

NEAR EAST REPORT

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HEARD ON THE HILL

House Approves Foreign Aid Authorization Bill

On June 8, the House, under the leadership of International Relations Committee Chairman BEN GILMAN (R-NY), passed the Foreign Aid Authorization bill. The measure provides \$3 billion in earmarked aid to Israel, in addition to containing several long-standing pro-Israel provisions. The bill also includes new provisions on stockpiling U.S. weapons in Israel and the pricing of weapons systems for Israeli purchase.

The measure passed largely along party lines by a vote of 222-192. Many Democrats opposed the legislation because of several items unrelated to Israel, including: The consolidation of three executive branch agencies, which the Clinton Administration vehemently opposed; several congressionally mandated foreign policy provisions; and the low overall levels of funding, particularly to Africa. On

the final vote, twelve Democrats supported the bill, as did all but sixteen Republicans, including the entire freshman class. Several across-the-board cutting amendments were introduced, but none were offered for a vote on the Floor.

On the same afternoon that the House passed the authorization bill, the House Foreign Operations Appropriations Subcommittee approved the FY1996 Foreign Aid Appropriations bill. The measure also provides \$3 billion in economic and military assistance to Israel, along with \$80 million for refugee resettlement. Despite initial Democratic concerns about funding levels and policy provisions in the bill, the measure was ultimately approved by a unanimous vote thanks to the efforts of Reps. ROBERT LIVINGSTON (R-LA),

(continued on page 78)

Security Forces Break Up Hamas Terrorist Cells

The IDF and Israeli intelligence services have scored a number of important victories against Hamas in recent weeks.

The IDF announced June 5 that security forces had arrested close to 45 Hamas radicals living in eastern Jerusalem and nearby Arab villages.

The Army said that the terrorist cell was suspected of planning to detonate a car-bomb in Jerusalem; to hijack a bus to the Egyptian border in an effort to force Israel to free Hamas prisoners; to stab an armed Israeli and steal his gun; to shoot soldiers at military checkpoints; and to bomb places where large numbers of Israeli soldiers gather.

The Army said that the Islamic radicals trained in Gaza with members of Hamas' "military wing." The IDF said that the arrests had prevented a series of "serious attacks in and around Jerusalem" (*New York Times*, June 6).

The Jerusalem group was led by Mohammed Daya, a leader of Hamas' military wing from Gaza. Daya was said to have been involved in the kidnapping-murder of IDF soldier Nahshon Waxman last October (JTA, June 5).

Late last month, the Army said it has arrested near Bethlehem 30 Hamas militants, (continued on page 78)

A Successful Christopher Mission



Secretary of State Warren Christopher (l), meets Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin in Cairo June 9

Secretary of State Warren Christopher said his visit to the Middle East earlier this month could lay the groundwork for further progress toward peace.

"This trip has reinforced my feeling that there is a tremendous opportunity to move now to a comprehensive peace—possibly the best opportunity in the two-and-a-half years I have been in office," Christopher said.

President Hafez Assad agreed to begin Israeli-Syrian military talks on security arrangements at the Chief-of-Staff level June 27. The Syrian side will be headed by Lt. Gen. Hikmat Shihabi and the Israeli delegation by Lt. Gen. Amnon Shahak.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin said he hoped the military talks, to be held in Washington, would be a meaningful step toward peace. Rabin said that, in the initial stage of the negotiations, Israel would insist that Syria institute "full normalization of relations" with the Jewish state, while any Golan withdrawal would be "very limited," so that Israel could test Syria's true intentions.

Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk al-Sharaa said the Washington talks might lead to a "breakthrough" in the peace process. A Syrian Foreign Ministry spokesman said that agreements reached thus far "constituted a suitable framework which would help the Washington talks reach practical arrangements which would lead to balance and equality between the two parties."

Syria, however, attacked Rabin's call for a "test period". An editorial in the official daily *al-Baath* (June 14), criticized Israel's insistence on firm security arrangements as part of any Golan withdrawal. The official news agency SANA objected to Rabin's insistence that the Israeli people approve any withdrawal in a referendum.

Despite the criticisms from Damascus, however, Christopher's visit achieved tangible success by paving the way for a new round of high-level talks on critical security issues.

•House Vote on the Foreign Aid Authorization Bill

INSIDE

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the chairman of the Appropriations Committee; DAVID OBEY (D-WI), the committee's ranking member; and SONNY CALLAHAN (R-AL), the subcommittee chairman.

Full bipartisan backing for the bill was secured after Obey offered an amendment to restore money cut from certain key programs, including aid to Africa. Unanimous passage of the amendment cleared the way for Obey's support of the bill.

In addition to providing \$3 billion in aid to Israel, the bill includes the traditional terms of Israel's aid. The early-disbursal provision, which allows Israel to receive its full aid package thirty days after the start of the fiscal year, was not included in the original draft legislation, but was offered as an amendment by Rep. JIM BUNN (R-OR). The amendment received unanimous support, and was applauded by Obey, who said: "This amendment makes good sense. This is an ill-advised time to change Israel's aid, given their immersion in the peace process."

Callahan and subcommittee Ranking Member CHARLES WILSON (D-TX) provided crucial leadership in crafting a bill that included the pro-Israel items. Rep. JOSEPH KNOLLENBERG (R-MI) worked behind the scenes to ensure the inclusion of \$80 million for refugee resettlement in Israel, while Rep. MICHAEL FORBES (R-NY) also played a key role in securing Israel's aid package. The full Appropriations panel was set to review the bill on June 15, with a House vote on the measure expected June 21.

Also, the Senate Foreign Relations Committee cleared its version of the foreign aid authorization bill for a full Senate vote expected the last week in June. Like the other two aid bills, the Senate measure would provide Israel with its \$3 billion aid package, early disbursal of funds, and the new provisions contained in the House authorization measure.

The legislation also includes several other provisions related to the Middle East, including an amendment introduced by Sen. HANK BROWN (R-CO) authorizing the U.S. to spend \$10 million on industrial parks in the Gaza Strip or the West Bank. Brown expressed concern over poor economic conditions in the territories, which led to a reduction in public support for the peace process. He suggested that industrial parks could help counter high unemployment rates.

At the behest of Sen. OLYMPIA SNOWE (R-ME), another provision condemning the Russian nuclear reactor sales to Iran was included in the legislation. "Given the aggressive nature of Iran" she said, "we have to consider

this [sale] very seriously."

Counterterrorism Bill Approved By Senate

The Senate passed on June 7 an Administration-sponsored counterterrorism bill, which provides more than \$2 billion in new spending over five years to fight domestic and international terrorism. The measure, approved 91-8, will add 1,000 new law enforcement officials, create a federal death penalty for terrorist murders, and increase penalties for terrorist acts involving explosives.

The bill takes several steps to curtail the threat from international terrorism, including enhancing federal authority to prohibit suspected alien terrorists from entering the U.S. and making it easier for the U.S. to deport alleged alien terrorists. The bill bans foreign aid to countries that assist or provide military supplies to countries on the State Department's list of terrorist nations. The bill also bans fundraising for organizations on the U.S. Government's terrorist list.

House National Security Committee Funds U.S.-Israel Programs

On May 24, the House National Security Committee, by a vote of 48 to 3, approved a Defense Authorization measure that increases defense spending by \$9.4 billion above the Administration's FY1996 budget request. By adding these funds, the committee sought to end a decade-long decline in defense spending. The panel allocated about \$1 billion to national missile defense programs, a major departure from committee action in prior years.

Reflecting members' concerns about the growing threat posed by the proliferation of ballistic missiles and weapons of mass destruction, the bill increased funding for ballistic missile defense by \$628 million above the President's request. The committee provided full funding of \$56.6 million for United States and Israeli cooperative ballistic missile defense projects, including the Arrow.

The defense bill also contains funding for a number of weapons systems that are produced by joint U.S.-Israel efforts for use by the U.S. military. Specifically, the bill fully funds procurement and research and development of short-range Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV). These joint U.S.-Israel UAVs provide real-time reconnaissance, surveillance, and target acquisition information without subjecting U.S. military personnel to risk while flying in enemy air space.

The committee approved funding for two

U.S.-Israel programs that were not in the Administration's budget request, including: \$39 million for the Have Nap missiles, which is Israeli-developed technology that will enable the Air Force to procure 54 of these precision-guided munitions for the U.S. bomber fleet; and \$14 million for Bradley Reactive Armor tiles, an Israeli product that will help defeat antitank weapons.

In order to utilize modern technology to help prevent and counter terrorist acts, the committee authorized \$12.044 million for the Counter Terrorism Technical Support Working Group (TSWG). Half of the money for TSWG will fund joint programs between the U.S. and NATO and Major Non-NATO Allies, including Israel.

The bill also fully funds the \$358.6-million Single Channel Ground and Airborne Radio System program, which is an Israeli-developed next-generation tactical communication system for the U.S. Army, Navy, Marine Corps, and Air Force. Finally, the committee approved full funding of \$38 million for procurement of the U.S.-Israel Night Targeting System, a program produced by a U.S.-Israel corporate partnership which provides night/adverse weather capability for Cobra light attack helicopters. □

Hamas...continued

some of whom were involved in attacks on Israelis. Another Hamas terrorist, who was on Israel's "most-wanted list," was killed in a clash with Israeli troops. Hamed Yamour, suspected of directing a series of attacks on Israelis, refused an order to surrender.

Jordan Ousts Hamas Leaders

Two leaders of Hamas, who were expelled from Jordan June 1, have moved to Sudan and Yemen. Musa Abu Marzouk, the head of Hamas' political bureau, and Imad al-Alami, also a member of Hamas' "politburo" who previously served as Hamas' representative in Iran, were expelled as a result of pressure from Israel and the PLO, an angry Hamas spokesman told Reuter (June 4).

Mohammed Mustafa, Hamas' representative in Damascus, condemned the Jordanian move. "We were very, very sad to see Jordan expelling two *mujahideen* [holy fighters] at the same time as it welcomes Zionist Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, and his foreign minister, Shimon Peres," Mustafa said. Mustafa accused Rabin and Arafat of interfering in Jordan's "internal affairs." J.H. □

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House Vote on Foreign Aid Authorization Bill

Listed below are the 222 House members who voted in support of H.R. 1561—the American Overseas Interests Act—on June 8, 1995. Freshmen are denoted by an asterisk. (*)

WAYNE ALLARD (R-CO)	THOMAS EWING (R-IL)	JIM LIGHTFOOT (R-IA)	JOE SKEEN (R-NM)
ROBERT ANDREWS (D-NJ)	HARRIS FAWELL (R-IL)	JOHN LINDER (R-GA)	CHRISTOPHER SMITH (R-NJ)
BILL ARCHER (R-TX)	JACK FIELDS (R-TX)	BOB LIVINGSTON (R-LA)	LAMAR SMITH (R-TX)
RICHARD ARMEY (R-TX)	*MICHAEL FLANAGAN (R-IL)	*FRANK LOBIONDO (R-NJ)	*LINDA SMITH (R-WA)
SPENCER BACHUS (R-AL)	*MARK FOLEY (R-FL)	*JIM LONGLEY (R-ME)	NICK SMITH (R-MI)
BILL BAKER (R-CA)	*MICHAEL FORBES (R-NY)	FRANK LUCAS (R-OK)	GERALD SOLOMON (R-NY)
CASS BALLENGER (R-NC)	TILLIE FOWLER (R-FL)	*BILL LUTHER (D-MN)	*MARK SOUDER (R-IN)
*BOB BARR (R-GA)	*JON FOX (R-PA)	THOMAS MANTON (D-NY)	FLOYD SPENCE (R-SC)
ROSCOE BARTLETT (R-MD)	BOB FRANKS (R-NJ)	DONALD MANZULLO (R-IL)	*STEVE STOCKMAN (R-TX)
JOE BARTON (R-TX)	GARY FRANKS (R-CT)	*BILL MARTINI (R-NJ)	JAMES TALENT (R-MO)
*CHARLES BASS (R-NH)	*RODNEY FRELINGHUYSEN (R-NJ)	BILL MCCOLLUM (R-FL)	*RANDY TATE (R-WA)
HERBERT BATEMAN (R-VA)	*DANIEL FRISA (R-NY)	JIM MCCRERY (R-LA)	CHARLES TAYLOR (R-NC)
*KEN BENTSEN (D-TX)	*DAVID FUNDERBURK (R-NC)	JOHN MCHUGH (R-NY)	WILLIAM THOMAS (R-CA)
DOUG BEREUTER (R-NE)	ELTON GALLEGLY (R-CA)	SCOTT MCINNIS (R-CO)	*WILLIAM THORNBERRY (R-TX)
*BRIAN BILBRAY (R-CA)	*GREG GANSKE (R-IA)	*DAVID MCINTOSH (R-IN)	*TODD TIAHRT (R-KS)
MICHAEL BILIRAKIS (R-FL)	GEORGE GEKAS (R-PA)	HOWARD MCKEON (R-CA)	PETER TORKILDSEN (R-MA)
THOMAS BLILEY, JR. (R-VA)	WAYNE GILCHREST (R-MD)	*JACK METCALF (R-WA)	FREDERICK UPTON (R-MI)
PETER BLUTE (R-MA)	PAUL GILMOR (R-OH)	JAN MEYERS (R-KS)	BARBARA VUCANOVICH (R-NV)
SHERWOOD BOEHLERT (R-NY)	BENJAMIN GILMAN (R-NY)	JOHN MICA (R-FL)	*ENID GREENE WALDHOLTZ (R-UT)
JOHN BOEHNER (R-OH)	NEWT GINGRICH (R-GA)	DAN MILLER (R-FL)	ROBERT WALKER (R-PA)
*SONNY BONO (R-CA)	BOB GOODLATTE (R-VA)	SUSAN MOLINARI (R-NY)	JAMES WALSH (R-NY)
BILL BREWSTER (D-OK)	WILLIAM GOODLING (R-PA)	CARLOS MOORHEAD (R-CA)	*ZACH WAMP (R-TN)
*SAM BROWNBACK (R-KS)	PORTER GOSS (R-FL)	*SUE MYRICK (R-NC)	*J.C. WATTS (R-OK)
*ED BRYANT (R-TN)	*LINDSEY GRAHAM (R-SC)	RICHARD NEAL (D-MA)	CURT WELDON (R-PA)
*JIM BUNN (R-OR)	STEVE GUNDERSON (R-WI)	*GEORGE NETHERCUTT (R-WA)	*DAVID WELDON (R-FL)
*RICHARD BURR (R-NC)	*GIL GUTKNECHT (R-MN)	*MARK NEUMANN (R-WI)	*JERRY WELLER (R-IL)
DAN BURTON (R-IN)	J. DENNIS HASTERT (R-IL)	*BOB NEY (R-OH)	*RICK WHITE (R-WA)
STEVE BUYER (R-IN)	*RICHARD HASTINGS (R-WA)	*CHARLES NORWOOD (R-GA)	*EDWARD WHITFIELD (R-KY)
SONNY CALLAHAN (R-AL)	*J.D. HAYWORTH (R-AZ)	JIM NUSSLE (R-IA)	FRANK WOLF (R-VA)
KEN CALVERT (R-CA)	JOEL HEFLEY (R-CO)	MICHAEL OXLEY (R-OH)	C.W. "BILL" YOUNG (R-FL)
DAVE CAMP (R-MI)	*FRED HEINEMAN (R-NC)	RON PACKARD (R-CA)	DON YOUNG (R-AK)
CHARLES CANADY (R-FL)	*VAN HILLEARY (R-TN)	MIKE PARKER (D-MS)	BILL ZELIFF, JR. (R-NH)
MICHAEL CASTLE (R-DE)	DAVID HOBSON (R-OH)	BILL PAXON (R-NY)	DICK ZIMMER (R-NJ)
*STEVE CHABOT (R-OH)	PETER HOEKSTRA (R-MI)	COLLIN PETERSON (D-MN)	
*SAXBY CHAMBLISS (R-GA)	MARTIN HOKE (R-OH)	THOMAS PETRI (R-WI)	
*HELEN CHENOWETH (R-ID)	STEVE HORN (R-CA)	RICHARD POMBO (R-CA)	
*JON CHRISTENSEN (R-NE)	*JOHN HOSTETTLER (R-IN)	JOHN E. PORTER (R-IL)	
*DICK CHRYSLER (R-MI)	AMO HOUGHTON (R-NY)	ROB PORTMAN (R-OH)	
WILLIAM CLINGER, JR. (R-PA)	DUNCAN HUNTER (R-CA)	GLENN POSHARD (D-IL)	
HOWARD COBLE (R-NC)	TIM HUTCHINSON (R-AR)	DEBORAH PRYCE (R-OH)	
*TOM COBURN (R-OK)	HENRY HYDE (R-IL)	JAMES QUILLEN (R-TN)	
MICHAEL "MAC" COLLINS (R-GA)	BOB INGLIS (R-SC)	JACK QUINN (R-NY)	
*WES COOLEY (R-OR)	ERNEST ISTOOK (R-OK)	*GEORGE RADANOVICH (R-CA)	
CHRIS COX (R-CA)	SAM JOHNSON (R-TX)	JIM RAMSTAD (R-MN)	
PHILIP CRANE (R-IL)	TIM JOHNSON (D-SD)	JACK REED (D-RI)	
MICHAEL CRAPO (R-ID)	*WALTER JONES, JR. (R-NC)	RALPH REGULA (R-OH)	
*FRANK CREMEANS (R-OH)	JOHN KASICH (R-OH)	*FRANK RIGGS (R-CA)	
*BARBARA CUBIN (R-WY)	*SUE KELLY (R-NY)	DANA ROHRBACHER (R-CA)	
RANDY CUNNINGHAM (R-CA)	*PATRICK KENNEDY (D-RI)	ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN (R-FL)	
*THOMAS DAVIS, III (R-VA)	JAY KIM (R-CA)	TOBY ROTH (R-WI)	
NATHAN DEAL (R-GA)	PETER KING (R-NY)	MARGE ROUKEMA (R-NJ)	
TOM DELAY (R-TX)	JACK KINGSTON (R-GA)	EDWARD ROYCE (R-CA)	
LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART (R-FL)	SCOTT KLUG (R-WI)	*MATT SALMON (R-AZ)	
JAY DICKEY (R-AR)	JOSEPH KNOLLENBERG (R-MI)	*MARK SANFORD, JR. (R-SC)	
JOHN DOOLITTLE (R-CA)	JIM KOLBE (R-AZ)	JIM SAXTON (R-NJ)	
ROBERT DORNAN (R-CA)	*RAY LAHOOD (R-IL)	*JOE SCARBOROUGH (R-FL)	
DAVID DREIER (R-CA)	*STEVE LARGENT (R-OK)	DAN SCHAEFER (R-CO)	
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BILL EMERSON (R-MO)	JIM LEACH (R-IA)	E. CLAY SHAW, JR. (R-FL)	
*PHILIP ENGLISH (R-PA)	JERRY LEWIS (R-CA)	CHRISTOPHER SHAYS (R-CT)	
*JOHN ENSIGN (R-NV)	RON LEWIS (R-KY)	BUD SHUSTER (R-PA)	

Listed below are the 21 House members who did not register a vote on June 8, 1995. Freshmen are denoted with an asterisk. (*)

RICHARD BAKER (R-LA)
HENRY BONILLA (R-TX)
GEORGE BROWN, JR. (D-CA)
JIM CHAPMAN (D-TX)
KIKA DE LA GARZA (D-TX)
NORMAN DICKS (D-WA)
ELIZABETH FURSE (D-OR)
JANE HARMAN (D-CA)
NANCY JOHNSON (R-CT)
GERALD KLECZKA (D-WI)
GREG LAUGHLIN (D-TX)
*ZOE LOFGREN (D-CA)
JOSEPH MCDADE (R-PA)
CYNTHIA MCKINNEY (D-GA)
G.V. MONTGOMERY (D-MS)
JAMES OBERSTAR (D-MN)
PETE PETERSON (D-FL)
JOHN SPRATT, JR. (D-SC)
MAXINE WATERS (D-CA)
*ROGER WICKER (R-MS)
SIDNEY YATES (D-IL)

EDITOR'S OPINION

A Success Story in Jericho

Nearly buried under the daily reports of confrontations and hatred lies a heartening story of friendly cooperation between Israelis and Palestinians. Israeli soldiers and Palestinian policemen in the Jericho area are working together smoothly, efficiently and even warmly. A trip to Jericho late last month with AIPAC's lobbyists enabled us to observe this remarkable phenomenon firsthand.

Our first stop was the District Coordination Office (DCO), just outside Jericho. Next to Israeli soldiers in their familiar olive-green uniforms we saw Palestinian policemen in khaki and black milling around in the neat mobile-home DCO camp. After introducing a Palestinian officer as his "partner," IDF Major Haim briefed us on the work of the DCO, which is charged with maintaining security in the area.

Under the Gaza-Jericho accord, Israeli vehicles are allowed to travel freely through the Jericho autonomous area. Indeed, we saw dozens of Israeli cars with their orange license plates crossing into Jericho without being stopped at the Palestinian checkpoint. They traveled through Jericho alongside blue-plated West Bank vehicles and amongst cars, taxis, trucks, and police cars bearing the multi-colored plates of the Palestinian Authority. Haim told us that, since the autonomy was set up in May 1994, the only incidents recorded were several cases of small children throwing stones at Israeli vehicles; no one was injured.

The most frequent complaint we heard was that Jericho's economy is suffering badly because of false perceptions created by the intifada. While until 1987, Jericho's roadside restaurants were packed with Israelis and foreign tourists, the unfounded fear of violence has driven the customers away; indeed, Jericho's empty restaurants were a sorry sight. That's regrettable: Tourism could revive Jericho's ailing economy, with ripple effects throughout the territories; and full stomachs tend to drive away thoughts of violence and suicide.

After a shaky start, Haim said, the members of the Israelis and Palestinian security forces got to better understand their complex assignments under Gaza-Jericho, and, as important, to know and trust each other. The result has been virtually flawless cooperation, and even personal friendships. Thus, Israeli soldiers presented a Palestinian police officer with a birthday cake on his fiftieth birthday. The Palestinian was moved; it was the first birthday cake he had ever received. We witnessed this warmth as we drove through Jericho in our minibus with Haim sitting in the front. At almost every intersection we crossed, Palestinian policemen waved to him from their posts. Senior PLO negotiator Saeb Erakat, whom we met at his Jericho headquarters, termed the relations between the two forces "excellent."

The heart of the DCO's work is the joint

Israeli-Palestinian patrols, consisting of two-vehicle convoys hoisting bright orange flags on tall antennas. We saw a joint patrol in action, dealing with a road accident involving an Israeli and a Palestinian car on the main Jericho highway; the driver of each car was injured. A Palestinian crowd began gathering at the site, but the Israeli and Palestinian security forces were firmly in control. The incident was handled promptly and professionally. We were later relieved to hear that the injuries were not serious.

Another encouraging experience was our visit to a sixth-century synagogue in Jericho, which has a magnificent mosaic pavement with the Hebrew inscription "Shalom al Yisrael" (Peace be unto Israel). Under the Gaza-Jericho agreement, Jews are entitled to pray in the synagogue under Palestinian police protection. Indeed, just before we left several orthodox Jews arrived for prayer; armed Palestinian policemen posted near the synagogue were there to protect them. Haim told us that the Palestinian police are particularly proud of this unusual assignment.

We were warned not to read too much into what we saw and heard. Jericho, we were told, has only 17,000 inhabitants (plus 2,000 policemen!) while Gaza has almost a million; Jericho's economic situation is considerably better than Gaza's; and, unlike Gaza and other parts of the West Bank, Jericho was quiet throughout the intifada.

Nevertheless, we were encouraged. If Israeli soldiers can work well with armed Palestinian policemen, many of whom have recently arrived from Libya and Iraq, then perhaps larger-scale cooperation can emerge as the situation stabilizes elsewhere in the territories.

Above all, our Jericho experience showed us that when there is good will, a dry piece of paper signed between Israeli and Palestinian officials in a Cairo convention center can be transformed into a vibrant reality on the ground. Hopefully, future Israeli-Palestinian agreements will be as successful.

—Raphael Danziger

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O'Grady's Homing Device Was Made In Israel

The "heart" of the homing device that made it possible to track down Captain Scott O'Grady was made by the Israeli company Tadiran.

Every fighter pilot is equipped with a homing device, which is designed to make it possible to track him down if he is forced to abandon his plane. Tadiran has developed such a device—one of the world's most advanced—and is supplying its main part to other manufacturers as well. The American pilot's Motorola-made homing device included a Tadiran-made main part.

According to the British weekly *Flight*, the Tadiran-made device is used by the Israel Air Force and has been purchased by other air forces as well (*Yedi'ot Ahronot*, 6/9/95) □

Did you know?...

☞ From May 4, 1994, to May 4, 1995, Israel transferred to the Palestinian Authority (PA) in Gaza and Jericho about \$77 million.

☞ These funds included over \$10 million under Israel's commitments as a donor country.

☞ The rest of the money was obtained from tax collection, as follows: import duties—\$11 million; VAT—30 million; gasoline tax—\$20 million; income tax—\$2 million; health stamp—\$4 million. Total—\$67 million.

☞ In addition, from December 1994 to May 1995, \$20 million in VAT were credited to the PA and were to be transferred upon completion of the required legislation.

Source: *Yedi'ot Ahronot*, 5/5/95