

NATION & WORLD

# Israeli Cabinet approves transfer

BY SARI BASHI  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

**JERUSALEM** — A land transfer that stalled Israeli-Palestinian peace talks for five weeks easily cleared a final hurdle Sunday with Israel's Cabinet approving maps for the withdrawal from 6.1 percent of the West Bank.

The transfer will take place Tuesday, just before negotiators convene near Washington for peace talks, and will leave the Palestinians in control of 41 percent of the West Bank.

The Palestinians had suspended the talks last month after it became clear Israel was not going to give them populated suburbs of Jerusalem as part of the troop withdrawal. The revised maps approved Sunday give the Palestinians three

suburbs near, but not abutting Jerusalem. The maps were approved by a vote of 16-6. Ministers from two religious parties and an immigrant party opposed the withdrawal, which will give the Palestinians full control of 5.1 percent of the West Bank where they now have civilian control. A further 1 percent will go from full Israeli control to full Palestinian control.

"From this week on, 60 percent of the Palestinians in the West Bank will live under full Palestinian authority," Deputy Defense Minister Ephraim Sneh said. "This is the real change."

Under the new map, Israel will also withdraw from areas near the West Bank towns of Jericho, Jenin, Bethlehem and Hebron, pullbacks that bring Arafat closer to the territorial continuity he wants

'From this week on, 60 percent of the Palestinians in the West Bank will live under full Palestinian authority. This is the real change.'

**Ephraim Sneh**

Israeli Deputy Defense Minister

to create a state.

Right-wing critics said giving the Palestinians suburbs near Jerusalem will threaten the security of nearby Jewish neighborhoods and the unity of the city. Jewish West Bank settlers held protests Sunday near the areas from which Israel is to withdraw.

Also Sunday, Israel released five Palestinian prisoners jailed for anti-Israel activity and promised to release ten more

Monday as a goodwill gesture for the Muslim feast of Eid al-Adha, which ended Sunday evening.

The five prisoners were members of Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat's Fatah faction who were convicted of killing Palestinian collaborators and injuring Israelis over the last two decades. All five prisoners were from traditionally Arab east Jerusalem, claimed by the Palestinians as the capital of a future state.

# McCain returns to Senate

BY DAVID ESPO  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

**WASHINGTON** — Nevermind that John McCain often joked with his campaign audiences — in pride, not in sorrow — about never winning a Miss Congeniality award in the Senate.

Public displays of graciousness will mark his return to the Capitol this week, a more formidable political force than when he left it. It's the Senate's way, even though he ran a reform-based presidential campaign that rocked the Republican establishment and used fellow lawmakers as foils.

"Senators are in conflict every day with each other, in committee, over issues, in letters, in the media, on the floor," said Sen. Paul Coverdell, R-Ga., Senate point man for likely GOP presidential nominee George W. Bush. "But it has a fraternal nature to it and you have to set the battles ... aside."

Beyond the displays of senatorial courtesy, the Arizona senator's allies say

fellow Republicans will ignore his new political clout at their own peril.

"There are only two United States senators who have a truly national constituency. One's name is Ted Kennedy and one's name is John McCain," says former White House chief of staff Ken Duberstein, a McCain friend and senior adviser.

Republican pollster Ed Goetz said a recent national survey pointed in the same direction, and that McCain can help GOP candidates in terms of fund raising and voter support.

"The congressional [campaign] committee ought to put him on right away to start doing these swing congressional districts," Goetz said. "He can be a real asset in keeping Congress."

Duberstein predicted McCain will be the "No. 1 Republican" asked to campaign for Republicans this fall.

"He still may not win Miss Congeniality, but he will win a popularity contest," Duberstein said.

# Paper: Feds have begun criminal investigation into crash

ASSOCIATED PRESS

**SEATTLE** — What began months ago as an inquiry into maintenance practices at an Alaska Airlines facility has become a criminal investigation into the deadly crash of Flight 261, *The Seattle Times* reported Saturday.

Citing unidentified sources, the newspaper said the FBI and Department of Transportation investigators have been questioning Alaska Airlines employees as part of an inquiry that has been underway for several weeks.

No criminal wrongdoing has been established in connection with the Jan. 31 crash off the coast of California that

killed 88 people, the *Times* said.

The criminal investigation grew out of a 15-month-old inquiry into practices at Alaska's maintenance facility at Oakland, Calif., the *Times* said. In that inquiry, a grand jury in San Francisco is investigating whether supervisors signed for repairs that weren't done or that they weren't authorized to approve.

The *Times* said the FBI, which usually plays an advisory role to the NTSB, is conducting a separate, parallel investigation — a course of action reserved for cases where there is evidence or suspicion of crime.

The newspaper cited three sources

in two federal agencies as confirming the investigation.

FBI spokeswoman Roberta Burroughs in Seattle and Debbie Weierman in Washington, D.C., on Saturday would not confirm or deny the existence of any such investigation.

Alaska Airlines said it was not aware of a criminal probe.

"The FBI has been involved in the investigation of Flight 261 since the beginning," airlines spokesman Jack Evans said Saturday. "Currently, we are unaware of any change in their role since the beginning. If there is a change in that role, we'll cooperate with them as we

have been."

Earlier in the week, the airline said it put a top manager on leave while it investigates claims by 64 Seattle mechanics that they were "pressured, threatened and intimidated" to cut corners on repairs.

Alaska Airlines said it had notified federal prosecutors and the National Transportation Safety Board of the claims. It also said it would immediately ground any planes found to be potentially unsafe. No such action had been deemed necessary as of Saturday, Evans said.

## REMINDER

Don't forget to renew your reserved space for the Summer and/or Fall semesters.

**Deadline is...**

**April 28, 2000 for Summer**  
**May 31, 2000 for Fall**

Failure to renew by this date will result in the loss of your space. If you already made payment, please disregard this notice.

Don't have a space and are interested in getting one? Sign up for the Lottery drawing at Parking Services.

**Deadline is July 14, 2000**

Questions should be directed to the Parking Services Office. Phone #777-5160.

### Open the Door to a Hair-less Future

## Electrolysis

(The permanent Solution)

Graduate of the exclusive Jane Riddle Institute of Electrology in Modesto, CA

2817 Devine St. • Ste. 15 • Columbia, SC 29205 • (803) 779-8790

### Quick Cash Opportunities

Deaf or regular? Sleep in or go to class? Life is full of hard decisions. Does anyone pay you to make them? We do!!! Take part in USC researchers' decision-making experiments on campus. Give us 2 hours of your time and make about \$10 per hour.

Register online <http://econ.badm.sc.edu/beam>

## Propecia

(finasteride)

Ask your doctor about this pill from Merck.

For more information, call 1-888-MERCK-74.

[www.propecia.com](http://www.propecia.com)

### Graphic Design Position Available

Undergraduate student for part-time position or graduate student wanted for assistantship in on-campus office. Must have strong experience in HTML, Adobe Photoshop 5.5, Pagemaker 6.5, Illustrator 4.1, ImageReady 2.0 and Macromedia Flash 4.0, Fireworks 3.0, Freehand 9.0. Salary commensurate with experience.

**SC EPSCoR**

Contact A. Dawn Ward at (803) 777-0311 for more information.

The University of South Carolina is an affirmative action/equal opportunity employer.

### RUSSIAN TRIVIA

QUESTION OF THE WEEK:

How Many Empresses Named Catherine Ruled in Russia?

ANSWER: Three were two Catherine One - Catherine I - was married to Peter the Great - Catherine the Great - was the empress of Russia for 34 years from 1762 until 1796. Catherine the Great ruled in Russia until her death in 1796. The second Catherine and ruled in Russia after his death from 1728. The second Catherine.

### Interested in Studying Abroad ?

The National Security Education Program (NSEP) awards scholarships and fellowships to outstanding undergraduate and graduate students from all academic and professional disciplines for study in foreign countries and world regions critical to U.S. national security. NSEP awards are available for a maximum of \$8,000 per semester or \$16,000 per academic year. To learn more about the application criteria and procedures, plan to attend the following workshop:

### National Security Education Program (NSEP) Scholarship Workshop

**When: Monday, March 20, 5:30 PM**  
**Where: RHUU 315**

For more information, call the Fellowships Office at 777-0985 or Adam Grotzky, International Programs for Students, Byrnes Building Suite 123, at 777-7461.

Find the Best Price on New and Pre-Owned Hondas

[www.rickhendrickhonda.com](http://www.rickhendrickhonda.com)

**Rick Hendrick**  
HONDA  
791-5660  
1650 Airport Boulevard • West Columbia, SC 29171

read it.  
live it.  
be it.

**The Gamecock**

SO MUCH FOR SAVING MY NABI MONEY.

SURE BABY, YOU CAN HAVE HIM.

OH, YOU'RE THE BEST EVER.

New donors can earn up to \$65 their first week!

Help children, hemophiliacs, and heart patients who receive products made from the plasma of our donors.

**Nabi**  
NABI BioMedical Center  
215 Assembly St., Columbia SC 29201  
254-2280

Puppies for Sale

## ATTENTION

UNDERGRADUATE AND GRADUATE STUDENTS WORLDWIDE

[CAMPUSCAREERCENTER.COM](http://CAMPUSCAREERCENTER.COM)

PURSUE JOB AND INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITIES THAT SPAN THE GLOBE

[CampusCareerCenter.com](http://CampusCareerCenter.com)  
The world's largest campus job fair

**morningstar mini-storage**

24-Hour Access  
Computer Controlled

**Student Discount**

798-5050  
Bush River Road  
(Behind Raceway Gas Station)

776-4447  
Garner's Ferry Road  
(1 mile beyond the Wal-Mart)

808-5959  
Sunset Blvd./ Hwy. 378  
(3 mi. west of I-20)