

Bush approves funding for new NASA space station



WASHINGTON (AP) — President Bush signed legislation Monday enabling his administration to move ahead with building the Space Station Freedom, which he called "an essential step in meeting our future space objectives."

Some \$2 billion for the space station was included in an \$81 billion appropriations measure.

"Although it does not fully fund the administration's request for civil space activities, the act provides the funds necessary to maintain a balanced and forward-looking space program," Bush said in a statement.

The legislation containing funds for the space station will enable the government to begin construction on the station in the 1992 fiscal year, which began Oct. 1.

That will "keep the project on schedule," Bush said.

Passage of the measure was a victory for the administration, overcoming an attempt earlier this year by the House Appropriations Committee to kill the program.

The bill also puts a \$2.25 billion ceiling on spending

for the station for the following fiscal year, an attempt to guard against cost overruns.

In addition, the bill provides funds for the departments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development.

It was one of two appropriations bills Bush signed on Monday for fiscal 1992. He also signed a bill providing \$19.9 billion for the Treasury Department and general government services like the Internal Revenue Service.

Bush also signed a stopgap bill to keep agencies whose appropriations bills have yet to be signed in operation through Nov. 14.

"I commend Congress for presenting me with a simple, straightforward extension of funding that is not burdened with unrelated provisions. I also urge the Congress to complete the appropriations process by Nov. 14," Bush said as he signed the stopgap measure.

A year ago, Bush vetoed a similar stopgap bill on the grounds that it was too laden with unrelated provisions — leading to a brief shutdown of many government services.

Attacks strike before peace talk

Armed gunmen ambush bus killing two and injuring six



MADRID, Spain (AP) — Attackers firing automatic weapons killed two Jewish settlers Monday in the Israeli-occupied West Bank, in a deadly outbreak of terrorist violence just two days ahead of Arab-Israeli peace talks.

Hours earlier, two separate terrorist attacks in Turkey — by a Muslim group opposed to the talks — killed an American soldier and wounded an Egyptian diplomat.

The West Bank attack — in which assailants ambushed a bus carrying settlers opposed to trading land for peace — appeared likely to harden Israeli opposition to the peace talks and put a sharp focus on Israel's oft-stated worries over security.

Israelis blamed the Palestinians and vowed revenge for the shootings, which also wounded six people, including five children.

"Whoever was looking for a proof that we have nobody to discuss peace with, that our enemies ... want to continue to kill us and to destroy us ... got the message tonight," Cabinet Minister Rehavam Zeevi told reporters at a rally in Tel Aviv. As word spread of the deaths, the crowd swelled to 50,000 people, some shouting, "Death to the Arabs!"

Zalman Shoval, Israel's ambassador in Washington, said of the attack, "It certainly harms the atmosphere and it raises some very grave question marks with regard to their genuine attitude toward this whole process."

Hanan Ashrawi, a spokeswoman for the Palestinian delegation, condemned the violence but described it as the consequence of the "extreme violence" of the Israeli occupation.

In a television interview, she predicted more attempts to disrupt the talks.

Some Muslim fundamentalist groups have called for attacks to sabotage the conference that begins Wednesday in Madrid. A Lebanese newspaper reported Monday that a radical Iranian leader called for suicide attacks on the Jewish state and said the peace conference was "high treason."

On the diplomatic front, Israel protested to the United States over plans to grant a full-length opening speech to the Palestinian delegation. Israel also rejected a freeze on settlements in the occupied territories.

But in one of his most conciliatory interviews, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir said on NBC-TV Monday night that he was willing to discuss anything and would not rule out trading land in the occupied territories for peace.

"We believe and are convinced it belongs to us since thousands of years," he said. "Maybe the Palestinians believe the same. Then let us negotiate how to settle it, how to find a way to avoid war."

In comments earlier in the day, however, Shamir rebuffed an appeal from the opposition Labor Party for a freeze on settlements in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Palestinian and Jordanian delegates arrived in Madrid to an enthusiastic greeting from a score of supporters Monday. Young Palestinians and Spaniards waved placards saying in Arabic, Spanish and English: "Long Live a Free and Independent Palestine."

Soviet President Mikhail S. Gorbachev arrived Monday night and President Bush was to arrive Tuesday, a day before the conference begins at the 18th-century Royal Palace.

At the White House, Bush said he hoped the talks would be a first step to peace, but cautioned that "there's a long, long way to go."

Israeli officials protested they had been taken by surprise by a decision to allow the Palestinians a full opening speech in addition to the speech by the Jordanian delegation's leader, instead of sharing the time on Thursday.

"This would connote as if they were a separate national entity," Shoval said.

Ashrawi, asked whether she took this as recognition that the Palestinians are a separate entity, she said: "Yes, I think so."

Shamir aide Yossi Ben-Aharon said the Palestinians were trying "to project the image of a nation in the making."

Israel agreed to attend the conference only if the Palestine Liberation Organization were excluded, and the Palestinians participated in a joint delegation with Jordan.

On Sunday, a PLO official, Farouk Kaddoumi, said the talks would not continue past the opening days unless Israel stopped building on the territories it seized in 1967.

The Beirut newspaper *Ad-Diyaron* Monday quoted Ali Akbar Mohtashemi, Iran's former interior minister, as describing the Madrid conference as a "crime against the Palestinian people" and urging suicide attacks on Israeli targets.

In Ankara, Turkey, separate explosions killed an American serviceman and seriously wounded an Egyptian diplomat. The United States is a co-sponsor of the talks in Madrid; Egypt is the only Arab nation to sign a peace treaty with Israel.

An anonymous caller claimed responsibility in the name of Islamic Jihad. The name means Islamic Holy War, and is often used by Muslim groups.

Security became increasingly visible in Madrid. About 12,000 police and civil guards, many carrying automatic weapons and backed by armored vehicles, were assigned to protect the delegations.

Operators protest state video poker



SALEM (AP) — Hundreds of amusement machine operators turned out Monday to try to persuade the Oregon Lottery Commission not to cut them out of a state-run video poker system.

The commission, which plans to install 10,000 video poker machines in bars and taverns early next year, initially had planned to use the machine operators as the middle

men between the Lottery and retailers.

But Attorney General Dave Frohnmayer and Oregon State Police Superintendent Reg Madsen told the commission today that allowing private operators to be involved would compromise the security of a state-run video poker network.

In an appearance before the commission, Frohnmayer warned of possible criminal elements.

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