

Mideast

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Sharon has announced a pullout from all but Ramallah and Bethlehem within a week.

In any event, Israeli officials said the withdrawal would not preclude efforts to arrest Fuad Shobaki, whom they accused of overseeing attacks on Israel and the abortive shipment of 50 tons of Iranian weapons to the Palestinians.

And, the officials said on condition of anonymity, they remain determined to arrest the plotters of the assassination last October of Tourism Minister Rehavam Zeevi.

Powell will have a second and final session with Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat on Wednesday at his rocket-battered Ramallah headquarters, where he's been confined by Israeli troops for nearly three weeks.

In his meeting with Arafat, and in a one-hour session Tuesday with Sharon at the prime minister's home in midtown Jerusalem, Powell also was taking up the international peace conference that is quickly taking shape.

He would like to wind up the trip with fresh assurances from

Arafat to reduce violence. But Powell is falling short of the formal cease-fire he left Washington in search of 10 days ago.

In Washington, Bush signed a routine document Tuesday that gave Arafat's Palestine Liberation Organization permission to have an official presence in the capital. This time, however, permission was tied to conditions including a cease-fire in the Middle East, resumption of security cooperation with Israel against terror and an immediate order to crack down on terrorist networks. The conditions were to be met immediately.

If held, a peace conference would implement Powell's declared search for an accelerated political process that the Palestinians want.

Sharon said the peace conference probably would be held in June in the United States. A site has not been selected. A potential problem is that Sharon wants to screen out Arafat but attend himself, even though the tentative plan is to hold it at the foreign ministers level.

Sharon's spokesman, Raanan Gissin, said a peace conference was not a certainty. "The Americans think this is very important," he said.

"I think we are making progress and are looking forward to making more progress in the next 24 hours."

COLIN POWELL
U.S. SECRETARY OF STATE

Israel, Egypt, Jordan, Saudi Arabia and perhaps Morocco were possible participants, Sharon told Israel TV. An alternative is to have the Arab League represent the Arabs and possibly invite the European Union and Russia. The United States would be represented as well.

Lebanon has previously rejected the possibility of a peace conference. But Prime Minister Rafik Hariri, who meets Wednesday with Bush in Washington, said Tuesday his country would welcome a conference if its goal was a comprehensive resolution of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

"If (we) really want to see the peace taking place in the region, we have to include Lebanon, Syria and the Palestinians as well," he said Tuesday on PBS's "NewsHour with Jim Lehrer."

While Powell has steered clear of a formal cease-fire that would

be considered broken with every hostile incident, he said he was working on something like it without a "specific term." In his last Mideast mission nearly a year ago, Powell called for seven days of quiet before getting back to the negotiating table—a requirement that proved impossible.

The focus of the last stage of Powell's trip is how to stop the fighting and how to pin down Israeli-Palestinian security arrangements to maintain calm in the West Bank, Israeli officials said.

U.S. and Palestinian officials were holding "good conversations," Powell said. However, they failed to agree on a statement condemning suicide bombings as well as calling for an Israeli withdrawal from West Bank areas, said a senior Palestinian official.

The United States objected to a Palestinian addition "calling for an end to Israel's occupation, for the establishment of the state of Palestine in the June 4, 1967, borders, with east Jerusalem as its capital, and a just solution for the refugee problem, with the needed mechanism to guarantee the implementation within an agreed timeline." That plan also would have asked additional action by the U.N. Security Council.

Activity

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Dr. Barbara Ainsworth, USC's Prevention Research Center director, said that maintaining a moderate amount of exercise is not very hard.

"Physical activity doesn't have to mean joining a gym, although that's great for those who want that type of program," said Ainsworth, who has done research on minority women and the impact of physical activity and disease. "Moderate physical activity includes walking, gardening, bicycling for pleasure, or dancing."

Fifteen minutes of walking in the morning, followed by 15 minutes in the afternoon, for example, can make an important difference in a person's health, no matter how young or old they are.

Walking was found to be the exercise of choice; forty-one percent of those surveyed said they had walked for exercise that month.

"It is very hard for individuals to exercise here," said Chris Surfield, a USC graduate student. "This city is not pedestrian-friendly. However, I do think that South Carolina is try-

ing and getting better at this. There are many obstacles that are faced if a person wants to go walking. Nature and walking trails need to be created. I find that most areas around here you must drive, it is almost impossible to walk, which is a shame because walking is one of the best forms of exercise."

Although some South Carolinians might be getting more physical activity, DHEC Commissioner Earl Hunter said there still remains work to be done.

"About 47 percent of those in the Palmetto State say that they are not regularly active, and about 28 percent say they are inactive," Hunter said. "This still gives health care professionals cause for concern. Clearly, public health messages touting the benefits of physical activity are being heard, but we need to reach more of our men, women and young people."

Lauren Welch, a third-year business student, said, "I think that during the spring semester, people usually tend to exercise more than they had during the fall semester. This is because they have to get ready for the summer."

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Drinking

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"Those stats have been pretty current for several years," he said. "The good thing about it is, now it is in the forefront and now people want to talk about it."

The USC Alcohol and Drug Programs Office has been running a prominent advertisement in student media this year that says students don't drink as much as people think. The survey, based on data collected from a random sam-

ple of USC students during the fall 2001 semester, says 77 percent of all USC students have between zero and five drinks per week.

"I think the whole point of it is to try to get people to see what reality is," Gantt said. "Students grossly misperceive student alcohol consumption. The perception is that students drink and students drink a lot. The point is to provide factual information to students regarding their perception of peers drinking. There is a lot of research out there that has shown it is an extremely helpful intervention tool."

Michele Nichols, who works at

USC's statistical consulting lab, said the figures have some problems.

"I don't think it is helping them," she said. "Including all students from zero to five drinks per week really isn't very informative. If you don't know how many of these students are drinking five drinks a week and how many are drinking zero, then I think that is more important to know."

A recent study by the Harvard School of Public Health defined binge drinking as four or more drinks in a row for women, or five or more for men.

Despite the numbers increasing

nationally, Gantt said, for the most part, USC has remained unscathed.

"I'm not saying there are not problems, but I'm saying the majority of students are making healthy choices," he said.

"Our numbers on this campus don't show some of the drastic increase a lot of these reports are talking about. Student alcohol use (at USC) has dropped over the past couple of years."

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