



Israelis criticize Powell meeting

Informal Geneva Accord talks seen as going against proposed 'road map'

JERUSALEM (AP) — Israel reacted with disappointment Wednesday after U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell confirmed he will meet with organizers of an informal Israeli-Palestinian peace treaty.

The comments by Zelman Shoval, an adviser to Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, was the latest expression of Israel's stiff opposition to the meeting, seen as a U.S. gesture toward the "Geneva Accord" that Sharon has denounced.

On Tuesday, Israel's vice premier said it would be a "mistake" if Powell goes forward with the meeting — an unusually strong rebuke from Israel to its closest and most important ally.

Shoval, a former ambassador to Washington, conceded that Israel cannot prevent Powell from meeting with Geneva Accord's Palestinian and Israeli authors, but said the effort would be counterproductive.

"I think the decision that Secretary Powell must make is ... what the American interests are," Shoval said in a phone interview from Italy.

"America wants to promote the 'road map' and those people in Geneva ... want to go in a differ-

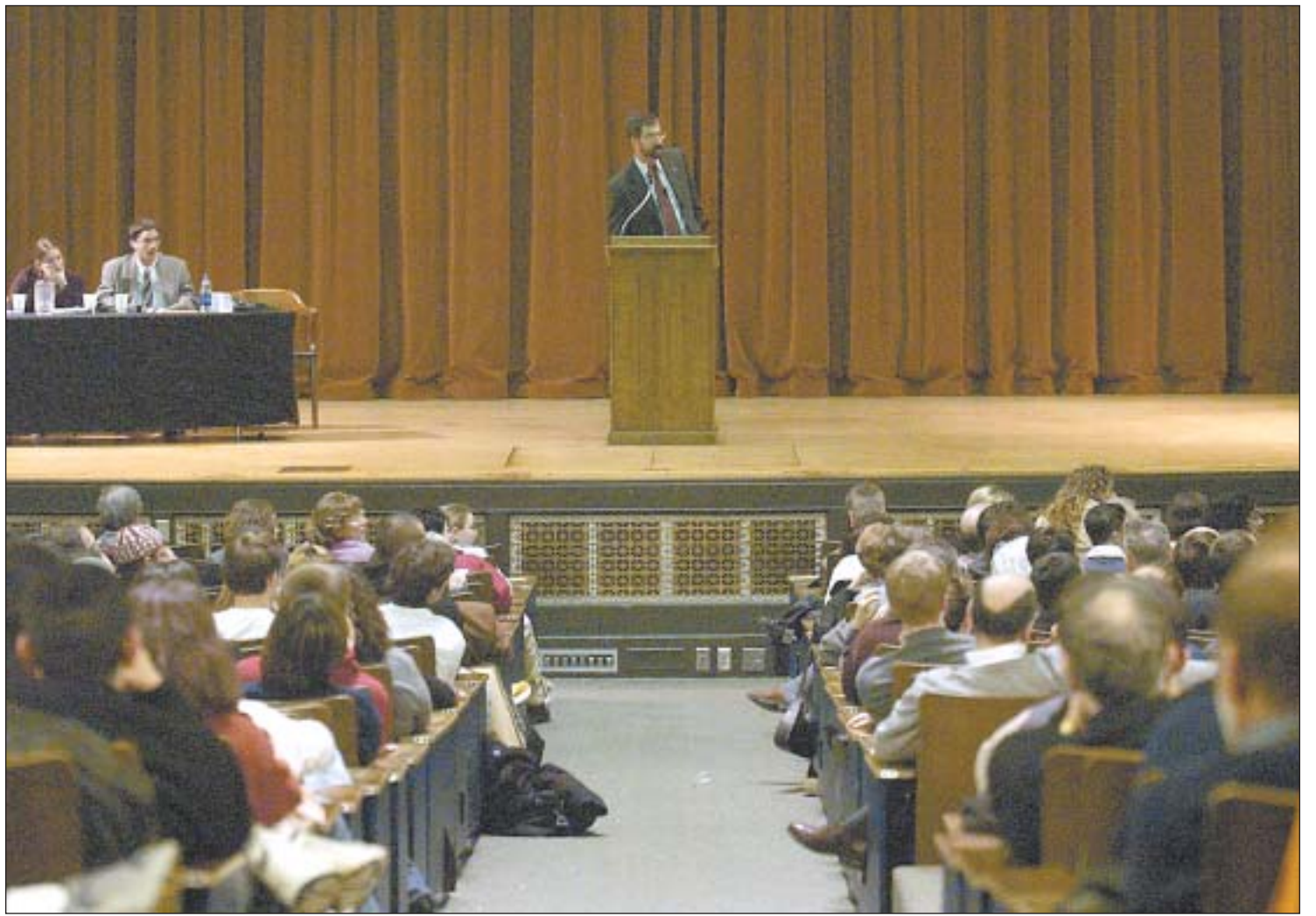
America wants to promote the 'road map' and those people in Geneva ... want to go in a different path. Therefore I think it won't be very helpful.

ZALMAN SHOVAL
adviser to Ariel Sharon

ent path," he added. "Therefore I think it won't be very helpful."

The Geneva Accord outlines concessions by Israel that Sharon's government has opposed in the past — including removing most settlements from the West Bank and Gaza Strip and dividing sovereignty in Jerusalem, claimed by both sides as their capital. The accord also severely limits any return of Palestinian refugees to lands in Israel, which has brought condemnations from some Palestinian leaders.

The "road map" is a formal U.S.-backed peace plan that Israel and the Palestinians have accepted. See ISRAEL on Page A-8



KATE DOUGHERTY *The Daily Illini*

Above: Middle East expert Daniel Pipes addresses a crowded Foellinger Auditorium on Wednesday night.

Far right: Students opposed to speaker Daniel Pipes gather for a rally outside Foellinger.

JONATHAN WITTEN *The Daily Illini*

Right: Pipes discussed the failure of past peace plans, saying the goal must be for Palestinian acceptance of a permanent Israeli existence.



KATE DOUGHERTY *The Daily Illini*

Members of the Graduate Employees Organization protest Wednesday what the GEO calls University stalling tactics in meeting the GEO's demands in front of Grainger Engineering Library along Springfield Avenue in Urbana.

GEO rally demands better health benefits

BY LAURA JASTRAM
Staff writer

Members of the Graduate Employees' Organization lined Springfield Avenue in front of Grainger Engineering Library during a rally Wednesday afternoon to demand better health care coverage.

Rally participants yelled for the University to continue negotiations with the GEO to complete a contract both parties can agree upon. Negotiations have been ongoing for about nine months.

"We want better health care and that's our number one issue," said Bryan Nicholson, GEO communications officer. "We are willing to stake our jobs on it, but we don't want it to have to come to that."

In February, the GEO presented the University with a health care plan and gave them a deadline to respond, said Alice Quisno, GEO member.

"The University hasn't responded until today and they did

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BRYAN NICHOLSON
GEO communications officer

with a plan that was mediocre," Quisno said.

Quisno said the GEO examined health care benefits at seven other universities, including University of Michigan and Michigan State University, when they presented their health care plan.

"We looked at unionized and non-unionized schools," she said. "Some non-unionized schools have better health care than we do."

Quisno said the GEO is looking for a lower insurance premium and for the University to help more with health care costs.

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Struggle with police ruled cause of death

Coroner notes that homicide ruling shouldn't imply use of excessive force, police officer fault

CINCINNATI (AP) — The coroner said Wednesday that a struggle with police was the primary cause in the death of a 350-pound black man whose scuffle with officers outside a fast-food restaurant has prompted outcry among black activists in Cincinnati.

Hamilton County Coroner Carl Parrott said Nathaniel Jones, 41, suffered from an enlarged heart, obesity and had intoxicating levels of cocaine, PCP and methanol in his blood.

Parrott said the death will be ruled a homicide, but added that such a ruling "should not be interpreted as implying inappropriate behavior or the use of excessive force by police."

Jones' death certificate will list a cause of death as an irregular heart beat because of a stress reaction from the violent struggle, Parrott said.

Activists say Jones' death was another example of brutality by

See DEATH on Page A-6

BY MAUREEN WILKEY
Staff writer

"Borders kill people," read the sign graduate student Gabriel Cortez held at a rally for peace Wednesday evening outside Foellinger Auditorium.

About 150 people gathered for a rally and candlelight vigil for victims of oppression worldwide. The rally coincided with a speech given by Daniel Pipes, a commentator on issues in the Middle East. Many students said that Pipes' messages are anti-Muslim and anti-immigration.

"We should all be able to see both sides of the issue," said senior in LAS and Justice for Palestine President Sara Bokhari. Bokhari helped organize the rally in the hopes that students could gain an understanding of the

We should all be able to see both sides of the issue. By seeing both points of view, people can better educate themselves about the situation (in the Middle East).

SARA BOKHARI
president, Justice for Palestine

Palestinian viewpoint before hearing Pipes' speech.

"By seeing both points of view, people can better educate themselves about the situation (in the Middle East)."

Baseer Tajuddin, a senior in LAS and president of the Muslim Students Association, said Pipes' See RALLY on Page A-8

Speaker draws controversy

About 150 gather for rally, vigil to protest worldwide oppression

Pipes denounces Palestinians, DI

BY KALI BHANDARI
Assistant news editor

About 1,000 people went through 150 chanting and sign-waving protesters, metal detectors, back pack searches and University police to see one speaker Wednesday evening.

Daniel Pipes, director of the Middle East Forum and a member of the presidentially-appointed board of the U.S. Institute of Peace, was brought to Foellinger Auditorium by IllinIPAC (Illinois-Israel Public Affairs Committee), as well as other groups, to speak on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. His organization specifically requested the heavy security presence, said Monika Pandya, Foellinger Auditorium manager.

Dean of Students William Riley said the security for the event "was more than would be typical for a speaker here at Foellinger."

Pipes opened his speech refer-

ring to the Oslo Accords, a series of agreements negotiated between the Israeli government and the Palestine Liberation Organization signed on Sept. 13, 1993, and said they had failed.

He said the failure of the Oslo Peace Accords, and the second Intifada began because Israeli leadership made two mistakes.

"The first Israeli mistake was to believe that the Palestinians had given up the dream of destroying Israel," he said.

Soon after the beginning of the speech, a couple protesters ducked in the auditorium and shouted "Free Palestine!"

Pipes ignored the outburst and continued, saying the Israelis made concessions generously in the assumption that the Palestinians had given up the ambition of making Israel extinct. He said this assumption was wrong. Attempts to win peace by giving

See PIPES on Page A-8

BY LEAH GEORGE-BASKIN
Staff writer

As politicians begin preparing for the 2004 presidential election, two University fraternities are holding a voter registration drive to increase political awareness.

Alpha Phi Alpha and Omega Psi Phi are teaming up to increase the number of registered voters as part of the national program A Voteless People is a Hopeless People, a year-long drive to increase political awareness and empowerment.

Benjamin Jones, senior in LAS and president of Alpha Phi Alpha, said the goal of the program is to help students and community members register to vote and exercise that right to make their voices heard.

Jones said the main focus of the registration drive is on black voters, but the campaign extends to all minorities and voters in general.

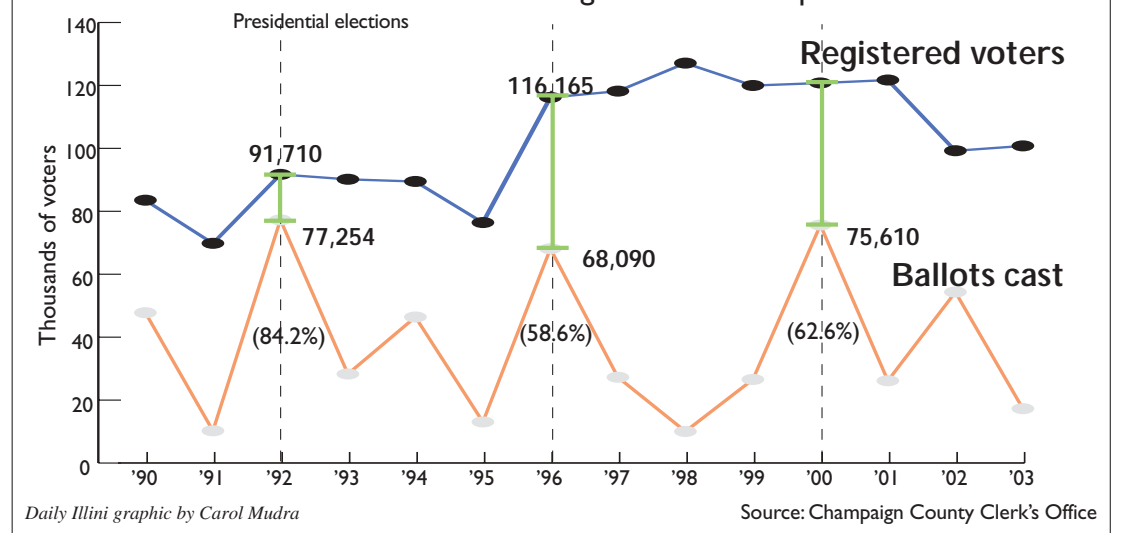
"We feel like it is an important issue and that the vote is a powerful tool — you have to exercise your right," Jones said.

Jones said the program's current goal is to register 500 new voters by the end of the semester in honor of the 35th anniversary of Project 500. Drive members plan on going to churches in the commu-

Frats trying to increase voter registration

Voting statistics in Champaign County during general elections

In years with presidential elections there is a higher percentage of voters but other years have no noticeable trends. It is difficult to mark trends in Champaign County where a number of voters are students registered at their permanent homes.



nity and events on campus to hand out information on presidential candidates, such as stances on specific issues regarding blacks and other racial minorities.

Urbana City Council member James Hayes said he thinks minorities believed they were being left out of the mainstream in the past,

but that is beginning to change.

"(Racial minorities) realized in order to be in the mainstream they have to be political; they have everything to gain and nothing to lose," Hayes said. "People say things are starting to move backwards and if they want it to move forward they have to be involved."

Many of today's politicians get into office because they "buy the election," he said, and people need to get actively involved and help candidates who can effect change.

Brian Gaines, University professor of political science and associate professor at the Institute See VOTERS on Page A-6