



## ISRAEL MAKES IT CLEAR: ACTION IN LEBANON IS TO ESTABLISH SECURITY BELT TO ELIMINATE TERRORIST STRONGHOLDS

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, March 15 (JTA)--When its forces entered Lebanon today, Israel lost no time making it clear to the world that its sole objective is to establish a security belt along the entire length of the Israeli-Lebanese frontier and thereby eliminate once and for all the terrorist strongholds from which repeated incursions against Israeli civilians have been launched.

The latest such assault was Saturday's terrorist raid on Israel's coast. With that carnage fresh in mind, the government is confident that it stands on firm moral ground in explaining its action in south Lebanon. The government has the duty to defend its citizens, sources here explain, and any other government would have acted in a similar manner. They quoted Article 51 of the United Nations Charter which justifies military action in self-defense. (See related story on Israeli operation in Lebanon.)

Unlike similar actions in the past, information as to the military aspects and purposes of the operation was given to the public promptly, barely 12 hours after it began. Defense Minister Ezer Weizman and Chief of Staff Gen. Mordechai Gur met with reporters in Tel Aviv at 9 a.m. local time.

Both stressed repeatedly that Israel has no claims on Lebanese territory and is not fighting Lebanon, nor is it taking retaliation for Saturday's outrage. Its sole aim, they said, is to try to "annihilate and root out terrorist concentrations in southern Lebanon." They indicated that the planned security belt would extend only some 5-7 miles north of the border.

But it was clear from Weizman's remarks that Israel will not pull out of Lebanon as soon as the military mission is over, as it has in the past. He said the forces will stay "as long as we find it necessary to remain in the area to secure order and prevent hostile activities."

### Israel Reassures Syria

Inevitably, this will raise questions once the shooting stops and events move into the political arena. Whether Israel can effectively establish a terrorist-free region in south Lebanon will depend on many factors--the Syrians, the Lebanese, the Lebanese Christians and last, but not least, the United States.

The establishment of an orderly, meaning secure, situation for Israel in south Lebanon will have to be approved by the Syrians, at least tacitly. Weizman took pains to convey to the Syrians Israel's purpose lest its action be misinterpreted in Damascus. He assured them they were not the target and initial reaction from Syria indicated that the message was received.

Damascus radio stuck to straight accounts of the fighting in its news broadcasts today and stressed that the Israeli attack was directed at the Palestinians, not the Syrians deployed in Lebanon. Damascus radio refrained from any evaluative comments on the Israeli action.

The Lebanese government will have to con-

cur in the Israeli security plan and because it is too weak to act on its own, it is expected to seek the approval of the Syrian government. The Beirut regime of President Elias Sarkis is, in fact, a protectorate of Syria which maintains a 30,000-man peace-keeping force composed largely of Syrian troops. Israel would prefer to have a Lebanese army in the south. But as Weizman noted at his press conference, Sarkis admits that his government cannot exercise control in that region.

The question thus arises: if the legitimate government of Lebanon could not master the situation until now, how can it in the future?

The Christian community in south Lebanon is another element. For two years of civil war, Israel was its closest ally in the area. But the Christians were no military match for the heavily armed Palestinians. Weizman and Gur may have implied that Christian phalangists would be in charge of maintaining the security belt once Israeli forces withdraw. But there is no indication that they will be able to do this more effectively in the future than they have in the past.

Israel's plans also depend to a large degree on the good offices of the United States. In the past, Israel always pulled its forces out of south Lebanon at the request of the U.S. So far, there has been no negative reaction from Washington to the Israeli operation. But it remains to be seen whether the U.S. will continue its silence if Israeli troops stay in Lebanon for any length of time.

### MORE VICTIMS IDENTIFIED

TEL AVIV, March 15 (JTA)--The names of more victims of Saturday's terrorist massacre were released today by pathologists of the Forensic Institute and the Army Burial Society:

Revital Aharonowitz, 14; Naomi Eilat, 17; Tzvi Eshet and Amnon Drori, both Egged bus drivers; Malka Leibowitz, Meir Segal, Naomi Alichai, and Tuvia Rosner, who was also a bus driver, all of Haifa; Ziona and Avraham Luzia, a young couple who were on their way to visit Avraham's parents in Haifa.

Funeral services were held today, as they were yesterday, with full military honors for all the victims.

### ISRAEL'S ACTION IN LEBANON STRIKES AT TERRORIST BASES

By Yitzhak Shargil

TEL AVIV, March 15 (JTA)--Israel was engaged today in a massive ground, air and sea operation against Palestinian terrorists in southern Lebanon with the stated objective of creating a terrorist-free security belt parallel to the 100-kilometer Israeli-Lebanese border: Action ended tonight. (See P. 3.)

The action was launched during the early hours of this morning employing infantry, artillery and armor with large-scale air support and naval operations against terrorist bases on the Lebanese coast. By noon, Israeli forces had overrun almost all known terrorist strongholds in southern Lebanon.

A late communique reported a heavy Air Force attack on the terrorist naval base at Damour, south of Beirut, the site from which PLO terrorists launched their seaborne assault on Israeli civilians last Saturday. Military sources acknowledged that the fighting was heavy in some sectors. They said the terror-

ists sustained severe casualties and Israeli forces also suffered casualties, but no figures were given.

### 'Not A Retaliatory Action'

Defense Minister Ezer Weizman, addressing a press conference here this morning, stressed that the operation, though a consequence of Saturday's terrorist outrage, was not a retaliatory action "in the accepted meaning of the word." He said "the operation will attempt, and I hope we shall succeed, to outroot the concentrations of the terrorists from south Lebanon who were recently reinforced by men and equipment."

Weizman emphasized that "Israel has no intention of retaining south Lebanon. It is Lebanese territory. Elias Sarkis (President of Lebanon) said yesterday he has no control over south Lebanon and I can confirm that... But since this area is a base for terrorists going out for murderous missions, the Israeli government has instructed the army to enter that region and restore order," he said.

Weizman said the Israeli army would remain in south Lebanon as long as necessary to restore order and expressed hope that the operation will not jeopardize peace negotiations between Israel and Egypt.

It was apparent from the outset that both Israel and Syria, whose peace-keeping force is deployed in southern Lebanon, wish to avoid a confrontation. Syrian forces, including the Damascus sponsored Palestinian terrorist group Al Saiqa, have remained out of the battle. Syrian anti-aircraft fire was directed against Israeli planes attacking Damour but the Israeli pilots did not return the fire. Damascus radio broadcast Israel's statement that it was not fighting Syria.

Two Katyusha rocket shells were fired at Metullah and Kiryat Shemona on the Lebanese border this morning but caused no casualties. All of the villagers were in bomb shelters and had been there as a precautionary measure since the Israeli operations began.

### Sees 100-Kilometer-Long Security Belt

Israeli army Chief of Staff, Gen. Mordechai Gur, told reporters this morning that Israeli forces have pushed into Lebanon to a depth of 7-10 kilometers. He said the forces would join all enclaves into a 100-kilometer-long security belt. He insisted, as did Weizman, that the Israeli forces will not remain in Lebanon permanently and that Israel has no claims on Lebanese territory. "Israel is not making war on Lebanon, its army or against the Syrian army. It is only against the terrorists," Gur said.

The continuous security belt which is Israel's objective would extend from Ras Nikura on the Mediterranean coast to the slopes of Mt. Hermon on the eastern extremity of the border which overlooks the so-called Fatahland, long a region under terrorist control.

Israeli forces have taken Ras Nikura, Bint Jib'al, Maroun A-Ras, El Khiyam and Abel A-Saqi. Maroun A-Ras is a strategic village about a mile from the Israeli border. It was captured by Palestinian terrorists from Lebanese Christians two weeks ago. According to reports, the Christians are assisting the Israeli forces.

The operation against the terrorist bases was planned for earlier this week but was postponed because of bad weather. The go-ahead order was issued late last night and the action was announced officially at 2 a.m. local time this morning. The initial military communique said the mission was to hit and destroy the terrorists at their bases.

Apart from mentioning the terrorist strongholds captured, Israeli military communique gave few details of the operation. Reports tonight said the operation was continuing according to plan and that infantry, armor, artillery and engineering units were engaged all along the border from the Mediterranean coast to Mt. Hermon.

Spots of resistance were reported but the fighting appears mainly to be a mopping-up action. Foreign news reports that Israeli forces reached the Litani River were not confirmed by Israeli sources. It was announced, meanwhile, that the Air Force attacked the port of Tyre, a major terrorist maritime base and another maritime training base on the El-Ouzai quay south of Beirut. All planes returned safely to their bases.

### VANCE: 'WE NEITHER APPROVE NOR CONDEMN' ISRAEL'S ACTION IN SOUTH LEBANON

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, March 15 (JTA)--Secretary of State Cyrus Vance said today, after a meeting with President Carter, that "we neither approve nor condemn" Israel's action in south Lebanon. He added, "We had hoped, as we said yesterday, that no innocents will suffer."

Vance made his remarks to reporters as he left the White House accompanied by the President's National Security Advisor, Zbigniew Brzezinski. Asked if he "approved" what the Israelis have done, the Secretary observed: "This is a decision the Israelis had to make for themselves." He also said, in reply to a question, that the U.S. had "not yet" called for a halt in the fighting in Lebanon.

Vance said the U.S. "is in touch with all the parties," meaning, apparently, the governments involved. The U.S. has no relations with the Palestine Liberation Organization, whose terrorist bases are the targets of the Israeli operation. Vance said that "as in the past, we act as a person who carries messages between the parties."

Asked what these developments would do to the Middle East peace process, the Secretary replied, "I think any of these incidents, like this and as that incident that took place the other day, the terrorist act--all of these have much to do with the peace process." He said he thought these developments would be "an impediment to the peace process and we will have to work around them."

### Begin Sent Message To Carter

Vance disclosed that Israeli Premier Menachem Begin sent a message to President Carter. He indicated that it was the first word the U.S. had about the Israeli action in Lebanon. "We heard about it just before it happened, almost contemporaneously," Vance said. He noted that Begin is coming to Washington Monday and will meet with Carter Tuesday and Wednesday as previously arranged. Asked if he believed the fighting in Lebanon would be confined to a limited area and would not involve the Syrians, he said Syrian forces remained north of the Litani River, "considerably far" from the border region where the action is taking place.

### U.S. Welcomes Weizman's Statement

State Department spokesman Hodding Carter later said "we welcome" Israeli Defense Minister Ezer Weizman's statement that Israel's intentions are not to hold or remain in southern Lebanon.

While the U.S. is in touch with UN Secretary General Kurt Waldheim, Carter said, the U.S. has not been in contact with the Soviet Union, but is in communication with the parties directly involved apart, of course, from the PLO.

Urged to comment on reports from Lebanon on the fighting, Carter said "we are not prepared at this point" to "pass judgement on events in southern Lebanon or Lebanon generally." Dispatches from Beirut, where the PLO has headquarters, were charging Israeli warplanes had struck civilian targets and "refugee camps."

"It has been clear for some time that the presence of the Palestinian military units in southern Lebanon has posed a threat to Israel's security," Carter said in an opening statement at his briefing. "These units have declared open hostility to Israel and also have launched terrorist attacks on that country."

"As to the exact purpose or intent of Israel's attack, we note that Defense Minister Weizman has said their intentions are not to hold or remain in southern Lebanon. We welcome that statement."

(At the United Nations today, Waldheim deplored Israel's "violations of the boundaries of a sovereign state," by using a massive force in its raid on southern Lebanon. He called on all sides to avoid escalation of the fighting. In Cairo, the Egyptian Foreign Minister condemned Israel, declaring: "This shows Israeli aggressive conceptions and that they think they can achieve Israel's security through expansion and not through a comprehensive peace settlement.")

#### BEGIN ANNOUNCES THAT OPERATION IN LEBANON CONCLUDED WITH ISRAELI FORCES IN CONTROL OF 100-KM SECURITY BELT

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, March 15 (JTA)—Premier Menachem Begin reported this evening that Israel's military operation in Lebanon was effectively concluded with Israeli forces in control of a 100-kilometer security belt along the Lebanese border of an average depth of 10 kilometers. Begin, accompanied by Defense Minister Ezer Weizman and Chief of Staff Gen. Mordechai Gur, addressed reporters at a press conference after a special Cabinet meeting.

The Premier said he "expects an agreement or arrangement as a result of which the terrorists shall not return to those places from which they were ejected" by the Israeli army operation in south Lebanon today. He said the government had sent the army into Lebanon not to "stay there permanently" but that Israel would no longer countenance a situation in which south Lebanon served as a base for terrorist attacks. He indicated that Israeli forces would stay in south Lebanon, or at least exercise control of that area, until the agreement he mentioned was reached.

Begin did not specify with which parties he expected to reach an agreement. The PLO, obviously, was out of the question, he said. But he hinted that Syria was among "all the relevant factors." He said there was no approach from Washington for Israel to end its incursion into Lebanon. The only messages from President Carter and Secretary of State Cyrus Vance were condolences for Saturday's atrocity, he said.

#### 100 Terrorists Reported Killed

Gur said that some 100 El Fatah terrorists were killed in fighting at close quarters. Weizman added that he assumed more had been slain by bombing and artillery shelling. Gur said that some 2000 Fatah men were "usually" present in the border area. He did not specify the fate of those not killed but observers assumed that many or most had fled. Gur said the Syrians had been "as careful as us" not to get involved in fighting with Israeli

forces. He denied that Israeli troops were holding bridges on the Litani River.

Begin said he had explained to President Carter in a message last night that Israel's action was not retaliatory because "there can be no retaliation for the killing of innocent women and children" but was an exercise in the inherent right of legitimate self-defense in view of the PLO's threat to repeat Saturday's outrage.

#### HUNGER STRIKES FOR SHCHARANSKY

NEW YORK, March 15 (JTA)—Thousands of Jews and non-Jews, including civic leaders; local and national legislators, participated in rallies, meetings and hunger strikes across the country to mark the first anniversary today of the arrest of Anatoly Shcharansky and his continued incarceration in Moscow's notorious Lefortovo Prison. Similar activities are being held in Canada, West Europe and in Israel.

At the same time, some 140 Jewish activists across the Soviet Union issued a dramatic appeal declaring a hunger strike today to observe "the tragic anniversary." The appeal included signatories from Moscow, Leningrad, Kiev, Vilnius, Tashkent, Kishinev, Tbilisi, Minsk and Kharkov, according to the Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry and Union of Councils for Soviet Jews.

In New York, after hunger strikes on more than 20 campuses in the metropolitan area, hundreds of fasters and their supporters gathered at the Soviet Mission to the United Nations to join Avital Shcharansky, Anatoly's wife, in protest against her husband's imprisonment. Prior to the gathering at the Soviet Mission, the protesters gathered at the Minskoff Cultural Center on East 68th Street and then marched to the Mission a block away. The action was coordinated by the SSSJ and UCSJ.

In Washington, the wives of Congressmen held a meeting on Capitol Hill in the office of Sen. Harrison Williams (D.NJ). The Congressional Wives Committee for Soviet Jewry, headed by Mrs. Sidney Yates, petitioned Soviet authorities to allow Shcharansky to emigrate. Meeting with the women was Spencer Oliver, staff director of the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe.

The Committee, which is a project of the National Conference on Soviet Jewry, stated in its petition that the plans to put Shcharansky on trial on charges of treason and espionage for allegedly working for the CIA "are a clear violation of international human rights treaties, and reflect the low standard to which Soviet authorities have fallen. Clearly, Shcharansky conducted himself openly and within the legal bounds of the Soviet juridical system in seeking to emigrate to Israel."

In Cincinnati, Ohio, Jewish and Christian clerics, led by the city's Board of Rabbis and the Jewish Community Relations Council, along with U.S. Congressmen from Ohio and Mayor Jerry Springer, participated in a hunger strike-protest meeting. In a message to the meeting from Washington, Sen. John Glenn (D. Ohio) said "We must keep the pressure on the Russians" and expressed his support for the hunger strike. In New York, the State Legislature observed a minute of silence and more than 250 faculty members of Stanford University in California issued an appeal to Soviet President Leonid Brezhnev.

PARIS (JTA)—Some 1500 people, including candidates running in next Sunday's parliamentary election, demonstrated here Wednesday to call for the PLO's ouster from France. They carried banners and posters asking the government to show its "support for Israel's rights."

## BEHIND THE HEADLINES HOW THE USSR INSPIRED THE TERROR RAID

By Maurice Samuelson

LONDON, March 15 (JTA)--Evidence that the Soviet Union may have inspired last weekend's terror attack by units of the Palestine Liberation Organization emerges from the record of Yasir Arafat's visit to Moscow last week when he met President Leonid Brezhnev, Premier Alexei Kosygin and Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko.

At each public meeting with Arafat, the Soviet leaders strongly urged the PLO to stop its own internal bloody feuds, in which a number of Palestinian leaders have been killed, and to concentrate on its struggle against Israel. The Soviet leaders also threw their full weight behind the criticism of Egyptian President Anwar Sadat's peace policies which are believed to have prompted the wave of internal PLO killings.

There is an even more intriguing link between some of Arafat's own remarks in Moscow and last Saturday's raid. On Sunday, a Palestinian statement in Beirut, quoted by the Iraq news agency, said that the raid was carried out in memory of Kamal Adwan and other PLO chiefs killed by an Israeli counter-terror squad in Beirut on April 13, 1973.

### Arafat Supplies The Link

Two days before the raid, Tass, the Soviet news agency, published a long interview with Arafat, in which he compared the latest inter-Palestinian killings with the killing of Adwan and other PLO leaders by the Israelis five years ago.

Zionist and imperialist circles, and Arab "lackeys," were striking at the Palestine revolution by various methods, he said. One was to involve it in clashes with the Jordanian and Lebanese authorities; the others were "the physical elimination of Palestinian leaders" and incidents such as that in Cyprus on Feb. 18 where Palestinians murdered a leading Egyptian, Youssef el-Sabat, editor-in-chief of the semi-official Egyptian newspaper Al-Ahram.

The most important tasks of the Palestine resistance, Arafat concluded, were "the further strengthening of national unity, the strengthening of the front of staunchness and rebuff, and a resolute struggle against a capitulatory settlement." He also called for stronger links between "all fighting progressive forces in the Arab world and the socialist countries led by the friendly Soviet Union."

Judging by Palestinian and Arab delight at Saturday's raid, by Egypt's embarrassment, by the threats that more are on the way, and by the fear of Israeli reaction which it has provoked, it was designed to serve precisely the goals which Arafat, with full Soviet encouragement, proclaimed in Moscow.

### SAKHAROV CONDEMNS TERRORIST CARNAGE

NEW YORK, March 15 (JTA)--Prof. Andrei Sakharov, Nobel Peace Prize winner, issued a letter condemning the terrorist massacre. The letter, as released here today by the Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry and Union of Councils for Soviet Jews, declared:

"The world has become witness to yet another dreadful crime, the murder of women and children in Israel by Palestinian terrorists.

"Our hearts are filled with pain and sympathy for the victims of this crime and for their families. This crime was perpetrated just two days after Yasir Arafat was received in the Kremlin by the most

senior leaders of the Soviet government, and at the time and in circumstances that there appeared, at last, the possibility of a just settlement of the protracted dispute between Israel and the peoples of the Arab countries.

"These peoples are beginning to realize who is their enemy and who is their friend. But it is precisely this which does not appeal to the terrorists or to their protectors. Shame on the organizers, and shame on those who inspire them to their common crime! Shame on the murderers of children!"

Last Sunday Sakharov led a demonstration in Moscow to protest the PLO attack.

### KNESSET CALLS FOR SPEEDUP OF NAZI TRIALS

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, March 15 (JTA)--The Knesset yesterday called for a speedup in the trial of Nazi war criminals who murdered Jews in the Maidanek concentration camp. Discussing two motions on the agenda, the Knesset also appealed for more trials by West Germany of Nazi war criminals, and expressed horror at the signs of growing forgetfulness concerning the Holocaust.

The motions were presented by Mapam Knesseter Chaika Grossman and Democratic Movement for Change Knesseter Assaf Yaguri. The motions concerned the proliferation of books and films claiming the Holocaust was a myth invented by Jews and the slow pace of the trial of 14 Maidanek murderers in a Duesseldorf courtroom.

Grossman, a survivor of the Holocaust, called for the establishment of a "World Council Against Anti-Semitism and Neo-Nazism" whose primary objective would be to monitor all manifestations of racism and anti-Jewish activity.

Justice Minister Shmuel Tamir deplored the fact that the Maidanek trial, which opened in November, 1975, has still not been completed. Tamir disclosed that the Israeli government refused entry visas to five Germans involved in the trial who wanted to come to Israel and talk to witnesses.

Among the five were one of the defendants, Hildegard ("Bloody Brigitte") Lacher and Ludwig Bock, a prominent lawyer of the defendants. The other three were one more defendant and two other defense attorneys. They were all declared persona non grata in Israel. Tamir observed that the Eichmann trial lasted about three months. It was therefore totally unreasonable that the Maidanek trial should take more than two-and-a-half years, he said.

### YITZHAK NATHANI DEAD AT 75

LONDON, March 15 (JTA)--Yitzhak Nathani, president of Mapam in Britain and a leading figure in the world Zionist movement and the World Jewish Congress, died here at the age of 75 after a long illness. A pillar of the Jewish labor movement, he was a founder of Mapam's world movement in 1949. Before World War II he ran a highly successful Yiddish Sunday school for the Workers Circle in the East End of London.

Nathani, who was born in Bessarabia, was steeped in Jewish culture and, after studying first in Berlin, he spent several years in Palestine. In 1931 he settled in Britain where he studied law, becoming an expert on patent law. He served on the World Zionist Organization actions committee and last year was made an honorary member of the General Council of the World Jewish Congress. He was also active in the British Zionist Federation and the Board of Deputies.