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TALKS

Continued from Page 7

The status of Jerusalem, which is holy to both Jews and Muslims, is one of the most bitter issues confronting the conferees. Israel annexed the eastern portion of the city after capturing it in 1967 and has vowed it will remain united forever as the capital of the Jewish state. The Palestinians also claim Jerusalem as their capital.

As the talks opened, the splendor of Spain's Royal Palace and its rich tapestries could not mask the tensions. One Israeli delegate said she tried to shake the hand of a Lebanese negotiator, but was snubbed. Other than that, handshakes were generally avoided to prevent such awkwardness.

Participants were seated at a T-shaped table designed so the Israelis would face their foes at a slight angle rather than directly, and no national flags were displayed.

There was little mixing among the delegates. Many of the Israelis wore skullcaps and some Arab representatives were clad in flowing robes and keffiyehs, traditional Arab scarves. "This is not a dinner party," the Jordanian foreign minister acknowledged afterward.

By their presence, Bush and Gorbachev lent their influence and prestige to the talks, the first since a 1973 parley in Geneva collapsed in a day. Ahead lay months or years of negotiations designed to move ancient foes away from the brink of war.

The central issue is conflicting claims to Arab lands seized in war by Israel, and Bush tackled that head-on. "We believe territorial compromise is essential," he said.

But he balanced that with a call for real peace, not just a "state of non-belligerence." That was a clear message to Arab leaders who have not acknowledged Israel's right to exist.

Bush laid out a timetable for an Israeli-Palestinian settlement, urging a completion of terms for limited self-rule on the West Bank and in Gaza in one year, and he reiterated the U.S. offer to provide technical and financial help to ease the way for the parties toward a peace settlement.

Trying to coax the two sides to take chances, Bush assured them that subsequent negotiation on a permanent accord would be "determined on their own merits." The apparent U.S. message was that an interim arrangement could be experimental — and not binding in the final situation.

The timetable for an Israeli-Palestinian settlement looks like this: set terms for limited self-rule on the West Bank and in Gaza in a year. In the third year, the two sides would begin negotiations for a permanent arrangement that would take effect at the end of five years.

Hanan Ashrawi, the Palestinian spokeswoman, welcomed "the conciliatory nature" of Bush's speech. However, she and fellow Palestinian leader Faisal Husseini expressed disappointment that Bush did not come out firmly for a complete Israeli withdrawal from the occupied lands.

Yossi Ben Aharon, a top aide to Shamir, expressed satisfaction that Bush called for "territorial compromise," rather than a land-for-peace formula. Netanyahu elaborated later on the Israeli distinction between the two.

"Israel ... has already given a full 91 percent of the (captured)

territories," he said, apparently referring to earlier Israeli land concessions including the sprawling Sinai peninsula, which was returned to Egypt. "Then compromise does not mean that Israel is asked to give 100 percent, and the other side is asked to give zero."

A threat of Syrian pullout from the process came from Zohair Jannan, head of the foreign press department at the Syrian Foreign Ministry.

"If Israel does not withdraw from occupied Arab territories and if the settlements are not frozen, this will just have been a ceremonial conference ... and we will withdraw from it," he told The Associated Press in Madrid.

Syria has indicated it would attend at least the first session of the bilateral talks with Israel, expected to take place Sunday in Madrid.

Meanwhile, from the Middle East itself came a reminder of the difficulties confronting the negotiators.

In the Israeli-occupied territories, more than 50 people were injured when rival Palestinian factions battled with knives and chains. Arab reporters said one Palestinian was killed and at least 13 people wounded when Israeli troops opened fire to break up stone-throwing protests by followers of the Muslim fundamentalist Hamas movement.

Extremists on both sides have condemned the peace conference, and the latest denunciation came from Ali Akbar Mohtashemi, an Iranian Parliament member. He told Iranian lawmakers peace conference participants are classified as moharebs — those who wage war against God — and "in accordance with Islam, the blood of a mohareb must be shed."

ALL BUT THE WALTZ

ESSAYS ON A MONTANA FAMILY

— By Mary Clearman Blew

"All But the Waltz is a clean, haunting portrait of a sometimes remarkable, sometimes ordinary family on the great plains of Montana. What is astonishing is how we come to know and care about them...in the pages of this book."

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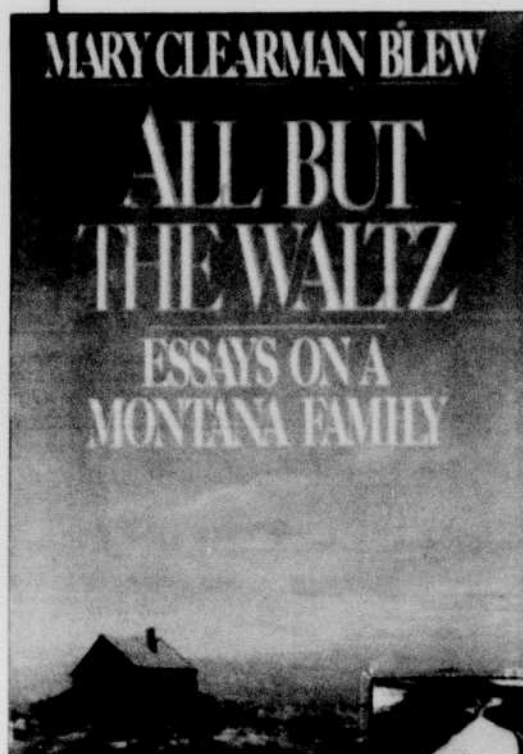
Mary Clearman Blew already has earned a growing reputation among Western writers and readers for her command of language, her mastery of narrative, and her empathy for the wild beauty of the Big Sky Country where she grew up and for the steadfast character of its people. Her earlier story collection, *Runaway*, is a powerful vision of the struggles of Montanans with weather, physical adversities, and the tatters of the myth of the West. In this wonderfully evocative new collection of essays, we learn of Blew's grandmother, who spent three months alone in a remote one-room school house, with her three small children, separated by 300 miles from her husband during the bitter years of the Great Depression. We read about the author's father, who took a drive one day in his pick-up and disappeared from her life forever. Most memorably, we discover Mary herself, a writer whose observations on growing up, making do, and enduring are idiosyncratic and utterly convincing.

Mary Clearman Blew makes us see and feel what it was like to homestead the prairie, to teach in a one-room school house, to lose the family land and drift to work on the great dam-building projects of the Roosevelt years. Most of the essays trace the history of her family, but at least two share some of the difficult choices of her own life, choices with echoes in her family's past.

This is a wonderful, honest, and subtle book whose people will stay with you for a long time. I strongly recommend it to Montana writers like Ivan Doig or work of women ranchers like Linda Hasselstrom or Gretel Ehrlich.

Reviewed By
Andy Lillich

anyone who enjoys reading
William Kittredge, or the



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