

Hussein and Arafat to reassess situation

by MELYNDA JARRATT
Brunswickan staff

Jordan's King Hussein, and the Palestine Liberation Organization's chairman, Yasser Arafat, met in Amman on Monday to reassess their relationship and to discuss the future of their faltering joint bid to make peace with Israel.

Monday's meeting was the first between Arafat and Hussein since a series of violent episodes tarnished the P.L.O.'s already rusty image in the West as a possible participant in peace talks.

Hussein said last Thursday that he was "...reassessing the entire situation..." of his relations with the P.L.O. in light of recent events.

These include: the September 5th slaying by P.L.O. terrorists of 3 Israelis aboard a yacht in Cyprus — one a former Canadian from Montreal; Israel's retaliatory bombing of P.L.O. headquarters in Tunisia on October 1st; and the killing of the wheelchair bound Leon Klinghoffer aboard the Italian cruise ship, the *Achille Luoro*.

Last February 11, Hussein and Arafat made an agreement in which the P.L.O. and Jordan would pursue a joint peace strategy. They called for peace

with Israel in return for its withdrawal from all land occupied in the 1967 war, as well as the creation of a Palestinian state.

The February 11th agreement called for details to be worked out at a conference sponsored by the United Nations.

In a speech last week to the U.N. General Assembly in New York, Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres presented his proposals for peace in the Middle East. He called on Hussein to "...con-

tinue to act with us in order not to miss the opportunity that has been created..."

An international conference is a central demand for Jordan which has a large population of Palestinians and therefore a life or death vested interest in the continuation of a peaceful solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Its demand for big-power involvement in the negotiating process has been a key factor in producing the stalemate in

talks. Efforts to involve the U.S., a critical player in the

proposed forum, have been thwarted in part by the P.L.O.'s refusal to recognize two U.N. resolutions which imply recognition of Israel but which fail to mention the Palestinians' right to a state.

Meanwhile in Israel, Peres urged the political right (the Likud-bloc which shares power with Peres' Labor Party in the present coalition govern-

ment) not to oppose his peace efforts and he easily won a vote of confidence that allows an international forum under the auspices of the U.N. to be involved in negotiations.

Last week Hussein announced that he wants direct talks with Israel. There are doubts that it will happen. As an Israeli said in an informal lecture to students last week, "...talks can only begin when there is an end to this kind of terrorism."

Conference for disabled

by PAM JOHNSON
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A provincial conference of the Status of Disabled Persons will be held at the Lord Beaverbrook Hotel on November 14-16.

This event will examine three themes: employment opportunities, educational programs and community-based services for disabled people in New Brunswick.

"With many changes happening with the government reform process and the evaluation of program priorities, the timing is very appropriate for the people involved to get together," said Randy Dickinson, one of the conference planners.

Guy Leblanc, the Chairperson for the Premier's Council on the Status of Disabled Persons, will be acting as conference chairperson and promises an interesting and packed program.

In addition to plenary sessions there will be a number of workshops on the three themes. These workshops will involve about seventy-five people as speakers, panel members and reaction panels.

Advance registration is encouraging. Major sessions will have simultaneous translations in French and American sign language.

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