

INTERNATIONAL

| Page 12 | The Battalion | Thursday, September 9, 1993 |
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Mideast Peace-
Arafat ready to seek PLO approval of plan

TUNIS, Tunisia - Yasser Arafat prepared on Wednesday to ask the PLO's ruling body to approve his peace deal with Israel, amid indicastate was imminent. The Executive Committee's approval is the key hurdle before the
groundbreaking peace accord for Palestinian self-rule in the occupied groundbreaking peace accord for Palestinian self-rute in
Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of Jericho can be signed. Arafat s meeting with the ruling committee promised to be stormy
because of strong opposition to the deal from radical PLO factions. He is expected to win the backing of a majority of the panel.
Arafat arrived in Tunis after a brief stopover in Cain
Arafat arrived in Tunis after a brief stopover in Cairo, en route from
Oman, where Sultan Qaboos welcomed the peace accord. The trip was Oman, where Sultan Qaboos welcomed the peace accord. The trip was
Arafat's first to an oil-rich gulf Arab nation since they broke with the PLO chief three years ago over his support for Iraq during the Persian Gulf War.
In Tunis, a senior PLO official said the PLO and Israel had agreed on
a draft declaration of mutual recognition, a major sticking point holda draft declaration of mutual recognition, a major sticking point hold-
ing up the accord. The official, a member of the PLO committee supervising the Pales-
tinian delegation at Mideast peace talks, said the PLO would recognize tinian delegation at Mideast peace talks, said the PLO would recognize
Israel and its right to exist renounce terrorism and promise to call Israel and its right to exist, renounce terrorism and promise to call a
meeting of the 468 -member Palestine National Council, or parliament-in-exile, to formally endorse his statements.
The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said Arafat was
expected to make these commitments in a news conference soon after the Executive Committee meeting, and in a letter addressed to Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin of Israel.
The agreement for self-rule in Gaza and Jericho could then be signed The agreement for self-rule in Gaza and Jericho could th
later this month, probably before Sept. 20, the official said. In Jerusalem, Rabin's government faced strident opposition to the fice Tuesday night. Before dawn, police moved in with water cannon and clubs to disperse hundreds who had remained through the night.
Forty-five people were injured and 33 arrested. Israel's Supreme Court issued a ruling that the Mideast peace talks. The court recommended that Rabin fire two ministers under investigation for corruption. Interior Minister Arieh Deri said he will resign on Sunday, but his six-member party, Shas,
has threatened to bolt Rabin's frail coalition government over the investigation.
Rabin's government would still be able to stay afloat with the support of five Arab legislators outside his coalition. Shas' departure would deprive him of the Jewish majority in parliament he needs to Arafat said in an interview with the Israeli magazine Haolam Hazeh that Israel has agreed to a two-stage withdrawal plan from the Golan
Heights in exchange for peace with Syria. There was no immediate comment from Damascus or Jerusalem.

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