

Israel's Cabinet barely approves prisoner swap

By Peter Enav
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

JERUSALEM — Israel's Cabinet narrowly approved a prisoner swap with Hezbollah after eight hours of anguished debate Sunday, overriding warnings that the deal could signal weakness and encourage more kidnappings of Israelis.

Prime Minister Ariel Sharon lobbied hard for the swap, which excludes Israel's most famous missing serviceman, Air Force navigator Ron Arad, who was shot down over Lebanon 17 years ago. The vote was one of Sharon's toughest leadership tests in three years.

The deal for the swap could still collapse — and the Lebanese guerrilla group threatened Sunday to kidnap more Israelis if that happens.

Under the deal, about 400 Palestinians and several dozen prisoners from Lebanon, Syria, Morocco, Sudan and Libya will be released in exchange for

Israeli businessman Elhan Tannenbaum and the bodies of three Israeli soldiers.

The Palestinians have been pressing Israel to release Palestinian prisoners — though the exchange might not have immediate effect on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. It could further boost Hezbollah's popularity among Palestinians and reinforce a belief that Israel responds to force.

Some Israelis believe the Palestinians have been encouraged in their ongoing uprising by Israel's withdrawal from southern Lebanon in 2000, seen by Arabs as a victory for Hezbollah's years of resistance against Israeli troops.

In Sunday's Cabinet session the ministers voted without knowing the names of most of those to be released, but were assured they would not have been involved in killing Israelis — with the exception of several Lebanese prisoners on the list who killed Israeli soldiers in south Lebanon.

fine of up to \$500.

According to the TS Web site, state laws require a bicycle being at night to have a white lamp in front and a red reflector or lamp in the rear.

Mosley said she is aware that bicyclists must follow the same rules as automobiles, but that she does not always follow them. Although she rides her bicycle on campus at night and has reflectors, she does not have headlights. She said she stops at stop signs if traffic is heavy.

"If I'm going and there are no cars, I'm not going to stop," she said.

Weis said another big problem on campus is vehicles parked in bike lanes.

"Parking in bike lanes presents a huge risk to bicyclists in that they have to move out of the path and into the traffic, greatly increasing the risk to them and to motorists whose attention may be focused on the vehicle that is partially blocking the lane of travel and may not see the bicyclist," Weis said.

Baron said if a bicyclist is not paying attention and a vehicle door opens, the bicycle may run into it.

Mosley said she often sees vehicles parked in bike lanes, but she doesn't consider it a major problem.

"You just go around them," she said. "It's better than having to fight people walking on the sidewalks."

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Kennedy

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were delivered from both ends, even admitting that he often used Kennedy to fire up Republican crowds, causing Kennedy to laughingly pretend to walk offstage.

"If I know tonight's honoree, Monday morning he will be back in Washington fighting with every ounce of passionate conviction for his longstanding beliefs," Bush said.

While on stage, Bush and Kennedy were jokingly poking fun at each other and accepting their mutual differences, though a few audience members were not. Upon beginning his speech, Kennedy was interrupted by the shouts of an audience member who was promptly removed. The A&M Young Conservatives of Texas also protested the award, standing outside of Rudder Tower with anti-Kennedy posters and T-shirts.

Kennedy's comments regarding President George W. Bush's dealings with the war in Iraq were the source of this unrest.

"A few of my friends told me it might be a little awkward to be

here right now, in light of my strong disagreement with President George W. Bush over Iraq," Kennedy said. "But they told me not to worry. If any demonstrators stand up and walk out, just pretend they're all leaving early to go up to Oklahoma to cheer on the Aggies against the Sooners in tomorrow's (Saturday's) game."

Kennedy emphasized the importance of debating issues such as the war in Iraq and added that, despite the disagreements between the two families, they shared a common commitment to upholding the nation's founding ideals and ensuring that America lives up to its highest principles.

"We are a stronger nation when ideas are debated," Kennedy said. "In truth, the greatest respect we can give to an idea is not to blindly embrace it or instantly oppose it, but to think about it, study it and yes, test it and debate it."

Bush said Kennedy's comments towards the current president did upset him but that he respected Kennedy's courage in expressing his opinion, despite the offering of the Bush Award.

Bikes

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areas such as the underground passageway at Wellborn Road.

"We want the bicyclists to have access to the passageway in order to avoid the dangers involved in crossing the tracks and the intersection at Joe Routt and Wellborn," Weis said. "But we also want to try and ensure that we don't have a bicycle-pedestrian accident that kills or severely injures one of our community members."

On campus, TS regulates parked bicycles while UPD regulates moving bicycles.

University Police Sgt. Allan Baron said there were eight bicycle accidents reported from January to October of 2003. Three involved an automobile, two involved a pedestrian and three involved another bicycle. All eight accidents involved minor injuries.

Most bicycle accidents that do occur stem from a lack of knowledge of state laws, Baron said.

State laws require bicycles operating on public streets to follow all the rules and regulations that someone in a vehicle is required to follow.

Baron said the two biggest bicycle problems he sees on campus are failing to stop at stop signs and failing to have headlights on at night. If a person is caught doing either one, he will be issued a ticket by UPD through the justice of the peace, which could result in a

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M. Rugby	Nov. 15	Noon–5 p.m.	E. Cmps Rugby Pitch
A&M Fencing	Nov. 16	10 a.m.–2 p.m.	Indoor Soccer Courts
W. Lacrosse	Nov. 15–16	All Day	Penberthy 7 & 8
W. Rugby	Nov. 22	Noon	E. Cmps Rugby Pitch
M. Rugby	Nov. 22	2 p.m.–5 p.m.	E. Cmps Rugby Pitch
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