women, praised them Sunday for their work with the disadvantaged. Delivering his weekly Angelus message at his summer residence outside Rome, the Pope thanked the countless women who have acted as "angels of comfort" for the suffering. The Pope has made a number of statements on the role of women in recent weeks ahead of a United Nations-sponsored conference on women in Beijing next month.

Citizen news services

Load-Date: August 15, 1995

briefly

The Ottawa Citizen

August 21, 1995, Monday, FINAL EDITION

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Section: NEWS; BRIEFLY; Pg. A6

Length: 701 words

Byline: CITIZEN NEWS SERVICES

Body

Palestinians return to jobs

after Israel opens border

EREZ JUNCTION, Gaza Strip -- Thousands of Palestinian workers returned to their jobs in Israel Sunday after Israel re-opened the border with the Gaza Strip. Israel lifted the 10-day-old travel ban, imposed because of fears that Gaza-based militants planned a suicide bombing, after Palestinian police Friday captured three militants of the **Hamas** group, which opposes the PLO-Israel peace deal.

Fire kills 38 Koreans

in rehabilitation centre

SEOUL -- Fires tore through the dormitory of a rehabilitation centre early today, killing 38 **women** and injuring 14 more, police said. Arson was suspected. Most of the victims were prostitutes or other underprivileged **women** undergoing court-ordered rehabilitation at the Kyonggi **Women's** Technical School in Yongin, 55 kilometres south of Seoul, police said. Fires broke out almost simultaneously in several rooms at about 2 a.m., police said. Seventy-five of the school's 127 residents escaped unhurt, police said.

Kobe to cut off aid

to earthquake victims

KOBE, Japan -- Seven months after a killer earthquake ravaged this city, Kobe's government said Sunday it is closing all 260 of its remaining refugee centres and cutting off free food for residents made homeless by the Jan. 17 temblor. About 7,600 people who still have not found housing were asked to vacate the centres, where they have been living since the quake. They were told to move into 12 "waiting stations," accept free temporary housing or find housing on their own.

India, China to pull troops

from disputed border

NEW DELHI -- India and China agreed Sunday to pull back troops from a disputed Himalayan frontier where their soldiers are less than 100 metres apart. The countries, which fought a war in 1962 over territorial claims, will move

briefly

troops away from the border at four outposts along the 4,000-kilometre frontier, said Foreign Secretary Salman Haider. He emphasized that the repositioning of troops does not mean that either country has changed its claims.

Dole stoic but optimistic; Gramm exultant about poll

DES MOINES, Iowa -- Presidential hopeful Bob Dole labelled an embarrassing showing in Iowa as "an aberration" Sunday and rejected assertions by rivals that it proved him out of step with conservative Republican activists. Dole spoke the morning after he tied with Texas Senator Phil Gramm in a presidential straw poll. Hundreds of non-Iowans were brought in by car, bus and plane to vote in the \$ 25-a-head straw poll. This gave credence to Dole's assertion that Saturday's results were probably not representative of Iowa's mood six months before its first presidential caucuses.

Fifty Brazilians injured

during stadium battle

RIO DE JANEIRO -- About 50 people, including 22 policemen, were injured by rival soccer fans rioting on the field after the final of a junior soccer tournament Sunday. Fighting on the field at the 30,000 capacity Pacaembu stadium, which was about one-third full, lasted for about 30 minutes before police brought the situation under control. The riot began after Palmeiras scored five minutes into sudden death extra time to win the match 1-0.

Bid to restore democracy

stalls in island nation

SAO TOME, Sao Tome and Principe -- Talks to restore the democratically elected government of Sao Tome and Principe hit a snag Sunday. Rebel leaders said late Saturday they were prepared to return power to the government. But government negotiators refused to deal with the rebels until the government's authority was recognized. The rebels want amnesty for all coup participants, a constitutional amendment to reduce presidential power and a greater role for the military. The country is 280 kilometres off the coast of Gabon.

Treat women equally,

Pope tells pilgrims

CASTEL GANDALFO, Italy -- Pope John Paul said Sunday women should have equal opportunities at work, but mothers should not be forced for economic reasons to find jobs outside the home. He said the movement of women into paid employment is one of the biggest social changes of our time. He said consideration should be given to women with children.

Citizen news services

Load-Date: August 22, 1995

UN panel struggles to define terrorism

The Gazette (Montreal, Quebec)

May 6, 1995, Saturday, FINAL EDITION

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Section: NEWS; Pg. A19

Length: 709 words

Byline: SIONA JENKINS; FREELANCE

Dateline: CAIRO

Body

The bombing in Oklahoma City has brought new urgency to discussions of ways to fight terrorism at the 9th UN Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders.

But it has proved thorny a issue, as some Middle Eastern delegates, led by Egypt, Turkey and Tunisia try to put terrorism at the forefront of the debate on international organized crime, while others caution that attempts to reach agreement on the matter will get bogged down in defining the term itself.

Although terrorism is not on the agenda of the 10-day conference in Cairo, international organized crime is a topic of discussion, and the Egyptian hosts of the conference have emphasized the link between the two.

Calling terrorism and organized crime a "unified threat (to) international peace and security," General Hassan Alfy, Egypt's Interior Minister, said in his address to the conference that terrorist and criminal organizations had "adopted co-ordinated and unified strategies for the actions and goals."

But reaching consensus on a single definition of terrorism as a crime leading to extradition, while ensuring that it does not violate human rights and is in line with all countries' justice systems is impossible, some conference delegates say.

Clash over meaning

There have been a wide range of interpretations of what constitutes terrorism since the conference began April 29.

Iran, accused of supporting terrorism by U.S. President Bill Clinton, said that it strongly condemned all terrorist acts, including the bombing in Oklahoma City in which 166 people died, including two women still presumed buried in the rubble.

But speaking at a news conference, Ayatollah Maghtadai, Iran's prosecutor-general and head of his country's delegation, said that "people struggling for ethnic rights or sovereignty are not terrorists." Abbas Rahimi, director-general of Iran's Crime Prevention Bureau, told reporters that using his country's definition, the militant Palestinian group Hamas was not a terrorist organization.

UN panel struggles to define terrorism

However, Tunisian Justice Minister Sadok Chaabane said that ideologies leading to the spread religious or ethnic intolerance and violence should be considered a form of terrorism. In his address to the conference he described such crimes as the "terrorism of thought."

Maintaining a balance between security and human rights was a common theme of discussions on terrorism, with many delegates expressing the fear that the term could be used by governments against their political opponents.

South African Justice Minister Abdallah Omar, twice imprisoned during the apartheid era, said that labeling a struggle for freedom "terrorist" can set back the real struggle against terrorism. When the rights of all citizens are not respected, he said, the citizens will reject the law.

"Some governments have ulterior motives in defining terrorism as a crime," said Ross Rodgers, deputy director of international criminal justice at the U.S. State Department. "For instance, they may say that inciting interracial or ethnic violence is a terrorist crime, even though no violent act has actually been committed."

This could then be used against political opponents, Rodgers said.

When words are crimes

Added to the different political interpretations of terrorism is the reality of wildly differing justice systems.

Mohammed Lejmi, Tunisia's attorney-general and director-general of judicial services, said that incitement is a crime in his country, although he denies that it is used to silence political opponents.

"People are free to be extreme in their ideas," he said, "but not to incite violence between people."

But according to Rodgers, incitement cannot be considered a crime in the United States because it would violate laws governing the freedom of speech.

Ultimately, whether consensus on terrorism means is reached or not is irrelevant, said Rodgers, reflecting the views of many others who have come to Cairo to find ways of fighting and preventing a long list of criminal activities.

"Definitions don't fight terrorism," he said. "We want to give practical assistance in fighting the crimes committed by terrorists without engaging in a long debate about what is or is not terrorism."

Load-Date: May 7, 1995

Please make it the last time; Danny Ben-Tal was looking forward to last Monday, when the PLO was to take over in Gaza. But of course it didn't happen. He was first there as an Israeli national serviceman in the mid-Eighties; here he describes this month's tour of duty, his fifth as a reservist

The Independent (London)

December 16, 1993, Thursday

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Section: FEATURE PAGE; Page 23

Length: 1366 words

Byline: DANNY BEN-TAL

Body

Noam, a greying accountant, is behind me. Nissim the student, his ear-ring glistening in the moonlight, walks in front. To my left is Itzik, a religious high-school administrator. At the head walks our platoon commander, Ori, a fresh-faced law student. It is cold, but we are sweating as we carefully stalk our way through the silent lanes of the Jabaliya refugee camp, covering every doorway, scanning every roof, watching our backsides. Though lacking sleep, we are utterly awake.

Suddenly Ori spots a curfew-breaker. "Halt," he shouts in Arabic, but the leather-jacketed youth turns and runs. We give chase, following him round a corner. Ori grabs him by the collar but he forces his way through a doorway, sucking us into his family's courtyard. Inside we are set upon by his elderly father and three screaming women, spitting and cursing into our faces. As Ori pins the youth to a wall with the barrel of his cocked rifle, one of the women faints, or pretends to.

Ill-equipped to deal with such a flashpoint, Ori is sweating under his helmet. With nerves frayed, one false move by either side could easily result in somebody getting hurt. Somehow, we managed to calm everybody down for just long enough to bid a tactical retreat and avoid bloodshed.

"That was one of the hardest experiences of my life," Ori told me later. As for me, I couldn't sleep that night, distraught at the thought that I might have been forced to open fire on a knife-wielding woman.

As a journalist, I closely follow international media coverage of events such as the intifada. Whether it be CNN, BBC or some smart-arse correspondent who spent three hours in the Strip, accounts of what is going on here all sound so dry, so detached from this horrible reality.

"Killing is part of their culture," Itzik, a blond-haired gallery owner from Tel Aviv said. "They would slit our throats if they could."

Yet far more Palestinians die at their brothers' hands than are killed by soldiers.

Little has changed fundamentally during the six years of the intifada. Jabaliya, a shanty town of 70,000 refugees, still looks like an open rubbish dump. But at least a drainage system of sorts has been constructed so the stench of

Please make it the last time; Danny Ben-Tal was looking forward to last Monday, when the PLO was to take over in Gaza. But of course it didn't happen. He was fi....

sewerage water no longer permeates, and most of the camp's monster rats have gone underground. The only other visible change is the proliferation of Palestinian flags and depictions of Yasser Arafat. Sixty per cent of Jabaliyans are said to be affiliated with Fatah, the dominant PLO faction. The rest support Hamas or Islamic Jihad. It is difficult to see how they will reconcile with each other after we leave.

The only thing that is certain is that the violence will not end. One of our foot patrols discovered the mutilated body of a PLO member. He had been bludgeoned to death with axes, his body scorched by burning cigarettes.

"The Palestinian police will be a hundred times bloodier than you," a municipal worker with a degree from Cairo University told me. "Many people will die at their hands. It's the only way things can be here - we're not a democracy. If the policemen are not utterly ruthless, chaos will result."

One usually enters the Gaza Strip via the Erez checkpoint, where Palestinian workers are routinely body-checked on the way to their jobs in Israel. Though not (yet) marking an international border, the checkpoint partitions two distinct realities. A few days before I joined my unit, a reservist soldier had been stabbed through the neck at a similar checkpoint, leaving four children fatherless.

Sitting at a roadside cafe overlooking the Erez checkpoint, I became aware for the first time that my muscles were tightening. Someone approached from behind. I jerked, thrust my whole body around to fend off the attack, then felt a fool as I realised it was only the teenage girl who works there.

Twenty minutes after I arrived at the army base in the centre of Jabaliya a Molotov cocktail flew through the air, exploding into flames a safe distance away. Welcome back to Jabaliya.

Molotov cocktails were to become a regular part of our lives this past month. But it was live bullets that we most feared. Almost every day we would hear the crack of gunfire from somewhere in the refugee camp, without ever finding its source. We felt like targets, whether mobile or stationary. And yet, though feeling like victims of the situation, we were also aware that the real victims were our attackers - victims of political cynicism and a bungling leadership. It's been said many times before: the Arabs will fight until the last Palestinian, and I can't see them ever being other than a pawn in this game.

When the news came over the radio on the evening of 23 November of the death of Imad Akel, murderous head of the Hamas military wing Az-Adin El-Kassani and a Jabaliya resident, many of my fellow soldiers let out a cry of relief. Akel had cold-bloodedly killed many people, including at least 10 soldiers. Though to us he was a fiend, in the eyes of Palestinians he died a hero, a freedom fighter, a martyr. Trapped inside a house, he walked out into a deluge of bullets rather than face arrest.

The following three days were hell for us, as we tried to enforce a curfew designed to prevent riots. We worked around the clock - patrols and guard duties, more patrols and guard duties. "I'm tired, angry at the situation, and angry at myself for getting into it," I scrawled in my diary one morning. "I wish this nightmare would end soon."

Something changes when we don our olive fatigues for a month a year. "Sometimes I catch myself asking 'Which one is the real me?'" confided Sharon, a personable young economics student, during a three-hour stint of guard duty one night. "I spent three years from the age of 18 living the intifada. Out there I would behave like an animal - I kicked, I punched, I scared the living daylight out of them. But once back in base, I would immediately return to being myself, as if outside didn't exist."

We all have unknown strengths, and weaknesses. I once heard an Indian guru say that inside every one of us hides a Mother Teresa and a Hitler. Situations like this can bring both. Earlier that evening, I had watched Sharon treat the wounds of a teenager arrested for hurling rocks. He was nabbed after tripping while running away from the soldiers. I marvelled at Sharon's compassion as he wiped the blood off the frightened youth's face.

"I once had my head gashed open by one of those rocks," he told me. "I saw a good friend lose an eye to a stone. It's like that - this stinking situation cannot go on like this for ever. It forces us to be something we are not."

Please make it the last time; Danny Ben-Tal was looking forward to last Monday, when the PLO was to take over in Gaza. But of course it didn't happen. He was fi....

Long, boring guard duties are when soldiers open up to each other. "I'm suffering inside," Avi, father of a three-month-old baby, told me as a murky dawn broke over Jabaliya. His eyes red from lack of sleep, Avi wanted out, but could not desert his friends. "I have absolutely no desire to be here. Is this what we spent three years training for?"

The poet/journalist Yonatan Geffen wrote a few years ago that Israelis no longer live for their country, but their company. In a sense, he was right. Military service binds souls together. I have little in common with most of the soldiers in my company, but a feeling of interlinked destinies. We do it not to strengthen our male egos, as those who don't understand us like to think, but to ensure that our children will be safe. There is far more machismo in a British pub than the Israeli army.

Political arguments among soldiers over Gaza are a thing of the past. Now there is a definite consensus for withdrawal. What discord there is expresses itself on a more personal level. An officer was criticised by soldiers for apprehending a locally owned bulldozer to fill in a leaking cesspit on our base. The following day, a soldier (incidentally, a Likud voter) was admonished for handing out extraneous food supplies to Palestinian mothers.

Six years after our first tour of duty here, there is a feeling that things have come full circle. The army should have gone at the beginning of this week. But until we leave, we cannot afford to drop our guard, even for a second.

(Photographs omitted)

Load-Date: December 17, 1993

End of Document

ISRAELI SENTENCED TO 7 LIFE TERMS MAN GUNNED DOWN SEVEN PALESTINIANS

St. Louis Post-Dispatch (Missouri)

March 18, 1991, MONDAY, FIVE STAR Edition

Copyright 1991 St. Louis Post-Dispatch, Inc.

Section: NEWS; Pg. 7A

Length: 608 words

Body

JERUSALEM - An Israeli man was sentenced to seven life terms Sunday for shooting seven Palestinians to death and wounding 10 others at a highway junction last May. The Tel Aviv District Court found Ami Popper, 21, guilty of seven murders and 10 attempted murders and ordered him to serve the sentences consecutively, Israel army radio said. Popper banged his fist on a table and shouted "No! No!" when the sentence was passed, and his family hurled abuse at the prosecutor and the three judges. In May, Popper opened fire with a submachine gun on about 50 Arabs as they waited to be hired as casual laborers in Rishon Lezion, a city just south of Tel Aviv. The massacre sparked three days of rioting in the occupied territories; 13 more Palestinians died in the rioting. The judges said Popper had fired indiscriminately, even reloading. They called it "an unprecedented, abominable deed," and added a 20-year sentence, to be served concurrently, for the attempted murder of the 10 Arabs who had been wounded. Popper had maintained that he was trying to kill one man in the group who, he said, had molested him as a child. He said he was not accountable for his actions and was mentally incompetent to stand trial. However, he dropped that line of defense Sunday after a committee of psychiatrists hired by his attorney supported the court's view that he was competent to stand trial. In another criminal matter Sunday, the Israeli air force's chief arms buyer was convicted of amassing about \$10 million in bribes and kickbacks on purchases of U.S. equipment. Brig. Gen. Rami Dotan confessed to the charges and agreed to return the money as part of a plea bargain, Israel radio said.

The prosecution recommended a 13-year prison term and Dotan's dismissal from the air force. The military court did not immediately say whether it had accepted the plea bargain, which was offered in testimony behind closed doors. The court is free to ignore the deal in passing sentence. General Electric, one of the U.S. companies Dotan did business with, has announced its own internal investigation into the matter. Arabs Return To Jobs Nearly 30,000 Arabs from the occupied territories returned to jobs in Israel on Sunday, after authorities lifted a ban on their entry into Tel Aviv and Haifa. Some found their jobs taken by Soviet Jewish immigrants. Tel Aviv and Haifa had been closed to Palestinians since the start of the Persian Gulf War, when the occupied territories were put under curfew to prevent pro-Iraq unrest. Brig. Gen. Fredy Zach, deputy government coordinator in the territories, said Tel Aviv and Haifa were reopened as part of a gradual postwar return to normal. Jerusalem, off-limits since an Arab stabbed four women to death last Sunday, was also reopened. The number of Arab workers Sunday was well below the 45,000 who were allowed back to other parts of Israel last week. Many Palestinians were observing a general strike called in the occupied territories to support Iraq. The Palestinian underground and Hamas, an Islamic fundamentalist movement, called for the strike in leaflets, condemning the "aggression against Iraq by the United States and its allies." Ordinarily, more than 100,000 Palestinians have jobs in Israel. But since last fall, when an upsurge in Palestinian violence coincided with an influx of Soviet immigrants, many of these jobs have gone to Soviets. Bush To Visit Israel President George Bush is expected to visit Israel, but no date has been set for the trip,

ISRAELI SENTENCED TO 7 LIFE TERMS MAN GUNNED DOWN SEVEN PALESTINIANS

Israel radio reported Sunday. The radio said Cabinet ministers had been told about the visit at their weekly meeting on Sunday.

Graphic

Photo; PHOTO...AP...Palestinians from the West Bank pouring cement at a building site in Tel Aviv, Israel, on Sunday.

Load-Date: October 8, 1993

End of Document

Palestinian fatally stabs 3 Israelis

St. Petersburg Times (Florida)

October 22, 1990, Monday, City Edition

Times Publishing Company

Section: NATIONAL; Pg. 2A

Length: 592 words

Dateline: JERUSALEM

Body

A Palestinian stabbed to death three Israelis on Sunday, touching off anti-Arab violence that caused police to stop Palestinians from entering the city for fear they would be attacked by enraged Israelis.

After the stabbings, residents of the Jerusalem neighborhood where the violence occurred shouted "Death to the Arabs," chased Palestinian construction workers and threw stones at Palestinians' cars. Authorities deployed an extra 2,000 police in the city.

Baltimore Sun; Associated Press Members of the government blamed the stabbings on a U.N. Security Council resolution that condemned Israel for an incident earlier this month in which police shot to death 21 stone-throwing Palestinians at a holy site known to Jews as Temple Mount and to Arabs as Haram es-Sharif. A spokesman for Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir said the U.N. resolution had encouraged violence against Jews.

Arrested in the stabbings was a 19-year-old Palestinian identified by police as Omar Abu Sirhan, a plasterer from the West Bank. Witnesses said he was arrested as he lay wounded on the ground next to the body of an off-duty police officer he killed.

Authorities refrained from saying whether the assailant had acted alone or as part of a group. Callers contacted news agencies and made contradictory claims of responsibility on behalf of two Palestinian groups, Islamic Jihad and Force 17, an arm of the Palestine Liberation Organization.

According to police, the Palestinian shouted "Allah Akbar" (God is Great) and stabbed a **female** soldier identified as Iris Azulai, 18 three times in the chest with a 15-inch knife.

Residents began coming outside as the attacker walked or ran about 150 yards to the alley's intersection with a street. There, he killed a man identified as Eli Alteretz, 45, owner of a plant nursery.

More people came out of their houses and gave chase. In trying to escape, the attacker slashed and wounded a 13-year-old boy.

Palestinian fatally stabs 3 Israelis

One man to join the chase was an off-duty police officer. According to witnesses, the officer fired a warning shot, then shot the attacker twice in the legs.

A struggle began between the two men, which ended with the officer being killed and the attacker being pinned by the officer's body. The police officer was identified as Charlie Shalush, 28.

Word of the stabbings spread quickly through the city, sending hundreds of Israelis to the scene of the violence and hundreds of Palestinians home to the West Bank to escape possible attacks.

Israelis quickly assumed that the violence came in revenge for the Oct. 8 killings on the Temple Mount. "We expected that some event of this kind would happen," said Ayre Bibi, police commander of Jerusalem. "That's why we had reinforced our forces."

After those shootings, the underground Moslem fundamentalist group **Hamas** distributed leaflets calling on Palestinians to kill "any Jew or settler."

The violence came as part of a rapidly accelerating cycle of attacks and counterattacks between Palestinians and Israelis, with each side blaming the other.

Teddy Kollek, the city's mayor and an advocate of co-existence, said the events were tearing apart the city.

"It's clear that this is a very difficult case and will put neighborhoods in the whole of the city to a test of restraint," Kollek said, as police issued warnings that they would arrest Israelis who attacked Palestinians. "We must try to maintain behavior which will not bring about an attack on innocent people."

Information from AP was used in this report.

Graphic

BLACK AND WHITE PHOTO, (2); Israeli medics try to resuscitate a stabbing victim; Omar Abu Sirhan

Load-Date: November 10, 1992

Victim reveals Israel's regime of torture

The Independent (London)

June 21, 1997, Saturday

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Section: INTERNATIONAL; Page 15

Length: 704 words

Byline: Patrick Cockburn Jerusalem

Body

For 47 days Omar Ghanimat was tortured in an Israeli prison, his open wounds allowed to fester, while the Israeli press denounced him as "a ticking bomb," a man whose mistreatment was justified because he knew about forthcoming attacks on civilian targets.

This week Mr Ghanimat, 45, with seven children, was sentenced to only three months in prison, a tacit admission by the prosecutor that he had committed no serious offence.

Human rights lawyers say his case proves that Palestinian prisoners are routinely tortured by the Israeli security forces and not only when they are suspected of knowing of an attack.

"It was the worst case of torture I have seen in Israel," says Allegra Pacheco, Mr Ghanimat's lawyer, who saw him in the Russian compound prison in Jerusalem after eight weeks of continuous interrogation.

"His hands and legs had swelled to bubbles because there were tight handcuffs on both. There were gashes on his arms and some of them were pussy and bleeding."

Mr Ghanimat was arrested in the village of Tzurif, north of Hebron, on 10 April after Israeli security (Shin Bet) rounded up a cell of Izzedin Kassam, the military arm of the militant Islamic group **Hamas**.

The cell was responsible for planting a bomb in a cafe in Tel Aviv in which three **women** were killed. Mr Ghanimat had the same last name as the bomber, but was not related to him (though the Israeli press reported that he was his brother).

Israeli security is usually careful to use methods of torture which do not use marks.

In Mr Ghanimat's case they were less inhibited. Ms Pacheco, who works for LAW, a Palestinian human rights group, says this may have been because he did not at first have a lawyer.

Always tightly handcuffed, so blood could not reach his hands, a dirty sack placed over his head and deprived of sleep for long periods, he says he was kicked and beaten until he could not walk.

In a painfully written affidavit on 27 May, the first time he saw his lawyer, Mr Ghanimat wrote how one of his interrogators called "Captain Tariq" sat "on a small chair, placed it on my chest . . . and jumped from the chair onto my chest causing me severe pain." Another, called "the Major," pulled me "from under the chair, which caused injuries to my legs".

Victim reveals Israel 's regime of torture

Although he screamed with pain continually and was bleeding, a prison doctor who saw him prescribed only the equivalent of Vicks for his chest.

During his interrogation, Mr Ghanimat was continually asked to confess to being a member of Izzedin Kassam. Desperate to end the torture he admitted that in 1994 an Israeli had come to Tzurif with a stolen car in which he and a friend had found a gun. They hid it and the friend had later handed over the weapon to Palestinian security.

His interrogators seemed uninterested in this.

Mr Ghanimat says one of them said to him: "Torture is like the waves of the sea - that which is to come is more severe than that which has passed."

Shocked by what she had seen, Ms Pacheco appealed to the Israeli High Court under its president Aharon Barak to ask for a court order to stop the torture. The court allowed Mr Ghanimat to come to court and show his wounds. Photographers were allowed to photograph them. At first Mr Ghanimat would not speak in front of Shin Bet interrogators, saying: "I can't. They'll kill me when we get back to prison." Mr Barak then told the Shin Bet officers to leave the court.

After Mr Ghanimat described what had happened the State Attorney said that "at this stage" no more physical pressure would be placed on him. He returned to the Russian Compound where the Shin Bet made him write out a confession about the gun in the stolen car, a technical offence for which he has just received three months in prison. He is to be released on 9 July.

In May the UN Committee against Torture decided that Israel, by permitting its security forces to use "moderate physical pressure" against prisoners, legalises torture.

It singled out seven methods of interrogation, such as the use of cold air to chill prisoners, sleep deprivation, sacks over the head, shackling in painful positions and, violent shaking (which has the same effect as a whiplash injury in a car crash) as breaching the UN Convention against Torture.

Load-Date: June 23, 1997

End of Document

NEWS IN BRIEF

The Philadelphia Inquirer
JULY 8, 1997 Tuesday SF EDITION

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The Philadelphia Inquirer
Found on Philly.com

Section: NATIONAL; Pg. A04

Length: 726 words

Body

In the Nation Three employees of a Starbucks coffee shop near Washington's upscale Georgetown neighborhood were found shot to death early yesterday by a colleague arriving for work. Aaron David Goodrich, 18, Mary Caitrin Mahoney, 25, and Emory Allen Evans, 25, a graduate of Vineland (N.J.) High School, had all been shot in the head. Police were seeking a suspect, possibly a former employee of the Wisconsin Avenue shop.

An Army counselor to four women who accused the sergeant major of the Army of sexual misconduct yesterday repeatedly denied playing any role in shaping their stories. "I don't discuss the facts of the case," said Chief Warrant Officer Jose Robertson. "I'm there to encourage them to tell the truth." Robertson testified at a hearing being held to determine whether Army Sgt. Maj. Gene McKinney should be court-martialed. The hearing, in Washington, is in its third week.

A federal appeals court rejected Manuel Antonio Noriega's bid for a new trial on drug charges yesterday, rejecting arguments that the ex-Panamanian ruler could not defend himself adequately in 1992 because he was barred from discussing \$10 million he claims to have received from the CIA. A three-judge panel in Atlanta ruled that Noriega's claims may have had substance but that their relevance was marginal. Noriega is serving a 40-year sentence in Miami for protecting smugglers.

Whitewater figure David Hale was ordered yesterday to stand trial Sept. 22 for filing false statements about an Arkansas insurance company he owned that later collapsed. Arkansas State Circuit Judge David Bogard also set a Sept. 16 hearing on Hale's argument that the immunity he earned for cooperating in the Whitewater probe precludes his state prosecution. Hale, 56, who is serving a 28-month federal sentence for fraud, has alleged that in 1986, President Clinton pressured him to make an illegal loan to Clinton Whitewater partner Susan McDougal.

A judge ordered prosecutors to start turning over evidence this week to lawyers for Mir Aimal Kansi, accused of gunning down two CIA employees outside the agency's headquarters in January 1993. Fairfax County (Va.) Circuit Judge J. Howe Brown also told prosecutors to have all the information to the former fugitive's lawyers by July 18.

In the World Two more people in Britain have succumbed to the new human brain disease linked with mad cow disease, the government reported yesterday. It said on its monthly report on Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease that 19 people had contracted a new variant of the fatal brain illness. It said one definite case - confirmed by brain biopsy - was still alive.

NEWS IN BRIEF

The Italian government plans to send as many as 600 soldiers to the Naples area after weekend shootouts killed a mobster and wounded three passersby - one of them an 8-year-old girl. The military is being sent in to help regular police crack down on warring mob gangs, Interior Minister Giorgio Napolitano said yesterday. Soldiers will protect public buildings, freeing police for other work.

Albania's would-be king, Leka I, vowed yesterday to continue his fight to restore the monarchy in the chaotic Balkan nation despite a referendum giving a thumbs-down to the throne. Leka contended the referendum, held alongside a general election on June 29, was manipulated and refused to accept preliminary results showing a 66 percent vote against restoring the monarchy. Final results are due later this week.

An Israeli army court has sentenced to 46 consecutive life terms a top member of the military wing of the **Hamas** Islamic group convicted of engineering three suicide bombings, witnesses said. One member of the three-judge panel favored sentencing defendant Hassan Salameh to death, they said. The chief judge said yesterday that the sentence, corresponding to a life term for each of the 46 people killed in the bombings, was to assure that Salameh died behind bars.

Deepening North Korean economic woes and diplomatic concerns may prompt North Korean leader Kim Jong Il to delay plans to assume full power, a South Korean government report said yesterday. North Korean officials have said Kim Jong Il would take full power soon after the third anniversary Tuesday of the death of his father, Kim Il Sung. Kim Jong Il has ruled as supreme military commander since his father's death, but has not assumed the titles of president and party chief.

Load-Date: October 18, 2002

End of Document

Israel PM moves to coalition with Left / Likud in move for coalition with Left

THE AUSTRALIAN

April 14, 1997, Monday

Copyright 1997 Nationwide News Pty Limited

Length: 751 words

Body

ISRAEL appeared closer last night to forming a government of national unity after the Prime Minister, Mr Netanyahu, said he did not have enough support in his right-wing coalition to save the teetering Middle East peace process.

"There exists a majority in the (Israeli) population that supports a final-status accord," Mr Netanyahu said on Israeli army radio on Saturday. "This is not the case in the current governing coalition."

Mr Netanyahu has indicated repeatedly over the past few days that he may soon ask the opposition Labour Party, led by former prime minister and peace architect Mr Shimon Peres, to form a new government.

AFP, Reuters, AP

The move comes after Mr Netanyahu's hardline policies, including the go-ahead last month to build a new Jewish settlement in annexed Arab East Jerusalem, enraged the Palestinians, sparking violent protests and bringing peace talks to a standstill.

Mr Peres, who has called several times for the creation of a national unity government to save the peace process, said on Israeli radio yesterday that he had met secretly with Mr Netanyahu 10 days ago to discuss the issue.

Mr Netanyahu said on Saturday that he would "soon" make his decision on whether to dump the more hardline elements in his Likud coalition and form a coalition with centre-left Labour.

He has given a series of interviews in the past few days pointing out the difficult challenges facing the peace process and saying Israel will have to make "very painful decisions" on the future of Jerusalem and the possible creation of a Palestinian State.

"I think about one basic question: will the broadening of the Government bring a better result in our ability to stick to this process and finish it," he said earlier this week.

"Or, will (Palestinian leader Yasser) Arafat see two parts of this Government that he could play against each other."

<<<-[Page 006]->>>

A parliamentary coalition of Labour and Likud would give a national unity government 66 out of 120 seats, or the same mandate as the current Netanyahu coalition which relies on small far-right and religious parties.

Israel PM moves to coalition with Left / Likud in move for coalition with Left

Some parties in Mr Netanyahu's right-wing coalition have expressed opposition to handing over more territory to the Palestinians, even though the land-for-peace formula is the basis of the Oslo peace process launched by Labour in 1993.

The Labour party also has strong critics of a national unity government, including its number two and favourite to succeed Mr Peres, former foreign minister Mr Ehud Barak.

"Netanyahu is playing with us to hide the failure of his policies," said Mr Barak, who is described by political analysts as fearing that such a coalition would delay Mr Peres's retirement.

Since Mr Netanyahu's Government was elected last May its hardline policies have plunged the peace process into deep crisis.

Israeli-Palestinian peace talks ground to a halt after Israel began construction on March 18 of the Har Homa housing project in annexed East Jerusalem, which the Palestinians want to make the capital of a future State.

Since the ground-breaking, daily confrontations between Palestinians throwing rocks and Israeli soldiers shooting rubber bullets have left seven Palestinians dead, one of them from an Israeli settler's gunfire.

A suicide bombing in Tel Aviv in retaliation for the settlement killed three Israelis.

So-called "final status" talks between Israel and the Palestinians will deal with the toughest issues between them, such as the extent of Palestinian sovereignty and the status of Jerusalem which Israel says is its "eternal capital". As the violence continued over the weekend, a Palestinian woman returning from Jordan shot and wounded an Israeli border guard and a soldier, along with another Palestinian, at the border yesterday.

The woman had cleared Jordanian security at the Allenby Bridge crossing between Jordan and the West Bank when she drew a gun and shot at the two Israelis, lightly wounding them, an Israeli police spokeswoman said. A Palestinian woman standing nearby was also injured.

Despite continuing street clashes, Israel announced that it would ease its closure of the West Bank and Gaza Strip and allow 20,000 workers to reach jobs in the Jewish State.

Israel sealed the West Bank and Gaza Strip -barring most of the territories' two million Palestinians from entering Israel -after a March 21 suicide bombing in a Tel Aviv cafe that killed three Israeli women and the bomber. The militant Palestinian group Hamas claimed responsibility for the attack.

Load-Date: March 1, 2002

PLO DROPS CALL TO DESTROY ISRAEL< ARAFAT'S VICTORY GIVES A BOOST TO PEACE EFFORT

The Philadelphia Inquirer

APRIL 25, 1996 Thursday SF EDITION

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The Philadelphia Inquirer

Found on Philly.com

Section: NATIONAL; Pg. A01

Length: 1639 words

Byline: Alan Sipress, INQUIRER STAFF WRITER

Dateline: JERUSALEM

Body

The Palestine National Council wrote history last night, striking brief but virulent clauses from the PLO's 32-year-old charter calling for an armed struggle aimed at destroying Israel.

Rammed through by PLO Chairman Yasir Arafat, the decision clears the way for negotiators to embark on the daunting task of crafting a final Israeli-Palestinian deal, addressing such thorny issues as the status of Jerusalem and the future of Jewish settlements in the occupied territories.

The vote by the Palestinian parliament-in-exile removed incendiary language that had sustained a psychological gulf between Israelis and Palestinians - and had given Palestinians a covenant to inspire them in their long war against Israel.

"Maybe ideologically it is the most important change in the last 100 years," Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres said after the landmark vote, reached behind closed doors after virtually no debate.

Though recent overtures by Arafat had left the PLO charter outdated, the overwhelming vote was a resounding gesture meant to reassure an Israeli public still skeptical of Arab intentions. It came on the 48th celebration of Israel's independence day.

With the offending clauses now revised, the next round of talks could begin as soon as May 7, though little serious bargaining is expected before the Israeli elections.

Excised from the charter were such phrases as "armed struggle is the only way to liberate Palestine," and a call for "commando action" to "destroy the Zionist and imperialist presence."

The vote will almost certainly boost the reelection hopes of Peres, who has built his campaign on the peace accords. The PNC decision will allow Peres to tell skeptical voters in the May 29 elections that peace can produce tangible results - in this case, a public reversal by an enemy that had sworn to destroy the Jewish state.

PLO DROPS CALL TO DESTROY ISRAEL < ARAFAT'S VICTORY GIVES A BOOST TO PEACE EFFORT

The decision by the PNC, taken in the only Gaza City auditorium capable of accommodating the more than 500 members in attendance, came after determined cajoling and arm-twisting by Arafat, who had promised to revoke the clauses by May 7 under the terms of the PLO-Israel agreement.

The changes were approved by 504 members, easily more than the required two-thirds majority. The opponents numbered only 54, and 14 members abstained.

"This is a success for the people themselves," Arafat said. "This voting stresses the peace process, what we had agreed on and signed in Washington. . . . I am very happy I fulfilled my commitment and I hope our partner, the Israelis, will do the same."

The revisions came during one of the least propitious moments since Arafat and the late Yitzhak Rabin shook hands on the White House lawn in September 1993. With Israelis still reeling from four suicide bombings by Palestinian terrorists and Israel and Islamic militants at war in Lebanon, the peace process has been stagnant.

The revoking of the charter also will focus public attention back on the Palestinian issue after Israel's bloody, two-week bombardment of Lebanon in the face of Katyusha rocket attacks on northern Israel by Hezbollah guerrillas.

But the vote does not mean Israel faces no more threats. Hamas and Islamic Jihad, the Palestinian groups that claimed responsibility for the suicide bombings, still call for Israel's destruction. And Hezbollah has vowed to keep rocketing Israel as long as Israeli troops remain in Lebanon.

The PNC decision does bolster Arafat, who had been under intense pressure to deliver the Palestinian vote on the charter at a time when he faces internal opposition for his crackdown - at Israel's behest - on Hamas.

An elated Peres said the vote proved Arafat was a partner for peace.

"People always asked, 'Can you trust Arafat?' It emerges that he can be trusted," Peres said.

Several PNC members ran up to the podium after the vote and hugged and kissed a haggard-looking Arafat.

In Washington, President Clinton called the PNC decision "a major step forward on the road to a lasting peace between Israel and the Palestinians."

In Tel Aviv, U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher called it "a historic milestone on the road to reconciliation and peace."

Despite months of hype and debate preceding the vote, the actual decision came swiftly and with practically no discussion. In the end, this dramatic revision was treated as little more than a matter of bookkeeping.

It was widely assumed among both Israelis and Palestinians that Arafat would find a way to keep his word. The only question was how - and when.

Yesterday, Arafat was able to negotiate his way out of a delicate situation. Faced with demands from Palestinian radicals that the charter be rewritten to include calls for a Palestinian state, Arafat managed to delay drafting a new covenant.

PNC Speaker Salim Al-Zaanoun announced that the council's legal committee would draft a new document within six months. Thus, the PLO leadership was able to dodge an ideological battle likely to anger both Israelis and Palestinians.

The PLO leadership offered a simple text that rested on the letters of mutual recognition exchanged by Arafat and Rabin as part of their landmark 1993 peace agreement.

The motion adopted by the PNC read: "The Palestine National Council decides to amend the Palestinian National Charter by cancelling clauses which contradict the letters exchanged between the PLO and the Israeli government."

PLO DROPS CALL TO DESTROY ISRAEL < ARAFAT'S VICTORY GIVES A BOOST TO PEACE EFFORT

The decision of the PNC, meeting for the first time on Palestinian land, is sure to rankle many Palestinians.

On the streets of the West Bank and Gaza Strip as well as abroad, Palestinians have urged a delay because Israel has so far failed to meet several crucial treaty obligations to the Palestinians. These include Israel's commitment to withdraw its army from most of Hebron by the end of last month, release all women Palestinian prisoners, and open a highway route connecting PLO-governed areas in the Gaza Strip and West Bank.

Even the most dovish Palestinians have argued that removing the clauses advocating the destruction of Israel is premature because Israel has yet to reciprocate by acknowledging the right of Palestinians to their own state.

Peres' ruling Labor Party, however, took a step in that direction yesterday. It drafted a new platform no longer containing a longtime clause objecting to the establishment of a Palestinian state.

The reluctance of many Palestinians to amend the covenant had little to do with the actual content of the paragraphs. In an age when Palestinian and Israeli bureaucrats now seek to coordinate even the most trivial details of everyday governance and security, much of the covenant reads like a relic from a distant time.

The ultimate goal of the armed struggle, the covenant declared, would be the "liberation of Palestine," which "will destroy the Zionist and imperialist presence."

For months, Palestinian officials had grappled with how best to amend the covenant in a way that would satisfy the Israelis and yet avoid capitulation. Top Palestinians had feared that substituting new language into the charter might prove too unwieldy and perhaps provoke a furious battle among the members.

Anger is running high among Palestinians because of Israel's punishing air and artillery bombardment of Lebanon during the last two weeks. The Palestinians have joined the chorus of Arab voices condemning the Israeli campaign, which has killed about 150 Lebanese, overwhelmingly civilians, in a bid to uproot Hezbollah and end its attacks on Israel.

The amendment of the PLO charter was a welcome boost to Israel's peace camp, which remains divided over the campaign in Lebanon.

"I'm very glad. There will be no excuse to stop the continuation of the peace process," said Shulamit Aloni, Israeli communications minister and a leading dove. "It's a great thing."

The PNC vote was also testament to Arafat's unparalleled ability among Palestinians as a political boss.

Arafat was able to assemble more than three-quarters of the PNC's members, including 98 whom he appointed yesterday to fill out the parliament's seats - members certain to vote Arafat's way.

While Arafat's cadres are well-represented in the PNC, it also contains representatives of many factions of lesser loyalty to the PLO chief. The PNC is a far larger, even more unwieldy body than the 88-member legislature elected in January during the historic Palestinians elections in the West Bank, Gaza Strip and Jerusalem.

The PNC, founded in 1964, includes members of Arafat's Fatah Party as well as more radical groups that are part of the PLO coalition, such as the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine.

Arafat became head of the PLO and the PNC in 1969.

Unlike the newly elected legislature, the PNC comprises members of the Palestinian diaspora as well as residents of the West Bank, Gaza Strip and Jerusalem. And while the legislature is a creation of the peace process and is strictly bound by the terms of the Israel-PLO accords, the foundation of the PNC is independent of Israel.

In large measure, Israeli officials wanted an endorsement of the peace process by the PNC because it represents such a broad range of Palestinian interests and has credibility among ordinary Palestinians.

PLO DROPS CALL TO DESTROY ISRAEL < ARAFAT'S VICTORY GIVES A BOOST TO PEACE EFFORT

The Israelis got the vote they wanted, but only after 133 PNC members refused to attend the conclave, largely because of their vehement objections to amending the charter.

Even so, the Palestinian militant who orchestrated one of the PLO's most notorious terrorist attacks voted with Arafat.

"I voted for this position to give peace a chance," said Mohammed Abbas - also known by his nom-de-guerre Abul Abbas - mastermind of the 1985 Achille Lauro hijacking in which a disabled American cruise passenger was shot and killed. "This is a message from the fighters to the world and the Israeli people that we can take a step forward toward peace."

Graphic

CHART;

CHART (1)

1. Key Events in Recent Palestinian History (Associated Press)

Load-Date: October 28, 2002

End of Document

Mid-East peace hopes plummet

Courier Mail (Queensland, Australia)

March 25, 1997, Tuesday

Copyright 1997 Nationwide News Pty Limited

Section: NEWS; Pg. 15

Length: 790 words

Byline: SIEGEL C

Body

ISRAELI-PLO relations hit a new low yesterday with the Palestinian Authority accusing Israel of trying to dictate to the authority.

Israel-Authority contacts, already battered by Israel's building a new Jewish settlement in Arab East Jerusalem, have reached the brink of breaking over an Islamist suicide bombing at a Tel Aviv cafe in which three Israeli women died.

Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu accused the authority of giving a green light to attacks against Israel by militants opposed to the peace process. The authority has denied the charge.
QNP

US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright said yesterday there was a "perception" of a green light but no evidence. She said the authority could do more to fight violence.

Authority negotiator Saeb Erekat told CNN cable television yesterday "media lord" Mr Netanyahu was killing the peace process and spurring militants with his settlement building.

"I think if there is one person who would look in the mirror tonight and see the blood . . . if Mr Netanyahu would look in the mirror, he would see the real responsibility," Mr Erekat said.

A select forum of Israeli Government ministers headed by Mr Netanyahu stopped short yesterday of officially severing talks with the authority over the attack but demanded as a "necessary step" that it act against militants.

Palestinian officials said Israeli President Ezer Weizman and Palestinian Culture Minister Yasser Abed Rabbo would meet in an effort "to calm down the situation" but Israel Radio said it was not clear if the meeting would take place.

Israeli military intelligence chief Major-General Moshe Yaalon told reporters the authority had made a change in the political situation a condition for co-operation in fighting "terror".

He also said weekend clashes between Palestinian protesters and Israeli troops near Palestinian-ruled West Bank enclaves could have been ended sooner by the authority and that they had been encouraged by one of its security officials.

Mid-East peace hopes plummet

Reacting to Israel's charge Palestinians were linking security cooperation to a political change, Ahmed Abd al-Rahman, secretary general of the authority's cabinet, said: "The security co-ordination is linked to the development of the political peace process and they are not separate."

Referring to the man who heads Israel's client South Lebanon Army militia in Israel's Lebanon occupation zone, Mr Rahman added: "They are wrong if they think that the Palestinian Authority is a copy of Antoine Lahd's forces in south Lebanon."

After suicide attacks a year ago which killed 59 people in Israel, the Authority, created by the historic 1993 Israel-PLO framework peace deal and in charge of Gaza and West Bank areas handed over by Israel, arrested almost 1000 Islamists.

Yesterday, a Palestinian official said there were no orders for mass arrests despite Israel's demand for a crackdown on groups including Hamas, which a caller to Israeli police said was responsible for Friday's cafe bombing.

The Israeli ministers demanded the authority increase security cooperation; prevent incitement against Israel; fight militant groups; arrest, try and punish "terrorists"; deal with Israel's extradition requests; and confiscate illegal weapons.

Mr Netanyahu told CNN cable television after the meeting that he was not suspending talks with the Palestinians but that insistence they fight militants would be the top agenda item.

Mr Netanyahu scoffed at suggestions his settlement policy, which Washington has criticised as creating mistrust, was isolating Israel internationally.

"This automatic, reflexive Israel bashing when we are getting thrown terrorist bombs I think is, frankly, quite sad, and I think history will judge it unkindly," he said.

Meanwhile, the latest terrorist attack may have revealed a new sort of Islamic radical.

The man responsible for Friday's cafe blast was a family man with a wife and four children _ unlike the usual profile of suicide bombers.

Musa Ghneimat was 28 and employed. He was not from a refugee camp as are most of the radicals responsible for suicide terrorist acts.

"He was an educated guy . . . of European appearance," said a manager of the restaurant where Ghneimat worked illegally.

"He does not fit the average profile," said Iyad Sarraj, a Palestinian psychiatrist. "But the basic drive for self-destruction is the same . . . they all believe that they are not going to die, that they are moving from one phase of life to a higher one."

Many Muslim scholars dispute the interpretation that those who indiscriminately kill women and children become martyrs who go to a paradise where rivers of honey and 72 virgins await them. But the vision of such an afterlife can be a powerful draw to those with weak minds or vengeful hearts.

Reuter

Load-Date: March 1, 2002

ISRAELI CALLS MASSACRE AVOIDABLE WEST BANK GENERAL FAULTS NO-SHOW GUARDS FOR FAILING TO HALT MAYHEM IN MOSQUE

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette (Pennsylvania)

MARCH 9, 1994, WEDNESDAY,

SOONER EDITION

Copyright 1994 P.G. Publishing Co.

Section: WORLD,

Length: 616 words

Byline: DOUG STRUCK, THE BALTIMORE SUN

Dateline: JERUSALEM

Body

The massacre at Hebron could have been prevented if all the Israeli guards had been at their posts, a top military officer conceded at the opening of Israel's official inquiry into the shooting.

If four soldiers and a police officer had not been late arriving on duty Feb. 25, they might have prevented Dr. Baruch Goldstein from walking into the mosque where he opened fire and killed dozens of Arabs, said Maj. Gen. Danny Yatom, head of the Army for the West Bank.

"The (security arrangements) could have prevented ... the manner in which Goldstein operated, that is to say, the massacre," said Yatom. "He ... would not have been able to enter (the praying hall)."

The testimony came in the first day of hearings of a commission set up to delve into the mass murder by Goldstein, an extremist Jewish settler. Yatom said yesterday that 29 praying Muslims were killed in the attack; Palestinians say more.

The commission, which includes two Supreme Court judges, a college president, an Arab judge and a former military chief, is charged with making an independent study of the massacre. Similar commissions after past traumas in Israel have had considerable impact on the government.

The commission began an extraordinary public airing of the events amid recriminations that government policy encouraged Goldstein's extremism and Army laxity failed to prevent his actions.

It is unclear if Palestinian witnesses will cooperate. None has come forward in response to the government's appeal for testimony. The radical Muslim group **Hamas** has warned Palestinians not to cooperate with the Israeli probe.

In reconstructing the crime at the Tomb of the Patriarchs, Yatom said yesterday that about half the guards were missing because of "local mishaps." Army, border patrol guards and a police officer are stationed at the shrine because it is used by both Jews and Arabs and has long been a source of tension.

The general said a platoon commander failed to wake several of the guards, another soldier had been sent on an errand, and the police officer is often absent from the site.

ISRAELI CALLS MASSACRE AVOIDABLE WEST BANK GENERAL FAULTS NO-SHOW GUARDS FOR FAILING TO HALT MAYHEM IN MOSQUE

Yatom's conclusion yesterday contradicted statements he made to reporters soon after the incident, in which he asserted that the shooting could not have been prevented, even if all the guards had been on duty.

In seeming to place blame on the absent guards, the general sought to shift focus from broader questions about whether the government created the climate for the massacre by arming extremist settlers and allowing them virtual free rein in Arab areas.

Yatom said Goldstein was allowed into the tomb -- although it is still uncertain through what door he entered -- because settlers are allowed to carry their weapons inside. Goldstein, an Israeli army reservist, was armed with a Galil automatic weapon and dressed in an Army uniform.

But once inside, Goldstein might have been stopped from entering the large, cavernous hall in the tomb that is used as a Muslim mosque had the guards been on duty, Yatom said.

"There should have been a soldier next to the officer, and together they should have patrolled and moved through the halls. The soldier was missing.

"Next to the door there should have been two border guards. They came late," the general said. "This means that in the hall near the scene of the event, there was only an officer instead of an officer plus five" other guards.

Yatom said there had been no warning of the attack from military intelligence officers or from Shin Bet, Israel's security police. In their planning, army commanders had not discussed the possibility of Jewish terrorist attacks, he said, and intelligence briefings included only assessments of possible Palestinian attacks on Jews.

Notes

The Los Angeles Times contributed to this report.

Graphic

PHOTO, Eyal Warshavsky/Associated Press: An Israeli border policeman strikes a Palestinian woman with the barrel of his rifle in East Jerusalem yesterday as clashes erupt following a march marking International Women's Day. The photographer who shot this photo later was trampled by a horse and received a broken wrist, and a French news agency photographer was shot and slightly injured. Fourteen people were arrested.

Load-Date: September 15, 1994

U.S. MIDEAST PEACE MISSION GETS ANGRY RECEPTION

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette (Pennsylvania)

March 27, 1997, Thursday,

SOONER EDITION

Copyright 1997 P.G. Publishing Co.

Section: WORLD,

Length: 792 words

Byline: NICOLAS B. TATRO, THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dateline: RAMALLAH, West Bank

Body

Palestinians threw stones and burned American flags in the streets of the West Bank yesterday, rejecting a new U.S. attempt to salvage the disintegrating Mideast peace process.

President Clinton sent envoy Dennis Ross to try to stop the rioting and bloodshed that started after Israel broke ground for construction of a Jewish neighborhood in disputed east Jerusalem.

But Palestinians have grown suspicious of America's motives in peacemaking, because it blocked U.N. Security Council censure of the housing project.

Supporters of Yasser Arafat led protests here and in the West Bank city of Bethlehem, hurling stones and bottles at Israeli soldiers. Soldiers responded with tear gas and rubber bullets, injuring 20 Palestinians.

Israel demanded Ross tell Arafat to rein in the violence - both the daily rioting in the West Bank and terror attacks, such as a suicide bombing that killed three Israeli women at a Tel Aviv cafe last Friday.

"Terrorists will always have a grievance, (but) terrorism cannot exist in a vacuum, it needs a sponsoring government," Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said at a conference on terrorism. "They have chosen to use terrorism as a weapon of political coercion."

Israel also offered an incentive to the Palestinians, with Netanyahu aide David Bar-Illan suggesting in an interview with The Associated Press that Israel might ease its closure of the West Bank if Palestinian security officials resume cooperative efforts to block terror attacks on Israelis. Israel imposed the closure, which keeps tens of thousands of workers from jobs in Israel, after the bombing.

The gap between Israelis and Palestinians appeared far more difficult to bridge than the last time Ross visited the region, when he brokered Israel's military withdrawal in January from most of the West Bank town of Hebron.

"The tensions between the Palestinians and Israelis have reached a very, very serious level," said Edward G. Abington, the U.S. consul-general in Jerusalem and unofficial ambassador to Arafat's self-rule government.

In an AP interview, Abington said President Clinton sent Ross because communication between the Israelis and Palestinians was faltering and the "level of trust has gone down."

U.S. MIDEAST PEACE MISSION GETS ANGRY RECEPTION

"Everybody in the world who's worked for peace in the Middle East is concerned about this," Clinton said at the White House yesterday.

Arafat and foreign ministers from 13 Islamic nations were to meet today in Rabat on the disputed status of Jerusalem.

Palestinians demanded that Ross extract a promise from Netanyahu that Israel would halt the building of Jewish settlements on Arab land. Palestinians are most outraged over the building in east Jerusalem, which they want as a future capital.

Some in the Palestinian legislative council demanded that their leaders shun Ross and his mediation efforts.

"Any envoy to be sent should be boycotted as long as settlements continue," said Abdel Fatah Hmeil, a member of Arafat's Fatah faction from Ramallah.

Parliament Speaker Ahmed Qureia said Palestinians want proof that the United States is an impartial mediator. The United States has said it opposes the building, but insists U.N. censure only adds to the angry rhetoric.

"We want an American guarantee to say that the settlements have been stopped," said Qureia, who led the Palestinian team that negotiated the Israel-PLO accords.

Ross was not prepared to meet that demand, Abington said.

"He obviously can't deliver guarantees to either side, but he can guarantee that the United States will make a best effort," he said.

In Bethlehem, protesters burned U.S. and Israeli flags before Palestinian police - under the on-the-spot supervision of West Bank security chief Jibril Rajoub - broke up the demonstration. Several demonstrators were hurt.

In Ramallah, hundreds of Palestinians students from nearby Bir Zeit University briefly overran an Israeli checkpoint and planted a Palestinian flag on a signpost.

A contingent of Palestinian police who had been assigned to a joint patrol with Israeli troops - defunct since the breakdown in relations - tried to break up the protest, which fizzled at nightfall.

A Japanese tourist was also slightly wounded when Palestinians threw stones at a bus near Ramallah, the Israeli army said. He was hospitalized in Jerusalem.

Officials close to Arafat said Fatah was organizing the West Bank protests to keep Islamic militants of **Hamas** from taking control of the streets and to preserve the credibility among Palestinians of the largest PLO faction.

Saeb Erekat, the chief Palestinian negotiator, said Netanyahu's message was that Netanyahu was sending bulldozers - not negotiators - to decide the future of Jerusalem.

"So what does he expect, that the Palestinians will throw roses at him?" Erekat said.

Load-Date: April 1, 1997

Army issued gun to deranged extremist

THE AUSTRALIAN

January 3, 1997, Friday

Copyright 1997 Nationwide News Pty Limited

Section: WORLD; Pg. 6

Length: 716 words

Body

THE Israeli army opened an inquiry yesterday into why the Israeli soldier who wounded seven Palestinians in Hebron had been issued with a weapon despite evidence that he was mentally unstable.

A military source said the army legal service had also ordered the military police to investigate the circumstances in which Noam Friedman, 19, a Jewish extremist doing compulsory military service, had been recruited.

Military and police sources said a parallel probe was under way by the police at the headquarters of the domestic intelligence service, Shin Bet.

Friedman took part in a bizarre exchange with reporters as he was being taken to jail in a police van in which he said he did not regret his actions.

AFP THE TIMES

"Who gave you the gun?" he was asked.

"The army."

"Who told you to perpetrate this act?"

"No one!"

"Do you think you hurt the country?"

"No, to the contrary, it's good for the country."

"Why did you do it?"

"Hebron has always belonged to us and will always belong to us."

"Do you think you are normal?"

"Absolutely normal!"

"But you fired on innocent people."

"They are not innocent but the enemies of Israel."

Army issued gun to deranged extremist

Police said that after his arrest, Friedman had told them he had been treated in a psychiatric hospital a year ago, while the Interior Minister, Mr Avigdor Khalani, was quoted by State radio as saying Friedman was mentally deranged.

The radio also quoted a rabbi from the Mercaz Harav religious college in Jerusalem, controlled by the extreme nationalist Gush Emunim movement, as saying Friedman had been expelled from the school for behaving strangely. He had claimed to be inspired with a divine mission, the rabbi said.

Investigations into Wednesday's incident have showed that Friedman had five magazines for his M-16 assault rifle, three in his possession and two in his car, which he had left at the Jerusalem bus station. A further 200 rounds of ammunition were found at his home.

After his arrest by other soldiers while he was changing magazines during his shooting rampage, Friedman said he had come specially to Hebron to torpedo the ongoing negotiations between Israelis and Palestinians on the future Israeli military presence in the city.

Muslim women wept and prayed at the hospital beds of loved ones wounded by Friedman.

One of those keeping vigil was Mrs Fousia Atrash, whose twin 16-year-old sons were among the victims. Akram and AbdelKarim were selling vegetables in the Arab market when Friedman started firing at them.

They suffered gunshot wounds in their legs and feet.

Asked if the Palestinian leader, Mr Yasser Arafat, should agree to sign a Hebron accord with the Israelis, Mrs Atrash said: "No, no, no. We must refuse this agreement." All the Jewish settlers in Hebron, about 450 in number, should be removed from the town, she said, adding: "It's a big mistake to let the Jewish settlers be in the city."

Mrs Atrash said that this time she would not be satisfied with platitudes from the Israeli Government. Ten members of her clan had been among the 29 Muslim worshippers killed by Jewish settler Baruch Goldstein in Hebron in 1994. Then, she said, the Israeli authorities had said that Goldstein was crazy.

"We are waiting for them to say this incident is also crazy," she said. Mrs Atrash said it made no difference that Friedman came from outside Hebron.

"There is no difference," she said. 'All the soldiers think the same.'

She noted that both Goldstein and Friedman had put on their army uniforms before attacking Palestinians.

Fathers also vented their emotions over the shootings. "How will this agreement protect us?" asked Mr Talfi Jaber, 84, who sat at the bedside of his son, Hamoud, 31, who was in a critical but stable condition.

Mr Majdi Mohtesb said he feared the Jewish settlers'

hatred of Arabs was being passed from father to son.

The mayor of Hebron, Mr Mustafa Natshe, said Palestinians had been expecting an attack for some time.

"There has been provocation by settlers and many rightwingers have come to Hebron for demonstrations. It was only a matter of time," he said.

A spokesman for the militant Islamic group Hamas said the attack proved the futility of Arab-Jewish co-existence and threatened to carry out revenge attacks. A smaller militant group, Islamic Jihad, also vowed to avenge the shootings.

AFP, The Times

Army issued gun to deranged extremist

Load-Date: March 1, 2002

End of Document

Turning from the abyss

Guardian Weekly

November 3, 1996

Copyright 1996 Guardian Publication, Ltd.

Section: COMMENT; Pg. 12

Length: 717 words

Body

A YEAR AFTER the assassination of Yitzhak Rabin, Israel -- and the Palestinians -- are still counting the cost. The atmosphere swirls with anguish and apprehension, intolerance and fanaticism. The peace process has been knocked off its course: the only question is whether it is going sideways or in reverse. What consensus there was among Jews, among Arabs, and between the two communities, has been sharply reduced; the only question is whether it survives at all. Looking back a year later, many are asking the hardest question of all: has the assassin actually won?

After Rabin was gunned down, the Israeli people drew together briefly and pledged re-commitment to the peace process. But it was a shaky reconciliation to which the hard-core Likud only assented reluctantly and because it was politically impossible to do otherwise. Even then there were fundamentalists who openly applauded Yigal Amir. A year on, there is far more evidence of discord than of common endeavour in Israeli society. "How quickly the national memory dried up," wrote a commentator recently in the Yediot Aharonoth newspaper, "how fast the tears evaporated . . . A year after the assassination of the prime minister, and we have not yet learned to live with each other. We have not learned to talk to each other." A Jewish extremist pours scalding tea on a Knesset member who has gone to talk to a mixed meeting of Jewish and Palestinian women. Rightwingers object to the Song of Peace -- which Rabin joined in singing minutes before he was gunned down -- being used at a planned memorial meeting. There are a few brave efforts to bridge the gap of comprehension between the communities, but no one will admit even a hint of optimism.

Zevulun Hammer, education minister under Binyamin Netanyahu, claimed last week that the right wing was being unfairly blamed: "Bullets don't fly from only right to left." But within Israeli society the hatred and the violence has been one way -- and it was often condoned by associates of Mr Netanyahu before Rabin was killed. It is true that the assassination did not create the schism; it only turned the spotlight upon it. It is also true (though it does not help) that the fundamentalist objection to the peace process is based not on antiArab prejudice but on profound conviction. This is the essence of the argument over Hebron today. To the Palestinians (and to Rabin's government which negotiated the Oslo agreement), Hebron was an Arab town with a small Jewish community; to religious Zionism, it was and is the City of the Patriarchs.

An Israeli prime minister can only begin to reconcile such deep divisions in society by leading it forwards, not backwards. Shimon Peres sought to do so after Rabin's death against increasing odds. In February he made his own task harder by consenting to the Israeli assassination in Gaza of the Hamas bomb-maker known as "the engineer". This then triggered the massive bombings against Israeli civilian targets which lost him the election.

Mr Netanyahu says he "sees things differently" from the Oslo agreement, yet he is not a fundamentalist but a pragmatist -- with a strong opportunistic streak. The tragedy is that this has so far led him in the wrong direction. It

Turning from the abyss

was always going to be hard for Israeli society to face up to the implications of making peace with the Palestinians. For the logic (which Mr Peres accepted privately but could never say in public) does lead towards two separate states. When this is pointed out by outsiders -- as President Chirac did on his recent visit to Israel -- it causes enormous resentment. Yet a new, equal and co-operative relationship is the only real solution to Jewish-Arab hostility.

Mr Netanyahu and, it must be acknowledged, very large numbers of Israelis, reject a two-state solution altogether. But the last year has demonstrated that he and they have no other alternative except a gradual slide into the abyss (taking Mr Arafat with them). Contemplating this abyss could and should lead to second thoughts on entirely practical grounds. A rightwing leader is better placed than a prime minister of the left to change course. Mr Netanyahu might even find it easier than he expected; it is certainly the only way to bring to an end the endless circle of revenge -- and defeat Rabin's assassin.

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Load-Date: November 12, 1996

End of Document

Gunmen kill 11 in South Africa

St. Petersburg Times (Florida)

August 7, 1993, Saturday, City Edition

Times Publishing Company

Section: NATIONAL; THE WORLD IN BRIEF; Pg. 16A; DIGEST

Length: 688 words

Dateline: JOHANNESBURG, South Africa; JERUSALEM; BEIRUT, Lebanon; MOSCOW; TOKYO

Body

Convoys of armored cars rolled into troubled black townships east of Johannesburg on Friday night and 11 more people were killed in the townships and in a train on the outskirts of the city.

The South African government ordered soldiers into the townships to help police restore law and order after 143 blacks were killed in a week of fighting.

Army officers declined to say how many soldiers went in, but witnesses reported scores of armored personnel carriers and other military vehicles heading toward trouble spots. Military analysts said several thousand soldiers would be needed.

Compiled from Times WiresWORLD BRIEFS

Police reported that six bodies were found Friday in two of the affected townships, Katlehong and Tokoza, and five black commuters were killed on the train.

Gunmen raced through the train ordering women to lie down and then opened fire on male passengers.

"They didn't waste time," a witness said. "They just started to shoot."

Three Israeli soldiers slain in West Bank

JERUSALEM - Palestinian gunmen fired on an Israeli army outpost in the occupied West Bank on Friday, killing two soldiers.

Hours earlier, the body of a kidnapped Israeli soldier was found.

The killings came as Secretary of State Warren Christopher wrapped up a visit to the region to revive the stalled Middle East peace talks.

Other recent upsurges in violence have prompted tough Israeli retaliatory measures, all of which have disrupted the talks. But Uri Dromi, director of the Government Press Office, said the killings would not threaten the peace process.

Two gunmen piled out of a car at an army outpost near the village of Deir Balout on Friday morning, and opened fire, killing the two soldiers.

Gunmen kill 11 in South Africa

A third soldier returned fire, killing one gunman and wounding the other. The driver of the car escaped.

The dead Palestinian gunman was identified as a wanted man from the fundamentalist Islamic group **Hamas**, Israel television reported.

Germany releases Lebanese kidnapper

BEIRUT, Lebanon - Abbas Hamadi arrived Friday after being granted early release from the German prison where he had served more than five years for kidnapping two Germans in an attempt to free his terrorist brother.

There had been widespread speculation that Abbas, who belongs to the Iranian-backed Hezbollah, or Party of God, was freed as part of a deal with the Bonn government that led to the release of two German hostages in Lebanon in June.

But federal Justice Minister Sabine Leutheuser-Schnarrenberger repeated the government's longstanding denial on German national television Friday, insisting, "There was no deal."

The Lebanese government issued an amnesty in 1991 for crimes committed during the country's 1975-1990 civil war and is expected to decide shortly whether Hamadi is covered by it.

Legislature takes on Yeltsin decree

MOSCOW - Russia's hard-line legislature dealt a fresh blow to Boris Yeltsin on Friday, canceling his decree on privatization of state enterprises and blaming the president for a nationwide currency panic.

But members of Yeltsin's Cabinet said the transfer of state industry into private hands would continue, and they approved a plan for three more years of economic reforms.

The latest actions of the Supreme Soviet, Russia's standing legislature, appeared to be more an annoyance to Yeltsin than an immediate threat to his efforts to build a free market.

He spent the day in the Kremlin working with his Cabinet and regional economic leaders on the three-year plan, which amounted to a compromise between radical reformists and moderate technocrats.

The document is mainly a statement of goals, rather than specific steps. It calls for a "socially oriented market economy" and recommends some "corrections" to soften the impact on the Russian populace, the ITAR-Tass news agency said.

Torrential rains flood southern Japan

TOKYO - Torrential rains in Kagoshima, southern Japan, caused floods and landslides Friday and at least 30 people were reported missing, NHK television said.

One landslide pushed about 10 people into the sea and buried several other people under rocks and mud, NHK said.

Load-Date: August 7, 1993

TIME FOR PLO TO GIVE FOR PEACE

St. Louis Post-Dispatch (Missouri)

July 15, 1996, Monday, FIVE STAR LIFT Edition

Copyright 1996 St. Louis Post-Dispatch, Inc.

Section: EDITORIAL; Pg. 15B; MONA CHAREN COLUMN

Length: 708 words

Byline: Mona Charen Copyright Creators Syndicate Inc.

Dateline: WASHINGTON

Body

To hear the U.S. press tell it, Israel's recent election was a defeat for the forces of enlightenment and peace and a victory for ancient antagonism and war. The buildup to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's visit to the United States was reported skeptically by newspapers like The New York Times. A front-page story noted that Netanyahu has said he intends to continue negotiations with the Palestinian Authority, "but he has couched this with conditions that leave unclear whether the Palestinians will find any reason to keep talking."

This is typical of the treatment Netanyahu received from the U.S. press. The assumption is always that peace or war lies in Israel's hands and depends only on Israeli willingness to give up land. Let's consider that.

The Palestinians may find little reason to keep talking? All the Palestinians have done to date is talk. They have talked to the Americans, the Europeans and the Israelis. And when it comes to fulfilling terms of the Oslo agreements, the Palestine Liberation Organization has produced more talk. Since the famous "handshake" on the White House lawn three years ago, more Israeli civilians have died at the hands of Arab terrorists than in the whole history of the Israeli state.

This is what the Clinton administration has been pleased to call "peace." And, as Charles Krauthammer has noted in the Weekly Standard, more important than the attacks themselves - mostly bombings of innocent men, women and children on city buses - was the reaction of the Palestinian people to them. If the bombings had been met with outrage and remorse - the way Israel reacted when an Israeli gunman, Baruch Goldstein, massacred more than a score of Palestinians at prayer several years ago - it would have signified that the Palestinian people were truly ready for peace with Israel.

But the Palestinians did not react that way. When the "engineer," the mastermind of the bus bombings that killed 35 Israeli civilians, was buried, it sparked the largest rally in the history of the Palestinian people. Yasser Arafat hailed him as a "martyr."

The "peace process" cannot be a one-way street. There must be give and take. So far, the Israelis have done all the giving. The Oslo accords required Israel to give up the Gaza Strip, grant political recognition to the PLO and give autonomy to the PLO on the West Bank. All of these Israel has done.

The Palestinians were required to do only two things: cease terrorism against Israel and alter the PLO charter to change the words calling for Israel's destruction. Terrorism has obviously not ceased, nor has the PLO demonstrated good faith about curbing it. According to the Jerusalem Times, a pro-PLO Arab newspaper, "scores"

TIME FOR PLO TO GIVE FOR PEACE

of **Hamas** terrorists have been released from PLO jails since April. According to Israeli Army Radio, Yasser Arafat has recently reiterated his refusal to "hand over anyone to Israel or any other country." The Oslo accords specifically require the Palestinian Authority to honor Israeli extradition requests.

The Clinton administration, more fond of the Oslo process than the parties themselves, guarantees \$ 500 million in annual aid to the PLO - provided the PLO keeps its promise to stamp out terrorism.

Not only has the PLO not kept its word about controlling terrorists who kill Israelis, it has even declined to help the United States find and punish those who kill Americans.

The government of Saudi Arabia is taking some well-deserved heat for declining American requests to upgrade security around the housing for our soldiers. The Saudis also declined to let the FBI interrogate the four terrorists who were executed for a bombing last November. The PLO is doing the identical thing.

In April 1995, American citizen Alissa Flatow was murdered by Arab terrorists in the PLO-controlled Gaza Strip. But when the FBI expressed a desire to send agents to investigate the murder, Rashid Abu-Shibak, deputy commander of the PLO security service, said the PLO would not permit the FBI into Gaza.

As for changing its charter, the PLO has played games, sending the matter to a committee and generally dodging and weaving.

Those are the realities that confront the new prime minister as he searches for peace - not the recalcitrance of the Israeli people.

Load-Date: July 15, 1996

End of Document

BRIEFS

St. Louis Post-Dispatch (Missouri)

July 31, 1996, Wednesday, FIVE STAR LIFT Edition

Copyright 1996 St. Louis Post-Dispatch, Inc.

Section: NEWS; Pg. 5A; BRIEFS/NATION/WORLD COLUMN

Length: 707 words

Body

WORLD

HIJACKING

2 Suspects Arrested In Germany

Two men who allegedly helped plan the hijacking of a Spanish airliner to Miami were arrested Tuesday in southwestern Germany, German television said. The men were arrested in Saarbruecken after they arrived on a flight from Paris, ARD national television said. The two are Palestinians, ages 24 and 26, the broadcast report said.

Saado Mohamed Ibrahim Intissar, 27, is accused of using a fake bomb to hijack an Iberian airliner to Florida on Friday. Ibrahim surrendered to the FBI when the plane landed in Miami, and none of the 232 people aboard was harmed. Ibrahim gave no motive for the hijacking and gave conflicting information about himself - variously saying he was a Lebanese soldier or a former barber, authorities said.

Investigators believe that the two men arrested in Germany were involved in the planning of the hijacking and were to take part, ARD said. Instead, the men decided to ask for asylum in Germany, leaving the lone hijacker to carry out the crime, the report said.

AP

ISRAEL

Bones May Be Those Of Soldier

Bones found buried under a newly paved road may be those of a missing Israeli soldier. His death has been one of the many unresolved tensions between Israelis and Palestinians.

Palestinian officials helped with the discovery of what the Israeli army says is apparently the remains of Ilan Saadon. The discovery was announced Tuesday.

Saadon disappeared while hitchhiking in 1989, and Palestinians who belonged to the Islamic militant group **Hamas** claimed they had kidnapped and killed him.

The army was checking dental records to confirm the identification of Saadon.

AP

BRIEFS

NATION

DEMOCRATIC CONVENTION

Streets To Be Sealed Off For Safety

Barring vehicles and pedestrians from an eight-block area around the 1996 Democratic National Convention in Chicago is a necessary safeguard against possible terrorist attack, Mayor Richard M. Daley said Tuesday.

City officials said demonstrators would still be able to get within sight and sound of the United Center, where the convention will be held Aug. 26-29. But protest groups said their designated area was too far away to have much impact.

"Sadly, the recent crash of TWA Flight 800 and the bombing at Olympic Centennial Park have underscored the importance of such a cautious, thorough process," Daley said. The American Civil Liberties Union and other groups are suing the city over plans to seal off streets around the United Center, a mile west of downtown Chicago, during convention week.

AP

WASHINGTON

Defense Bill Compromise Reached

House and Senate negotiators agreed Tuesday on a bill authorizing about \$ 265 billion for defense programs next year, including aggressive spending on new weapons systems that could trigger a presidential veto.

The compromise, which must be approved by the full House and Senate before going to President Bill Clinton, envisions adding more than \$ 11 billion to the administration's request for fiscal 1997 beginning Oct. 1.

It eliminates House wording proposed by Rep. Robert Dornan, R-Calif., requiring the military to discharge any service person found to have HIV, the virus that causes AIDS.

Clinton signed a similar measure in February but lawmakers later voted to repeal it as part of a budget resolution. Also defeated Tuesday was an attempt to bar gays from military service.

AP

WHITEWATER TRIAL

Jury Deadlocked In Bankers' Case

Federal jurors in Little Rock, Ark., told a judge they were deadlocked Tuesday in the Whitewater trial of two bankers accused of illegally using their bank to promote Bill Clinton's political career. The judge ordered them to keep deliberating.

"We as a jury have come to the conclusion that we are locked, and we are seeking advice of your honor," jurors in the trial of Herby Branscum Jr. and Robert M. Hill said in a note to U.S. District Judge Susan Webber Wright.

The judge then summoned the jury into the courtroom. She cautioned the eight men and four women to provide no clues to where they stood on any count of the indictment, then reread to them an instruction asking that they do everything possible to reach a verdict.

Two hours later, as the jury reported a continuing deadlock, Wright sent the jurors home and ordered them back to resume deliberations today.

AP

Graphic

PHOTO; Photo - AP - Just Checking - Lindsay Bell makes sure her brother, Iain Bell, has his diaper on underneath his kilt. Their father, Scott Bell (left), was performing Monday as part of the Kingston Pipe Band and Highland Dancers in Kingston, Ontario.

Load-Date: August 2, 1996

End of Document

BRIEFS

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Load-Date: August 2, 1996

End of Document

A dangerous victory for Arafat

THE AUSTRALIAN

April 26, 1996, Friday

Copyright 1996 Nationwide News Pty Limited

Length: 725 words

Byline: Amin Saikal

Body

D ESPITE the odds, the head of the Palestine Liberation Organisation, Yasser Arafat, has once again pulled it off.

He has succeeded in inducing the Palestine National Council to accept the removal of the parts of the Palestine National Covenant calling for the destruction of the State of Israel. The significance of this development is that it meets one of the long-term demands of successive Israeli governments and should open the way for the resumption of serious negotiations between the two sides over the final status of the occupied territories.

However, this development has come against the backdrop of considerable manipulation by Arafat of the procedures of the PNC.

While many delegates, including the prominent academic and activist Hanan Ashrawi, attended the PNC meeting with a predisposition to oppose any change to the covenant - on the ground that now was not the time for such a change, since Israel had not gone far enough towards the realisation of an independent Palestinian State - Arafat skilfully used his ability to appoint 98 additional members to the PNC in order to secure a majority for his proposed amendments to the covenant.

The prominence of some of the opponents of the change might, in ordinary times, have taken some of the glitter from his victory, even though it was by a substantial majority. However, coming in the aftermath of Israel's international embarrassment from its shelling of a United Nations compound in Lebanon in which defenceless refugees were huddled, Arafat's success was quite considerable.

Given the intensity of Arab anger at the deaths of innocent civilians, Arafat was out on a limb in securing the amendments necessary to carry the peace process forward. For this, he may expect to win a degree of support from subtler Israelis and from the Clinton administration. This, in turn, may improve the electoral prospects of Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres, who can claim this as a success for his policy of peaceful engagement and distract attention from the emerging disaster in Lebanon.

At the same time, this development leaves Arafat further exposed to the opponents of the peace process. He can expect possibly violent opposition from not only within his own constituency but also outside, especially the militant Palestinian Islamic groups - **Hamas** and Islamic Jihad - as well as States such as Lebanon, Syria and Iran.

Given the symbolic significance of Arafat's latest concessions to Israel, more groups than ever may think that now is the time to be done with him. From Jordan's King Abdullah to Egypt's president Anwar Sadat and Israel's prime minister Yitzhak Rabin, the path of the peacemaker has not been an easy one in the Middle East.

A dangerous victory for Arafat

Arafat is in a very isolated position. He has not even gone as far as King Hussein of Jordan or President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt in his condemnation of Israel's military campaign in Lebanon. On the contrary, he has done something which might easily convince his opponents that he is indeed nothing more than what the Israeli Opposition leader, Benjamin Netanyahu, recently described him as being, namely a "subcontractor" under the Oslo accords.

As weak as Arafat's position may appear, it would be an error of judgment for Israel to exploit this in any way other than a strengthening of the peace process. The ball is now in Israel's court and Israel's response will show whether its leaders are far-sighted statesmen and women, or merely politicians with no sense of the importance of the long run. Of course, the response of the Israeli electorate in the approaching elections will be crucial to Arafat's position. A shift to the Right in support of the Likud Party of Netanyahu could easily make it untenable.

Whatever the outcome, Arafat is standing at a crossroads, similar to that which Peres faces because of Israel's democratic processes. But it is important to point out that Arafat has already moved an enormous distance from the position with which he was long associated - a position which once saw Israeli spokesmen depict him as a terrorist in the same terms as they apply to Hezbollah in Lebanon. There are lessons here for those who adopt too rigid an approach to the politics of the region.

Professor Amin Saikal is the director of the Centre for Middle Eastern and Central Asian Studies at the Australian National University.

Load-Date: March 1, 2002

End of Document

METRO DIGEST

The New York Times

May 9, 1996, Thursday, Late Edition - Final

Copyright 1996 The New York Times Company

Distribution: Metropolitan Desk

Section: Section B;; Section B; Page 3; Column 1; Metropolitan Desk; Column 1;; Summary

Length: 763 words

Body

NEW YORK

Protections in Managed Care

Governor Pataki proposed legislation that would establish a broad range of protection for patients enrolled in managed health care plans. The bill represents a breakthrough in an impasse that has blocked the Legislature for years. [Page A1.]

Mayor Drafts 'Realistic' Budget

Mayor Giuliani said he had drafted a new, "more realistic" 1997 budget that would eliminate many of the financial gimmicks and overly optimistic assumptions that had led to repeated criticisms from fiscal monitors in the first half of his term. But the price was steep: significant new spending cuts by city agencies and a retreat from tax cuts. [A1.]

School Leasing Official Resigns

The New York City school official in charge of the troubled school-leasing program that is under investigation by the Manhattan District Attorney has resigned under pressure, officials said. [B1.]

Mingling 2 Worlds of Medicine

As New York City's immigrant population balloons, doctors and hospitals are regularly dealing with patients who also seek treatment from folk healers, spiritualists or herbalists. But some doctors have begun to condone their patients' use of both conventional medicine and folk healing, even to the point of consulting with a healer, referring patients to one or allowing the healer to come to the hospital. [B1.]

Moshing Claims a Fatality

METRO DIGEST

It has become a common ritual at rock concerts: people banging against one another on the dance floor, a practice known as moshing. But in 1994, a teen-ager died after careering off the stage of a Brooklyn nightclub and landing on his head. It was the first, and so far only, fatality associated with moshing in the United States, but the incident has taken on symbolic importance as an example of the practice's dangers. [B1.]

Next, the Fear of Teen-Agers

For New Yorkers wondering why their Governor wants to get tough on juvenile crime -- even in the face of a persistently falling crime rate -- here is one answer. It is fear of "superpredators" -- a term used by criminologists who predict a sharp increase in violent crime as the number of teen-agers soars. Metro Matters by Joyce Purnick. [B1.]

Lawyer Is Accused in Scam

Federal investigators are looking into accusations that a lawyer prominent in Brooklyn's Orthodox Jewish community swindled millions of dollars from real estate investors, many if not most of whom were Orthodox Jews, officials said. [B4.]

Safir Names Top Deputy

Police Commissioner Howard Safir has appointed Assistant Chief Tosano J. Simonetti, a member of the Police Department's old guard, as first deputy police commissioner, senior police officials said. [B7.]

Gingerly Debating Term Limits

At its first public hearing on term limits, the City Council lined up a long list of speakers to discuss the merits of the issue, but only two had anything good to say. [B8.]

Officer in Rape Case Posts Bail

The former transit police officer wounded by a fellow officer in a highly publicized 1994 case was released on bail, vowing to clear his name of charges that he sexually assaulted a female officer. [B8.]

Judge Orders Extradition

A Federal judge in Manhattan ordered the extradition of the political leader of Hamas, the militant Palestinian group, from the United States to Israel, where he faces criminal charges that he financed and helped organize terrorist attacks. [A9.]

Crazy Eddie Founder Guilty

Eddie Antar, a co-founder of the giant Crazy Eddie discount electronics stores, pleaded guilty to a Federal charge that he had defrauded shareholders of more than \$74 million. Business Day. [D9.]

NEW JERSEY

METRO DIGEST

Barring Costly Legislation

Gov. Christine Todd Whitman signed legislation that would prevent state officials from imposing costly laws, administrative rules and regulations on school districts and municipal and county governments. [B6.]

Meadowlands, the Theme Park

A Tokyo-based developer unveiled plans for a 1.1-million-square-foot interactive theme park in the Meadowlands that will offer indoor skiing, boating through a simulated rain forest and virtual mountain biking amid stores selling sports equipment, clothing and computer games. [B6.]

CONNECTICUT

In Hartford, Legislative Frenzy

On the last day of the legislative session in Hartford comes an annual legislative tradition: the final chaotic frenzy of votes, a time when months of work can suddenly unravel in a tiff between lawmakers, when carefully drafted legislation can wither and die as the clock runs out and when last-minute changes in language can suddenly throw lobbyists and lawmakers into a panic. [B6.]

Load-Date: May 9, 1996

End of Document

Latest Mideast carnage has all too familiar ring

The Ottawa Citizen

April 20, 1996, Saturday, FINAL EDITION

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Section: OBSERVER; CHRISTOPHER YOUNG; Pg. B6

Length: 713 words

Byline: CHRISTOPHER YOUNG

Body

The pattern is all too bitterly familiar. Terror bombs on one side, retaliation on the other; bombing raids across the border; women and children in flight or dead on the roads; international concern but little consensus; and eventually, after weeks or months of bloodshed, a truce born of hatred. Then, if the past is any guide, new forms of terror, more retaliation, and no peace in the Middle East.

That is the way it happened in 1982 when Israel last invaded Lebanon. I spent much of that summer and fall in the Middle East, enjoying comfortable and interesting times in Israel, making the best of human folly in the ruins of Beirut, Tyre, Sidon and elsewhere, visiting shattered buildings, driving on torn-up roads.

In September, Israeli tanks encircled the Palestinian refugee camps of Sabra and Shatila in Beirut, allowing Lebanese "Christian" Phalangists to slaughter the refugee families and bulldoze their houses.

Israel officially regretted that episode as well. That fall Israeli troops withdrew from Beirut and most of southern Lebanon, keeping a strip of territory as a security zone.

Long road to peace

It was a long road back from the war of 1982 through countless acts of Arab terrorism and the launching of the Intefadeh -- the uprising of Palestinian youth on the West Bank of the Jordan, which Israel was trying to annex gradually through settlement. Stalemate made possible the great feat of diplomacy that brought a kind of peace in 1993, when, on the White House lawn, Yitzhak Rabin shook hands with Yasser Arafat, and both agreed to pursue a permanent solution.

That hope was built on the idea of Palestinian autonomy on the West Bank, in the Gaza strip, in Jericho. Slowly, the plan progressed, but only in the face of continuing terror of the most cruel kind, usually involving the death by bomb or gunfire of women, children and anyone who got in the way of fanaticism.

Israeli school buses were blown up. Muslim worshippers were gunned down in their mosque. Israeli Prime Minister Rabin was assassinated by one of his own people. Hamas, the curious Palestinian organization that is part social service agency and part terror gang, emerged as a grave threat to the hopes of permanent peace.

More recently, Hezbollah guerrillas resumed activity in southern Lebanon, where Israeli soldiers still occupied their "security zone." One could argue all night about which side was more at fault in this dispute: Israelis were camped on Lebanese territory, and they thought the Lebanese were incapable of defending it.

Latest Mideast carnage has all too familiar ring

Disproportionate response

Syria is the real master of Lebanon, and Syria has declined to get involved in the peace process until Israel gives up the Golan Heights, which it captured in the Six-Day War of 1967 and has kept ever since.

Syria is believed to be behind the Hezbollah action, and Iran is said to be financing it, but whatever the relationships of the anti-Israel forces, the hugely disproportionate response of the Israeli government will undermine the peace process still further. Friends of Israel will have trouble justifying the random killing of so many non-combatants, including UN peacekeepers, as well as the weakest members of Lebanese society.

The argument that they were told to leave their houses holds no water: How would we react if we were ordered to flee our homes or risk death by bombing? The theory that Shimon Peres is running his election campaign on the backs of dead Lebanese is even more repulsive. It doesn't square with his admirable record of moderate leadership in quest of peace.

U.S. President Bill Clinton's call for a ceasefire holds the only chance of even temporary truce. Hope of a return to a serious peace process lies buried in the rubble of southern Lebanon. Until that hope can be dug out again, the people of the Middle East -- including the Israelis -- must return to instability, insecurity and the daily fear of death by violence. Israel's counter-attack will do what such methods have done before -- create from survivors another generation of Arabs raised in hatred, brought up to believe that their function in life is to attack and kill the neighbor who has done them so much damage.

Christopher Young is a columnist for Southam News.

Load-Date: April 21, 1996

End of Document

BRIEFS

St. Louis Post-Dispatch (Missouri)

February 29, 1996, Thursday, FIVE STAR LIFT Edition

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Section: NEWS; Pg. 5A; BRIEFS/NATION/WORLD COLUMN

Length: 682 words

Body

World

MIDEAST PEACE Arafat Issues Ultimatum For Militants

Yasser Arafat gave Muslim militants until Friday to surrender their weapons or face police raids, after an ultimatum from Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres to crack down on extremists.

Peres warned Tuesday that he might not pull back Israeli troops from the West Bank town of Hebron by the end of March, as stipulated by the Israel-PLO autonomy agreement, unless Arafat's government immediately disarms and arrests all Muslim militants.

Arafat took the first steps toward meeting the demand Wednesday, announcing that all unlicensed weapons must be surrendered by Friday. After the deadline, police will search homes in the West Bank and Gaza for any illegal arms, said Palestinian police commander Brig. Gen. Ghazi Jabali.

Palestinian security forces have arrested about 200 supporters of the Muslim militant **Hamas** group since two terror bombings killed 27 people Sunday.

AP

NATION WASHINGTON Gingrich To Branch Out, Plot GOP Future House Speaker Newt Gingrich plans to spend less time running the House and more on formulating long-range Republican strategy and communicating his party's message on the road.

Gingrich, R-Ga., also plans to campaign and raise money for GOP candidates as Republicans try to retain majority control of Congress in November. wwt AP

NEW JERSEY Judge Denies Mexico's Extradition Bid

A federal judge in Newark, N.J., threw out the deportation case Wednesday against a former Mexican prosecutor accused of trying to thwart a politically sensitive investigation into his brother's assassination.

Secretary of State Warren Christopher has maintained that Mario Ruiz Massieu poses a threat to U.S. foreign policy if he is not sent back to Mexico for trial, but U.S. District Judge Maryanne Trump Barry said that rationale was unconstitutionally vague.

Mexico criticized the ruling. It has been seeking Ruiz Massieu's return since he fled to the United States a year ago.

BRIEFS

Mexico has accused Ruiz Massieu of obstructing the investigation into the 1994 assassination of his brother, Jose Francisco Ruiz Massieu, an official of the Mexican ruling party. About a dozen suspects, including the gunman, were convicted and are in prison.

AP

SPACE SHUTTLE Astronauts Won't Make Try For Satellite NASA considered sending two spacewalking astronauts to go get the runaway satellite-on-a-cord, armed with nothing but wire, tape and handyman tools.

NASA officials rejected that idea after nearly a day of debate because Columbia does not have enough fuel to get the satellite, which broke loose from the shuttle Sunday. Because of the satellite's orbital position, NASA would have had to extend the 14-day flight by four days, with the rescue scheduled March 9.

AP

ABORTION CLINIC SLAYINGS Bizarre Visions Drove Salvi, Father Says The man charged with killing two people at abortion clinics descended into madness with visions of his girlfriend turning into a vampire and a belief that mobsters were stalking him, his father testified Wednesday.

John C. Salvi III also told his parents that the family's home was bugged and that Freemasons controlled their credit cards, John C. Salvi Jr. testified. The father was the second witness for the defense, which is trying to show that Salvi, 23, was insane when he killed two people and injured five others at two abortion clinics in Brookline, Mass., in December 1994.

The father told jurors how his son went from an "average, healthy boy" to a Bible-obsessed man. He said the changes began when his son was a senior in high school.

AP

SAN DIEGO Navy Demotes Man In Harassment Case A Navy chief petty officer found guilty of groping a female sailor aboard an airliner was ordered Wednesday to be confined to quarters for 89 days.

In addition, Cmdr. Nels Kelstrom, a Navy judge, reduced the rank and pay of George Powell, 49, a cook.

A court-martial Tuesday found Powell guilty on five counts of indecent assault and two counts of simple assault in the airliner incident and another case involving a second female sailor aboard the Samuel Gompers, anchored in Hong Kong harbor in January 1994.

Reuters

Graphic

PHOTO; Photo by AP - Cool Bear - Samson, known as "The Hot Tub Bear," lounges in the cool pool of his new home in the Orange County Zoo in Orange, Calif. The bear was scheduled to be euthanatized because of his frequent forays into backyard pools and hot tubs, but he got a reprieve from Gov. Pete Wilson. His compound was partly financed by donations from children and businesses.

Load-Date: February 29, 1996

ARAFAT LOADS DICE IN HISTORIC ELECTION

THE WEEKEND AUSTRALIAN

January 20, 1996, Saturday

Copyright 1996 Nationwide News Pty Limited

Length: 783 words

Byline: ASHER WALLFISH

Body

PALESTINIAN society is geared up for an unprecedented experience at today's elections which will, officially, give them self-rule and break decades of Israeli domination.

Yet while the voters will be going through the motions of the democratic process for the first time, they will be savouring no more than a modicum of its substance.

Voters will cast two ballots, one for the presidency and the second for the council, a parliament of the autonomous authority.

The outcome is a foregone conclusion, because that's how the chairman of the Palestinian Authority, Mr Yasser Arafat, loaded the dice.

Democracy aside, nobody doubts that the chairman and his favourite candidates would win even if he hadn't fixed certain crucial dispositions in advance, deterring some candidates heavy-handedly from running, while encouraging others.

Chairman Arafat, incontestably, commands the admiration of most Palestinians on the West Bank and in Gaza.

They see him as their only credible leader.

They are overawed by the power he wields, moreover.

And most of them accept his controversial pre-election arrangements as a traditional Middle Eastern way of "making sure". As for his mainstream Fatah movement, which sponsors the candidates likely to sweep the board, most Palestinians accept it as the only vehicle which could make their present selfrule possible.

The chairman's critics, fundamentalists and left-wingers alike, are trailing way behind.

The Islamic fundamentalist group **Hamas** is out of the election officially, though not boycotting it either.

One single candidate, a woman left-winger from Ramallah, Ms Samiha Salameh Khalil, 73, is standing against Mr Arafat in the ballot for the presidency.

She will be lucky to get 5 per cent of the vote.

Unwittingly, Ms Khalil is serving as the chairman's figleaf, bolstering his supporters'

ARAFAT LOADS DICE IN HISTORIC ELECTION

contention that the election contest is democratic.

Many other potential rivals for the presidency, much better known than Ms Khalil, decided not to waste their time by running.

The number of voters in each constituency varies widely, as well as the number of council members to which each constituency is entitled, and the mathematical ratio of voters to council members.

These are just some of the reasons why the chairman, Mr Arafat, has already been publicly reproached by the international observer groups for allegedly manipulating the preelection arrangements to ensure a landslide victory in the council.

Former United States president Mr Jimmy Carter is probably the best-known observer.

Australia's team of 10 observers is headed by Justice John Dowd of the NSW Supreme Court, a former leader of the NSW Liberal Party.

Mr Arafat originally insisted on a large squad of foreign observers because he feared Israel would either manipulate the ballot or scare voters into staying home on election day.

As it happens, so far only he himself has been the target of manipulation charges.

Palestinian and Israeli security forces will be vigilant to guard against possible assaults against Mr Carter and other observers by Muslim fundamentalists and sundry opponents of the peace process.

Israeli foes of the peace process say they will assemble for the Sabbath in Jerusalem and demonstrate peacefully, as they claim, against the arrangements for Palestinians to vote inside the city.

But some 2000 Israeli policemen have already been mobilised from around the country to spread out through Jerusalem on the offchance extremists from both sides may spark violence, including ultra-nationalists on the Jewish right-wing fringe.

Two religious minorities, the Christians and the Samaritans, have been allocated reserved seats on the council, thus giving them much greater representation than their actual numbers warrant within the Palestinian population.

Mr Arafat put this provision through personally, supposedly to reassure his sympathisers in the West, especially among the donorcountries, that he would maintain a liberal regime.

The Christian minority will thus enjoy six seats out of the 88, two in the Bethlehem constituency, two in East Jerusalem and environs, one in Ramallah and one in Gaza.

The Samaritan minority, which numbers a mere 300, will have one seat in the Nablus constituency.

In the internal debates which preceded the promulgation of the electoral statutes, Palestinian women demanded reserved seats equivalent to one-third of the council, but to no avail.

Dr Hanan Ashrawi, the eloquent former PLO spokesperson, is not campaigning as a Christian Palestinian, but rather stressing her devotion to women's causes.

One of the obstacles she has to surmount is the tradition in many Muslim societies that women vote the way their menfolk tell them.

Load-Date: March 1, 2002

COUNCIL MUST MAKE GOOD ON PROMISES

THE AUSTRALIAN

January 23, 1996, Tuesday

Copyright 1996 Nationwide News Pty Limited

Length: 760 words

Byline: ASHER WALLFISH

Body

YASSER Arafat won an impressive majority over the weekend in the first democratic elections in his people's history, and so did his mainstream Fatah movement's supporters.

But the way ahead for the Ra'is, (president in Arabic) is strewn with awesome problems.

Mr Arafat, and the candidates he got into the 88-member council, now have to make good on their election promises.

They have to deliver to a people plagued by long deprivation and misled by great expectations.

In the brief fortnight-long election campaign leading up to January 20, the candidates did not promise potential voters Churchillian-style "blood, toil, tears and sweat", in the task of building nation and country.

In Palestinian terms, they promised almost everything except the moon.

Election propaganda themes were proclaimed fervently all over Gaza and the West Bank, as though the intifada uprising against the Israeli occupier was still raging.

The candidates promised "in blood and fire" as the Arab nationalist chant puts it, to return the Palestinian refugees of the 1948 war to their original homes in Jaffa, Haifa, Acre and Beersheba, from their places of exile all around the Arab world.

They promised to establish Jerusalem as the Palestinian capital.

And now, as the election count was approaching its close, the head of the central elections commission, Mr Mahmoud Abbas, promised in Gaza that the new council would declare Palestinian independence, hence Palestinian sovereignty, during its three-year term of office.

The candidates blithely promised jobs, houses, health services and educational facilities.

What they did not mention was that the generous subsidies from Western donor-countries are not even enough to pay salaries for the Ra'is' bloated administration, and for his six separate security organisations.

The task faced by Mr Arafat and his supporters in the newlyelected council, is to find the appropriate rhetoric in the period ahead, to explain why the rhetoric of the past few weeks cannot be translated into reality.

Perhaps they will choose Israel as one of the scapegoats.

COUNCIL MUST MAKE GOOD ON PROMISES

The council is a conglomeration of older representatives who have owed their functions and their perks to Mr Arafat since the comfortable exile days in Tunis, mingling on their parliamentary benches with tough young Fatah activists who fought Israel from inside the occupied territories, saw their comrades killed and wounded at their sides, and spent years in Israeli prisons.

Women, whose role in the intifada was vital, have broken through traditional barriers in Arab society, and achieved a small but noticeable foothold in the council, probably with as many as seven seats.

It includes some genuinely independent representatives with minds of their own.

It includes men endorsed by the **Hamas** fundamentalists, even though that movement distanced itself formally from the elections.

One striking phenomenon in the election results was the successful emergence of personalities who support the peace process in principle, but fell foul of Mr Arafat and his dictatorial ways, with the result that he made sure their names did not appear on the lists of sponsored Fatah movement candidates.

Mr Arafat is not expected to give up his autocratic ways, just because of the democratic election process which has taken place. He will most likely maintain his centralised rule, with the help of his six security organisations, and his intimidation of the Palestinian media.

What is unclear is the degree of parliamentary immunity which council members will enjoy, and the freedom of expression he will grant to the small but far from negligible opposition. The overwhelming support marshalled by Mr Arafat in the direct election for the council presidency against his one rival, over 88 per cent, will accord him unprecedented and well-earned legitimacy as national leader.

In a way, the election transformed him from a controversial militia commander into an emerging statesman who chose peace in preference to terror.

At the same time, the election that buttressed the dominant role of the mainstream Fatah movement has also accorded legitimacy to the small minority of Palestinian personalities, well-educated and sophisticated, who do not accept the Ra'is' every word as holy writ.

The co-existence, or the clash, between the compliant majority for whom chairman Arafat's achievements put him on an Olympus of his own, and the turbulent minority battling for genuine democracy in a paternalist Middle Eastern society, will shape the Palestinian national character in the way ahead.

Load-Date: March 1, 2002

The game was alive, well in Pasco

St. Petersburg Times (Florida)

December 26, 1995, Tuesday, City Edition

Copyright 1995 Times Publishing Company

Section: PASCO TIMES; TENNIS; Pg. 5; COLUMN

Length: 768 words

Byline: NANCY MORGAN

Body

Pasco County may be without the country club-type tennis setting, but its residents are not without tennis.

Whether it's singles, doubles or mixed doubles for adults or juniors, area players are active and successful. Today's column highlights some of the events that occurred this year.

After the closing of River Crossing Country Club in New Port Richey last year, the majority of league and tournament players joined either Crescent Oaks or Innisbrook.

For the second consecutive season, Innisbrook's 3.5 mixed doubles team in the U.S. Tennis Association won the District 12 North competition. In a division playoff with Bardmoor, however, Innisbrook was eliminated from advancing to state-wide competition.

CWPASTEN26

Playing for Innisbrook were Maureen and Ron Sternberg (captain), Cheryl Cravener, Debbie and Ed McGinley, Joan Baur, Dottie Lundquist, Dale and Malcolm Slive, Bill Graham and Sue and Wes Luidens.

Pasco represented the area in the USTA Senior Doubles League State Championships with teams from Innisbrook in women's 4.5 and men's 3.5. Both teams advanced to division finals but fell to Naples.

Captain Joe Gari directed the men through an unblemished local season on the play of Jim Smith, Conrad Berhorster, Willie Coquolet, Jim Utley, Don Bucci, Ed McGinly, Joe Bailey and Ralph Staub.

Ria Graham also led an unbeaten team to state competition. She relied on Patty Ferzacca, Connie Smith, Barbara Brutus, Sue Delie, Hank Skoezen and Rudy McGeachan.

The East Pasco Tennis Association christened Zephyrhill's five freshly resurfaced courts with a Valentines Doubles Tournament. EPTA President Karl Hinkle and teaching professional Bill Arfsten coordinated the event.

About 30 novice players from Anclote Elementary were treated to an after-school tennis program under the direction of Marie Maguire, a physical education teacher. Hernando County offered a USTA National Junior Tennis League with volunteers Lita Hart and Vivian Amabile coordinating. Laverne Stephens and Vivian Emily did the same in the Spring Hill area.

The game was alive, well in Pasco

Pasco players were dominant among the Innisbrook champions, including Ria Graham, Dale Slive, Tim Wahl and Malcolm Slive in singles, and Graham and Lucy Gomez, Alex Deeb and David Kall, Joe Gari and Jim Smith, and Judy Murphy and Sue Lovett in doubles.

Crescent Oaks completed the Bay Area Tennis League season with a 1-2 finish. The Blue Team, captained by Carol Schumske, outplayed Johanna Garwood's Red Team for the league A-3 title. Kathi Heintz, Angie Dunham, Ruth Jackson, Marilyn Linker, Pam Plotkin, Ginny Pearlman, Leila Hudson, Jodie Sherman and Betsy McSpadden played for the Blue, while Ellie Paladine, Jean Solo, Dorie English, Charlotte Hamas, Marilyn Dempsey, Martha Gray, Ruth Morgan, Sharon Aucar and Tricia Hollowell played for the Red.

Pasco players Maureen Sternberg, Midge Spaulding, Millie Wehrly and captain Josie Doucette were members of the Tarpon team that won its third consecutive championship in the Advantage Ladies Tennis League.

This summer, Lauren SanMartin and Miranda Gutierrez were invited to the USTA Girls 12 Zone Team Championships; Melissa SanMartin participated in the girls 16 with Saras Arasu. Arasu and Melissa SanMartin also competed in the USTA Clay Court Nationals. Arasu entered the USTA Nationals as well.

Alex O'Kulski qualified for both the boys 18 clay court and national championships.

Two teams of Pasco players won local USTA Adult Tennis League titles and advanced to the regional level. The women's 4.5 team included captain Ria Graham, Nancy Boyce, Julie Arroyo, Judi Esteppe, Stephanie Botell, Connie Smith, Bonnie Resmondo, Rudy McGeachan and Melinda London. David Kall captained the men's 5.0 team and relied on Tim Wahl, Alex Deeb, John Miller, Bob Ironsmith and Bob DeFranco.

There was a Crescent Oaks-Innisbrook playoff for the K-Swiss Senior Tennis League 3.5 women's championship. Innisbrook avenged its only loss of the season as Judy Murphy and Anne Hammond defeated Carol Schumske and Leila Hudson; Jocie Doucette and Kathie Roberts beat Kathy Heintz and Caroline Murphy.

Murphy assumed a leadership role and was elected district director for the Pasco-Pinellas area. She was installed in October at the 46th annual meeting of the USTA/Florida Section.

Rounding out the year of major accomplishments was the Third Annual Pasco Healthcare Tennis Classic. A record 77 doubles teams competed and \$ 25,000 was raised through sponsorships to benefit the Pasco Healthcare Clinic.

As 1995 winds down, Pasco tennis enthusiasts prepare for yet another prolific year of activity.

Load-Date: December 27, 1995

BOMB ATTACK LEAVES FIVE DEAD IN ISRAEL

The Columbian (Vancouver, WA.)

August 21, 1995, Monday

Copyright 1995 The Columbian Publishing Co.

Section: A section; Pg. A1

Length: 663 words

Byline: Associated Press

Body

JERUSALEM (AP)-A bomb ripped apart a bus during morning rush hour today, killing five people, including an American, and injuring more than 100. Police suspect the attack was carried out by a woman suicide bomber.

An anonymous caller claimed the Islamic militant group Hamas, which opposes peace between Israel and the Palestinians, was responsible.

The bombing led to another suspension of talks on an Israeli troop pullout from West Bank towns, but Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said he did not expect it would delay an agreement.

The No. 26 bus exploded in flames as the bomb went off in the back shortly before 8 a.m. in the northern neighborhood of Ramat Eshkol.

Ronen Shmuel, the bus driver, said most passengers were students traveling to Hebrew University's Mount Scopus campus. Some were foreign students attending summer Hebrew language classes.

Judy Shulewitz, a 19-year-old Cornell University student from Philadelphia, said she was standing next to the back door of the bus at the time of the explosion. She was cut by glass on her face, hands and knees.

"I felt very hot and I landed on the ground with a lot of people on top of me, screaming 'Let us out of here,' and crying," she said. "There was blood all over the place."

The explosion also blew out the windows of a nearby school and a passing bus, setting the second bus on fire.

"People yelled and trampled over each other," said Oril Ben-Yamini, 20, a passenger on the second bus who was injured by flying glass. "People lay on the floor covered with blood."

When the fire was put out, the rear of the No. 26 bus was a tangle of metal, and the roof was peeled off. Emergency crews searched through the wreckage for bodies.

"We heard a giant explosion. Then we heard screams coming from the bus. People shouting 'Mommy, Mommy,'" said Esther Chipman, who lives across the street.

Several hours after the blast, the road was covered with glass and pieces of foam from the bus. Members of an ultra-Orthodox burial society, some wearing orange safety vests over their traditional long black coats, picked up bits of human flesh.

BOMB ATTACK LEAVES FIVE DEAD IN ISRAEL

One of those killed was an Israeli policeman, another a 26-year-old Israeli woman. A third victim was identified as an American tourist, but officials withheld the name pending family notification. Two of the wounded were also Americans.

The two remaining bodies a man and a woman had not been identified. Police were investigating the possibility that one was the suicide bomber.

Jerusalem Police Chief Arie Amit said the condition of the woman's body suggested she could have been holding a bomb.

Police summoned the father of Alia Abu Ghalya, 20, from the West Bank to identify the woman's body, family members told The Associated Press. Miss Abu Ghalya's relatives said she had left home secretly shortly after midnight.

Israel's Channel 2 television reported that the explosion was caused by a pipe bomb containing seven to 10 pounds of TNT.

If the bomber was a woman, it would change the way Israeli police and soldiers approach Palestinian women, who are not usually treated with suspicion at roadblocks leading to and from the occupied territories, Police Minister Moshe Shahal said.

"It means that we have to see them as potential attackers," he said.

The attack came a day after Israel lifted a 10-day closure of the Palestinian-ruled Gaza Strip, which had been sealed because of fears of a suicide attack. Following today's attack, the army closed off both the West Bank and Gaza until further notice, barring tens of thousands of Palestinians from jobs in Israel.

Attacks claimed by Islamic militants have killed dozens of Israelis and injured hundreds since the peace agreement was signed in September 1993. Peace talks have gone forward despite the attacks.

After today's blast, Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin suspended the talks and called an emergency meeting of advisers. PLO chief Yasser Arafat denounced the bombing "strongly and completely" and called Rabin to express his condolences.

Graphic

The Associated Press * An Israeli woman cries at a Jerusalem hospital after learning that her daughter was among those wounded in today's suicide bombing.

Load-Date: August 22, 1995

Long, hot, hate-filled hours in the coffee shop

Courier Mail (Queensland, Australia)

August 5, 1997, Tuesday

Copyright 1997 Nationwide News Pty Limited

Section: NEWS; Pg. 17

Length: 765 words

Byline: FLEISHMAN J

Body

THE afternoon crowd is usually thin in the Brazil Coffee shop, but these days, amid apple-scented tobacco and charred copper kettles, dozens of Palestinian men steep in their anger over the border closings that keep them from jobs in Israel.

The men — painters, roofers, stockbrokers — have been spending long, hot hours in the coffee shop since last Wednesday, when two suicide bombers killed 13 people and themselves in a Jewish market in Jerusalem. Israel immediately sealed its boundaries with the West Bank and Gaza Strip, keeping 120,000 Palestinians out of work and costing the Palestinian economy \$5 million a day.

Border closings are Israel's common retaliation for terrorist attacks. They drain an already weak Palestinian economy that depends on Israel for virtually everything. They also, according to the men in Brazil Coffee shop, create economic warfare and the hostility that leads young Arabs to strap on pounds of explosives and blow themselves up in Jewish buses and neighbourhoods.

QNP

"If they don't let us go back to work, thousands of workers will go to the streets and rise against the Jewish occupation," said Hussein Salah el-Din, who has been kept from his \$25-a-day construction job. "I don't care if the explosions continue, even if they take place at my expense, my economic ruin. The Israelis have created this injustice."

Israeli security forces on Sunday tightened their grip at border checkpoints. Hundreds of Palestinian cars were turned away as Israeli defence officials worried about the possibility of other attacks.

The overhead fans at the coffee shop churned all afternoon, backgammon pieces clicked, cards shuffled, men took long tobacco draws on Argealah water pipes, and small boys with white aprons ferried through aisles thick with aimless workers.

No one had anywhere to go, and they watched the street as children from paramilitary camps paraded with flags and chanted: "No to the Judaisation of our lands."

"It is very painful for me," said Maarouf Shafi, Brazil's owner. "I am gaining from the closures. On a normal day, few people would be here. I think as a people we can survive these closures. We are used to them. But economically, after one month, people will start asking me for credit."

Long, hot, hate-filled hours in the coffee shop

Border closings have steadily accumulated over the years. Between 1993 and 1996, Israel sealed its borders 342 days, according to the Palestine Economic Policy Research Institute. The closings are severe blows to the economy of Palestinians. The poverty rate, as measured by an annual income of less than \$650, is 36 percent in the Gaza Strip and more than 10 percent in the West Bank.

Jobs in Israel also pay much better than those in Gaza and the West Bank.

"In Israel I can make \$525 a month," said Salah el-Din, the construction worker who, when he can go to Jerusalem, faces tough competition from immigrant Romanians and Turks imported by Israel to replace Palestinians. "If I work in the West Bank, I can earn only \$200 a month."

Such equations lead to bitterness when the borders shut. Even the traders at the Palestinian Stock Exchange, which opened in March and includes 16 companies and a volume of \$300,000, worry that the closures will trigger a selling panic and stocks will plummet.

"I wish everyday the bombs would go off," said shop owner Shafi, as men turned from their games and listened as a boy stoked a blue flame wavering under clattering kettles. "The Israelis are responsible. They do nothing for peace, they don't allow us to prosper. God has his rage on the Jewish people. The only way to deal with them is with the language of force."

With a sunburned face and a smoking pipe drooping from his lips, Abu Ibrahim said: "The bombs make the other side afraid. It makes them feel the oppression we feel. It scares them."

But others shook their heads. Bombs, they said, will never lead to peace and economic prosperity, especially if terrorists continue killing civilians. The death count from terrorist attacks has been high: In February and March of 1996, bombings and attacks in Jerusalem and Tel Aviv killed 57 men, women and children. The market attack last week killed a 90-year-old Jewish man in a wheelchair, and a grandmother who was a Holocaust survivor.

"I fought against the Israelis in Lebanon. I fought against their army," said Mahmoud Abdallah Yassin. "I don't support attacking civilians in market places. But it is the Israeli government humiliating us and causing these attacks. Regretfully, now there is tremendous support for Hamas and other militant groups. But I think we should go for peace." Knight Ridder/Tribune

Load-Date: March 1, 2002

Relatives let into Israelis' jail of death; Robert Fisk reports on Khiam prison, in southern Lebanon, where many inmates are held in underground cells

The Independent (London)

February 2, 1995, Thursday

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Section: INTERNATIONAL; Page 12

Length: 762 words

Body

The gates of Israel's notorious Khiam jail in southern Lebanon have swung briefly open to allow a handful of Shia Muslim prisoners to see their families for the first time in 10 years. The Israeli decision to allow family visits - co-ordinated by the International Red Cross - came after the death of yet another Lebanese inmate, who had spent a decade in the prison without trial. Haitham Dabaja, 28, died in Marjayoun hospital - three miles from the prison inside Israel's occupation zone - although the authorities there have refused to comment.

In December two prisoners from Khiam - Salim Awada and Ali al-Goul - died in Beirut within days of their release. Another freed prisoner, Mustapha Ramadan, said 80 per cent of Khiam inmates suffered from cardiac and nervous disorders because of the humidity in their cells, many of which are underground. Mr Ramadan had just spent six years in detention and was released on grounds of "ill-health" - he was 85. This week's visitors included a girl of nine who had never seen her father. She was not allowed to embrace him but had to see him through a glass screen. About 260 Lebanese prisoners, including **women** and several youths of 14, are held at Khiam; Israel has hitherto refused to allow the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to visit the jail, whose inmates have given consistent accounts of electrical torture by Lebanese militiamen paid and armed by the Israelis.

It now seems likely the ICRC will at last be allowed to inspect the prison; the Israelis have agreed that 20 prisoners a week may be visited by their families. The change follows a growing - if tardy - realisation by Israel that its policy of isolating prisoners in harsh conditions in the hope of preventing further attacks on its occupation troops in southern Lebanon has failed.

Amnesty International has accused the Khiam authorities of using electricity to extract information from newly-arrived inmates. Some prisoners were captured during attacks on Israeli troops and their militia allies in the occupation zone; others are friends or relatives of men the Israelis believe to have been involved in the "Islamic Resistance" movement.

Yet UN officers in southern Lebanon say fewer prisoners are being taken by the Israelis after attacks on their occupation forces. Lebanese and Palestinian guerrillas believe Israeli and "South Lebanon Army" militiamen now routinely kill all attackers when they surrender. SLA men were seen shooting a prisoner near Shebaa last year, which prompted a protest to Israel by the United Nations commander in southern Lebanon. Last month seven members of the pro-Iranian Hizbollah and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command - in the first open joint attack of its kind - were killed during an ambush on an Israeli convoy. A day later, it emerged that three more guerrillas in a second Hizbollah-PFLP-GC attack had all been killed in southern Lebanon.

Relatives let into Israelis' jail of death; Robert Fisk reports on Khiam prison, in southern Lebanon , where many inmates are held in underground cells

Israel has in the past promised to release some or all of the Khiam prisoners in return for captured SLA men and its own missing air force navigator, Ron Arad, who was captured after a bombing raid on Sidon in 1986, but the Hizbollah - his presumed captors - have shown no interest in such a swap. The ICRC is now also allowed to visit all but two of the 70 Lebanese prisoners held inside Israel itself; they have not yet been given access to Sheikh Abdul Karim Obeid and Mustapha Dirani, both kidnapped by Israeli soldiers in Lebanon. Mr Dirani was Mr Arad's original captor.

Even before the Red Cross visits, details of life in Israeli jails have leaked out whenever inmates are freed. Lebanese prisoners have arrived in Beirut with extraordinary accounts of the conditions in which they have been held. In Ashkelon jail, for example, secular and Islamist prisoners from the PFLP, the Democratic Front, **Hamas**, Islamic Jihad and Fatah - some in near-open conflict with each other in the occupied West Bank and Gaza - have formed a prisoner Revolutionary Committee and elected a joint leadership to negotiate with the Israelis for better conditions.

This system was recognised by the Israelis almost 10 years ago, when the head of the prison administration there, Rafi Suissa, negotiated with Palestinian inmates after a food strike. Freed prisoners say he was later sacked but that Palestinians at Ashkelon later heard that prisoners in other Israeli jails were allowed to watch three hours of television a day - and returned to their hunger strike until their own privileges were "matched" with those at other prisons.

Load-Date: February 2, 1995

End of Document

Palestinians Protest Over Arafat and Gaza Security Force

The New York Times

July 2, 1997, Wednesday, Late Edition - Final

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Length: 809 words

Byline: By SERGE SCHMEMANN

By SERGE SCHMEMANN

Dateline: JERUSALEM, July 1

Body

Demonstrating growing anger over the brutality of Palestinian Authority security forces, thousands of Palestinians chanted angry slogans today at the funeral of a Palestinian in Gaza City who died after being beaten by the security men.

In an apparent attempt to counter the rage, Yasir Arafat, the Palestinian leader, ordered an investigation that led to the arrest of eight members of Force 17, an elite security unit whose duties include guarding Mr. Arafat. Their trial began this evening, and was expected to conclude with heavy sentences.

In the West Bank city of Hebron, a Palestinian march turned violent today, leaving more than 37 hurt, one of them seriously. The march was called to protest posters put up over the weekend depicting Mohammed as a pig writing the Koran.

A 25-year-old Israeli woman was arrested by the Israeli police on Saturday for putting up the posters, and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and President Ezer Weizman of Israel issued prompt public apologies for the incident, which prompted denunciations throughout the Arab world.

During the protest today, dozens of Palestinian youths broke away from the march and began pelting Israeli soldiers with rocks and gasoline bombs. The soldiers responded with rubber-coated bullets.

Such clashes have become a fixture in Hebron in recent weeks, but this time, a homemade Palestinian bomb exploded near two Israeli soldiers as they took aim at the rioters, wounding both, one severely. More than 35 people were hit by the rubber-coated bullets.

Leaders of the march distributed leaflets calling for the "shedding of the blood of those responsible for this condemned crime" and the eviction of Jewish settlers from Hebron.

At the same time, Israeli radio reported that Mr. Arafat met with a senior Israeli general on Saturday, marking the resumption of security cooperation between the Palestinian Authority and Israel after a three-month freeze. Israeli newspapers said the meeting followed several contacts involving Israeli, Palestinian and American security officials.

Palestinians Protest Over Arafat and Gaza Security Force

The agreement was accompanied by reports that a tense standoff between Jewish settlers and Palestinian protesters in the Gaza Strip ended when the Israeli Army agreed to remove a memorial to a slain Israeli soldier there, and the Palestinian police removed Palestinian protesters from a site near a Jewish settlement that they had occupied for 30 days.

In Gaza City, protesters mourned Nasser Radwan, a 28-year-old father of three who died on Monday, a week after his arrest, of a fractured skull. Protesters chanted, "We do not want an Authority of collaborators!" and carried signs that read: "Arafat, you are not one of us. Take your dogs and leave," or "Qassam, Qassam, we want you to get revenge."

The Qassam brigade is the secretive military arm of Hamas, the Islamic movement responsible for many of the terror attacks against Israelis.

Mr. Radwan was the 14th Palestinian to die in the custody of Palestinian security services. The demonstration at his funeral reflected both the increasing rage over the brutality of the various Palestinian security services, and more generally the growing frustration with Mr. Arafat's Palestinian Authority, which has been unable to secure either peace with Israel or better living conditions for the majority of Palestinians while some its officials have gained conspicuous privileges and wealth.

Mr. Radwan's death provoked special anger in Gaza because it involved a personal dispute between him and a member of Force 17 over a religious matter. The altercation began when Mr. Radwan confronted the wife of Mahmoud Zayyed, a member of Force 17, and demanded that she dress more modestly.

The Muslim residents of the Gaza Strip are generally traditional and conservative in their outlook, and one of their major complaints against the officials who returned from exile with Mr. Arafat is what the Gazans perceive as their loose life style, including public consumption of alcohol and casual dress for women.

Later in the day of June 23, Mr. Zayyed, a bodyguard for Col. Abu Nasser Freehat, a senior officer in the force, arrested Mr. Radwan. Several hours later, Mr. Radwan was admitted to a hospital.

The Palestinian Human Rights Monitoring Group, which has documented what it calls a "culture of violence" in the Palestinian security services, said doctors found evidence of a severe blow to the skull, along with bruises on Mr. Radwan's arms and legs and other signs of beatings.

In the ensuing outcry, Colonel Freehat, Mr. Zayyed and six other members of Force 17 were arrested.

In another sign of the Palestinian Authority's concern over the growing public resentment, the Gazan police chief, Ghazi al-Jabali, published a statement in local newspapers condemning police brutality and vowing to "show no mercy" to any security official found guilty of assaulting a citizen.

Graphic

Photo: An Israeli soldier was carried off on a stretcher yesterday during clashes in Hebron as Palestinians raged at posters depicting Mohammed as a pig. (Associated Press)

Load-Date: July 2, 1997

Palestinians Protest Over Arafat and Gaza Security Force

End of Document

TELEVISION REVIEW;
In 'Jihad in America,' Food for Uneasiness

The New York Times

November 21, 1994, Monday, Late Edition - Final

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Length: 725 words

Byline: By WALTER GOODMAN

By WALTER GOODMAN

Body

The review tape of "Jihad in America" was heralded by a complaint from the Council on American-Islamic Relations, a Muslim organization in Washington, that PBS had denied requests by Arab and Muslim journalists to screen the program in advance of tonight's scheduled showing at 10:10 P.M. on Channel 13. The council charged that Steven Emerson, the documentary's executive producer, had shown animus toward the Palestinian cause as a journalist and was promoting "a wild theory about an Islamic terrorist network in America."

Whatever the predilections of Mr. Emerson, who has made a specialty of investigating Muslim fundamentalist terrorism, the protesters' concerns prove understandable (which is not to say the pressure to change or cancel the documentary was justified), since "Jihad in America" is likely to awaken viewers' unease over what some some Muslim groups here may be up to.

In last week's "60 Minutes," Mr. Emerson asserted that the New York City police had paid insufficient attention to papers found in the apartment of El-Sayyid Nosair, an Egyptian immigrant who was arrested (and later acquitted) in the 1990 murder of Rabbi Meir Kahane. The papers included plans for making bombs and a call to destroy "the towers that constitute the pillars" of the civilization of "enemies of God." A reference to the World Trade Center? Mr. Emerson thinks so.

He states right off that "the overwhelming majority of Muslims are not members of militant groups," but the import of his program is that seemingly respectable Muslim organizations have ties to militants who preach violence against moderate Muslims as well as against Christians and Jews, and that charitable contributions to the organizations find their way to extremists.

The evidence here is mainly in the form of videos of fire-eating Muslim fundamentalist speakers around the United States. It is in Brooklyn that one Abdullah Azzam is seen urging his audience to wage jihad in America, which he says "means fighting only, fighting with the sword." In Detroit, Sheik Omar Abdul Rahman, the influential Muslim leader who came to the United States in 1990 and is now charged with conspiring to blow up several New York City landmarks, also calls for jihad against the infidel. The language tends to be fierce. Fayiz Azzam, a cousin of

TELEVISION REVIEW; In 'Jihad in America,' Food for Uneasiness

Abdullah, tells an Atlanta audience: "Blood must flow. There must be widows; there must be orphans." (Mr. Emerson does not disclose who spirited out these videos, plainly not meant for public showing.)

Were it not for the World Trade Center bombing, the bloodthirsty words might be shrugged off as standard Middle-Eastern rhetoric. But television viewers have seen the destruction that even a single fanatic with an assault weapon or a bomb can do. A former F.B.I. agent tells Mr. Emerson that Hamas and Hezbollah, the most potent terrorist organizations in the Middle East, have carried out military training in the United States.

Coming as it does before a jury has been chosen in the conspiracy trial, "Jihad in America" exemplifies the tension between the First Amendment and the Sixth Amendment. Lawyers for Sheik Rahman and his co-defendants are not likely to welcome on the jury people who have seen either tonight's program or "Islamic Fundamentalism and Democracy," a report on the struggle between secular and religious forces throughout the Middle East that Channel 13 will carry tomorrow at 10:10 P.M. This documentary, too, finds little meeting ground between democrats and fundamentalists.

As for the protests against "Jihad," they are a tribute to public broadcasting's willingness to take on hot issues. (Pro-Israeli groups have gone after programs like "Days of Rage" and "From Beirut to Bosnia" that were deemed sympathetic to Palestinian militants.) Once having accepted a documentary, PBS executives are right to resist efforts to tamper with it.

Panels that offer contrary views are sometimes welcome, but they have a way of turning into commercials for a cause or a group. Although in this case, neither PBS nor Channel 13 acceded to the demand for a panel of Muslim leaders as accompaniment to "Jihad," Anisa Abd Al-Fatah, the chairwoman of the National Association of Muslim Women and a member of the board of the Council on American-Islamic Relations, is to appear on "The Charlie Rose Show" tonight, right after the documentary.

Load-Date: November 21, 1994

Israel in mourning after bomb horror

The Advertiser

October 20, 1994 Thursday

Copyright 1994 Nationwide News Pty Limited

Length: 663 words

Body

LONDON: Israel is in mourning today after an Islamic suicide bomber blew himself up aboard a crowded bus yesterday, killing 22 people and wounding about 50 in the heart of Israel's biggest city.

The Izzedine al-Qassam Brigades - the military wing of the Islamic resistance movement **Hamas** - claimed responsibility and vowed to launch more attacks.

A statement said the attack was in revenge for the killing of three militants who kidnapped and killed an Israeli soldier last week.

The Israeli army chief of staff, Lieutenant-General Ehud Barak, said the bombing appeared to be a suicide attack carried out by a man who boarded the bus with explosives, either in a sack or tied to his body.

He hinted that Israel might have to impose a long-term closure on Gaza and the West Bank to bar thousands of Palestinians from jobs in Israel and "reconsider our way of life with the Arabs which permits a flow of so many people into Israel".

The blast left a scene of carnage with the charred remains of one bus in the middle of the city's main street with bodies of **women** and a child sprawled on the sidewalk. Some people were blown apart by the explosion.

In what was Israel's deadliest bombing, several dozen kilograms of explosives shredded the vehicle and passengers, said Tel Aviv deputy police commander, Shlomo Turjeman.

The blast ripped apart one commuter bus heading north on Dizengoff Street and wrecked a second bus passing in the opposite direction. A burnt-out car was also at the scene.

The Israeli Prime Minister, Mr Rabin, cut short a trip to London to return home as the British Prime Minister, Mr Major, voiced "shock and outrage" at the attack.

Mr Rabin said the attack was "a continuation of the attempt by those who are the enemies of peace, the extreme Islamic terror groups . .

." The Foreign Minister, Mr Shimon Peres, vowed that Israel "will not hesitate to find those responsible for this terrible action and to prevent them in the future".

An angry PLO chairman, Mr Yasser Arafat, also condemned the bombing and echoed Mr Rabin by pointing a finger at "the enemies of peace".

In Jerusalem, President Ezer Weizman urged Israelis to remain calm.

Israel in mourning after bomb horror

"The people of Israel . . . must not allow its enemies to succeed. We have to hold out against blind terrorists who want to kill off all hope for peace." On Dizengoff St, broken bodies lay pell-mell in a heap of twisted metal.

Bomb squad officers used robots to search for more bombs as doctors struggled through the chaos trying to identify the corpses.

Central Tel Aviv was closed off. The government's terrorism adviser ordered buses throughout the nation to be stopped and searched for bombs.

The attack came as Israel prepared for festivities surrounding next week's signing of a peace treaty with Jordan at a new border crossing just north of the Red Sea resort of Eilat.

The signing is to be witnessed by 5000 guests, including US President Clinton. It was not known last night whether President Clinton would call off his plan to attend the signing.

The deputy mayor of Tel Aviv said after visiting the scene that bodies were "strewn all around".

He said police and rescue workers were so shocked by the scene that they were weeping as they picked through the wreckage.

"People flew from the sidewalk, the head of the driver was completely cut off," said Eitan Yamini, who witnessed the explosion and saw five or six dead.

Labor MP Avigdor Kahalani, who lives close to the site of the attack, said his entire building shook. "The sight here is frightful . . . I still see some dead bodies on the bus," he said.

Israel's right-wing Opposition leader, Mr Benjamin Netanyahu, said Israel should permanently close the Gaza Strip.

He warned that if the Prime Minister did not get tougher with the Palestinians he would be "personally responsible for a wave of disasters that will follow".

Meanwhile, in IRAQ, several people were injured in a bomb blast at the ministry of religious endowments in the Iraqi capital, a television report said.

Graphic

2 photos: israel - bomb explosions in tel aviv; medics try to revive victim; Bomb squad officers check for more bombs at the site of the huge blast that killed 22 people in Tel Aviv yesterday. RIGHT: Medics try to revive one of the injured.

Load-Date: September 30, 2003

**A REVIVAL SHAKES SECULAR TURKEY< THE MOVEMENT HAS CREATED
UNEASE IN THE WEST.< BUT POOR, REPRESSIVE SOCIETIES SEE IT
DIFFERENTLY.**

The Philadelphia Inquirer

JANUARY 28, 1996 Sunday D EDITION

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Byline: Alan Sipress, INQUIRER STAFF WRITER

Dateline: ISTANBUL, Turkey

Body

The green hills of Asia roll up to the Bosphorus straits, right to the edge of the European continent. Almost overnight, these slopes have succumbed to half-built brick shells and concrete pillars, future hovels for many of the nearly half-million newcomers crowding into Istanbul every year.

And as these slums rise on Europe's doorstep, so, too, does a fervent Islamic movement flush with success.

A political party that wants to remake Turkey into an Islamic state has just won the largest share of seats in the country's parliament, bringing down the government of Prime Minister Tansu Ciller.

Its success could call into question Turkey's continued Western orientation - including its membership in NATO and its recent acceptance into the European market.

But the rise of political Islam in Turkey is a small part of a larger, highly diverse phenomenon.

In country after country - across North Africa, the Middle East and beyond - the principle of separating religion and state is being challenged by an older view, that secular law should either be replaced by or subordinated to the laws of Islam.

This view has triumphed most famously in Iran, where the followers of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini overthrew the shah in 1979 and established an Islamic state.

Since then, only one other country - Sudan - has seen an outright Islamic takeover. But in a host of others - Turkey, Egypt, Algeria, even Israel - Islamic groups are shaking the status quo and changing the region's politics.

The movement is best known in the West for the violent acts of its most extreme advocates. But the frustrated masses in cities such as Istanbul, Beirut and Cairo see the movement differently.

A REVIVAL SHAKES SECULAR TURKEY < THE MOVEMENT HAS CREATED UNEASE IN THE WEST.< BUT POOR, REPRESSIVE SOCIETIES SEE IT DIFFERENTLY.

They see it as a force for good, providing many essential services - education, housing, medical care - that their countries' governments are too poor, corrupt or inefficient to provide.

In repressive societies with yawning gaps between rich and poor, the Islamic revival promises integrity and fairness. In developing nations wracked by rapid change and the cultural onslaught of Michael Jackson and Madonna, it offers the anchor of traditional "family values."

Perhaps most of all, people turn to Islam as a homegrown political alternative. Socialism stands discredited after the Soviet Union's fall, and Western-style capitalism, despite its promises of prosperity, has plunged many Muslims deeper into economic despair. This ideological void has prompted many intellectuals, including those educated in the West, to raise the slogan "Islam is the solution."

Here in Turkey, the pro-Islamic Welfare Party is especially strong among the millions of displaced and impoverished people flooding into the cities.

In 1994, Welfare won control of Istanbul, the country's cosmopolitan center. It also won elections in 30 other cities, including Ankara, the modern, European-style capital.

And on Dec. 24, Welfare was the biggest winner in Turkey's parliamentary elections, taking 158 of 550 seats and unseating the Ciller government. Since then, Ciller, as a caretaker prime minister, has tried to broker an alliance between her True Path Party and other secular parties to shut Welfare out of a coalition government. The success of this effort remains in doubt.

* Turkey's Islamic revival is particularly striking because repression of religion was a basic policy of the Turkish Republic's founding father, Kemal Ataturk, 70 years ago.

In a radical effort to modernize and Westernize the country, Ataturk purged religious teaching from education, replaced the traditional Arabic script used in the Holy Koran with Latin script, and ousted Islamic clergy from any meaningful role in the state. He even banned the fez in favor of the European bowler hat.

Ataturk's reforms have since been undermined by public corruption, recession and a flood of villagers into cities so overwhelmed that they cannot even provide running water, much less jobs and social services.

Today, the Welfare Party offers a different view of what it means to be Turkish.

"It's the coming out of the Muslims after 70 years of repression," said Ahmet Yilmaz, an ardently secular writer in Istanbul.

One party maverick urged that Istanbul's historic walls, dating from the days of Byzantium, should be yanked down as a relic of Christendom. Istanbul Mayor Tayyip Erdogan suggested erecting a mosque on Taksim Square, an upscale European plaza dominated by billboards for Marlboro and Sony, and by neon signs promoting nearby casinos. Both proposals were beaten back by national officials and rejected by a large segment of the public as outlandish.

But Melih Gokcek, the newly elected mayor of Ankara, did succeed in removing nude statues from Turkey's public parks. "I spit on such art," he said.

And the ballet in Istanbul has come under fire as an example of degenerate Western culture, though the dancers say the only major impact so far is that administrators of the public concert hall have relegated them to smaller dressing rooms.

The Welfare Party's new mayors have offered a dose of traditional values in a country where uptown streets are crowded with women in tight jeans and tighter sweaters, where newspapers are heavy with cleavage if not outright nudity, and where late-night television broadcasts pornographic movies from Europe and the United States.

A REVIVAL SHAKES SECULAR TURKEY < THE MOVEMENT HAS CREATED UNEASE IN THE WEST.<
BUT POOR, REPRESSIVE SOCIETIES SEE IT DIFFERENTLY.

"Even middle-class Turks are appalled by what they see on the newsstand and are appalled by what they see on television," said a Western diplomat. "People reach out for a party that's against this."

Mostly, Welfare's changes on the cultural front have been modest. Government-run cafes no longer sell alcohol. Cafeterias in municipal buildings closed during the fast month of Ramadan. A minor scandal erupted when Istanbul officials reversed a ban on public employees wearing beards, a sign of religious devotion, and the first facial hair appeared on the fire brigades.

"We don't force people to go to the mosque, and we don't force people to close down bars that sell alcohol," said Mehmet Emin Can, the party leader in the southeastern city of Diyarbakir. "Whoever wants to go to the bar can go, and whoever wants to go to the mosque can go."

In some countries, such as Egypt and Tunisia, Islamic activists are among the most vocal advocates of democratic reform and human rights. Many have been jailed and exiled for expressing those views.

Still, there's no guarantee that the Welfare Party and other Islamic opposition groups would remain so tolerant if they came to power. Islamic administrations in Iran, Sudan and Saudi Arabia have easily embraced despotism, curtailing, in particular, the rights of women and religious minorities.

Turks also worry about the passions that a movement against Western decadence can evoke. A pro-government newspaper in Ankara reported recently that a 40-year-old woman and her 22-year-old daughter were gunned down by four male relatives for "dressing revealingly," shocking violence in a country such as Turkey.

So far, however, the Islamic movement has focused its energy in the far less sensational domain of public services.

* In Diyarbakir, the Welfare Party would like to launch courses in the Koran, but instead, its money has gone toward opening a sparkling, mechanized bakery, nearly half the length of a football field, with eight mammoth ovens. The city government plans to provide free bread to the poor. Next, officials say, they will reduce city bus fares from 20 cents to 12 cents by privatizing the routes.

This pattern of providing ambitious social services is repeated by Islamic movements all across the Middle East, including some that have a history of terrorism and violence.

Hezbollah, which took American hostages in the 1980s, runs free medical clinics in Lebanon. Hamas, which has dispatched suicide bombers in an effort to derail the Middle East peace process, operates schools in the Gaza Strip. In Egypt, Islamic groups - some that reject violence and some that embrace it - run orphanages, nursing homes and dental clinics. They even provide furnishings for young couples who wish to marry but can't afford to start their own home.

This is the kind of voter outreach a South Philadelphia ward heeler could appreciate. It certainly earns loyalty in areas such as the outskirts of Ankara, where floods of rural immigrants have erected countless gecekondus - literally, homes that go up overnight - that cling like barnacles to the bulbous hills.

Parents here risk public humiliation because they can't afford to throw a party marking their son's circumcision. So the Welfare Party comes to the rescue, arranging group celebrations, springing for the soda, snacks and balloons.

"They're the most pragmatic people on the political scene in Turkey," said Hasan Bulent Kahraman, a leading cultural official.

Many of the migrants to the bulging cities have fled the poverty of Turkey's hardscrabble east and, in particular, the southeast, where the government's 11-year-old war with Kurdish separatists has uprooted an estimated two million Kurdish villagers.

A REVIVAL SHAKES SECULAR TURKEY < THE MOVEMENT HAS CREATED UNEASE IN THE WEST.< BUT POOR, REPRESSIVE SOCIETIES SEE IT DIFFERENTLY.

The displaced end up in suburbs such as Umraniye, a gritty district on the flank of Istanbul. In the last five years, as Istanbul's overall population has exceeded 10 million, Umraniye's has increased from 230,000 to 700,000, by official estimates.

Despite its proximity to Europe, cosmopolitan Istanbul truly feels a continent away. Many women hide the curves of their bodies in boxy overcoats and head scarves. Some even drape themselves from head to toe in black, like the Muslim women of the ultraconservative Persian Gulf countries.

Ertugul Cardak moved here from eastern Turkey last year when he could no longer find work laboring in other people's fields of wheat and sugar beets. He now scrounges for work on construction sites.

Cardak, 26, barely supports his wife and young son on the \$125 a month he earns. The hovel where the family lives, with a sweeping view of a mammoth municipal garbage dump, rents for \$60 a month.

But at least he has a new sewer, and soon, when the new water lines come in, his wife will no longer have to fetch water in plastic jugs from a community spigot. The Welfare Party has seen to that.

"They're hardworking and they're Islamic," he said of the party workers. "People trust them."

In last year's election, Welfare finished first with 40 percent of Umraniye's vote - the totals were closer to 60 percent on Cardak's hillside - and replaced the leftist Social Democrats in borough hall.

Places such as Umraniye are not peculiar to Turkey. Such bleak colonies of migrants and refugees are found all across the Middle East, from the shadowy southern suburbs of Beirut to the vast warren of alleys in Cairo's Imbaba quarter to the refugee camps of the Gaza Strip. All have proven fertile soil for Islamic militancy.

Despite the Islamic movement's diversity, its roots are often similar across the region:

ECONOMIC UPHEAVAL. The unrestrained opening of Turkey's economy in the 1980s furthered the gaping inequality between rich and poor. Inflation last year ran at 150 percent and unemployment is estimated at 18 percent.

So, too, the rise of Egypt's potent Islamic movement grew out of the inequalities and economic frustration created by President Anwar el-Sadat's open-market policies in the 1970s.

And in Algeria, the collapse of oil prices in the 1980s set off an economic crisis that would have brought the Islamic Salvation Front to power if its electoral victory had not been quashed by the army three years ago.

GOVERNMENT ENCOURAGEMENT. The Turkish government itself fostered the Islamic movement in the 1980s as a counterweight to the leftist opposition.

As part of a "Green Strategy" - referring to the green banner raised by the army of the Prophet Muhammad - the right-wing government financed new mosques and built 500 religious schools, which have already graduated an army of 400,000 trained believers. Another 400,000 are on the way.

Sadat had a similar strategy in Egypt, promoting Islamic militants in the 1970s to undercut the traditional leftists and the supporters of his predecessor, Gamal Abdel Nasser. The militants later assassinated Sadat.

And in the Gaza Strip, Israel gave wide latitude to Hamas in the late 1980s as an alternative to the secular Palestine Liberation Organization, which Israeli authorities then saw as their main adversary. Only later, after Hamas' support had swelled, did Israel pursue the Islamic militants with a vigor once reserved for the PLO's cadres.

POLITICAL REPRESSION. The Welfare Party has benefited from the Turkish government's severe limitations on its secular opposition. Many political opponents were jailed and killed after an army coup in 1980, and political activities by trade unions and students remain legally restricted today. The government has also outlawed parties

A REVIVAL SHAKES SECULAR TURKEY < THE MOVEMENT HAS CREATED UNEASE IN THE WEST.< BUT POOR, REPRESSIVE SOCIETIES SEE IT DIFFERENTLY.

demanding greater rights for Turkey's 10 million Kurds. As a result, at least one-third of the Welfare Party's votes have come from Kurds.

Likewise in Algeria, a military regime banned all formal opposition, leaving mosques as nearly the only places where unofficial social and political organizing could take place in the 1980s.

And Egypt's draconian restrictions on nongovernmental groups, even those as benign as film clubs, have made Muslim institutions the most viable form of independent opposition.

"Very often, in Middle East systems, more democratic forms of opposition are repressed. Indeed, such vacuums tend to be filled by Islamic movements," said Ghassan Salame, a Middle East expert at the Center of International Studies and Research in Paris. "The emergence of the Islamic movement is very much related to the deficit of democratic practices all over the area."

After helping kindle the Islamic movement, Turkey's government has now turned to the West and yelled "Fire!" Prime Minister Tansu Ciller has said that Western support for Turkey's secular, pro-Western government is crucial because, despite the government's dismal human-rights record, the only alternative would be an Iranian-style regime of ayatollahs.

Nearly everyone in Turkey, from government officials to political analysts, finds that warning far-fetched. Welfare Party politicians are certainly not enamored of the West - they oppose Turkey's continued membership in NATO, for instance, and its bid to join the European customs union - but they are not virulently hostile, either.

Some think the Islamic politicians would be hard-pressed to persuade the country's broad middle class and its influential army to break their economic and military ties with the West.

Still, critics fear that as Welfare becomes stronger, it could grow more intolerant.

Turkish artist Bedri Baykam, a devout follower of Ataturk's secular philosophy, says he was shocked by Islam's growing influence when he returned to Turkey in 1987 after living in California for seven years.

"Some of us say [the Welfare Party] is going to change Turkey into an Iranian Islamic regime," he said recently over a Diet Coke. "Turkey would face a civil war if that happens. Horrible things could happen in Turkey."

So far, however, even Turkey's elite seems to be coming to terms with Islam's heightened influence. In Ankara, worshipers crowd into the newly erected Kocatepe mosque, a cavernous structure with soaring white minarets tipped with gold crescents.

But even more people seem to flock to the multilevel department store directly underneath, recently opened by Islamic businessmen. Young women in short skirts and thick makeup hawk European perfume and cosmetics at a dozen counters. The music department, decorated with posters of Michael Jackson and Guns N' Roses, sells Turkish and American music alike.

This mecca of materialism is an indication that Islam and the West are not inevitably at odds. At least for now, this mall-cum-mosque has no trouble reconciling Allah above and Adidas below.

"Have you seen the CD players upstairs?" asks an enthusiastic shopper. "You can get everything here, even guitars. Everything except alcohol."

Notes

ISLAM RISING: AT EUROPE'S DOORSTEP

First of three articles.

A REVIVAL SHAKES SECULAR TURKEY < THE MOVEMENT HAS CREATED UNEASE IN THE WEST.<
BUT POOR, REPRESSIVE SOCIETIES SEE IT DIFFERENTLY.

Tomorrow: Islam's murderous shock troops.

Graphic

PHOTO AND MAP;

PHOTO (3)

1. A revival of Islam has shaken Turkish Prime Minister Tansu Ciller and other governments. A three-part series examines Muslim fundamentalism's rising influence. (A01)
2. Islam-based Welfare Party supporters celebrate their legislative election victory in Ankara. The Turkish government was unseated in the December elections. (Agence France-Presse, DIMITRI MESSINIS)
3. Tansu Ciller, Turkey's caretaker prime minister, has tried to broker an alliance to shut out the Islamic-based Welfare Party. (Reuters, FATIH SARIBAS)

MAP (1)

1. Islam Rising (The Philadelphia Inquirer, BILL MARSH)

Load-Date: October 28, 2002

***U.S. mediator steps in to defuse Mideast tensions: Israelis, Palestinians
refuse to budge from hardline positions***

The Ottawa Citizen

March 27, 1997, Thursday, FINAL EDITION

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Section: NEWS; Pg. A7

Length: 811 words

Byline: NORMA GREENAWAY; THE OTTAWA CITIZEN

Dateline: JERUSALEM

Body

Palestinian demonstrators broadened the target of their wrath yesterday and set ablaze a U.S. flag as well as their customary favorite, the Israeli Star of David.

The angry display in Bethlehem coincided with news that U.S. President Bill Clinton had sent his special Mideast envoy Dennis Ross to the region to try to get the feuding Israeli and Palestinian leaders back to the peace table.

The heart of the dispute is Israel's decision to go ahead with a new Jewish housing project in predominantly Arab East Jerusalem. Palestinians see the eastern sector of the city, captured by Israel from Jordan in the 1967 Mideast war, as the capital of a future state. Israel claims the territory as an inseparable part of its "eternal" capital.

The burning flags reflected the sizzling hostilities the veteran U.S. mediator is charged with trying to defuse. And it's a job made tougher by a Palestinian perception that recent American actions have tarnished its claim to being an honest broker in Israeli-Arab peacemaking.

The word "veto" was scrawled in black letters across the American flag's stars and stripes. It was a reference to the U.S. decision to twice veto UN resolutions condemning Israel's decision to build a new Jewish settlement in predominantly Arab East Jerusalem. Palestinians had hoped Washington would back up its verbal criticism of the housing project as an obstacle to peace by supporting the resolutions, which won overwhelming approval by other UN members.

Mr. Ross was to meet Yasser Arafat today in Rabat, Morocco. The Palestinian leader was there as part of a tour of Islamic countries to drum up support for his hard line against Israel's building plans in Jerusalem. Mr. Ross then flies to Israel for meetings tomorrow with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

There was little optimism the American mediator could speedily thaw the peace process. There is an assumption by many, however, that Mr. Netanyahu and Mr. Arafat will eventually agree to resume broad peace talks.

"The two sides have a vested interest in at least talking about peace," said Palestinian legislator Ziad Abu Amr. "It's very risky for either side to declare it (the peace process) dead because of the international investment in the process."

U.S. mediator steps in to defuse Mideast tensions: Israelis, Palestinians refuse to budge from hardline positions

For now, the divide is wide. Israel vows it won't retreat from building the housing project, and Mr. Netanyahu says all issues on the peace table are on hold until Mr. Arafat shows concrete results in fighting terrorism. The Palestinians demand a total halt in the settlement project, an issue that also has seriously soured relations between Israel and her other two peace partners, Jordan and Egypt.

Both leaders claim they are willing to meet. But they have set conditions for such a meeting which neither accepts. And they continue to blame each other for provoking violence over the housing issue, including a suicide bombing by an Islamic militant in Tel Aviv last Friday that killed three Israeli women and injured more than 40 other people.

Political analyst Menachen Klein argued the situation probably requires heavier U.S. involvement, meaning the direct participation of Secretary of State Madeleine Albright. "It's a serious regional crisis which is shaking the whole peace process," he said in an interview. "It's not just a bilateral crisis between Israelis and Palestinians."

The stalemate does nothing to cool passions on the street, raising fears of more deadly confrontations between Palestinian protesters and Israeli forces and new terrorist attacks by Islamic or Jewish extremists.

Mr. Klein said the situation is extremely dangerous. "There are daily demonstrations in Bethlehem and Hebron," he said. "If one civilian is killed by Israeli forces, then the whole of the West Bank and Gaza will burn."

Palestinians plan to stage major "peaceful" demonstrations across the territories Sunday, so-called Land Day. The date has been observed since 1976 when six Israeli Arabs were shot by Israeli forces during a protest over land expropriations in the Galilee area.

Seven Palestinian factions, among them the militant Islamic group Hamas and Mr. Arafat's mainstream Fateh movement, called the protest, saying Israel's building activities in Jerusalem demand an escalation of the "popular struggle."

Finding a formula for ending the crisis won't be easy. It's clear each side needs to make a gesture significant enough to get the peace talks rolling without being seen by their respective audiences as a capitulation. In Israel's case, a capitulation to violence, including the deadly Tel Aviv attack. In Mr. Arafat's case, a capitulation to what he denounces as Israel's unilateral approach to peacemaking by such actions as building the new settlement. Palestinians see it as an attempt to pre-empt the outcome of negotiations on the final status of Jerusalem.

Load-Date: March 28, 1997

U.S. tries to cool Mideast passions: Flags burned as Palestinians broaden target of wrath

The Gazette (Montreal, Quebec)

March 27, 1997, Thursday, FINAL EDITION

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Section: NEWS; Pg. B4

Length: 784 words

Byline: NORMA GREENAWAY; SOUTHAM NEWSPAPERS; SOUTHAM NEWS

Dateline: JERUSALEM

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Load-Date: March 28, 1997

A PALESTINIAN CANDIDATE STUMPS THROUGH A NEW POLITICAL LANDSCAPE

The Philadelphia Inquirer
JANUARY 15, 1996 Monday SF EDITION

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Byline: Alan Sipress, INQUIRER STAFF WRITER

Dateline: SINJIL, West Bank

Body

Marwan Barghouti's rented sedan, stuffed with crumpled newspapers and campaign fliers, has been racing perilously fast along the serpentine, cliffside roads to this hilltop hamlet.

Palestinians have waited decades for their first national elections, and now Barghouti's campaign is keeping them waiting some more. Sinjil is only his second stop in a day that will end six villages and 14 hours later. He's already running late.

When he finally appears, the older men of Sinjil, many wearing traditional black-and-white keffiyah head-coverings, are crowded into 50 plastic chairs arranged in a chilly, concrete storeroom. The younger men and teenagers in high-top sneakers press in from the back, eager to hear what this most dynamic, if dour, of candidates has to offer.

Barghouti finishes his cigarette and launches into his familiar stump speech. To the villagers, however, there's nothing familiar about this unprecedented campaign, due to culminate in elections Saturday across the West Bank, Gaza Strip and East Jerusalem. The balloting may mark an important advance toward a future Palestinian state.

"On the 21st of this month, when the election results come, the Palestinian people will see it's a different and historic day for them," Barghouti preaches as a young boy moves through the crowd, serving small glasses of sweet tea from a silver tray. "And the whole world will look at the Palestinians as a new people because of this democratic election."

Barghouti's pitch is really more of a pep talk for this new thing called voting. He's very sparing with his promises, unlike many other contenders.

Seven hundred candidates are vying for places in the 88-seat legislature set up under the PLO-Israel peace treaty. In the Ramallah district alone, Barghouti faces 44 other candidates in a contest for seven seats. In addition, voters will choose a chief executive, most certainly Palestine Liberation Organization Chairman Yasir Arafat.

A PALESTINIAN CANDIDATE STUMPS THROUGH A NEW POLITICAL LANDSCAPE

Four other candidates also have turned out in Sinjil for this West Bank version of a meet-and-greet - a doctor, a teacher and two engineers. They're more nattily dressed in jackets and ties. Barghouti, 36, is a small, rumpled man in a thick sweater and oversized winter coat. His brow is irreversibly furrowed, and his cigarette inevitably lit.

But it is Barghouti whom villagers most often want to see. He is general-secretary of Arafat's Fatah party in the West Bank and known for his impeccable revolutionary credentials. Elected three times as the student body president at Bir Zeit University, he was imprisoned by the Israelis for six years because of his political activities before being deported in 1987.

He was allowed to return in 1994 and began a controversial bid to transform the Fatah movement into a modern political party. In the current campaign, he heads a seven-candidate slate including two representatives from smaller parties.

"My message," he said, "is the importance of the peace process and the importance of the elections as the first step toward the establishment of a new Palestinian political order."

But Barghouti has so little time to get this message across. The election comes barely two weeks after nominations were closed. And so his campaign runs at breakneck speed through rocky olive groves and hilltop villages hewn from stone, past ancient mosques and spanking-new villas crowned by satellite dishes bought with money made in America.

On a recent day, Barghouti and his two brothers pile into a green rental car at 11 a.m. and set out on the road. He seems barely awake, making no effort to stifle his yawns. He hadn't finished huddling with campaign advisers and reviewing the newspapers until shortly before dawn.

11:30 A.M.: Stop one is Ramallah's modern city hall, where the local Fatah women's committee is sponsoring a candidates forum. Some of the two dozen women wear embroidered peasant dresses, while others sport modern fashion. Their head-scarves mark them as traditional, but their acute questions about women's rights do not.

"You must vote for a woman," he lectures them, his voice and his arms rising. "The coming stage is the most important for women because we will be writing laws and rules for society which will affect women."

(In fact, only 22 candidates are women. And later, cloistered in small meeting of 20 male activists, Barghouti acknowledged women would overwhelmingly vote as their husbands told them to. "Our women don't live in Sweden," he said.)

12:45 P.M.: Barghouti signals that the women's forum is over by sprinting from the room. He pauses for just seconds in the city hall lobby to record a radio advertisement - "I'm Marwan Barghouti from the National List," he repeats several times until the producer nods his assent - and then gallops to the car, already late for his appearance in Sinjil village.

1:15 P.M.: He's back on the stump, urging Sinjil's residents to select candidates who have a long record of public service, which in the West Bank usually means prison and personal loss. So soon into their democratic experiment, many voters already seem disillusioned by the prevalence of opportunists in the field.

"The candidates running for this council shouldn't be people who are worried about their own heads," he preaches to the villagers. "They should be ready to sacrifice their heads for the Palestinian cause."

The crowd applauds these national sentiments. But it claps even louder when Barghouti promises to contact Arafat and request that Sinjil be given municipal status, entitling it to more public services. He sets off from the concrete storeroom, glad-handing all the way.

2:55 P.M.: The rented sedan screams into the dirt parking lot of a large school in the village of Mazraa Nubani. Scores of plastic chairs are arranged in the playground. A band is belting out Palestinian pop music. But the organizers of the event look crestfallen. The candidates were supposed to arrive two hours earlier, and all the residents have gone home.

A PALESTINIAN CANDIDATE STUMPS THROUGH A NEW POLITICAL LANDSCAPE

Barghouti shrugs off the wasted stop. He jumps back into the car and races off to the next engagement, another schoolyard clear across the district.

4 P.M.: Better luck. The men of Safa are seated patiently in their plastic chairs, taped nationalist music blaring from behind. A place is waiting for Barghouti behind a classroom desk dragged onto the basketball court.

After the other hopefuls complete their remarks, he rises and breaks into his stump speech. We must recover all the West Bank and Gaza Strip, he tells the audience. We must build a state. The struggle is long. Vote for the best candidate.

"The people who say we're going to build our state in two years or five years aren't accurate," he says. "We must go step by step, patiently, to make sure we get all our rights."

4:50 P.M.: By the time he reaches the nearby hilltop hamlet of Beit Liqya, dusk has fallen and the local mosque begins blaring its amplified call to sunset prayer. Barghouti raises his voice to be heard. As the sky darkens, fading the stone rooftops into silhouette, the audience assembled outside a modest kindergarten grows hostile. It seems the local Fatah party activists feel betrayed because their hometown candidate was denied a place on Barghouti's slate.

"No slate is sacred. No candidate is sacred," he says, confiding that he's not demanding their loyalty to all his running mates. "Anyway, this election experiment is more important than all that. The 20th of January will be one of the most important dates in the history of the Palestinian people."

The Fatah activists offer him a plate of bananas, apples and pears. It's the first food he's eaten since morning.

6:35 P.M.: He reaches another kindergarten in Tira village. Somehow, he's managed to arrive early. About 25 young men are wedged into a narrow, smoky hall learning how to vote.

These villagers have much to ask Barghouti. Should they vote for his entire slate or for the candidates they think are best? Why did Arafat seem to be in such a hurry to sign a peace treaty with Israel? Do they have to vote for a Christian candidate as well Muslim ones?

To this last question, Barghouti says there's no obligation to vote for members of the Christian minority.

"But," he adds, "it's better if you do to protect our national unity."

7:45 P.M.: Yet another kindergarten. This time in the village of Beit Ur Fauq. It's an old stone building with a vaulted ceiling, dimly lit. Barghouti seems to nod off for a moment in his seat in front of the scuffed blackboard. He no longer bothers to stand up for his speech. He no longer waits to finish before lighting a cigarette.

9:15 P.M.: Salah Mahmoud Ibrahim, a member of the militant **Hamas** movement, welcomes Barghouti to his home in Kharbatha village with a broad smile and a piece of caramel candy. Ibrahim was one of dozens of **Hamas** members released from Israeli prisons days earlier under the terms of the Israel-PLO accord. Barghouti has come to wish him well, a visit approvingly noted by his neighbors.

Just up the darkened lane, across from a donkey stable, the elders of this farming community have gathered in the bare, two-room community center to receive the candidate. They finger their worry beads and offer him a vote of confidence.

"Because we know you're qualified and will do all you can, you found us here still waiting for you," says one elder. "Otherwise, in this village, we would have gone to sleep two hours ago."

The men roar in delight. Barghouti smiles wearily. He's logged about 150 miles today. The stump speeches are through, but he still has hours of telephone calls and staff meetings back in Ramallah.

He heads back out past the stable. He can hear his brother starting the engine of the rented sedan.

Graphic

PHOTO;

PHOTO (1)

1. Hanan Ashrawi, a candidate in the first national elections, holds her poster while talking with a supporter at a checkpoint near Jerusalem. (Reuters, RULA HALAWANI)

Load-Date: October 28, 2002

End of Document

MUSLIMS SEARCH FOR IDENTITY AS NEW CENTURY DAWNS

Charleston Gazette (West Virginia)

December 01, 1996, Sunday

Copyright 1996 Charleston Newspapers

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Length: 811 words

Byline: Anthony Shadid THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Body

When Islam makes the headlines, it's often from conflict among Muslim groups or the actions of militants who claim Islam justifies violence.

But the biggest development in Islam is a far broader matter, a revival that promises to reshape the faith of its 1 billion adherents.

CAIRO, Egypt - Deep in the heart of Sudan, on the sun-parched banks of the Nile, white-robed mystics sway at dusk to a drumbeat and chants of "There is no god but God."

Barefoot men in ragged clothes - meant to symbolize their disavowal of worldly things - jump up and down, stomp the dirt and throw themselves to the ground. Delirious with religious fervor, they shout, "God!"

The deafening beat of drums and tambourines quickens. Women excitedly ululate. The chants become louder and faster as the hour-long ceremony known as a zikr reaches its climax.

"It is worship," said Zubair Abu Zeid, a mystic wearing lion skins and carrying a staff. "The idea is to prepare oneself for God."

Thousands of miles away in a serene park on the shores of the Bosphorus, an altogether different celebration is under way.

Organized by the Islamic Welfare Party, Turkey's biggest political organization, a midday picnic draws 200 people to celebrate the

MUSLIMS SEARCH FOR IDENTITY AS NEW CENTURY DAWNS

traditional circumcision of young boys.

Unable to afford their own ceremonies, they share yogurt drinks, rice and dessert, courtesy of the party. Festive children run around with balloons. Their parents listen to the soft strains of Turkish religious music and speeches by party dignitaries sharply dressed in coats and ties.

"We've never refused people who come to us for help," said Gulnihal Guldemler, a neighborhood activist for the party. She added: "Politics and religion are one and the same."

These are two faces of the Islamic revival - a breathtakingly diverse resurgence that stretches from Africa's west coast to the Pacific rim. With the demise of communism, Islam has emerged as one of the world's most powerful ideologies, a religion that embraces more than 1 billion adherents who make up a majority in about 45 countries.

Yet, as a new century dawns, Islam is undergoing change potentially more important than any time since the death of the Prophet Mohammed, who founded the religion in Arabia more than 1,350 years ago. That change - a quest to determine its role in a modern world - poses a challenge to the West and to Islam itself.

Its impact is vast, with implications for the flow of oil, trade, nuclear proliferation, even war. While Muslim countries account for just 4 percent of the world's economy, they make up one-fifth of its population - a potentially explosive mix.

Already the revival has witnessed terrorism in Algeria, a battle over women's rights in Afghanistan, militancy of Iran. Its flip side has been grass-roots work that has bettered the lives of millions.

For the West, the renewal may mean confrontation or coexistence with Islam, depending on attitudes on both sides at their many points of contact.

The movements shaping the revival are as diverse as they are numerous:

MUSLIMS SEARCH FOR IDENTITY AS NEW CENTURY DAWNS

from the engineers and lawyers of Egypt's Muslim Brotherhood to supporters of Turkey's Welfare Party in Istanbul slums, from the savvy leaders of the National Islamic Front in Sudan to the angry Palestinian militants of Hamas.

They find inspiration in the ideas of Islamic thinkers from the 13th century to today.

Some look to Iran's troubled experiment in exporting its Islamic revolution, while others forsake the challenge of today's politics by finding solace in Islam's resurgent mystical brotherhoods.

Often all they have in common is how little they share. But consistently through their speeches, their publications and their conversations emerges a strong, at times overwhelming, concentration on ideas of justice - or lack of justice, at home and abroad.

In Egypt, college graduates who were 5 years old when President Anwar Sadat was assassinated can only hope for a government job that pays the equivalent of \$ 90 a month.

Young Palestinians have lived their lives confined to a prison called the Gaza Strip.

Peasants from the Turkish countryside arrive in Istanbul, frustrated and resentful in a city they do not recognize and a culture they do not share.

In every case, Islamic activists are there to answer those frustrations with the enticing phrase "Islam is the solution," a slogan that can mean everything from peaceful activism to suicide bombings.

Their message is rooted in the bleak landscape of corruption, poverty and repression that prevails in many Muslim countries, particularly the Arab world. Disenchantment is rife with regimes whose priority is often simply staying in power.

Islamic activists speak about the poor, the lifestyles of the rich,

MUSLIMS SEARCH FOR IDENTITY AS NEW CENTURY DAWNS

corruption, governments that rule through the consent of soldiers.

They preach social justice, a place for God at home and in schools and an end to humiliating dependence on the West. Above all, they insist on a return to Islam and its morals.

Load-Date: December 2, 1996

End of Document

Palestinians Trying Out Elections, Warts and All

The New York Times

January 18, 1996, Thursday, Late Edition - Final

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Length: 1657 words

Byline: By JOEL GREENBERG

By JOEL GREENBERG

Dateline: RAMALLAH, West Bank, Jan. 17

Body

Awash in vivid campaign posters and banners, this city north of Jerusalem seems gripped by election fever these days, its crowded streets the picture of a carnival of democracy.

Cars plastered with smiling images of candidates creep through the traffic-choked main square as children dart into stores to hand out campaign flyers. Where they once fought street battles with Israeli soldiers, young men gathered one morning to chat with a candidate, holding a lively open-air symposium on a pedestrian mall.

But as hundreds of candidates enter the home stretch of their campaigns with three days left to the first Palestinian general elections, the limits of this exercise in choosing a government have become strikingly clear.

The brief campaign this month for a legislative council and head of the Palestinian Authority has proved to be a flawed political forum, offering voters a relatively narrow choice.

Yet the process of elections has enabled Palestinians to start debating the credibility of their new political system and the value of taking part in it.

Emerging from 28 years of occupation and heavily politicized by years of conflict with Israel, many Palestinians are starting to face the gap between their culture of nationalist resistance and the need for more open political discussion in their society.

On Saturday they will begin a new era, electing an 88-member council similar to a parliament and the head of a cabinet-like executive.

The Palestinian Authority will govern civil affairs in nearly all Palestinian areas of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, but not in Jewish settlements and Israeli military zones, and Israel retains control of the external borders.

The Authority will have no power in certain spheres that have been left to future negotiations: it will not govern the Arab neighborhoods of East Jerusalem, it cannot establish a military beyond the permitted police force, and it cannot establish or serve as host to foreign embassies.

Palestinians Trying Out Elections, Warts and All

The race for head of the Palestinian Authority is no contest, since Yasir Arafat, a towering national symbol, is competing against a respected but electorally impotent veteran of the political left, Samiha Khalil, who is 72. Mr. Arafat, who controls the Palestinian news media, has not even needed to campaign, while Mrs. Khalil, who opposes his self-rule accords with Israel, has met with a cordial but skeptical public reception.

Islamic and left-wing opposition groups are boycotting the vote for the council because they reject the agreements with Israel under which the elections are being held, so their voices are absent from the campaign. They will measure their success in the number of people who decline to vote at all.

Most of the nearly 700 candidates, for their part, have put the same nationalist credos at the top of their platforms, making themselves politically indistinguishable.

Many are from Mr. Arafat's Fatah movement even though they are not included in the party slate, and are seeking a vote of confidence to strengthen their standing in the organization.

Nearly every one of them vows to work for an independent Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital, a full Israeli withdrawal from the West Bank and Gaza Strip and the removal of Jewish settlements, the release of prisoners and the return of Palestinian refugees. There are also the requisite promises to improve economic conditions and social services, to fight for good government and the rule of law, and to promote equal rights for women.

So after being swamped with similar election ads in newspapers and on the radio, and after hearing candidates in home visits and at public meetings, voters are likely to put personalities before politics when they go to the polls on Saturday.

"People will support members of their clan, then those with whom they have personal contacts, and only a minority will vote according to the candidate's political party," one Palestinian election official said.

Conversations with other Palestinians revealed similar inclinations, although many asserted that they would put the candidate's personal integrity above everything else. Problems of daily life, like jobs, taxes and public services, are no less important than political issues, they said.

The shortage of real political debate was evident at a meeting one night this week at the Amari refugee camp near Ramallah.

In a neon-lit hall of a scruffy youth club, about 150 men listened to candidates from the Fatah movement present their personal and political credentials as boys passed out campaign literature. The election platforms went unchallenged in questions from the audience, and it seemed the speakers were preaching to the converted.

But questions from the audience showed that many Palestinians are starting to go beyond the day's slogans to think more critically about the character of the emerging political process, and the powers and effectiveness of elected officials.

One man asked the candidates why they did not join the race for head of the Authority, leaving it dominated by Mr. Arafat, who is 66. Another complained that the council would have limited powers and could not control matters left to future talks with Israel, like borders and refugees. A third questioner asked how elected candidates would stay accountable to the public after they took office.

At a meeting with women in Ramallah, Dr. Mustafa Barghouti, a candidate who is critical of the self-rule agreements and Mr. Arafat's autocratic style, tried to persuade a doubtful listener in traditional Muslim dress that going to the polls could make a difference.

"This is a golden opportunity for Palestinians to elect people who can say no to Arafat, who can criticize without fear and not just be a rubber stamp," said Dr. Barghouti, a physician who is on the slate of the small People's Party, one of an array of groups that are competing in the elections. "It depends on us, and we should have confidence in

Palestinians Trying Out Elections, Warts and All

ourselves after all we've been through -- the uprising, the Israeli jails. If we boycott but most people vote, and the results are recognized around the world, then what will we say?"

On a campaign stroll downtown, Abdel Jawad Saleh, an independent candidate, was also peppered with questions about the value of the election process. One youth asked how credible were results of a poll boycotted by the opposition. Another wanted to know what Mr. Saleh would do about wealthy businessmen-turned-candidates who used their money to buy political influence and win government positions.

"We have to change all that and put an end to this chaos," Mr. Saleh said as he stood surrounded by a group of young men. "You have to put people in the council who will speak up and say this is wrong. We can't have 10 people filling government posts at the taxpayer's expense. They have to be qualified."

There will be a lot of cleaning up to do in a political culture dominated by patronage and influence peddling. The Palestinian Authority has done some of its own arm-twisting to get out the vote and discourage a boycott. Applicants for Palestinian passports have complained that they are required to present a voter registration card as a condition for getting the travel document.

But even without this leverage, it seems many Palestinians will go to the polls, ignoring posters and graffiti by Islamic and leftist opposition groups that call the election a humiliating farce.

The militant Islamic group **Hamas** has put up pictures of Yahya Ayyash, its bomb-maker, who was recently assassinated in the Gaza Strip, holding him up as an alternative role-model to the election candidates. **Hamas** asserts that the assassination of Mr. Ayyash by Israel inside Palestinian-controlled Gaza is a sign of the weakness of the self-rule authority.

Two other opposition groups, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, urge Palestinians in their posters "not to bury the cause in the ballot boxes," warning that important issues, like the future of Jerusalem, prisoners and refugees, remain unresolved. Calling for elections that would also include Palestinians abroad, the posters declare, "No to splitting national unity."

Israeli-imposed restrictions have become an issue in recent days in East Jerusalem, where, unlike most places in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, Palestinians are campaigning and will vote under Israeli rule. Claimed by Palestinians as the capital of a hoped-for state and by Israel as part of its eternal and undivided capital, East Jerusalem carries profound significance for both sides.

Last weekend, Israeli police officers at a checkpoint between the West Bank and Jerusalem stopped Hanan Ashrawi, a prominent candidate and former spokeswoman for Palestinian peace negotiators, when she tried to enter the city with campaign posters on her car.

Israeli officials asserted that under an agreement with the Palestinians, posters would only be allowed within city limits on designated billboards, although they are plastered on signs and lampposts throughout East Jerusalem.

As if that dispute were not enough, the police say they are preparing for possible attempts by Israeli right-wing groups and Jewish settlers to disrupt the Palestinian elections in East Jerusalem. The rightists have invited hundreds of supporters to come to the area this weekend to "defend Jerusalem."

Members of the right-wing Likud party put up signs this week in East Jerusalem threatening Arab residents that they could lose their Israeli identification cards if they vote in the Palestinian elections.

The cards permit holders unhindered travel to Israel, and entitle them to Israeli health and social security benefits unavailable to Palestinians outside Jerusalem.

Although they are not in any danger of losing their Israeli ID cards if they vote, Arabs in East Jerusalem are worried. About half the eligible voters there are estimated to have failed to register for the elections.

Graphic

Photo: Palestinians will be electing a government on Saturday, and in West Bank areas like Ramallah, above, candidates have created a festive atmosphere. (Rina Castelnuevo for The New York Times)

Load-Date: January 18, 1996

End of Document

War softens Turkish PM's Islamic zeal; Kurdish struggle is forcing Erbakan to dilute his fervour, writes Hugh Pope

The Independent (London)

July 3, 1996, Wednesday

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Section: INTERNATIONAL; Page 8

Length: 804 words

Byline: Hugh Pope

Body

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But not even the all-embracing rhetoric of Necmettin Erbakan, the pro-Islamic Prime Minister who took office last Friday, nor his professions of friendship for Turkey's Middle Eastern neighbours, are likely to save him from a crash course in the taboos and violence of Turkey's equally old Kurdish problem.

Mr Erbakan will be haunted by decisions taken during the political uncertainty of the past nine months. With quiet support from its main ally, the United States, Turkey's republican establishment decided the time was ripe to target Syria, blaming it for harbouring the chief of the rebel Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK).

Aggressive Turkish speeches were made in Hatay, the former Syrian province of Alexandretta seized by Turkey in 1939 and claimed by Syria. A military co-operation agreement was signed with Israel. A mysterious bomb exploded in Damascus near the house of the PKK's leader, Abdullah Ocalan.

Now Mr Ocalan is striking back, abandoning a frayed unilateral cease-fire. Last month the PKK shot up a pro-government television station near the Turkish Kurd town of Diyarbakir, killing nine people, mostly women and children. A militant then cut down the Turkish flag at the main congress of HADEP, the only surviving legal pro-Kurdish political party in Turkey. In its place he hung up the insignia of the PKK. Predictably, the Turks played into the militants' hands and arrested the HADEP leader, Murat Bozlak and 50 of its top officials.

Then came Turkey's first suicide bomb attack on Sunday night, in the remote, troubled eastern town of Tunceli. A Turkish military band had just finished playing the national anthem at an evening flag-lowering ceremony on the town square when a 24-year-old Kurdish militant, Zeynep Kinali, apparently pregnant, pushed forward. Shouting slogans in Kurdish, she exploded in a ball of flame that killed six soldiers and wounded 31.

That the Syrian-based PKK in Turkey should suddenly decide to use the same tactics as Hamas in Israel is doubtless coincidental. Syria's Foreign Minister, Farouq al-Shara, reacting to accusations of complicity, told the Turkish newspaper Milliyet: "You've got the wrong address."

But in many ways, Turkey, which for years has pursued an almost exclusively Westernising agenda of integration with Europe, is now finding its agenda more and more dominated by all kinds of addresses in the Middle East.

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Signs of strain between Turkey and Iran also surfaced last week, with Iranian claims that Turkish helicopters had targeted a border village and killed six civilians near the area affected by PKK-Turkish fighting. Turkey said the Iranian claim was a pretext to allow a mob to burn the Turkish flag in front of a Turkish consulate.

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But Mr Erbakan's vision of Turkey's Middle East role is more that of an Ottoman-style leader. And while the need to consolidate power remains his overwhelming priority, he appears to be ready to dispense with his Islamic ideals.

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Turkish commentators are divided about the future of Mr Erbakan's coalition with True Path Party leader, Tansu Ciller, which faces a close parliamentary vote of confidence next Monday. But some are begging for a new approach to the Kurdish conflict that has killed 20,000 people since 1984. "It is the one-dimensional struggle against the PKK that is making the people in the south-east revolt," Gungor Mengi, chief columnist of Sabah newspaper, said.

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P.L.O. Moderate Shot Dead, Raising Fears on Pact

The New York Times

October 22, 1993, Friday, Late Edition - Final

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Length: 680 words

Byline: By CLYDE HABERMAN,

By CLYDE HABERMAN, Special to The New York Times

Dateline: JERUSALEM, Oct. 21

Body

A leading moderate in the Palestine Liberation Organization was shot to death today in Gaza, intensifying fears that violence within the Palestinian movement could threaten the agreement to begin the transfer of authority in the occupied territories from Israel to the P.L.O.

The shooting of Assad Saftawi, 58, occurred several hours before Israeli and P.L.O. negotiators announced in Egypt that they had come to terms on a release next week of some Palestinians held in Israeli prisons -- probably several hundred, Israeli officials said.

It was described as a first step toward a gradual release of most of the 13,000 Palestinians being held for various shades of anti-Israeli violence and resistance. For P.L.O. leaders, a breakthrough on prisoners is a top priority, for they feel that they must quickly show their public that the accord signed last month with Israel carries tangible benefits.

Third in Fatah Slain in Month

But if the negotiators took a step forward with the announced prisoner release, the movement toward Palestinian self-rule suffered a setback with the assassination of Mr. Saftawi, a local leader of the mainstream Fatah movement, which is controlled by the P.L.O. chairman, Yasir Arafat. He was the third senior figure in Fatah to be killed in the Gaza Strip over the last month, and all three were strong supporters of the deal with Israel.

Mr. Saftawi was shot at least twice in the head as he sat in a car waiting to pick up his 9-year-old son, Ali, from school. The boy was walking toward the car as the shooting occurred, and later, still in shock, he told reporters how masked gunmen had smashed the windshield with pistols and then fired.

No one has claimed responsibility for the three killings. The slayings have been strongly condemned by militant Palestinian groups like Hamas, which opposes the agreement with Israel, and that fact has deepened suspicions among Palestinians that a local power struggle within Fatah is under way.

P.L.O. Moderate Shot Dead, Raising Fears on Pact

Concerns Are Raised

More broadly, the attacks raise concerns about the prospects for democracy in Gaza and the West Bank after Israeli forces withdraw, specifically whether political disputes in the Palestinian minstate that is emerging will be settled with bullets, not ballots.

"It certainly does not bode well," said Hanan Ashrawi, the spokeswoman for the Palestinian delegation to the Middle East peace talks. She said the Palestinian police force being formed in Gaza has had no chance yet to prove itself, but acknowledged that the killings "threaten future prospects and the very society we're hoping to build."

Mr. Saftawi was the headmaster of a United Nations school in the Bureij refugee district, in the heart of the coastal strip, and in 1989 he had proposed a reconciliation plan for Israel and the Palestinians.

Prisoner Release Discussed

The question of a release of Palestinian prisoners was a central issue for Israeli and P.L.O. teams meeting at the Red Sea resort of Taba, Egypt.

They were there for a second week to work out critical details of an agreement in principle to begin Palestinian self-rule in Gaza and the West Bank city of Jericho, accompanied by an Israeli troop withdrawal from those two areas starting by Dec. 13 and ending by next April 13.

Today, the two sides exchanged widely different plans for security arrangements once the Israeli forces begin their pullback. One Palestinian delegate said the Israelis had left his side with almost no authority over security, though he acknowledged that the Palestinian team was taking a tough stand itself in the early thrust and parry.

In contrast to the smiles of a week ago, the negotiators were somber today, especially the Palestinians, who spoke out publicly far more often than the Israelis and who sought to accentuate the negative.

Still, by day's end, they had agreed on the start of a big release of prisoners, which, the two sides said in a joint statement, would be "implemented gradually and continually." The first group to be freed next week, they said, would be women, those who are ill, and those who are under 18 or over 50.

Graphic

Photo: The son of Assad Saftawi being comforted by a sister yesterday after seeing his father killed in Gaza. Nine-year-old Ali said masked gunmen smashed the windshield of Mr. Saftawi's car and then fired. (Rina Castelnovo for The New York Times)

Load-Date: October 22, 1993

TALKING TO A TERRORIST

Courier Mail (Queensland, Australia)

June 29, 1996, Saturday

Copyright 1996 Nationwide News Pty Limited

Length: 739 words

Byline: MCLEAN S

Body

KEYWORD-HIT

TV PAGE SATURDAY

Talking to

a terrorist

By SANDRA McLEAN E VEN late nights at the editing desk can't stop

Helen Vatsikopoulos being enthusias tic about the Middle East.

Up until 3am working on her story for tonight's editon of

Dateline, she is initially a little sleepy on the phone but as she

warms to her topic you can hear her waking up, fast.

Earlier this year Vatsikopoulos made her third visit to Israel,

zeroing in on Gaza and the West Bank. Fear and loathing are just

beneath the surface of society in that part of the world, yet for

Vatsikopoulos it is a correspondent's dream.

QNP

""I find it a very interesting part of the world because it is

built on one of civilization's fault lines," she says. ""You have

Christians, Jews and Moslems living in a unique and dynamic situation.

There is always a lot of conflict, unfortunately, but it is

fascinating."

True, the region is unpredictable _ note last week's terrorist

TALKING TO A TERRORIST

blast in Saudi Arabia _ and its politics is steeped in history, religion and fanaticism. The people of the area are also a constant source of fascination for Vatsikopoulos and in this edition of Dateline she meets an offbeat childhood heroine, terrorist Leyla Haked.

A Palestinian terrorist during the 60s and 70s, Haked hijacked airplanes belonging to the Israelis and the Americans. She was dangerous, committed and beautiful. Now she lives in Jordan with her husband and two children.

"I remember her from when I was a kid watching this young, beautiful hijacker," Vatsikopoulos says. "I just thought she was fascinating. Now she is in her early 50s and has two teenage sons. She is a hardliner and talking to her about her motivation for what she did was like plucking someone out of history and have them sit in front of you."

Vatsikopoulos also talked to another former terrorist, Abu Abbas, who masterminded the Achille Lauro hijacking. Like Khaled, he is no longer an active terrorist but he still works for the Palestinian Liberation Front.

Vatsikopoulos says it was no problem talking to these former terrorists _ as long as you watch what you say. "Dealing with them is okay but you have to be careful. Among the Israelis Abbas is a terrorist but you would not call him that to his face. He is a freedom fighter. You have to know who you are talking to."

In tonight's story Vatsikopoulos aims to show how things have changed in Palestinian society over the past five years and how the community has become more democratic and "'Western'. For instance, women are now able to walk around Gaza without the hejab, or head scarf, and they can wear jeans. A few years ago this was taboo.

But during this transition from revolution to civic mentality, Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat has faced opposition from groups such

TALKING TO A TERRORIST

as Hamas. Now with a Likud government, led by Binyamin Netanyahu, in power in Israel the future of the Palestinian people is murky. Will Netanyahu start the peace process all over again or will he stall it and continue to put Jewish settlers in occupied territories? Will he keep troops in the West Bank and the Golan Heights?

To find answers to some of these questions, Vatsikopoulos spoke to Dr Dore Gold, Netanyahu's right hand man and senior political advisor.

One of the major aspects of life in Gaza that struck Vatsikopoulos on this trip was how "normal" it had become.

"When I had been there in the past, Gaza could look like a battle zone," Vatsikopoulos says. "There were always strikes and little boys ruled the streets, burning tyres and chucking stones at whoever might come into the area _ especially if you looked like an Israeli.

"This time around the kids looked like kids again. I saw them playing in an amusement park and they looked so happy. But the park had only been open for a week."

Part of this new civic society is Palestinian Australian businessman Abdel Karim Sabawi who has built Gaza's first swimming pool, outdoor cinema and indoor ampitheatre. He proudly displays the Australian flag in his office in the family home in Victoria.

Vatsikopoulos spent two weeks in Gaza and the West Bank.

"Going to Gaza is not easy because of the enclosure," she says.

"You have to go through an elaborate security process where you leave the car in Israel proper, walk through no man's and and get a cab to another part of no man's land and then get another car and go to Gaza."

Dateline, SBS, tonight, 8pm.

HELEN Vatsikopoulos interviews former Palestinian terrorist Abu Abbas on a visit to Gaza for Dateline on SBS tonight.

TALKING TO A TERRORIST

Load-Date: March 1, 2002

End of Document

Whoever wins, Israel's peace is still far away; Patrick Cockburn looks at the impact of this week's elections

The Independent (London)

May 27, 1996, Monday

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Section: THE COMMENTATORS; Page 15

Length: 754 words

Byline: Patrick Cockburn

Body

Doves play a big role in the Israeli election. They flutter about symbolising peace in TV commercials and on billboards. Shimon Peres, the Prime Minister, and Binyamin Netanyahu, his right-wing rival, both promise peace with security. At times their rhetoric is interchangeable. It is also deceptive. Both sides are sure of their core supporters, in each case about a third of electorate. Supporters of the Oslo accords between Israel and the Palestinians will never vote for Mr Netanyahu and its opponents will never vote for Mr Peres.

Both candidates can afford to dilute their message in pursuit of votes in the centre. Hence the fuzziness of the messages they send. Mr Netanyahu says he will not tear up Oslo, though he is prepared to send the Israeli troops into the autonomous Palestinian enclaves in Gaza and the West Bank. Mr Peres promised an influential settler rabbi that no Israeli settlements will be moved.

Neither candidate is widely liked. Mr Peres was called "an inveterate schemer" by Yitzhak Rabin, the late prime minister. Mr Netanyahu is widely detested by many Israelis as a hypocrite for promising peace without territorial concessions to the Palestinians. More specifically they remember him whipping up crowds at anti-government rallies in the months before Mr Rabin was shot last year.

The television commercials reflect how the media advisers in both campaigns try to redress their candidate's weaknesses. Shimon Peres, 72, who has failed to win at the polls four times, is shown being mobbed at a rally by enthusiastic and nubile young girls (in reality nobody gets that close to the Israeli Prime Minister since Mr Rabin was shot at point-blank range).

On his third marriage and having publicly confessed to adultery on television Mr Netanyahu, who is only 46, wants nothing in his commercials that will remind viewers of women or youth. Instead, he sits behind a large desk, in what appears to be a mock-up of the Oval Office, as he tries to persuade voters that Mr Peres plans to divide Jerusalem.

Polls show that two days from the election Mr Peres is proving marginally more persuasive. He has certainly convinced the US and most foreign governments that if he is re-elected the future of "the peace process" will be secured. But it may be that many Israelis and foreign leaders alike have been looking at the wrong election. This year, for the first time, the prime minister will be directly elected and the 120 members of the Knesset will be chosen separately. The aim of the reform was to weaken the bargaining strength of small religious parties in Israeli politics and to increase the power of the prime minister. Liberal Israelis lamented the new authoritarianism but their grief may have been premature. The real balance of power between prime minister and Knesset is changing less than forecast.

Whoever wins, Israel 's peace is still far away; Patrick Cockburn looks at the impact of this week's elections

In 1992, Mr Rabin and Labour defeated Yitzhak Shamir and Likud on a platform of making peace with the Palestinians. Labour, its left-wing ally Meretz and the Arab parties could muster 61 seats, enabling them to prevent anybody else forming a government. It was this de facto coalition that was the political basis for the Oslo agreement in 1993. If Likud and its allies had won the 1992 election, there would have been no land- for-peace accords.

It is this majority in the Knesset for peace with the Palestinians that is about to disappear. Opinion polls have for weeks shown Mr Peres marginally ahead in the race for the prime minister's office. But they have also shown Labour and Meretz both losing seats. Even if Mr Peres wins, he will have to shift his government to the right.

That shift is important because Palestinians are getting very little out of the Oslo accords. Gaza and the West Bank have been wholly sealed off for the election period. Businesses are impoverished and the day labourers who used to work in Israel are unemployed. Support for Oslo among Palestinians has been sustained by expectations that things will get better when the final status talks on Jerusalem, settlements, refugees and frontiers resume this year. If they get nothing, Mr Arafat will be seen to have failed.

There are already signs of disillusionment. Last month the Islamic movement **Hamas** won the student election for the first time at the West Bank university Bir Zeit, which has always had an influential political role. Israelis tend to misunderstand the Palestinian attitude to Oslo. They believe Palestinians will regard it as successful if it marginally improves their lot. Palestinian

Load-Date: May 29, 1996

End of Document

Threat Prompts University To Hold Tests a Week Early

The New York Times

April 16, 1996, Tuesday, Late Edition - Final

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Distribution: National Desk

Section: Section A; ; Section A; Page 19; Column 5; National Desk ; Column 5;

Length: 733 words

Byline: By MIREYA NAVARRO

By MIREYA NAVARRO

Dateline: MIAMI, April 15

Body

The University of South Florida announced today that it would hold final examinations a week early at its main campus in Tampa in response to a letter threatening to blow up an administration building and kill a white female professor on Monday April 29.

The threat came in a letter mailed to the campus newspaper on March 25 and is under investigation by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, said Brian Kensel, the F.B.I.'s spokesman in Tampa. Mr. Kensel said that the letter referred to the bombing of the Federal Building in Oklahoma City on April 19 last year, but that the bureau had not determined whether the threat was credible.

Kathy Stafford, a university vice president, said the anniversary of the Oklahoma City bombing, which has put law-enforcement officials around the country on alert for any signs of terrorism, was a reason for reacting to the letter. In California, the F.B.I. is investigating the bombing of a Labor Department employee's truck on Friday, just hours after his office got a call from a man who said, "Timothy McVeigh lives on," referring to a suspect in the Oklahoma bombing.

But the letter sent to the Florida university also referred to Ramadan Abdullah Shallah, a former adjunct professor of Middle Eastern politics who left the Tampa campus last year to become the leader of Islamic Jihad, a radical organization that has waged a terrorist war against Israel.

Ms. Stafford said the university wanted to err on the side of caution. Tampa is the biggest of five University of South Florida campuses with nearly 29,000 students and 6,000 people on the faculty and administrative and support staffs.

"We got a specific letter threatening violence and that letter contained a specific date," she said. "We can't discount it."

Officials said they waited until today to announce the schedule changes because they needed time to plan a response and because they had hoped a suspect would have been identified by now. Students, who found out the

Threat Prompts University To Hold Tests a Week Early

news through the campus newspaper, The Oracle, seemed to be more afraid of the early exams than the threat of an explosion. Cramming has already begun.

"People are freaking out at the library," said Nancy Lee, a junior who works in the library as a student aide 20 hours a week. "A lot of students are stressed out."

Final examinations, originally scheduled for April 26 through May 2, instead will be held on April 19 to 25. Randy Johnson, a political science graduate student, figured he would have "a weekend, essentially" to prepare for three examinations and complete two research papers. He said he must fit in his studies between a full-time job and night classes.

"It just seems a little sweeping," Mr. Johnson said of the schedule changes. "They have to be responsible for security on campus, but they could have just changed April 29. I wish they could have done something with that one day instead of the whole week."

But university administrators said in a statement today that they did not want to shut down the campus and "be held hostage by anyone deciding to issue a threat." They plan to keep the university open but will announce special security measures later this week.

The university has offered a \$10,000 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the letter writer.

Commencement ceremonies are expected to be held on May 4 as scheduled.

Deborah O'Neil, a senior and The Oracle's editor, said the one-page, typed letter was signed "The One, the Leader of the War Purgers," an individual or group that no one on campus had heard of before but that the letter described as "a diverse group of extremist individuals" with connections to Jihad and Hamas, the militant Palestinian group.

It also said Dr. Shallah was treated poorly by the news media and it demanded an apology, Ms. O'Neil said.

University officials said they had received bomb threats during finals week in the past but they were mostly attributed to student pranks. Faculty members, who in many instances will give both classes and examinations on the last academic week, are faced with a logistical headache but spoke in support of the decision to have most students off campus by the April 29 deadline.

"It's not a matter of being afraid," said S. David Stamps, interim dean of the college of arts and sciences. "It's a matter of being concerned because you're talking about a lot of people. You can't make wrong decisions."

Load-Date: April 16, 1996

Oracle editor stands by her news decision

The Tampa Tribune (Florida)

April 20, 1996, Saturday,

FINAL EDITION

Copyright 1996 The Tribune Co. Publishes The Tampa Tribune

Section: FLORIDA/METRO,

Length: 735 words

Byline: CATHY CUMMINS; Tribune Staff Writer

Dateline: TAMPA

Body

The editor of the University of South Florida's student newspaper makes no apologies for her decision not to publish a letter threatening terrorist-inspired violence on campus.

"We did the right thing," Oracle Editor-in-Chief Deborah O'Neil said Friday, four weeks after she wrote about - but didn't publish - the "War Purgers" letter. The letter said the violence would take place if it wasn't printed in the paper.

"Everybody on the campus had a right to know their lives were being threatened. We put in the story things we thought people needed to know," she said.

Her March 26 story set off a campuswide debate and prompted administrators to plan unusually strong security precautions for a bomb threat. On April 29, the day cited by the letter writer, the campus will be virtually closed. Visitors will be turned away unless they have doctor's appointments, and employees will be asked for photo identification.

O'Neil, 24, said she didn't publish the letter in its entirety because she didn't want the newspaper to be manipulated into giving the letter writer a platform.

Nor did she think the letter's inflammatory insults - against USF President Betty Castor and the "pseudo-religion" of Christianity - needed to be general information, she said.

Her decision, reached after hours of discussion March 25 with student newspaper adviser Jay Lawrence, has resulted in criticism, accolades and interviews with local television stations and newspapers across the state and The New York Times.

An informal poll by the Oracle the day the story was published found 60 percent of students supporting the decision and 40 percent questioning why O'Neil would endanger the school by refusing to publish the letter, she said. She has received several electronic messages questioning her decision.

But when the letter arrived at the Oracle's office March 25, O'Neil was at home. The advertising coordinator opened the letter but set it aside when she saw it was addressed to "Editor-in-Chief O'Neil."

Oracle editor stands by her news decision

After a second look, she took the letter to Lawrence, who read it and told O'Neil to get into the office as soon as possible.

"I read the letter, and I was stunned," O'Neil said. "The first thing was, 'This has got to be a joke.' "

O'Neil said she doesn't know who wrote the letter and hopes it's a hoax.

The one-page, typed letter, signed "The One, the Leader of the War Purgers," demanded publication or on April 29 an administration building would be blown up, a unnamed white **female** professor killed and a fake detonator placed in a public place. The letter claimed the "War Purgers" were connected to the Palestinian terrorist groups **Hamas** and the Islamic Jihad as well as to neo-Nazis.

It also said Jihad leader Ramadan Abdullah Shallah, a former USF adjunct professor, was due an apology from the "biased, racist" American media.

"Initially I thought, 'This can't be real.' Then I read it a second and a third time. I adjusted to the fact that threats are made and that they are carried out and that this couldn't be dismissed," said Lawrence, who has 14 years' experience reporting for major newspapers across the country.

The decision to call police, who called the FBI, was easy. What to do about the next day's newspaper was far more difficult, Lawrence and O'Neil said.

For hours the two sat in Lawrence's office. Should the 15,000-circulation paper publish the entire letter? Parts of it? Write a story and quote from it? Or ignore it entirely?

The New York Times' and The Washington Post's decision to publish the Unabomber's manifesto last fall had been fodder for class discussions for months. Student and adviser were familiar with the criticisms and reasons to publish and not to publish.

"Their situation was different; they were dealing with a letter from someone who was a known killer. Our letter was from a group no one had ever heard of," O'Neil said. "They did the right thing."

About 4 p.m., O'Neil decided. The paper would publish a story about the letter, quoting parts of it.

"She was faced with a decision 20-year veterans don't have to face. She made the right decision," Lawrence said.

Jean Chance, a 25-year journalism professor at the University of Florida, agrees.

"The fact that these are student journalists is absolutely immaterial to the decision. The operative word is that these are journalists," Chance said.

"I admire what they did, and I know they did a lot of soul searching before they did it."

Graphic

PHOTO (C),

(C) Deborah O'Neil's decision not to publish the letter from the "War Purgers" has drawn both praise and criticism. GARY RINGS, Tribune photo

Load-Date: April 22, 1996

Oracle editor stands by her news decision

End of Document

**ARABS, ISRAELIS RESOLVE TO FIGHT TERRORISM;
DESPITE ISRAEL'S ACCUSATION, THE MIDDLE EAST SUMMIT DID NOT
SINGLE OUT IRAN;
BUT IT PLEDGED TO CUT TERRORISTS OFF FROM FINANCING, ARMS,
RECRUITMENT AND;
SAFE HAVENS.**

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette (Pennsylvania)

March 14, 1996, Thursday,

SOONER EDITION

Copyright 1996 P.G. Publishing Co.

Section: WORLD,

Length: 724 words

Byline: TERENCE HUNT, THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dateline: SHARM EL-SHEIK, Egypt

Body

Shoulder-to-shoulder in a historic show of solidarity, Arabs joined Israelis at a summit of world leaders yesterday to vow unequivocal support for the bomb-ripped Middle East peace process and an unrelenting war against terrorists.

"From all around the world, we have come to the Sinai to deliver one simple, unified message: Peace will prevail," President Clinton said as kings, presidents, prime ministers and princes - 28 in all - gathered for what was billed as "the summit of the peacemakers."

Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres, whose nation was thrown into turmoil by four attacks that killed 62 people over nine days, was visibly moved by the outcome. He spoke of watching "with an unbelieving eye" as former Arab enemies pledged to end the scourge of terrorism.

Afterward, Clinton and Peres flew together on Air Force One to Israel, where Clinton met with President Ezer Weizman.

Reflecting on the summit, Clinton said, "I feel much better about our prospects for presenting a united front against terror and for security."

Today, Clinton will visit the grave of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, slain by a Jewish militant who opposed his peace efforts. The president also will deliver a speech of sympathy and support for Israel as it grieves the deaths of men, women and children in the bombings.

Clinton was accompanied to Egypt and Israel by CIA Director John Deutch and Secretary of State Warren Christopher. When Clinton returns to Washington today, they will remain behind to work out an anti-terrorism and intelligence agreement between the United States and Israel.

ARABS, ISRAELIS RESOLVE TO FIGHT TERRORISM; DESPITE ISRAEL 'S ACCUSATION, THE MIDDLE EAST SUMMIT DID NOT SINGLE OUT IRAN ; BUT IT PLEDGED TO CUT TERRORISTS OFF

In a political sense, Clinton's advisers hope his trip will enhance his election-year image as a world peacemaker. The summit outcome also could give a boost to Peres, struggling to hold power in May 29 elections.

The hurriedly arranged meeting in this Red Sea scuba-diving resort was aimed at wresting the momentum from the suicide bombers of ***Hamas***, whose attacks stunned Israel and left the peace process in tatters.

"This terrorism is not anonymous," Peres said. "It has a name, it has an address, it has bank accounts. . . . It is spearheaded by a country - Iran. Tehran has become the capital of terror."

Yet, the summit's final communique did not single out any country by name. Instead, it pledged to crack down on terrorists by cutting them off from financing, arms, recruitment and safe havens. Only Peres and British Prime Major John Major of Britain accused Iran in their speeches.

Notable by his absence was President Hafez Assad of Syria, a nation accused by Washington of supporting terrorism yet a key player in the slumping Middle East peace process. Clinton said he wished that the Syrians had attended but added: "I wouldn't overread their absence here. It's part of a general pattern of going their own way."

The leaders pledged to reinforce the peace process with political and financial assistance and with special attention to the "current and pressing economic needs of the Palestinians."

They also pledged to convene a working group to chart "maximum efforts" against terrorists. Delegates are to meet in Washington within two weeks to draw up recommendations that each country can take through legislative and executive actions.

Short on bold steps, the summit was remarkable for the symbolic message it sent of Arabs standing with Israelis, two ancient foes united now for peace and against terrorism.

Gathered around a long, rectangular table covered with green felt, leaders spoke one by one with varying fervor - some mentioning Israel by name, others speaking more generally about the peace process. They spoke for three hours.

Saudi Arabia's foreign minister, Saud al-Faisal, spoke warmly of hopes to "energize the peace process."

Apparently referring both to the suicide bombings and to Israel's closure of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, he said, "We equally and unanimously condemn the violent acts which took place in Tel Aviv and the occupied territories."

He called for "firmness and serious action" against terrorists.

Faisal was the most senior Saudi official ever to meet with an Israeli leader. Away from cameramen, he shook hands with Peres.

While condemning terrorists, Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat complained about Israel's crackdown, saying it was strangling the Palestinians' economy "to the extent of famine."

Graphic

PHOTO, Photo: Joe Marquette/Associated Press: SYMBOLISM IN THE; SINAI/President Clinton warned Palestinian terrorists yesterday that "your; day has passed" as he addressed a summit conference, attended by more than; two dozen world leaders and delegations from much of the Arab world, aimed at; countering the deadly reality of bomb blasts in Israel with the hopeful; symbolism of peace.; At front from left: Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres, President Clinton,; Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, Russian President Boris Yeltsin and; Palestinian President Yasser Arafat.(Photo, Page A-1)

ARABS, ISRAELIS RESOLVE TO FIGHT TERRORISM; DESPITE ISRAEL 'S ACCUSATION, THE MIDDLE EAST SUMMIT DID NOT SINGLE OUT IRAN ; BUT IT PLEDGED TO CUT TERRORISTS OFF

Load-Date: March 23, 1996

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Historic Vote Catapults Palestinians Closer to Peace and Nationhood

Christian Science Monitor (Boston, MA)

January 22, 1996, Monday

Copyright 1996 The Christian Science Publishing Society

Section: INTERNATIONAL; Pg. 1

Length: 723 words

Byline: John Battersby, Staff writer of The Christian Science Monitor

Dateline: JERUSALEM

Body

IN a historic vote Saturday for their first elected government, Palestinians put a stamp of approval on peace with Israel, with a decisive 75 percent voter turnout.

"People can now start taking decisions by themselves," says Munir Issa, a young Palestinian from Bethlehem voting for the first time.

Yasser Arafat, the former guerrilla leader who negotiated peace with Israel, became president with 85 percent of the vote. He now has a mandate to deal more effectively with both his Israeli counterparts and Islamic opposition leaders.

"I think you could say that the majority of Palestinians in Gaza and the West Bank ... have accepted that peace will come in stages," says Ali Jarbawi, a political scientist at the West Bank's Bir Zeit University.

Islamic militant groups that oppose peace with Israel, such as the Islamic Resistance Movement, *Hamas*, did not disrupt the vote although they did not participate. Their passive resistance also appears to bolster Arafat's position as leader.

But the election was not violence-free. On the eve of the poll, three Palestinians were killed at an Israeli road block in Jenin; and on voting day, one election official was shot dead by a Palestinian policeman after the official ordered the policeman to leave.

In the election for an 88-seat Palestinian Council, independent candidates - many of whom favor peace with Israel but oppose Arafat's methods - appeared to have fared well, raising the prospect of building a governing body that does not serve as a rubber stamp for Arafat.

Front runners include former Palestine Liberation Organization negotiators Hanan Ashrawi, who won a seat from Jerusalem; and Haider Abdel-Shafi, who won a Council seat from Gaza.

For the first time, Arafat, who has a reputation for ruling in an autocratic way, will have to listen to the advice of an elected Council made up of members of his ruling Fatah faction and independents who are critical of his style. And this Council will have the power to choose his successor.

Historic Vote Catapults Palestinians Closer to Peace and Nationhood

"We are being liberated piece by piece," says Bir Zeit University's Ali Jarbawi. "The question is whether all the pieces will come together."

Turnout was lower in areas Israel still occupies. Only 40 percent of eligible voters cast ballots in East Jerusalem, where Israel had 4,000 policemen deployed.

International observers protested the "intimidation" voters were subjected to by Israeli policemen, the lack of privacy for voters, and the harassment of voters at Israeli security checkpoints.

"I don't think there is any doubt they [the police] are doing everything they can to intimidate the voters," said former President Jimmy Carter, who is leading a team of international observers.

The election also opened a potentially new era for Palestinian women by putting women's issues on the political agenda in a society where women are relegated to second-class citizens. Twenty-seven of the 672 candidates were women.

In a departure from Muslim tradition, many Palestinian women arrived at the polls unaccompanied by men.

"I think this election will achieve a better position for women," says Afaf al-Batsch, a Hebron woman wearing the traditional Arab scarf to cover her head.

The Israeli government, which has had a central role in forging the shape of Palestinian self-rule institutions and logistical arrangements for the elections, expressed satisfaction with the voter turnout.

"The vote also effectively confirmed that a majority of the Palestinians back the agreements [between Israel and the PLO]," said Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres after the polls closed on Saturday.

Mr. Peres also said that members of the Palestinian National Council (PNC), the PLO's parliament in exile, would be allowed to return soon for talks on changing the PLO charter, which still calls for the destruction of Israel.

Arafat has promised Peres that within two months of the poll, he will try to persuade the PNC to amend the charter. But senior PLO officials have warned that Israel will first have to release all Palestinian prisoners.

Israeli and Palestinian negotiators are to begin "final status" negotiations in May, which will include the final disposition of the Palestinian entity, the future status of Jerusalem, the position of some 130,000 Jewish settlers on the West Bank, and the future of about 3 million Palestinian refugees in neighboring Arab states.

Graphic

PHOTOS: 1) JERUSALEM: A Palestinian was arrested Saturday by Israeli police for allegedly throwing stones at a voting station. Former US President Carter criticized Israel's deployment of 4,000 policemen in the disputed city., NATI HARNIK/AP 2) VEIL POWER: A Palestinian woman waits to vote in Gaza. Women voters - unusual in Arab societies - were one reason turnout was so high., LAURENT REBOURS/AP

Load-Date: January 22, 1996

ARAFAT RIDES ON LANDSLIDE YES VOTE

THE AUSTRALIAN

January 22, 1996, Monday

Copyright 1996 Nationwide News Pty Limited

Length: 806 words

Byline: SUE CANT

Body

NEARLY one million Palestinian voters queued at polling stations across Gaza and the West Bank yesterday under the close watch of the international community to cast a historic yes vote endorsing the leadership of Mr Yasser Arafat in the first legislative elections in the history of the Palestinian people.

In a strong statement in support of the Palestine Liberation Organisation leader and the peace process, more than 90 per cent of the one million registered voters turned up to choose members of the 88-seat Palestinian Autonomy Council, agreed to by the PLO and Israel under the second phase of the Oslo II agreement.

"This is a new era. It is the first legislative and presidential elections for the Palestinian people," declared Mr Arafat, surrounded by jostling, adoring crowds after voting in Gaza City.

Despite the overwhelming Arafat vote, leading Independents such as Mr Haidar Abdel Shafi and Dr Hanan Ashrawi will also be represented.

In Gaza, Mr Nabil Shaath, international co-operation minister in the Palestinian Authority, won a seat along with Ms Intissar Wazir, widow of top Fatah official Abu Jihad, who was assassinated by Israeli agents in Tunis in 1988.

A former chief peace negotiator now seen as a critic of aspects of the self-rule accords, Mr Abdel Shafi, also won a seat.

A former ***Hamas*** member, Mr Imad Faluji, won in Gaza.

Mr Arafat won an overwhelming 85 per cent in a parallel presidential contest against sole challenger Ms Samiha Khalil, a feminist militant, according to partial results.

Despite the strong turn-out, claims of vote rigging and intimidation marred the Palestinians'

first step towards democracy.

Palestinian authorities were investigating claims yesterday that police officers forced illiterate residents to vote as they waited in full view of international election observers.

The claims follow the revelation by a senior PLO official that 15 high-ranking Egyptian army officers secretly arrived in Gaza 10 days ago.

The officers were part of a plan to fix the elections in favour of the Palestinian Authority, according to the PLO official.

ARAFAT RIDES ON LANDSLIDE YES VOTE

The same officers were involved in ballot rigging in the Egyptian elections in December when 10 people were killed and many injured in antigovernment riots.

The claims of ballot rigging came as preliminary results from the elections showed Mr Arafat in a landslide victory, winning 80-90 per cent of the vote for the presidency of the authority and marginalising his one opponent, 73-year-old welfare activist Ms Samiha Khalil.

Palestinian candidates yesterday claimed policemen were forcibly marking ballot papers for illiterate voters.

"One policeman had 150 ballot papers and was marking them as he wished," a candidate for Jabalia village in Gaza, Mr Khalid al Buttrash, said.

"International observers don't know what is going on and they didn't do anything to stop it." The director of the Palestinian Central Electoral Commission, Dr Tawfik abu Gazala, said the claims were under investigation.

The head of the international team of election observers from more than 17 countries, former United States president Mr Jimmy Carter, was also caught up in controversy, clashing with Israeli police over their handling of the poll in East Jerusalem.

And in Jerusalem, hundreds of extremist Jewish settlers marked the event with an antigovernment, anti-election rally.

The Prime Minister of Israel, Mr Peres, yesterday phoned Mr Arafat to wish him luck.

Mr Peres told Israeli television the elections proved there was strong support among Palestinian people for the peace process.

"I'm very happy about this democratic step," Mr Peres said.

He also foreshadowed a possible acceleration of the final status talks, due in May, between the Palestinians and Israel.

In Gaza yesterday a spokesman for the electoral commission, Professor Read Khudri, said there had been a very high turnout at the polling booths with more than 90 per cent of registered voters casting a ballot.

After three days of rain, the sun shone on Gazans as they waited for hours at polling stations for their turn to vote.

Palestinian radio instructed people to "vote from their hearts" and posters outside polling stations declared "actions speak louder than words". Many voters waited for polling stations to open at 7am and, half an hour after opening, more than 100 people had queued at the central Gaza station.

One woman who escaped the big queues, having arrived before the booth opened, was Ms Maha Mushtaha. Unlike the six women waiting with her, who voted for the same candidates as their husbands, she voted for a woman - Ms Intisar Wazir, the former Palestinian Authority minister for social affairs and the wife of slain PLO hero Abu Jihad.

"We feel like we have a country now like every other citizen in the world," Ms Mushtaha said. "We now feel independent."

Load-Date: March 1, 2002

Arafat caught 'between a rock and a hard place'

St. Petersburg Times (Florida)

November 30, 1994, Wednesday, City Edition

Times Publishing Company

Section: EDITORIAL; LETTERS; Pg. 19A; LETTER

Length: 1761 words

Body

Re: Arafat needs to live up to the task he inherited.

Jack Payton's column on the failings of Yasser Arafat, Nov. 22, is a reminder to me of why the United States has been so one-sided for so very long on the competing claims of the Israelis and the

Palestinians. Payton compares Arafat to Nelson Mandela and finds him lacking. Big surprise.

Try comparing any of today's political leaders to Mandela and they'll all come up short. Mandela is a remarkable man who captured the conscience of the world. In contrast, Arafat is decidedly unstately and unappealing to the camera. And his shaky command of English (though he's an educated man in his own language) makes him come off badly in the American public eye.

LETTERS

But Arafat has been remarkable in his own way, and the comparison with Mandela is unfair and begs the real question. Shaking hands with the Israelis was just as hard, if not harder, for him as it was for them. By this act, he in effect said that the land his parents and his people lived on and lost to the exclusionist dream of a Jewish state would be lost forever. While Mandela led a people who were the vast majority in their own country, Arafat led a dispersed and marginalized people whose very claim to the land they had been ejected from was greeted with derision by most of the world.

As Mr. Payton noted, Israel's Prime Minister Rabin understands the real problem facing Arafat now. That problem is money. The Palestinians now have a little autonomy, but they have no resources after years of forced economic dependency on the Israelis. The big donors in the Mideast - Saudi Arabia and Kuwait - are funding Hamas, bitter enemies of compromise in the peace process who are now involved in a violent struggle with the PLO for the support of the Palestinian population. And Hamas is gaining the upper hand. Why? Because if any analogy with South Africa fits the newly autonomous areas, it is that of the Bantustans, "homelands" created by South Africa to segregate and economically colonize the blacks. The Gaza Strip is now under PLO administration, but its inhabitants still rely on Israel for their meager economic subsistence. International aid to begin the process of creating viable Palestinian economic institutions is of primary importance now.

Arafat is between a rock and a hard place, trying to manage the Israelis on the one side and the rightfully impatient Palestinians on the other. His perceived personality flaws won't be the important factor in the fate of the peace initiatives. Only international commitment to pulling the Palestinians out of the squalid limbo they were forced into 46 years ago will decide whether the violence and misery will go on.

Arafat caught 'between a rock and a hard place'

John Shelley, Tampa

Allegations justified?

Re: Circus is in town, photo with caption, Nov. 25.

Anyone who has spent much time with horses will agree that waving a baton at a frightened horse will most certainly not "calm him down." The photo makes one wonder if the allegations of mistreatment of circus animals may not be truly justified.

P. A. Treadwell, St. Petersburg

"The people have

spoken with clarity'

The Republican Party now has an opportunity (and responsibility) to effect change which is unprecedented in my lifetime. The people have spoken with clarity. There is now a ruling party in the United States. Congress will be opposed in its efforts to enact the Republican agenda by an all-but-(politically)-powerless president. While the message of the 1992 election may have been misunderstood, the mandate resulting from the 1994 election will not. Incumbent Republican legislators kept their seats, incumbent Democrats did not. Democrats seeking re-election in 1996 will be more than willing to distance themselves from President Clinton in support of energetic and demonstrative Republican reforms.

We will now discover whether or not the Republican leadership has the courage of its convictions. There are no excuses for inaction or ineffectiveness available to them. They control both houses of Congress and will have little effective opposition from the executive branch. The Republican Congress must act immediately, decisively and courageously to begin the dismantling of the federal bureaucracy. They also must act to reduce the burden of government on the people generally, and to reduce the tax burden specifically. The Republican leadership must force the passage of the line-item veto, and of those measures which will require the federal government to live within its means.

If the newly empowered Republican Congress fails to act quickly and decisively to implement its manifesto, it will have squandered a very rare opportunity, and we will conclude that there is little substantive difference between the parties after all.

William L. Bishop, Tampa

The political pros have suggested the net effect of President Clinton's 11th-hour stumping for Democratic candidates around the nation may have been, in all but a few cases, to increase his party's ultimate electoral losses.

At his post-election news conference, the president interpreted the outcome as revalidating most of his own announced political objectives which propelled him into the White House in 1992: government streamlining, tax cuts, deficit reduction, etc. He also pledged full cooperation with the new Republican majority in Congress.

Come January, the Republicans' assumption of control in both congressional houses will present clear possibilities of prolonging the Washington gridlock vis-a-vis numerous urgent problems facing the country regarding health care, welfare, crime, excessive taxation and economic policies. This wouldn't be good for the nation, nor would it serve the interests of either major party, Republican or Democrat.

Arafat caught 'between a rock and a hard place'

I see one obvious solution to the dilemma created by the dramatic reversal of party fortunes which occurred at the polls Nov. 8. And no one would be better able or experienced to implement this solution than Bill Clinton.

The president should forthwith switch parties, from Democrat to Republican, as the best way to assure that our federal government can at last act upon its overdue promises to the American people.

Jeff Corydon III, Lutz

Memo to Helms, et al

Memo to Jesse Helms:

"He who throws mud loses ground." Your vicious statements have caused you to lose ground.

Ruth Diduch, Palm Harbor

Re: Jesse sticks by his guns in the Senate, Nov. 24.

Is Howard Troxler serious? His apologist column on Jesse Helms is distorted logic on a dangerously misaligned politician.

Jesse Helms doesn't just stick by his principles - that would be admirable. What Jesse Helms sticks by is Jesse Helms and what will get him re-elected in his state. Period. His "principles" seem to be whatever Jesse thinks is right. He has apparently never questioned or tested what he thinks, as a mature adult must. No, he refuses to consider or compromise. Hey, we need this man as head of foreign relations like a dog needs fleas!

Jesse Helms doesn't give a darn for the average person and his/her needs. He obviously will resort to anything lowdown to benefit himself - including threatening the safety of our president! The average person would be manacled and in jail for this by now!

Prevent more damage - get him away from Congress now. Impeach the dangerous Jesse Helms!

Myrtle Watson, St. Petersburg

Your editorial Helms is unfit for the job was right on target.

I would choose Richard Lugar, R-Ind., a statesman and most knowledgeable person, for the foreign relations chairmanship.

W. G. Fiedler, Clearwater

Regardless of political affiliation, we are not "raised up" by degrading our chosen leader. While Jesse Helms remains in office, our 18 years of North Carolina vacations are suspended and we will endeavor to spend not one penny for gasoline, for meals or for motels on the several times a year we pass through that beautiful state.

Oops! Now I am being as immoderate as Jesse.

Jake Vonk, St. Petersburg

I used to wonder what it was like to live in Nazi Germany, Communist Russia and fundamentalist Iran.

Arafat caught 'between a rock and a hard place'

Now we are all going to find out, aren't we?

Harold Riley, Clearwater

Granted that the present administration in Washington has been indecisive at times and ineffective, there seems little wisdom in allowing men who are letting party take precedence over people and country guide us through their personal vendettas and private interests to an even greater mess than we are now experiencing.

Did Newt Gingrich emerge from an asylum to represent an absurd majority of non-thinking party members? As for Jesse Helms dealing with foreign affairs - who thought that one up? The list is long, but with these and some few like them in charge, I do not think we will be long in leading any thinking nations of the world.

John Seymour Erwin, Sun City Center

Where are the Republicans I've put into office with my vote?

Where are they when we need them? Where are they when we need them to stand up courageously and throw Jesse Helms and his ilk out?

I guess it is too much to expect us to do the right thing and discipline a colleague who seems to have flipped his wig.

Is it too much for us Republicans to show the kind of statesmanship that President Clinton has been showing in the face of our adolescent-behaving Republican politicians like Newt Gingrich, Bob Dole and, lately, Jesse Helms?

Reluctantly, I'm admitting that the Democrats have shown a lot more statesmanlike behavior since 1992 than we Republicans have.

I admire my president more every single day.

Marvin McLeod, Madeira Beach

Would feelings change?

Yes, Tom Zucco's article on Roger Long, who has left work and gone on assistance to be able to stay home with his baby daughter, was very moving. If it didn't tug at your heartstrings, you simply have no heart.

But - speaking of Newt Gingrich - I wonder how many of those who were moved by this article would feel as positively toward a **female** parent going on public assistance to stay home with her baby. Wouldn't we be hearing about how she should get a job, get a man to support her, or put her child in an orphanage?

Just some food for thought for you before I go put my turkey in the oven.

V. L. Dorrough, Palm Harbor

Share your opinions

Letters for publication should be addressed to Letters to the Editor, P.O. Box 1121, St. Petersburg, FL 33731, (FAX number, 893-8675). Letters must include the name, address and telephone number of the writer.

Arafat caught 'between a rock and a hard place'

Graphic

BLACK AND WHITE PHOTO; BLACK AND WHITE CARTOON, DON ADDIS; YASSER ARAFAT; A man on a "Church and Destroy Mission" chips away at the "Wall of Separation" between church and state.

Load-Date: December 1, 1994

End of Document

NEWS SUMMARY

The New York Times

April 4, 1995, Tuesday, Late Edition - Final

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Distribution: Metropolitan Desk

Section: Section A;; Section A; Page 2; Column 5; Metropolitan Desk; Column 5;; Summary

Length: 794 words

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RUSSIA ADAMANT ON SALE TO IRAN

The Russian Government made it clear that it would go ahead with the sale of light-water nuclear reactors to Iran despite the American protests repeated in Moscow by Defense Secretary Perry. A1

A new law imposes H.I.V. testing on most foreigners in Russia. A14

A RETRACTION ON GUATEMALA

The White House conceded that money from the C.I.A. was still being sent to Guatemala and said that most of those payments would be suspended immediately. A1

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The chairman of the House's tax-writing committee believes that tax breaks for the wealthy fuel the engine of the economy. A1

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The former head of United Way of America was convicted of stealing \$600,000 from the charity, one of the nation's most prominent. A1

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The head of the Christian Coalition repudiated some right-wing sentiments in an effort to bolster relations with Jewish groups. A1

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The Clinton Administration tried to defend the value of the battered dollar, spending an estimated \$1 billion on currency markets. But the effort failed to prevent the dollar from falling to another record low against the Japanese yen. A1

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A monthly remembrance of the victims of urban violence in Chicago brings together people of varying races and backgrounds. A16

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Be it baseball, tire making or food processing, management is using a new weapon against labor unrest: the replacement worker. A16

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Prosecutors began to discuss the physical evidence in O. J. Simpson murder case, like blood, hair, a cap and a pair of leather gloves. A18

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Speaker Newt Gingrich surprised many with his assertion that Congress would seek to undo a two-year-old compromise policy on homosexuals in the military. D23

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Load-Date: April 4, 1995

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Suicide bombers kill 13 in Israeli market blasts

Sydney Morning Herald (Australia)

July 31, 1997 Thursday

Late Edition

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Section: NEWS AND FEATURES; Pg. 1

Length: 757 words

Byline: ROSS DUNN Herald Correspondent in Jerusalem

Body

Two suicide bombers detonated in the middle of Jerusalem's busy central market yesterday, killing themselves and at least 11 Israelis, and wounding more than 100.

Hundreds of shoppers and workers fled into nearby streets, some covered in blood, their clothes burnt.

The two blasts, seconds apart, ripped open the roofs of shops, sending pieces of corrugated iron flying into adjacent buildings.

A police spokesman confirmed that the remains of the two bombers had been identified. Wigs were found near the bodies, suggesting disguises.

Israelis gathered at the scene of the attack shouting "Death to Arabs", Israeli Radio reported.

The authorities immediately closed the West Bank and Gaza Strip, barring Palestinians from entering Israel.

The Palestinian Authority chairman, Mr Arafat, telephoned the Israeli Prime Minister, Mr Netanyahu, saying: "I share in the grief of the families."

But Mr Netanyahu said that such statements would not satisfy the Israeli public. "I told you before, we have to co-operate against the terrorists," he said. "You have to do more."

President Clinton's special Middle East envoy, Mr Dennis Ross, postponed his trip to the region for talks with Mr Netanyahu and Mr Arafat.

In Washington, Mr Clinton called the bombing a "barbarous act" targeting the peace process. "There is no excuse and there must be no tolerance for this kind of inhumanity," he said.

After the latest blast, Israel immediately sealed off the West Bank and Gaza Strip, preventing Palestinian workers from entering the Jewish State. Police also arrested Arab workers in the Mahane Yehuda market. But government officials said this was more for their own protection, as police believed they might come under attack from Jewish right-wingers. Shortly after the blast, right-wing Jews began demonstrating outside the market, where they called for an end to all negotiations with the Palestinians.

Suicide bombers kill 13 in Israeli market blasts

So far there has been no claim of responsibility, but in the past such attacks have been carried out either by Hamas, the Islamic Resistance Movement, or the Islamic Jihad. Both organisations are dedicated to the destruction of the Jewish State. Mrs Ruchama Ben-Yashai, who lives in an apartment in the market, said the attacks would not stop.

She was sitting in her kitchen listening to the 1 pm news when she heard the first explosion and saw glass from her balcony windows shatter.

"There was smoke and then another explosion," Mrs Ben-Yashai, 69, said.

She recalled a blast in another part of the market 30 years earlier. "This was worse because there were two explosions."

But she added: "I am not afraid. Everybody we will get what they deserve."

Mrs Ben-Yashai said she could not foresee any end to the conflict between Arabs and Jews without successful negotiations. "Unless there is a point of agreement, there is no end to this. Why aren't there people with brains in this world?" she asked. Mr Ehud Bar, who has a pastry shop in the market, agreed. "Things will get back to normal and there will be another explosion," he said.

Mr Bar said he was still traumatised by the explosions, which happened only metres from his shop. "I heard the first explosion, and saw a cloud of smoke. There were lots of people running without clothes and lots of blood.

"It's hard for me to stand on my legs, my whole body is shaking."

Standing outside his father's sweet shop, 13-year-old Chen Azubei said that the force of the first blast had sent him flying through the air.

Only moments before, he had left the shop to buy some vegetables at a nearby stall.

"There was a flash in front of my eyes," Chen said. "I didn't want to look. I closed my eyes, and I didn't look back.

"I was scared to death."

He said he only calmed down after he was assured that no-one in his family had been hurt.

The last big bomb blast to rock the Jewish State, on March 21, killed three Israeli women along with the Palestinian bomber, and wounded 42 people at an outdoor cafe in Tel Aviv.

That attack happened three days after Israel broke ground on a Jewish settlement on a hilltop in Arab East Jerusalem known to Israelis as Har Homa and to Palestinians as Jabal Abu Ghneim.

Israeli-Palestinian peace talks have been in crisis since then, with Mr Arafat insisting that substantive talks on a final peace agreement cannot take place until settlement activity stops. Israel has countered that the Palestinian Authority has failed to meet commitments made under interim peace deals since 1993 to stem violence against Israelis, alleging that some of the authority's own police are involved in attacks.

Graphic

Three illus: A bloodied man awaits treatment. Photograph by REUTERS Rescue ... an Israeli rushes to comfort a man with severe facial injuries after the bombing. Photo by REUTER/DAVID SILVERMAN Vital minutes ... the wounded are laid down on stretchers on a Jerusalem street before being taken to hospital.

Suicide bombers kill 13 in Israeli market blasts

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WORLD IN BRIEF;
Taylor wins presidency in Liberia

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

July 23, 1997, Wednesday,

CONSTITUTION EDITION

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Section: FOREIGN NEWS; Pg. 06A

Length: 854 words

Byline: From news services

Body

Seven years ago, fighters loyal to warlord Charles Taylor killed five of Samukah Corneh's brothers as they tried to flee Liberia at the start of its civil war.

Yet when he went to vote for a president Saturday, Corneh pressed his inky thumb onto the ballot space next to Taylor's picture.

So did most Liberians: Taylor is headed for a landslide victory in the tortured land his fighters helped destroy. He benefited from a fractured opposition and the fact that many Liberians view him as the man who had the guts to end the dictatorship of Samuel Doe in 1990 and the muscle to prevent another war. The result: Taylor won 75 percent of the vote, according to results released Tuesday by the Independent Elections Commission.

His closest rival, former United Nations official Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, had 9.5 percent with nearly 75 percent of the vote counted. Further results from the election monitored by former U.S. President Jimmy Carter and other international observers were expected today.

ASIA In bad taste

Coca-Cola India withdrew a television commercial after a 10-year-old boy strangled himself while trying to imitate a stunt in the advertisement ---the second such death in a year. The commercial for Thums Up cola showed a youth bungee-jumping off a cliff to steal a bottle of the soft drink from a moving truck. The boy, a fourth-grade student in Alipur, tied his mother's sari to the railing of his 10th-floor apartment and jumped, strangling himself.

War or peace?

Cambodian strongman Hun Sen predicted that there will be no more war in his country because he has dealt with the "extremists" who caused political tensions. But loyalists of ousted First Prime Minister Prince Norodom Ranariddh asserted they have enough ammunition to fight three more months.

Christians oppressed

WORLD IN BRIEF; Taylor wins presidency in Liberia

China tries to suppress Roman Catholic and Protestant movements through threats, arrests and beatings, shutting hundreds of "house churches" and demolishing property, the State Department said. Those comments came in a report focusing on persecution of Christians but also dealing with the situation of other religions. The report, covering 78 countries, was mandated by Congress.

EUROPE Nazi sentenced

Ending three years of legal battles that forced Italy to confront its fascist past, a military court convicted a former Nazi SS captain of war crimes for the 1944 massacre of 335 Italian men and boys who were herded into Christian catacombs and executed one by one. The court sentenced Erich Priebke, 83, to 15 years in prison but immediately suspended the sentence to five years. HED Raging river

Germans struggling to hold back the Oder River, swollen to record levels by weeks of rain, were promised "all imaginable help" by Chancellor Helmut Kohl. Thousands of soldiers, homeowners and volunteers added reinforcements to the 1.5 million sandbags propping up a 100-mile-long, waterlogged dike. But the brown water leaked through, flooding sewers, cellars and low-lying streets.

Bill rejected

President Boris Yeltsin rejected a bill that would have placed tight restrictions on many religious groups in Russia, including evangelical Christians and Roman Catholics. The bill had drawn strong opposition from the Vatican and the U.S. Senate, which threatened to cut off aid to Russia if it became law. Yeltsin's action sends the bill back to parliament, which can overhaul it or let it lapse.

Welsh assembly

After 450 years of union with England, Wales may approve its own assembly in a referendum in September, the first step in a constitutional shake-up of Britain. Keeping an election promise, the Labor government announced details of its Wales assembly proposal that will go before voters. The 60-seat body would oversee spending on health, education and transportation. A separate proposal for a Scottish parliament ---an even more powerful institution that would have legislative and, probably, tax-raising powers ---is to be released in detail Thursday.

Serbs want funds

The Bosnian Serb president and supporters of war crimes suspect Radovan Karadzic are burying their dispute to ask for needed economic aid, but the Republika Srpska delegation meeting with European Union officials may have some explaining to do. President Biljana Plavsic and Karadzic backers will make their case for aid in meetings today and Thursday in Brussels.

MIDDLE EAST Tourists attacked

An Israeli Arab man armed with a sword, knife and plastic gun tried to run down a group of British tourists in Tel Aviv, then stabbed two women at a sidewalk restaurant, police said. Eleven people suffered minor injuries, police spokesman Linda Menuhin. Israeli radio reports said the attacker was a supporter of the militant Hamas group, but Menuhin said his motives remained unclear.

AFRICA U.S. soldiers arrive

U.S. soldiers arrived in Uganda as part of a group of 120 Special Forces personnel sent there and to Senegal to train African troops in peacekeeping. The soldiers, from the 3rd Special Forces group based in Fort Bragg, N.C., will teach 750 soldiers from each country the basic skills of peacekeeping and humanitarian relief. The mission will last 64 days.

Graphic

Hot dogging: Two Frankfurters navigate streets flooded by the Oder River
in Frankfurt, Germany, on Tuesday. / MATTHIAS RIETSCHEL / Associated Press

Load-Date: July 24, 1997

End of Document

**GOOD FRIDAY: CELEBRATIONS HELD AROUND THE WORLD; POPE
CIRCLES THE COLOSSEUM; WOMEN, OTHERS CARRY CROSS**

St. Louis Post-Dispatch (Missouri)

April 15, 1995, Saturday, FIVE STAR Edition

Copyright 1995 St. Louis Post-Dispatch, Inc.

Section: NEWS; Pg. 1A

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Dateline: VATICAN CITY

Body

Pope John Paul II, still limping after hip surgery, asked for help carrying the cross in the Good Friday procession. A Protestant nun, a mother of three and a teen-age girl were among those called.

The event marked the first time that the pope did not carry the wooden cross himself over the entire half-mile circuit around the Colosseum. And it was the first time women were brought into the procession.

Chief Vatican spokesman Joaquin Navarro-Valls said that the use of helpers was intended to underline the ecumenical nature of the ceremony and should not be interpreted as a sign of fresh health worries for the pontiff, who will be 75 next month.

Around the globe, Christians observed the day in contemplation and prayer. In the Philippines, a dozen penitents had themselves nailed to crosses.

The pope, who has relied on a cane since last year's hip replacement surgery, carried the light wooden cross on three of the 14 stations of the cross, which recall Christ's suffering before his crucifixion.

The pope began the ceremony by remembering the victims of recent civil wars and those who perished in concentration camps and atomic blasts during World War II.

"The Way of the Cross is continued by those humans who live in misery and in agonizing fear of death, such as the victims of the violence and civil wars in Bosnia, Chechnya, Rwanda, Burundi, the Middle East and Somalia," he said.

He also noted that 1995 was a year of 50th anniversaries, such as that of the liberation of Auschwitz, the destruction of the German city Dresden and the use of an atomic bomb over Hiroshima.

The pope, wearing a red cape over white vestments, limped heavily as he carried the 5-foot cross for the first two stations around the Colosseum. After handing it to a Swiss Lutheran nun, he used a cane and was helped down the steps during the hour-long procession.

The pope again held the cross for the final station.

Tens of thousands of worshipers shielded prayer books and burning candles from a steady rain.

GOOD FRIDAY: CELEBRATIONS HELD AROUND THE WORLD; POPE CIRCLES THE COLOSSEUM; WOMEN, OTHERS CARRY CROSS

Never before have women taken a direct role in the procession, although nuns previously have written the text read at each of the 14 stations.

A Russian Orthodox priest from Moscow also was one of the cross bearers as part of Vatican efforts to involve other denominations on Christianity's most solemn day.

At the Vatican, the pope heard confessions of a dozen Roman Catholics picked from a crowd filling St. Peter's Basilica.

"Many others wanted to be heard, but it would have taken a week without sleeping," John Paul said.

In Jerusalem, one of the largest crowds of pilgrims in years retraced Christ's steps toward crucifixion through the ancient walled city.

Tourism has boomed since Palestinians and Israelis reached a peace accord in 1993.

In the Philippines, dozens of penitents beat themselves with bamboo whips or were nailed to wooden crosses in an annual ritual.

Men dressed as Roman centurions drove thin aluminum nails into the hands and feet of about a dozen people in sweltering San Pedro Cutid.

"I will do this as long as I can stand the physical rigors," said Fernando Macapagal.

Large processions also took place across Spain, where most events are organized by lay groups. In Seville, more than 10,000 hooded worshipers followed a relic of Christ through the streets in a prelude to Good Friday ceremonies. Passover Security

Israel sealed off the West Bank and Gaza Strip, ordered Palestinians in the West Bank town of Hebron off the streets and deployed thousands of extra troops Friday at the start of the weeklong Passover holiday in Jerusalem.

The heightened security came five days after the Islamic Jihad and Hamas groups set off two bombs near Jewish settlements in the Gaza Strip, which is ruled by the PLO.

Passover commemorates the exodus of the ancient Israelites from slavery in Egypt. Most of Israel closed at sundown Friday, as families gathered for a Seder, a ritual meal during which the Passover story is read.

Additional police and soldiers were deployed at roadblocks at entry points into Israel and in holiday spots.

The army, meanwhile, imposed an around-the-clock curfew on the 80,000 Palestinians living in the West Bank town of Hebron, to prevent friction with the 450 Jewish settlers living there. Hebron has been tense since the mosque massacre last year when a Jewish settler shot and killed 29 Muslim worshipers.

Graphic

PHOTO; Color photo by AP - Sister Maatje, a Protestant nun from Switzerland, was one of several helpers sought out by Pope John Paul II to carry the cross during a Good Friday procession at the Colosseum in Rome. He needed help because of recent surgery.

Load-Date: April 16, 1995

GOOD FRIDAY: CELEBRATIONS HELD AROUND THE WORLD; POPE CIRCLES THE COLOSSEUM;
WOMEN, OTHERS CARRY CROSS

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New Voices for Palestine

Christian Science Monitor (Boston, MA)

November 25, 1991, Monday

Copyright 1991 The Christian Science Publishing Society

Section: OPINION; Pg. 18

Length: 770 words

Byline: Richard C. Hottelet; Richard C. Hottelet is moderator of 'America and the World' on National Public Radio.

Body

THE brief opening round of the Middle East peace conference in Madrid was Secretary of State James Baker's masterpiece. So impressive, after years of frustration, that even hardened specialists grew misty-eyed. "The fact that the parties to the conflict are meeting in one room," wrote one, "changes the agenda in the Middle East." Alas, don't believe it. The parties' agendas are unchanged. There is, however, one portentous difference - in the status of the Palestinian delegation.

The Palestinian envoys are doing what no Palestinian leaders have done before. They are not demanding all or nothing, as their predecessors did for 70 years - getting nothing. These players are starting with the concept of a homeland, as the Jews did in 1917, and negotiating autonomy to remove the humiliating, oppressive weight of occupation. In Madrid, they were reasonable and reassuring; not unshaven freedom fighters but middle-class professionals. As their chairman, Dr. Haidar Abd al-Shavei, addressed the meeting with quiet eloquence, Israel's Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir passed a note to a colleague. Jokesters cracked that it read, "We should have asked for the PLO."

Manner and tactics are by no means unimportant, but the transformation in the Palestinian group goes deeper. It reflects a changed mood among the people of the West Bank and Gaza. The intifadah uprising, ending its fourth year, has cost Palestinians dearly. Some 850 men, women, and children have been killed by the Israelis. Half again as many have been assassinated by Palestinian vigilantes as "collaborators." Thousands have been injured, tens of thousands arrested. Hundreds of homes have been demolished. Unemployment is high.

The entrenched Palestinian leadership, devoid of new ideas, keeps calling protest strikes that hurt only the Palestinians. The people have had enough. When Hamas, the Islamic extremist group, called a general strike, complete with "holy blood in the streets of our country," for Oct. 30, the opening day of the Madrid meeting, it was largely ignored. Counter-demonstrators in Gaza waved olive branches instead.

For months, violence has ebbed. All schools and all but one university have been reopened on the tacit understanding between parents and Israeli authorities that there be no incidents. Arab newspapers have begun criticizing the internal leaders and the Palestine Liberation Organization, even pointing the finger at Yasser Arafat, whose prestige sank drastically after fraternizing with Saddam Hussein of Iraq.

The change in mood is not surrender to the Israeli occupation. It marks the search for a better way to end it. For this the people are turning to new leaders who pay lip service to the PLO as the symbol of Palestinian identity but are finding their own way. For the past 14 years, Israel's Likud government has suppressed every stirring of political

New Voices for Palestine

independence. This time, it has run into American determination that a legitimate Palestinian voice be heard in the negotiation of peace.

THE Madrid delegation from the occupied territories had Secretary Baker's approval. It sat at the table with the president of the United States. Washington's official dialogue with the PLO in Tunis, broken off in 1990, has quietly been transferred to the new leaders. When the delegation came home, US consular officials watched how the occupation authorities met it. When the Israeli police proposed prosecuting Hanan Ashrawi, the delegation's spokeswoman, for allegedly visiting Arafat, President Bush said he was watching the matter closely.

These Palestinians have international status. Unfortunately, they face the danger of assassination by Arab radicals or Israeli fanatics, and efforts at character assassination at least may be expected. The hare-brained proposal to prosecute Mrs. Ashrawi reflects a certain panic.

On the Arab side, within a week of Madrid, Arafat was invited to Damascus. President Hafez al-Assad of Syria had him thrown out in 1983. Now, both are worried that the Palestinian delegation has on its own agreed to join the regional talks, the third phase of the peace conference.

The emergence of an accepted Palestinian negotiating partner robs the Israeli right wing of its excuse that there is no one to talk to. On the other hand, the Israeli doves who took a beating during the Palestinians' binge with Saddam will be encouraged. So will Foreign Minister David Levy, who has broken with Shamir's hard line.

What is needed in the Middle East is a Levantine solution pursued along a corkscrew path of mutual need. The emergence of a new Palestinian presence makes that hope at least seem possible.

End of Document

Palestinian opinions make it hard to give peace a chance

Courier Mail (Queensland, Australia)

April 8, 1997, Tuesday

Copyright 1997 Nationwide News Pty Limited

Section: NEWS; Pg. 14

Length: 836 words

Byline: DONNELLY J

Body

Hopes that the Washington meeting between Mr Clinton and Prime Minister Netanyahu will revive Middle East peace appear dashed before it begins, writes JOHN DONNELLY in Gaza City.

AT prayers in the Palestine Mosque last week, a prominent preacher said: "Peace is dead. The whole peace process is dead."

Wajih Yaghi, also an elected member of the Palestinian Council, said: "If Israeli tanks are ready to come back here, I say if they want, try, try, and the uprising will begin again. The land will be on fire, and we shall burn Netanyahu with our stones."

QNP

And it may be wise to listen to Meir Indor, one of Israel's most formidable grass-roots, right-wing organisers: "We are the last wall against terrorism in the world. We were the best school for fighting terrorism, but now we're the best school for giving up to terrorism."

"In the end, all those people who want so much peace will bring war so, so fast."

The lesson here: Even as US President Bill Clinton brings to play all the influence of the world's only superpower on a peace process involving two peoples on a tiny strip of land, the process remains extremely vulnerable to the extremes _ in Israel, Gaza Strip and the West Bank.

Perhaps the most frightening aspect of the trouble in the Middle East is that the extremists _ especially on the Palestinian side _ are not so far from mainstream thought.

In a poll published on Sunday, the Palestinian Centre for Public Opinion asked 470 adults directly if they supported the March 21 suicide bombing in Tel Aviv that killed three women.

The answer: 49 percent said yes. The poll's margin of error was 3.5 percent.

"The bottom line is that in such a delicate situation, extremists will determine the tone for things," said Anat Kurz, head of Tel Aviv University's project on low intensity warfare and an expert on Islamic militant groups.

Mr Kurz said: "It's rather easy to stimulate and cultivate the suspicions that have always been there for years."

Palestinian opinions make it hard to give peace a chance

"Any effort to change the atmosphere and challenge the practised attitude toward each other should be very vulnerable.

"It doesn't take much to upset the whole thing. You don't even need a crazy attack by an extremist."

The current crisis grew out of the Israeli decision to build a neighbourhood for 30,000 Jews on the southern fringes of Jerusalem _ land the Palestinians had hoped would be part of their future capital some day.

Blow-ups have been grimly predictable since the Oslo peace process began with the signing at the White House lawn in September 1993, but tensions have risen sharply since Binyamin Netanyahu took office last June.

Mr Clinton has been expected to press the Israeli Prime Minister to halt all building in Jewish settlements in the West Bank.

Mr Netanyahu has said firmly that he won't stop the construction, called Har Homa in Hebrew and Jabal Abu Ghneim in Arabic. He is demanding that the Palestinians crack down on terror groups before peace talks can begin.

And once negotiations start, he has said, Har Homa remains non-negotiable. He wants speedy talks, Camp David-style, to resolve the most difficult issues, such as Jerusalem and a Palestinian state.

Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat has told Mr Clinton that Israel must pledge to stop construction on the disputed land before talks can begin.

It is an impasse that seems impossible to bridge, unless one leader backs down _ and that's not only the opinion of extremists. Shimon Peres, the former prime minister, warned late last week that without new talks the country was headed toward war.

In Gaza and the West Bank, meanwhile, the pressure on Mr Arafat not to break ranks with Islamic leaders also grows.

Outside the Palestine Mosque this past Friday, groups of young men waited for the end of prayers to sell crates of oranges, bananas and cloves of garlic. Many said they were prepared for "Jihad", or a holy war, against Israel. It is not unusual to find such sentiment, but it was striking to find it so widespread.

"We feel suffocated now. There's yet another closure on us. People want to go to another "intifada", said Ibrahim Yunis, 20, referring to the Palestinian uprising from 1987-93. "If Arafat tries to stop it, people will go against Arafat."

Another young man, Rushie Abu Dagen, 20, a university student who wore a Miami Hurricanes T-shirt, expressed a contrary, hopeful view of the peace process.

It could begin again, he said, but only with many preconditions _ all of which Mr Netanyahu is on record for opposing: "They must stop building at Jabal Abu Ghneim in Jerusalem. Stop all the settlement building. Stop using closures. Recognise Palestinian sovereignty."

All the while, preacher Yaghi railed. Israel was arresting Muslims trying to go to Haj, the pilgrimage to Mecca and Medina, he said. Israeli Shin Bet agents were trying to recruit your sons and daughters as spies, he said.

Mr Arafat's only correct response, he said, was to release all **Hamas** and Islamic Jihad prisoners.

"We are people of Jihad, on Jihad land. We are people of Jerusalem."

Knight-Ridder/Tribune

Load-Date: March 1, 2002

Palestinian opinions make it hard to give peace a chance

End of Document

Clinton calls for crisis talks with Netanyahu over bloodshed; * MIDDLE EAST

Sydney Morning Herald (Australia)

April 3, 1997 Thursday

Late Edition

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Section: NEWS AND FEATURES; INTERNATIONAL NEWS; Pg. 8

Length: 879 words

Byline: ROSS DUNN Herald Correspondent in Jerusalem

Body

United States President Bill Clinton is to hold crisis talks with the Israeli Prime Minister, Mr Benjamin Netanyahu, in an attempt to recommit Israelis and Palestinians to the path of peace.

Mr Netanyahu was invited to Washington for a meeting on Monday, after Mr Clinton said he was "prepared personally to do anything I can" to rescue the Middle East peace process.

"We have got to keep the lid on things over there ... It is not going to be easy," Mr Clinton said after meeting Jordan's King Hussein at the White House.

Mr Clinton said he and King Hussein had discussed ideas about how to restore an environment of security and confidence between Israel and the Palestinians.

The meeting took place after two weeks of violent clashes between Israelis and Palestinians in the West Bank, following Mr Netanyahu's decision to build a new Jewish neighbourhood on disputed land in East Jerusalem.

The decision also provided the spark for a new campaign of suicide bombings by Islamic extremists. On Tuesday, two suicide bombers in Palestinian police uniform blew themselves up minutes apart in the Gaza Strip, moments before school buses carrying Jewish schoolchildren were to pass by.

"This is a difficult time for the peace process," Mr Clinton said.

"The important thing is for Israel and the Palestinians to restore an environment of security and confidence. We have some ideas about this.

"I'm personally prepared to do everything I can to get this process back on track and move it forward, but I think the less I say about it, the more likely I am to have some success in doing that."

Mr Clinton's discussions with Mr Netanyahu are expected to include Israel's proposal to reach a final settlement with the Palestinians within six months and to abandon the present timetable, which aims to complete negotiations by 1999.

Palestinian leaders say it is ridiculous to suggest that discussions on all the remaining difficult issues could be finalised any sooner than the original deadline.

Clinton calls for crisis talks with Netanyahu over bloodshed * MIDDLE EAST

Mr Clinton may also try to persuade Mr Netanyahu to freeze construction at Har Homa in East Jerusalem.

Earlier this week Mr Clinton publicly reiterated his view that the decision to begin building a new Jewish neighbourhood on the site had been unwise.

But he was quick to add that the controversy did not justify violent protests and called on the Palestinian Authority chairman, Mr Yasser Arafat, to display a "zero tolerance" to terrorism.

"I don't believe there is an excuse for terrorism in any way," Mr Clinton said. "I believe terrorism is always wrong."

King Hussein said: "We are certainly passing through a difficult stage." But he stressed that much progress had been made since the peace process began in 1993. He added that "conditions are not what they were 20 years ago" when Israel was in a state of war with all its Arab neighbours.

But Egypt, the only other Arab nation which has signed a peace treaty with Israel, voiced much stronger concerns.

The Egyptian President, Mr Hosni Mubarak, said: "This is the worst situation in the peace process since 1977. You (Israel) have succeeded in frightening the world. You have pushed all of us into a very difficult situation."

Israeli's Opposition Labor Party leader, Mr Shimon Peres, also expressed similar fears and said 1997 would decide the fate of the peace process.

"I am very scared," Mr Peres told an audience at Tel Aviv University. "If we don't make peace by 2000 then Israel will live under a constant and ever-growing threat."

MIDDLE EAST STATE OF STATES

RECENT TENSIONS

Feb 26: Israeli PM Netanyahu announces Jewish housing project in Har Homa, in mostly Arab East Jerusalem

Mar 13: Amid mounting Palestinian anger, Jordanian soldier shoots dead 7 Israeli schoolgirls on a tourist bus at border observation post

Mar 14 March: UN General Assembly condemns Israeli housing plan as illegal and "major obstacle to peace"

Mar 19: Israel begins construction in Har Homa. Palestinian leader Arafat urges restraint by his people. Scuffles between Palestinian youths and Israeli soldiers

Mar 21: **Hamas** suicide bomber kills 3 **women** in attack on Tel Aviv cafe

Mar 18: Israel reinforces army and political presence in West Bank

Mar 28: Israel sends more troops into West Bank in Operation Burning Iron to quell Palestinian unrest

Mar 30: Palestinian student shot dead by Israeli security forces at West Bank military checkpoint

Apr 1: Two Palestinians die in suspected suicide bombings (right) in Gaza Strip; bombers were apparently targeting Israeli buses, some carrying schoolchildren.

Israeli soldiers kill two Palestinians (far right) in West Bank

ISRAELIS AND PALESTINIANS

Netanyahu (right), against mounting international pressure, persists with controversial housing project.

Arafat opposes further Jewish settlement in East Jerusalem, but trying to curb violence against against Israel.

Clinton calls for crisis talks with Netanyahu over bloodshed * MIDDLE EAST

ALLIED INTEREST

US: US vetos two UN resolutions condemning Israeli. US mediator Dennis Ross talks with Arafat and Netanyahu to defuse crisis. President Clinton meets Jordan's King Hussein and invites Netanyahu to Washington meeting next Monday.

Jordan and Arab neighbours: Jordan deeply concerned by widening rift in peace process, but King Hussein embarrassed by killing of Israeli schoolgirls. Arab foreign ministers vote to proposes freeze in relations with Israel.

Graphic

Four Illus:

Load-Date: July 23, 2007

End of Document

South Africa's new gang wars: Maybe Vigilantes: Anti-drug protesters (who may have ties to Iran) battle affluent homeowners (who probably sell drugs)

The Ottawa Citizen

March 31, 1997, Monday, FINAL EDITION

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Section: NEWS; Pg. C14

Length: 803 words

Byline: ERIN ELLIS; THE OTTAWA CITIZEN

Dateline: CAPE TOWN

Body

"Kill the merchants. Kill," they chant.

"Kill the merchants. Kill."

Up and down leafy streets in Cape Town's well-heeled Sea Point district, a thousand people march against drug dealers.

"Are we afraid?" the man leading the chanting shouts into a microphone. His face is covered in a shawl so he cannot be identified. "No," they call back as they walk hand in hand, women separated from the men, row upon row.

"One merchant," he prompts.

"One bullet," they reply.

Their destination is the apartment of accused drug dealer Rashied Staggie. There they find a sign on a door that's flanked by armed South African riot police -- "Out for supper. Call again." It's a cocky message from a man whose twin brother was shot and then burned to death in front of a similar march in August.

"We see he has left us a note," the masked man tells the crowd. "We say, 'Mr. Staggie, this is your last supper.'"

PAGAD, People Against Gangsterism and Drugs, is an earnest group bent on ridding South Africa of crime. Its protest march last weekend punctuated its first national conference in Cape Town, which attracted representatives from all parts of the country.

What began as a community crime-fighting movement enjoying widespread public and political support has turned into its own little war on the already troubled streets of the new South Africa.

A neighbour of a confessed drug dealer was shot dead as he walked to his apartment on the weekend of the PAGAD conference. The dealer openly told reporters he thought the bullet was meant for him. PAGAD leaders said their people were not involved.

South Africa 's new gang wars: Maybe Vigilantes: Anti-drug protesters (who may have ties to Iran) battle affluent homeowners (who probably sell drugs)

Days after the march to Sea Point, someone threw two grenades at the Cape Town home of PAGAD's national co-ordinator, Abdus-Salaam Ebrahim. Mr. Ebrahim, his wife and two young children were not hurt.

The outcome was different in January when a pregnant woman was killed in a grenade attack aimed at one of her relatives, said to be a PAGAD supporter.

Underworld figures now claiming to have "reformed" have launched their own group with the wholesome title of Community Outreach Forum, or CORE. They talk as tough as PAGAD.

"How long does the government expect us to just sit back, hands folded, waiting to be attacked?" asked Ernest Peters, an executive member of CORE, after a Sea Point house owned by the Staggie family was the target of a home-made nail bomb earlier this year. "The lives of our people are being threatened by PAGAD, and the gangsters won't be able to hold back much longer."

Home-made bombs, Molotov cocktails and automatic gunfire are all part of the battle. Neither side takes responsibility for the night-time attacks. In the middle of it all sits South Africa's beleaguered police force.

Surveys show most South Africans don't trust the police. There were 3,258 murders in the Western Cape province in 1996. This in a population of about four million. In the same period, 310 police officers in the province were charged with criminal offences.

PAGAD's members -- mainly Muslims living in former "coloured" areas -- say their neighbourhoods are over-run with gangs and neglected by corrupt police who are often in cahoots with the criminals.

The mistrust shows up in wealthy neighbourhoods, too, where homeowners pay private security companies to dispatch armed guards if their alarms are tripped.

People living in township shacks are left to their own devices. Businesses in these areas complain they can't even hire a security company because they're simply too high a risk.

"Our resources are limited," agrees senior superintendent John Sterrenberg, spokesman for the Western Cape police. "We last recruited officers in 1994. No one is being replaced, but our officers are being killed or going on leave or taking retirement. So, as far as manpower is concerned, yes, we have a drastic shortage of manpower and resources."

Mr. Sterrenberg says that, while the police agree with PAGAD's goals, they don't agree with vigilantism. They want PAGAD members to form community watch programs, become police reservists or take part in joint police-community forums. So far, there have been few takers.

Instead, PAGAD's new plan of action includes a "million-man march" later this year and citizens' arrests of criminals. Says Mr. Ebrahim, "PAGAD has a vision to rid the whole world of drugs and gangsterism."

This world vision has caused a few public relations problems for PAGAD. Press reports have linked PAGAD to Hamas and Hezbollah, militant Islamic groups in the Middle East. The source is a confidential cabinet briefing document prepared by intelligence agents. It suggests fundamentalists funded by Iran have a foothold in South Africa through PAGAD. Aslam Toefy, PAGAD's chief commander, categorically denies any links exist.

Graphic

South Africa 's new gang wars: Maybe Vigilantes: Anti-drug protesters (who may have ties to Iran) battle affluent homeowners (who probably sell drugs)

Black & White Photo: Leon Muller, Southam News / Masked anti-drug marchers outside an accused dealer's house recycled an old apartheid-era slogan, "One settler, one bullet," into "One drug merchant, one bullet." There have been both bullets and bombs so far.

Load-Date: April 1, 1997

End of Document

Schoolgirl who became a top PLO terrorist

The Sunday Times (London)

April 24, 1994, Sunday

Copyright 1994 Times Newspapers Limited

Section: Overseas news

Length: 766 words

Byline: Janine di Giovanni, Ramallah

Body

AT THE age of 12, Abir al-Wehaidi wrote passionate articles for a West Bank newspaper, protesting against the Israeli invasion of Lebanon. At 14, she led student rallies supporting Yasser Arafat. At 18, she was trained to kill and became the leader of a PLO military cell, a unique position for a woman, let alone one barely out of school. At 24, she has begun a 17-year prison sentence on terrorist charges.

In Israeli eyes, she is responsible for murder and mayhem. Among the Palestinians of the West Bank and Gaza, she is a heroine who foxed the army and Israeli secret police for years. But how does a schoolgirl turn into a figure whom French radicals are reverently comparing with Jeanne d'Arc?

"I used to worry because she was so political. She wasn't thinking about the things that teenage girls do, like dresses and make-up," said Maisoon al-Wehaidi, her mother, last week. "She was always struggling with something, always working in the field.

"My daughter is a coin with two faces. On one side, she is struggling with the political ways, but there also is this secret military side of her."

Her father, Mohammed al-Wehaidi, a former vet who is now head of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency in the Jericho-Jerusalem area, said: "Nobody knew what she was doing. Even us. None of us knew the importance of her position. I am a member of Fatah, and I knew she was too, but I never knew how active she was. She was home every night for supper at 6 o'clock. Sometimes she would talk on the phone for a long time, but we never knew what about."

"I didn't even know she knew how to use a gun," her mother added.

Born two years after the Israeli occupation of the West Bank began, she is the oldest of five children four of them daughters in a middle-class Palestinian family from Al-Bira, a Palestinian village near Jerusalem.

"She knew nothing other than the occupation," said her mother, who has written two books on Palestinian *women's* politics. Her daughter learned the alphabet by singing revolutionary songs and, at eight, according to her mother, watched her father being taken off in the middle of the night in handcuffs.

Visiting him in prison, she kissed his finger through the bars, according to her mother. "It was the only part of his body that she could reach. She was frightened by the prison bars." A year later, when a soldier tried to take her father's identity card, she leapt up to strike his face.

Schoolgirl who became a top PLO terrorist

"Even when she was a child, she was always the leader, and everyone listened to her," said her cousin Jamal, 24. "She grew up quickly, faster than the rest of us. She was always running out in the street when she heard bullets."

Friends describe her at demonstrations as always being in the forefront, challenging soldiers. She was shot twice; in the thigh, and when a bullet grazed her head.

At 14, she secretly joined Fatah, Arafat's dominant faction in the PLO. At 18, she enrolled in Bir Zeit University on the West Bank then a political hotbed as a mechanical engineering student and, it is believed, began her double life. Taking orders directly from PLO headquarters in Tunis, she set up a cell in Ramallah, a middle-class, largely Christian-Palestinian West Bank town, organised attacks and went on operations herself, attacking Israeli vehicles. She lasted four years.

Al-Wehaidi was arrested in July 1992 for allegedly organising the murder of an Israeli settler. The victim, Zvi Klein, was driving to Jerusalem from his home in Ofra, a West Bank settlement, with his 16-year-old daughter and two friends when members of Al-Wehaidi's cell ambushed them. Klein was shot and killed.

Murder charges were finally dropped in a plea bargain and two weeks ago a military court sentenced her for membership of an illegal organisation, military training, possession of weapons and attempted murder on three counts. Two days after the sentence was announced, her parents' new house was blown up by the Israeli army, which said it had information that an armed **Hamas** terrorist (enemies of the PLO) was hiding inside.

As she begins her sentence, the West Bank echoes with extravagant praise for her. "An extraordinary woman, very active, incredibly brave," said Leah Tsemel, her Israeli lawyer.

"She has a lot of guts," said a teacher at Bir Zeit University. "She was charismatic, a born leader."

"She was aggressive and intelligent, but simple and kind," said Hanan Ashrawi, the former PLO spokeswoman.

She was a "simple, beautiful girl who loved everybody", insisted another admirer.

But, said the Israeli military, "she is a terrorist".

Graphic

Abir al-Wehaidi

Load-Date: April 27, 1994

ISRAEL HANDS OVER CONTROL AS FIRST PALESTINIAN POLICE ENTER JERICHO

Charleston Gazette (West Virginia)

May 13, 1994, Friday

Copyright 1994 Charleston Newspapers

Section: News; Pg. P10A

Length: 777 words

Body

JERICHO, West Bank _ The pace of Israel's withdrawal quickened Thursday with the entrance of about 300 Palestinian police into Jericho, the seat of Palestinian self-rule.

A first batch of 20 policemen drove from Jordan across the Allenby Bridge into the West Bank town shortly after midday. Israelis allowed 100 others to enter hours later, then the remaining 200 to trickle through late in the day.

The policemen, some of the first of thousands to be deployed in the occupied lands, will take up duties in Jericho and in the Gaza Strip _ two areas that will soon come under Palestinian rule.

The arrival of the Palestinian police and the PLO takeover from Israel of more areas in the Gaza Strip showed the Palestinians were moving ahead to beginning self-rule.

A PLO official who helped negotiate the deal for self-rule said he hoped the Palestinians would be able to take over all civil powers by Tuesday. In Cairo, the PLO announced the appointment of 13 men and two women to the Palestinian Authority that will control the two areas.

"We are transferring files, other departmental things.

ISRAEL HANDS OVER CONTROL AS FIRST PALESTINIAN POLICE ENTER JERICHO

Everything is going smoothly," said Khaled al-Qudra after he and other PLO officials met with Israelis at the new administrative headquarters for the Gaza Strip.

In the Gaza border town of Rafah, Israeli soldiers and police withdrew, turning over the police station and military government headquarters to about 40 locally recruited police.

Rafah, a town of 100,000 people, is the biggest to be ceded to Palestinian control. About 500 residents turned out to see the PLO flag run up over the police building, and spray paint was used to scrawl "Autonomy Administration" on both buildings.

"It is a great moment ... to see the Israeli soldiers lowering the Israeli flag and have it replaced with the Palestinian flag," said Adnan Jummaa, a 40-year-old laborer who brought his two children to watch.

The 40 Rafah police were not yet issued weapons, but they did not remain unarmed for long. Soon after the Israelis left, about a dozen PLO militants, some of them wanted for anti-Israeli activities, showed up toting Kalashnikov rifles.

The police in Rafah were to be joined by the 300 armed police who came into Israel through Jericho. The 20 policemen who arrived in Jericho earlier were to stay put in the town.

When the 20 policemen arrived in Jericho, Israeli authorities kept crowds away, but at one point the officers waved their guns out the window as they passed a small knot of Palestinians.

Later, when four of the police stepped out of an army headquarters, they were mobbed by townspeople wanting to shake hands . Two of the police officers were hoisted on the shoulders of the crowd.

Soon after their arrival, the police drove their U.S.-donated trucks in a convoy with Israeli jeeps. The PLO vehicles and Israeli

ISRAEL HANDS OVER CONTROL AS FIRST PALESTINIAN POLICE ENTER JERICH0

jeeps flew identical orange flags. Joint patrols are part of the Israel-PLO agreement for security.

The Palestinians were given a briefing by Israeli officers. One of the officers told reporters later that elaborate plans were laid out for the transfer of police powers in Jericho, expected today.

A similar meeting took place on the civilian side at Gaza's administrative building near the the Erez checkpoint into Israel.

Al-Qudra, the PLO official, said the Palestinians and Israelis discussed the transfer of power in all 38 departments such as taxes, schools and hospitals.

Al-Qudra said the government was starting with enough money to operate for three months. "I'm sure we have enough money to provide services until President Yasser Arafat arrives," he said.

Despite the optimism, delays and confusion continued to mark the takeover of Gaza and Jericho that began Tuesday.

Some of the 20 officers who came to Jericho rolled over the Allenby bridge from Jordan about nine hours behind schedule after a series of arguments with Israeli authorities. Then one of their cars apparently ran out of gas.

Some of the 300 police who crossed the Jordanian border later were at first turned back. A PLO officer said he was told the Israelis had no orders to admit them, and other Palestinian officials said the problem mainly was that 100 of the police officers lacked travel documents.

Two shooting incidents in areas of Gaza yet to be turned over to Palestinian control also spelled possible trouble for the self-rule accord.

Palestinian gunmen shot an Israel truck driver near the Jewish settlement of Mogaz. In the Jebaliya refugee camp, gunmen opened fire on soldiers and a Palestinian was hit in return fire. The army

ISRAEL HANDS OVER CONTROL AS FIRST PALESTINIAN POLICE ENTER JERICHO

said a soldier also was wounded by "friendly fire."

The Izzedine Al-Qassam military wing of the radical Muslim movement **Hamas** claimed responsibility for the truck driver's shooting in a wall slogan.

Load-Date: January 31, 1995

End of Document

HOLY WAR' TAPE CHILLS ISRAELIS; A VOICE LIKE ARAFAT'S URGES BATTLE' FOR CITY

St. Louis Post-Dispatch (Missouri)

May 18, 1994, WEDNESDAY, THREE STAR Edition

Copyright 1994 St. Louis Post-Dispatch, Inc.

Section: NEWS; Pg. 8A

Length: 762 words

Dateline: JERUSALEM

Body

An apparent appeal from PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat for a "holy war" for Jerusalem could stall progress toward full Palestinian autonomy, Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin said Tuesday.

In another possible roadblock to the peace process, Arab gunmen ambushed a car south of Hebron on Tuesday, killing two Jewish settlers and wounding a third in the first fatal attack on Israelis since the autonomy accord was signed with the Palestine Liberation Organization.

The unrest unfolded as Israeli and Palestinian officials signed a protocol in Gaza City, formally ending almost three decades of Israeli occupation in the Gaza Strip. A few hundred Israeli soldiers remained Tuesday in areas of Gaza being turned over to the PLO, but military sources said they planned to be gone by today.

Rabin responded to a tape played by Israel Radio, which the station said was a recording of Arafat's talk at a mosque May 10, in Johannesburg, South Africa.

"You have to understand our main battle isn't how much we can achieve from them here or there. Our main battle is Jerusalem," said the speaker, who sounds like Arafat.

The speaker says on the tape that Israel promised in a letter that Jerusalem could be discussed three years from now, when negotiations begin over a permanent settlement between Israel and Palestinians.

"You have to come and to fight and to start a jihad to liberate Jerusalem, the historical shrine. And this is very important," the speaker said.

The Arabic word jihad translates into English as holy war, but it is a loose term to define struggle and can mean anything from a political effort to physical violence.

Rabin said that the comments violated the peace agreement signed May 4 in Cairo, Egypt, that led to the implementation of Palestinian self-rule in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of Jericho. "If this is indeed his call, it will put into question the continuation of the process between us and the Palestinians. We will not be able to accept a violation of a PLO commitment not to be involved in violence and terror," Rabin said.

Rabin said that in the accord with the PLO, Israel had agreed that the issue of Jerusalem, which is holy to Jews, Christians and Muslims, could be raised when negotiations on a permanent settlement began.

HOLY WAR' TAPE CHILLS ISRAELIS; A VOICE LIKE ARAFAT'S URGES BATTLE' FOR CITY

A senior U.S. official briefed reporters in Jerusalem, where Secretary of State Warren M. Christopher completed talks with Rabin. The official said he was concerned about the effect of Arafat's statements.

"I think it was totally out of bounds," he said. "That kind of a thing should be a relic from the past."

An aide to Arafat at the PLO's headquarters in Tunis, Tunisia, confirmed that the PLO leader had gone to the mosque in Johannesburg to pray but said he did not know whether Arafat had made a speech. The aide spoke on the condition of anonymity.

After the broadcast of the tape, opposition parties demanded that the government release all secret additions to its autonomy agreement with the PLO. Rabin has denied that there are any secret agreements.

The leader of the conservative opposition Likud bloc, Benjamin Netanyahu, criticized the government for not "immediately responding by suspending the talks." Members of Rabin's Labor party in Parliament also protested the jihad comments.

The shooting in Hebron occurred a day after clashes between stone-throwing Palestinians and Jewish settlers in Hebron. It also happened as Christopher left Jerusalem to tour Jericho, the West Bank town that is to be the seat of the PLO's administration for the self-rule zones.

An anonymous caller to Israel Radio said that the ambush had been carried out by the Izzedine al-Qassam brigades, the armed underground of the radical Islamic movement Hamas, which opposes the Israel-PLO peace process. The caller said the attack had been a response to the peace accord and to the massacre of 30 Muslim worshipers in Hebron by a Jewish settler in February.

In Jerusalem, dozens of young Jews protesting the killings blocked a downtown street with burning tires and shouted "Death to the Arabs!" Police dispersed the crowd and detained one person. Settlers from Kfar Adumim blocked the main artery from Jerusalem to Jericho, also burning tires to keep Palestinians from reaching their homes.

In the northern West Bank city of Nablus, soldiers shot a Palestinian man in the head, killing him. Palestinian journalists said the troops had opened fire after stones struck their two jeeps and the car of a settler traveling with them. The Israeli army said the Palestinian was shot when he tried to grab a weapon from an Israeli phone company guard.

Graphic

PHOTO; Photo by Reuters - Family and friends of Rafael Yairi mourn his killing Tuesday in a drive-by shooting near the West Bank settlement of Kiryat Arba. Yairi and an Israeli women were killed when Palestinians shot at the settler's car. The woman's daughter was also wounded.

Load-Date: May 19, 1994

Peaceful sabbath raises hopes for talks

The Ottawa Citizen

October 5, 1996, Saturday, FINAL EDITION

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Section: NEWS; Pg. A6

Length: 850 words

Byline: NORMA GREENAWAY; SOUTHAM NEWS

Dateline: JERUSALEM

Body

WAITING TO TALK: Palestinians for the most part ignored calls by extremists to attack Israeli forces before a new round of peace talks begin Sunday.

A tense calm held through the Muslim sabbath Friday, raising hopes that violence wouldn't mar the planned opening Sunday of accelerated Israeli-Palestinian peace talks.

The negotiations are widely viewed as the last, best chance to salvage a peace process barely breathing after a wave of violence between Israelis forces and Palestinians left 73 dead.

U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher flies to Israel today to be on hand for the negotiations. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Palestinian President Yasser Arafat agreed to the stepped-up talks at an emergency peace summit in Washington earlier this week.

Preparations for the negotiations were under way as Israeli forces remained on high alert while Muslims observed their holy day and Israelis readied for the Jewish sabbath today.

Thousands of Muslims made their way through the streets of Jerusalem's Old City to pray at the Al-Aqsa mosque complex on the one-week anniversary of a deadly confrontation at Islam's third holiest site.

Palestinians hurled a few stones in protest following the noon prayers. But the demonstration was quelled quickly when Muslim clerics urged the crowd to disperse peacefully.

A few rocks landed in front of the Western Wall, which abuts the complex, sending a couple of dozen Jewish worshippers scrambling for cover. However, most had heeded police orders to clear the area.

Hundreds of Israeli soldiers and riot police were poised at the entrances to the Al-Aqsa complex and dozens of sharpshooters were positioned on roofs overlooking the grounds. But they pulled back when there was no recurrence of last week's stone-throwing protests that resulted in Israeli forces storming the complex. Three Palestinians were shot dead.

There were reports of small, scattered protests in the West Bank and Gaza. But the vast majority of Palestinians clearly ignored calls from the Islamic fundamentalist **Hamas** movement to engage in a "total confrontation" with Israeli forces and Jewish settlers following their midday prayers.

Peaceful sabbath raises hopes for talks

A coalition of Islamic groups cancelled a planned rally in the Palestinian self-rule town of Ramallah north of Jerusalem, saying demonstrators could not reach the city because of an Israeli ban on travel between West Bank towns.

Nabil Shaath, a top Palestinian official, said the 30,000-strong Palestinian police force had been ordered to try to maintain order and discourage protests that risked reigniting passions.

Last week's rioting was triggered by Israel's opening of a new entrance to an archeological tunnel near the Al-Aqsa complex. Palestinians denounced the move as an affront to Muslim religious sensibilities and an unacceptable Israeli attempt to bolster its claim to Jerusalem as its "eternal" capital before the city's final status is determined.

Palestinians want Arab East Jerusalem, where the tunnel is located, as the capital of their hoped-for independent state.

Shaath told Israeli radio he hoped the situation would remain calm while the negotiations proceeded. But he said there was no guarantee Palestinian frustrations over the slow pace of implementing Israel's peace commitments would not boil over again.

The cabinet signalled Friday it was prepared to ease restrictions on Palestinian travel within the territories if the situation remained calm. Israeli officials also said the cabinet would begin within the next few days allowing food and other supplies to be shipped into the territories.

The major item on the bargaining table is Israel's long-delayed pullout of most of its troops from the West Bank city of Hebron, home to 100,000 Arabs and about 400 Jewish settlers. Netanyahu wants to renegotiate the deal agreed to by the former Israeli government on the grounds it does not provide adequate security for the Jewish settlers.

The Palestinians refuse to renegotiate the terms of the withdrawal. Shaath insisted the security provisions allow enough flexibility as written to meet Israeli concerns.

He argued the security provisions are flexible enough as written to meet Israel's concerns.

UPDATE

The issue: Israeli-Palestinian relations.

What's new: Israeli and Palestinian negotiators prepared to open stepped-up peace negotiations Sunday as Israeli forces and Palestinian police worked to maintain relative calm in the West Bank, the Gaza Strip and Jerusalem. The Muslim sabbath passed at the Al-Aqsa mosque in Jerusalem without a recurrence of last week's deadly confrontation between Israeli forces and stone-throwing demonstrators.

What it means: The relative calm raises hopes accelerated Israeli-Palestinian peace talks will prevent another wave of violence.

What's next: U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher flies to Israel today for the launch of the negotiations at the border between Israel and the Gaza Strip and meetings with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat.

Graphic

Black & White Photo: Reuter Photo / Muslim women walk past a row of Israeli border police as they leave Friday prayers in Jerusalem. Israel deployed 3,000 police to Arab East Jerusalem to prevent trouble after the prayers. Muslim clergy also urged worshippers not engage in protests or rioting.

Peaceful sabbath raises hopes for talks

Load-Date: October 6, 1996

End of Document

That cliché 'du jour' really is nothing new

St. Petersburg Times (Florida)

August 3, 1995, Thursday, City Edition

Copyright 1995 Times Publishing Company

Section: EDITORIAL; LETTERS; Pg. 15A; LETTER

Length: 1744 words

Body

Your column one (July 27), about "at the end of the day" as the cliché du jour (what a clever phrase!), was entertaining and perceptive, but well off the mark as to origin. It speculates that "ateotd" arose from a song in Les Misérables, but that's years too late!

"At the end of the day" has been a standard in England for decades, is nothing new and has nothing whatever to do with the time of day. It's the British equivalent of Americanisms like:

In the final analysis . . .

When all's said and done . . .

The bottom line is . . .

When the dust has settled . . .

When the chickens come home to roost . . .

When the fat lady sings . . .

But mostly it's "in the final analysis."

You've got to admit that, even when overused, it's more charming than that.

LETTERS

You hear "at the end of the day" so frequently in British conversation at every level that you soon become unconscious of it. I think Washington folks have just discovered the phrase and adopted it in the hope that by sounding more British, they'll acquire a bit of class and be harder to identify as the same old Beltway Boys. Bill Moss is right about its creeping clichedom, but wrong about its origin being recent. However, look at it this way: When the river runs dry, isn't this better than the verbal crutch "like" or replacing "thank you" with the now-meaningless "have a nice day"?

Richard Theriault, Clearwater

Imitators, old and new

That cliché 'du jour' really is nothing new

Re: "At the end of the day," it's cliché du jour.

The column one article about how politicians from St. Petersburg to Washington, D.C., adopt clichés and treat certain language as fashion was very interesting, but not new news.

In fact, their use of clichés is the defining characteristic of the conventional, cynical, new breed of politicians and old retread politicians who are not original, imaginative or thoughtful. Never were, never will be.

Our problem is not only that they talk in clichés, as in "at the end of the day," but that we will still be stuck with these imitators and mediocre elected representatives "at the end of the day."

Chuck Levin, Indian Rocks Beach

An unseemly state profit

When I saw trucks spewing clouds of black smoke into the air, I wondered why we bother having an auto emissions testing program. Still, I reasoned, every little bit helps and that's the reason we have the auto emissions testing program.

Wrong! In Action Line on July 27, I learned the real reason: the auto emissions testing program is a state-run moneymaker. According to Action Line (taking the middle of the range of figures provided by Action Line), the annual gross of the program is almost \$ 34-million. Of that, a little more than \$ 20-million goes to the private company manning the sites, a little more than \$ 2-million goes to the state to administer the program and more than \$ 11-million is profit to the Department of Highway Safety. That profit is the real reason the auto emissions testing program exists and why the program is certain to grow and become more onerous and permanent.

This off-budget and monopolistic source of income to the Department of Highway Safety can only lead to self-serving manipulation of the income-producer, and complacency and sloppiness within the department. The department should justify its programs and compete for available tax revenues like every other function of government. The auto emissions testing program should cost the driving public only what it costs to administer.

Dick German, St. Petersburg Beach

An eye-opening article

Please allow a visitor just passing through to commend you for the forthright article Time to ban partial-birth abortions (July 24). As a man, I really didn't think much regarding the abortion issue. One way or the other, after reading and rereading this eye-opening article, I can hardly believe that Haskell and McMahon would not only do such a horrendous thing but "brag" as well.

You have an ace paper - one of the best I've read in America. Keep up the good work. Your chief should be congratulated for placing this in a major place in the Times. Good stick! It should be mandatory reading for all citizens in this "civilized" world.

T. Greyton, Hampshire, U.K.

Column fell short

Re: Arafat, Rabin will press on with peace process.

That cliché 'du jour' really is nothing new

The column of July 25 by Jack R. Payton, Times diplomatic editor, dealing with the Arafat/Rabin peace process talks offered very little that is not already known.

Dismissing the Hamas people as extremists, Payton fails to give readers background about some solid Hamas grievances.

As for the West Bank settlers, these people, mostly Americans, have no grievances. Encouraged by government policy to populate the West Bank, the settlers are uneasy as to the future of their status. The United Nations has condemned the Israeli policy of settlements over the years, but even so, there has been no strong condemnation in this country. With the 1996 elections ahead, progress on a genuine agreement is somewhat unrealistic.

George Sexton, Belleair Bluffs

Misinformation on Ireland

Re: Irish cease-fire is not disarming, July 25.

Wilbur Landrey's article leaves one to believe that the cause of the "troubles" in Ulster (the North of Ireland) can all be laid at the feet of the Irish Republican Army. One would have to hide their head deep in the sand not to know of the Protestant paramilitary forces in the North: 1) Ulster Defense Association (UDA); 2) Ulster Defense Regiment (UDR); 3) Ulster Freedom Fighters (UFF); 4) Ulster Volunteer Force (UVF), to name a few (who some believe are armed by the British Army). These paramilitary forces bomb Catholic homes and shops, and shoot down Catholics in the streets, yet the British have not asked them to disarm.

The IRA's wish for peace should not be taken for surrender. The hatred of the British runs long and deep.

So, if your paper is going to report on Ireland then report and don't give me another British press release of misinformation and disinformation.

Michael Moss, Tampa

Blackmun's profound words

Re: Affirmative action.

In my opinion the most profound, most rational and, surely, the most undeniable statement ever made concerning affirmative action was delivered by U.S. Supreme Court Justice Harry Blackmun in University of California Regents vs. Bakke, 1978: "I suspect that it would be impossible to arrange an affirmative action program in a racially neutral way and have it successful. To ask that this be so is to demand the impossible. In order to get beyond racism, we must first take account of race. There is no other way. And in order to treat some persons equally, we must treat them differently. We cannot - we dare not - let the

Equal Protection Clause perpetuate racial supremacy."

Will our nation's decisionmakers heed the wisdom of Justice Blackmun or will we adhere to the Doctrine of White Male Supremacy? All Americans will have a part in influencing that choice - whether we like it or not.

Perkins T. Shelton, St. Petersburg

Legalizing prostitution

That cliché 'du jour' really is nothing new

Re: Letters, July 30, regarding A woman's right to sell her body, July 23.

Congratulations to Robyn Blumner and the ACLU of Florida for supporting Jane Roe II in her lawsuit against the Florida attorney general. It's great to see an organization such as the ACLU take a stand on the issue of prostitution. There simply aren't any compelling legal arguments as to why a person, male or female, shouldn't have the right to sell sexual favors.

I think the best argument in favor of the legalization of prostitution is the one made in support of Roe II - that a person should have domination over their own body. Why should the government get to determine what people do sexually? That's ridiculous. Criminalizing prostitution is an outdated, moralistic approach to sexual activity that lawmakers haven't had the guts to re-examine and take an enlightened position on.

The very word "prostitution" should be discarded in favor of a more modern term such as "carnal engineer" or some other term that corresponds with the concept of supply and demand. If prostitution were legal it could be conducted under safer conditions, reducing the health risks. The arguments in favor of legalizing prostitution outweigh the arguments against it by far. Let's hope that one day people will let go of the negative feelings associated with this profession and recognize it as a right that every individual has over their own body.

C. Newton, St. Petersburg

A fanatical board

I could not agree more with your editorial An expensive nuisance (July 20). I wonder, if people are found using drugs at a Dome event will they close the Dome for a year? The only strong message these overzealous and power-hungry board members send is that St. Petersburg is not a friendly place to do business. Many have taken the hint and relocated elsewhere. We will continue to have more boarded up buildings, especially along the approach to our glorious downtown on Central Avenue.

This fanatical board seems out of control as is the Codes Enforcement Division. If these city employees who become fanatical in their duties ever had to make a living in the real world I doubt if they could measure up. Not only do they bite the hand that feeds them but they succeed in creating a tense situation with needless bureaucratic mayhem which does not benefit the city or its citizens.

Progress can only be made when the businesspeople and residents come together for the betterment of all.

Denis Farrell, St. Petersburg

Buying American isn't easy

Re: Self-destructive consumers, letter, July 27.

For years my husband and I championed the writer's belief: "Buy American!" We did our part and paid a little more for goods.

Long before GATT and NAFTA, our government had already led this nation down the path bent on a "new world government." This once-proud nation, the wealthiest in the world, has rebuilt or refinanced many other countries. Many of those who have received the most from us hate and vote against us in decisionmaking operations. We will soon be one of the world's poorest nations.

Look around again! What can you buy today that's made in America? Car? Radio? Telephone? Answering machine? Games? Camping supplies? You'll find that some part of it has been made somewhere else.

That cliché 'du jour' really is nothing new

May God bless America! Have we kindly helped others - or greedily tried to help ourselves?

Olivia Clarke, Port Richey

Graphic

BLACK AND WHITE CARTOON, Don Addis; Cartoon shows editor staring at computer screen thinking 'Same O Stuff', screen says News Topics: Reno, Waco, Veto, Ito, Kato NATO.

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End of Document

Radical change: Despite the violence in Israel and Algeria, militant Muslims are moving away from terrorist tactics in many countries

The Gazette (Montreal, Quebec)

August 23, 1997, Saturday, FINAL EDITION

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Section: THE REVIEW; Pg. B3

Length: 1894 words

Byline: AMY DOCKSER, DANIEL PEARL AND HUGH POPE; WALL STREET JOURNAL WITH FILES FROM THE NEW YORK TIMES

Dateline: BIERUT

Body

The recent double bombing in Jerusalem and armed attacks in Algerian neighbourhoods by Islamic groups obscure a startling fact: Islamic militancy isn't on the rise. It has passed its peak.

Radical Islam has reached an impasse; since the Iranian Revolution, fundamentalists have failed to bring down any regime with a campaign of violence. The battle for power isn't over, though. Islamists are transforming themselves into a powerful mainstream force - emphasizing legal actions, business development and politics over terrorism and violence in their effort to topple secular Arab regimes. The rallying cry remains jihad, or holy war, but it is now jihad by other means.

In Lebanon, the men who once kidnapped hostages in the Bekaa Valley are inviting Westerners to return as tourists and sightsee at the ancient ruins of Baalbeck. In Egypt last month, six founders of al-Gama'a al-Islamiya, the militant Islamic group responsible for the assassination of Anwar Sadat, called for a unilateral truce in its five-year campaign of terrorism to topple the secular government of President Hosni Mubarak. The same week, Egyptian Islamists who filed a lawsuit seeking to overturn a government ban on **female** circumcision as "un-Islamic" won their case in court. These contrasting fortunes help explain why many radicals are changing tactics: Blowing up buildings didn't work; going legitimate often does.

That isn't to say that terrorism is a thing of the past; there almost certainly will be more terrorist attacks. In many countries, Islamic militant groups have become so factionalized that even when a militant leader supports ending the violence - as Abassi Madani, head of the radical Islamic Salvation Front, recently did after being freed from jail in Algeria - not everyone is willing to heed the call.

Stance Against Israel Still Militant

And in the fight against Israel, the stance remains militant, perhaps even more so this week after Palestinian National Authority leader Yasser Arafat - who renounced terrorism in 1988 - warned Israel that "all options are open," including a new Palestinian revolt.

At a meeting in Gaza of Palestinian factions to respond to the Israeli crackdown in the wake of the Jerusalem bombings, Arafat also embraced members of two radical groups, **Hamas** and Islamic Holy War. Still, some

Radical change: Despite the violence in Israel and Algeria , militant Muslims are moving away from terrorist tactics in many countries

members of **Hamas** have joined the Palestinian National Authority's cabinet, which supports the idea of territorial compromise with Israel.

Israeli intelligence officials estimate that the number of hard-core Islamic radicals ready to blow themselves up in terror attacks has never topped 30 to 40, more than enough to wreak havoc on the fragile Arab-Israeli peace process.

Whether due to a change of heart or hard-nosed pragmatism, a major shift in strategy and tactics is taking place inside the Islamic movement. For the first time since armed militants stormed the U.S. Embassy in Iran in 1979 and gave rise to the sense that radical Islam was the wave of the future, the tide has turned. The move away from violence means that, despite the horror of the attack in July on a crowded marketplace in Jerusalem or the recent carnage caused by armed gangs killing entire families in villages in Algeria, the impact of Islamists espousing terror is being diluted by a widening Muslim mainstream and the growing number of radicals who are eager to join it.

Take Sheikh Subhi Tufeily, one of the founders of the militant Hezbollah group in Lebanon. He represented the extremist wing of Hezbollah back when the group was kidnapping Westerners and holding them hostage. He also deemed Hezbollah's decision to run for the Lebanese parliament a sell-out of the group's radical principles. For the past two years, says a Western diplomat in Beirut, Sheikh Tufeily preached Islamic revolution, trying to recruit followers in the Bekaa Valley, without much success. So these days, he has dropped his calls for an Islamic state in Lebanon and instead is focusing his attention on organizing a widespread civil-disobedience campaign designed to get more Lebanese government funds directed to the Bekaa.

At a recent rally kicking off the campaign, rosewater was sprayed on the crowd of thousands to keep them cool. Tufeily's followers wore buttons with the word "discipline" written on them, and the sheikh told the crowd, "Nothing will be done that has to do with violence." Another time, he spoke to 500 people crammed inside a mosque, and didn't mention Islam once. Instead, he talked about the garbage piling up on the streets and the government's failed promises.

Back at his house, marked by Hezbollah's black flag with a submachine gun in a clenched fist, Sheikh Tufeily says he would still like to see an Islamic state, but "we're not trying to convince people that it's right. Lebanon as a country could not be an Islamic regime" because of the substantial minority of Christians, he adds, a switch from his earlier hard-line ideology. His message is no longer religious, but economic and class based. "The rich get more and more rich," he said, "and the poor get more and more poor."

He isn't alone in changing his tune. Islamic radical groups in Lebanon are increasingly shying away from violence, fearing a public backlash. Instead of setting up their own charitable organizations and schools as they have done, they are joining the mainstream, demanding a bigger share of the national budget for their communities. Hezbollah set up its own site on the Internet, and in a recent radio debate, the group's No. 2 official said the party is even considering banning American-flag burning at demonstrations because it gives Hezbollah an extremist image.

Once they are in power, Islamic militants have found a need to moderate their radical message in order to win wider public support. Long before the election of Muhammad Khatami, Iran's moderate new president who beat out a hard-liner for the post, Iran had already started toning down the revolutionary rhetoric when it came to Central Asia policy. The country is trying to do business with the virulently anti-Islamist regime in Uzbekistan and is courting close ties with Christian Armenia and Georgia.

The Islamic Welfare Party in Turkey, forced out of office in June by the secular Turkish army, moved away from radical anti-Western positions during its short tenure in order to build up popular support. One of Welfare Party leader Necmettin Erbakan's first acts in office was attending the U.S. Embassy's July Fourth celebration and sending an economic representative to Washington to talk to International Monetary Fund officials. After the elections, he quietly dropped his calls for Muslims to liberate Bosnia, Chechnya and Jerusalem from the infidels.

The Turkish army's recent crackdown on the Welfare Party and the introduction of legislation to shut religious schools has led to clashes between Islamist protesters and security forces. Some political analysts have argued

Radical change: Despite the violence in Israel and Algeria, militant Muslims are moving away from terrorist tactics in many countries

that by closing off any legitimate route of political expression, the government is forcing Islamists into violence. But even among Islamists who once preached jihad, many are now saying there is another way. "I don't believe in a life without jihad," said Seyit Mehmet Boga, a 45-year-old Islamist who, despite being a prosperous businessman in the industrial centre of Konya, still carries a gun. "But I believe we have to start with diplomacy."

In Egypt, revenues from tourism are now higher than they were in 1992, when Islamists started shooting tourists as a way to hurt the Egyptian economy and bring down the state. The militants underestimated the state's staying power and willingness to take repressive steps, such as mass arrests and executions of Islamists, and didn't count on waning public support for violence.

"We suffered a military defeat," conceded Montasser Zayat, a spokesman for Gama'a, the radical Islamic group in Egypt, in his downtown Cairo office. "The call for a ceasefire is the result of a desire to preserve the group's remaining elements. It needs time to catch its breath. It needs time to look for a different path to an Islamic state."

In Imbaba, a poor Cairo neighbourhood of cramped alleyways and a million residents, Aly Ismail, a lawyer for a number of imprisoned Gama'a activists, says violence has hurt rather than helped the Islamist cause. Gangs of militant Islamists used to control the neighbourhood, forcing women to don the veil, demanding that video shops close their doors and virtually running a state-within-a-state. Now of the 20,000 Islamists who human-rights groups estimate are in Egyptian prisons, more than 500 are from Imbaba alone. Gama'a's network of clinics, hospitals and schools in the neighbourhood has been decimated, and the private mosques where Gama'a preachers once called for the overthrow of the state have been closed or brought under government control. The government has invested millions in the area trying to improve social services. The result has been a decline in Gama'a's influence, local Islamist activists acknowledge.

Focus on Changing Society

Gama'a's members are debating how to find the way back to the mainstream, since the group rejects running for political office and doesn't recognize the state, says Zayat, the group spokesman.

"The call for a ceasefire is an admission of their failure, their desperation," said Nabil Osman, the government's chief spokesman. "But we will not be deceived by such calls, and there will be no let-up in our fight against them. These people do not have a program except bullets. There is no way for them to move into the mainstream, because without bullets they do not exist."

In recent writings and books, radical Islamists have raised the idea of returning to the notion of Islamizing society, rather than Islamizing the state in one fell swoop through violent means. The switch is being aided by the fact that over the years, many governments in the region have tried to out-Islamize the Islamists, leading to greater religious conservatism in the general public. Egypt interrupts radio broadcasts to issue the call to prayer five times a day and gives ample television time to radical Islamic preachers. Even in Turkey, the bastion of secularism in the region, Boga, the businessman, says the new approach will prove more effective than violence in the long run because in recent years, "the country has moved much closer to our own model."

Moving into the mainstream offers the prospect of reshaping the countries' social, cultural and political fabric. In that battle, Sheikh Yusuf El-Badry is leading the way. In Egypt, he and a small group of lawyers have filed countless lawsuits against Egypt's government ministries and leading cultural and intellectual figures in an effort to get "sharia," or Islamic law, implemented. They have been far more successful than Gama'a ever was, and, adds Sheikh El-Badry, "we haven't done anything that disgusts people."

Using Egypt's own mix of Islamic and secular laws and the more religious social atmosphere, the sheikh has managed to overturn government bans on veiling and female circumcision and to bar movies and books he deems un-Islamic.

"We have no guns, no bombs, no knives. We have only pen, paper, the law and the courts," he said. "Look what we've done with them."

Radical change: Despite the violence in Israel and Algeria , militant Muslims are moving away from terrorist tactics in many countries

Graphic

Photo: Prayers in Cairo. The government interrupts radio broadcasts to issue the call to prayer five times a day and gives ample television time to radical Islamic preachers, who have gone to court to overturn bans on veiling and **female** circumcision.

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Jordan sets 20an example for Arab world

The Gazette (Montreal, Quebec)

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Length: 792 words

Byline: PETER BAKOGEORGE; SOUTHAM NEWS

Dateline: AMMAN

Body

When King Hussein permitted Jordanians to elect a parliament Monday, he confirmed his status as the Arab leader offering his people the most democracy.

For the first time since the king suspended party politics in 1957, Jordan had multi-party elections.

Results announced yesterday showed pro-government candidates and tribal leaders fiercely loyal to the monarch won the majority of the 80 seats.

Muslim fundamentalists lost ground, winning only 16 seats. In 1989, when the Muslim Brotherhood was permitted to run as a bloc in the non-party elections, its candidates won 23 seats.

What King Hussein has given Jordanians is something far short of a perfect democracy.

He appoints the prime minister and cabinet and has the power to suspend the assembly and rule by fiat.

But in a region where political change has often been carried out with guns, the Jordan experiment is a landmark.

Only in Yemen, which held multi-party parliamentary elections this year, is democracy so far advanced.

Elsewhere, the business of running countries means rule by one party or by absolute monarchs.

"The king wants to set an example for the rest of the Arab countries, but the Jordan experiment has not really caught on," says Amman newspaper publisher Osama el-Sherif.

Took a gamble

Even those Arab leaders who might want to move toward more democracy haven't been willing to take the kind of risk King Hussein did Monday.

By giving people the vote and allowing political parties to form, he gambled that Muslim fundamentalists wouldn't gain power through the ballot box.

That's what was about to happen in Algeria two years ago, leading to suspension of democracy and rule by an appointed, military- backed council.

Jordan sets an example for Arab world

Since then, the high hopes for more Arab democracy have crashed.

Outside Jordan and Yemen, there is little real political power in the hands of the people.

Lebanon conducts fair elections for seats in an assembly.

But with the government's close ties to Damascus and with Syrian soldiers still patrolling Beirut, democracy is more dream than reality.

Egyptians elect a People's Assembly, but the real power is in the office of President Hosni Mubarak. Although he must be elected, a vote last month showed how undemocratic the process is.

Mubarak's was the only name on the ballot, and voters could mark only Yes or No to giving him a third six-year term.

In Syria, Iraq and Libya, there is one-man rule, though "elections" - such as Syria's two years ago, when President Hafez al-Assad won 99.9 per cent of the vote - attempt to dress it up as democracy.

Women couldn't vote

After coalition forces liberated Kuwait, the pressure mounted on some countries of the Arabian peninsula to move toward democracy.

Kuwait held parliamentary elections last year but only one in seven citizens - and not one of them a woman - was permitted to vote. And the assembly, while it has been lively, has little power to influence the emir.

In Saudi Arabia, King Fahd delivered in August on a years-old promise and appointed a consultative council - one with no power.

Prospects for real change seem slim. The king has implied he can never see democracy and Islam working together, saying "the democratic system prevailing in the world does not suit us in this region."

Both Bahrain and Oman have consultative councils, but in each country the power rests with the emir.

In north Africa, Morocco and Tunisia have taken small steps toward democracy, but the Algeria experience has had a chilling effect.

The next test for Arab democracy will be one of the most important.

Palestinians in Gaza and the West Bank will vote by next summer for what their peace agreement with Israel calls the interim self- government authority.

It will be the Palestinians' representation until there is a permanent settlement with Israel.

PLO leader Yasser Arafat has promised democracy, but the influence of the Muslim fundamentalist group **Hamas** makes results of a vote in the Occupied Territories very uncertain.

It has been the West, particularly the United States, that has urged more democracy for the Middle East.

However, worries that militant Islamists will take power through elections has muffled that call.

There was virtual silence over the suspension of democracy in Algeria. And Egypt's false-front democracy receives little criticism, surely because powerful Islamic forces are lurking should a meaningful vote ever be introduced.

Diplomats and other analysts here say King Hussein is sincere about making Jordan more democratic. They say, though, that even where there is a forward-looking leader, it will take time for a political culture to form and for democracy to become entrenched.

Jordan sets an example for Arab world

Load-Date: November 11, 1993

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How Hanan Ashrawi plans to build a nation; The woman who spoke for Yasser Arafat before the historic Middle East peace agreement now prefers to fight for human rights rather than political power. Suzanne Glass met her

The Independent (London)

May 31, 1995, Wednesday

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Section: FEATURES; Page 21

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Byline: Suzanne Glass

Body

"I pretend I'm not me when I'm threatened," says Hanan Ashrawi, Yasser Arafat's former spokeswoman. "I even stayed calm when I felt the cold metal of a gun on my face once. I have to or I would be paralysed."

The head of the Palestinian Independent Commission for Citizens' Rights may not be paralysed, but she seems trapped. Hers is really the only **female** Palestinian face widely recognised in the Western world. And as such she has become public property. At conferences, cameras click and flash in her face. "My home is like Grand Central Station," she says.

She spoke for Arafat before the famous handshake on the White House lawn between the Palestinian leader and Israel's Prime Minister, Yitzhak Rabin, in September 1993. She cajoled and convinced to ensure the signing of the agreement between the two Middle Eastern powers did not fall through at the last minute.

Then the well-dressed, well-spoken grande dame of Palestinian politics shocked her people by turning round and saying no to Arafat. No, she would not accept a place on his National Council. She would prefer to set up her own independent commission: to create legislation to allow the investigation of atrocities, not only by Israelis against Palestinians, but also by Palestinians against each other. And she wanted to write her autobiography, *This Side of Peace*, which is published next week.

"We want to build a nation," she says, "where our people will be free." Her nation-building takes place in an East Jerusalem hotel suite that serves as an office. The air is heavy with smoke. Dr Ashrawi, sharp and snappy in a language which is not her own, is groomed to the nth degree. Navy suit, skirt just dusting the knee, a paisley scarf draping her shoulder, a discreet diamond here and there.

"Our decree for the commission was signed by Arafat, you know." There is a certain irony in this. Some say Ashrawi was put out at not having a front-line role in the signing of the Oslo agreement and that her commission has been set up as an act of defiance, to monitor the activities of Arafat's National Council.

She denies this and says she founded the organisation and become its commissioner-general because this is where she belongs. "I have never been interested in superficial power. Human rights have always been my interest. This job is all hard work and no glory," she says.

How Hanan Ashrawi plans to build a nation; The woman who spoke for Yasser Arafat before the historic Middle East peace agreement now prefers to fight for human

Whether she would have talked of superficial power two years ago as PLO spokeswoman is a subject for speculation, but shaping the future of the Palestinian people is undoubtedly her calling. She is depressed by the state of Middle East politics and calls the peace process the Grand Deception.

"No, my dreams have not been fulfilled," she says. "I had a vision of peace in the Middle East, but there is none. It is all very painful." She thinks the Israelis have "given" her people far too little and that her people have conceded far too much. The quality of life in Gaza, where the Palestinian state has its headquarters, is reputed to be dreadful. There is constant tension among the Palestinians, and as much friction between Palestinians and Israelis as ever.

"It's not good enough to have just any old state, a replica of a Third World state, an instrument of Israeli domination."

She begins to list the injustices: Palestinians subject to stringent Israeli security regulations, Palestinians being searched. She stops, looks up, laughs cynically and says: "Then of course, there are the settlements." In her view, the evacuation of the right-wing extremist Jewish settlements on the West Bank and in the Gaza Strip is the sine qua non of any lasting peace in the Middle East. "Wild tulips, violets, anemones, lilies and shepherd's staff . . . Just as deportations damaged our roots, so did the bulldozers that plowed through our hills to establish Israeli settlements destroy the roots of our wildflowers," she writes in her autobiography.

She is angry that the Israelis have not kept their promise to stop building in the settlements and that Rabin has allowed the right-wingers to break that promise. She gets straight to the point. She doesn't think much of Rabin. "The mother of a pilot tells him to fly high and fast. To fly low and slow is a sure way to crash. Well, I say, Rabin is flying low and slow and he will crash."

Dr Ashrawi may be eloquent, but she is no diplomat. She is more of a hardliner than Arafat, and relations between the two are said to be strained, though there is no evidence of that during our meeting.

"Yasser, yes, Yasser, he is on the phone. Will you excuse me while I talk to him?" And she goes to the phone and talks loudly, confident in the knowledge that her interviewer can understand nothing.

There has been speculation that she would like to take Arafat's place. In her book, she compares leaving politics to running away from home as a child to avoid music tuition: "Thus I was spared the torture of piano lessons and went cycling off into the sunset while my sister became a great pianist . . . Now I always feel the stirring of an urge like a static impulse that runs through my fingers, but produces no music." But even if she feels that static impulse about politics, she claims she has no intention of re-entering the forum.

In her book she tells how, as a Christian woman in a Muslim, male-dominated world, she became a pivotal peace-maker in the most unlikely of negotiations between Jew and Arab. If, having read the book, you go back to the first sentence, where she writes: "On Friday, 14 October, 1994, Yasser Arafat, Shimon Peres and Yitzhak Rabin were nominated to receive the Nobel Peace prize", you cannot help but feel that the name Hanan Ashrawi should have been included on the list.

But even if Dr Ashrawi does not agree with all the policies of the PLO - she feels they should demand more of the Israelis -she continues to remain loyal to them. The alternative is the fundamentalist terrorist group Hamas and the Islamic Jihad, responsible for the suicide bombings in Israel.

However, both parties hate Ashrawi for her dealings with the "enemy". I ask if she is afraid of being on their hit-list. She wriggles out of the question. She can't criticise them to the outside world. Nor, as an advocate of human rights, can she condone their violence. She says no, she is not afraid. She says the Israelis create the explosive situations that lead to extremist violence.

As she talks I study her face. She has a semitic nose; deep, dark-brown eyes and short, shiny black hair. Adjectives like attractive or unattractive are irrelevant: it is the changing face of charm, defiance and burning intensity.

How Hanan Ashrawi plans to build a nation; The woman who spoke for Yasser Arafat before the historic Middle East peace agreement now prefers to fight for human

In one way she is extremely privileged. It is all but impossible for women in Palestinian society to reach a position such as hers. But her situation is a tricky one. She fights for women's rights, for example, but can't really be their representative, the Germaine Greer of the Palestinian world, because she comes from a liberal Christian Arab family which encouraged her career. Most Muslim women face a culture that denies them a public role. But still she sees herself as an ardent feminist.

"Ah, women, my favourite subject. Let's talk about that. Men want to take over. Women in politics are more honest and forthright. We are not in it for the ego gratification," she says.

To talk of women's role in society seems the only way into Dr Ashrawi's personal life. At the beginning of the interview, when she realised I might be interested in her and not just the work of her commission, she made a dismissive gesture with her hand and said: "I don't want a profile written about me, thank you." Nor does she really want to reveal herself in her autobiography. The book is more about Middle Eastern politics than the personal politics of her life.

Dr Ashrawi talks with a certain musicality. She was brought up on art and literature. Her father, a doctor, told his daughters: "Don't let anyone talk to you about a woman's role." She studied English and medieval literature at the American University of Beirut and then completed her PhD at Virginia University. She taught briefly, but the classroom was merely a platform for politics. In a parallel life, she would not have been a teacher but would have dedicated herself to writing.

The price she has paid for her vocation is high, both for herself and her photographer husband, Emile, and daughters, Amal, 17, and Zeina, 15. She is afraid to pass the inevitable fear in her life on to them.

"They never put pressure on me, but sometimes they say: 'Wouldn't it be nice if we could just go to the park or go and get an ice-cream without being recognised.' The ironic thing is, I wanted to study medicine and my mother told me not to. She said I would have no time for a private life."

Her friends, she says, are terribly important. She even has Israeli friends - only left-wing ones, of course, who fight for the rights of Palestinians. "I used to smuggle them in and out of my house, before Israelis and Palestinians began to meet openly. But I won't fall into the cliché of saying that some of my best friends are Israelis," she says and laughs.

One of her secretaries comes up to her. Her next appointment is waiting. Suddenly, she looks weary, as if she might like to sit and chat a little off the record. But she can't because she is trapped in a helter-skelter of appointments and commitments. She is trapped in her allegiance to the PLO, though she believes they have sold themselves short, and she is trapped in the impossibility of condemning Hamas and the Islamic Jihad to the outside world, though they condemn her.

She could have had it easy. She comes from a family with the financial strength and contacts to have allowed her to escape the intifada and flee abroad. Instead, she chose "the pain of self-inflicted wounds".

She strikes me as too tough and too aware of her own power to opt for the easy path. Perhaps she refused the kudos of Arafat's National Council because she was confident that her Independent Commission for Citizens' Rights would soon have its own equally high profile.

There is one person who gives her the strength to cope with the continued threat of the cold metal gun on her cheek. "My husband," she says, and smiles. "He is the one who helps me. We have a wonderful marriage. A true partnership."

'This Side of Peace' is published by Simon & Schuster on 6 June. 'but there is none' Photograph: R Rosen/Saba/Katz

How Hanan Ashrawi plans to build a nation; The woman who spoke for Yasser Arafat before the historic Middle East peace agreement now prefers to fight for human

Load-Date: May 31, 1995

End of Document

An Islam of slogans fed the riots, so did white Islamophobia. Paul Vallely reports; Kinship and pride: Bradford's Asian history

The Independent (London)

June 13, 1995, Tuesday

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Section: COVER STORY; Page 2,

Length: 1802 words

Byline: Yasmin Alibhai-Brown

Body

Time and again, walking round the streets of Manningham in Bradford, where men are still hammering boards up to the windows smashed in Saturday night's riots and where patches of melted tarmac show where cars were set alight by angry gangs of Asian youths, the eye is caught by a single word. There it is, painted on walls, on garage doors or sprayed across advertising hoardings - the single word, Hamas.

Can the extremist Palestinian organisation really be a factor in the conflict which has erupted on the streets of an industrial town in the north of England? "No. Not at all," says Ishtiaq Ahmed, the director of the Bradford Equality Council and spokesman for the city's Council of Mosques. "It's just the work of some mischievous bugger."

The words fall oddly from his lips. Until now his speech has been characterised by that quaint, peculiarly cadenced, polite and proper English which is still the hallmark of the official language of the Indian subcontinent. It is the tongue that is the post-colonial legacy of the older generation of Asians who live in Britain today. And it is the single most immediate distinction between those over 35 and the generation of young Asians who were born and bred here.

It is more than a cosmetic difference. The broad, flat Yorkshire vowels of Asian youths indicate a whole attitudinal difference. Their approach is as blunt, direct and attuned to the manners of contemporary Britain as are their colloquialisms.

"Let's get this straight," says Ibrar Ahmed, a 26-year-old self-employed property manager who has lived in Bradford for more than 20 years. "This whole thing is about just one thing. It's not about prostitution. Or unemployment, or about all that nonsense of the chief constable's about a gap between youth and age. It's about the way two police officers treated one of our women. That's all."

That morning's papers had been full of quotes from the West Yorkshire Chief Constable, Keith Hellawell, who had spoken of how the clash between 300 youths and 200 police in riot gear had its roots in a widening cultural and generation gap within the Asian community. "There's no gap between old and young. It's untrue," says Ibrar, "though there may be a gap between the elected councillors who say they speak for us and the real leaders of the community." It is almost all there, in that brief exchange: prostitution, unemployment, distrust of the police, a generation gap and a power struggle. Almost all. For, as well as unemployment which is treble that of the white community, and the fact that the city's red light district is in the heart of Manningham, there is also in the Bradford equation crime, drugs and the bogeyman of Islamic fundamentalism.

An Islam of slogans fed the riots, so did white Islamophobia. Paul Vallely reports; Kinship and pride: Bradford's Asian history

What is it like to be a young British Asian today, caught in that eddy of uncompromising influences? Even to ask that question reveals what a false homogeneity we perceive among the Asian community. What do most of us know of Asians in Bradford? Book-burning over Salman Rushdie, unpatriotic protests during the Gulf war and now petrol bombs against the police. And therein lies the problem.

"The homogeneity is entirely specious," says Philip Lewis, the adviser on race relations to the Bishop of Bradford and author of a recent book, *Islamic Britain*. Close study of the Asian community reveals widespread differences. Members of the Indian community are far more successful, financially and academically, than are Pakistanis or Bangladeshis, he says. "The East African Asians in Leicester brought with them English, professional skills and capital. The 50,000 Pakistanis of Bradford came almost entirely from Kashmir, one of the most underdeveloped regions of Pakistan."

There are wide differences within the Pakistani community in terms of how its members relate to British society. There is a group of perhaps 10 per cent which has integrated thoroughly. There is a group, slightly larger, which has made English its first language and culture and "who are at home with the majority community and with other young Asians, but who have lost their common ground with the Asian elders." Then there is the vast majority, which has not done well academically. Many are unemployed, have developed a relationship of mutual suspicion with the police, and now feel under threat. "If you are articulate you can translate anger into argument," says Lewis. If not, what are the options?

One is crime. "It's not racial, it's directed against anyone - car theft, burglary," says Ishtiaq Ahmed. Another is drugs. At night Asian youths can be seen openly dealing in cocaine in the streets. Yet another is Islam. Which explains the slogans for Hamas.

"It looks like Islamic fundamentalism," says Lewis. "It's a reactive identity - it is one thing they perceive the whites do not have. So they become assertively Muslim." But it is a DIY Islam, an Islam of slogans rather than of substance. And it is fed by the Islamophobia which it in turn generates. "The Rushdie affair and the Gulf war were watersheds in community relations in Bradford," says Lewis. "People felt that their loyalty as Britons was being questioned, so they became defensive. Bosnia has only served to reinforce the question of what is their future in Europe."

But it serves only to divide rather than to unite Bradford's Asians. Splits and mistrusts are everywhere. Local politics is riven with accusations of corruption and self-seeking. "There is a real anger too among some youngsters who feel that the older generation have let them down," says Ishtiaq Ahmed. "They say: 'You should have done better economically and sent less money back to Pakistan.' And they say that the adults have been too polite, that they have not stood up for their rights."

The result is unexplored territory for young Asians - adrift from the values of their elders, immersed in an Islam which is essentially a reaction, out of step with the liberal values of secular society, and yet enamoured of the product of its amoral materialism while being denied the means to fulfil the modern dream.

Yet whatever the differences, the sense of indignation, impotence and anxiety is common to all sections of the community. It is growing too among the white population, in a city which was once the model for good race relations. "Our kids won't go to the corner shop alone in the evening now," said one white teacher. "They have been threatened too many times by gangs of young Asians. On a couple of occasions they have been kicked. Last week one was threatened with a knife waiting at the bus stop. It's been like this for about 12 months."

Ibrar Ahmed stood outside Toller Road police station yesterday afternoon as he waited for a meeting between community leaders and the police over how to diffuse the present crisis. "This is just about the one issue," he said. "I've lived here 20 years and always got on happily with everyone - Asian, white, and West Indian."

Around him older Asian leaders remained silent. Down the road the workmen continued to sweep away the debris.

An Islam of slogans fed the riots, so did white Islamophobia. Paul Vallely reports; Kinship and pride: Bradford's Asian history

Out of approximately 470,000 inhabitants in Bradford, 64,000 are of Asian origin. In the mid Eighties the city had one of the highest rates of population growth in the country.

The first Asian settlers arrived in the Forties, mostly ex-seamen who found work in the wartime industries in Bradford and Leeds. Their economic success attracted others from Azad Kashmir, a disputed area between India and Pakistan, and during Partition a place of terrible poverty and devastation. The flow increased during the Fifties and early Sixties as the demand for labour in the heavy industries grew. British manufacturers advertised for workers in Pakistani newspapers and those already in work were encouraged to bring in more of their relatives.

By the Seventies, these industries had died and unemployment in the community began to soar. It is a trend that has accelerated. There is a huge disparity between white and Asian unemployment and employment, particularly among the young. Education achievements are appallingly low, particularly when compared to Indians in Britain. But it has been a solid community with strong kinship links and common values based on a mixture of cultural - often rural - traditions and Islam.

Bradford has been a touchstone for many of the most significant cultural encounters in Britain in the past decade. Events there have tested the patience, commitment and strength of this multi-racial society and some would argue the city has instigated some fundamentally important debates which have influenced policies on the left and the right.

1983

The local authority, with strong Tory support, introduces halal food in schools and allows Muslim girls to attend gym classes wearing long trousers; it is one of the first authorities in the country to introduce such measures.

In the same year, the Ray Honeyford storm breaks over Bradford. The white head of a predominantly Muslim school upsets parents by publishing articles which are not only critical of multi-cultural education, but also of Pakistani people. Campaigns on both sides drag out for a year. He is finally forced to resign - the first indication of the cohesion and power of this community when provoked.

1989

Salman Rushdie's book *The Satanic Verses* is publicly burned in Bradford. The image horrifies even liberals and the city unfairly begins to be seen as an enemy within, a place of untamed barbarism. In time the challenges raised are taken seriously by some people, among them the controversy (still unresolved) about the limits to freedom. Bradford at this time is also associated with the fatwa, which was issued by a Shia leader in a foreign country and not by the Sunni Muslim people of West Yorkshire. The event exposes fundamentalist tendencies among Muslims and liberals.

In the same year, campaigns begin for the right to separate schools for Muslim girls in West Yorkshire, with many of the most persuasive arguments emerging among the protesting Muslim groups and intellectuals - some who emerged during the Rushdie crisis - in Bradford and Dewsbury. Muslim candidates win local elections and gain influence.

1991

Well organised protests against the Gulf War are launched in Bradford by Muslims who decry the hypocrisy and selective morality of the Western powers. Yusuf Islam (formerly Cat Stevens) is among those leading the Bradford protests. Radicals demand the immediate withdrawal of troops from the Gulf.

1993-94

Women's groups sprout across Bradford. Some organise around an attempt to establish their rights through a proper reading of Islam, others work for Bosnian Muslims. Social and economic conditions deteriorate and young

An Islam of slogans fed the riots, so did white Islamophobia. Paul Vallely reports; Kinship and pride: Bradford's Asian history

men turn towards drugs and petty crime. Prostitution is a growing problem and the youth is increasingly alienated from the traditional leadership.

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End of Document

Border blockade brings pain to Gaza

The Gazette (Montreal, Quebec)

March 20, 1996, Wednesday, FINAL EDITION

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Section: NEWS; Pg. B1 / BREAK

Length: 802 words

Byline: NORMA GREENAWAY; SOUTHAM NEWSPAPERS; SOUTHAM NEWS

Dateline: GAZA CITY

Body

Amina Ghaben was on the verge of tears as she pointed to her livelihood, a large straw basket filled to the brim with lush strawberries.

Ghaben had been sitting in Gaza's main market since the crack of dawn. By midmorning, the mother of 16 hadn't sold one strawberry despite a bargain-basement price of 60 cents a kilogram.

"No one comes," said Ghaben, 50. "No one has money. Most days I can't sell anything. How can I feed my children?"

Ghaben and other vendors say life has gone from bad to worse across this impoverished strip of land since Israel imposed a virtual blockade on Gaza, as well as the West Bank, after a rash of suicide bombings by Muslim extremists.

Ghaben's husband is among the 22,000 Gazan workers that have been barred from going to their jobs in Israel since the first bombings Feb. 25, costing the economy at least \$ 500,000 a day in lost wages. Gaza's fruits, vegetables, flowers and fish - the main source of export earnings - also have been locked inside the strip for most of the last three weeks.

A slight easing of the border closing this week meant a few shipments were trickling into Israel once they had passed strict security checks. But Palestinian officials say millions of flowers and hundreds of tonnes of fruits and vegetables continue to rot in trucks or on the vine.

The government of Shimon Peres has made clear the closing will not be lifted soon, although it has promised to take steps "to prevent hunger or even near hunger in Gaza." About 340 tonnes of flour were allowed into Gaza over two days last week. More is suppose to be on its way. But Gaza's 800,000 residents normally consume about 280 tonnes of flour a day, meaning the shipments are unlikely to fill the hole.

Ghaben and her fellow vendors say they haven't eaten bread in more than a week. Meat, milk and other dairy products are luxuries they can't afford. "What did we do to deserve this?" asked Ali El Amour, a father of seven. "It's not fair that we're put in a big jail because of a few bombers."

International aid workers said the situation in Gaza is not yet desperate. No one is starving, they said. But they agreed speedy, concerted international action is needed to relieve some of the suffering.

Border blockade brings pain to Gaza

Terje Larsen, the UN envoy in the Palestinian self-rule areas, has led calls for an emergency injection of funds. The Peres government announced Sunday it would co-operate with the international community in an effort to raise \$ 100 million to finance supplies of food and medicine and to create jobs over the next few months.

The strict closing is applauded, however, by Israelis as a justified security response to four suicide bombings by the militant Islamic group Hamas which left 62 dead. One of the bombers was apparently smuggled into Israel by a truck driver cleared through the Karni Crossing in Gaza on March 4. The bomber, hidden in a crate, was taken to Tel Aviv where he exploded a bomb outside a shopping complex, killing himself and 12 others.

Israelis now overwhelmingly support the idea of a permanent separation from the two million Palestinians living in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. They support importing more foreign workers to fill the jobs in Israel once held by Palestinians. And many say they will gladly pay more for fresh produce if that is the price of stopping the violence. Prices of some fruits and vegetables have more than tripled in Israel since the closing.

The near sealing of the territories is expected to continue at least through the May 29 Israeli elections. Because of the bombings, the vote has become a referendum on whether to continue or freeze peacemaking with the Palestinians and Israel's Arab neighbors. Peres, fighting for his political life, has suspended all peace talks to concentrate on security issues.

In the meantime, Gazans are left ranting at three favorite targets. The bombers for causing the blockade. The Israelis for refusing to lift it. And Yasser Arafat's Palestinian authority for not being able to do anything to change the situation. Many warn Israel is sowing the seeds of more violence by continuing such "collective punishment."

"This system of closing treats two million people in the West Bank and Gaza like animals," said Hazem el-Saraj, head of the Zakat committee, an Islamic charitable organization. "People don't have hope. Innocent people are being punished. Maybe there will be a reaction."

Others argued the closing is forcing Palestinians to beg for handouts when they could be making money from exports.

"It's very crazy," said Usama Rashed, a marketing official with the Palestinian authority. "They (the Israelis) are depriving us of our livelihood. They are putting all of us in prison because of three or four or 10 (Muslim extremists) who don't want peace."

Graphic

AFP / With the border closing causing shortages, Palestinian women have to wait for flour from a store in Gaza City.

Load-Date: March 21, 1996

Battlers signal new reality

THE WEEKEND AUSTRALIAN

March 9, 1996, Saturday

Copyright 1996 Nationwide News Pty Limited

Length: 863 words

Byline: B.A. SANTAMARIA

Body

MOST observers of the events leading to the federal election believed John Howard would win, but few foresaw the size of Labor's defeat. Howard and his supporters naturally claim that it was the attraction of their policies that won the votes of "the battlers", or ordinary families. They are having themselves on. Labor lost them. The Liberals picked them up, and face the job of holding on to them.

The votes lost fell into two main groups.

The first were previously solid Labor voters in industrial seats. The reason lay in the fact that probably twice as many as those officially listed are, in fact, out of jobs; that youth unemployment is up to 30 per cent; that "downsizing" has introduced a permanent anxiety among thousands of average families who do not aspire to wealth but who treasure security; that increases in interest rates have depleted their store of savings and made mortgage charges insupportable. All the result of good, de-regulationist theory. But morally, unjust; and politically, selfdefeating.

The second were farmers and members of rural communities, in seats ravaged by drought over at least four years. They saw the banks being permitted by the government to keep charging them up to 13 to 15 per cent, destroying their assets, their livelihood and way of life. It was also morally unjust, and politically self-defeating.

Paul Keating believed that "the battlers" would support him, regardless. Therefore he could afford to take their votes for granted and concentrate on the "vision thing" - republic, Mabo, ethnic groups, multiculturalism, conservationists, feminists and so on. "The battlers"

were willing to indulge these fantasies while economic circumstances were buoyant.

When they turned bad, they were infuriated by their constant repetition. What they were being asked to support was not a Labor Party, but a New Left Party. John Howard was not the architect of the swing but merely the beneficiary of the blunders of the new ideology.

Labor's future choice is simply defined. It can seek to regain the loyalty of its traditional supporters - ordinary people who wish to enjoy relatively stable and secure family lives. This means imposing a limit on the total freedom accorded to financial and economic forces, and on the indulgence shown to the chardonnay set of limousine lefties.

Howard's future choice is equally clear. The extent of the real Budget deficit will soon be revealed. In his victory speech, he promised "good government" in the interests of all Australians.

Battlers signal new reality

That is more easily said than done. The demands of big business will be everpressing: to exert a downward pressure on wages; to cut social services; to lift restraints on bank mergers and corporate takeovers, often by foreign interests.

Howard would be wiser to heed the general philosophy of the late W. S. Robinson, "one of Australia's founding industrialists". At the time of the Great Depression and the Niemeyer Mission in 1929, in a not dissimilar situation, he wrote: "I had much sympathy for the steps taken by the Labor government in Canberra to alleviate Australia's economic crisis.

' W HILE the Depression spread like a contagious disease, there were too many leaders of business in both England and Australia, who had no hesitation in reducing the wages or eliminating the jobs of their employees, and yet who were most reluctant to cut fixed interest rates and rents and other items of income of the wealthier people. Income from rent, they argued, was sacred. Wages, however, were for the guillotine."

In other words, equality of sacrifice: interest on bonds, mortgages and loans, dividends or company taxes should make a contribution equal to that of wages and social services. Since Howard is an even more fervent believer in "the market"

than Keating, this is unlikely.

However, I have good news for John Howard. To balance the Budget, all that he has to do is to impose a 12.5 per cent revenue tax on imports. This year imports must be close to \$80 billion. The tax should therefore yield close to \$10 billion. Of this, \$4 billion should be reserved for the payment of a Homemaker's Allowance to enable him to deal with the real problem of the family - the (economic) conscription of married women into the workforce with which his family policy did not deal in any way. The remainder would go a long way towards balancing the Budget. The effect on the domestic price-level would be minimal. Such a measure is permitted under the World Trade Organisation Agreement (or clause XII of the former GATT Agreement), so that particular alibi is not available.

It will be objected that such a suggestion could come only from an economic illiterate. But even an economic illiterate could hardly do worse than the orthodox economists and the thinktanks that have guided our economic policy during the past 15 years. They have landed us in our present morass, while themselves prospering mightily in the process.

* The death of 60 people in four suicide bombings by members of the Palestinian radical group Hamas has inspired Israeli novelist Amos Oz to write an open letter to 'a Palestinian friend' warning against the unravelling of the peace process

Load-Date: March 1, 2002

Letters:
Getting rid of Hezbollah is the key to Mideast peace

The Atlanta Journal and Constitution

April 26, 1996, Friday,

JOURNAL EDITION

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Section: EDITORIAL; Pg. 19A

Length: 860 words

Byline: Marc M. Kalmann, Sharpsburg

Body

The Editors: The cry by a reader for President Clinton's denouncement of "Israeli brutality" is naive.

Like the letter writer, who is from Lebanon, I, too, have lived the war. I have a brother in Kfar Saba, a sister in Jerusalem and other family members in a kibbutz near Kiryat Sh'mona. It matters not where, we all have lived the war a especially the family in Kiryat Sh'mona.

These kibbutzniks spend many hours in bomb shelters, hoping they are safe for another day from rocket attacks by Lebanon, shelled by Irani- Syrian-Lebanese supported and sustained by Hezbollah.

How did I miss reading the letter writer's condemnation of the terroristic bomb attacks on civilian buses, killing and maiming Jews, Arabs and Christians alike?

Unfortunately, as long as the Hezbollah continues to hide behind women's skirts, children's schools and United Nations buildings in Lebanon, shelling day after day, the kibbutzniks will continue to hide in shelters, and the Israeli army will continue retaliation.

The letter writer wants to end these atrocities, and so do we.

The letter writer should spend her energy and dollars toward the deportation of the Hezbollah out of Lebanon. She should ask Syrian President Hafez Assad to denounce the atrocities by the Hamas and Hezbollah, then perhaps the Lebanese people can get on with their lives.

My family has supported a Palestinian, a Lebanese and an Israeli homeland for 20 years. Write letters for peace, not denouncement.

Taxing problem

Ben Blackburn, Jasper

The Editors: Many thanks to the letter writer who pointed out that it is the relentless burden of taxes that lowers the living standard of all Americans. Reducing taxes on all incomes would do more to stimulate the economy and

Letters; Getting rid of Hezbollah is the key to Mideast peace

improve the lives of Americans than raising the minimum wage. The unspoken secret behind the minimum wage is that the only beneficiary from an increase will be the government.

An increase in the minimum wage will result in all workers demanding, and receiving, wage increases to maintain the difference between their pay and the minimum wage. Prices will be raised to reflect the higher cost of production.

The dollar will fall in value as the result of the inflation which follows, and workers' purchasing power will be no greater after these adjustments have worked their way through the system. With everyone earning more dollars, they will be paying higher taxes on the same real income.

That a majority of the public favors an increase in the minimum wage is testimony to their ignorance of economic reality. We should expect our congressmen to know better.

Blackburn represented Georgia's 4th District in Congress from 1967 to 1975.

No justification

Erik M. Friendly, Atlanta

The Editors: The article "Two sentenced in crime spree" includes the statement, "On July 11, Justin Markie, 22, and Jeremy Petree, 19, picked up a 25-year-old homosexual man in the parking lot of the Tara movie theater." I can find no justification in the article for including the victim's sexual orientation, as there seems to be no connection to it and his unfortunate victimization.

None of the other victims' sexual orientations is given, including that of the two other male victims a one of whom is married a who are accused of sexually molesting the two criminals.

It seems the description of the first victim as a homosexual is another gratuitous use of the classification by the newspaper to sensationalize the crime, titillate the reader and propagate the vile notion that gay people are somehow very different from other people and their sexuality in some way relates to their victimization at the hands of criminals.

Victim blamed

Margaret and William Crook, Graham, Ala.

The Editors: We were horrified that a jury awarded a huge sum in damages to a man who assaulted another man and received injuries when the victim defended himself. We are writing our legislators to pass a law that criminals cannot sue for damages for injuries they received while committing a crime.

We understand the victim, Bernard Goetz, will not appeal this verdict against him. We all should do something to appeal this decision so it is overturned and will not set a precedent for the rest of us, should we be attacked. Do people realize what a decision like this could do to those who have to defend themselves from predators? Why should we have to pay thousands of dollars in legal fees to defend ourselves yet again from criminals who have already attacked us once? Why should we have to pay them damages when we only defended ourselves from their attack?

GOP is learning

Paul Brady, College Park

The Editors: I read with encouragement reports that environmental groups are springing up around the country within the Republican Party. The rhetoric used by those who consider the environment unimportant is disturbing; they laugh about people wanting to save bugs and snails and owls.

Letters; Getting rid of Hezbollah is the key to Mideast peace

Every organism on the planet relies on some other organism for its survival. We can't possibly know what effect we're having when we remove a species from the hierarchy.

As for trees, the logging industry needs desperately to diversify, just as the defense industry has had to after the Cold War.

Load-Date: July 17, 1996

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**WEST BANK STREETS ARE ALIVE AS HISTORIC VOTE NEARS< A WAVE IS
RIPPLING THROUGH RAMALLAH IN ANTICIPATION OF PALESTINIAN
ELECTIONS.< IT'S THE CHAOS OF DEMOCRACY.**

The Philadelphia Inquirer

JANUARY 14, 1996 Sunday D EDITION

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Length: 878 words

Byline: Alan Sipress, INQUIRER STAFF WRITER

Dateline: RAMALLAH, West Bank

Body

Ayash Abu Kweidar has seen the parade of history march right past his wooden pushcart in this Palestinian city.

During the intifadah uprising, he served up fresh, soft "kaak" rolls to customers whose eyes were still stinging from the tear gas fired by Israeli soldiers.

When the Israeli army withdrew from Ramallah two weeks ago, after 28 years of occupation, he struggled to keep up with the demand from the reveling crowds.

Now, he's witnessing history again. His downtown corner is at the epicenter of the Palestinians' first national election campaign, which culminates next Saturday in the election of a legislature and a chief executive.

Not only might the balloting mark an important advance toward a future Palestinian state, it could also set a standard for free elections elsewhere in the Arab world.

In the race for chief executive, PLO Chairman Yasir Arafat is widely expected to defeat his only challenger, longtime PLO feminist Samiha Khalil.

But the outcome is less certain in the legislative races, with 7,000 candidates vying for seats in an 88-member national council. More than 1 million voters will be eligible in 16 polling districts across the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Under terms of the treaty signed in October by Israel and the PLO, the national council will have both legislative and executive functions. The chief executive, in essence a Palestinian president, will serve as a member of the council.

Arafat's Fatah party is backing a slate of candidates, but it faces many prominent independents and several smaller parties, including the former communists.

WEST BANK STREETS ARE ALIVE AS HISTORIC VOTE NEARS< A WAVE IS RIPPLING THROUGH RAMALLAH IN ANTICIPATION OF PALESTINIAN ELECTIONS.< IT'S THE CHAOS OF DEMOCRACY.

Fatah's main opposition, the militant Hamas movement, has decided to sit out the election, but, crucially, it has not called for a boycott.

And so, the writing is on the wall - the stone wall behind Abu Kweidar's pushcart. Where graffiti once demanded an end to Israeli occupation, scores of campaign posters now promise a new dawn.

"I never expected this would happen in my country," Abu Kweidar, 21, said. "We thought before it was only politicians talking. Now, we see it's reality, and we thank God."

Ramallah has become a crazy carnival of color. Thousands of signs are plastered helter-skelter on walls and windows, on street signs and car windshields and hoods. Banners and bunting flutter in the wind.

By and large, the Israeli troops have pulled out of Palestinian towns so the voting won't take place in the shadow of occupation. Special arrangements are being made in East Jerusalem and in Hebron, where the Israeli pullback awaits the completion of a bypass road for Jewish settlers.

Israel has stressed that East Jerusalem, the Arab quarter of the city, remains part of its united capital. But Israel has agreed to let Palestinian residents participate in the vote through what amounts to a system of absentee ballots. About 60 contenders are vying for seven council seats from East Jerusalem, which Palestinians also claim as their capital.

Jerusalem's final status is to be decided in negotiations beginning this spring.

Meantime, Ramallah has been emerging as the Palestinian seat of government, hosting various ministries and national institutions.

Ramallah, 10 miles north of Jerusalem, has become a vibrant commercial and intellectual center, but it has always had an air of chaos. When acts of rebellion and clouds of tear gas weren't disrupting the crowded downtown, the city's infuriating traffic was.

Now, the soldiers are gone, and so are most of the traffic jams, unsnarled with stunning alacrity by Arafat's enforcement of previously ignored traffic laws.

Now, the chaos of democracy has come to Ramallah. Campaigners work the sidewalks, stuffing fliers into people's hands. Election observers from the European Union's 300-member mission cruise the streets, trying to keep up with campaign activities.

But if the candidates are exuberant, many voters seem skeptical of their first brush with democracy.

"We hope it will be real and fair," said Bassima Khaled, a 22-year-old political science student at Bir Zeit University, "but we're not sure there won't be fraud and some cheating."

Only two weeks has been allotted to the campaign - not much time for voters to get to know the faces staring down at them from the many posters.

Carol Lidbom, who heads the EU contingent, has also warned that Israeli restrictions on Palestinian travel are an obstacle to campaigning. He has also urged Arafat's administration to provide greater media access to opposition candidates.

Some Palestinians are also distressed by the low proportion of female contenders. No more than 22 women have registered as candidates. Top PLO officials have rejected appeals by female activists that 30 percent of the seats be set aside for women.

"All of us know the courageous position of Palestinian women during the intifadah," said Khaled, her head well-covered by a traditional Muslim headscarf. "We wish a large number of women would take their place in the Palestinian election."

WEST BANK STREETS ARE ALIVE AS HISTORIC VOTE NEARS< A WAVE IS RIPPLING THROUGH
RAMALLAH IN ANTICIPATION OF PALESTINIAN ELECTIONS.< IT'S THE CHAOS OF DEMOCRACY.

And while electoral politics may be new to the Palestinians, they have already adopted the cynicism of the jaded American electorate. A play titled Democratic by Force, which premiered Tuesday before a packed Ramallah theater, satirizes a fictional thuggish candidate who paves his campaign trail with bribes and empty promises.

Load-Date: October 28, 2002

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Nativity place

The Scotsman

December 22, 1994, Thursday

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Byline: Civil Disorder And Repression . . . Little Has Changed In The Holy Land Since The Birth Of Jesus 2,000 Years Ago. Now Islamic Fundamentalism Is Marching In The Wake Of The Politics Of Disappointment As Bob Wylie Found Out On A Pilgrimage To Bethlehem

Body

HE says 100 shekels. I say 50. He says 75 shekels. I say 55. We settle on 60.

That is one of the world's more expensive taxi rides. Fifteen kilometres from the Israeli army checkpoint at Erez into the heart of the Gaza Strip - roughly a pound a kilometre.

Gaza. The bastion of Yasser Arafat's new autonomy, still bound by some of the old exigencies though. Witness the taxi ride. In the old days of the intifada when the West Bank and Gaza were the Occupied Territories it was simple. You needed a hire car with a West Bank blue or a Gaza green registration number to get around the territories.

Preferable to getting stoned with yellow Israeli plates - although not always an absolute guarantee as I can vouch.

The peace process has changed those old certainties. There are so many new Israeli checkpoints dotted across the West Bank outside the autonomy areas of Gaza and Jericho that it is best to bow to this car registration apartheid and go for the yellow.

You can then drive through the road blocks instead of waiting in line interminably with the blues and greens.

But not in Gaza. There they still blow up yellow regies. So I drive my yellow regie to the Erez checkpoint where I parked it. Then there's a walk through the checkpoint after showing press ID to those Israeli soldiers who are so happy at their work. Into the arms of the smiling Gazan taxi driver on the other side who is shaping me up for 100 shekels or more in this seller's market.

I first went to Gaza about a year and a half into the intifada.

By then the hospitals there had dealt with 19,000 official casualties. I wrote of the casualty ward in the Al Ahli hospital in Gaza city being like a scene from M*A*S*H except that the casualties were boys not men - shot in the legs, the buttocks, the testicles and the abdomen. The story was headlined: "Biting the Bullet".

My last visit was in September 1993, days before Rabin and Arafat shook hands at the White House. The euphoria was tangible. "Joyous in Gaza" was that story's banner.

In a school class, amid the squalor of Beach camp, young women voted 27 to four in a straw poll in favour of the peace process: a journey of 1,000 mile starts with the first mile, one said.

Nativity place

Re-visiting the same class seemed a good place to take a census of the first six months of Yasser Arafat's Palestinian National Authority (PNA). The young women were still miracles of cleanliness out of the slums. There were 61 in the class this time. The peace process was debated again, with speakers for and against.

For: 20. Against: 41. There were no don't knows.

The young suffer from the greatest impatience since life has not warned them about a world which lies in wait to ambush hope. But there is more to it than that. The opinions voiced in the classroom were echoed else where, even if among older people there is a greater tendency to support the process.

Now from the hope of the signing of the Oslo Accords the politics of disappointment is on the march.

There is a fear abroad that Yasser Arafat favours only his own - those with an allegiance to his own faction Fatah; that his Palestinian National Authority is already moving in the direction of the one party states of President Assad of Syria and Saddam Hussein of Iraq. And the Palestinians don't even have a country for consolation. Their two scraps of territory mean Arafat stands accused of sacrificing a revolution for a Middle East bantustan.

Soufian Abu Zaideh counters such conclusive pessimism. He is a leading Fatah man in Gaza, currently in charge of negotiations with the Israelis there. He counsels that today's mood in Gaza has been coloured by the shootings outside the Palestine Mosque on 18 November. Twelve died that day when PNA policemen opened fire on a street riot, reportedly tormented by supporters of the Islamic opposition, Hamas.

Not that he offers excuses. He speaks fluent Hebrew but only broken English. Enough though for the steely calm of one who spent 12 years in Israeli prisons to come through.

This will not be another Algeria, Iraq or Syria, he says. There will be elections. The promise will be kept.

But for that his Israeli counterparts have to show more faith.

It is in their hands to keep the bargain on redeployment of their soldiers to allow the elections to take place. And to do something about the settlements. Not an insignificant question either when 100 Israeli families living in settlements in Gaza, along with the security zone around them, occupy almost 30 per cent of the land area of the Gaza Strip.

850,000 Gazans live on the rest.

But what of those who say that the events of Bloody Friday offer proof of street riots that will dissolve eventually into civil war? Islamic fundamentalism is marching in the wake of the politics of disappointment all over the Middle East. Why should it be any different here? No, says Soufian Abu Zaideh. Of his four brothers two were with Fatah and two Hamas. A civil war required that they would be prepared to kill each other. It wouldn't happen. Not in Gaza. I don't know the Arabic for maybe.

Then there's the donkey index.

The state of the economy in Gaza is always accurately established by the price of a donkey. The most perfect example on Earth of Ricardo's demand and supply theory.

When times are hard it is difficult to run a car. So the demand for donkeys goes up.

Under Arafat the price has almost doubled.

Saeb Erekat is one of the best ambassadors the Palestinians ever had. He was one of the top three negotiators in the peace delegation that started all this in the Madrid talks.

A 20-minute interview in his office in Jericho, where he is in charge of local government for the PNA, takes double the time because of the phone calls. When he pulls the plug, the mobile rings.

Nativity place

Signatures on paper are one thing but real peace is made on the ground by real people, he says. He reserves special venom for the broken promises of the donor nations who told Arafat if he swallowed the deal and all its shortcomings, they and not he would pay the price. For 1994 a total of \$ 700m was promised. Only about \$ 150m of those promises have been kept so far.

The UN has kept its side of the bargain, pumping \$ 263 million of extra money into Gaza and the West Bank in the last year. Some of it built 1,800 metres of new sewage piping in Beach camp. It cannot be used because the money for the sewage treatment plant needed to complete the new system is an unredeemed donor pledge. Undoubtedly they curse old Yasser when, as usual, they take the night soil out to the van in the morning.

"If the donors continue to flunk the test they will go down in history as the ones who couldn't give the Palestinians the equal of two F15 fighters," says Erekat. "We have made mistakes" - signing up two American telephone companies to renovate the phones for the same contract in the same week springs to mind when he says this - "and we'll make more.

"Anyone who thought this would be easy had better think again. We have a long, long way to go. This is the time for planting not harvest ing."

When I reach the outskirts of Bethlehem the Christmas decorations are going up around the lamp posts. Young Ali - a fledgling entrepreneur - waves the car down. "Mister, I take you Manger Square. Many boys on the road stoning the cars with Israeli plates. I take you no problem.

Only 20 shekels."

Is he lying? Probably. Twenty shekels - cheap at twice the price if he isn't.

There is not much festive spirit around in Manger Square. Unsmiling eyes everywhere. And apart from the Palestinian flags fluttering on the municipal buildings things look and sound the same. The Israelis are still running their jeeps into the police post beside the Church of the Nativity and Ahmed is still hustling for shoe shine customers for a shekel.

I go into the stillness of the church and walk down the worn steps which lead to the grotto where a silver star bears the Latin inscription: Here Jesus Christ was born of the Virgin Mary. I do some surrogate candle lighting for my Romanian Orthodox relatives and make for Nasri Hazbun's restaurant, off Manger Square.

As I walk across the church fore court shots ring out from the area of the police post. A platoon bursts out its gates and runs up Market Street - loading clips into their machine guns as they go - in search of the boy who stoned the post.

In Hazbun's restaurant the piped music is a German version of O Come All Ye Faithful.

Will this Christmas in Bethlehem be the best ever? Hazbun, whose family tree dates back to 1610, around the time when the stones of the present Church of the Nativity were laid, equivocates. "We expect a good season but so far not a great deal on the ground. You don't buy fish in the sea. Tourism depends on politics.

Stability. It takes a year to build it but only one week - a Saddam or the massacre at the Hebron mosque - to destroy it _ I wish the future would be the way everyone talks about it."

I have interviewed Elias Freij, the mayor of Bethlehem, so many times that going to see him is like paying a visit to a distant relative. On the wall of his office there is a City of Glasgow crest. That's his opener. He says he understands the problems we've had with the death of our former Lord Provost but still he has had no reply to his October fax requesting the final signing of the twinning agreement.

All the British built in Bethlehem during their occupation was the police post. It's now used by the Israelis. "When we take over I will demolish it and build gardens for the pilgrims to rest their weariness and look at the Church," says Freij.

Nativity place

Will the city of the Son of Peace ever see peace? "Yes, Yes, Yes," he says emphatically. "Within two years from now there will be peace in the Middle East there's no doubt. The peace process is irreversible. We the Palestinians and the Israelis are destined by God to live in this country together forever. And the best solution for both of us is to make peace with each other. So that my grandchildren and the grandchildren of Mr Rabin live in peace, with security, as good neighbours."

oBob Wylie is a reporter with BBC Radio Scotland.

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BRIEFS

St. Louis Post-Dispatch (Missouri)

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Body

REYNOLDS TRIAL Prosecutors Present Raunchy Tapes

Tapes of crude, sexual telephone conversations between U.S. Rep. Mel Reynolds, D-Ill., and a former campaign worker were played for a jury Tuesday in Chicago as prosecutors tried to prove the two had an affair when she was underage.

Prosecutors said the tapes are clear evidence Reynolds, 43, lured campaign volunteer Beverly Heard into an affair beginning when she was 16 and asked her to get him lewd photos of a younger girl. Defense attorneys fought to keep the recordings out of court but now say they merely show Reynolds liked to fantasize about sex over the telephone.

The conversations were taped last summer, when Heard was 18, after she went to police alleging she had sex with Reynolds. She has since recanted.

The talk ranged from idle chatter about the congressman's three children to crudely sexual anatomical references.

AP +++++

AIR TRAFFIC COMPUTER System Working Again After 21 Hours

A 25-year-old computer system that helps air traffic controllers monitor thousands of flights a day in the Midwest was working again Tuesday, and officials said no traveler was ever in danger from the outage.

Engineers needed about 21 hours to restart the computer at the Chicago Air Route Traffic Control Center in the Chicago suburb of Aurora, the busiest of 20 en route radar posts nationwide. The radar monitors flights in transit, not landings or takeoffs.

The computer breakdown was the third in the past week at the center, requiring controllers to use a backup system that does not automatically alert them when planes fly too close together. But all radar continued to work, and any flight delays out of Chicago's O'Hare International Airport and other fields were minimal, officials said.

Reuters +++++

FLORIDA Abortion Protester Wins Reversal In Court

A Florida appeals court has overturned the conviction of Paul Hill for violating a noise ordinance at the abortion clinic where he fatally shot a doctor and his security escort a few days later.

BRIEFS

In an opinion filed Friday, the three-judge panel ruled the Pensacola anti-noise ordinance had been used to censor Hill's constitutional right to free speech.

Hill, 40, of Pensacola, was arrested July 17, 1994, on the misdemeanor charge while he demonstrated outside The Ladies Center, shouting at women as they entered the building.

He was later sentenced to 45 days in jail on the charge, but that sentencing came when he was already jailed for the July 29 shotgun deaths of Dr. John Britton and escort James Barrett outside the clinic. Hill was found guilty late last year in their murders and now faces death in Florida's electric chair.

Reuters +++++

WORLD ISRAEL Talks Planned After Burial Of Blast Victims

Israeli leaders vowed Tuesday to resume negotiations with the Palestinians after a day of mourning for five Israelis killed in Monday's suicide bus bombing in Tel Aviv.

Sharp differences on several major issues still divide the two sides over how to widen Palestinian self-rule in the West Bank. Negotiations are to resume this week.

An agreement was to have been reached Tuesday, the latest in a string of missed deadlines to extend Palestinian control beyond the Gaza Strip and West Bank town of Jericho. Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin temporarily suspended the negotiations until after the burial of the bombing victims.

Rabin's government came under pressure to stop or slow the negotiations because of the bombing. Hamas, the principal Palestinian group opposed to peace with Israel, claimed responsibility.

Five funerals were held Monday for an 80-year-old man and four women - all in their 60s - who died when a suicide bomber detonated a pipe bomb aboard a crowded commuter bus in the Tel Aviv suburb of Ramat Gan.

Cox News Service +++++

DOOMSDAY CULT Murder Defendant Cites Links To Mob

A 30-year-old man told a court Tuesday that gangsters hired him to kill the top scientist in the doomsday cult accused of spreading nerve gas in Tokyo subways.

Hiroyuki Jo originally told police he fatally stabbed the man out of anger at the Aum Shinri Kyo, the cult accused in an attack March 20 that killed 12 people and injured 5,500. But at a hearing in Tokyo District Court on Tuesday, he said he acted under orders from a gangster boss, now under arrest in the case. No motive was mentioned.

Hideo Murai, 36, was stabbed April 23 in front of a crowd of television cameras outside the cult's Tokyo headquarters. Cult guru Shoko Asahara and his top lieutenants have been charged with murder in the subway gassing. Prosecutors told the court that Jo was following orders from a boss in the Yamaguchi-gumi, Japan's largest underworld syndicate.

AP +++++

CHECHNYA Fighting Erupts After Talks Break Down

Shooting broke out in the center of the Chechen capital Tuesday after negotiators suspended peace talks with Russia.

Chechen rebels targeted a Russian military post near the former presidential palace, less than a mile from the building where the talks were held. The peace talks broke down after Chechen leader Dzhokhar Dudayev called the negotiators "hairsplitters" who had not accomplished anything in five weeks.

BRIEFS

AP

Graphic

PHOTO; Photo Headshot - Beverly Heard

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NEWS SUMMARY

The New York Times

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Body

International A3-12

STRIKING BACK AT THE SERBS

Nine days ago in central Sarajevo, United Nations peacekeepers showed that they can fight back against the humiliation that has so often been their lot -- if they are willing to pay the price. A1

HINTS REGARDING HOSTAGES

The Serbian-dominated Yugoslav Government indicated that more United Nations peacekeepers being held hostage might soon be freed by their Bosnian Serb captors. A12

U.S. TROOPS MOVING CLOSER

The United States ordered 3,500 Army troops to be moved from Germany to Italy to prepare for possible evacuation of peacekeepers in Bosnia. A12

QUAKE PROFITEERING IN JAPAN

When an earthquake toppled much of Kobe in January, looters appeared scarce. But criminal gangs appeared, muscling their way into the city's reconstruction. A3

IN ALGERIA, LIFE GOES ON

Despite the terrorism of recent years, most Algerians seem far more concerned with Government inaction on housing, jobs and political rights. A8

SPYMASTER'S REGRET

These days, what troubles Markus Wolf, the former East German spymaster, is that a utopian dream turned sour as communism decayed into the repressive power-elite to which he belonged. A11

Mexico and Guatemala have stepped up cooperation.A5

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Israeli security forces arrested 45 members of Hamas. A6

Moscow Journal: The days of the affordable facelift are over. A4

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I.B.M. SEEKS TO BUY LOTUS

I.B.M. has made a surprise \$3.3 billion offer to acquire the Lotus Development Corporation in what would be the largest deal paid for a computer software company. A1

2 SIMPSON JURORS DISMISSED

The judge in the O.J. Simpson trial dismissed two more jurors, leaving just two alternates. But Mr. Simpson's lawyers immediately challenged the removal of one of the jurors, demanding an unusual hearing from a state appeals court. A1

TRIAL COMES CLOSE TO THE EDGE

News analysis: With 2 more jurors dismissed, the star-crossed trial of O.J. Simpson has moved ever closer to the precipice. D26

EX-OFFICIAL INDICTED IN DRUG CASE

A former Justice Department official who once helped prosecute members of the Cali drug cartel was indicted on charges of helping the cartel in a conspiracy. A1

HURRICANE HITS FLORIDA, MILDLY

Hurricane Allison showed up in Florida's Gulf Coast only five days into the hurricane season. But it brought minimal damage. A14

NEW SPEAKER IN CALIFORNIA

The California State Assembly elected a woman Republican as successor to Willie Brown, the San Francisco Democrat who ruled the chamber for nearly 15 years. A14

PILOT TESTIFIES IN IRAQI CASE

A pilot who shot down an American helicopter over Iraq last year testified that an Air Force radar plane monitoring the no-flight zone had given no indication that friendly aircraft were in the area. A14

COURT TO VIEW SEIZURE LAWS

Supreme Court Roundup: The Justices agreed to decide whether forfeiture laws must give property owners a chance to defend themselves as "innocent owners" who did not know their property was being put to an illegal use. A16

EFFORT TO TRACE EXPLOSIVES

The Senate approved an amendment to an anti-terrorism bill to require that dynamite and other commercial explosives contain elements that would aid investigators in tracking bombs. A18

C.I.A. SETTLEMENT CALLED UNFAIR

NEWS SUMMARY

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Christopher Reeve underwent surgery to fuse two neck bones. A14

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ONE DEAD IN SUBWAY COLLISION

A Manhattan-bound J train slammed into the rear of a stopped M train on the Williamsburg Bridge, killing a motorman, injuring more than 50 passengers and crumpling tons of steel like so much wadded paper. A1

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Ross Perot, yet again.

Why student aid matters.

Vending laws and the vets' lobby.

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Ethan A. Nadelmann: Pataki is half right on drug laws.

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NEWS SUMMARY

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Palestinians charge their batteries to tune in to Arafat

The Guardian (London)

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Body

Batteries were selling well in the centre of Nablus yesterday as the people of the West Bank's largest city prepared to tune in their radios to hear Yasser Arafat's speech broadcast live from the special session of the UN General Assembly in Geneva.

Being prepared has become a habit: on November 15, when the PLO in Algiers declared Palestinian independence, the Israelis cut off the electricity as part of their efforts to spoil the fun. So, as Mr Arafat prepared to take another step in his diplomatic offensive, no one here was taking any chances.

'Of course we are excited,' said a young man, leaning out of a window deep in the old Casbah, 'Arafat is going to tell the world again that we have our state and are prepared to live in peace alongside Israel.'

Apart from the frisson of expectation, it was otherwise just another day in circumstances where the abnormal has long become normal. Helmeted Israeli soldiers appeared suddenly round a corner and darted up a back alley, chasing some unseen stonethrower or slogan-painter.

'Jayish' (army) is the single word of warning needed to scatter the Palestinians back into their houses. A middle-aged woman, face still puffy with shock, wept silently as she told her neighbours how she had just been beaten by baton-wielding soldiers who came to arrest her son.

'This is quite a normal day, just an ordinary day,' explained one bystander. 'Every day at this time, after the noon prayers in the mosques, they beat up a few people - women, small children, anyone, for no reason except that that's what they do.'

Trouble usually begins when the shops - which operate according to the instructions of the United National Leadership - close at 11am. As the streets begin to empty, the Israelis patrol more freely, advertising their presence on every corner. No Palestinian will willingly take the risk of approaching them.

Nervousness impregnates the very air: in the home of Ibrahim Taktouk, who lost his right eye when he was shot last month - for no apparent reason - the women and children jump at any sudden sound from the street outside. When someone next door fiddled with a radio yesterday, turning the volume up too loud, everyone instinctively thought the army was announcing a curfew.

Whatever happens after Geneva, the intifada in Nablus and elsewhere in the occupied territories has established rhythms and habits that go beyond politics.

Palestinians charge their batteries to tune in to Arafat

Rami, Ibrahim's six-year-old nephew, plays happily with a mixture of ordinary coloured marbles and the rubber-covered metal balls the Israelis fire to break up demonstrations.

The Casbah's walls tell the story of the uprising eloquently: above an arch is a picture of the 'martyred' Abu Jihad, the PLO military chief assassinated by the Israelis in Tunis. Next to that is a tattered but still lurid poster of the Islamic Resistance Movement, **Hamas**. Across the alley, someone has scrawled a warning to shopkeepers to comply with strike calls.

Enforcing discipline is left to the masked youths of the People's Liberation Army, who roam the streets settling quarrels, collecting debts, implementing the decisions of the popular committees and maintaining the highly successful boycott of Israeli goods.

Freedom is still a long way off. Mahdi Nablusi, a local businessman, has an immediate and pressing problem - his six-month-old daughter, Ala, screaming on his shoulder and pining for her mother - that he believes is part of Israel's response to the intifada.

His wife Manal, a Jordanian, went across the river in October for what she thought was a 24-hour trip, leaving the baby behind, only to find that the Israelis would now allow her back into the West Bank. Mahdi has been told by the authorities that he can have an exit permit for nine months. But the Jordanians will let him stay for only one month.

Mahdi is desperate. His wife is ill and distraught in Jordan, and his daughter is losing weight and will not stop crying: when he went to see Abu Shawki, the Nablus commander of the Shin Bet security service, he was told: 'Sorry, we can't help you. But now you're living in independent Palestine, why don't you ask your own government to see what they can do?'

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Syrian's Game: Both Ends Against the Middle

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By ELAINE SCIOLO and DOUGLAS JEHL

Body

For five hours on April 22, Secretary of State Warren Christopher held intense discussions with President Hafez al-Assad of Syria at his presidential palace in Damascus to end the fighting between Israel and Muslim guerrillas in southern Lebanon.

While Mr. Christopher paid court, a few miles away at Damascus International Airport an Iran Air 747 unloaded Katyusha rockets and other military equipment for delivery via Syrian military trucks for those guerrillas, American intelligence officials believe.

Five such shipments reportedly arrived between April 13 and 29. All the while the Syrian President was receiving visits from Mr. Christopher and six Foreign Ministers -- from Russia, France, Italy, Spain, Ireland and Iran. Aides to Mr. Christopher say that at the time he did not know about the specific weapons shipments, only that the guerrillas were well supplied.

For more than a decade, Syria has played both ends against the middle, taking part in peace talks even as it fosters terrorism and tolerates drug trafficking and the distribution of counterfeit American currency in Lebanon's Wild West: the Syrian-controlled Bekaa region.

American officials say the election of Benjamin Netanyahu as Prime Minister of Israel may shift the balance. Mr. Netanyahu is opposed to exchanging the Israeli-held Golan Heights for peace with Syria, and the United States fears that Mr. Assad will react by stepping up his support for terrorism.

An examination of Mr. Assad's record, based on interviews with current and former American officials and authorities from Israel, Lebanon, Jordan and Turkey, shows a consistent pattern: Mr. Assad supports groups that put pressure on his adversaries.

The arrests in Jordan of three dozen members of Syrian-based Palestinian guerrilla groups in the last two months illustrate the role such groups can play.

Syrian 's Game: Both Ends Against the Middle

Jordanian officials say the infiltrators, members of the Palestinian Islamic Holy War and other militant groups, traveled in small groups, carrying machine guns and up to 200 pounds of explosives for attacks on Israeli tourists and other targets in Jordan.

The groups operate from Syria while receiving money from Iran.

According to the State Department's annual report on terrorism, Syria has not been "directly involved" in a terrorist attack since 1986, when Mr. Assad's air force intelligence chief masterminded the bombing of an El Al airliner from London.

But Syria remains on the list of nations that support terrorism for giving groups as varied as the Islamic Palestinian group Hamas and the Japanese Red Army a place to call home.

It also allows Palestinian and anti-Turkish Kurdish guerrillas to run military training operations.

Until the Israeli election last month, American officials portrayed Mr. Assad, 66, as a leader who comes to decisions slowly and sees dangers everywhere, but who in recent years had come to realize that negotiating with Israel was clearly to his advantage.

Those views changed overnight. "If Assad feels there's nothing in it for him at all, he'll have an incentive to show the consequences of excluding him," a senior Administration official said. "If the new Israeli Government decides it wants to make Assad the bad guy, it will be a self-fulfilling prophecy."

Edward P. Djerijian, who served as Ambassador to Syria and Israel, said: "Assad feels deeply that the biggest card he has to play is that there will be no peace unless Syria is part of a comprehensive settlement. These other factors are not his main preoccupation."

Providing a Base For Palestinian Raids

Bahraini officials publicly blamed Iran recently for backing an attempted coup against their Government, asserting that the suspected plotters, who were Bahrainis, were trained in both Iran and the Bekaa region.

American intelligence officials call those claims credible, adding that the plotters could not have trained in the Bekaa without the knowledge and support of Syria.

As for Jordan, officials in the kingdom are reluctant to criticize Syria publicly for its support for anti-Jordanian guerrillas for fear that the publicity could undermine Jordan's tourist industry.

In an interview at his palace in Amman on June 1, King Hussein spoke angrily about what he described as the continuing infiltration. He said Jordan had intercepted "people coming across, weapons coming across, explosives coming across, and information about decisions being taken to continue it."

The King did not mention Syria by name, but Jordan protested privately through security channels to Syria. "These groups are operating out of Syria, and it's hard to believe that the Syrian Government does not know about these activities," a Jordanian official said.

The United States has its grievances against Syria for similar reasons. Ramadan Abdullah Shallah, a lecturer at the University of South Florida and the head of an Islamic organization in Tampa, moved to Damascus and became head of the Palestinian Islamic Jihad last year.

The United States put him on its list of terrorist organizations and seized his assets in the United States: \$2,300 from his personal account, \$15,500 from his organization.

Syria denies trying to destabilize other Governments, although it regards its support for its Palestinian brethren as a duty.

Syrian 's Game: Both Ends Against the Middle

"There are half a million Palestinian refugees driven from their homes by Israel who found shelter in Syria," the official daily Syria Times said in a recent commentary. "It is natural for those refugees to have their own organizations and to cling fast to the United Nations resolutions which guarantee for them the right to repatriation."

Syria's support for Palestinian groups is not nearly as great as that of Iran. But Syria closely monitors and controls the movement of Palestinians, American officials say.

The Palestine Front for the Liberation of Palestine, General Command, for example, has operated for years out of a sprawling, heavily guarded headquarters in the Mezzeh section of Damascus opposite the Swiss Ambassador's residence.

Its aging leader, Ahmed Jibril, also runs a military training site north of Damascus and, through his son, operations in Lebanon. As part of a de facto alliance forged in the past two years, the group is responsible for most arms shipments to Hezbollah from Syria; it also broadcasts anti-Israeli attacks on its radio station from southern Syria, which could not function without the consent of the Syrian authorities.

A Blind Eye to Drugs And Counterfeiting

With 35,000 troops as well as plainclothes intelligence officers, Syria operates like a deeply entrenched protection racket in Lebanon. Its troops have allowed parts of the Bekaa region to remain a haven for lawlessness, particularly in the drug trade and counterfeiting.

To its credit, Syria has reduced the marijuana and opium poppy crop in the Bekaa to inconsequential levels, according to American satellite photographs taken last year.

But new drug processing plants have been built in the Bekaa. Since 1993, substantial amounts of cocaine paste and morphine base have been smuggled through Lebanon, processed into final form at the Bekaa plants, then rerouted to Europe and the Arabian Peninsula.

And Syrian officers extract large profits from drug trafficking and other illegal smuggling, American intelligence officials believe; Mr. Assad has refused to prosecute them.

For that reason, the United States has declined to certify that Syria is cooperating in efforts to combat illegal drugs. This has enraged the Syrians, who have felt they should be rewarded for helping eradicate the drug crops.

Syria also tolerates the counterfeiting of \$100 bills in the Bekaa, a source of high-quality fake \$100 bills for years. In recent years, the Lebanese and Syrian authorities have uncovered offset presses and confiscated millions of dollars and other currencies.

But American officials are much more worried about "Supernotes," phony \$100 bills that are made with rag cotton paper and printed on huge, sophisticated intaglio machines used by the United States. The first Supernotes surfaced in Hong Kong in 1989, but they appeared shortly afterward in the Bekaa, Treasury Department officials said.

American intelligence officials believe there is a separate link to the Japanese Red Army.

Last March, they said, Yoshizo Tanaka, a former member of that group, was arrested near the Cambodian border; he was carrying bogus American \$100 bills from the same Supernote "family" that were uncovered in the Bekaa.

Former Red Army members, including Fusako Shigenobu, the **female** head of the now inactive Middle East faction, have lived in Syria or the Bekaa for years.

President Clinton raised the issue of counterfeiting -- particularly the Supernote -- with Mr. Assad at their meeting in Geneva in January 1994, asking for help in uncovering the network. Mr. Christopher has asked the same question several times since.

Syrian 's Game: Both Ends Against the Middle

Support for Kurds Hurts Western Ally

Last November, dozens of Kurdish guerrillas from the Kurdistan Workers' Party, fired rockets from Syrian territory across the border into Turkey, flattening a Turkish border post and wounding two Turkish security guards.

While Kurdish guerrillas regularly infiltrate from the Syrian side, it is highly unusual for them to launch raids from Syrian soil.

The Turkish response was clear: in addition to strong protests through diplomatic channels, Turkey moved a division of troops to the border.

The Kurdish guerrilla raid followed a denial by Syria that Damascus was harboring anti-Turkish guerrillas.

Incidents like these have alarmed Turkish officials, who fear that even if Syria makes peace with Israel and ends its support for Palestinian groups, it may keep helping the rebels in order to guarantee Syrian access to water controlled by Turkey.

When President Suleyman Demirel of Turkey met with President Clinton in the White House recently, one of his main complaints was Syria's support for the guerrillas.

"Mr. President, please take note that this is an issue of vital importance for Turkey," he told Mr. Clinton, according to a Turkish official at the meeting. The underlying message, the official added, was that Mr. Christopher and his Middle East peace team had not protested strongly enough to Mr. Assad.

On its own, Turkey has failed to dislodge the Kurdish guerrillas from Syria. In 1987, Turgut Ozal, who was then Turkey's President, presented the Syrians in Damascus with clear evidence that Abdullah Ocalan, the Kurdish rebel leader, was living in their city.

"We gave them his address and phone number," said a Turkish official who sat in on the meetings. "They said they didn't know anything about it."

Mr. Ozal and Mr. Assad signed a security protocol pledging to avoid support for terrorism against the other's country. Mr. Ocalan left Damascus and his fighters left the Bekaa -- only briefly.

Even now, Mr. Ocalan lives in Damascus and gives interviews from time to time. Hundreds of his fighters train in Palestinian-controlled camps in the Bekaa, American intelligence officials say.

Inside the Clinton Administration, there is a consensus among senior officials that the defeat of Prime Minister Shimon Peres in the Israeli election means that even if Mr. Assad's behavior doesn't get worse, it will certainly look worse.

Mr. Peres was willing -- in a way Mr. Netanyahu apparently will not be -- to gloss over Mr. Assad's behavior to keep him engaged in making peace.

The United States has done the same. In a speech to the Washington Institute for Near East Policy last month, Mr. Christopher attacked Iran for its support for groups like Hezbollah and Hamas, but said little about Syria.

That may change, as Mr. Netanyahu is unlikely to give Mr. Assad the benefit of the doubt and the Clinton Administration cannot be in a position to look soft on Syria in an election year.

Graphic

Syrian 's Game: Both Ends Against the Middle

Photo: President Hafez al-Assad of Syria sees dangers everywhere. (Reuters)(pg. 1)

Map of Syria showing location of Damascus. (pg. 4)

Load-Date: June 15, 1996

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**PALESTINIANS, ISRAELI FORCES CLASH / AT LEAST 1,000
DEMONSTRATORS IN HEBRON HURLED STONES AND GAS BOMBS.
ELSEWHERE, ISRAELI SOLDIERS WOUNDED TWO PALESTINIANS.**

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Length: 838 words

Byline: Barbara Demick, INQUIRER STAFF WRITER, The Associated Press contributed to this article.

Dateline: HEBRON, West Bank

Body

Palestinians hurled stones, homemade gas bombs and even onions as the Israeli military struggled to control the crowd with rubber bullets and live ammunition in street battles yesterday that left at least 80 people injured, some seriously.

Early today, at a checkpoint between Jerusalem and the West Bank, Israeli soldiers opened fire on a car and wounded two Palestinians. The wounds did not appear life threatening, Israeli police said. One shooting victim was taken to a Jerusalem hospital, the other to a hospital in Bethlehem.

The incident began when a young man approached the checkpoint from the West Bank city of Bethlehem, police spokesman Shmuel Ben Ruby said. Asked to show identification, the man presented an Israeli identity card, which would enable him to enter Israel. But the guards searched him and found a Palestinian identity card, police said.

The man then ran to a waiting car, and the guards opened fire. Shot were two Palestinians inside the vehicle. Another man in the car fled toward Bethlehem.

The clashes in Hebron, the most combustible of West Bank cities, were the most serious since the groundbreaking on Tuesday for a Jewish settlement in East Jerusalem.

It was an ugly scene, with Palestinian teenagers approvingly chanting the name of Mousa Abdel-Qader Ghneimat, a member of the militant Islamic group Hamas, who was identified as Friday's suicide bomber.

"The people here are angry," said Said Natsheh, 28, a Palestinian architect who was visiting a wounded friend yesterday at a Hebron hospital. ". . . It seems like the whole peace agreement is falling apart."

At least 1,000 Palestinians participated in yesterday's unrest. The Israeli military, under attack by Molotov cocktails and unable to control the swelling crowd with tear gas and rubber bullets, switched to live ammunition.

PALESTINIANS, ISRAELI FORCES CLASH / AT LEAST 1,000 DEMONSTRATORS IN HEBRON HURLED STONES AND GAS BOMBS. ELSEWHERE, ISRAELI SOLDIERS WOUNDED TWO PALESTINIANS.

Palestinian police, wedged between rioters and Israeli troops, were caught in a hail of bullets and stones, and eight were injured. A 22-year-old policeman was hit in the neck by live ammunition and lay unconscious last night in Hebron's Alija Hospital. Family members said his condition was stable.

"The anger of the people, we just couldn't control it," said Tawfik Abu Affifi, 21, a policeman wounded in the incident. He said he was hit in the back by a rubber bullet as the Israelis tried to push back the crowd.

The Israeli army said four Israeli soldiers and three Israeli police officers were slightly injured.

The rioting took place in the narrow, stone passageways of Hebron's central souk, or marketplace, just outside a small Jewish settlement known as Beit Haddassah. A crowd hurling stones marched within 50 yards of the settlement, and at least one resident, a 14-year-old boy, was lightly wounded in the head by a rock.

Scenes broadcast on Israeli television showed Jewish settlers from behind the gates of Beit Haddassah screaming at Israeli soldiers to shoot the Arabs. Both Palestinians and Jews, who were carrying bags of onions as an antidote against tear gas, started throwing onions as well as rocks.

Hebron, a city of more than 100,000 Palestinians and about 450 Jews, is particularly volatile because of its small Jewish settlement. In January, the Israeli military redeployed its forces in Hebron, turning most of the city over to Palestinian self-rule, but an Israeli military presence is maintained in the immediate area of the settlements.

"If things continue the way they are going, our people could be in a tremendous amount of danger," said David Wilder, a Hebron settler and spokesman for the group. "It has been a long, long time since I've seen anything like this in Hebron."

Palestinian officials blamed the violence on the groundbreaking for the new East Jerusalem settlement on a hill that the Israelis call Har Homa and the Arabs call Jabal Abu Ghneim. In addition, a curfew imposed on Hebron and a ban on Palestinian workers entering Israel has enraged residents of economically depressed Hebron.

Many teenage rioters said they applauded the actions of the suicide bomber Friday in Tel Aviv.

"I think he's the best," said Sufian Amer, 19, who was recovering from a rubber-bullet wound of the leg at the hospital yesterday. "We want to get rid of the Jews in Hebron, and Har Homa, too."

Ghneimat, the suicide bomber, came from a village called Zurif, near Hebron. The Israelis declared the village a closed military area yesterday, and 17 Palestinians from Zurif and a neighboring village were arrested on suspicion of assisting in the bombing.

Israel Radio identified the victims of the bombing at the Apropos cafe as three women, all in their early 30s. They included the mother of a 6-month-old girl. Israeli television had widely broadcast footage of the bleeding baby, dressed in a clown costume for the Jewish festival of Purim. A photograph of the child was published in many American newspapers, including yesterday's Inquirer.

The child is expected to survive. The other women killed were a physician and a social worker, who specialized in counseling families of terror victims.

Graphic

PHOTO;

PHOTO

PALESTINIANS, ISRAELI FORCES CLASH / AT LEAST 1,000 DEMONSTRATORS IN HEBRON HURLED STONES AND GAS BOMBS. ELSEWHERE, ISRAELI SOLDIERS WOUNDED TWO PALESTINIANS.

An injured Palestinian is carried away from demonstrations in Hebron. Yesterday's clashes took place as Palestinians vented their anger over Israeli plans to build housing for Jews in East Jerusalem. (Associated Press, NASSER SHIYOUKHI)

Load-Date: October 18, 2002

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Arabs turn on each other in 'peace' war; Robert Fisk at the Ein el-Helweh camp watches Arafat's gunmen do battle with embittered refugees

The Independent (London)

November 26, 1994, Saturday

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Section: INTERNATIONAL NEWS PAGE; Page 11

Length: 851 words

Byline: ROBERT FISK

Body

They said "X" was brain dead. He looked as if he was. A bullet had penetrated the skull of the young Palestinian.

The men who left him at the Hammoud Hospital refused to give the patient's name, so the doctors, clamping an oxygen mask to his face and pinching his bloody flesh to encourage him out of his coma, had written him in their files as "X - Palestinian". And like Palestine, he appeared to be dying.

Abandoned, anonymous, unpitied, he symbolised the 80,000 Palestinian refugees of the Ein el-Helweh camp near Sidon as they woke yesterday morning to the sound of a massive bomb explosion. Yasser Arafat's men were storming into their rainswept, puddled streets to attack the Palestinians who oppose the PLO- Israeli peace agreement.

Why now, they asked? Why today, when Mr Arafat, the PLO chairman, must have expected trouble in his own fetid camps down in Gaza, a week after his Palestinian policemen had shot dead 13 members of Palestinian Islamic groups?

By early afternoon yesterday the attack - commanded by his man in the southern camp of Rashidiyeh, "Colonel" Sultan Abul-Ainein - had cost 10 lives and left some 15 wounded.

It was a shameful, humiliating performance. Many of the dead were cut down in the early hours after Mr Abul-Ainein led a convoy of gunmen into Ein el-Helweh, laying siege to old PLO offices whose occupants defected when Mr Arafat shook hands with Yitzhak Rabin, Israel's Prime Minister, at the White House.

During a brief ceasefire to coincide with midday prayers, an angry group of bearded men led a funeral cortege through the streets, screaming their hatred of the PLO leader. But by the afternoon Mr Arafat's opponents, led by "Colonel" Mounir Makdah, the PLO officer who has demanded Mr Arafat's assassination, counterattacked.

Frightened and streaked with dirt, Mr Arafat's men hid beside us, behind breeze-block walls as bullets whizzed down the street a few feet away and rockets thundered into the roofs. These men were not the well-fed, uniformed policeman of the Palestinian National Authority in Gaza. They were sullen and grey-faced with fear, some in sinister black balaclavas, fingering their Kalashnikov rifles as they stared, red-eyed with tiredness, at their enemies. One of them, dressed in black but for a bright pink keffiyeh wrapped around his head, fired hundreds of bullets down an alleyway at his unseen, advancing enemies.

Arabs turn on each other in 'peace' war; Robert Fisk at the Ein el-Helweh camp watches Arafat's gunmen do battle with embittered refugees

In a coffee shop vibrating to the explosions of rocket- propelled grenades, a group of Palestinians argued about the reasons for Mr Arafat's assault. The PLO leader was known to telephone Mr Abul- Ainein daily from Gaza, and was said to be fearful of a repeat of last week's carnage.

He apparently wanted to distract the attention of the Islamists in Gaza by assaulting his secular opponents in Lebanon - where casualties would not be important "because the Palestinians here have already been betrayed by the PLO's peace with Israel", as one man put it, and prevented from returning to "Palestine". The group in the coffee shop concluded that Mr Arafat had washed his hands of them all.

Mr Makdah himself later agreed. Mr Arafat's attack was "to divert world attention" from the anarchy of Gaza, he said. "We shall not let this treachery pass without punishment . . . we shall hit out at PLO offices around the world." Mr Makdah, it should be noted, is no Islamist.

"We're not involved," a member of Islamic Jihad told us with a grin, pointing to his head. "We've got brains." Mr Arafat's enemies in Ein el- Helweh, though they include members of Islamic Jihad and **Hamas**, are mostly old-school nationalists, many now allied with Syria.

The Lebanese army surrounded the camp yesterday to prevent the Palestinian war infecting the city of Sidon, encircling the access roads with armoured vehicles, heavy machine-guns and troops in flak-jackets carrying automatic rifles. They sealed off the camp like a bacillus, allowing only the wounded and the innocent to leave. Scores of Palestinian **women** ran past us, splashing in terror through the rain, children in their arms, as the gunfire crackled.

Dr Ghassan Hammoud's colleagues had already treated eight of the wounded, while on the third floor of his hospital doctors still fought vainly to save the life of "X", perhaps 25, handsome behind the mask and the tubes up his nose, doomed by the crimson hole in his head. "What is happening to the Palestinians is frightful," the doctor said. "These people are without hope. They have been abandoned, destroyed. And the Lebanese have no more sympathy for them. After all these years, we were woken by the explosion just after three this morning and everyone here asked: 'What, are those Palestinians still living here?' There is no more sympathy for them.

"There should be a clear plan for them. Left like this, they are going to be used by different mafiosi. They are going to kill each other."

Outside the hospital, a Lebanese listened to the rifle-fire from Ein el-Helweh as the Palestinians continued to kill each other. "Hiyawanat," he muttered with venom. "Animals."

(Photograph omitted)

Load-Date: November 26, 1994

Algeria now country of contradictions

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Byline: WILBUR G. LANDREY

Dateline: PARIS

Body

Algeria emerges from this past weekend as a kind of political cuckooland.

In the name of democracy, the army deposed the president and canceled the free elections won by an Islamic fundamentalist party.

Seldom has a world seen crazier contradictions a democratic process aborted because it was about to produce a victory for anti-democrats. Cuckooland or not, the sigh of relief could be heard across North Africa and beyond Monday, not the least from women frightened of being forced back into the home and the veil. But so could be heard the angry mutterings of the Islamic Salvation Front, cheated of its victory at the polls.

All this came to a head Saturday night when President Chadli Bendjedid interrupted the nightly television news with the announcement he was resigning. Prime Minister Sid Ahmed Ghozali then announced he had ordered out the army to guard strategic installations.

Although not announced, what has become apparent since is that the resignation of Chadli, an army officer himself, was dictated by the armed forces that consider themselves the guarantor of constitutional order in Algeria.

Chadli, they feared, would accept a political "cohabitation" with the Salvation Front, which in December won a landslide victory in the first round of elections for a new Algerian parliament. The second round of elections, scheduled for Thursday, almost certainly would have given the Front an overall majority in the 430-member Assembly, allowing it to begin applying Islamic law.

So you have "democrats" cheering Monday at the cancellation of those elections, decided Sunday by a "High Security Council." Neither legislative elections nor elections to replace Chadli as president will now be held "until necessary conditions are achieved for the normal functioning of institutions."

Algeria now country of contradictions

In short, a coup d'etat by senior officers who have been the ultimate power in Algeria since it achieved independence from France in 1962. Ghazali, the prime minister, emerges as their new front man.

The big question now is whether the "beards," the fundamentalists, will take all this lying down. The Front itself is split between the pragmatic "moderates" who favored participating in the elections and the radicals who opposed it and now must be saying "I told you so."

Charging the new leaders with treason, the Salvation Front called on the people, army officers and troops to stand against the new "giant of power." The High Security Council is widely expected to reply by calling a state of emergency under which political parties could be dissolved.

Thus ends a process of democratization that emerged from widespread rioting at the end of 1988. The rioting against one-party regime by the National Liberation Front (FLN) led Algeria to independence and then made a complete mess of the economy and government.

Then, Chadli called in the army and more than 500 people were killed. Both Chadli and the army vowed never again, and he began the process of democratization that led to Salvation Front victories first in municipal elections and again in the first free parliamentary voting.

Never mind that abstentions ran over 40 percent in December and many who voted for the Salvation Front did so as a protest against the entrenched FLN. Then the Salvation Front won, and it was too late to call the protests back.

The loudest sighs of relief Monday could be heard from neighboring Tunisia and Morocco. Following an alleged fundamentalist plot in Tunisia last May, President Zine al-Abidine Ben Ali has most of the fundamentalist leaders in jail or exile. So does King Hassan II in Morocco, who is also the traditional religious leader.

Fundamentalists sometimes cut across political lines. Long financed as religious movements by the conservative rulers of Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, fundamentalists took the side of Iraq's Saddam Hussein in the Persian Gulf war. Even though he had suppressed them (as had President Hafez Assad of Syria), for them he was the lesser evil.

For more than half a century in Egypt and more recently in Jordan, fundamentalists have sometimes been suppressed, sometimes tolerated. Today, they find refuge in the Sudan, where the National Islamic Front came to power in a coup in 1989.

As in Algeria, fundamentalism feeds on failure, which suggests the answer to it. And Israel may someday wish it had the PLO back in the West Bank and Gaza if the fundamentalist Hamas supplants it.

The old, overwhelming question has again come to a head in Algeria. Does the end justify the means? Are the enemies of freedom entitled to it? Can democracy ever be saved by the force that destroys it?

As in Algeria, the tempting answer is that sometimes democracy must be saved from itself. Time and again, the world has learned that the means finally corrupt the end, and that this, too, is an answer of scoundrels. It leaves us with a uneasy sense of failure and foreboding.

Algeria now country of contradictions

Load-Date: November 4, 1992

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