

Tab 5

Israel Arrests More Rabin Slaying Suspects; Military Withdraws from Jenin

Peres Pursues Peace with Security. Israeli military radio Nov. 11 reported that the police had arrested an active-duty soldier and his father in connection with the assassination of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, who was slain Nov. 4 by a Jewish ultranationalist. The police, already holding the confessed assassin and five other right-wing suspects, did not immediately confirm the two new arrests. However, a police spokesman, Boaz Goldberg, Nov. 14 said that authorities had widened their crackdown on rightist militants, rounding up more than 50 additional people on a host of charges not directly tied to the Rabin case. [See below, p. 833A1]

Concurrently, Acting Prime Minister Shimon Peres signaled Israel's intention to meet terms of the accord on extended self-rule that the Rabin-led government had signed with the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) in September. The Israeli military Nov. 13 withdrew from the northernmost West Bank Arab city of Jenin, transferring control to the Palestinian National Authority (PNA), headed by PLO Chairman Yasir Arafat, after 28 years of Israeli military occupation. [See p. 709A1]

In hailing the advent of self-rule to Jenin, Gen. Nasser Yousef, a senior PNA security official, said, "Without a doubt this day crowns the work of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin who lost his life working for peace."

Peres Nov. 14 toured Israeli military posts on the West Bank near the "green line," Israel's 1967 border with the then-Jordanian West Bank. He indicated that security considerations for Israel's military outposts and settlements in the West Bank would remain one of his uppermost priorities as Israel continued its peace process with the Palestinians.

Peres said that the military's withdrawal from Jenin, the first Palestinian city affected under the second-phase accord, would be followed by a pause in troop redeployments so that Israelis could "draw all the necessary conclusions" as to the feasibility for withdrawing from other West Bank cities, in accordance with the September accord.

Peres added that all available measures would be taken to insure that Jews and Arabs on the West Bank could continue undisturbed in their normal lives as Palestinians moved toward democratic elections, tentatively set for Jan. 20, 1996.

Peres Nov. 13 had met in Israel with Benjamin Netanyahu, leader of the right-wing opposition Likud bloc. The two had reportedly agreed to monitor their supporters for the kind of inflamed rhetoric that many observers had denounced as fostering a climate of political violence in Israel.

Focus Shifts to Nationalist Rabbis—Israeli Police Minister Moshe Shahal Nov. 10 said that investigators had concluded that Yigal Amir, the confessed as-

assin of Rabin, had belonged to a terrorist cell whose violence had been encouraged by a "spiritual leader." Shahal declined to identify the alleged instigator by name, but Israeli newspapers singled out two rabbis—Nahum Rabinovich and Dov Lior—as the possible spiritual leader in question.

Shahal also said that the alleged cell had planned to carry out attacks against Arabs in the West Bank.

Amir had contended in court testimony that Jewish law sanctioned his killing of Rabin. [See p. 834E1]

Rabinovich, who lived in the West Bank settlement of Maale Adumim, outside Jerusalem, and Lior, from the settlement of Kiryat Arba, north of Hebron, Nov. 13 both denied the public accusations against them.

However, Israeli television Nov. 14 aired a tape in which Rabinovich said, "Turning over a comrade to gentiles in a way that endangers his life and turning over property of Jews—whoever does such a thing has to pay with his life." As of Nov. 16, the police had not filed charges against either Rabinovich or Lior.

In developments related to the police crackdown on right-wing extremists, it was reported Nov. 14 that among the detained had been Rabbi Moshe Levinger, a prominent figure among Jewish settlers, and Noam Federman, spokesman for the militantly nationalist Kahane Chai (Kahane Lives) group, an off-shoot of the anti-Arab Kach (Thus) organization founded by the late Rabbi Meir Kahane. [See p. 207E1; 1994, p. 200B1]

Related Developments—In other developments related to the Israeli-Palestinian peace process:

□ The Israeli newspaper *Yediot Achronot* Nov. 10 reported that a poll of adult Israeli Jews indicated a sharp shift toward support of the Labor Party and its peace process in the aftermath of the Rabin assassination. According to the survey, conducted Nov. 7-8 by the Dahaf Institute, some 74% of respondents said they wanted the government to implement the second-phase accord on Palestinian self-rule, and 23% indicated that they wanted the process to be halted. The survey also showed potential voters backing Peres over the Likud's Netanyahu by a 54% to 23% margin. Some 23% of respondents reportedly favored a third choice or were undecided. [See 1994, p. 150E1]

□ Israelis Nov. 12 ended their formal seven-day mourning period for Rabin with a demonstration that drew 250,000 people to the square in Tel Aviv where he had been assassinated. Peres addressed the crowd, as did Leah Rabin, widow of the slain prime minister. Leah Rabin urged Israelis to back Peres in his effort to continue the peace process, vowing, "The silent majority will be silent no more." [See p. 834F2]

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A rorist operation carried out against the U.S. military on Saudi soil during the 50 years of U.S.-Saudi military cooperation. [See 1991, p. 129F1]

U.S. forces had maintained a low profile in Saudi Arabia, out of deference to Saudi custodial responsibilities for Moslem holy sites. The U.S. Defense Department Nov. 13 declined to reveal how many U.S. troops were currently stationed in Saudi Arabia. It was known, however, that for the last 20 years the U.S. had conducted a training program for the 80,000-strong Saudi National Guard on the use and maintenance of U.S.-supplied military equipment. ■

Other International News

British Commonwealth Summit Held. Leaders from most of the British Commonwealth's 52 member nations, the majority of which were former colonies of Britain, attended a four-day summit in Auckland and Queenstown, New Zealand Nov. 10-13. The summit was dominated by the Commonwealth's reaction to French nuclear tests in the South Pacific and Nigeria's execution of nine minority-rights activists. [See pp. 850C1, 823C2; 1993, p. 851E3]

The Commonwealth leaders Nov. 11 decided to suspend Nigeria from the organization for human-rights abuses. Nigeria, which was led by military dictator Gen. Sani Abacha, had drawn fierce worldwide protests after the Nov. 10 executions. Author and environmentalist Ken Saro-Wiwa was among the nine political activists executed.

Commonwealth Condemns A-Tests— The Commonwealth Nov. 10 released a statement condemning France's recent resumption of nuclear testing. British Prime Minister John Major Nov. 10 criticized the Commonwealth's statement and reaffirmed his support of France's right to conduct the tests.

The nuclear tests were being held in the South Pacific and had drawn protests from Commonwealth members there, including New Zealand and Australia. Leaders of those countries had maintained that Major was reluctant to oppose the tests because he feared upsetting Anglo-French relations. Australian Prime Minister Paul Keating Nov. 3 had set a potentially divisive tone for the summit when he said that Major would get "a smack with a ruler" for supporting the tests. (Keating Nov. 10 apologized to Major for his comments, which he said were misrepresented by the media.)

The Commonwealth's Nov. 10 declaration noted the "widespread anger caused by the current program of nuclear weapon tests," although it did not mention France by name. An "overwhelming majority" of Commonwealth leaders were said to back the statement, which claimed that the tests could adversely affect a 1996 nuclear test ban treaty.

Major Nov. 10 called the statement "inconsistent and unbalanced." Major was particularly opposed to the suggestion that the tests could derail the 1996 treaty.

Mozambique was admitted into the Commonwealth Nov. 12. Mozambique would become the only member not to have former colonial ties to Britain. ■

kets greeted Clinton's decision with relief. In addition, Republicans had tacked on to the debt-limit bill several unrelated "rider" measures that Clinton opposed. One provision would require federal agencies to perform new risk-assessment and cost-benefit analyses before issuing new health, safety and environmental regulations. Another measure would require the president to agree in principle to balance the federal budget in seven years using Congressional Budget Office estimates. The CBO's estimates tended to be more pessimistic than those of the Clinton administration, which used numbers provided by the White House Office of Management and Budget.

Clinton Nov. 13 called the debt-limit bill a "back-door effort by the congressional Republicans to impose their priorities on our nation," and claimed that it would cripple laws designed to protect the environment and public health. House Speaker Newt Gingrich (R, Ga.) the same day accused the president of playing "political games" and defended the bill, saying that Republicans had been "elected to change politics as usual."

The federal government had run a deficit every year since 1969, requiring it to borrow money in order to stay in operation. Congress alone was authorized to set the debt limit for the government, but that limit required presidential approval. Periodically, as the government neared its debt limit, Congress would send a bill to the president that would authorize a debt increase. Congress usually attached riders to the bill in hopes that the president would sign the bill, even if he did not approve of all the provisions within it, rather than place the government in financial danger.

Trust Funds Tapped to Avoid Default— With no debt-limit increase scheduled, Secretary of the Treasury Robert E. Rubin Nov. 13 announced that he would tap into two federal retirement funds in order to avoid a government default on the \$102 billion in interest loans and principal that came due Nov. 15-16. The two funds were the Government Securities Investment Fund and the Civil Service Retirement Fund. Those funds were politically the safest to draw upon because federal law required that, if the funds were ever appropriated during a debt crisis, the government would have to repay any interest lost to the funds. Analysts said that the two funds would provide the Treasury with enough money to stave off a default for several months. [See p. 776G2]

Continuing Resolution Details—The continuing resolution that Clinton vetoed would have extended financing for government agencies until Dec. 1. Clinton's main objection to the bill stemmed from a provision authorizing an increase in premiums for Medicare, the federal medical-insurance plan for the elderly. The bill also would have implemented stricter spending reductions than those stipulated by the continuing resolution that was currently funding the federal government.

Congress as of Nov. 16 had sent the president only five of the 13 appropri-

UNITED STATES

Clinton Vetoes Stopgap Spending, Debt Ceiling Bills

Partial Government Shutdown Results. President Clinton Nov. 13 vetoed two bills that would have provided the federal government with funds to pay its debts and remain in operation. Early in the day, Clinton vetoed the first measure, which would have granted a temporary increase in the legal debt limit for the government. Later that evening, Clinton refused to sign a continuing resolution bill—or so-called stopgap spending measure—which would have provided funding for government activities for the next two weeks. The second veto forced a partial shutdown of the federal government. [See below, p. 730D3; 1993, p. 771A1; 1990, pp. 756C1, 569C1]

The president's vetoes marked the latest event in an ongoing budget battle between the White House and Republican leaders in Congress. Clinton said that the bills contained "extreme proposals" that would imperil the environment, funding for education and public health. [See below]

The Senate Nov. 9 had passed its final version of the debt-limit increase bill, 49-47. The House then passed the same bill with a 219-185 vote Nov. 10. The continuing resolution cleared the House Nov.

10, by a 224-172 vote, and the Senate early Nov. 13 passed it by a voice vote.

Details of the Debt-Limit Bill—The debt-limit bill vetoed by Clinton would have authorized an increase in the debt limit to \$4.967 trillion, from the current \$4.9 trillion. However, the bill stipulated that after Dec. 12 the debt limit would decrease to \$4.8 trillion. In addition, the bill would have barred the U.S. Treasury from tapping into federal trust funds to pay government bills or payments on bonds.

In the absence of a new debt-limit increase and without the use of trust fund money, the federal government almost certainly would be unable to make interest payments on borrowed money, forcing the government to default on its loans. That unprecedented event, in turn, would precipitate a financial crisis.

Had Clinton signed the bill, it would effectively have given him the option of either reaching a new budget agreement with Republicans—very likely on their terms—by Dec. 12 or placing the country at serious risk of defaulting on its debts. The president cited the proposed restrictions on the Treasury as the chief reason for his veto. Investors and financial mar-