

Jordan and Israel make peace

AMMAN, Jordan — Jordan and Israel initialed a draft treaty Monday to end nearly a half-century of hostility, intensifying pressure on Syria to move toward ending one of the world's longest-running conflicts.

The accord, reached after an all-night session that resolved disputes over water rights and borders, was expected to be quickly ratified by the Jordanian and Israeli legislatures. The Israeli Cabinet approved it within hours after it was signed.

After Monday's ceremony, Israeli President Ezer Weizman said Syrian President Hafez Assad "should look around and see ... He may be the last in line" to make peace with Israel.

But in Damascus, where government-run newspapers have said daily that Israel was not to be trusted, Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk al-Sharaa said: "We hope the Israeli government will realize the fact that without achieving peace with Syria and Lebanon, there will be no peace in the region ... This is the reality."

King Hussein of Jordan, who maintained clandestine contacts with Israeli leaders for years despite the state of war between the two countries, insisted the treaty heralded a new era.

"Hopefully, it is a fresh beginning and a fresh start," he said.

And Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin of Israel called it a "historically unique moment," and said he hoped a full-fledged treaty would

be signed by the end of next week.

Israel TV said the full accord would be signed Oct. 27 on the Jordan-Israel border and that President Clinton had been invited to take part. Clinton administration officials said Clinton would probably attend.

Israel and Jordan signed a non-

belligerency pact in Washington on July 25, and since then had been working to resolve differences that stood in the way of a full-fledged peace treaty.

"I believe this peace is an important achievement," a weary Rabin told reporters in Jerusalem after returning from Monday's cer-

emony and the overnight meetings in Jordan. "I think it will also have repercussions where Syria and the Palestinians are concerned."

Peace talks with Syria have lagged over Damascus' demand that Israel relinquish the Golan Heights captured in the 1967 Middle East war. Polls show most Israelis oppose giving up the Golan.

Monday's accord, signed by Rabin and Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali of Jordan, came after a rocky week for peace talks with the Palestinians.

Israel suspended negotiations with the PLO after Islamic militants kidnapped an Israeli soldier. The soldier was killed by his captors Friday as Israeli commandos stormed their hideout, but talks are to resume Tuesday in Cairo.

Clinton said he was "delighted" by the developments in Amman, adding: "This agreement reminds us that moderation and reason are prevailing."

Jordan is only the second Arab country to make peace with Israel. Egypt broke ranks to do so in 1979.

Jordan and Israel last fought in the 1967 Middle East war, when Israel seized the West Bank and east Jerusalem, but a state of war has existed between the countries since 1948.

Jordan's media did not report it for four hours, apparently because of concern it would trigger protests by hard-line opponents of peace with Israel.

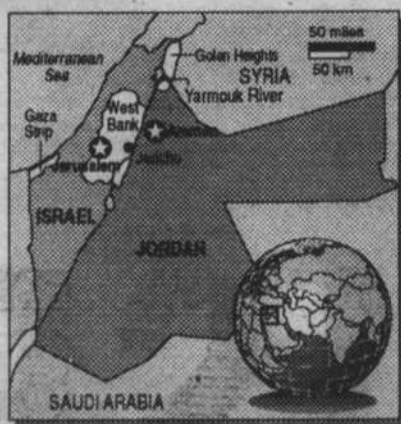
Israel and Jordan sign draft for peace

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Jordan's King Hussein signed a draft of a formal peace accord Monday. They hope to sign the actual pact by the end of the month.

YITZHAK RABIN



Once a Jewish underground leader. Has been involved in Israeli politics since the nation was established in 1948. Military commander in '67 war; prime minister since 1992.



KING HUSSEIN



Ascended to throne in 1953. Opposed '79 Camp David peace treaty between Egypt and Israel. Has since supported U.S. efforts toward peace.

Some terms of the accord

Israel will return to Jordan 152 square miles of desert and farmland it seized after the 1948 Middle East War.

Israel will lease certain areas that include Israeli settlements or farms.

The nations will start new projects on the Yarmouk River to increase water flow to Jordan.

GM trucks pose risk says Pena

WASHINGTON — General Motors C-K pickups, which have been involved in several fatal fires following side-impact crashes, pose an "unreasonable risk," Transportation Secretary Federico Pena said Monday.

About 150 people have died as a result of side-impact fires in the trucks, Pena said, and many others suffered serious burns.

He called a Dec. 6 hearing to determine whether the government should require GM to recall the trucks, made between 1973 and 1987, which are sold with GM and Chevrolet nameplates. The company rejected an April 9, 1993, government request that it recall the trucks voluntarily.

The trucks have been widely criticized because their fuel tanks are mounted outside the body, permitting larger tanks, but making the tanks vulnerable to crash damage.

A National Highway Traffic Safety Administration study found 2.8 fire-related deaths per 1 million vehicle miles in the GM pickups, compared to 1.0 per million in Ford trucks.

Bruce G. MacDonald, GM's vice president of communications, said the trucks "have fully met the applicable safety standards for fuel system integrity in collisions ... There is simply no legal or scientific basis on which to seek a recall of these trucks under the Vehicle Safety Act. If necessary, we will defend their safety in court."

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BACK INTO SUCCESS WITH NSE

Aristide and military head demonstrate reconciliation

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti — President Jean-Bertrand Aristide preached again for reconciliation from behind his bulletproof shield Monday, hours after a mob torched the family home of Haiti's new army commander.

Fifteen buildings were set afire and one man killed in the coastal town of Gonaives after a false rumor spread Sunday night that Maj. Gen. Jean-Claude Duvalier had led a coup attempt against Aristide.

After three years of army rule, Aristide faces a major challenge in persuading his nation to put aside the desire for vengeance.

Concern for Aristide's security has practically made him a prisoner of the National Palace.

The mob attack in Gonaives, 100 miles north of Port-au-Prince, occurred after Aristide summoned Duvalier to the National Palace on Sunday to discuss how to dismantle the military.

U.S. troops guarding the palace unloaded Duvalier's normal sidearms, prompting unfounded rumors to spread that the army chief had tried to topple Aristide.

At least 10 houses and five stores were burned in the city of Gonaives, including one belonging to Duvalier's mother and another belonging to the grandmother of former junta leader Lt. Col. Michel Francois. A grain depot owned by the Brandts, one of Haiti's richest families, was looted.

Radio Signal-FM said U.S. and Haitian soldiers arrested more than 100 people in putting down the violence in Gonaives.

In a brief speech Monday at the National Palace, Aristide urged "creating a state of law like all modern societies."

Duvalier joined the Haitian leader on the

palace stairs and helped him hoist the the Haitian flag.

Then Duvalier offered Aristide a crisp salute and energetic handshake. The army chief was promoted last week to replace coup leader Raoul Cedras, who fled into exile.

Enthusiastic crowds briefly prevented Aristide's motorcade from leaving the palace to lay a wreath at Haiti's national museum to commemorate the assassination in 1806 of Jean-Jacques Dessaline, one of Haiti's founding fathers.

Aristide's motorcade retreated, then used a back exit to get to the nearby national museum.

Aristide officials sought Monday to put an end to the violence. Information Minister Herve Denis said anyone caught looting or targeting the homes of Aristide's political opponents would be arrested.

Violence has been compounded by the disappearance of many of Haiti's soldiers and police, putting American troops and international police monitors in the middle of disputes that are difficult to decipher.

During one street dispute in Port-au-Prince Monday, a pregnant woman told American troops that a man had threatened her. A crowd told the Americans she was using them to settle a business quarrel.

The U.S. military said the bodies of two slain men were discovered Sunday near the Cite Soleil area. A spokesman, Navy Lt. Mark McCaffrey, had no further detail.

A U.S. official said Monday that victims of human rights abuses or their families will receive shares in some of the Haitian state corporations to be privatized under Aristide's new economic plan.

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