

# Israel to build units in West Bank

## Move linked to 'disengagement'

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

JERUSALEM — Israel announced plans Monday for 500 new housing units in the West Bank, after an apparent U.S. policy shift that has infuriated the Palestinians. The Palestinians oppose all Jewish settlement in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, lands where they hope to establish an independent state.

And in the latest sign of trouble for Israel's contentious West Bank barrier, officials said construction of a large section will be significantly delayed because of a court ruling highlighting the hardships the structure has imposed on Palestinians.

The barrier and settlement construction are linked to Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's

"disengagement" plan to separate Israel from the Palestinians.

The plan includes a full withdrawal from Gaza next year. At the same time, Sharon wants to strengthen large blocs of Israeli settlements in the West Bank. He says the moves will boost Israel's security and preserve its Jewish majority.

The barrier is a centerpiece of the disengagement plan. Israel says the structure, which is about one-quarter complete, is meant to keep Palestinian suicide bombers from entering the country.

But sections would stretch into the West Bank, separating tens of thousands of Palestinians from jobs, hospitals and farmlands. The Palestinians say the structure is an illegal attempt to prevent them from creating a viable independent state.

The barrier has suffered a string of legal setbacks in recent months, putting pressure on Israel to move

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DANY TIRZA, CHIEF PLANNER OF BARRIER

the route closer to its 1967 frontier. Israel captured the West Bank and Gaza Strip in the 1967 Mideast war.

In June, Israel's Supreme Court ordered military planners to redraw the route of a planned 20-mile stretch near Jerusalem, saying the original plans would cause too much hardship on local Palestinians.

The precedent-setting decision forced Israel's defense establishment to re-examine other sections of the barrier.

As a result of that review, Dany Tirza, one of the barrier's chief planners, told lawmakers Monday that Israel will make changes to 12 places along a roughly 60-mile stretch from the Jewish settlement of Elkana to Jerusalem.

"The Israeli army is going to build along a new route in accordance with the finding of the Supreme Court," Tirza told

the Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, according to participants.

He said the route in the 12 places would be moved toward the "Green Line," the old frontier between Israel and the West Bank. The changes will prevent the confiscation of more than 4,000 acres of Palestinian land, he said.

Because of the changes, Tirza said the section will not be completed until the end of 2005, a year behind schedule, according to participants in the meeting. Construction has not begun on most of this section of the barrier.

In addition to the Supreme Court decision, Israel is grappling with the fallout from a U.N. world court ruling in July that said the barrier is illegal.

Although the ruling was non-binding, it has increased international pressure on Israel to reroute or tear down the structure.

# Go! Room 4 closes; 506 to pick up slack

BY BECCA MOORE  
ASSISTANT ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

After a memorable five-year run, Carrboro music venue Go! Room 4 officially closed its doors Aug. 15.

The venue announced its money woes almost a year ago and, thanks to a series of benefit shows, appeared to be gaining financial ground. But Derek Powers, an assistant manager at Cat's Cradle, said he and Go! co-manager Ben Dunlap simply were "tired of losing money."

"I feel like I've let the town down," Powers said. "We'd have 300 people who love certain shows and they'd tell us, 'You've got to keep Go! open!', but then they're not there the next night."

Glenn Boothe, who has owned downtown venue Local 506 since May 1, said there are a number of problems and hidden costs involved with running such a business.

"Owning a rock club is a tough business, and most people don't realize how hard it is to make it," Boothe said. "I work upward of 60 hours a week, have one intern and two employees. I have yet to pay myself a dime."

The loss of Go! also means there is one less venue at which bands, both local and national, can perform. However, Local 506 has helped to ease the pain by inheriting some of Go!'s upcoming shows.

"(Local) 506 stepped up and saved the day and has been very

receptive about booking shows for the future," Powers said. He and Dunlap are both longtime friends of Boothe, who confirmed that shows that had been scheduled for fall appearances at Go! have been "kicked over" to Local 506. Boothe had been collaborating with the venue on booking acts prior to its closure. "I just want these bands to have shows," Boothe said.

Part of the popular appeal of Go! was that it was ideal for small bands that Cat's Cradle was too big for. Go! was known for being an all-ages venue, but that sometimes made it tough for the club to earn money.

Boothe said that opening shows to underage patrons might result in lower profits, as alcohol sales are inevitably lower. However, to Boothe and others like him, it's worth the loss to keep the spirit of the music.

Powers said that closing Go! was a difficult decision for him and Dunlap to make but that enough was simply enough. "It's a huge personal loss," he said. "We kept saying, 'Let's try it one more month,' but it didn't change."

"I wish I could personally thank everyone who came out to the shows for the last 5 or 6 years. People will always be going to different clubs in a year or so, but the music scene will still thrive here."

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