

Politics
President makes time to prepare

WASHINGTON (AP) — A three-day escape from White House pressures and a three-ringed under crammed with notes are ingredients in President Clinton's preparations for Sunday's kickoff debate with Bob Dole.

Already, though, Clinton's plans have been thrown off by the most violence between Palestinians and Israelis since the 1967

east war. The president was to have had eight schedule this week, with Sunday and Monday off, to allow time for debate study. That changed, though, when Clinton invited Mideast leaders to an emergency White House meeting Tuesday to try to restore peace.

"The president has to order his priorities as he sees fit and this is his priority, right now," presidential spokesman Mike McCurry said.

Even so, Clinton is expected to go into seclusion beginning Thursday somewhere in the mid-Atlantic states — New Jersey, perhaps — to cram and practice for the first 90-minute debate, beginning at 9 p.m. EDT in Hartford, Conn., on Sunday.

"It's important to get his head into this and that he's not tired," a senior adviser said. "It's important that we get him down."

After some last-minute squabbles over the debate format, an agreement was signed Saturday locking in the details of two presidential debates — Oct. 6 and Oct. 11 — and one vice presidential debate, Oct. 9.

Dole: Welfare should create work for poor

WASHINGTON (AP) — The following are the answers of the major presidential candidates to the question: Do you favor providing tax incentives for companies to hire and train homeless people who want to work?

ON THE ISSUES
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Bill Clinton

"By creating partnerships between the federal government and local communities, small businesses and ordinary citizens, we can renew economic activity in our disadvantaged urban and rural areas. My empowerment zone initiative offers \$3.5 billion in tax incentives and flexible block grants to encourage new private investment in 104 economically distressed communities across America. We have also created a national network of non-traditional community banks which uses federal money to leverage billions of dollars more in private capital for community renewal."

Bob Dole
"The fundamental focus of welfare reform must be the promotion of work and personal responsibility. State governments, local communities, churches, and charitable organizations can often be effective at addressing the poverty problem. The federal government must give these institutions the tools they need to get the job done."

Ross Perot
"The tax code shouldn't be filled with provisions for every different cause. Businesses should recruit and train the homeless who are capable of work. This should be part of a large movement of businesses moving into the inner cities and offering new opportunities to the urban poor."

Clinton calls summit to ease mideast tensions

WASHINGTON (AP) — Dis-

tressed over a resurgence of old tensions that "spun out of control" in the Middle East, President Clinton said he will convene Israeli and Palestinian leaders this week to discuss restoring peace.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of Israel and Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat agreed to meet in Washington this week in an attempt to prevent fighting that has killed dozens of people from destroying the peace process.

"I think they're both concerned about the way events spun out of control, about the loss of life, the injury, the eruption of old tensions and bitterness," Clinton said Sunday. "I believe they want to try to get beyond that. I don't think they would be coming here if they didn't."

King Hussein of Jordan and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak also were invited to the Washington meeting, Clinton said. Hussein agreed to come, he said, but Mubarak has not said whether he will.

Clinton spoke by telephone for about 10 minutes each Sunday afternoon with Arafat, Netanyahu, Mubarak and Hussein. White House spokesman Mike McCurry

said Clinton particularly wanted to thank Netanyahu and Arafat for accepting his invitation and to "encourage them to come to Washington in a frame of mind that allows progress to be made."

Palestinians were hoping that Mubarak would attend. "Egypt's role is important, and we don't like to think of being there without President Mubarak," Nabil

"I think they're both concerned about the way events spun out of control...."

President Clinton

Shaath, the Palestinian minister of planning, said on CBS' "Face the Nation."

Mubarak tentatively sent word of a scheduling conflict. But his foreign minister, Amr Moussa, said on U.S. television that a Mubarak no-show could be blamed on Israeli behavior in recent weeks.

Mubarak is annoyed that the

situation in Israel "reached that level of insensitivity to the Arab people and the Arab feelings," Moussa said, also on CBS.

"President Mubarak is definitely upset at the negative developments that have occurred and that the peace process, as it is, is really teetering. It is not in good shape at all," Moussa said.

The Washington meeting, tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, will focus on "relevant issues here to the recent violence," Clinton told reporters in the White House's Rose Garden.

He did not say whether the issues included reopening Sunday of an 500-yard-long archaeological tunnel that runs near religious sites sacred to both Muslims and Jews. Upgrades on the passage were completed last week, and that triggered a Palestinian reaction that fed the most violent battles between Israelis and Arabs since the 1967 Middle East war.

The United States has implied criticism of the original opening of the tunnel, but Clinton avoided mention of it Sunday. As he turned to leave the Rose Garden on Sunday, Clinton ignored a reporter's question on Israel's decision to reopen it.

Israel reopens tunnel Sunday

JERUSALEM (AP) — Israel defied world opinion Sunday by reopening a tunnel near Jerusalem's Muslim holy shrines, but agreed to a summit with the Palestinians in Washington in an attempt to revive peace talks and end the violence that has taken 73 lives.

President Clinton telephoned Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and told them he expected their summit Tuesday to end in success.

"The president said the results needed from the meeting in Washington are an end to the violence and speedy renewal of negotiations," a statement from Netanyahu's office said.

Although the reopening of the tunnel kept Palestinian anger running high, Clinton's personal intervention was seen as likely to calm passions on both sides and renew hopes for progress.

Arafat and Netanyahu initially refused to make concessions that would allow the summit to go ahead, but Israel's Channel 2 TV said a possible compromise was emerging.

Arafat, it said, would pledge to end the violence and stop objecting to the tunnel, while Netanyahu would agree to a timetable for future negotiations and a date for Israel's military pullout from the West Bank city of Hebron.

One remaining obstacle was the

role of Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak. Clinton invited him to attend, and Arafat insisted the Egyptian be there, but Mubarak did not agree to go.

The 500-meter tunnel is portrayed by Israel as a harmless archaeological excavation, but it runs alongside hallowed Muslim shrines and is seen by Palestinians as diminishing their claim to Arab east Jerusalem.

Israel opened the tunnel on Tuesday night, triggering clashes that left 56 Palestinians and 14 Is-

raelis dead in the worst gunbattles they have waged in the West Bank and Gaza Strip in 29 years. Three Egyptian soldiers also were killed by stray bullets that crossed the Gaza-Egypt border.

Israel closed the tunnel Friday and Saturday, hoping to restore calm, and reopened it Sunday. Netanyahu vowed Saturday night that the tunnel "will always be open."

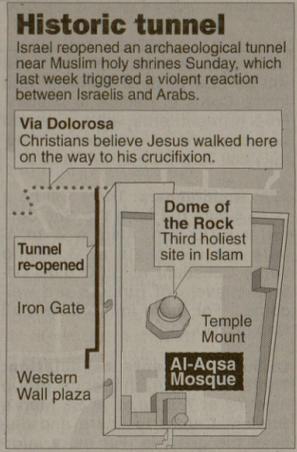
Late Saturday, the U.N. Security Council passed a resolution that indirectly calls on Israel to close the tunnel. The vote was 14-0, with the United States abstaining.

Arab teen-agers threw stones Sunday as Israeli guards opened the steel exit door of the passage leading onto the Via Dolorosa, Jesus's route to his crucifixion.

But the riots had died down by Sunday in the West Bank and Gaza. Israeli soldiers, backed by tanks, had laid siege to the Palestinian areas, and Arafat's 30,000-member police force kept demonstrators away from Israeli army positions.

If the violence escalates, Netanyahu spokesman David Bar-Ilan said Israel may consider disarming the Palestinian policemen. Hundreds of Arafat's police were involved in last week's gunbattles.

Nabil Shaath, a senior Palestinian negotiator, accused Netanyahu of triggering the violence by opening the tunnel without consulting the Palestinians and by stalling the peace process.



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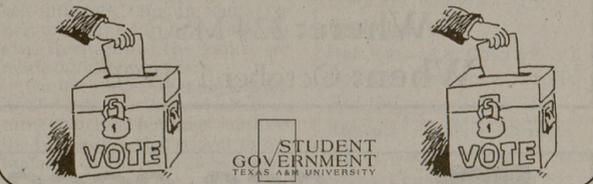
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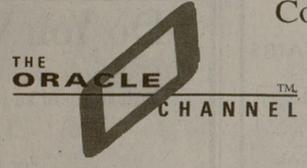
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