

*Haytle Times*  
#-4-88

# Atiyeh visits Israel

JERUSALEM (AP) — Oregon Gov. Vic Atiyeh discussed various Middle East issues with foreign ministry director general David Kimche Tuesday, including the Lebanon problem and a congressional bill to move the U.S. embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem.

Atiyeh, visiting Israel for 12 days with a delegation of 20, said in a telephone interview that he planned to meet Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir on Thursday.

He said he would tell Shamir what he told Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and Syrian President Hafez Assad in his

recent meetings with them: "We see on television pictures of Lebanese mothers running across the streets carrying their children. It is simply a waste."

Atiyeh, a Republican, visited Saudi Arabia, Egypt and Syria before coming to Jerusalem.

Atiyeh met Assad for two hours in Damascus last week. He also visited his father's birthplace in the Syrian village of Amar.

He said his meetings in the Mideast so far had not raised his hopes for an agreement between Israel and Syria over Lebanon. "I think the possibility always exists," he said. "But this whole thing is so complicated and so many people are backed into corners. It's hard to move anyone, including Israel, in any direction."

"I know there has got to be an answer out there somewhere, but I don't know what it is," he added.

Atiyeh said Assad had expressed concern about the bill to move the American embassy to Jerusalem, but gave no further details of that meeting. He said the embassy subject also was raised in his 75-minute meeting with Kimche.

Kimche reiterated the Israeli position of wanting to see the American embassy in Jerusalem but preferred not to intervene in the matter, Atiyeh said.

The visiting governor said he did not give his own opinion at the meeting but in the interview he was critical of the proposed measure, calling it "ill-timed." He declined to elaborate.

Atiyeh said that during Monday's random shooting spree by Arab gunmen, he was several miles away visiting the Yad Vashem memorial museum to 6 million Jews killed in Hitler's Europe in World War II.

When he heard the news an hour later translated for him from a radio broadcast, he said, "I felt a very strong reaction."

"I consider terrorism as evil as germ warfare and nuclear bombs. I feel the same about it whenever, in whatever country it occurs," he said.

Atiyeh arrived in Israel on Sunday from Syria. He said his tour of Israel, which ends April 12, is sponsored by the Jewish National Fund.



Associated Press

Gov. Atiyeh stands at Jerusalem's Wailing Wall.