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## Settlers take over buildings in Arab neighborhood in Jerusalem

JERUSALEM (AP) — Jewish extremists hooked up rooftop surveillance cameras Monday in an Arab neighborhood they moved into under the cover of darkness, staking a claim on a part of Jerusalem the Palestinians want for a future capital.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu awaited word Monday from Israel's attorney general on whether he can evict the settlers, who occupied two buildings on Jerusalem's Mount of Olives. But he warned it would be difficult to take any action against them.

Less than 24 hours after entering the Ras al-Amud neighborhood, home to 11,000 Palestinians, the 11 settlers prepared for a long stay, bringing in pots of steaming food and covering floors with mattresses. Dozens of troops were posted nearby to protect them.

Outside the compound, Israeli peace activists and Palestinian residents set up a tent covered with placards that read: "Kick the settlers out of Ras al-Amud."

The settler action threatened to trigger new confrontations between Israelis and Palestinians at a time when both sides are trying to restore trust following last week's visit by Secretary of State Madeleine Albright.

"It comes at a time when the last thing we need is another crisis," Palestinian spokeswoman Hanan Ashrawi said. "We feel that the extremists once again are trying not just to put obstacles in the path of peace, but to ignite a powder keg."

Ras al-Amud is located in an area of east Jerusalem claimed by the Palestinians as the capital of a future state. The settlers' supporters, including Cabinet hawk Ariel Sharon, said a Jewish bridgehead there would

break up the continuity of the neighborhoods.

Located just outside the wall of the Old City, Ras al-Amud offers panoramic views of the gold-topped Dome of the Rock Mosque, one of Islam's holiest shrines.

The settlers leased the buildings from Irving Moskowitz, a Miami go millionaire who owns 3 1/2 acres in Ras al-Amud and hopes eventually to build a Jewish neighborhood with 50 apartments there.

The settlers say that Moskowitz moved into from their Arab neighbors several days ago. However, Palestinians say that one of the homes was still being rented to an Arab family of eight, all of whom were out visiting friends at the time of the takeover Sunday night. It was not clear what happened to that family's belongings.

## Albright urges renewed peace talks

BEIRUT, Lebanon (AP) — On a visit to Beirut under tight security, Secretary of State Madeleine Albright said Monday that she found "a willingness and desire" to resume Mideast peace talks in Syria, Lebanon and Israel.

She urged Lebanese leaders to resume negotiations with Israel but said she recognized that those talks should be in line with Israel's talks with Syria, which dominates Lebanon's politics.

Albright's unannounced trip to Beirut came during an escalation in fighting between the Israeli army and Shiite Muslims in south Lebanon, and she said the violence showed the desperate need for peace.

"The recent tragic violence in the south of your country has underlined for all concerned that the status quo is not acceptable," she said in a speech to academics, business leaders and others in Beirut.

Albright's visit to Lebanon ended a weeklong tour of the Middle East — her first to the region as secretary of state — that also took her to Israel, the Palestinian territories, Syria, Saudi Arabia and Jordan.

She earlier conceded she made only small steps toward restarting talks between Israelis and Palestinians. Regarding Israeli negotiations with Syria and Lebanon, she said there was a need "to talk further about further talks."

But Albright added that in Jerusalem, Damascus and Beirut, "I have found in each of the three governments a willingness and desire to resume negotiations."

Expressing American determination to push for peace, she added: "In the absence of a peace agreement, we are methodically taking the stairs."

Albright noted that U.S. officials will meet with Lebanese, Syrian and Israeli officials in New York later this month.

"We will see whether the ... mutual interests progress is matched by a mutual willingness to consider seriously each others' views," she said.

Albright talked about a possible trip to Lebanon throughout her tour, but no decision was made until her plane landed Monday on the eastern Mediterranean island of Cyprus after a flight to Jordan.

She flew aboard a U.S. helicopter to the former U.S. Embassy compound in the Beirut suburb of Aukar, and then went in a heavily guarded motorcade to the presidential palace in Baabda, another suburb.

In an hour-long meeting with President E. Hrawi, Prime Minister Rafik Hariri and Foreign Minister Faris Bweiz, the secretary urged renewing peace talks with Israel.

"The Lebanese-Israeli track is absolutely essential for a comprehensive Middle East peace settlement," she said. "We must go forward on all tracks."

But she added the various talks "should be at approximately the same pace," assuring Syria that Washington would not divert Lebanon into a separate deal with Israel as it did in the 1980s — only to have Damascus torpedo the accord.

## Sinn Fein enters negotiations in Northern Ireland

BELFAST, Northern Ireland (AP) — The IRA-allied Sinn Fein party entered Northern Ireland's peace talks for the first time Monday, frightening off all five pro-British Protestant parties.

Sinn Fein leader Gerry Adams, surrounded by party comrades, passed through gates that had been locked to them when the talks on Northern Ireland's political future began in June 1996.

"We do think that this could be the beginning of the end of conflict on this island, if the political will is there to build an agreement," Adams said. Sinn Fein was admitted after the outlawed IRA stopped its violent campaign against British rule of Northern Ireland eight weeks ago.

Ulster Unionist leader David Trimble, whose party represents a critical third of Northern Ireland opinion, boycotted the talks at Castle Buildings, a drab office block within the British administrative center in east Belfast.

As expected, the two most hard-line Protestant parties, Ian Paisley's Democratic Unionists and Bob McCartney's United Kingdom Unionists, failed to show up Monday. Two small but influential parties linked to pro-British paramilitary gangs also refused to participate.

Paisley, however, submitted a

memorandum in absentia calling for Sinn Fein's expulsion. The chairman of

**"We do think that this could be the beginning of the end of conflict on this island, if the political will is there to build an agreement."**

**GERRY ADAMS**  
SINN FEIN LEADER

the talks, former U.S. Senate Majority Leader George Mitchell, dismissed it because the plaintiffs weren't there.

Three miles away, Trimble invited the British government's political development minister, Paul Murphy, to his party's downtown headquarters. The two discussed what Trimble called "the precise procedural arrangements for our involvement in the multi-party talks."

Trimble said he would lead the Ulster Unionists into negotiations involving Sinn Fein "as soon as possible," but is looking for assurances that his party's views won't be overruled or ignored.

Before that meeting, British

Prime Minister Tony Blair and Prime Minister Bertie Ahern had already offered Trimble various assurances.

Their joint statement emphasized that the disarmament of IRA and pro-British paramilitary groups was "an indispensable part of negotiations, and any proposed settlement must win majority public approval within Northern Ireland."


That is critical to the Ulster Unionists, who were instrumental in founding the predominantly Protestant state in 1920.

Inside the negotiating room, moderate politicians from four parties grilled Adams about the worth of his formal renunciation of violence. Adams made the point last Tuesday — a requirement for negotiators — but the IRA spokesman said it wouldn't agree to the terms.

Adams, reputed to be a former IRA commander, insisted Sinn Fein has no "organic" connection to the policies. Other politicians in the room were skeptical.

"The process would have been greatly strengthened if Sinn Fein would admit that it did represent the IRA, and so could deliver peace," said John Alderdice, head of Alliance, the only party to attract support from Protestant Catholics.

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Mary Helen Bowers, University Relations

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**MSC 292**

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Tuesday

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