

11 ISRAELI SOLDIERS KILLED, 57 WOUNDED IN LEBANON FIGHTING

TEL AVIV, March 16 (JTA)--Eleven Israeli soldiers were killed in yesterday's fighting in south Lebanon and 57 were wounded, the majority of whom sustained light injuries, it was announced today. According to an army spokesman, those killed were:

Lt. Yehoshua Ehrlich of Kibbutz Gilead; Lt. Yaacov Cahana of Kibbutz Sdot-Yam; Cpl. Ran Lorbert of Kibbutz Maoz Chaim; Cpl. Reuben Sarig (Rottenberg) of Kibbutz Souffa; Cpl. Israel Ariel of Petach Tikvah; Cpl. Shalom Be'eri of Haifa; Cpl. Shimon Balalo of Holon; Cpl. Marius Silberman of Herzliya; Sgt. Yaron Hakim of Tel Aviv; Pvt. Nissim Cohen of Rehovot; and Pvt. Reuben Salomon of Netanya. All were between 19 and 21 years old. Funeral services were held today.

SITUATION IN SOUTH LEBANON WILL BE MAJOR ISSUE AT CARTER-BEGIN TALKS

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, March 16 (JTA)--The crisis in south Lebanon will be one of the major issues discussed at Premier Menachem Begin's meeting with President Carter in Washington next week, political analysts here said today.

They said that Israel believes that only the U.S. can serve as an intermediary between the parties concerned to reach an arrangement that will permanently eliminate the terrorist presence from south Lebanon. Until such an arrangement is made, Israel has said that its forces will remain in south Lebanon where they now occupy a security belt 100 kilometers long by 10 kilometers deep.

High level sources here denied an American report that Carter has asked Begin to postpone his Washington visit until there is no longer a significant Israeli presence in south Lebanon. The sources said that Begin and Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan will go to the U.S. as planned for their meetings March 21-22 with the President. Defense Minister Ezer Weizman will not return to Washington.

Long-Term Affects On Negotiations

The long-term affects of the Lebanese crisis on Middle East peace negotiations remained unclear today. The Egyptians have indicated they want to continue the talks which have been stalled for two months. But observers here think it is unlikely that they will be resumed before a settlement is reached in south Lebanon.

Israel is expected to demand that no PLO people be permitted to cross the Litani River into the area now held by the Israeli army. This would, in effect, impose the "Red Line" restriction that has applied to Syrian forces in Lebanon to the Palestinians. Authoritative political sources said there need not be a written document but a silent understanding between the parties.

(President Anwar Sadat, who several days ago condemned the terrorist violence in Israel last Saturday as "sad and tragic," today condemned Israel's military operation in Lebanon. At the same time, according to Cairo radio,

Sadat said he would continue with efforts to resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict through peaceful means. The radio quoted the President as saying: "Israel must know that the occupation of others' land will not give security to Israel. The days of imposing conditions by force are over. If Israel has the military strength, we, too, have military strength.")

Begin said at a press conference yesterday that all "relevant factors"--excluding the PLO--should be consulted in reaching an agreement on south Lebanon and reaffirmed Israel's intention to hold the area until it had assurances that south Lebanon would no longer serve as a terrorist base. Begin agreed that other "parties concerned" included the Lebanese government, Syria and other Arab states.

Role Of Syria

The U.S. is expected to have difficulty convincing the Syrians to agree to the arrangement Israel wants which would limit the Palestinian military presence to the northern regions of Lebanon or to bases in Syria. However, Syria's failure to assist the Palestinians against the Israeli attack yesterday signaled that there might be some favorable response from Damascus.

The Syrians clearly do not want to become involved in a military confrontation with Israel. So far they have also shown no interest in joining the Israeli-Egyptian peace process and efforts to change the mind of President Hafez Assad have failed.

Meanwhile, political analysts here said today that Begin and Dayan postponed their trip to Washington, originally to have taken place this week, after it was decided to launch a retaliatory strike into Lebanon rather than as a direct result of last Saturday's terrorist assault on Israeli civilians.

MOPPING-UP OPERATIONS CONTINUE

By Yitzhak Shargil

TEL AVIV, March 16 (JTA)--Israeli forces, having achieved their objectives in south Lebanon with the occupation of all terrorist strongholds along the 100-kilometer front, were still encountering pockets of resistance today as mopping-up operations continued. Heavy fighting was reported from the Bint Jibal sector this morning.

A long-range terrorist artillery barrage began at about noon. Israeli forces returned the fire but because of the shelling a press tour of the security belt was called off and all roads into south Lebanon were closed to non-military traffic.

Four Katyusha rockets were fired at villages in Upper Galilee where the residents took to bomb shelters. Katyusha rockets and mortar shells struck the Lebanese Christian village of Marj Ayoun north of Metullah. The rocket and artillery attacks came from terrorist forces that had fled to the north yesterday as Israeli columns advanced. Israeli troops were digging in all along the line. The movement of tanks and trucks was hampered by rain and mud.

Lebanese Christians Elated Over Events

Meanwhile, the Maronite Christian community in south Lebanon is elated over the events of the past 24 hours. Subject to attacks during the past two years by numerically superior, heavily armed Palestinian Muslims and terrorists, and forced to live in scattered enclaves, they greeted Israeli forces as liberators.

The enclaves have all been joined into one security zone as a result of yesterday's operation in South Lebanon. The terrorist rockets and mortars have been silenced and Christians can now live a normal life and travel freely between their villages. It was small wonder then that they opened their hearts and homes to Israeli soldiers.

Yesterday, Premier Menachem Begin and Defense Minister Ezer Weizman toured the front line in south Lebanon and visited the Christian village of Naqura which had been a terrorist base. They also visited the Christian village of Alma A-Sha'eb which recently had been under siege by terrorists.

The Chabad Hasidim showed up in south Lebanon today in their own version of a "tank"—a pick-up truck loaded with presents for the soldiers. They distributed filin to the troops which the observant ones donned for morning prayers.

No contact was made with Syrian forces at any time during the Israeli operation although several terrorists taken prisoner were said to be members of the Syrian-backed Al Saiqa group. In addition to taking prisoners, Israeli soldiers seized large quantities of arms and ammunition, mainly Russian-made but including weapons manufactured by the U.S.; France, Japan, China, Britain and Bulgaria.

Disturbances On The West Bank

Meanwhile, Israeli security forces on the West Bank and East Jerusalem dealt with a series of disturbances, mainly by high school students, protesting the incursion into Lebanon. Police and students clashed in East Jerusalem. Two youngsters were arrested. High school students in Nablus and Ramallah refused to attend classes and tried to demonstrate but their teachers persuaded them to remain inside the school buildings.

Demonstrations erupted in several places after school hours. Passing vehicles were stoned on the main road in Ramallah. A police van drove some of the youths back to their homes without the need to use force. Disorders were also reported from Jenin, Tulkarem and Hailhoul. There was no trouble in Gaza where Arab workers returned to their jobs in Israel today after remaining at home yesterday. But most West Bank workers did not show up this morning, creating difficulties in industry and agriculture.

In Israel, all leaves were cancelled as reinforced police patrolled the streets and shoreline on the alert for possible retaliation by terrorists for the Lebanese operation. Police called on the public to be on the alert for suspicious-looking parcels or any movements that might arouse suspicion.

CARTER HINTS U.S. MAY FAVOR UN PEACE FORCE IN SOUTHERN LEBANON

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, March 16 (JTA)—President Carter hinted today that the United States might favor a United Nations peace-keeping force in southern Lebanon. He told a group of out-of-town editors that the situation there is "a matter of great concern to us" and that "if not only involves our nation but the United Nations." There is, presently, a UN observer force of 48 members in Lebanon.

Meanwhile, the U.S. is engaged in "intensive discussions" with the representatives of many governments on the situation in south Lebanon and was scheduled to make known late today the policy it intends to pursue on Israel's occupation of that area to keep it free of Palestinian terrorists, the State Department said today.

The "precise" position is "depending heavily on consultations we are having" in Washington, Jerusalem, Beirut and other places, including New York with members of the United Nations Security Council, Department spokesman Hodding Carter said. He said that Secretary of State Cyrus Vance met with the Soviet Ambassador, Anatoly Dobrynin at lunch-time today in an "intensive exchange" of views on the matter. Last night, Israeli Ambassador Simcha Dinitz met with President Carter, Vance and Assistant Secretary of State Alfred Atherton, the U.S. Mideast mediator.

The State Department spokesman declined to say if the U.S. was aiming to be the "catalyst" itself for international action on Israel's military presence in south Lebanon or would leave it to the Security Council to determine the course of future action.

U.S. May Demand Israel's Withdrawal

There was speculation here that the U.S. was preparing, in concert with other nations, to demand Israel's withdrawal from Lebanon. In that perspective, it was suggested that the Administration was deliberately delaying its policy decision until this evening in order not to irritate pro-Israeli Senators who are being counted on to pass the Panama Canal treaties which will be voted on this afternoon.

Hodding Carter declined to discuss the U.S. position because, he said, "frankly, we want to continue consultations before going any further on a wide ranging set of questions." He said, however, that the U.S. "focus is (on) the most effective way to bring an end of the fighting," and "the integrity and stability" of the Lebanese government in all parts of its country and "the legitimate defense of Israel."

Carter denied that the south Lebanon events will result in any postponement of Premier Menachem Begin's visit to President Carter next week. He said: "Our effort is to help everyone come to a solution and it is not tied in any way to the Begin visit. We would like to find a formula as quickly as possible. Our efforts won't be postponed until he (Begin) arrives." Dinitz asked the U.S. last night for help to see to it that PLO terrorists do not return to south Lebanon from where they have launched attacks on Israel.

(Meanwhile, Don Jamieson, Canadian Secretary of State for External Affairs, said today in Ottawa that unofficial talks are going on between UN Security Council members over the feasibility of having a UN peace-keeping force in south Lebanon and that Canada favors this in principle.)

PRESIDENTS CONFERENCE EXTENDS SCHINDLER'S TERM IN OFFICE AS RESPONSE TO PRESSURE FROM THE WHITE HOUSE

By Yitzhak Rabi

NEW YORK, March 16 (JTA)—In an unprecedented unanimous action, the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations voted to extend the term of its chairman, Rabbi Alexander Schindler, who has completed two one-year terms, the normal term of office of the Conference chairman.

The vote of confidence in Schindler was a response to "pressure from the White House and attempts to discredit Schindler and the Presidents Conference," Judah J. Shapiro, president of the Labor Zionist Alliance and chairman of the nominating committee of the Presidents Conference, told a press conference today. The vote took place Tuesday. Schindler's new term in office is likely to extend for less than a year, Shapiro said. He

declined to elaborate on the "pressure" coming from the White House.

Schindler, who also declined to describe "the pressure" from the White House, referred, however, at length to recent media reports about friction between himself and President Carter's National Security Advisor Zbigniew Brzezinski. "I made no personal attack at anyone at any time," Schindler said at the press conference. He stressed that he did not refer to Brzezinski as an "anti-Semite." He accused the media of personalizing and fabricating the nature of his disagreement with Brzezinski. "There is no doubt in my mind that he is not a bigot," Schindler said.

Schindler was quoted last Friday in the New York Times as saying that Carter was now "a question mark" to Jews and that Jews had even stronger doubts about Brzezinski. Brzezinski replied to the Times that American Jews were saying "if you don't agree with us... we're going to stamp you as an anti-Semite." Brzezinski said the attacks on him were a "subtle kind of pressure" and part of a policy of "intimidation" being conducted in "public and privately by Jewish leaders."

Relations Between U. S. Jewry, Administration

Asked today to describe the relations between American Jewry and the Carter Administration, Schindler said: "I think they are not bad or tense as they are described to be." But he said there are differences and that there are aspects of the Administration's Mideast policy that are not acceptable to the Presidents Conference. At the same time, he said, "we are pleased" with the team at the State Department which is helping to bring the negotiations between Egypt and Israel to a successful conclusion.

He also noted that support is forthcoming from the "political section" of the White House, from such key figures as Vice President Walter Mondale and President Carter's advisors Stewart Eizenstat and Hamilton Jordan. Schindler denied that he ever said that "Carter was a question mark" in the eyes of American Jews because of his Mideast policy. He added, however, that "we have suspicions, that grew after (Mark) Segel's resignation that the National Security Council espouses a policy that is not favorable to us." Segel, who was Carter's liaison with the American Jewish community, ended his duties at the White House Tuesday night.

Schindler noted that there is a divergence of views among the American Jewish community on Israel's policy, but this cannot be read as an erosion in support for Israel. "If we perceived an undue pressure on Israel or a danger to Israel's security we will be united," Schindler declared.

1000 ATTEND ISRAEL'S ANNIVERSARY FETE

By Yitzhak Rabi

NEW YORK, March 16 (JTA)--The celebration of Israel's 30th anniversary was launched here last night in a special assembly at Temple Emanu-El under the auspices of the World Zionist Organization. But the celebration was marred by the tragedy of last Saturday's terrorist assault in Israel and the sense of grief over the loss of 32 innocent lives. This clearly overshadowed what was meant to be a joyful event and a tribute to the achievements of the Jewish State in the last three decades.

Addressing more than 1000 people, former Foreign Minister Abba Eban said that all Israelis are united behind the action of Israel to root out the Palestinian terrorists and their bases in south Lebanon. His remarks were received enthusiastically

by the audience and were seen against the background of Eban's--and other Labor Party leaders'--criticism of Premier Menachem Begin's settlement policy in Sinai and the West Bank.

Eban said that the recent atrocities by PLO terrorists in Israel "must bring some lucidity to the confused minds" of those who admitted the PLO to the United Nations. He said the recent events prove that Israel is alone when it comes to life and death issues, and therefore "we are to decide alone" on the future of Israel.

But, Eban said, Israel must now make some departure from the concepts of the past in view of Egyptian President Anwar Sadat's trip to Jerusalem. "We are more aware of the dangers than the opportunity," he said. But he added that the Egyptians as well as the Israelis must exercise self-appraisal. A national consensus on foreign policy is imperative if Israel is to make decisions on peace--or its absence--in the Mideast.

Mrs. Charlotte Jacobson, chairman of the American Section of the World Zionist Organization, who presided over the assembly; said that the Carter Administration's proposed sale of jet fighters to Egypt and Saudi Arabia "is incomprehensible as it is alarming. Americans cannot be expected to approve this immoral package in the name of peace," she said. New York Mayor Edward Koch denounced the presence of the PLO in the United Nations as a "crime" and urged that the "murderous organization" be ousted from the UN.

JDC OFFICE IN ROME CLOSED BY GENERAL STRIKE

NEW YORK, March 16 (JTA)--The offices of the Joint Distribution Committee and HIAS in Rome closed down this afternoon after an emergency general strike was called by the trade union movement to protest against the kidnapping of Aldo Moro, the leader of the Christian Democratic Party and former Prime Minister, by the left-wing terrorist Red Brigade and the killing of his five bodyguards in a bloody ambush in Rome. The report of the closing of the offices was made known here by Ralph I. Goldman, JDC executive vice-president.

Goldman reported that Eleanora Mayer, the JDC representative in Rome, advised all the clients, mainly Soviet Jewish transmigrants waiting for visas to complete their journey to the United States and other Western countries, to get home quickly before transportation facilities were suspended and to stay home. Fear was expressed that the high tension caused by the kidnapping and murders could spill over into demonstrations and violence.

Goldman said the Rome office hopefully will open tomorrow depending on whether the strike continues. Some 3500 Soviet Jews are being cared for by the JDC in Rome and Ostia, a nearby community, while HIAS processes migration papers for them.

WASHINGTON (JTA)--The bi-partisan concurrent resolution by the House of Representatives condemning last Saturday's terrorist raid on Israel, Thursday had 383 signatures, well over two-thirds of the 435 members. On Thursday a concurrent resolution condemning the PLO was also circulated in the Senate by a bi-partisan bloc of nine Senators. It was initiated by Sen. Clifford Case (R. N.J.).

TEL AVIV (JTA)--Esther Tragman, who celebrated her 100th birthday last Friday, arrived in Israel Thursday from the Soviet Union. Her eldest son, 67, who came to Israel several years ago, welcomed her together with her daughter, grandchildren and great-grandchildren to begin their new lives.

CHICAGO JEWISH COMMUNITY TO RESPOND TO PROPOSED NAZI MARCH IN SKOKIE

CHICAGO, March 16 (JTA)--Chicago's Jewish community will conduct a two-part response to the threat of a proposed Nazi march in Skokie, it was announced by Sol Goldstein, Skokie resident, Holocaust survivor and leader of a Jewish United Fund (JUF) committee framing the response. Speaking at a press conference held at the Jewish Federation building, Goldstein said the plans included a week-long educational program to be conducted the week of April 16 whether or not the Nazis carry out announced plans to march on April 20.

The program would include "patriotic celebrations, church-synagogue exchanges and distribution of educational material on the Holocaust to schools. The second part of the response would be a massive, but peaceful, demonstration with an estimated 50,000 participants to be held at the same time the Nazis appear, if and when they do, Goldstein said.

These plans were endorsed at the conference by David Smerling, president of the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago. He pledged Federation's "full support and participation" in the community-wide events being planned by Goldstein's committee on individual liberty and Jewish security of the Public Affairs Committee (PAC) of the JUF in cooperation with the Synagogue Council of the northwest suburbs, and other synagogues, interfaith and interracial groups.

The Federation, however, encouraged Goldstein and Skokie to "pursue to the highest levels" their legal cases to prevent the Nazi march. (Goldstein's case, seeking a permanent injunction against the march on grounds that it would cause "severe emotional and physical stress" to Holocaust survivors in Skokie is now before the Illinois Supreme Court. The village of Skokie has said it will carry its case against the Nazis to the U.S. Supreme Court.)

Recalls German Nazis

Reporters who questioned the need for confrontation were answered by Raymond Epstein, chairman of PAC, who reminded them that the German Nazis also started out as a small band of miscreants. "It is true to many people that these marching morons seems more an obscene embarrassment than anything else. Nevertheless, it should be pointed out that a similar lunatic fringe was able to successfully bring about the greatest catastrophe in history... We must again remind the world that despotism, terrorism, dictatorship and ruthlessness should not be permitted to blind everybody to the shame of the things they are doing."

Jerome Torshen, Goldstein's attorney, said that there was no real alternative to a counter-demonstration. "The Skokie people who were in concentration camps cannot stay away.... The survivors have an inner compulsion to be there.... For this reason, plans to meet the Nazis with empty streets could not come into being."

Allowing the Nazis to march unopposed would only encourage them to march again and again, Goldstein said. "We want to tell the Nazis we're not afraid any more like in the days of Hitler. It didn't help when we locked ourselves up in our homes, turned down the drapes... and went to the basement... the day the swastika is unfurled is the day to speak."

In outlining the details of the response, Goldstein added: "We are declaring to the whole world that it is time to start a general attack on Nazism.

We are calling on the City Council of Chicago to discuss this problem. We declare a week for all the schools and youngsters to discuss and become aware of what happened during World War II. We are calling on the Christian population, who suffered as much and no less than the Jewish people, to be with us at that time."

In response to suggestions that a massive demonstration would be uncontrollable, Goldstein said that the counterdemonstration would be conducted only after thorough consultation and in cooperation with the village of Skokie, and other security authorities. He stated that the "exact location" of the counterdemonstration will be based in part on security considerations.

MILTON PERLMUTTER DEAD AT 50

SHORT HILLS, N. J., March 16 (JTA)--Funeral services were held today for Milton Perlmutter, the newly-elected president of the Jewish Community Federation of Metropolitan New Jersey and president of Supermarkets General Corp., who died yesterday at the age of 50.

Perlmutter, who had been president of the Federation for only two weeks, was active in many philanthropic organizations. He was the immediate past general chairman of the Metropolitan New Jersey Division of State of Israel Bonds and recently received the Prime Minister's Medal from Israel Bonds.

He was also the 1977 recipient of the annual Brotherhood Award of the New Jersey Region of the National Council of Christians and Jews. He was a former president of Bnai Jeshurun in Short Hills and the Jewish Community Foundation of Metropolitan New Jersey. He was a trustee of the Jewish Community Foundation, the Hebrew Youth Academy and the Jewish Community Development Corp., all in Metropolitan New Jersey.

Born in Newark, Perlmutter was a graduate of the Wharton School of Finance at the University of Pennsylvania.

DIRECTOR OF 'ICI QUEBEC' ELECTED PRESIDENT OF NATIONALIST GROUP By Michael Solomon

MONTREAL, March 16 (JTA)--The director of the magazine, Ici Quebec, which recently created a Kur in Quebec's Jewish community for publishing articles in its February and March issues considered anti-Semitic, has been elected president of the Montreal branch of the nationalist St. Jean Baptiste Society.

Jean Marie Cossette was chosen by acclamation president and declared the offending articles, one of which called Zionism "the cancer of humanity," and another article insinuating that Israelis poisoned their own oranges, represent the policy of the publication. When asked by one member of the Society to disassociate himself from them, Cossette refused, saying he was proud to be running Ici Quebec. He added that it was not up to him to defend, justify or condemn the articles.

LONDON (JTA)--The Foreign Office is studying a request by Israel that activities by the Palestine Liberation Organization in Britain should be stopped and that there should be no more contacts between British diplomats and PLO representatives. British envoys in the Middle East and at the United Nations have held talks with senior PLO officials. Following last Saturday's outrage, and the strong British condemnation of it, Britain is likely to comply with the Israeli request to end such contacts, at least for the time being.