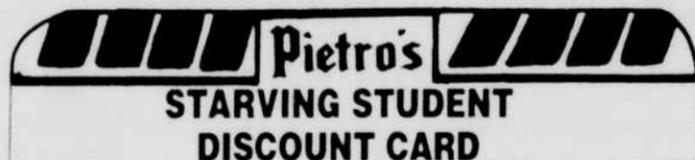


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## U.S. welcomes PLO move to support Mid-East peace

WASHINGTON (AP) — The State Department reacted positively Monday to the Palestine Liberation Organization's apparent endorsement of Middle East peace talks and said it would consider resuming talks with the PLO under certain conditions.

Since February, the Bush administration has been trying to arrange negotiations among Israel, Arab states and Palestinian representatives. Until late last week, only the Palestinians had not at least tentatively endorsed the peace conference.

Then, the Palestine National Council, the highest legislative body of the PLO, voted to endorse a Palestinian delegation's participation in the negotiations and dropped Abu Abbas, who Washington accuses of being a terrorist leader, from its ruling executive council.

Abbas, head of the Palestine National Front, based in Baghdad, is suspected by U.S. officials of being implicated in the abortive raid on Tel Aviv beaches May 30, 1990.

State Department spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler said, "We've certainly noted Abu Abbas' departure from the executive committee." Still, she said, "that does not satisfy all of our concerns."

The terms for resuming direct talks with the PLO are the same cited by Bush in suspending the dialogue, she said.

The president had called on Arafat to condemn the Tel Aviv raid. Bush said a general PLO statement denouncing attacks on civilians was "not sufficient." Bush also said that the people responsible for the raid would have to be disciplined.

As Bush and Baker have pursued arrangements for a peace conference, the administration has insisted it is not dealing with the PLO and has assured Israel the organization would not have a role in peacemaking.

The effect was to diminish PLO prestige, although the Palestinians Baker met with insisted they were PLO-approved.

The actions by the Palestine National Council in Algiers last week could be an attempt by Arafat to raise the PLO's stature and to have at least an indirect impact on the negotiations.

Meanwhile, Tutwiler said Baker expected to meet again soon with two of the Palestinians, Faisal Husseini and Hanan Ashwari, to complete the terms

for Palestinian participation in the peace talks.

### NATIONAL BRIEFS

#### Ross: Children need support

WASHINGTON (AP) — Singer Diana Ross told Congress on Monday that she brings a special expertise to her job as spokeswoman for the National Children's Day Foundation — her work in raising five kids of her own.

Ross spoke to the House Select Committee on Children, Youth and Families as it held a hearing with high school students from around the country to mark National Children's Day. Her children range from ages 3 to 20.

She said children need support from their communities and neighborhoods as well as their parents. Many turn to gangs, she said, because they lack the security of a home.

"The heroes are our parents, our teachers, our community leaders," she said.

"It's very hard to ask a child to care about the environment when they don't have enough food."

#### Heston plays hero pilot

SIOUX CITY, Iowa (AP) — Charlton Heston, best known for his biblical roles, is playing someone who's still alive.

Heston on Saturday completed a week of filming in Sioux City for a made-for-TV movie in which he plays Al Haynes, the pilot who crash-landed a crippled jumbo jet with 284 aboard at the Sioux Gateway Airport on July 19, 1989.

While he has corresponded with the retired United Airlines pilot, who's a technical adviser for the movie, Heston won't meet him until they begin the cockpit scenes this week in Los Angeles.

"I look forward to his expertise and a chance to thank him for a good part," Heston said, adding: "I think obviously his skill and courage are what came into play in the incident."

Haynes lost control of the wings' moveable parts when the rear engine blew up, severing all hydraulic lines. Haynes controlled the plane by using alternating power from the two wing engines. Unable to land normally, the plane cart-wheeled at the airport. Of the 284 aboard, 112 died.

#### Geto Boys say racism motive for denial

JACKSON, Miss. (AP) — Members of the Geto Boys say race was behind an airlines agent's decision to stop them from boarding a flight at Jackson International Airport.

"We were singled out because we were the only blacks," said Tony Randle, manager of the 10-member Houston-based group, eight of whom are black.

They said Continental Express airlines would not allow them to board a Sunday morning flight or two later flights to Houston International Airport.

They also said they were unfairly accused of talking about their plane crashing while waiting in the lobby as mechanical problems with the aircraft were repaired.

Asked about the racism claim, airline spokeswoman Peggy Mahoney were "denied boarding for one reason only, because they were loud and obnoxious."

The Geto Boys flew home Monday.