

Clinton: Arabs must compromise



WASHINGTON (AP) — President-elect Clinton said he believes it's time for the Arabs to match concessions made by Israel's new government in recent months, including its curb on settlements in Israeli-occupied territories, according to an interview made available Tuesday.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, who took office in July, "has wasted no time in breathing new life into the negotiations" between Israel and the Arabs, Clinton was quoted as saying in an interview with Middle East *Insight* magazine.

A Clinton aide confirmed that Clinton granted the interview but could not verify the accuracy of the transcript provided by the magazine in advance of publication later this week.

In the interview, conducted three days before the Nov. 3 elections, Clinton was quoted as praising Rabin's government for recognizing that the Arab-Israeli peace talks were based on U.N. resolutions calling for Israeli concession of land in return for peace.

"Now I think it's time for the Arabs to make more moves toward Israel," Clinton was quoted as saying.

Such concessions could include an Arab decision to renounce a 44-year boycott on trade with Israel, Clinton suggested. "If several Arab countries decided to do that ... then I think we'd be well on our way to negotiating an agreement" for

Arab-Israeli peace, he was quoted as saying. Clinton said the boycott and Arab military build-ups remain obstacles to peace. Asked whether Israeli settlements in occupied territories also constitute an obstacle, Clinton said, "Yes, they do." But he noted that Rabin has halted most settlement building ordered by the previous Israeli government.

Clinton's reported remarks reflect views he expressed in several speeches and interviews during the election campaign — opinions regarded by Arab leaders and delegates to the peace talks as reflecting a bias in favor of Israel.

Several Arab officials have expressed hope since the election that Clinton will prove himself more even-handed once he takes office and is no longer influenced by the need to attract Jewish voters.

Clinton pledged in the interview to maintain strong U.S. support for the peace talks launched one year ago by the Bush administration. "A Clinton administration will treat the Arab-Israeli conflict as one in which the survival of Israel is at stake," he was quoted as saying.

In response to a question, Clinton said he opposes the creation of a Palestinian state but favors the Palestinians' right to determine their own future within the outlines of the 1978 Camp David agreements. Those U.S.-sponsored accords between Israel and Egypt envision self-rule for Palestinians under Israeli rule in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

U.N. team in Iraq defuses danger



BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) — U.N. inspectors filled basins containing nuclear materials with water to prevent a chain reaction, their leader said Tuesday. The inspectors removed 200 drums of nuclear waste from another site.

Team chief Dimitri Perricos declined to characterize the degree of danger from the basins, but said water had been added so heat from the material would not trigger a nuclear reaction.

The materials apparently were spent fuel rods found six months ago by U.N. inspectors, said a technical specialist with the U.N. Special Commission in New York.

No explosion was likely, but the rods could have released radiation into the en-

vironment, said the specialist, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Perricos, who works for the Vienna-based International Atomic Energy Agency, said his team removed 200 drums from a building in Mosul, Iraq's second-largest city, about 215 miles from Baghdad. Iraq had been preparing yellowcake, a uranium concentrate obtained by extraction of uranium from ores, at the site, Perricos said.

The IAEA carries out the instructions of the U.N. Special Commission, which is charged with scrapping Iraq's nuclear, biological and chemical weapons programs. Perricos' 32-member team will analyze the quantity and potency of the material.

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