

## Israel, PLO leaders make small progress, but still no agreement

JERUSALEM—Despite progress in Israel-PLO talks, Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin said it would take time to overcome differences, and other officials predicted that an agreement was still weeks away.

Palestinians and some members of Rabin's Cabinet said an agreement was close on the final terms for Israeli withdrawal from the Gaza Strip and the West Bank city of Jericho.

Officials were optimistic about the progress made during the weekend bargaining session in Switzerland, but Rabin said several issues still needed to be resolved.

"I believe we are moving slowly in the direction of agreement. It will take time," Rabin told American Jewish leaders in a conference call. "It will take more time than we had expected."

Peace talks continued Tuesday in Cairo, Egypt, between Israeli and PLO representatives.

Deputy Foreign Minister Yossi Beilin said on Israel radio that a full agreement might be several weeks away.

Israeli newspapers quoted senior military leaders as saying Foreign Minister Shimon Peres conceded too much during his weekend meetings with PLO chairman Yasser Arafat in Davos, Switzerland.

Arafat told reporters in the Swiss capital, Bern, that he and Peres postponed plans to initial agreements reached in Davos after "the Israeli side asked for some more days to study the new drafts."

The newspaper Maariv quoted sources close to Rabin as saying he was "very angry" when he saw the television footage of Peres holding hands with Arafat as they walked to the podium Sunday for a news conference in Davos.

The Israel-PLO peace agreement promised autonomy for Palestinians in the Gaza Strip and Jericho. But it has not been carried out yet because of disagreements over the size of Jericho, the securing of Jewish settlements in the Gaza Strip and the control of border crossings to Jordan and Egypt.

## Harding denies involvement

PORTLAND, Ore. — Jeff Gillooly pleaded guilty to racketeering Tuesday and struck a deal with prosecutors to testify that his ex-wife, Tonya Harding, approved the assault on Nancy Kerrigan.

Under the deal, Gillooly will be exempt from any other charges, including those that may grow out of a federal investigation. He agreed to serve 24 months in prison and pay a \$100,000 fine.

Gillooly's lawyer, Ron Hoevet, said his client hoped Harding would also admit her involvement in the plot.

"Jeff has a message for Tonya—he hopes that she will now do what he has done and move quickly to resolve the changes that will surely be brought against her," Hoevet said.

"Denial is no longer plausible," Hoevet said. "The truth about this bizarre crime has now been revealed."

Harding, who is training for the

Winter Olympics, which begin next week in Norway, issued a statement earlier Tuesday again denying "all media speculation and rumors that suggest that she was involved in the Kerrigan assault."

"Jeff Gillooly's accusations appear to evidence a continued practice of abusive conduct intended to disrupt Tonya Harding's life and destroy her career," the statement said.

Harding has said she didn't learn, until days after returning to Portland Jan. 10, that people close to her were involved in the Jan. 6 assault on Kerrigan. Harding has not been charged.

In court, a somber Gillooly spoke quietly and responded to Multnomah County Circuit Judge Donald Londer with short answers. Gillooly said he understood the charge against him.

In a later statement to reporters, Hoevet said Gillooly attended a Dec. 28 meeting with the three other

men charged in the attack to discuss how to prevent Kerrigan from competing in the U.S. Figure Skating Championships in Detroit.

"After the meeting, while driving toward home, Tonya approved the plan that had been discussed and gave the OK for the assault on Nancy Kerrigan. The final decisions was hers to make," Hoevet said.

Hoevet was asked what words Gillooly said Harding used to approve the plan. He answered, "As I understand the quote, it's 'OK, let's go for it,' or, 'OK, let's do it.'"

Harding won the national championship after Kerrigan was struck on the right leg, forcing her to withdraw. Both women were named to the Olympic team.

A special figure skating panel met Tuesday for the first time in Colorado Springs, Colo., to consider stripping Harding of her U.S. Figure Skating Association membership.

## Clinton names Patrick new civil rights chief

WASHINGTON — President Clinton Tuesday named Boston lawyer Deval Patrick to be the nation's chief civil rights enforcer, filling a spot left vacant for months after the withdrawal of Lani Guinier.

Wasting no time, conservatives called Patrick "a stealth Guinier."

"He understands the law is a tool to help real people with real problems," Clinton said in an Oval Office announcement, flanked by Attorney General Janet Reno and Vice President Al Gore.

Saying the Justice Department's civil rights division has protected civil liberties for "tens of millions of Amer-

icans," Clinton said, "There is still much more to be done. We need a strong and aggressive civil rights division and a compassionate advocate for freedom and fairness at the helm of that division."

Patrick, a native of Chicago's rough south side, brought his children to the ceremony. "I am humbled," he said.

Conservatives denounced the choice even before Clinton's announcement.

"Patrick appears to be a 'stealth Guinier,'" said Clint Bolick, vice president of the Institute for Justice. "He has no paper trail, but is part of the

same pro-quota chorus that produced Lani Guinier," Clinton's first nominee as assistant attorney general in charge of the Justice Department's civil rights division.

Drawing fire from some black leaders, Clinton abruptly withdrew Guinier's nomination in June, saying he was surprised by the liberal bent to some of her writings on racial politics. The post has been vacant since Clinton took office.

The attack Monday by Bolick, who led the conservative charge against Guinier, brought administration backers to the defense of Patrick.

## Judge defends beating victim's right to sue city

LOS ANGELES — Reginald Denny, the trucker who was nearly beaten to death during the 1992 riots, can sue the city for failing to protect him, a federal judge has ruled.

U.S. District Judge William Matthew Byrne Jr. cleared the way Monday for a trial on the lawsuit filed by Denny and three other riot victims.

They contend—and now must prove—that police pulled out of South Central Los Angeles, the flashpoint of the 1992 riots, because most of the residents there are black and Hispanic.

Denny, who sat quietly during the

hearing, said afterward that he felt abandoned at the intersection where his beating was broadcast live by television news crews.

"It's all on the videotape," Denny said. "How many police officers did you see in that picture?"

Denny and the other plaintiffs—Takao Hirata, Fidel Lopez and Wanda Harris—claim they were deprived of their constitutional right to equal protection under the law.

The U.S. Supreme Court ruled in 1989 that police departments may not selectively deny protection to "disfa-

vored minorities."

Byrne dismissed one portion of the suit, the victims' claim that they were deprived of the right to due process.

The riots erupted after four white policemen were acquitted on state charges of beating black motorist Rodney King. Two of the officers were later convicted in federal court and sentenced to 2 1/2 years in prison.

Denny's main assailant, Damian Williams, who hurled a brick at Denny's head, was convicted of mayhem and assault and sentenced to 10 years in prison.

## Quake shakes Hawaii; no damage reported

HONOLULU — An earthquake shook Hawaii early today, prompting curious residents to flood police departments with telephone calls. But there were no reports of damage or injuries.

The earthquake, at 12:01 a.m. (5:01 a.m. EST), measured 5.2 on the Richter scale, the Pacific Tsunami Warn-

ing Center reported.

Mike Blackford, the geophysicist at the center, said a tsunami (so-called "tidal wave") was not generated by the quake and no damage was reported.

The three-to-five-second quake occurred 20 miles beneath the Kilauea crater in Hawaii Volcanos National Park, on the island of Hawaii.

One slight aftershock was reported at 12:28 a.m., Blackford said.

Hugh Taylor of Mililani said he jumped up as soon as he felt the floor of his seventh-story apartment shake. He said he knew immediately that it was an earthquake because he experienced a similar one about four years ago.

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