

Rabin to Arafat: Condemn slaying

Israel says Fatah mem confessed to killing set

By John M. Goshko and David Hoffman
WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON — Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin demanded yesterday that Palestine Liberation Organization Chairman Yasir Arafat condemn the killing of a Jewish settler by five Palestinians claiming to be Arafat's followers, and President Clinton agreed that the Israeli-PLO peace agreement obligates Arafat to denounce the terrorist act.

Appearing with Clinton at a White House news conference, Rabin said the PLO "must condemn vigorously, openly and immediately any action that is flagrant violation of its commitment to renounce terrorism." He called the killing "a grave and dangerous violation" of the accord signed at the White House on Sept. 13.

Clinton added, "I think that Chairman Arafat now under the terms of the agreement is duty-bound at a minimum to condemn it. I think we all recognize that he may not have total control over everyone who acts in the name of Fatah [the Arafat-led main faction of the PLO], but he is now bound by the clear terms of the agreement to condemn it."

Their comments came after the Israeli army announced that the five Palestinians, arrested for the Oct. 29 abduction and slaying of Haim Mizrahi, had acknowledged they were Fatah members. However, the army said the five contended they were not acting under Fatah's orders when they killed Mizrahi. When Mizrahi was stabbed while buying eggs in an Arab village on the West Bank two weeks ago, both the PLO and the Israeli army blamed the killing on the radical Hamas organization.

The Associated Press quoted Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres as saying in Jerusalem that he had spoken with Arafat, who promised to condemn the killing. Faisal Hussein, Arafat's chief lieutenant in Israeli-occupied territories, said the PLO planned to "take steps to make sure such an act will not be repeated."

Rabin rejected the idea that the killing might cause his government to repudiate the PLO agreement. He refused to answer what he called "hypothetical questions" about breaking off talks with the PLO.

The emphasis by Rabin and Clinton on the need for a quick response by Arafat reflected concern that ex-

tremists on both sides are disrupt the agreement c phased-in self-rule for Pa of the Gaza strip and West of Jericho.

The Clinton administratious to push the proces with particular emphasis (peace between Israel and

Israeli and U.S. officials Rabin yesterday left open tion of when the dorma Syrian track of the pe should be resumed. Howev officials added, he told Cli Israel would like the Unite try to open a secret new n channel with Syria similar in Norway that led to the P

On another track of the p ess — Israel's negotiations dan — Clinton said that King Hussein "obvious peace" and must be enco parliamentary elections la in which Muslim extremis to any agreement with l ground to moderates. "I th sein) is in a good positio ceed," Clinton said.

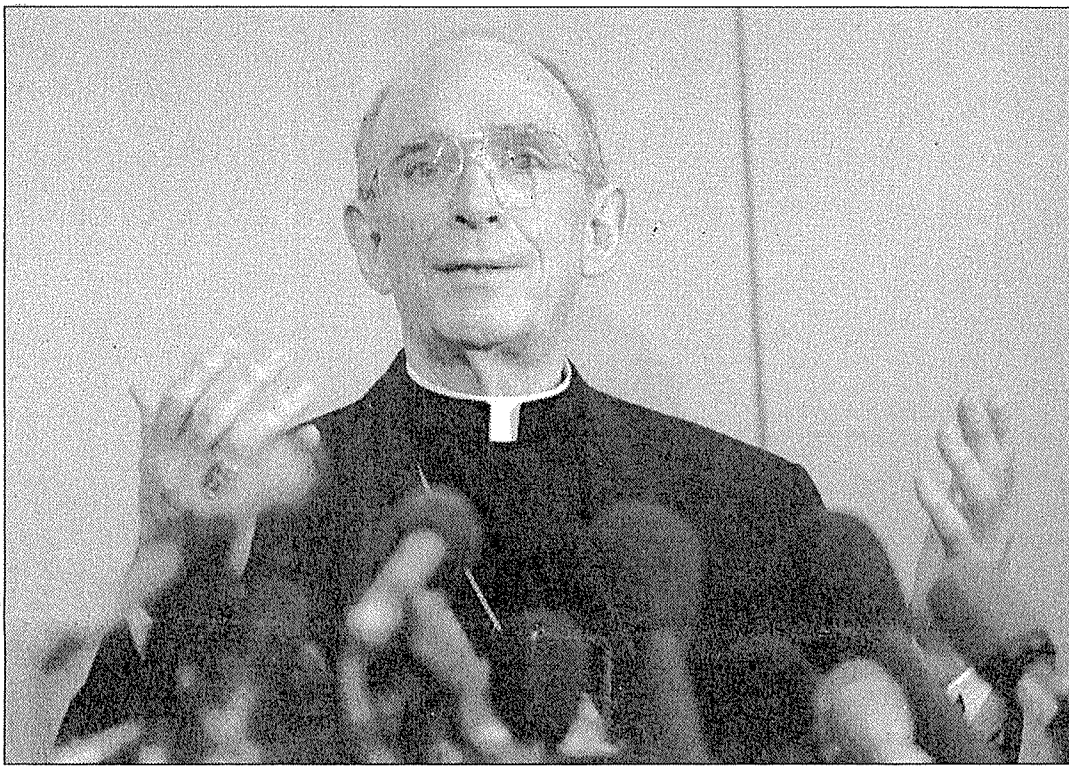
Unrest persisted in the territories. Israeli soldier Palestinian youth when th a car that ran a roadblock, stabbed and wounded an l dier in Jerusalem, news r police said.

The announcement the leged killers of Mizrahi cl tah membership also caus hard-line political opposit nounce the PLO agreement charge that the PLO cann violence in its ranks.

At the White House, pledged to keep U.S. aid t its current level of \$3 billi He also promised to exp Congress ways of using loo tees and other assistance rael absorb the costs — e amount to several hundre dollars — of relocating from the territories.

He and Rabin said the ments were close to agre the sale of U.S. F-15E bomb 16 fighters to Israel. Rabin with Defense Secretary Les Monday to work out detai

President Clinton is consid Israeli request to free com Jonathan Pollard. **AB.**



Associated Press / MARK ELIAS

Cardinal Joseph Bernardin said in Chicago yesterday that he was bewildered by the allegations made against him, and said they "are totally untrue, they are totally false."

Archbishop of Chicago is accused of sex abuse

By Maureen Graham
INQUIRER STAFF WRITER

A Philadelphia man has accused Cardinal Joseph Bernardin, the archbishop of Chicago, of sexually abusing him as a teenager in the 1970s.

Steven J. Cook, 34, sued Cardinal Bernardin and an Ohio priest, the Rev. Ellis N. Harsham, in U.S. District Court in Cincinnati yesterday for \$10 million, contending that they had had sexual relations with him that he only recently recalled through therapy.

At a news conference yesterday, Cardinal Bernardin, 65, flatly denied the charges. "Everything that is in that suit about me, the allegations, are totally untrue, they are totally false," he said. "I have never abused anyone at any time at any place. . . . I'm 65 years old and I can tell you all my life I have lived a chaste and celibate life."

Father Harsham could not be reached for comment.

Cardinal Bernardin, the spiritual adviser of 2.3 million Roman Catholics in northeastern Illinois, has been one of the church's most visible leaders in attempts to root out abuse by priests.

In court documents and in an interview this week, Cook accused Cardinal Bernardin of having committed a sex act with him 17 years ago while Cook was a 17-year-old pre-seminary student in Cincinnati.

Cook said in an interview that the sexual abuse led him to a sexually promiscuous life. He later contracted AIDS, he said.

According to the civil suit, Cook took so long to make the accusations because he only recently recalled the incidents through therapy.

"I don't really know if you can put words to describe it, what that pain is like," Cook said in a CNN interview yesterday morning. "It shatters your world, it shatters your soul, it shatters your life."

Cook, who lives in Chestnut Hill, said he was introduced to Cardinal Bernardin in 1975 by Father Harsham, who taught Cook biology while Cook was studying in a pre-seminary program at St. Gregory's Seminary in Cincinnati. At the time, Cardinal Bernardin was archbishop of the diocese of Cincinnati.

"I knew I had a weird relationship with Harsham," Cook said in an interview. "Through therapy I remembered there had been actual sexual contact."

Cook said he remembered Father Harsham plying him with alcohol, marijuana and pornography. Later, he said, he remembered Father Harsham taking him to the private quarters of Cardinal Bernardin. It was there, he alleges, that he had sex with Cardinal Bernardin.

Father Harsham was transferred from St. Gregory's in 1977, according to documents from the Diocese of Cincinnati.

"Father Harsham admits (and this is confirmed by others) that he was removed from the seminary faculty at the end of the 1976-1977 academic

year because of an incident of sexual behavior with an adult seminarian," said the documents.

Cook said in an interview that he left St. Gregory's Seminary and abandoned his desire to become a priest after the alleged abuse.

Cook, who moved to Philadelphia in 1984, said he suppressed the memory of the alleged sexual abuse until a year ago, when he underwent therapy.

His lawsuit, which also names the Diocese of Cincinnati and Cincinnati Archbishop Daniel E. Pilarczyk as defendants, contends that diocesan officials, including Cardinal Bernardin, covered up the abuse by Father Harsham.

A woman answering the telephone at Father Harsham's current address, St. Luke Church in Beavercreek, Ohio, near Dayton, said he was currently out of town but was "in residence."

At his news conference, Cardinal Bernardin said he was confused by the charges leveled against him. "I don't remember this man at all," he said. "It leaves me in a state of bewilderment. I can't judge the motivation of this man. All I can say is I'm not guilty of what this man alleges."

The Rev. Andrew Greeley, a Chicago priest who has written several novels dwelling on fictional sexual escapades by members of the clergy, said he does not believe the charges.

"We [the church] have protected the guilty for so long we find it very difficult to protect the innocent, even when attacked with the wildest and most bizarre charges," Father Greeley said.

Since 1991, Cardinal Bernardin has been in the forefront of the church's attempts to combat sexual abuse by priests.

Cardinal Bernardin's first step was a frank letter, read in all parish churches during services, that admitted there was a problem, and promising to address it.

The system now in place in Chicago uses an independent review panel that is supposed to promptly investigate abuse allegations. There is a toll-free telephone number for people to report suspected cases of abuse, psychological screening for seminarians and unified personnel files that can better track a priest throughout his career.

New Jersey attorney Stephen C. Rubino, who represents Cook, said he and Cook thought long and hard before taking legal action against Cardinal Bernardin.

"We struggled over the filing of this lawsuit, not because of what's in it but because of its possible repercussions to the church," Rubino said yesterday. "Many people will have their faith shaken, many more people will have their faith shaken in the church hierarchy. But everyone should recognize that this is a lawsuit about abuse of power, corruption and sexual abuse. It is not about the faithful men and women on both sides of the altar that do their jobs well and keep their vows. It is a lawsuit about the truth to what happened to Steven Cook."

This article contains information from Reuters.



Steven J. Cook of Philadelphia is suing Cardinal Bernardin and an Ohio priest.

Clinton says a w for NAFTA is ne

By Laurence McQuillan
REUTERS

WASHINGTON — President Clinton said yesterday that he is close to winning the fight for the North American Free Trade Agreement, a battle that prompted the head of the U.S. labor movement to brand him a "darling of Wall Street."

But a rift appeared in labor's ranks when the president of the Massachusetts Building Trades Council came out in support of NAFTA and warned that its defeat could "contribute to the demise" of Clinton's presidency.

Also, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, representing half a million blacks, announced at its convention in Indianapolis that it opposed the pact. It said the relocation of American businesses to Mexico would cost jobs for African Americans.

Clinton and an array of aides intensified their push for NAFTA in anticipation of Wednesday's vote in the House, where there is stiff opposition from Republicans and liberal Democratic

porter yesterday when I Democrat Nita M. Lowey would vote for NAFTA.

Lowey told reporters that 100 percent pro-union voters and that union representatives argued forcefully with her NAFTA. But she said she concluded that on balance, he ents would benefit from I

Clinton has staked heavy prestige on passage of pact

Critics, including the m unions, oppose it principal they believe — despite a tion insistence to the cont will shift many U.S. jobs t

where labor

Organized played a major electing Clinton ago. But AFL-

dent Lane said yesterday future re would dep

whether Clinton has been in M comes the c

Wall Street a business and of the cou elite, or whether he retur original position of repres

A building trades union president voiced support for NAFTA — a split in labor's ranks.