the holy injunctions will stop the fightases, lew expect that

ing. "The bombing is bad. Whether it's "The bombing is bad. whether it's in Ramadan or not makes no difference," said Kayvan Zahedi, a schoolteacher here in Tehran.

Fourteen centuries ago, critical battles fought by the Muslim prophet Muhammad for both Mecca and Medina coincided with Ramadan. Egyptians and Syrians launched the 1973 war on Israel during Ramadan. Afghan civil-war factions rarely took it

Muslim day of rest. "It was ridiculous. minitary campaign. Friday is the We're neither upset nor happy. The Americans are making fools of themselves," said Hussein Amin, formerly Egypt's ambassador to Algeria.

The Koran doesn't condone violence during Ramadan, but the Americans are infidels, so why should they stop?" said Mamoun el-Hodeibi, spokesman for the outlawed but popular Muslim Brotherhood.

Mahmoud Kassem in Cairo contributed to this article.

Arafat Appointment in Jerusalem Is Called a Voice of Moderation

Staff Reporter of THE WALL STREET JOURNAL JERUSALEM-Many Palestinians scoffed when Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon recently outlined his vision for a Palestinian state, one that falls far below their minimum demands.

But Sari Nusseibeh, Yasser Arafat's newly



appointed representative in Jerusalem, was encouraged that the Israeli leader at least was talking about negotiations. The tragedy for Mr. Nusseibeh was that within hours of Mr. Sharon's speech, militant Palestinians assassinated Tourism Minister Rehavam Zeevi, wiping diplomacy off the agenda.

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"I believe it was a step that could have easily been picked up by the Americans, Europeans and certainly also by the Palestinians," he says of Mr. Sharon's overture. "But the murder once again threw us back to where we had been, and perhaps to an even worse situation.

As political differences between Israelis and Palestinians harden, Mr. Nusseibeh has returned to public life as a voice of moderation and-among Palestinians-of dissent. He has called on Palestinians to drop their demand that millions of Arab refugees should be allowed to return to Israel as part of a peace treaty, and he has criticized as

futile a yearlong Palestinian uprising. "We've been bashing at each other's "We've been bashing at each other's heads for the past year. This is crazy and leading us nowhere," says Mr. Nusseibeh, a youthful 52-year-old philosophy professor who studied at Oxford and Harvard. "I felt that someone had to stand up and say look, we have to come back to the negotiating table."

As Palestinian representative in East Jerusalem, Mr. Nusseibeh replaces Faisal al-Husseini, who died of a heart attack earlier this year. Like his predecessor, Mr. Nusseibeh hails from a prominent Jerusalem family and is respected by many Israelis. Foreign diplomats also praise his candor and introspection.

"The appointment of Sari is important and notable," says one Western envoy. "In Jerusalem, the Palestinians need to have the most moderate, forward-leaning guy possible, someone who is way ahead of the street."

Mr. Nusseibeh has long been on the leading edge of popular Palestinian sentiment. In 1987, he had to be hospitalized after militant Palestinians beat him for meeting right-wing Israel politicians. But he burnished his image as a nationalist for his leadership role in the first

Palestinian uprising. During the 1991 Persian Gulf War, Israel jailed Mr. Nusseibeh for three months on suspicion that he spied for Iraq, but never charged him. Later that year, he served as an adviser to the Palestinian delegation at the Middle East peace conference in Madrid, and he continued in that role until the breakthrough 1993 Israeli-Palestinian peace accord.

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