

ISRAEL ORDERS CEASEFIRE IN LEBANON

By Yitzhak Shargil and David Landau

JERUSALEM, March 21 (JTA)--Defense Minister Ezer Weizman ordered a ceasefire in south Lebanon today. His instructions to Chief of Staff Gen. Mordechai Gur were that Israeli forces stop shooting as of 6 p.m. local time (11 a.m. EST.)

Weizman hurriedly left a Knesset debate to issue the order. According to military observers here he did so after hearing from Gen. Ensi Siilasvuo, supreme commander of United Nations forces in the Middle East, who was in Beirut today conferring with the various parties. Siilasvuo is believed to have obtained an undertaking or understanding from the Lebanese and Syrian authorities that the PLO terrorists would also hold their fire.

The agreement would open the way for the replacement of Israeli forces in south Lebanon by the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) mandated by the UN Security Council's resolution adopted Sunday. Weizman had stressed earlier that a ceasefire was a precondition for the entry of UNIFIL troops into south Lebanon.

Israeli circles appear satisfied that UNIFIL is prepared to take up positions along the Litani River to prevent terrorists from re-entering south Lebanon. But no date has been set for the deployment of UN forces in the region. (In Washington, State Department spokesman John Trotter, reacting to the Israeli ceasefire, said that to the extent that Israel was going along with what the U.S. had proposed in the United Nations Security Council resolution, "we are happy and satisfied.")

Conditions For An Agreement

According to some sources here, Israel's conditions for an agreement on south Lebanon demand that no terrorists be allowed to infiltrate south of the Litani. Israel wants a force to be in control of the three Litani bridges--Kasimiyeh in the west, Akiya in the central section and Khardala in the northeast to bar the use of the bridges for the transportation of arms and men, the sources said.

Israel also demands that a mixed gendarmerie, comprised of local residents and soldiers of the Lebanese army patrol key villages in the south such as Maroun A-Ros, Ras Bayada, Bint Jibeil and Taibeh, all presently occupied by Israeli forces.

In addition, Israel insists that the port of Tyre revert to purely civilian status; that the two major terrorist bases, Hasbaya in northern Fatahland and Nabatiyeh north of the Litani, come under control of a neutral force; and that Christians in south Lebanon who have been Israel's allies during the past two years, should not suffer as a result of the new arrangement.

Even before Weizman ordered the ceasefire, the situation in south Lebanon was relatively quiet. Israeli forces control the entire region except for a five kilometer-wide enclave around Tyre. Israel controls the south bank of the Litani. Syrian forces are deployed 15 kilometers north of the river but have scouts on the north banks to

keep a close watch on Israeli movements.

Medical Aid For Lebanese

With mopping up operations virtually ended, Israeli forces rendered medical assistance to Lebanese villagers injured during the fighting. Relief units were concentrated around the remains of Abbasiyeh, once a major terrorist stronghold that was reduced to rubble by Israeli air and artillery bombardment. Israeli units were busy extricating villagers from the debris today and medics treated the injured. About 20 villagers, including women and children, were flown to hospitals in Israel for further treatment.

Israeli forces are under orders to prevent the looting of Moslem villages by Maronite Christians seeking booty or revenge. Several were arrested. Israeli authorities are also checking reports that Iraqi supplies and equipment were reaching the terrorists in the Nabatiyeh region north of the Litani which is under Syrian protection.

BEGIN: ISRAEL WILL ADHERE TO CEASEFIRE

By Yitzhak Rabi

UNITED NATIONS, March 21 (JTA)--Israeli Premier Menachem Begin has told United Nations Secretary General Kurt Waldheim that Israel will adhere fully to the ceasefire in south Lebanon, a UN spokesman reported today. According to the spokesman, Begin and Waldheim discussed the situation in south Lebanon by telephone last night and Begin "promised" the Secretary General that instructions will be given to the authorities in Israel to that effect.

The spokesman said Begin has already instructed Israeli Defense Minister Ezer Weizman to discuss the implementation of the two resolutions on south Lebanon adopted by the Security Council. The first calls for Israel's withdrawal, the establishment of a UN force and a ceasefire. The second resolution adopted the Secretary General's report on measures to implement the first.

Meanwhile, Waldheim has been consulting with various countries to contribute to the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) and presented a progress report to the Security Council. The spokesman said that an advance party of UNIFIL is expected to be deployed in south Lebanon tomorrow.

CARTER PLACES RESPONSIBILITY FOR MIDEAST PEACE ON ISRAEL; BEGIN HOPES FOR RENEWAL OF THE 'SPIRIT OF JERUSALEM, WASHINGTON AND ISMAILIA'

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, March 21 (JTA)--President Carter placed responsibility for peace in the Middle East and in the world on Israel as he welcomed Israeli Premier Menachem Begin today for their third meeting at the White House in less than a year.

Begin, in turn, reminded the President of the Palestine Liberation Organization slaughter of Israelis 10 days ago and "the implacable character of the enemy." Israel faces and expressed hope that "the spirit of Jerusalem, Washington and Ismailia" that flowed from Egyptian President Anwar Sadat's visit to Israel "will be renewed."

Speaking of the "times of trial," Begin emphasized, "we shall overcome." He asserted Israel's

wish for peace "which we yearn for Israel and the Arab countries."

The two leaders spoke briefly in the warm spring sunshine on the White House lawn before they went into the first of their three scheduled sessions which the President had requested. Both spoke extemporaneously in a brief and relatively informal appearance in an atmosphere of cool politeness.

"Israel is now militarily and in many other ways stronger than ever before in history," Carter told Begin. "With their strength in physical terms and with the strength of the leadership in Israel rests the prospects for a resolution of the difficulty that have so long divided the people of the Middle East."

Describing Begin as a "man of destiny," the President said that "on his able shoulders rests the responsibility for the future of his own people, the people of the Middle East and indeed of those who love peace around the world." Carter added: "Peace can come from a guarantee of security, and our staunch friendship for Israel will continue to be a major element in this foundation for progress."

U.S. Commitment For Israel Is Permanent

"Welcoming Begin as the 'leader of the great and courageous State of Israel,' Carter spoke of their 'mutual search' for peace and pledged that the U.S. commitment for Israel is 'absolutely permanent and unshakeable.' But, the President added, 'the dream' for Israel 'to live in peace' has not been realized. 'This dream,' he said after recalling that Israel will celebrate its 30th anniversary in two months, has been 'shackled by perpetual war' and 'the human suffering characteristic of Jews everywhere.'"

Then, reminding Begin "of the broad scope" of United Nations Security Council Resolution 242 about which the two leaders have been strongly at odds in recent weeks, Carter noted Sadat's visit to Jerusalem in November and remarked "those bright days of opportunity are now clouded over."

The President, without mentioning the PLO, spoke of "terrorists" who kill innocents in Israel and the "loss of hundreds of lives and tens of thousands of homes" in southern Lebanon, a clear restatement of the usual position of "cycle and re-cycle of violence" that State Department spokesmen usually assert when Israel strikes back at Arab terrorists.

In his brief response to Carter, Begin recalled the March 11 atrocity in Israel and declared: "We believe we shall overcome because we believe it is our duty, and our duty to our people and to humanity. We say again we shall overcome."

Apparently in response to the President's remarks about Israel's responsibility for peace, the Premier pointed out that Israel had offered a detailed peace plan, "a most forthcoming plan," that he had shown to Carter and Sadat in December. He said that the "atmosphere which prevailed" in December in Jerusalem, Washington and later in Ismailia reflected "the real understanding of friendship and openness. We can only pray that the spirit of Jerusalem, Washington and Ismailia will be renewed."

Begin said that the "friendship of the American and Israeli peoples is everlasting." He said "We find proofs of this time and time again." Begin thanked Carter for his "sentiments after the unspeakable atrocity" 10 days ago and he expressed hope the current talks will "deepen the friendship between our two countries."

Several Hundred People Greet Begin

Several hundred members of the Washington Jewish community, mostly students from local Hebrew day schools, greeted Begin near Blair House this morning before he went to the White House for his first meeting with Carter. The welcome was organized by the Jewish Community Council of Greater Washington.

The youngsters carried placards, some of which read "Shalom Mr. Begin on your Mission of Peace. Two students, selected by their classmates—Rebecca Weitzman and Debbie Opolion—presented Begin and his wife, Aliza, with bouquets symbolizing the community's wishes for success in his "mission of peace."

TESTIMONY ON WAR CRIMES

TEL AVIV, March 21 (JTA)—A West German court, presided over by an Israeli magistrate, Yehoshua Auerbach, convened here today to hear the testimony of witnesses in the war crimes trial of Maidanek death camp guards. The witnesses are Israelis; all Holocaust survivors, who were unable to travel to Dusseldorf, West Germany, where the trial has been going on since 1975.

There are 14 defendants, five of them women, whose photographs were shown to the witnesses. One of the first to give testimony was 74-year-old Hanna Burstein-Band who related her experiences at Maidanek 35 years ago. She said she could not remember names. But she was able to identify the defendants from their photographs as camp guards who committed atrocities against the inmates. She pointed to the photo of one woman who, she recalled, was known as "the devil of Maidanek."

The court will sit in Israel for several days before returning to Dusseldorf. It will reconvene in Israel in about three months to hear additional witnesses.

6 POETS, WRITERS RECEIVE AWARDS

MEXICO CITY, March 21 (JTA)—Six poets and writers have been named winners of the Fernando Jeno Award for Literature for 1977, it was announced here by the Culture Committee of the Central Jewish Committee of Mexico, which is administering the award. The winners are Mordechai Tsanin, Hirsch Osherovitch, Malka Cohen and Yishai Tzion, all from Israel; and Boleslaw Levin and Chaim Barylko, both from Buenos Aires. The awards, each in the amount of \$500, will be presented at a special ceremony April 11.

The Fernando Jeno Award was established in 1976 in the name of the late president of the Central Jewish Committee by his widow and children. This year's winners were named by a special literary committee with Sergio Nudelstejer, president and Chaim Lazdeiski as secretary. Nudelstejer is also the director of the American Jewish Committee's Central American office, and Lazdeiski is the Jewish Telegraphic Agency's special correspondent in Mexico. * * *

TEL AVIV (JTA)—The special military committee investigating the response by Israeli security forces to the March 11 terrorist assault has completed its work and presented its findings to Chief of Staff Gen. Mordechai Gur, an army spokesman announced. Gur will submit the report to Defense Minister Ezer Weizman. The spokesman said the Defense Ministry may publish parts of the report if security factors permit it. The committee, headed by Gen. Yona Efrat, consisted of senior army, navy and air force officers.

WHITE HOUSE SAYS BEGIN AND CARTER HAD SERIOUS, CANDID TALKS ON MIDEAST ISSUES

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, March 21 (JTA)--A White House statement following the first meeting this morning between President Carter and Israeli Premier Menachem Begin said the two leaders in their two hours of talks had "a thorough discussion on the issues that must be resolved in order to ensure continuity and progress in the peace negotiations." The statement said that "in particular, they have reviewed the status of negotiations on a declaration of principles (by Egypt and Israel) and they have examined the question of the West Bank and Gaza."

The President, the statement continued, "expressed the view that despite the recent increase in violence in the area there remains a deep conviction that renewed progress toward peace is essential and that the door to progress remains open." The statement added that Carter "urged all those involved" to make "the historic decisions on which peace now depends."

White House spokesman Rex Granum said that the southern Lebanon situation "did not come up as a subject of discussion" this morning, but "it is likely to come up" in the meetings between Carter and Begin tonight and tomorrow. Granum said the key issues this morning centered on the Palestinians and UN Security Council Resolution 242 "as it pertains to withdrawal" and in the context of the declaration of principles.

Asked if the atmosphere at the meeting was serious and candid, Granum replied: "It was not only serious and candid but candid and serious in the spirit of our close relationship with Israel."

GROUP CLAIMS RESPONSIBILITY FOR DEATH OF EXTREME RIGHT WING LEADER

By Edwin Eytan

PARIS, March 21 (JTA)--A self-proclaimed "remembrance commando" today assumed responsibility for the death of an extreme right-wing French leader who was killed last Saturday in a bomb explosion.

A communique issued by the group said it had acted "lest Auschwitz be forgotten" and that it had planted the bomb which killed Francois Duprat "because he was the author of a series of neo-Nazi pamphlets denying the existence of the (Nazi) concentration camps, gas chambers and crematoriums." It added, "Francois Duprat denied that six million martyrs have been murdered by the Nazis."

The communique ended by saying that "Duprat is the first neo-Nazi French leader to be executed by the remembrance commando on the basis of 'lest we forget Auschwitz.'"

Duprat, who was a candidate in last Sunday's parliamentary elections on an extreme right wing list, was the author of several history books dealing with World War II. A history professor at the University of Rouen, he authored several works that tried to minimize the number of Jewish victims who died in Nazi concentration camps.

Duprat was killed on the spot and his wife was seriously wounded when a bomb exploded in his car early Saturday morning as he was driving home from a political meeting.

SAUDIS PROVIDED \$45 MILLION TO FATAH

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, March 21 (JTA)--Sen. Clifford Case (R.N.J.) told the Senate Foreign Relations Committee that Saudi Arabia in 1976 provided \$45 million to El Fatah, the military arm of the PLO

that took credit for the terrorist attack on Israeli civilians March 11. Case's statement came during a hearing of the Committee where Sen. John Sparkman (D., Ala.), the Committee's chairman, bore down on Saudi Arabia's continuing financing of the PLO and two top State Department officials conceded they have been unable to persuade the Saudis to stop funding the terrorist organization.

Sparkman, who had not joined in the two letters that 10 members of the Committee had sent to President Carter in opposition to his proposed sale of war planes to Saudi Arabia, indicated at the hearing that he was reconsidering his position in view of the PLO massacre. Saying that he was "very troubled" by the Saudis' financing, Sparkman observed that Saudi support of the PLO and the proposed planes sale create a situation that places Senators in a quandary.

The two State Department officials, Alfred Atherton, Assistant Secretary of State for Middle Eastern and South Asian Affairs, who is being promoted to Ambassador-at-Large in his role as chief U.S. mediator in the Arab-Israeli negotiations, and Harold Saunders, who is slated to succeed Atherton, appeared for confirmation of their appointments. A decision on this is expected late this week.

Atherton said that the Senators should consider the "totality" of the U.S. relationship with Saudi Arabia in suggesting that the sale of the aircraft not be set aside because of their financing of the PLO. He said that the U.S. had discussed over the years with the Saudis their financing of the terrorists and they have explained their money was for economic and not military purposes.

On this point Saunders acknowledged that the Saudis' funding was "fungible," a bureaucratic term that means money earmarked for one purpose allows an equal amount to be diverted to another.

WZO DEPARTMENTS SEPARATED

JERUSALEM, March 21 (JTA)--The World Zionist Organization Executive decided to divide the WZO organization and information department into two separate departments. Avraham Schenker was temporarily appointed head of the organization department and Eli Eyal was appointed temporary head of the information department. The appointments are effective until April 11, when the Jewish Agency Board of Governors convenes here to discuss the permanent appointments. The major issue to be discussed by the Board is the appointment of a new treasurer. The Likud candidate is Deputy Minister Yoram Aridor. The Labor Alignment insists on Akiva Levinsky.

DEMAND FOR PRIVATE ARMS

JERUSALEM, March 21 (JTA)--The number of applications for gun permits has increased by 400 to 500 percent since the terrorist carnage March 11, the Interior Ministry reported. Most of the applications are for pistols and the tendency by the ministry is to approve most of the applications. The number of applications in Tel Aviv rose from an average of 50 to 300 and in Haifa it rose from 15 to 200. In addition, there has also been a growing demand for the import of arms for private use. The Interior Ministry recently approved the import of some 1800 guns, but it is already clear that this quantity will not meet the growing demand.

LONDON (JTA)--Victor Mishcon, 62, a former vice-president of the Board of Deputies of British Jews, has been appointed a member of the House of Lords.

BEHIND THE HEADLINES**SADAT IS REAPPRAISING HIS PEACE EFFORT**

By Maurice Samuelson

LONDON, March 21 (JTA)--President Anwar Sadat of Egypt is under increasing pressure to renounce formally his peace initiative and may decide whether to do so this coming weekend in the light of the Washington talks between President Carter and Israeli Premier Menachem Begin. He may even use the occasion to offer his resignation.

Sadat is reappraising his position in the light of the Israeli invasion of south Lebanon amid mounting calls from other Arab leaders for a summit meeting to discuss the Lebanese crisis. Sadat has also shown a desire to improve his relations with the Soviet Union, which was embittered by his peace initiative.

The Egyptian leader gave an indication of his latest thinking last week at a meeting in Cairo of the African Parliamentary Union (APU). "We shall watch what happens in the very near future," he said, promising to call a meeting of his National Security Council, the forum in which high-policy decisions are discussed. It will take place this Saturday, March 25.

Although many observers had long since written off the prospects of progress in the Egyptian-Israeli peace talks, Sadat declared that until the Israeli invasion of south Lebanon he himself had believed "we had reached a point where we were about to solve the whole problem peacefully."

Even now, he was not prepared to admit that his initiative was a failure. This was echoed in a statement by the president of the APU expressing the conference's "absolute support" for the peace initiative. However, Sadat has also shown the crucial importance he attaches to the outcome of the Carter-Begin talks, and has hinted that he has now virtually lost all hope of achieving what he regards as a satisfactory change of heart from the Israeli leader.

Prepared To Resume Ties With USSR

Thus, in spite of the continuing bitter propaganda war between Moscow and Cairo, Sadat told the magazine, "October," on the eve of the Lebanese crisis, that Egypt was prepared to resume its relations with the Soviet Union and even to improve its ties with the rejectionist Arab states which had been broken following his trip to Jerusalem last November.

This week, the Egyptian leader was at the center of efforts by other states to bridge inter-Arab differences following the Israeli action in south Lebanon. Jordan's King Hussein led the appeals for an emergency summit meeting, and was supported by Saudi Arabia and the Sudan. The Arab League Secretary General, former Egyptian Foreign Minister Mahmoud Riad, followed by issuing invitations to a summit from his headquarters in Cairo.

The difficulty, however, was that since their own summit in Tripoli three months ago, the rejectionist Arab states have been boycotting all political contacts with Cairo in protest against Sadat's peace initiatives.

Although Syria's President Hafez Assad has said that Sadat should be welcomed back to the fold if he recants his heretical policies, other extremist Arab leaders, especially Libya's Col. Muammar Qaddafi, want to pursue the anti-Sadat vendetta to the bitter end.

The last word may be spoken by Sadat himself who has frequently indicated that he would resign once his peace initiative proved to be a failure. Should he do so on Saturday, he would then face

popular demands in Egypt for him to return to office. But as long as Israel is in south Lebanon, Sadat is hardly likely to revive his bid for peace, if he remains President of Egypt.

BEGUN THREATENED WITH NEW ARREST

TORONTO, March 21 (JTA)--The Canadian Committee for Soviet Jewry reported that activist Isif Begun who returned to Moscow two weeks ago after a year's exile in eastern Siberia, has been threatened with re-arrest and possible further imprisonment.

Begun, dismissed from his job when he applied for an exit visa in 1971, was subsequently arrested on charges of "parasitism" and after spending some time in jail, was sentenced to two years in exile at Magadan near the Chinese border.

In consideration of the time he spent in jail before his trial he was allowed to return home after one year. Genya Intrator, a spokesperson for the committee, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that she learned of the new threat to Begun's freedom in a telephone conversation with him from Moscow.

He told her that he had been notified by the authorities last week that his right of residence in Moscow had been cancelled and he must leave the city within 72 hours. He said the cancellation was based on Art. 209 of the Soviet penal code which deprives persons convicted of parasitism of the right to live in their cities.

The article, according to Begun, does not appear in writing but is referred to orally by the authorities; failure to comply could result in his arrest and new charges brought against him. Begun said he sent a telegram to the Central Committee of the Communist Party asking for a temporary extension of his residency privilege so that he can spend time with his family after a year's absence.

ISRAELI SOLDIERS SURRENDER...

TEL AVIV, March 21 (JTA)--Israeli soldiers in south Lebanon surrendered today under a heavy barrage--not of bullets but hamantaschen, cake, candy and other Purim delicacies and gifts sent by the Soldiers Welfare Fund and by families and relatives for celebration of the Purim holiday which begins tomorrow night.

JERUSALEM (JTA)--Former Premier Golda Meir will be discharged from the hospital this week, her doctors said. Mrs. Meir was taken to Beilinson Hospital in Petach Tikva last Tuesday after complaining of chest pains. Contrary to media reports, she did not suffer a heart attack, the doctors said. They said she was resting comfortably and was able to leave her bed to receive family and friends.

NEW YORK (JTA)--A bomb exploded in the washroom of the Hebraica community center in Buenos Aires injuring several employees, according to reports reaching here from Argentina. The incident occurred last week. It was also reported that solidarity meetings called by the Jewish leadership in two Argentine cities to protest the March 11 terrorist attack on Israel were cancelled. The meetings were to have been held March 16 but were called off in Buenos Aires because of lack of time to obtain the necessary permits, and in La Plata because the authorities were unable to provide adequate police protection, the reports said.