

Rabin-Arafat meeting, relations breaks down

EREZ JUNCTION, Gaza Strip — The crisis in Israeli-Palestinian relations deepened Thursday after their leaders failed to agree on how to expand Palestinian autonomy without endangering Israeli security.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and PLO chief Yasser Arafat did not resolve any disputes during their 2 1/2-hour meeting Thursday at an Israel-PLO command post in northern Gaza.

Reflecting the tensions, the two did not hold a joint news conference. However, they agreed to meet again next Thursday.

Rabin told Arafat he must rein in Islamic militants before Israel will talk about expanding Palestinian self-rule to the West Bank. Fifty-five Israelis have been killed by Palestinian militants since October in a surge of suicide bombings.

Rabin also refused Arafat's demand that Israel lift a 19-day closure of the West Bank and Gaza Strip imposed after a bombing attack last month by Islamic militants that killed 21 Israelis.

A tense Arafat, speaking later at his Gaza City office, complained that Israel was turning the Palestinian areas into a giant holding cell.

"If there is an Israeli wish for political separation, then we welcome it. But we will not welcome that they lock us in Gaza and the West Bank and hold the keys to the big prison," he said.

The Palestinians accused Rabin of using security concerns as an excuse not to honor an agreement to withdraw troops from the West Bank and permit Palestinian elections.

"Security guarantees should be given through the political process, and not through procrastination," said Palestinian spokesman Yasser Abed-Rabbo.

Under the Israel-PLO autonomy accord, Israel troops should have pulled out of West Bank towns by July 1994, in advance of Palestinian general elections. Delays in implementing autonomy pushed back the election date, then Israelis had second thoughts following this fall's attacks by Palestinian militants.

Thursday's summit rehearsed the arguments have bogged down the negotiations for months.

"If Rabin doesn't help Arafat in proving to the Palestinians that peace pays off, Arafat will not be able to gain control over the opponents of peace," an editorial in the Israeli daily Maariv said Thursday.

"But if Arafat does not succeed in overcoming the terrorist organizations, Rabin will not be able to help him."

Prior to the summit, Arafat ordered the arrests of dozens of militants and established a military court to try those suspected of attacking Israelis.

While the two leaders met, Palestinian police raided the Gaza City headquarters of Islamic Jihad, the radical group that carried out the latest bomb attack. Police also detained three leaders of the Muslim militant group Hamas.

Rabin said Thursday that Arafat must do more, including disarming his opponents. Negotiator Yossi Sarid said Israel could not open the border yet because of warnings that Islamic militants planned attacks marking the Feb. 25 anniversary of the Hebron massacre of 29 Muslims by a Jewish settler.

If Arafat intensifies his crackdown on militants by next Thursday's meeting with Rabin, "we will respond in kind," Sarid told Israel TV.



Disputed issues:
■ Arafat wants Israel to lift closure of the West bank and Gaza Strip, enabling tens of thousands of Palestinians access to their jobs in Israel; Rabin says he won't until Arafat is more successful in foiling attacks against Israel.
■ Arafat wants Israel to commit to a timetable for troop withdrawal from West Bank towns; Rabin wants Arafat to first move decisively against Palestinian militants, including disarming them.
■ Arafat wants to resume negotiations on release of thousands of Palestinian prisoners still held by Israel; Rabin has rejected this demand.
■ Arafat wants Israel to stop all building in Jewish settlements in the West Bank and Gaza; Rabin has said that despite his 1992 promise to freeze settlement building, Israel would maintain construction around Jerusalem and several other areas.

AP/Carl Fox

Bombing suspect captured

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan — Police found a little surprise this week when they arrested the man suspected of masterminding the World Trade Center bombing: explosives in his bag, hidden in toy cars.

"He was found with explosives ... and chemicals used in making bombs," Interior Minister Nasirullah Babar, who supervises Pakistan's police, said Thursday as he described the arrest of Ramzi Ahmed Yousef.

Nabbed Tuesday in Pakistan, Yousef was secretly whisked to the United States in a U.S. government plane. In New York on Thursday, he pleaded innocent to 11 counts relating to the Feb. 26, 1993, bombing of the Manhattan landmark.

That attack on the world's second-tallest building killed six people, injured more than 1,000 others, caused \$500 million in damage and introduced Americans to the fear of international terrorism.

Clean-shaven and dapper in a blue double-breasted suit, Yousef appeared calm and spoke fewer than 10 words during his brief appearance before U.S. District Judge John F. Keenan. "I plead not guilty," he said in English, waving off an interpreter. He told the judge he understood the indictment.

The most serious charges Yousef faces are punishable by life in prison without parole. Yousef was being held without bond until his next court appearance on Wednesday.

Authorities say Yousef, who came to the United States in 1992, bought and mixed the chemicals for the bombs that exploded in a van parked under

World Trade Center suspect captured

The man accused of masterminding the World Trade Center bombing was captured in Islamabad, Pakistan on Tuesday and returned to New York.



Ramzi Ahmed Yousef
Age: 27 years
Accused of: Masterminding the World Trade Center bombing
Evidence: His fingerprints found on two bomb-making manuals and on containers of bomb-making chemicals.

AP/ Terry Kole, Brian Sipple

the 110-story twin towers. Yousef, who had been living with two other bombing suspects in Jersey City, N.J., escaped the night of the bombing, using an alias to fly to Iraq via Pakistan. His fingerprints were found on two bomb-making manuals seized by authorities and on containers of bomb-making chemicals, authorities say.

Last Sunday, Yousef arrived in Pakistan on a flight from Bangkok, Thailand, according to Babar, the interior minister. He was tailed by plainclothes police for two days, then arrested Tuesday at a Holiday Inn.

"He was under surveillance from the time he arrived," Babar told The Associated Press.

The interior minister told the AP that Yousef was immediately handed over to the Americans, who whisked him out of the country Tuesday.

"We turned him over to the Americans and told them to take him out of here," Babar said.

But he told the British Broadcasting Corp. that before being handed over to U.S. officials, Yousef was interrogated by Pakistani authorities and admitted to being involved in the

Quayle won't try for presidential bid

WASHINGTON — Hard-pressed to attract the money and talent necessary for a strong campaign, former Vice President Dan Quayle abruptly reversed course Thursday and said he would not seek the 1996 Republican presidential nomination.

Quayle's decision came less than three weeks after he vowed to campaign aggressively as a voice for the conservative "unsilent majority" that he said was appalled at the decline of the family and the liberal bent of the social welfare system.

In a statement, Quayle said he was confident he could have waged a winning campaign if he had subjected himself to a grueling fund-raising schedule this year. "However, we chose to put our family first and to forego the disruption to our lives that a third straight national campaign would create," he said.

Advisers, associates and Republican operatives, however, said it became clear as Quayle geared up to run that the fund-raising outlook was bleak, and that he also was having a hard time convincing seasoned campaign operatives to sign on. A new, front-loaded GOP primary calendar has put a premium on early fund-raising, a difficult process cited by several others who recently bowed out, including fellow Bush administra-

tion alumni Jack Kemp and Dick Cheney.

Quayle associates said recent health problems were not a factor; Quayle was hospitalized recently for blood clots and then to have his appendix removed because of a benign tumor. "He is completely recovered," said Quayle adviser Mark Goodin.

"He was extremely excited and fired up about running a campaign," said Goodin. "But the financial aspect of it threw a bucket of cold water on his enthusiasm."

The decision leaves three definite Republican candidates: Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole of Kansas, Sen. Phil Gramm of Texas and former Gov. Lamar Alexander of Tennessee. A handful of others are contemplating runs, including Sens. Richard Lugar of Indiana and Arlen Specter of Pennsylvania, as well as 1992 Bush primary challenger Patrick Buchanan. A few GOP governors and California Rep. Bob Dornan also are mulling the race.

For all his image problems in the electorate at large, Quayle was a favorite of cultural and religious conservatives who are active in GOP affairs and particularly influential in several early primary states. He is scheduled to speak Saturday night to a major conservative gathering in Washington.

News... in a Minute

Former Senator Fulbright dies at 89

WASHINGTON — Former Sen. J. William Fulbright, whose criticism of America's "arrogance of power" in Vietnam gave intellectual substance to the anti-war movement, died Thursday at 89.

Fulbright was an early mentor to Bill Clinton, who worked as clerk in his Senate office while a student at Georgetown University and who, years later, awarded him the nation's highest civilian honor, the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

And Fulbright was the architect of the Fulbright scholarships, an international exchange program in which tens of thousands of students and teachers from more than 120 countries have gone abroad to study.

Because of it, he was particularly revered in Japan. The Arkansas Democrat was one of the few American legislators of this century whose name was known around the world.

Fulbright died of a stroke in his Washington home near the embassies of Massachusetts Avenue.

As chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Fulbright presided over televised hearings in 1966 and 1967. The hearings helped turn the country against the war.

While others said the fall of Vietnam would threaten U.S. security, Fulbright said the war had choked domestic reform and was "turning the Great Society into a sick society."

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