

Palestinians prepare for feared Israeli invasion

JERUSALEM (AP) — Yasser Arafat told his people Wednesday to "prepare for battle," saying the worst is yet to come in crippling Israeli sanctions. Newly trained Palestinian fighters declared themselves ready to meet a feared Israeli invasion.

Alarmed Jordanian leaders urged both sides to tone down the tough talk in the Israeli-Palestinian crisis. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has suspended peace talks, ordered mass arrests, and imposed a travel ban on the West Bank and Gaza, halting the transfer of vital tax revenues to Arafat's self-rule government in the week since suicide bombers killed themselves and 13 others in a crowded Jerusalem market.

"Prepare for battle that Netanyahu is forcing on us, because what is coming is worse than what has already been," Arafat said in Gaza, at a meeting with leaders of his Fatah faction of the Palestine Liberation Organization.

In the West Bank city of Ramallah, members of Fatah burned Israeli and U.S. flags during a graduation ceremony for a course in weapons-handling and street combat.

The 50 graduates were trained to confront Israeli forces if they try to enter the Palestinian-controlled cities, Palestinian officials said. Hardliners within Netanyahu's government reportedly have urged him to take that step.

Netanyahu said that he was ready to ease up on Arafat clamps down on terror.

"If I had to say what is the indispensable step toward saving peace, it is for the Palestinian Author-

ity to take firm and decisive and immediate steps against the infrastructure of terrorism," Netanyahu said after meeting with Jordan's Crown Prince Hassan and Prime Minister Abdel-Salam Majali in Jerusalem.

“Prepare for battle that Netanyahu is forcing on us, because what is coming is worse than what has already been.”

Yasser Arafat
Palestinian leader

Hassan countered that militants should not be allowed to sabotage the peace process. "Clearly the possibilities of extremism destroying and derailing the process are many," he said.

Netanyahu — who before the bombings faced American pressure to freeze settlement building in a gesture to the Palestinians — is apparently waiting for the arrival this weekend of U.S. envoy Dennis Ross before making any concessions.

Earlier, ringed by security forces, he lit a memorial candle and recited a prayer for the

dead in Jerusalem's Mahane Yehuda market.

"If he'll keep his side of the bargain, we'll keep our side of the bargain," he said — drawing yells from the crowd of: "The people are with you."

Ahmed Qureia, speaker of the Palestinian legislature, called an emergency session for Saturday to discuss Israel's crackdown.

Leaflets bearing the name of the militant group Hamas claimed responsibility for the attack and threatened a new wave of bombings. Israel had yet to identify the two suicide bombers, and Palestinian officials believe they came from abroad.

The Arabic newspaper Al-Ayyam reported Wednesday that a news service in Nicosia, Cyprus, received an anonymous call saying the bombers were Palestinians from the south Lebanon refugee camp Ein el-Hilweh.

Arafat adviser Ahmed Tibi said that when it becomes clear the bombers didn't come from areas under Palestinian rule, "Netanyahu should personally apologize to Yasser Arafat and pay compensation for all the economic losses that resulted from the cruel siege."

Netanyahu, however, said Israel believed that the bombers had at least received orders from militants in the Palestinian-controlled areas.

Israel wants Arafat to hand over wanted men, rearrest Palestinians released from Palestinian jails, disarm Islamic militants and arrest their leaders, stop anti-Israel propaganda, resume intelligence-sharing and fire the Palestinian police chief.

Sinn Fein, Northern Ireland meet for peace talks

BELFAST, Northern Ireland (AP) — Britain's governor for Northern Ireland welcomed Sinn Fein leader Gerry Adams for their first-ever direct talks Wednesday just 16 days after the IRA's truce.

Most pro-British Protestant leaders have refused to meet with Adams when talks on Northern Ireland's future resume next month at Stormont, Britain's administrative center, with Sinn Fein participating for the first time.

But Northern Ireland Secretary John Major sat down for 2 1/2 hours Wednesday with Adams and other members of his IRA-allied party.

"I took the opportunity to tell Sinn Fein face-to-face that I was pleased the IRA had declared a cease-fire,"

Mowlam said after the session.

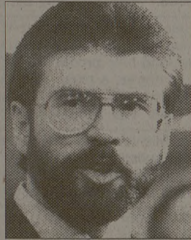
The haste of the first Mowlam-Adams meeting contrasts sharply with the go-slow approach of the previous Conservative government. Its Northern Ireland secretary, Sir Patrick Mayhew, did not meet Adams until after nine months of Irish Republican Army truce — and then only when pressured by Washington.

Wednesday's meeting is among a long list of milestones that measure Adams' gradual entry into the political mainstream since his days as a reputed IRA commander in the 1970s.

Nonetheless, all three major Protestant parties criticized the meeting. Two said they wouldn't come to the talks next month, while

the largest party, the Ulster Unionists, said it wouldn't meet with Sinn Fein.

Adams said he pressed Mowlam to oversee a negotiating process that would end British rule and unify Northern Ireland with the rest of Ireland.



Adams

That's a tall order, given the demands by Northern Ireland's pro-British Protestant majority for continued union with Britain.

"Unionists are an intrinsic part of Ireland. Republicans don't want you to leave it, nor do we wish to

dominate you," Adams said in an appeal to the Protestants afterward.

Joining Adams were Sinn Fein chief negotiator Martin McGuinness, who like Adams won a seat in British Parliament in May; Caoimhghin O Caolain, the party's only member of the Dail, the Irish parliament; and Martin Ferris, paroled from prison three years ago after trying to smuggle weapons into Ireland from America in 1984.

Mowlam, who took office in May following the Labor election victory, confirmed that both sides discussed key Sinn Fein concerns, including transferring 25 IRA prisoners incarcerated in England and early parole for several hundred IRA prisoners in Northern Ireland.

PLAQUE

Continued from Page 1

The plaque will accompany a mural at the Legion Post that was previously removed from the UPD building. The plaque reads, "American Legion Community House dedicated to the youth of Texas by the American Legion"

FOOD

Continued from Page 1

He estimates that 250 people will attend, but he hopes for more.

"We want this place packed," Clark said.

Clark said the fair lets the bookstore show its appreciation to its customers.

"The fair is a good way to thank A&M students, staff and faculty for

buying from us," he said.

Clark said he and Kapusniak came up with the idea for the fair at one of Kapusniak's local book signings.

They wanted to have an event where people could taste low-fat food in the Brazos Valley.

Clark said a cooperative effort among managers of the bookstore made the fair possible.

Clark said that if this fair is successful, the bookstore may do it yearly.

LAW

Continued from Page 1

Morales' office had argued that those bringing the lawsuit would have to prove exceptional circumstances to require the involuntary testimony of high-ranking officials.

In addition, Dusek said the attorney general "has no information he could provide them in regard to the legislation and policies and such."

A provision in the state budget that takes effect Sept. 1 prohibits payment of salary and benefits to any state government employee who serves as an expert witness or consultant in a lawsuit against the state.

The Texas A&M University System policy allows outside employment if it doesn't bring an employee into conflict with the interests of the state.

The Texas Faculty Association said the policy and law "clearly violate the right of free speech, the right of association, and the acad-

emic freedom of any faculty member who wishes to consult or serve as an expert witness in litigation against the state of Texas or any of its subdivisions."

State lawmakers have defended the provision in the state budget, saying it's in line with what private employers expect of workers.

"You're either working for us, or you're not. If you're working for us, your loyalty should be to the state. If you're working for the taxpayers, your loyalty should be to the taxpayers," Rep. Pete Gallego, D-Alpine, who sponsored the provision, has said.

Gallego has said the budget provision wouldn't cover the tobacco lawsuit instigated by Morales because it applies to litigation filed against the state.

Texas A&M University System spokeswoman Terri Parker has said Hoover's plans to testify for the tobacco companies weren't consistent with the university's ethics policy.

DRUGS

Continued from Page 1

An outside researcher questioned the findings, saying another major teen survey had not seen decreased drug use.

"I would urge considerable caution in interpreting these data," said Lloyd Johnston, researcher on the University of Michigan's drug use survey.

That survey, which collects data for each school year, showed no decrease in teen drug use through April 1996, and it found sharp increases in

marijuana use, Johnston said.

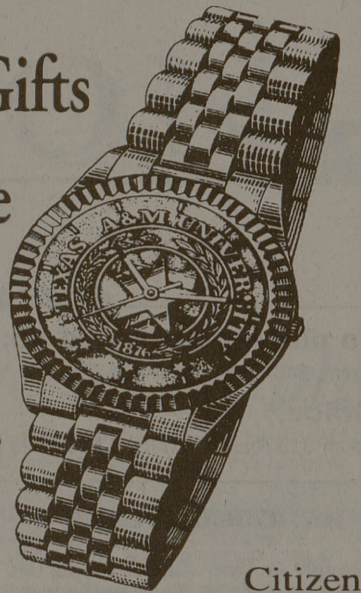
The government survey covered all of 1996, so a sharp decrease in the later months of the year could explain the discrepancy.

"I'd like to see more confirmation before I suggest anyone break out the champagne," Johnston said.

Government officials, stung by last year's report, also were sober. McCaffrey said he doesn't believe youth attitudes are changing "in any serious way."

"If you talk to high school kids today ... the group ethic tends to be pro-drug," he said.

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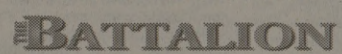
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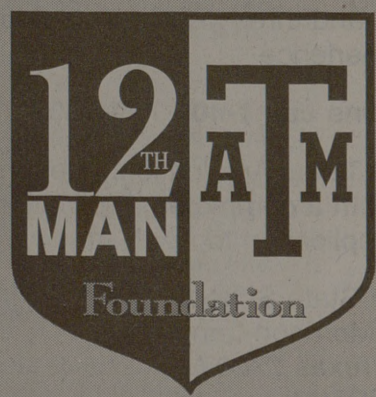
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