

Israel again stymies peace talks

WASHINGTON (AP) — Israeli negotiators arrived Monday for a new round of Mideast peace talks, but the Arabs delayed coming to protest the planned expulsion of 12 Palestinian Arabs from Israeli-held territories.

At the United Nations, the United States joined the other 14 Security Council members on Monday in strongly condemning Israel's planned deportation of the Palestinians. France's U.N. ambassador, Jean-Bernard Merimee, said the 15-0 vote may encourage the Palestinians to return to the negotiating table.

Arab and Western diplomats had said the expulsion orders were undermining the peace process and tainting the atmosphere of the talks, which are scheduled to resume Tuesday in Washington.

Eliakim Rubinstein, a senior Israeli negotiator, expressed hope that the Arab negotiators would arrive on time for talks Tuesday.

"Agreements have to be honored," Rubinstein said.

Before the negotiations recessed three weeks ago Israeli, Palestinian and Jordanian negotiators informally agreed to resume on Tuesday.

They are discussing an Israeli proposal to give limited self-

government to Palestinians who live on the West Bank and in the Gaza Strip.

Israeli is holding separate negotiations with Syria and Lebanon. In a show of solidarity, the two Arab governments also delayed sending their negotiators here.

Israel said last Thursday it would expel the 12 Palestinians, who are accused of inciting terrorism on the West Bank and in Gaza. Four Israelis have been killed in the territories in the last 10 weeks.

On Monday, an Israeli military appeals board hearing the appeals of the 12 Palestinians rejected a request to postpone deliberations, the army said. No reason was given.

The State Department said last week it strongly condemned the expulsions as in violation of the Geneva Convention's provisions on treatment of inhabitants of occupied territories.

The State Department said any charges of wrongdoing should be brought to a court for a fair trial based on evidence.

Meanwhile, Richard Boucher, a State Department spokesman, confirmed an adviser to PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat may be permitted to enter the United States.

The adviser, Nabil Shaat, is

ineligible for a visa under a law barring admission of members of groups that promote terrorism.

But the law also provides for waivers, and Boucher said Shaat had requested one. He is scheduled to speak to an Arab group. Boucher said waivers sometimes are granted for speeches.

James J. Zogby, executive director of the Arab American Institute, said Shaat was invited to the group's policy conference, to be held here Jan. 16-19, some three months ago.

"It had nothing to do with the bilaterals," Zogby said.

In the last round of talks two other Palestinians with close ties to the PLO were granted waivers by the Bush administration and joined the delegation as advisers. It was not clear if Shaat will play a similar role.

Assistant Secretary of State Edward P. Djerejian scheduled separate meetings with Israeli negotiators and with Haidar Abdul Shafi, the senior Palestinian delegate.

There was no sign of urgency, however, to get the talks going again. Boucher said only that "facilities will be available for the negotiations beginning tomorrow."



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Inner Tube Water Polo	C	6	Jan. 23, 3pm	Jan. 28	\$30
ONE DAY EVENTS					
Basketball Scramble	M-W	6	Jan. 13, 3pm	Jan. 14, 15	NC
Open Float (Learn Inner tube Water Polo)	C	6	Jan. 17, 3pm	Jan. 21	NC
Valentine Fun Run	M-W-C	1-2	Feb. 13, noon	Feb. 13	\$1/person
Free Throw/Hot Shot/3 Point Contest	M-W	1	Feb. 6, 3pm	Feb. 12	NC
TWO/THREE DAY EVENTS					
Indoor Soccer	M-W-C	5	Jan. 30, 3pm	Feb. 1-2	\$15
Schick Super Hoops (3x3 BB)	M-W	3	Feb. 6, 3pm	Feb. 8-9	\$15
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Kennedy-Khrushchev crisis letters released

BOSTON (AP) — The government on Monday allowed the release of letters exchanged by President Kennedy and Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev in the aftermath of the Cuban missile crisis in 1962.

The John F. Kennedy Library released the 10 letters and transcripts of two verbal messages after the State Department declassified them, said library spokesman Frank Rigg.

Library Director Charles Daly said he was pleased at "the long overdue release of these materials and the loosening of the overly restrictive policy on declassification of historical materials."

The missile crisis flared in October, 1962 when an American U-2 spy plane spotted construction of Soviet medium-range ballistic missile sites in Cuba.

After Kennedy responded with a naval blockade of the island, Khrushchev agreed to remove the missiles in exchange for U.S. guarantees that it wouldn't invade Cuba.

In an Oct. 30, 1962 letter in which Khrushchev urged Kennedy to lift the blockade, the Soviet leader said the confrontation brought the superpowers to the brink of disaster.

"Who needs it?" he wrote.

"It serves only the aggressive forces to strain nerves and thus to reach their goal which is to push the world into the abyss of thermonuclear war."

In his response, Kennedy said he was hopeful the United Nations could help remove the blockade. But he warned "very serious problems" could arise if Cuban leader Fidel Castro continued to oppose on-site checks of the missile sites.

"There have been no United Nations verification that other missiles were not left behind," Kennedy wrote on Nov. 15. "In fact, there have been many reports of their being concealed in caves and elsewhere."

Khrushchev dismissed that claim, saying in his response that all nuclear warheads had been removed from Cuba.

"One can say that we do not live in the cave-man age to attach great significance to the rumours of this sort," he wrote.

Sixteen letters between the two leaders in which they discussed the crisis were released previously.

The Kennedy Library holds more than 100 letters exchanged between Khrushchev and Kennedy and more than 30 million pages documenting the Kennedy administration.

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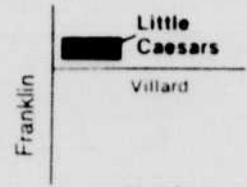
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