



May 15: In South Lebanon, the IDF turns over Taybiyya post to the SLA, in what is seen as its first step in withdrawing from Lebanon. ►

May 16: As part of its plan to withdraw from South Lebanon, the IDF turns over its naval radar station at Ras Bayada to the SLA, and begins moving heavy equipment out of the Surayqi post.

May 20: The IDF attacks a PFLP-GC base in South Lebanon, destroying 10 tanks and killing three people.

May 22: Pres. Arafat holds important talks in San'a with Yemeni Pres. Ali Abdullah Saleh who renews his country's support for the establishment of a Palestinian state with Arab Jerusalem as its capital.

May 22-24: After announcing its intention to depart ahead of schedule, Israel completely pulls out of South Lebanon after 18 years, a move seen by Palestinians as proof that no occupation can last forever. Hizbullah members enter vacated areas, Lebanese civilians arrive en masse from the north to celebrate and SLA members desert or flee toward Israel seeking asylum. Israel fires at crowds, attempting to halt their advance, killing six civilians and wounding dozens others. ▲ ►

May 24: UNIFIL adviser Timur Goksel says the situation in South Lebanon is remarkably calm following the IDF pullout and that the real credit for this goes to Hizbullah, which "has been acting very responsibly."

May 26: UN cartographers begin tracing the blue line to determine whether Israel's withdrawal is complete.

- In Beirut, Iranian FM Kamal Kharrazi meets separately with Lebanese Pres. Emile Lahoud, PM Salim Al-Huss, Hizbullah's Nasrallah to discuss Israel's withdrawal from Lebanon.

May 30: Hizbullah has taken control of providing services in South Lebanon, incl. running hospitals, providing drinking water, and planning the reconstruction of homes and roads.

June 4: In Cairo, the PMs of the Damascus Declaration states (the six GCC states, plus Egypt and Syria) meet to coordinate their positions on the peace process.

June 6: The UN finishes drafting the blue line that will be used to verify Israel's withdrawal from Lebanon. UN special envoy Larsen turns over maps to the Israeli and Lebanese govts., which both have minor objections.

June 7: UNIFIL begins patrolling South Lebanon to ensure that the IDF is behind the blue line.

June 10: Syrian Pres. Hafez Al-Assad dies. - The Syrian govt. quickly initiates a transfer of power to his son, Bashar, as Vice-Pres. Abdul Halim Khaddam assembles parliament to vote to reduce the minimum age for Pres. from 40 to 34.

June 11: Bashar Al-Assad is named commander of the Syrian army and unanimously nominated by the Ba'ath party as candidate for Pres..

June 13: Pres. Arafat attends the funeral of Pres. Hafez Al-Assad at his birthplace, Qirdaha.

June 16: UN Sec.-Gen. Annan says Israel has completed its withdrawal from Lebanon and that UNIFIL will begin redeploying to new positions in South Lebanon, but Lebanese officials claim the IDF still holds some spots inside the blue line.



June 17: At its first conference in 15 years, the Syrian Ba'ath Party unanimously elects Bashar Al-Assad as party leader.

June 18: King Abdullah of Jordan dismisses conservative PM Abdul Ra'uf Rawabdeh, replaces him with Ali Abu Ar-Ragheb.

June 19: In Beirut, UN Sec.-Gen. Annan asks Pres. Lahoud to recognize the UN verification of Israel's withdrawal and send troops to help UNIFIL patrols, promising that the UN will quickly clear up Israel's minor violations.

- Jordan's new PM Ali Abu Ar-Ragheb forms a new 29-member cabinet, incl. nine Palestinians and one member of the Muslim Brotherhood's Islamic Action front.

June 20: In Ras Sudr, Sinai, workers discover a mass grave containing the remains of 52 Egyptian soldiers presumed to have been executed by Israeli forces in the 1967 War.

June 24: In Jeddah, the Islamic Bank for Development and Al-Quds Ash-Sharif Beit Al-Mal Association sign a memo of understanding to save occupied Jerusalem and assist its citizens in confronting the occupation.

June 26: Palestinian refugees from Lebanon stage a right of return march to Fatima Gate on the border with Israel.

- The Jordanian High Court dismisses an appeal by four Hamas leaders, deported to Qatar on 21 Nov. 1999, requesting to return home.

- A statement issued in Amman condemns the sale and lease of Greek Orthodox property in the Palestinian territories to Israel.

June 29: The Jordanian Royal Committee on Jerusalem Affairs warns that attacks on the Islamic holy sites in Jerusalem will be considered "an Israeli declaration of religious war" that could enflame the entire Middle East and "cause a world war."

July 1: In Shiraz, an Iranian court issues its verdict in the case of 13 Iranian Jews accused of spying for Israel; 10 defendants are found guilty, sentenced to terms ranging from 4-13 years, while three are acquitted.

July 4: Palestinian intellectual Edward Said is photographed throwing a stone across the South Lebanese border at Fatima Gate, in what he calls a "symbolic gesture".

July 8: In Cairo, Arafat meets with Pres. Mubarak on his way to the Camp David summit; Arafat then heads to London for a similar meeting with PM Blair.

- Jordanian PM Abu Ar-Ragheb says Jordan has informed Israel, the PA, and the US of its "firm refusal" to absorb any additional Palestinian refugees "under any pretext," incl. a final status agreement.

July 10: Sole candidate Bashar Al-Assad is elected Pres. of Syria with 97% of the vote. ◀

July 12: Head of the PLO Political Dept. Farouk Qaddoumi says that there is a consensus among the African states on recognizing the independent Palestinian state once it is declared.

July 14: SLA representatives in Israel meet with Israeli DM officials to demand permanent housing, and better services while elsewhere SLA members protest their conditions, and demand to return to Lebanon.

July 17: As he is sworn in as Pres. of Syria, Bashar Al-Assad vows to continue to seek peace with Israel on the basis of Israel's full withdrawal from the Golan and to implement economic and admin. reforms.

July 22: In Alexandria, Jordanian FM Abd Illah Al-Khatib and Egyptian FM Musa discuss the Camp David summit. ►

July 23: In Riyadh, Pres. Mubarak discusses the Camp David talks on Jerusalem with Saudi King Fahd and Crown Prince Abdullah.

July 27: UNIFIL begins deploying to new posts across South Lebanon, but then stops due to



Bashar Al-Assad

