

Syria and Iran Assail New U.S.-P.L.O. Contacts

By ALAN COWELL
Special to The New York Times

CAIRO, Dec. 16 — In a first indication of Syria's response to the United States' decision this week to open contacts with the Palestine Liberation Organization, official newspapers in Damascus rejected the discussions and said peace in the Middle East "should be taken by force."

The meetings, starting today in Tunis, drew a similar response from President Ali Khamenei of Iran, who told a Friday prayer meeting in Tehran: "The partition of Palestine is not acceptable. The way to fight Zionism is only by force and power."

One-Sided Peace?

The responses ran directly counter to a view common in many Arab states in favor of the contacts.

Iran's reference to the partition of Palestine referred to statements by Yasir Arafat, the P.L.O. chairman, accepting the existence of Israel and ad-

vocating a "two state" formula for a settlement of the Arab-Israeli dispute. Until now, the P.L.O. cherished the idea of a single state in Palestine.

"Peace in the American concept would be an Israeli peace, and security would be for Israel alone," the Syrian newspaper Al Baath, owned by the ruling Baath Party, said today.

The Government-run newspaper Al Thawra said: "The way to restore usurped Arab rights will come only through building the Arab force and achieving strategic parity with Israel. Giving concessions and begging solutions from others will not bring about the required peace because real peace should be taken by force."

The idea that Arab states should achieve military parity with Israel has long been advanced by President Hafez al-Assad.

The emergence of what Arab diplomats describe as a bloc of nations advocating moderate policies toward Is-

rael has left Syria increasingly isolated. This axis links Egypt, Jordan, Iraq and now, apparently, the P.L.O.

It is opposed primarily by Syria, Libya, elements in Lebanon and dissident Palestinian groups based in Damascus.

The United States' agreement to open a dialogue with the P.L.O. is depicted here and elsewhere in the Arab world as a major triumph both for Arab diplomacy and for the year-old Palestinian uprising in the Israeli-occupied territories.

Isolated Yet Powerful

Arab diplomats have indicated that the next phase of their strategy will be to call an Arab summit meeting that will formally reinstate Egypt in the Arab League, from which it was expelled because of its 1979 separate peace with Israel, and formally endorse the peace effort.

The move leaves the Syrians in a quandary, Arab diplomats said. Presi-

dent Assad cannot be deleted from the Arab equation, and he insists that Arab peace efforts embrace his demand for the return of the Israeli-annexed Golan Heights. At the same time, the diplomats said, he cannot simply abandon a hard-line position long reinforced by a veto power over collective Arab decision-making.

Some Arab diplomats have suggested that Damascus might take a softer line over Egypt's reinstatement in the Arab League, offering to withdraw its objections in return for Egyptian pressure on Iraq, Syria's foe and Cairo's close ally, to withdraw support for anti-Syrian Christian forces in Lebanon.

But Egyptian officials have challenged President Assad's right to block Arab decisions. "It is not acceptable anymore that one or two states, who fall out of the collective Arab decision insist on a certain stand," a senior aide to President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt said today.

Israeli Troops Kill 4 Palestinians As Clashes Break Out at Funeral

By JOEL BRINKLEY
Special to The New York Times

JERUSALEM, Dec. 16 — Four Palestinians were shot dead by Israeli troops in the occupied West Bank today as clashes broke out at the funeral of a fifth man who died of shooting wounds sustained last month.

The one-day death toll was the highest since last April and one of the highest since the uprising began just over a year ago. The deaths bring to at least 293 the number of Palestinians killed by Israelis since the uprising began. In addition, 9 Israeli civilians and 3 soldiers have been killed.

The new clashes, in the city of Nablus, came on the day the United States opened talks with the Palestine Liberation Organization — an event that many Palestinians had suggested might bring calm to the occupied territories.

At least 42 Palestinians were wounded, two of them critically, when the army opened fire on stone-throwing demonstrators who gathered for the funeral of Ashraf Haj Daoud, 16 years old, who died in a Jerusalem hospital early this morning. He was shot in demonstrations on Nov. 25.

Nablus Under Curfew

The army confirmed the shootings, saying Palestinians had begun pelting soldiers with rocks. Troops opened fire with plastic bullets, said doctors who treated the victims. Later, soldiers placed Nablus under a curfew, confining all residents to their homes.

Palestinians also said three Arabs were shot and wounded, two seriously, at demonstrations in the Gaza Strip today.

A diverse array of Palestinians had predicted that violence in the territories would subside, at least for a while, as a show of support for Yasir Arafat, the P.L.O. chairman, who on Wednesday obtained American agreement to open a dialogue.

Many Israelis said they were skeptical of the Palestinian prediction.

Today Foreign Minister Shimon Peres wrote a letter to Secretary of State George P. Shultz that said: "I remain convinced that the American decision was — at best — premature."

In an interview today, Mr. Peres said he believed that the United States would soon learn that Mr. Arafat's renunciation of terrorism would not stop violence in the occupied territories or guerrilla attacks from other countries. But American officials have told Israel that they do not intend to hold Mr. Arafat accountable for every rock or firebomb thrown in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

Mr. Peres said he would be willing to talk to "any Palestinian" who had truly given up terrorism and accepted Israel — presumably including Mr. Arafat.

Peres Proposes Elections

While Mr. Peres said he objected to the United States' talks with the P.L.O., at least for now, he also said "we can't just stand up to the rest of the world and not come up with a reasonable alternative."

He proposes elections in the West Bank and Gaza so that Palestinians can pick representatives with whom Israel can negotiate. Once representatives are chosen, he said, "we shall sit down and talk sense."

In an interview Thursday, Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir was cool to the suggestion of elections in the territories, though he did not reject the idea outright.

At first glance, it might seem as if Mr. Peres will have a difficult time promoting his elections idea or other peace proposals because in the next Government he has decided he will be the Finance Minister. But with no equivocation, he said he intended to continue promoting foreign policy initiatives regardless.

"One hundred percent," he said. "I'm not going to resign. I'm not going to abandon my responsibility as leader of the Labor Party."

In the coalition agreement under negotiation now, both Mr. Peres and Mr. Shamir said, ministers from either the Labor or Likud parties would be free to pursue whatever peace proposals interest them, without consulting the other party.

"Anyone has the right to propose any initiative for peace," Mr. Peres said. Only when the proposal grows firm would it have to be submitted to the Cabinet, half of whose ministers would be from Labor and half from Likud, giving both parties veto power over the other's activities.

Mr. Peres agreed that the arrangement could turn out to be a recipe for creativity — or chaos.

He said he was not happy with the prospect of joining this coalition government but felt a responsibility to do so and would not be reluctant to work for peace himself.

Of Mr. Arafat's recent remarks, he said: "The Palestinians want a land of



Agence France-Presse

A Palestinian receiving medical care after being shot in the head yesterday during a violent demonstration in Nablus, in the West Bank, where four Palestinians were shot dead by Israeli troops.

U.S. Envoy Calls First Talks With P.L.O. 'Practical' Ones

Continued From Page 1

tary of State George P. Shultz designated Mr. Pelletreau as the sole authorized liaison. Joining Mr. Pelletreau at the talks here today was Edmund J. Hull, political counselor at the embassy in Tunis. The P.L.O. team was made up of Mr. Abed, executive committee member; Hakem Belawi, P.L.O. representative in Tunisia; Abdellatif Abu Hajla, director general of the political department, and Abdullah Hourani, executive committee member.

Mr. Arafat was in Bucharest, Rumania, today, where he met with President Nicolae Ceausescu. A P.L.O. official said Thursday that Mr. Arafat might join the talks later. It is not clear whether the talks will resume before the Bush Administration takes office next month.

Strong Attack on Israel

While Mr. Pelletreau's statement was brief and general, Mr. Abed issued a strong attack on Israel and a defense of the yearlong Palestinian uprising in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. Mr. Abed said he hoped the discussions would "enable us to get closer to an international conference of peace in the Middle East." He said the American decision to begin talks with the P.L.O. put pressure on Israel to change its policies.

"Only the rulers of Israel are insisting on a policy of arrogance, terrorism, continuing oppression and rejection of all United Nations resolutions," he said.

"We're here to achieve the goals and aims of the uprising," he said. "It will end with the establishment of a Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital."

At his briefing earlier at the embassy in Tunis, Mr. Pelletreau offered a more detailed account of American intentions and strategy. He had invited only American journalists for background information, to be attributed to a Western diplomat.

Favors Direct Negotiations

But some British reporters, briefed afterward by their American colleagues, filed articles quoting the Ambassador by name.

Repeating several points made this week by Mr. Shultz and other American officials, Mr. Pelletreau said that "part of our general principle is that direct negotiations are the best way" to achieve peace between Israel and its Arab foes. He said he did not expect much from the opening round of talks, declaring that the fact that the meeting was taking place at all is "perhaps a happening itself, the most important aspect."

"A dialogue can only happen in a new administration," he said. "On things of substance, we'll have a wait-and-see attitude."

Mr. Pelletreau said the United States expected Mr. Arafat to condemn and

disassociate himself from any acts of terrorism by Palestinian factions.

"What we want to do is to make sure P.L.O. performance matches Arafat's promise," he said.

Asked about terrorism by factions other than Mr. Arafat's group, Al Fatah, Mr. Pelletreau said, "We are capable of taking a realistic view of what happens, but expect the P.L.O. to disassociate itself very quickly."

Mr. Pelletreau and other American officials expressed concern that too much might be expected from the talks. They said the process would be long, complicated and frustrating.

The meeting was held on an unusually cold day for North Africa, with the temperature in the upper 40's. The participants gathered at 4:20 P.M. to pose for pictures and began their discussions about 15 minutes later.

The delegations faced each other across two tables covered with green tablecloths and two pots of flowers. There were four people at the American table, the two officials and two interpreters, and seven on the P.L.O. side, including three interpreters.

A Leading U.S. Arab Is Denied Entry to Israel

Special to The New York Times

JERUSALEM, Dec. 16 — The president of the Arab-American Anti-Discrimination Committee, an American citizen, was barred from entering Israel today despite efforts by United States Embassy officials on his behalf.

A spokesman said the Foreign Ministry was carrying out an Interior Ministry decision to deny entry to the man, Abdeen Jabara, the 45-year-old president of the New York-based committee.

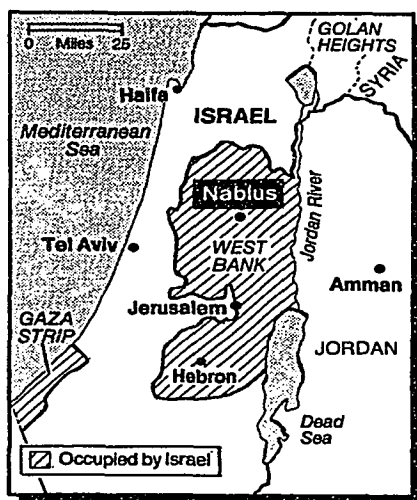
"His record includes very harsh criticism of Israel, activities as a lawyer defending terrorists, attempts to prevent the collection of money for Israel, trying to legally prevent the entry of Prime Minister Shamir into the U.S., and an F.B.I. investigation against him," said Alon Liel, a Foreign Ministry spokesman.

At Ben-Gurion International Airport, Mr. Jabara told reporters the Israeli decision was "an unconscionable act."

"I am not an enemy of the state," he said. "I have been here at least 15 times before, and this is a violation of our treaty agreement."

A United States Embassy official in Tel Aviv, while acknowledging Israel's right to deny entry to non-citizens, said he disagreed with the Israeli assessment of Mr. Jabara's activities. The American official said the embassy was "in touch with the Foreign Ministry on behalf" of Mr. Jabara.

Mr. Liel said an American Embassy official would be allowed to wait with Mr. Jabara at the airport, and that he would be allowed to make telephone calls during his stay.



The New York Times/Dec. 17, 1988

The Nablus killings came at a funeral for a boy shot in protests.

their own. I'm against it. But I don't consider it a crime. How can I, being a fair-minded man?"

He said he thought the United States should have withheld its decision to talk to Mr. Arafat until after the P.L.O. had actually shown that terrorism had been stopped for a period of time.

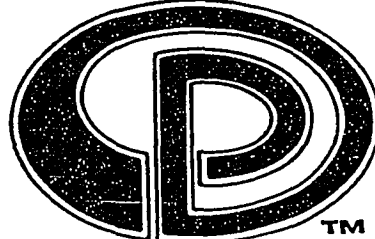
In the violence today, Palestinians and hospital officials said Yasin Adel, 19, died from a bullet wound to the neck. Fayed Shugo, 20, died from a shot through the heart. Iyad Abu Haimal, 20, died from wounds to the mouth and chest. And Nidal Shafiq Wazani, 26, died from a wound to the neck.



HOLD IT!

Don't Buy Any
Musical Product
Until You Visit

ProPiano



Take advantage of our desire to clear our books at this year-end inventory time. Every item has been reduced at least 30% below regular list price. Some items are down 40% and more. But only through December 24, 1988!

Sale prices include tuning, benches, stands, headphones, etc., and local delivery (stairs extra)

Act now! Sale includes only available stock, while it lasts. We cannot guarantee quantities. This sale will not, cannot, be repeated.

Come in with cash. We mean business! Dealers and lot buyers welcome.

ProPiano



"Shop in Greenwich Village and experience New York the way it used to be."

85 Jane Street (bet. W. 12th St. & Horatio, west of Eighth Ave.), New York, New York, 10014
212/206-8794 or 201/778-7772
Out of state 800/367-0777
Hours: M-S 10-7, Sun. 12-6

C. BECHSTEIN
GRAND PIANOS

Mfr. suggested list up to \$108,000

Sale prices from **\$25,170!**

STEINWAY 'HAMBURG'
PIANOS

Value up to \$68,500

Sale prices from **\$33,950!**

STEINWAY 'NEW YORK'
PIANO

Value up to \$9,500

Sale priced at **\$3,750!**

YAMAHA PIANOS

Value up to \$19,500

Sale prices from **\$5,750!**

YOUNG CHANG PIANOS

Mfr. suggested list up to \$15,780

Sale prices from **\$1,635!**

KORG DIGITAL
PIANOS

Mfr. suggested list up to \$4,150

Sale prices from **\$625!**

KORG MI, SGX1D
ETC.

Mfr. suggested list up to \$4,000

Sale prices from **\$1,850!**

AMPS, DRUMS,
PERCUSSION

Mfr. suggested list up to \$25,000

Prices slashed. **SAVE BIG!**

EVEN GREATER SAVINGS ON
PREVIOUSLY OWNED PIANOS,
ELECTRONIC KEYBOARDS,
DRUMS, PERCUSSION, ETC.

All prices cash and carry;
credit cards add 5%.
Out of state orders shipped.
2nd Day Air Optional.

EVERYTHING MUSICAL
PRICED TO SELL!