



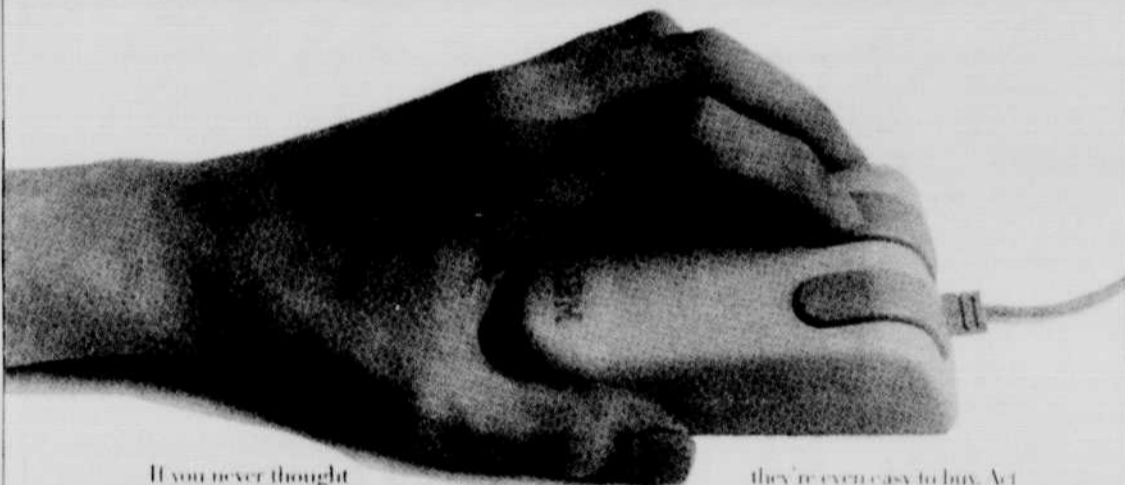
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Wrangling stalls talks



MADRID, Spain (AP) — Israeli and Arab leaders said Sunday they were eager to begin historic Middle East peace talks, but last-minute wrangling persisted over a maverick Palestinian delegate who openly stated allegiance to the PLO.

The delegates also gave hints of flexibility on key issues such as the future of some of Israeli-occupied territories, but no major concessions were mentioned.

The conference, the first face-to-face meeting between Israel and all its Arab neighbors in more than 40 years, is scheduled to begin Wednesday in this Spanish capital under intense security.

"What we know is that without negotiations we will never have peace," said Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, head of the Israeli team. "Therefore, we are happy to start negotiations."

In Syria — Israel's most implacable enemy — President Hafez Assad said in a televised interview, "We do not seek destruction. Rather, we want a comprehensive and just peace."

Yet the dispute over PLO influence in the conference lingered. Israeli Defense Minister Moshe Arens accused Palestinians of "a deliberate attempt ... to scuttle the negotiations" following last week's claim by the Palestine delegate Saeb Erekat that the Palestinian-Jordanian team was representing the Palestine Liberation Organization.

Later, however, the head of the Palestinian team, Dr. Haider Abdel-Shafi, said Erekat was not a PLO official and called Erekat's statements "a little provocative." Abdel-Shafi said, however, said he saw no need for Erekat to be removed from the delegation.

Arens said he was "glad to hear" Abdel-Shafi's statement and thought the dispute could be settled.

In Madrid, anti-terrorist squads fanned out and sharpshooters were posted on the roof of the conference site — the ornate 18th-century Royal Palace. Armored personnel carriers were parked around the granite building.

Police officials were particularly concerned about possible attacks by radical Palestinian factions or Basque separatists who set off three car bombs in Madrid earlier this month, killing an army officer.

Behind the scenes, organizers met with delegates to work out details such as the shape of the table, seating arrangements and the order of pre-conference speeches — to be opened by President Bush and Soviet leader Mikhail S. Gorbachev.

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak said Sunday he may come to Madrid if he is joined by other Arab leaders.

Organizers planned for the direct talks to begin following 2 days of opening speeches.

"There are going to be interruptions. There are going to be glitches," said Secretary of State James A. Baker III in a televised interview Sunday. "We should not go into this conference thinking that this 2 to three days is going to produce peace in the Mideast."

The main struggle is over the occupied territories — the West Bank, Golan Heights and Gaza Strip. Arab leaders have said they will demand Israel give up land and halt construction of Jewish settlements in the territories. Also, the Bush administration believes Israel must trade land for peace, Baker said.

Israeli delegates, however, endorse Shamir's opposition to a land-for-peace deal.

But each side also left an opening. Assad said his country would consider so-called "confidence-building measures" with Israel if the negotiations progress.

ET ALS

MEETINGS

Student Film Association organizational meeting will take place today from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in EMU Cedar Room A. Call 484-0901 or 343-3554 for more information.

International Association of Students of Economics and Commerce will meet tonight at 7:30 in 322 Gilbert. All majors are welcome. Call 346-1340 for more information.

Students For Creative Anachronisms will meet tonight at 7 in Agate, No. 1. Call 484-4198 for more information.

EMU Board of Directors House Committee will meet tonight at 5:30 in EMU Century Room B. Call 346-3720 for more information.

Martin Luther King Celebration Committee will meet today at 4 p.m. in the EMU Board Room. Call 346-4000 for more information.

SPEAKER

Father Bill Davis of the Christic Institute will speak tonight at 8 in 150 Columbia. Call 346-4356 for more information.

MISCELLANEOUS

Jewish perspectives on current social issues will be the focus of a discussion today at 3:30 p.m. at Hillel, 1414 Kin-

caid St. Call 343-8920 for more information.

Lane Democratic Forum will take place today at noon at De Frisco's Restaurant, 10th Avenue and Olive Street in the Atrium Building. State Representative Bill Dwyer, D-Springfield, will be the guest speaker.

OPPORTUNITIES

Bidding for the following companies will take place today through Wednesday in 244 Hendricks:

- U.S. General Accounting Office
- Ford Black & Co.
- Russ Berrie Co.
- Enterprise Rent-a-car
- Radio Shack
- Livingston Securities
- National Life Insurance Co.

Group meetings:
• Wal-Mart Corp. — 7 to 8 p.m. in the EMU Maple Room.

Career Planning and Placement Orientation Session will take place today from 4 to 5 p.m. in 238 Hendricks.

Deadline for submitting Et Als to the Emerald front desk, EMU Suite 300, is noon the day before publication. Et Als run the day of the event unless the event takes place before noon.

Notices of events with a donation or admission charge will not be accepted.

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