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DAYAN SAYS RAID INTO LEBANON WAS POLITICAL NOT MILITARY ACTION

TEL AVIV, April 14 (JTA)--Israel's commando raid into southern Lebanon Friday was described by Defense Minister Moshe Dayan as a "political, not a military action." He said the purpose was not revenge for the massacre of 18 men, women and children in Kiryat Shemona Thursday but to warn the Lebanese authorities that it is their responsibility to keep the border regions clear of terrorists.

The Israeli force, encountering no opposition, raided six Lebanese villages, demolished buildings after clearing out their inhabitants and took ten prisoners, including a gendarme, for questioning as possible terrorist collaborators. An Israeli spokesman said no shots were fired during the entire operation and no one was hurt.

(Lebanese authorities claimed that a mother and daughter were found dead in the rubble of a demolished building. Yesterday, Lebanon called for a meeting of the United Nations Security Council tomorrow to deal with the raid. UN Secretary General Kurt Waldheim, who denounced the Kiryat Shemona massacre Thursday said yesterday that he "consistently condemned such acts of violence" as the Israeli raid into Lebanon.)

Part Of Lebanon Will Be Devastated

Acting Chief of Staff Gen. Yitzhak Hoff said yesterday that the Israeli commandos struck at the villages of Duheira, Yarin, Eitarun, Bliteda, Muhabeib and Taibeh. He said that in all but the last named only one to four buildings were demolished. In Taibeh, where the Kiryat Shemona terrorists were believed to have received shelter before infiltrating across the Israeli border, an entire block of ten buildings was blown up. The Taibeh water pumping station was also destroyed.

The Lebanese authorities, apparently anticipating the raid, withdrew their soldiers from the region. Dayan said at a press conference yesterday that the Lebanese authorities must understand that normal life will be impossible in the border region as long as terrorists continue to find shelter there. "Israel will not assume the policing tasks of Lebanon," Dayan said.

"Israel will not go looking for the headquarters of Jibril's gang. This is the function of the Lebanese government and apparently they know well where Jibril's people are." He was referring to Ahmed Jibril, leader of the terrorist unit -- Popular Front-General Command -- that carried out the Kiryat Shemona massacre. Israel will continue to hit the terrorists wherever they are, Dayan promised, adding that if the Lebanese authorities do not get the message, "a good part of Lebanon will be devastated."

TERRORIST GROUP IS ADJUNCT OF SYRIAN BAAATHIST REGIME, ARMY

TEL AVIV, April 14 (JTA)--The terrorist organization responsible for the Kiryat Shemona massacre is regarded in Israel as a para-military adjunct of the Syrian Baathist regime and the Syrian army. The Syrian government has provided it with money and arms since the end of

1971. The organization which calls itself the "Popular Front-General Command," has its headquarters and training camps in Syria. One of them, at Ein Shouma just north of Damascus, was bombed by the Israel Air Force last Oct. 30 during the Yom Kippur War.

The leader of the group, Ahmed Jibril, is a former captain in the Syrian army engineers corps and a trained demolition expert. Jibril, 39, who is also known as "Abu Jihad" (a jihad is a Moslem holy war) was one of the founders of the Palestine Liberation Front that was active prior to the Six-Day War. At the end of 1967 it merged with the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine. In 1968, Jibril quit the PFLP but continued to operate under the same name, adding "General Command" to it.

Engaged In Other Terrorist Actions

Jibril was one of the first terrorists to try to implement the Baath party's doctrine of "popular wars of liberation." His group numbers several hundred members, most of them with military know-how. Immediately after the Kiryat Shemona massacre it put out a false story that the purpose was to seize hostages for the release of terrorists imprisoned in Israel. Israelis say that this was only a "cover" to disguise the true intent which was simply to murder as many people as possible.

That view is borne out by the past record of Jibril's group. It is held responsible for the death of 47 passengers and crew members of a Swissair liner that was blown up in mid-air while enroute to Israel in Feb. 1972. On the same day an explosion damaged an Austrian Air Line plane in mid-air but it landed safely.

Jibril's organization was also responsible for the massacre of Israeli children in a school bus ambush near Avivim in May, 1970. In Aug. and Sept. of that year, suitcases filled with explosives were carried aboard El Al planes by foreign passengers who were unaware of their contents. Letterbombs sent to Israel from various cities abroad have also been traced to the Jibril organization. The latest outrage prior to the Kiryat Shemona massacre was the murder of an Israeli girl and the wounding of her soldier friend by bazooka fire near Kibbutz Dan last Feb.

KIRYAT SHEMONA VILLAGERS BURY THEIR DEAD; DEMAND REVENGE, ASSAIL GOVERNMENT FOR LACK OF PROTECTION By Yitzhak Shargil

KIRYAT SHEMONA, April 14 (JTA)--Hayim Nahman Bialik, the outstanding Hebrew poet, wrote a long time ago, "Even the devil has not yet created the revenge for the blood of young children." But these words lost their meaning Friday morning as thousands of people cried for revenge at the funeral of the 18 men, women and children who were slaughtered last Thursday in Kiryat Shemona by three Arab terrorists who crossed the border from Lebanon into this Upper Galilee town near the Lebanese border. For four hours the killers conducted a carnage with machineguns, bazookas and hand grenades during which time they also wounded 15 persons. The murderers were subsequently killed by Israeli fire.

On Friday morning the town of Kiryat Shemona was empty as all its 15,000 inhabitants, many of

Sephardim and Russian immigrants, gathered at the entrance of the town to form the long funeral procession that included delegations from the entire country. The army chaplainship, headed by Chief Army Chaplain Gen. Mordechai Firon, headed the procession reciting part of the Psalms. At the entrance of Kiryat Shemona a state ceremony was held. The two chief rabbis were there, tears in their eyes. They could hardly console others. Police Minister Shlomo Hillel was there too. He spoke on behalf of the government.

"We are digging today many graves, for sons and daughters, for brothers and sisters who fell at hands of beastly marauders. They fell on Kidush Hashem, on safeguarding the name of the Israeli people and the land of Israel. Not far from here are the graves of (Joseph) Trumpeldor and his friends who gave their lives for the defense of the land..." Hillel was not permitted to continue. The crowd started shouting, asking for action, asking for revenge for the blood of the innocents.

Hillel ended his address in a general tumult and it was decided to cut short all ceremonies. The funeral procession continued to the township's cemetery where 16 graves were ready. Two of the victims, including a soldier from Israel's small Circassian Moslem community, were buried in their home village. Mingled with the "El Moleh Rahamim," and the Kaddish came again the cries for revenge, for action. Kiryat Shemona villagers paid last homage to its dead. Many came from near and far to be with them. But it was difficult to soothe them. The blood was still fresh. Reinforced police patrols prevented Arabs from nearby Golan Heights and the adjacent areas from entering the town lest they be hurt by some of the villagers.

National Memorial Day For Dead

Many of the relatives and townspeople lashed out in anger against government officials who were present at the funeral and accused the government of failing to provide adequate security precautions. As Hillel promised the crowd that the deaths would not go unavenged he was hit by clouds of earth and angry relatives began to shout and scream at him.

The 16 residents of Kiryat Shemona who were slaughtered, half between 2 1/2 and 19, were buried side by side in the local cemetery. The plain box-wood caskets, draped in the Israeli blue and white flag, were borne to the cemetery on army trucks. Women soldiers carried the wreaths and led the procession. As the coffins were lowered into the graves some of the wailing mourners tore at their faces with their fingernails until blood ran down their faces.

The last day of Passover yesterday became a day of national mourning. The North African Jewish community, whose members were among the victims, cancelled its traditional Mimuna festivities which were scheduled to begin today in Jerusalem and several other cities. The organizing committee of the festivities called on all those who had intended to participate to observe today as a memorial day.

Meanwhile, Acting Chief of Staff Gen. Yitzhak Hafi said that Israel had no prior intelligence that the terrorists were planning any incidents against Israeli cities or population. He told military correspondents in Tel Aviv that no unusual terrorist activity had been noticed on the Lebanese side of the border. The terrorist organization responsible for the atrocity in Kiryat Shemona announced this weekend in Beirut that Thursday's massacre was designed to sabotage the

Mideast peace negotiations. A terrorist spokesman warned that "this operation was just the beginning of a campaign of revolutionary violence within Israel that is aimed at blocking an Arab-Israeli peace settlement.

TEKOAH: ISRAEL HOLDS LEBANON RESPONSIBLE FOR TERRORIST MASSACRE

UNITED NATIONS, April 14 (JTA)--Ambassador Yosef Tekoah sent a letter Thursday night to Secretary General Kurt Waldheim declaring that Israel held Lebanon responsible for allowing Arab killers to murder 18 residents of Kiryat Shemona. Tekoah declared that the "government of Lebanon bears full responsibility for this situation which permits terror attacks to be initiated and carried out from its territory against Israel."

But he told newsmen Israel did not intend to ask a meeting of the Security Council where the Soviet Union and China could veto any action helpful to Israel. Tekoah said in the letter, that Arab terrorist organizations had freedom of movement and operation in Lebanon where, he said, they maintained their headquarters and training centers and published newspapers and issued communiques. He stated that members of the same gang ambushed a school bus on May 22, 1970 near the Lebanese border in the Avivim area in which seven children, two teachers and the bus driver were killed and 23 children wounded.

Tekoah said "the savage carnage at Kiryat Shemona" was a demonstration of "the fundamental truth about Israel's struggle which remains a struggle for the right to life of Jewish men, women and children and of the people of Israel as a whole." Tekoah stated that the terrorist carnage Thursday morning was "of the same horrendous nature" as the Lod Airport massacre on May 30, 1972, in which 26 people were killed "by agents of an Arab terrorist organization," the murder of 11 Israeli athletes during the Olympic Games in Munich on Sept. 5, 1972, "and the sanguinary attacks against civil aircraft and their passengers."

Governments Are Callously Indulgent

The Israeli diplomat assailed governments that "have displayed an attitude of callous indulgence toward the Arab terrorist organizations, all of which are affiliated with the so-called Palestine Liberation Organization." The release of most of the terrorists detained by various countries after murderous attacks against innocent civilians, the permission granted to the PLO to maintain offices in a number of cities outside the Middle East, the invitations given to PLO leaders to participate in international conferences, "the failure of the United Nations to take firm and concrete measures against this scourge, have all encouraged and given succor to these assassins," Tekoah said.

KATZIR BEGINS CONSULTATIONS TO FIND REPLACEMENT FOR MRS. MEIR By David Landau and Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, April 14 (JTA)--President Ephraim Katzir began intensive consultations for a new government today as Israel mourned the dead of the Kiryat Shemona massacre and its armed forces were locked in battle with the Syrians on the Golan Heights after a retaliatory raid against terrorist strongholds in southern Lebanon.

With the Passover holiday hardly ended, Katzir dug into the task of finding a national leader capable of replacing Premier Golda Meir who resigned last Thursday along with her Cabinet which is now serving as a caretaker regime. Katzir met for 80 minutes this morning with a six-member delegation of the Labor Alignment representing all of

its factions and headed by coalition chairman Moshe Baram. He also received delegations during the day from Likud, Moked and the Civil Rights Party, all members of the Knesset opposition.

Katzir reportedly agreed to meet again with the Labor Alignment within a reasonable time. He stressed, however, that he would brook no delay in the selection of a new leader and indicated that 10-14 days was the limit he would allow. The President also made it clear that he would not tolerate another drawn-out process of Cabinet-making such as took place between Jan. and March.

Hope New Elections Will Not Be Necessary

Baram reportedly promised Katzir that Labor's various decision-making forums will choose a successor to Mrs. Meir within the allotted time. But the Labor Alignment seemed as divided today as ever. According to Baram, representatives of the former Mapai faction expressed hope to Katzir that a new coalition of Labor, the National Religious Party and the Independent Liberal Party could be formed without new elections. But the ex-Rafi spokesmen favored a national unity government embracing the Likud opposition, while Achdut Avoda urged new elections without delay. Baram did not report the views expressed by Mapam.

Katzir has not said what he planned to do if Labor, the majority party, failed to meet his deadline. Sources close to the President said his next step would be to ask Likud leader Menachem Beigin to try to form a government. Should Beigin fail, the President would report to the Knesset Speaker that no candidate could form a Cabinet and the Knesset would have to set a date for new elections.

Finance Minister Pinhas Sapir, who is considered in some circles to be the most likely successor to Mrs. Meir, conceded today that the situation within the Labor Party was "serious" but expressed confidence that the party will "heal itself." He said in a radio interview, however, that if Labor falls from power, "I shall not jump from the eighth floor or even from the second."

Another possible candidate for Premier Meir's post, Haifa Mayor Yosef Almogi who served as Labor Minister in the previous government, said in a radio interview that he supported clear legislation that would make every Cabinet minister individually and the Cabinet as a whole responsible for all actions of the government. Almogi said the Labor Party lacked "a clear road and a uniting force" but he would not take a position on whether Defense Minister Moshe Dayan should resign.

Sapir, in an interview Friday, had blamed Dayan's refusal to resign directly for precipitating Mrs. Meir's resignation. Sapir and Almogi both insisted that they were not candidates for the Premiership.

Foreign Policy Will Not Be Affected

Another non-candidate who has been mentioned as a possible successor, Foreign Minister Abba Eban, said in a radio interview today that Israel's internal political situation would not affect its foreign policy. Eban said the present care-taker government had full power to fulfill Israel's obligations on the international scene and was in fact obliged to do so.

He said all Israeli delegations abroad have been instructed to make clear to the governments to which they are assigned, and to the local Jewish communities, that the interim regime is fully

empowered to represent Israel. "We do not ask for any delays in the disengagement talks with Syria nor in any other talks with any other foreign power," Eban declared.

Some observers reported today that Mrs. Meir has decided to relinquish most of the burdens of her office if not its formal trappings during the tenure of her interim regime. The sources said she would transfer much of her authority to another minister. According to political columnist Shlomo Nakdimon writing in Yediot Achronot, the recipients will be either Sapir or Deputy Premier Yigal Allon. The Prime Minister's Office refused to comment on that speculation. But the consensus is that whoever Mrs. Meir designates as her heir apparent will have the inside track in gaining leadership of the party.

ISRAELIS CAPTURE MT. HERMON PEAK

17 Israelis Wounded; 12 Syrians Dead

TEL AVIV, April 14 (JTA)--Israeli forces captured the peak of Mt. Hermon today after an early morning battle with Syrian troops in frigid temperatures nearly 10,000 feet above sea level. According to an Israeli military spokesman the Syrians retreated leaving 12 dead behind.

Thirteen Israeli soldiers were wounded in the heavy fighting during which Israel Air Force jets pounded Syrian positions on the mountain top and Syrian artillery batteries supporting their soldiers. Four more Israeli soldiers were wounded in heavy exchanges of artillery and rocket fire between Israeli and Syrian forces on Mt. Hermon and the southern Golan Heights later in the day.

Today's battle for Mt. Hermon was the latest in a see-saw fight that has been going on intermittently since the Syrians attempted to seize the abandoned peak before the Passover holiday. They were driven off a week ago but yesterday Syrian commando units reached the peak again as Syrian army engineers attempted to drive a road over the mountainous terrain and up its slopes.

Israel Air Force jets were called into action yesterday and rained bombs and rocket fire on the Syrians. But the latter took shelter in a large cave near the top. Early this morning Israeli forces reached to peak to find the Syrians still entrenched and an infantry battle ensued, beginning at 7 a.m. local time.

The fighting yesterday and today was the first since the Yom Kippur War in which the Israeli Air Force attacked Syrian positions across the cease-fire lines. The Syrians fired Russian-made SAM anti-aircraft missiles at the Israeli jets. An Israeli spokesman said all planes returned safely to their bases. Syria claimed three Israeli aircraft were downed.

Mt. Hermon rises some 9,200 feet above sea level. Its peak is snow covered throughout the year and the thin atmosphere makes prolonged stays there difficult. But the mountain top is considered of great strategic value by both Israel and Syria.

KISSINGER, DINITZ MEET TO DISCUSS

SYRIAN DISENGAGEMENT PROPOSALS

Dinitz Describes Meeting As 'Constructive'

WASHINGTON, April 14 (JTA)--Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger met for 90 minutes with Israeli Ambassador Simcha Dinitz at the State Department today and then left for New York to attend a special session of the United Nations General Assembly on international economic and energy problems and to hold a round of meetings with diplomats of several nations on the Middle East, State Department sources indicated.

After the meeting, Dinitz told newsmen that he

thought there was room for negotiations with Syria. He added, however, "Just because it (the Syrian proposal) is not exactly the same as before, it does not solve the problem." He said that Israel was determined not to give up any part of the Golan Heights and the matter had not even been raised by Secretary Kissinger.

Dinitz described his talk with the Secretary as "long and constructive." He said his government expected Kissinger to return to the Middle East toward the end of the month to resume his "shuttle diplomacy" between the Israeli and Arab capitals. Asked if he thought the renewed fighting on the Golan Heights would hurt prospects for negotiations, Dinitz replied, "We hope not." He added, "We have not initiated the fighting in the north and as far as we are concerned we are willing to stop it at any time." He said he was not "pessimistic" before his talk with Kissinger "and I am not more optimistic now."

While no substantive information was released on the Kissinger-Dinitz meeting, State Department sources told the JTA today that Kissinger had "briefed" Dinitz on the Syrian disengagement proposals which he received from the head of the Syrian negotiating team, Brig. Gen. Hikmat al-Shihabi at State Department meetings over the weekend. On Friday, Kissinger presented Shihabi with Israel's disengagement proposals which he received from Israeli Defense Minister Moshe Dayan two weeks ago. These included a detailed map. Shihabi gave his own map and proposals to Kissinger yesterday.

General Satisfaction With Syrian Position

Kissinger's departure for New York was delayed by his talk with Dinitz. The Secretary has scheduled meetings at the UN with Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko and Egyptian Foreign Minister Ismail Fahmy. He will also meet with the top representatives of Saudi Arabia and Yugoslavia. The latter country has served as a go-between in Egyptian-Soviet relations. Kissinger may also participate in tomorrow's Security Council session called by Lebanon over the Israeli commando raid into southern Lebanon. He is due back in Washington tomorrow night.

A State Department source indicated today that there was general satisfaction here with the Syrian position. One well-placed Department source suggested that the visit of Syrian President Hafez Assad to Moscow last week indicated that Syria wanted the Soviet Union to remain outside the disengagement negotiating process for the time being. Kissinger emerged from his meeting with Shihabi yesterday smiling and full of words of encouragement. "I consider the talks to have been very useful," he said. "They were conducted in a very friendly and very constructive atmosphere." Shihabi, speaking through an interpreter, agreed.

Kissinger said yesterday that the U.S. "will continue its efforts to bring the two sides together and it continues to consider disengagement between Syrian and Israeli forces the primary objective to be achieved in the Middle East right now. I believe the talks we have had here this weekend have furthered this effort." The Secretary also met for a half-hour yesterday with Egyptian Foreign Minister Fahmy and their discussion also centered on Israeli-Syrian disengagement, according to the State Department. The Secretary also met with Gromyko.

ISRAEL EXPECTING U.S. SUPPORT AT UN

JERUSALEM, April 14 (JTA)—Israel is confident of U.S. support in the event that an unbal-

anced draft resolution will be submitted to the United Nations Security Council which is scheduled to debate tomorrow the Israeli raid into Lebanon. Sources here said today the Israeli government had been gratified by the strong State Department condemnation of the massacre of Kiryat Shemona villagers and counted upon that same attitude prevailing in the American consideration of Israel's bloodless reprisal warning. Foreign Minister Abba Eban briefed the Cabinet today on the anticipated Security Council meeting.

GUR NAMED NEW CHIEF OF STAFF

JERUSALEM, April 14 (JTA)—Maj. Gen. Mordechai (Motta) Gur was named Israel's new Chief of Staff today, effective at midnight. He was simultaneously promoted to the rank of Lt. Gen. The 44-year-old Jerusalem-born career army officer was serving as Israel's military attache in Washington when the Yom Kippur War broke out last Oct. 6 and headed the Israeli delegation at the opening of the Middle East peace talks in Geneva last Dec. He has since been commander of the northern front covering the borders with Syria and Lebanon.

Gur was recommended for Chief of Staff by Defense Minister Moshe Dayan and was approved by the care-taker Cabinet at its session today. He succeeds Lt. Gen. David Elazar who resigned following release of the Agranat Committee's partial report which held him responsible for Israel's lack of preparedness on the eve of the war.

Cabinet Secretary Michael Arnon indicated that approval of Gur was preceded by a lengthy debate but would give no details. He said that part of the weekly Cabinet session was classified as a ministerial security committee meeting and therefore secret. Gen. Yitzhak Hafi, who has been serving as Acting Chief of Staff since Elazar resigned two weeks ago, is expected to resume his former post as chief of operations at general headquarters.

BOMB EXPLODES AT LEBANESE CONSULATE

LOS ANGELES, April 14 (JTA)—A small bomb exploded at the Lebanese consulate here yesterday causing little damage. The consulate, on the seventh floor of a Hollywood Boulevard building, was unoccupied at the time. Just before the explosion an anonymous caller to the Los Angeles news agency, City News Service, claimed the bomb was a reprisal for Thursday's terrorist attack on Kiryat Shemona. The caller concluded with "Never Again," the slogan of the Jewish Defense League.

On Friday, five masked men entered the Arab information center in downtown San Francisco shortly before noon, emptied filing cabinets and desks and then fled without harming either the information center director, Inrahim Tawasha, or his secretary, according to police. Later, a news media office received an anonymous call declaring that the raid was in protest against the massacre of civilians at Kiryat Shemona. According to one report, the caller concluded with the words "Never Again."

The Jewish Community Relations Council of San Francisco and the Bay Area issued a statement, in response to requests from local media, declaring that "up to this time the police have not identified the perpetrators of this inexcusable act. We hope they will be apprehended. Until that time, it would be irresponsible to conjecture wildly about their identity. Whoever did it, the organized Jewish community abhors such criminal acts of violence and condemns any group or individuals who may commit them. That has been our constantly and publicly reiterated position."