

Signing of historic accord may end Mideast violence

The Associated Press

CAIRO, Egypt — A historic accord to launch Palestinian self-rule on land held by Israel is due to be signed Wednesday if a few remaining sticky disputes can be settled. For the Palestinians it will be the first step toward what many hope will be a state. For Israel it is a chance to end bloody conflict

between two peoples who claim the same land.

"It's the end of a long voyage and the beginning of a new chapter in relations between the Palestinian people and ourselves," said Israel's foreign minister, Shimon Peres, long an advocate of conciliation toward the Arabs on all fronts.

The date was set by Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, who

played a pivotal role in the breakthrough, even as Secretary of State Warren Christopher abandoned a passive U.S. stance to help Peres and PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat narrow their differences.

Christopher said he would remain in the region "to assist in any way I can." He then flew to Tel Aviv for a meeting Friday with Israeli Prime Minister

Yitzhak Rabin. Their agenda includes the stalled peace talks Israel had been holding with three Arab countries, Syria, Jordan and Lebanon.

Rabin will go to Cairo to see Arafat Tuesday night. That is the eye of what Mubarak said both sides had approved for signing the accord to implement the Palestinian self-rule declaration

that was signed at the White House last September.

It will send 8,000 Palestinian policemen, some armed with machine guns, to Jericho and Gaza, where Palestinians will begin to administer their own affairs. A timetable set last summer by Israel and the PLO called for implementation to begin last Dec. 13 and be concluded by April 13.

Biological clock gene finding may open drug possibilities

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A gene for the internal clock that sends the body wake-up alarms in the morning and brings on slumber at night has been located in laboratory mice, a finding that may prompt a similar discovery in humans.

Joseph Takahashi of Northwestern University, senior author of a report to be published Friday in the journal *Science*, said the research could lead to drugs that will overcome jet lag, keep night workers from falling asleep on the job and solve narcolep-

sy, one of the most common sleep disorders.

The biological clock, located in the brain, controls the daily, or circadian, rhythms of life. It somehow triggers changes that invigorate or slow down the body on a 24-hour cycle. It is the circadian rhythm that is disrupted by rapid flight across time zones, causing jet lag.

Circadian rhythms have long fascinated and confounded scientists, prompting research into sleep and into how humans adapt to daylight and darkness. But the work by Takahashi and his group is the first to locate in a mammal the gene that

plays a key role in the cycle.

Takahashi said researchers in his lab located the gene by finding and then breeding mice that lacked the gene.

"We isolated the mutation which affects the circadian clock in the mouse," he said. "With this mutation, the mouse loses (its) circadian rhythm completely."

The gene was located by an ingenious system that measured the circadian rhythm of 300 mice automatically at the same time.

Takahashi said that exercise wheels in each of the mouse cages were connected to

a computer. When each mouse awoke and started exercising, a switch was thrown that recorded the time.

"They all started within a minute or two of the same time each day," he said.

Except for one mouse. Researchers discovered that this rodent started an hour later each day. When it was bred, some of its descendants also started late.

By comparing the genetic pattern of the prompt and the tardy mice, Takahashi said they located a single mutation in an area of chromosome 5.

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