



Associated Press

ATIEYEH VISITS WALL — Oregon Gov. Vic Atiyeh places a note in the crack in the Western Wall in

Jerusalem. Jews traditionally place messages in the wall hoping God will answer their prayers.

Atiyeh discusses Lebanon issue

By ALLYN FISHER

JERUSALEM (AP) — Oregon Gov. Vic Atiyeh discussed various Middle East issues Tuesday with foreign ministry director general David Kimche, 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 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 arrived in Israel Sunday from Syria. He said his tour of Israel, which ends April 12, is sponsored by the Jewish National Fund.