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TOP NEWS IN BRIEF

Premier delays vote

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu postponed a Cabinet vote on the latest Israeli-Palestinian peace agreement.

He said the vote, slated for Thursday, would not be held until after Israel received a Palestinian plan to fight terrorism that was promised during the nine-day summit at the Wye Plantation. The postponement will likely delay the implementation of the agreement.

Leaders criticize incitement

Israeli leaders appealed to the public to refrain from political incitement against Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. The appeals came in the wake of an angry demonstration outside the prime minister's residence Monday night, when protesters called Netanyahu a traitor. [Page 2]

Two suspects arrested

Palestinian security officials said they arrested two suspects in Monday's slaying of a Jewish settler in Hebron. The suspects confessed to killing Danny Vargas, a 29-year-old resident of Kiryat Arba, the officials said, adding that they also confessed to the murder of another Israeli, Itamar Doron, near Jerusalem two weeks ago. Vargas was buried Tuesday in Jerusalem amid accusations from settler leaders that his death was caused by the signing of the latest Israeli-Palestinian accord.

Meanwhile, Israeli officials said they are making progress in finding those responsible for Monday's slaying of an Arab man in the West Bank. Investigators are examining the possibility that the murder of Mohammed Zalmouk came in retaliation for the Hebron slaying of Jewish settler Danny Vargas.

Conversion branches to open

A long-awaited conversion institute involving Orthodox, Conservative and Reform perspectives will open its doors in three Israeli cities next February. According to Benjamin Ish-Shalom, chairman of the board of the new Institute for Jewish Studies — which is informally known as the conversion institute — the first three locations will open in the north, center and south of the country. The institute is part of a government-sponsored compromise to give the non-Orthodox movements a role in conversions performed in Israel.

NEWS ANALYSIS

Lingering U.S.-Israel tensions from summit help Palestinians

By Matthew Dorf

WASHINGTON (JTA) — The United States and Israel will always be close allies, but a new friend is moving in on the jealously guarded turf.

By all accounts, Yasser Arafat put in a masterful performance at last week's Middle East peace summit, bringing the United States closer than ever to the Palestinian Authority.

The Palestinian leader's success largely came at the expense of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who regularly sparred with his American hosts during the nine days of torturous talks that led to the agreement signed last Friday at the White House.

Exactly how Clinton's warming relationship with Arafat will affect future Israeli-Palestinian negotiations remains unknown. Indeed, as soon as the summit ended, American and Israeli officials sought to downplay the tensions between Clinton and Netanyahu that leaked out from the summit site, the Wye Plantation in Maryland.

But with the United States, especially the CIA, taking on a critical role in the accord's implementation, many pro-Israel activists fear that lingering strains in the U.S.-Israel relationship could spell trouble down the line for the Jewish state.

Highlighting the American role, the Wye River Memorandum mentions the United States 13 times. That's more than all the other Israeli-Arab peace agreements combined, according to the Washington Institute for Near East Policy.

Congressional hearings are already being scheduled over the CIA role, which has come under attack by some senators opposed to the expansion of the spy agency into a public diplomatic mission. Under the terms of the Wye accord, the CIA will monitor Palestinian compliance on security commitments and will act as an arbiter of disputes over security.

The process is almost certain to become politicized, Middle East analysts say, if the United States and Israel disagree about Palestinian actions. It is here that the good will banked by Arafat during the summit could prove invaluable. On many occasions during the talks, tensions erupted between the Americans and Israelis.

According to sources who witnessed one of these exchanges, Arafat watched silently as the President of the United States reprimanded the Prime Minister of Israel as "ridiculous" for engaging in "despicable" negotiating tactics and for the way he treated the Palestinian Authority chairman.

When Netanyahu enraged the Americans by issuing an empty threat to bolt the talks midweek, Arafat took the high road and sent him a birthday arrangement of flowers.

The most heated battle came after Clinton believed that the accord had been wrapped up and the White House and State Department spokesmen had announced an accord.

Netanyahu believed that Clinton had promised to immediately free convicted spy Jonathan Pollard.

The impasse lasted almost five hours until both compromised. Clinton agreed to study the request and Netanyahu agreed to sign the accord.

As part of the agreement, Clinton will travel in December to Gaza to help Arafat win the backing of the Palestine National Council in their vote to complete the revision of their charter which calls for Israel's destruction.

The president's visit could very well open the way for a parade of foreign leaders

MIDEAST FOCUS

Rabin's office to be opened

Yitzhak Rabin's office in the Labor Party's headquarters in Tel Aviv will be opened to the public Saturday night, when memorials will be held for the slain leader. The room will be reconstructed as it was when Rabin occupied it — including personal papers and family photos.

It will be open to the public until next Wednesday, which is the third anniversary of Rabin's assassination by a right-wing nationalist opposed to handing over any West Bank land to the Palestinians.

Jordanian soldiers buried

A funeral was held near Jerusalem for four Jordanian soldiers killed during the 1967 Six Day War. The bodies of the four were uncovered three years ago during excavations at a site north of Jerusalem.

A Jordanian delegation, including army officers and legislators, participated in the ceremony.

Arabs urged not to vote

Palestinian official Faisal Hussein called on Arab residents of eastern Jerusalem not to take part in the city's municipal elections next month.

Hussein also called on an Arab candidate running for council, Moussa Aliyan, to withdraw from the election.

Knesset to honor four Americans

Israel's Knesset is set to award four Americans its "Conscience and Courage" award in recognition of their work to achieve moral and material restitution for Holocaust survivors.

The award is to be presented by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu at a special Nov. 17 Knesset ceremony to Undersecretary of State for Economic Affairs Stuart Eizenstat, World Jewish Congress President Edgar Bronfman, Sen. Alfonse D'Amato (R-N.Y.) and New York City Comptroller Alan Hevesi.

to Palestinian-ruled territory. Clinton's visit "will have huge ramifications for the Palestinian national movement," said Robert Satloff, the executive director of the Washington Institute for Near East Policy. His speech "will be the ultimate symbolic end to the American position that the PLO is a terrorist organization," Satloff said.

Provisions of American law that consider Arafat a terrorist have been waived since 1993 in the interest of national security.

And earlier this year Clinton made remarks that were seen as comparing Arafat to South Africa's most famous freedom fighter and current president, Nelson Mandela.

When introducing Arafat at last Friday's signing ceremony, Clinton said, "I thank you for decades and decades and decades of tireless representation of the longing of the Palestinian people to be free, self-sufficient, and at home."

Those decades included armed struggle and terrorist attacks against Jewish and Israeli targets. Netanyahu, who at times dozed off during the ceremony after 72 hours of little or no sleep, appeared to perk up at Clinton's comments.

But Clinton also had some praise for Netanyahu.

"I think Mr. Netanyahu has gotten some unfair criticism in this country for being too tough in negotiations," Clinton said last weekend.

"He has to bear the consequences of the commitment that he has made. He's got a hill to climb to sell it to the people that are part of his coalition."

Sandy Berger, Clinton's national security adviser, who as a constant participant in the talks had to deal with the fallout from the battles, said after the talks, "I came away with a little more respect and admiration for Bibi Netanyahu."

Fallout from the Pollard episode remains unknown.

But for Clinton, "I doubt very much that there will be lasting residue," Satloff said.

"When Clinton and Netanyahu look at each other they both look at remarkably gifted politicians in all sense of that word, which means you go for everything you get until you can get until you find out that you can't get it."

Early this week the State Department moved to quash talk of a U.S.-Israel split.

Netanyahu has "shown the courage and the skill and the effectiveness to put forward an agreement," said James Rubin, State Department spokesman.

A meeting scheduled for next week between Albright and Israeli Foreign Minister Ariel Sharon could shed some light on how U.S.-Israel relations were affected by the tense summit. Clinton committed himself to ask Congress for additional foreign aid to compensate Israel for expenses incurred from its redeployment and for Palestinian economic development. Sharon and Albright are scheduled to meet to discuss an Israeli request.

Underscoring the importance of moving past any bad feeling from the summit, the American Israel Public Affairs Committee said in a statement released after the signing ceremony:

"Continued close U.S.-Israel cooperation will be essential in implementing these accords and preparing for the even more challenging final-status discussions." □

Weizman condemns attacks on premier

JERUSALEM (JTA) — Israeli leaders across the political spectrum have appealed to the public to refrain from the kind of political incitement which preceded the assassination of Yitzhak Rabin.

"I hope we don't repeat the same terrible mistake," President Ezer Weizman told reporters after a meeting with Netanyahu. "The prime minister reached an agreement which I think is an appropriate one. If we return to the same kind of incitement against him as was directed against another person, it will be very grave."

Weizman's appeal came in the wake of an angry demonstration outside the prime minister's residence Monday night, when protesters called Netanyahu a traitor for signing the Wye agreement with the Palestinians last week.

Members of the National Religious Party, which has opposed the transfer of additional West Bank land to the Palestinians, joined in Weizman's call for restraint.

"I appeal to my colleagues in the national camp, those who are justifiably in pain over the [accords] that alongside the public protest, they make clear that certain red lines cannot be crossed," NRP Knesset member Hanan Porat told Israel Radio. □



Daily News Bulletin

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JEWISH WORLD

Tenet defends CIA role

The director of the CIA defended his agency's role as monitor of Palestinian compliance with the specific security steps spelled out in the latest Israeli-Palestinian accord.

Noting that the CIA has for many years worked with Israel and the Palestinians "to combat terrorists in their midst," George Tenet wrote in an op-ed piece published in *The New York Times* that the CIA will not be "placing officers inside the security operations of either side." He added that the "CIA is not making policy, but helping carry it out" — a role he said the agency often took up in the past. "What is slightly unusual in the current case is that the agency's role has become widely publicized," he wrote.

Lithuanian may go on trial

Lithuanian prosecutors said a former U.S. citizen could face trial in the Baltic state within the next month for Nazi-era war crimes. Kazys Gimzhauskas, 90, is accused of handing over residents of Vilnius' Jewish ghetto to Nazi murder squads when he worked in the region's security police during Germany's wartime occupation of Lithuania.

CJF donates \$60,000

The Council of Jewish Federations donated \$60,000 from a private foundation to the Dominican Republic for disaster relief in the wake of Hurricane Georges.

The Caribbean nation sustained damages initially estimated at \$2 billion in the storm, which the American Red Cross designated as the largest disaster in more than a century. CJF, a partner in the newly formed UJA Federations of North America, is planning to give additional funds from the Weinberg Foundation and from a separate appeal to help other areas hit by the September hurricane.

ADL honors four journalists

The Anti-Defamation League honored four journalists at a concert at Washington's Kennedy Center for their work in exposing hatred and injustice around the world.

The journalists included Pulitzer Prize winner Sydney Schanberg, whose coverage of the fall of Cambodia was the basis for the film "The Killing Fields"; National Public Radio foreign correspondent Sylvia Paggioli, who has reported on the war in Bosnia; photographer Gordon Parks, whose pictures for *Life* magazine and other publications depicted poverty in America; and investigative reporter Jerry Mitchell, whose stories for Mississippi's *Clarion-Ledger* led to the reopening of the cases against two white supremacists who carried out murders in the civil rights era.

Wye agreement delineates specific timetable for action

By Mitchell Danow

NEW YORK (JTA) — Many of the provisions to be found in the Wye River Memorandum signed last Friday at the White House reaffirm the details of previous, as yet unimplemented, Israeli-Palestinian agreements.

Perhaps the most novel aspect of the latest accord is the role given the United States — namely, CIA officials in the region — as an active participant in a process that has made little perceptible headway since Israeli troops withdrew from most of Hebron nearly two years ago.

The Wye agreement goes into effect Nov. 2 — 10 days after the Oct. 23 signing ceremony took place at the White House. The accord provides a timetable of actions to be taken by Israel and the Palestinians — in conjunction with U.S. monitors — over a period of 12 weeks ending Jan. 24, 1999.

By the end of the period, Israel will have redeployed from an additional 13 percent of the West Bank. Of this, 1 percent will be transferred to sole Palestinian control. The remaining 12 percent will be under joint Israeli-Palestinian control — 3 percent of which will be designated a nature reserve. In addition, 14.2 percent currently under joint control will fall under the sole control of the Palestinian Authority.

In exchange for the land transfers spelled out in the latest accord, the Palestinian Authority agreed to a series of specific security steps that deal "with terrorists, the terror support structure and the environment conducive to the support of terror."

The Wye accord makes no mention of Israel's releasing Palestinian prisoners. That issue, as well as others, is expected to be taken up in an as-yet unpublished side letter to the agreement, according to Israeli officials. Following is the timetable of actions to be taken by each side during the 12-week period:

Week 1 (Nov. 2-8)

- Accelerated final-status negotiations begin.
- The Palestinian Authority shares its "work plan" to combat terrorism with American officials.
- The two sides resume full bilateral security cooperation.
- A separate trilateral committee that also includes U.S. officials begins its work to "address the steps being taken to combat terror."
- The two sides resume committee work to resolve issues including the establishment of safe-passage routes for Palestinians and the opening of a Gaza seaport.

Weeks 2-6 (Nov. 9-Dec. 13)

- The Palestinian Authority begins implementing its anti-terror "work plan" and begins biweekly meetings with American officials at which it will "inform the U.S. fully of all the actions it has taken to outlaw all organizations" that have a "military, terrorist or violent character."
- The Palestine National Council and other Palestine Liberation Organization institutions convene to publicly revoke the anti-Israel clauses in the Palestinian Charter. In the days since the Wye agreement was signed, the two sides have differed as to who exactly will participate in the ceremony, at which President Clinton is expected to participate.

• The Palestinian Authority presents a list of its policemen to Israel. The Wye accord does not make specific mention of how large the force should be. But this issue, as with all others in the latest agreement, "is subject to the relevant terms and conditions" of previous Israeli-Palestinian accords.

Weeks 6-12 (Dec. 7, 1998-Jan. 24, 1999)

- The third and final stage of the 13 percent Israeli redeployment is completed. The first and second stages take place in earlier weeks.
- Collection of illegal weapons in the self-rule areas begin.

Even after the 12-week period concludes, the Wye accord calls for continued meetings of all the bilateral and trilateral committees that oversee security, economic and legal issues. The accord also mandates the continuation of final-status negotiations until their successful conclusion. □

BEHIND THE HEADLINES**Netanyahu's Wye summit gambit thrusts Pollard issue to forefront**

By Daniel Kurtzman

WASHINGTON (JTA) — Israel's appeal for Jonathan Pollard's release during U.S.-mediated peace talks last week came as no surprise to Middle East observers.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his predecessors have raised the issue in countless meetings with Clinton — and with Presidents Bush and Reagan — ever since the former U.S. naval intelligence analyst was sentenced in 1987 to life in prison for spying for Israel.

But no one expected the Pollard issue to come hurtling to the fore as a last-minute stumbling block to closing the deal last Friday on a new Israeli-Palestinian accord.

With the agreement signed and Pollard still sitting in a federal prison cell in North Carolina, it remains unclear whether Netanyahu's gambit to win Pollard's release will help or hinder his cause.

Clinton rejected the demand to release Pollard immediately as part of a deal sweetener, but he promised to "review this matter seriously."

The Clinton administration last reviewed Pollard's case in 1996, deciding at that time not to grant him executive clemency because of the "enormity" of his offenses, "his lack of remorse" and "the damage done to our national security."

Netanyahu, who had hoped to bring Pollard — now an Israeli citizen — back to Israel, urged Clinton before departing Washington to "find mercy" and release him.

He said Pollard's continued imprisonment was the one disappointment of the peace talks.

Exactly what transpired in the frenetic, final hours leading up to last Friday's White House signing ceremony — and the question of whether Clinton and Netanyahu arrived at an understanding about Pollard's eventual release — remains a subject of speculation.

What is known is that the Israelis and Palestinians had reached an impasse in the negotiations over Israel's demand that the Palestinians arrest Ghazi Jabali, who is the police chief in the Gaza Strip.

When it became clear that neither side would budge, the Israelis and Palestinians cooperated in asking the Americans for Pollard's freedom in exchange for Israel dropping its demand for Jabali's arrest and agreeing to release additional Palestinian prisoners.

Some sources said it was the Palestinians who offered to pull the Pollard card in last week's negotiations. The offer followed a meeting earlier this year between Pollard's wife, Esther, and senior Palestinian officials.

Netanyahu believed that Clinton agreed to hand over Pollard at a later date, but the plan broke down when Clinton failed to deliver written assurances and the story about a Pollard deal was leaked to the press.

While the impact the entire episode will have on Pollard's fate remains an open question, the immediate public reaction to last week's events painted a bleak picture, at least for the short term.

U.S. intelligence officials and lawmakers on both sides of the

aisle on Capitol Hill were quick to lambast Clinton for even considering Pollard's release.

U.S. attorney Joseph diGenova, who prosecuted Pollard for the Reagan administration, said releasing him would be "one of the most disgraceful acts by an American president in the history of this country."

"If the president releases Jonathan Pollard," he said, "his legacy will be: it is OK to lie and it's OK to spy."

House Speaker Newt Gingrich (R-Ga.), for his part, demanded that Clinton cancel the review.

"I think it would be a tremendous mistake for the United States to start putting traitors on the negotiating tables as a pawn, and I hope the administration will now say they will not, under any circumstance, release Pollard."

American Jewish leaders who have been pushing for Pollard's release voiced differing views about how last week's events would affect his case.

Malcolm Hoenlein, executive vice chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, said the negative reaction that erupted following news of Pollard's possible release was "quite astounding."

"I don't know what impact that will have, but frankly until now nothing else has helped either, so I don't think you can really evaluate whether this was a setback or not."

One of Pollard's leading advocates over the years, Rabbi Avi Weiss, said he was particularly concerned by Gingrich's comments, which he said risked turning the Pollard case into a "political issue."

"I've always felt it was important that the message go to the president that he's not going to be criticized by the Republican side" for his actions regarding Pollard, said Weiss, who is the president of AMCHA — the Coalition for Jewish Concerns.

Abraham Foxman, national director of the Anti-Defamation League, which has taken no official position on the Pollard issue, said he thought the episode was counter-productive, particularly in the context of the peace negotiations.

"Every time that it surfaces I think that it hurts Mr. Pollard, because what it does is it brings out the opposition," the ADL leader said.

Marlene Post, national president of Hadassah, which voted about five years ago to recommend that Pollard's sentence be commuted on humanitarian grounds, had a different take.

She said the fact that the subject was raised can only be positive because "it puts it back on the table, and it means the president is now accountable."

The timing in bringing up the issue, she added, makes no difference.

"Whenever the subject is raised, because of the nature of the subject, there will be outcries," Post said.

Most of Pollard's advocates in the Jewish community say they wish last week's events had played out more quietly and without such a public display.

But "we can't rewrite what occurred," said Seymour Reich, former chairman of the Conference of Presidents.

"The issue is now on the table again with a greater ferocity and we have to address it.

"And I still believe the overwhelming sense of the community is that it's time to let Pollard go, and we have to let the White House know how we feel," he said. □