

Palestinian refugees Pres. Arafat meets with Pres. Chirac to discuss the current Israeli-Palestinian negotiations on the proposed framework agreement to prepare for the agreement on the final status of the Palestinian territories. ▶



- The UN Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People opens a two-day international conference on Palestinian refugees in Paris - in conjunction with the Arab League and the OIC.

May 3: In the Netherlands, the trial of two Libyans charged in the 1988 bombing of Pan Am 103 opens; the accused plead not guilty, saying the PFLP-GC and the Palestinian PSF are responsible, both of which deny the charge.

May 18: The PA and Israel resume their "secret" Stockholm channel of final status talks. The Palestinian delegation rejects an Israeli proposal for Jerusalem that would put Arab neighborhoods under PA civilian rule, but leave overall sovereignty - incl. authority for planning, building and security - with Israel. The plan further proposes to give the Old City and holy sites a special status, administered by a religious Christian-Muslim-Jewish body.

May 21: In the US, Republican candidate for Pres., George Bush, says he will move the US Embassy to Jerusalem if he is elected in Nov..

May 29: In Stockholm, Israeli Internal Security Min. Shlomo Ben Ami, commenting on progress in the final status talks, says that the Palestinians have to stop "dreaming" about their right of return or Israeli withdrawal to the pre-1967 borders. ◀



Shlomo
Ben Ami

June 1: In Lisbon, Clinton and Barak hold talks on the peace process and on bilateral issues. Clinton says a framework agreement on a permanent status is "within view," but Barak and Arafat are not ready to hold a summit to finalize a deal.

June 7: The donors' Ad Hoc Liaison Commission opens a two-day meeting in Lisbon.

June 12: Rifa'at Al-Assad issues a statement from his Spanish exile (since staging a 1983 coup against his brother Hafez), calling the transfer of power to Bashar Al-Assad antidemocratic and unconstitutional.

June 14: In Washington, the PA team suspends talks, after Barak announces that he has reduced the territory in the Abu Dis and Al-Izzariyya area to be transferred to full PA control and decided to release only three Palestinian prisoners.

June 15: In Washington in talks with Pres. Clinton, Arafat says he will resign before compromising on East Jerusalem and that he will not attend a summit until the third further redeployment is implemented.

June 17: PA-Israeli talks at Andrews and Bolling Air Force bases end.

- The UNSC fails to endorse Sec.-Gen. Annan's certification of Israel's complete withdrawal from Lebanon over Lebanese claims of incompleteness. Annan threatens to cancel his planned visit to Lebanon if the UNSC does not fully back his statement. The decision is postponed to the next day when the UNSC endorses Annan's certification, but notes "serious concern" regarding Lebanon's protests.

June 21: For the third time Pres. Clinton orders a delay of six months in implementing a 1995 US Congress decision to move the US Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem by 31 May 1999, "to protect the national interests of the United States."

June 29: A final communiqué issued by Muslim FMs at the end of their

meeting in Malaysia reaffirms Jerusalem as the political and historic capital of Palestine and as an inseparable part of the Palestinian territories occupied by Israel in June 1967.

July 5: In London, PM Barak urges PM Tony Blair to press Arafat not to declare unilaterally a Palestinian state. Barak then leaves for Paris to hold similar talks with Pres. Jacques Chirac.

July 8: In Washington, Sec. of State Albright meets with the Israeli and PA peace teams sent to prepare for the Camp David summit.

July 10: On the eve the Camp David summit Min. of Culture and Information Yasser Abed Rabbo says that no agreement will be signed that does not secure an international body monitoring its implementation.

July 11: The US-sponsored Camp David Summit begins; a complete press blackout is imposed. The talks last until 25 July but end without reaching an agreement. ▼



July 14: At Camp David, PA, Israeli teams break into smaller groups to discuss core issues.

The White House reveals that discussions are tense. ▶

- Sec. of State Albright goes to Emmitsburg, Maryland, to meet with representatives of the DFLP, PPP, and PPSF, who have requested to meet



with Arafat but were refused access to Camp David as this would be a violation of the ground rules.

July 17: At Camp David, US officials begin lowering expectations for an agreement to be concluded, hinting that teams may take a break for a couple of weeks before resuming meetings.

July 18: A poll by the Arab-American Institute shows that 66% of responding Americans support the establishment of an independent Palestinian state and 74% the right of return for Palestinian refugees.

July 19: After an initial White House announcement that the Camp David summit has failed and Clinton will leave for the G8 summit in Okinawa, another statement is released saying the sides will continue talks and discuss how to proceed when Clinton returns.

July 20: At Camp David, PA-Israeli talks continue but both sides say they agreed to stay out of respect for Pres. Clinton, not because of optimism for an agreement. US officials say that Barak has asked to continue as he does not want to return home empty-handed.

July 21: The 'principles' of the US proposal discussed at Camp David reportedly include the following: the establishment of a demilitarized Palestinian state; no declaration of the 'end to the conflict' at this stage; Israeli withdrawal from 95% of the West Bank and annexation of the remainder in an exchange of territory; a safe passage "bridge" between the West Bank and Gaza; a free passage from Bethlehem to Ramallah. On