

Israel, PLO agree on mutual recognition

The Associated Press

TUNIS, Tunisia — PLO leaders and Israel swept away one of the major obstacles to Mideast peace Thursday when they agreed to recognize each other and take the risky path to peace.

The mutual recognition agreement clears the way for a separate pact giving Palestinians a measure of self-rule in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, occupied by Israel since the 1967 Middle East war.

President Clinton called the agreement "a very brave and courageous thing," and a congressional aide said Clinton told congressional leaders that Washington would renew dialogue with the PLO, suspended in 1990.

Yitzhak Rabin's office said in Jerusalem that Israel and the PLO will sign the recognition agreement in simultaneous ceremonies in Jerusalem and Tunis on Friday. It said Rabin would sign in his office at 9 a.m. Friday (3 a.m. EST).

On Monday in Washington, the

two sides will sign an accord on Palestinian self-rule in the occupied Gaza Strip and West Bank town of Jericho.

Under the recognition agreement, the Palestine Liberation Organization would renounce terrorism and recognize Israel's right to

She said the agreement "recognizes Palestinian national rights and allows for genuine reconciliation based on the rights of both peoples to live in the region."

Texts of the unsigned recognition letters were released by Rabin's office on Thursday.

PLO officials said the last sticking point in the agreement concerned the nearly six-year Palestinian uprising in the Israeli-occupied lands.

A senior PLO official said that under a compromise Arafat will announce that "the PLO will encourage the Palestinians in the occupied territories to work for reconstruction and will urge them to avoid violence."

The PLO had hesitated at wording proposed by Israel that could have been interpreted as a call to end the uprising against more than a quarter-century of Israeli domination.

"At last there is peace," said Shulamit Aloni, Israel's minister of science and culture. "For me, after fighting so many years for this moment, I have to go and celebrate."

Norway's foreign minister, Johan Jorgen Holst, who has been helping mediate the talks, called

"There are very few moments in history that are comparable to this moment."

- Hanan Ashrawi, spokeswoman for the Palestinian delegation at the Mideast peace talks in Washington

exist. The agreement on self-rule could eventually lead to a more comprehensive autonomy for Palestinians in lands captured by Israel.

In Washington, Hanan Ashrawi, spokeswoman for the Palestinian delegation at the Mideast peace talks, said, "There are very few moments in history that are comparable to this moment."

PLO chief Yasser Arafat, in a letter to Rabin, pledges the PLO will renounce terrorism and declares that sections of the PLO covenant that call for Israel's destruction are "no longer valid."

Rabin, in a letter to his longtime enemy, says Israel will recognize the PLO "as the representative of the Palestinian people" and will start negotiations with the organization.

Aggies react to Middle East

By Lisa Elliott

THE BATTALION

After decades of fighting in the Middle East, a chance for peace is on the horizon, yet students and faculty at Texas A&M University have mixed reactions about the future.

The agreement between the Palestine Liberation Organization and the Jewish state of Israel could be the start of a new era, said Rabbi Peter Tarlow of the B'nai B'rith Hillel Foundation, the Jewish student organization at A&M.

"I hope that this will be the beginning of a new age of peace," he said.

Tarlow said he has seen many friends and relatives die in the fighting and is hopeful for the future of the Middle

East.

"I have seen friends lose sons, brothers, husbands and whole families to this fighting," he said.

Mahmoud Alyahya, a 1990 agricultural education graduate of A&M and a former resident of Palestine, isn't as hopeful of the future. He said he is skeptical of the Jewish people and fears the Palestinians are being misled.

"This is a preplanned result of the Zionist project to take the whole of Palestine and to expand further in fulfillment of Zionist aims and ideals," he said.

Alyahya said he was driven out of his home by Zionist terrorists in the late 1940s and lost the land that had belonged to

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Cotton candy causes a stir



Kyle Burnett/THE BATTALION

Marti Alvarado, a food service employee, serves up some cotton candy at the Food Services barbecue held near the Academic Building Thursday. About 400 students attended the event. Sbsa and the Commons dining centers were closed for the event.

B-CS will benefit from NAFTA, economist says

By Stephanie Pattillo

THE BATTALION

Bryan-College Station will not lose jobs but will benefit from the passage of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), a local economist said Thursday, despite national concerns from environmental and labor groups.

"We don't have the low skill, small manufacturing jobs here that are moving to Mexico so industries that go to Mexico won't be drawn from B-CS," Sam Harwell, director of the Small Business Development Center said. "A lot of small to medium size import/export companies based here will grow, and a lot of agricultural industries will export to Mexico," he said.

Rafael Gely, assistant professor of manage-

ment, said there will be an increase in jobs in the United States in the long run.

"There will be some job loss due to NAFTA, but those will be mainly low-skill jobs," he said. "The jobs that will be gained will be the high skilled, high paid jobs."

NAFTA, if passed by Congress this December, will phase out most of the trade barriers between the United States, Mexico and Canada over a 15-year period. The treaty is under intense attack by U.S. labor unions. Gely said the immediate concerns of labor are that the jobs that are moving to Mexico are those in the textile and low-skills manufacturing industry.

"Unions have not been faring well in the last 15 years, and they are concerned with losing more jobs in a short span of time," he said.

Julian Gaspar, director of the Center for International Business Study, said unions will be

hit hard because people don't like to see a loss of jobs.

"Labor is trying to protect industries that will die sooner or later because of advanced companies," he said. "Labor needs to realize that they've got to keep moving on. Skilled workers need to increase."

"From an economic standpoint there is no reason why if the Mexican worker produces at half the price of what American workers produce Mexican workers shouldn't benefit," Gaspar said.

Harwell said labor concerns have been overblown.

"Jobs that are going to Mexico just as easily could go to Taiwan or Guatemala," he said.

Gaspar predicted that during the next 10 to

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Medical school to include leadership program

By Carrie Miura

THE BATTALION

Texas A&M University medical students are learning that there is more to being a doctor than just medicine.

Deborah Seidel, director of public affairs for the Texas A&M College of Medicine, said the college has incorporated a "leadership in medicine" program into their curriculum, which will "give students the opportunity to broaden their perspectives."

A&M is the only College of Medicine in Texas that has such a program in its curriculum.

"We want them to be active within their communities and to take on responsibilities around

us," she said. "The leadership in medicine program is designed to instill in our students the desire to be a part of solutions," Seidel said.

Dr. Richard DeVaul, director of the leadership in medicine program and dean of the College of Medicine, said he initiated the program in hopes that it would enhance the medical education curriculum.

The medical students begin the leadership program within their first year in medical school.

Dr. James Knight, co-director of the leadership program, said the students first work in groups made up of eight students and two leaders who are either physicians or basic scientists.

Students discuss professional development, leadership principles, community organization and issues like health care reform, said Knight.

In the second year of the leadership program, students have the opportunity to choose a mentor.

Knight said, "This gives the student a broader perspective on how that leader conducts themselves within the community."

Stuart Shalat, associate professor of epidemiology for the College of Veterinary Medicine and mentor to the leadership program, said, "This program tries to give students broader horizons and a chance at realizing their full potential."

The student and the mentor in-

teract on a different level, she said.

"I found it to be a very invigorating experience to get a student early in their career and be able to broaden their horizons," Knight said.

In third year of medical school, students must decide their specialty, during this process, the leadership program "opens up all the different areas of medicine to the students," Knight said.

Erik Nisimblat, a second year medical student at the A&M College of Medicine, said, "The first year program exposed you to the different services that the community offers and showed you how as a physician, you can get involved within the community."

KBTX to remain on TCA's line-up

By Geneen Pipher

THE BATTALION

After almost a month of conflict and a week and a half of "serious negotiations," local CBS affiliate KBTX-TV and TCA Cable reached an agreement Wednesday night that allows KBTX to remain on TCA's channel line-up.

The details of the settlement, which was reached early Wednesday evening, are being kept tightly under wraps because of a confidentiality clause in the agreement.

Although the exact details of the agreement are unknown to the public, Randy Rogers, general manager of TCA Cable, said no cash will exchange hands.

"The only thing I can tell you about it is that it (the agreement) does not involve any cash compensation," Rogers said.

"Since it does not involve any cash compensation it will not result in any increase in rates now or in the future."

KBTX had wanted TCA to pay 30 cents per customer per month, amounting to \$10,000 per month and \$122,400 per year.

But, Rogers said earlier this month, TCA would not pay the money KBTX was demanding, even though it could result in no CBS programming on the cable system.

Although KBTX could not be reached for comment, Rogers said both TCA and KBTX are satisfied with the outcome of the negotiations.

"I am pleased with the settlement," he said. "We were able to reach an agreement I think we can all be happy with. The cable subscribers will continue receiving the KBTX - CBS programming on our cable system."

Rogers said it was important that KBTX and its programming remain on the cable system.

"Quite frankly, the CBS programming is valuable to cable customers and so is the local programming, the news and so forth," he said.

"The people want it, that is why it's so important to TCA. It

is important to KBTX to remain on the cable system because they have a lot of extra coverage they would not have otherwise."

Rodger Lewis, KAMU educational program director and lecturer in broadcast journalism, said KBTX gets more advertisers because they are on the cable system.

"I know of three different local advertisers that said if KBTX was not on cable they would pull their ads," Lewis said.

"If I were guessing, I'd say that's what prompted Jim (KBTX's general manager) to change his position."

The conflict began as a result of a new federal law, the Cable Consumer Protection Act of 1992, which states that cable companies must now have permission to carry all stations before Oct. 6.

Lewis said the controversy between KBTX and TCA is something that is currently happening all over the United States.

"Anytime you have new regulations, businesses are going to devise strategies to get more money or keep from losing money," Lewis said.

"If a station thinks they can get money they are going to try, but cable companies are not so fat that they can pay the money and not have to pass it on to subscribers."

"I think channel 3 had an error in their strategy because there is no way TCA could pay that amount of money."

Lewis said many people in the community were confused by the messages the two organizations were producing.

"There were two different sides, two different points of view and no one knew exactly who to believe," he said.

Rogers agreed and said, "It was a negotiation between businesses, and it got out in the public a couple of weeks ago."

"I think people in the community were pulled back and forth as to who to support and who to believe. I wish it could have been completely behind closed doors, but it wasn't."

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WEATHER

•Friday: partly cloudy, isolated showers

•Weekend: partly cloudy, highs in 90s

•Next week: partly cloudy, isolated showers