land grab.

By Steve Weizman

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

JERUSALEM - Israel decid-

built security barrier around much

of the West Bank - including

several sections aimed at shield-

ing Jewish settlements, con-

demned by Palestinians as a major

To appease the United States

- which opposes extending the

barrier deep into the West Bank

the new sections will for now

be disconnected from each other

and from existing barrier sec-

tions built closer to Israel's pre-1967 border with the West

Bank. The final route will be

The barrier was conceived,

decided in the coming months.

Israel approves security barrier any of those p ve never really people were so trouble, the who m ready to bat.' cker thinks that do nge would be fun, rom reality televis is if I want a career

ry, I have to brea

he whole experi oose your battles. g, I always had to ut what everyone ou just become me low out a little and watch my m

blunt. Decker is no lor dating the guy she she is not yet ready

brutally honest

under public pressure, as a means of keeping Palestinian attackers out of Israel, where know I am maki hundreds have been killed in the recent years' suicide bombings. York, so there is But the project has been complipoint in getting en cated by efforts to incorporate some of the 220,000 West Bank

the opportunity.

look at yourself in the

And if you do not li

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I okay with myself

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age as many die

ound out the group

Aug. 9 and recent

bum, "Underneath spring 2004.

settlers on the "Israeli" side. When To date, Israel has completed approach her abou about 90 miles of fences, walls desire to be on t and trenches built fairly close to the border before the 1967 war but dipping slightly into occuever been on the sho pied territory in some areas to

include Jewish settlements. gled with the question of settlea difficult to be force ments deeper inside the West ner people see her Bank, especially Ariel, a community of 18,000 residents some 15 miles inside. The settlers

Israel barrier extension approved

cutting deep into West Bank

Israel's cabinet approved an extension of a security barrier deep into the West Bank. The fence would include the settlements of Ariel, Kedumim Karnei Shomron and Emmanuel

Approved extension ···· Potential extension*

 Separation barrier - "Green Line"

Palestinian controlled areas



wanted the fence to incorporate

A senior government official said the Cabinet decided in princi-

NEWS IN BRIEF

project — essentially cutting off the entire West Bank - and to begin construction of several sections totaling some 100 miles. with the exact route of the rest of the barrier to be decided later.

In line with the secrecy that has characterized the project, no maps were officially released Wednesday.

But from officials' statements and media reports, it appeared the barrier would stretch all the way around the West Bank to the Dead Sea in the south, sticking close to the pre-1967 border in some areas and cutting into the West Bank to encircle Jewish settlements

Four fence sections in the area — as sketched by a senior Israeli official on a map carried by an Associated Press reporter would start with horseshoe-

The government official said the plan calls for the sections to be eventually linked to each other and to the main barrier. According to the rough sketch, that would take a bite some 20 miles deep into the West Bank, surrounding

opposition to such a plan clear, with President George W. Bush calling the barrier "a problem" and some officials saying it could be interpreted as an effort to pre-empt negotiations and unilaterally define the border of

ple to approve completing the

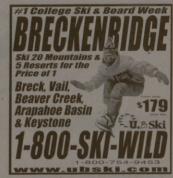
China makes it easier for couples to say 'I do'

BEIJING (AP) - On Wednesday, China eliminated a much-resented requirement for couples to obtain their bosses' approval before tying the knot, prompting thousands of couples to wed in what, for some, was also a celebration of the retreat of outside interference in their private lives.

Couples said "I do" Wednesday at mass ceremonies in city squares, at tree planting ceremonies and even at a Beijing drive-in theater.

The new marriage rules are among social reforms that increasingly are freeing private lives from unpopular government controls.





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