

WPCC sponsors Middle East forum

By **BEN ESTES**
News Herald Staff Writer

A forum concerning the world's most volatile hotspot — the Middle East — will be held later this month at Western Piedmont Community College.

Representatives of the Palestinians, Israel, Jordan and Egypt are scheduled to speak during the five-

day forum, entitled "Salaam! Salaam! Peace! The Middle East Tomorrow."

WPCC's 1982 Speakers Forum, to be held Oct. 25 through Oct. 29, will offer people of this area an opportunity to acquire an understanding of the complex issues involved in bringing peace to the Middle East, said WPCC President Jim Richardson.

The Palestinian view will be presented by Dr. Jawad Barghothi and Dr. Azmi Jarrah on Monday, Oct. 25. Barghothi, a political science professor at Appalachian State University, is a native of Jerusalem and a frequent lecturer on the Arab-Israeli conflict. He has lived in the United States since 1960, and is a graduate of Southern Illinois University.

Jarrah, a local pediatrician, was born in Acca, Palestine, and received his medical degree from the American University in Beirut, Lebanon. Following additional studies in Wisconsin and California, he worked in Saudia Arabia and Libya. Jarrah came to Burke County in 1971.

On Tuesday, Oct. 26, the speaker will be Benjamin Abileah, Consul

General for Israel in Washington, D.C. Abileah is a career diplomat who joined the Israeli foreign service in 1962 with duty assignments in Cyprus and the Philippines. In the United States, he has served as Consul for Information in Los Angeles, Deputy Consul General in New York and Congressional Counselor at the Israeli

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Embassy in Washington. He was selected last summer to fill the new post of Consul General in Washington, which includes the mid-Atlantic states and North Carolina.

Neyef Mawla, press counselor for the Embassy of Jordan Information Bureau, will represent the Jordanian position on Wednesday, Oct. 27. Mawla is from Amman, Jordan and is a journalism graduate of the University of California at Los Angeles. He worked in Jordan as associate publisher of Jordan Magazine and Alur-

dun, a weekly newsletter. He was later hired by the Ministry of Information in the Jordanian capital of Amman, and in 1977 moved to the Jordanian Embassy in Washington, D.C.

On Thursday, Oct. 28, Ezz El-Din Shawkat will present the Egyptian plan for peace in the Middle East. Born in Heliopolis, a suburb of Cairo, he is a graduate of Cairo University and the United Nations Trade Center. Shawkat has served as a journalist with the newspaper Al-Ahram, a researcher at The Center of Political and Strategic Studies and a consultant to the Bureau Chief of CBS News in

Cairo. In 1980, he was appointed by the Egyptian government to the post of First Secretary for Press and Information in the Embassy of the Arab Republic of Egypt at Washington, D.C.

The series ends on Friday morning, Oct. 29, with concluding remarks by WPCC instructors Ruth Thomas and Larry Clark. Several short films provided by the guest speakers on the people and cultures of the Middle East will be shown.

The forum will be held in the college auditorium, and each of the four speakers will appear at 10 a.m., primarily for students on campus, and

again at 8 p.m., for the convenience of area residents. Interpreters for the hearing-impaired will be present at the morning sessions. Some speakers have accepted requests to appear before local clubs and civic groups.

"We are pleased to have such a distinguished group of speakers appearing at Western Piedmont, and we hope that this series will provide a new understanding of the problems faced by the peoples of the Middle East," Richardson said.

For more information, contact Larry Clark or Ruth Thomas at 437-8688.