Israel, Syria Move Towards Reviving Stalled Peace Talks

By Carlyle Murphy

Israel Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin is playing his cards close to the vest. He said, "I don't want to give you too details," said Jiang. "I'm not speaking with any Labor Party members who met Monday with Rabin on the Syrian issue.

At the same time, these developments set off protests from Israeli settlers on the Golan Heights, which Syria wants returned by Israel as part of any peace agreement, and also sparked a brief revolt within Rabin's ruling Labor Party. Rabin started the round of public signals last week when he said Israel would like to see a three-year "testing period" of normal relations with Syria after a joint initial "small" Israeli withdrawal on the Golan Heights, which Israel ceded from Syria in the 1967 Middle East war and annexed in 1981.

Although Syria had already received this idea privately from Rabin, apparently wanted to show his seriousness by making it public. The three-year period was a small retreat from Israel's original desire for a five-year "testing period" before making a fuller withdrawal.

Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Charara, on a visit last week to Europe, reconfirmed: "For the first time, he answered questions from French journalists at a press conference, spoke of an eventual "peace" with Israel and said a future meeting between Rabin and Syrian President Hafez Assad is "involuntary." On Saturday, Assessed addressed his parliament and said, "Syria realizes the importance of a peace which ensures full (Israeli) withdrawal from the Golan Heights. He added that Syria "also realizes that peace has objective requirements and will meet the objective requirements that are agreed on."

U.N. Drafters Resolve Disputes, Complete New Population Plan

By Kim Murphy

Finally clearing nagging disputes over reproductive health, birth control and migrant workers, U.N. drafters Monday completed an ambitious new population plan that U.N. officials hope will be the first of its kind in the world for the first time to deal frankly with sex and spiraling human reproduction.

The plan, scheduled for adoption Tuesday by nearly 180 nations gathered for the International Conference on Population and Development, contains important compromises with both Roman Catholic and Islamic nations aimed at assuring that sex education, reproductive health care and family planning programs comply with each nation's own religious and cultural traditions.

It emphasizes that abortion is not encouraged as a family planning tool and leaves that contentious issue up to each nation's own legislation.

U.N. officials said the action finally approved by a three-year drafting committee after an exhausting series of meetings represents the world's first attempt to deal openly with the root causes of soaring fertility rates, and to develop programs that emphasize not government coercion but individual choice.

"The number of completely new notions compared to what has come out of previous conferences, reproductive health, reproductive rights, the notion of voluntary abortion being a major health problem which governments have to do something about — all these things are there," said Nicoleas Bignon of the Netherlands delegation, who chaired the drafting committee.

"Sex, something that we only whispered about before, is a normal item of conversation in the Western world and it is becoming a normal item of conversation in the rest of the world," Bignon said. "You have to talk about sex — you have to talk about it just like real estate prices."

The diplomacy over the past week has been very much reflected in the growing influence of religion in political life. Religious to a great extent framed the debate over issues such as abortion, family planning and sex education, in an attempt to ensure that traditional religious values would not be lost in the rush to provide new sexual health care options.

GSC ORIENTATION FINAL WEEK EVENTS:

GRADUATE LIFE 001

No, it's not another department requirement, but you will learn valuable lessons for surviving your time at MIT.

• Listen to graduate students from different backgrounds and departments tell you about their first years; their social, racial, and academic struggles; the good, the bad, and the ugly.

• Learn from faculty members as they give their advice to dealing with their own kind.

A workshop on improving communication between men and women. This two hour workshop will focus on how men and women can better understand and communicate with each other, both in professional and personal settings. Participants will play an active role in the workshop through group exercises and discussion.

WOMEN are especially invited to sign up.

Trip to the Museum of Fine Arts

Saturday, Sept. 17

Ipm Steps at 77 Mass Ave.

Meet at the steps of 77 Mass Ave for a relaxing day at the museum. Be sure to bring your student ID!

Can We Talk?

Correction:

The Women Graduate Student Orientation Meeting will be held this Tuesday, Sept. 13 from 4:30-6:30 in room 54-923.

Sorry for the misprint in some of our flyers.

Put on your calendars: GSC First General Meeting - Tuesday, Sept. 20 5:30 pm 50-222

Be Careful! To add yourself to the mailing list type blanche -a username gsc-students, or send email to gsc-request.

When adding yourself to the list, please use the correct syntax or else the athena cops will come after you.

Questions, comments, ideas? give us a call at 3-2195 or send email to gscadmin@mit

The table provided is a list of events organized by the Graduate Student Council. The events include workshops, orientation meetings, and trips to the Museum of Fine Arts. The details of these events are as follows:

**Graduate Student Council**

- **GSC ORIENTATION FINAL WEEK EVENTS:**
  - **GRADUATE LIFE 001**
    - No additional department requirement.
    - Learning valuable lessons for surviving time at MIT.
    - Insights from graduate students from different backgrounds.
    - Advice from faculty members.
  - **Trip to the Museum of Fine Arts**
    - Saturday, Sept. 17
    - Meet at the steps of 77 Mass Ave.
    - Relaxing day at the museum.
    - Bring your student ID!

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The table provides a high-level summary of events and instructions for attendees.