



## WEIZMAN FAVORS EARLY WITHDRAWAL OF ISRAELI FORCES FROM SOUTH LEBANON

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, March 22 (JTA)--Defense Minister Ezer Weizman told the Knesset's Foreign Affairs and Security Committee today that he favors an early withdrawal of Israeli forces from south Lebanon. "so that we shall not miss the opportunity to reach a political settlement with Egypt." But he gave no indication of when or how Israel will pull out, expressed doubts about the United Nations force created to police south Lebanon, and could not give assurances that the latest incursion into Lebanon would be the last.

Weizman reiterated that Israel's objective in entering Lebanon was to root out terrorists. "We did not set out for this war to occupy, and that is why we shall leave it," he said. He admitted that this "strange war" turned out somewhat differently than had been planned.

He explained that Israeli forces occupied a larger area than originally intended because army units were attacked in various regions. He also insisted that "our aim throughout this entire operation has been to minimize loss of life and limb among innocent Lebanese citizens." He said those considerations kept Israel from occupying the terrorist-held port of Tyre.

But the Defense Minister was challenged by several MKs who cited reports of severe casualties among Lebanese civilians and tens of thousands of refugees. Amnon Rubinstein, of the Democratic Movement for Change, Meir Talmi of Mapam, Yossi Sarid of the Labor Party and others blamed Israel's decision to widen its original six-mile deep security belt for the refugee problem which, they said, unnecessarily complicated Israel's international status. Labor Party chairman Shimon Peres attacked the government for making statements and then looking for ways out.

## Hopes Further Force Will Not Be Necessary

Weizman expressed hope that Israel would not have to resort to force in Lebanon again but said that depended on whether or not the terrorists were permitted to return. He noted that it took several wars before Sinai became a quiet front. He said Israeli forces are deployed some three miles south of the Litani River and have left one bridge open, in terrorist hands, to ease the movement of refugees.

The Defense Minister affirmed that Israel had no intention of crossing the Litani but acknowledged that Israeli units did cross the river twice to ambush terrorists. He said the Syrians got Israel's message not to interfere in the war on terrorists and they "are playing the game."

Weizman complained about the "hasty U.S." action in the Security Council "which was followed by a hasty resolution to create the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon" (UNIFIL). He said the Cabinet would review the situation after the talks in Washington between President Carter and Premier Menachem Begin. The Cabinet is scheduled to convene in special session tomorrow. (See related analysis on P. 4.)

## UNIFIL RUNS INTO UNEXPECTED PROBLEM

By Yitzhak Shargil

TEL AVIV, March 22 (JTA)--The vanguard of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) ran into unexpected difficulties today when the Maronite Christian militia refused to allow a party of six UN officers to pass through its lines. The group was stopped by militiamen at Klea village.

Maj. Said Haddad, commander of the militia, who claims to represent the Lebanese regular army in south Lebanon, said the UN force would have to enter the region from the north, meaning through terrorist lines. He accused UN officers of betraying the movements of Christian units to the terrorists.

Later, the first UNIFIL troop contingent, 150 Iranian troops in 20 trucks, drove across the border and were allowed to pass the roadblock set up by the Christian militiamen without any incidents. The Iranians camped for the night about five miles south of the Litani River, overlooking the strategic Akaya Bridge.

Meanwhile, Defense Minister Ezer Weizman met here today with Gen. Ensio Siilasvuo, supreme commander of UN forces in the Middle East, who reported on his talks with Lebanese political and military leaders in Beirut yesterday. "According to some reports, the Lebanese promised to send two battalions of their newly rehabilitated army into the south. Weizman expressed hope that the ceasefire he ordered yesterday will be observed by the terrorists and said Israel would cooperate with the UN force."

But while the front lines were relatively quiet today, terrorist artillery continued to shell Israeli troops and villages in south Lebanon. Several shells exploded near Israeli towns in Upper Galilee but no casualties were reported. A spokesman for PLO chief Yasir Arafat was reported saying, "There is no ceasefire in our dictionary."

## Several Difficulties Anticipated

UNIFIL will include one or two French paratroop battalions, a Norwegian battalion and a Nepalese unit. The British army will provide a logistics unit. One of the first tasks of the force will be to take over control of the Litani River bridges from Israeli forces. No problems are expected on the eastern and central bridges. But the westernmost span, the Kasimiyeh Bridge, is in terrorist hands and it is not known if they will hand it over peacefully to the UN troops. The bridge was left open by Israel to facilitate the movement of civilians to and from Tyre.

Some difficulties have cropped up on the Israeli side of the border where settlers are organizing to protest what they consider the untimely withdrawal of Israeli forces from south Lebanon. The chairman of the Metullah town council said, "We may lie before the tanks if we are not 100 percent sure that the terrorists will not return to south Lebanon and resume their hostile activity against Israel."

## MIXED CONGRESSIONAL REACTION TO BEGIN

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, March 22 (JTA)--Assessment of Israeli Premier Menachem Begin's visit yesterday at the Capitol with the Senate Foreign Relations Committee ranged from "cordial but not enthusias-

tic" to "extremely cordial," a canvass by the Jewish Telegraphic Agency of many of those present indicated.

By virtually all accounts, his discussion with 66 Senators, about four times the number of the committee membership itself, was less warm and affective than his later meeting with the House committee where the attendance was basically its membership.

"When Golda Meir in her heyday used to come to the Capitol, an aide to a Senatorial friend of Israel explained, 'she was most warmly received and she could have anything she asked. Begin doesn't come across that way. Many Senators don't feel close to him. That's the main difference.'" This version appeared close to a consensus of those canvassed on the Senate side.

#### Differences Between Friends

On the House side, the estimate was that Begin was "brilliant" and "surprised" at least one Congressman who was critical of some of his politics and approaches. Another said he spoke in a "concerned atmosphere" but "the important thing" was that the "differences" between the U.S. and Israel "were expressed between friends rather than disputes between enemies." But, he added, "clearly there was a reaffirmation of the U.S. commitment to Israel. The differences were like those in the family."

Begin, who went from an extended meeting with President Carter to the Senate, was generally reported as physically tired and presented his view in a "low key," the JTA was told. Later, after a brief rest, he was more vigorous in his presentation to the House members and was described as "having handled himself well."

While "no nasty" questions were asked, Begin was pressed mainly by Senators who were not members of the Foreign Relations Committee on his policy on Jewish settlements. "There is a mixed picture on this" and on opposition to the Administration's proposal to provide F-15 aircraft to Saudi Arabia, a Senatorial aide said.

#### No Erosion On Anti-PLO Views

"There is no erosion regarding the PLO," a Senator said. "On that score Israel is as strong as ever in the Senate. But people are still confused about other issues, particularly the settlements." In this connection, a Senator pointed out that 27 Senators have now endorsed a resolution calling on Carter to cut off U.S. government aid within 30 days to countries supporting the terrorist PLO.

Sen. Charles Percy (R. Ill.) said later "this is probably the toughest negotiation that any Israeli Prime Minister has had with a President of the United States." An indication of Administration watchfulness of Begin's impact on Congress was that Assistant Secretary of State Harold Saunders and Samuel Lewis, the U.S. Ambassador to Israel, attended the Senate meeting. Sen. James Abourezk (D. SD), who yesterday attacked Israel's incursion into southern Lebanon, was also present but asked no questions.

In both the Senate and House meetings, Begin pointed out that he offered a "forthcoming" plan for a Middle East settlement. He had presented this to Carter and Egyptian President Anwar Sadat four months ago. "Why what was right in December is not right in March?" he asked. "Why what was flexible in the winter is considered something else in the spring?"

In response to a question from Percy that Iraq is sending ammunition, trucks and troops to the

PLO, Begin estimated that some 500 armed Iraqis are in Lebanon north of the Litani River. "We didn't attack them because we do not want to widen the conflict," he was quoted as saying.

#### Questions With A Critical Edge

A number of questions with a "critical edge" to them focussed on whether Israel was lawfully using U.S. supplied military equipment in southern Lebanon. This is the brunt of a letter by Reps. Paul Findley (R. Ill.) and Charles Whalen (R. Ohio) to Secretary of State Cyrus Vance, who has not yet replied.

It was also being made an issue by anti-Israeli elements who propose to push an embargo in Congress against further supply of U.S. weapons to Israel on the grounds that the Lebanese situation is similar to Turkey's incursion into Cyprus. The House has cut off arms to Turkey as a result. However, in response to questions, Begin pointed out there is no parallel between Israel entering Lebanon and Turkey's position in Cyprus since Israel has no intention of remaining in southern Lebanon.

Israel, Begin pointed out, can use U.S. weapons in self-defense and entered southern Lebanon to protect Israeli lives. He also said that the Israeli-Lebanese armistice of 1949 includes a Lebanese pledge that regular or irregular forces would not attack Israel from Lebanon.

House Minority Leader Jim Wright (D. Texas) closed the session with a tribute to Begin personally and his intentions for peace in the area. "We support your efforts for peace and say 'shalom,'" Wright said.

#### 2 CINEMAS SHOWING ISRAELI FILM BOMBED By Tamar Levy

GENEVA, March 22 (JTA)--Two cinemas were heavily damaged by explosions during the showing of "Operation Thunderbolt," an Israeli film depicting the rescue of hostages at Entebbe Airport. There were no casualties at either cinema, one in Berne and the other in Zurich.

Prior to the explosion in Zurich, police received an anonymous telephone call that a bomb had been placed in the theater. Police evacuated the premises before the explosion occurred. In Berne, police received an anonymous letter stating: "The Israelis are all assassins who want to eliminate and destroy Palestinians. It is sad that a film praising Israeli soldiers is being screened in Switzerland. Many people here are opposed to the showing of this film."

As a result of the two incidents, cinema owners have decided to stop showing the film and distributors have announced that they will no longer publicize it.

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NEW YORK (JTA)--In response to a call from the National Jewish Community Relations Advisory Council (NJCRAC), 318 Jewish community leaders representing 57 communities from one end of the country to the other are flying to New York Wednesday for a meeting Thursday with Israeli Premier Menachem Begin at the Waldorf Astoria. The meeting was convened by the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations. Before hearing Begin, the delegates will participate at a meeting of NJCRAC's Israel Task Force at Central Synagogue to discuss the Mideast situation, including America's role.

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NEW YORK (JTA)--Vladimir Drot, of Vilnius, and his family, have been granted exit visas, six years after they had first applied.

## GRIM MOOD, COLD FORMALITY MARKS CONCLUSION OF BEGIN-CARTER TALKS

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, March 22 (JTA)--President Carter and Israeli Premier Menachem Begin parted today with words of personal and binational friendship. But they spoke in an atmosphere of cold formality with no indication that they have come closer to their positions on how to proceed for a Middle East peace settlement.

Their mood as they spoke on the White House lawn at the conclusion of their third and last meeting was somber and even grim. The solemnity was in contrast to their meeting in December and strikingly different to the warm embraces that the President exchanged with Egyptian President Anwar Sadat, who had urged Carter to induce Israel to withdraw behind its pre-1967 lines.

A reporter later asked Zbigniew Brzezinski, the President's National Security Advisor, whether "things are as grim as they look" between Israel and the U.S. "The appearances are not misleading," Brzezinski replied. This situation was confirmed by what Secretary of State Cyrus Vance said after meeting with Begin for lunch at the State Department. "I can't say that we've reduced the differences at this point," he told reporters. Carter, himself, described his talks with Begin as "frank and detailed."

Begin carefully avoided a direct confrontation, at least publicly, with Carter in all his comments during his stay here. He concluded his response to the President by saying that Israel is a small country and the United States is a mighty power. But "the bonds that tie us together"--love of liberty, religious tradition and democracy--mean "we are not only friends, we are partners and allies."

### Challenge And Opportunity

In his closing remarks, Carter reaffirmed U.S. support for Israel's security but he again said Israel was stronger militarily than ever before. He also said the United Nations Security Council Resolution 242 must apply on "all fronts" if peace negotiations are to succeed. This was an allusion to Begin's view that Israel has sovereignty over Judea and Samaria. Begin did not speak of 242 in his response but he emphasized Israel's security requirements.

Carter said that Israel has a "challenge and an opportunity" despite the atrocity of the March 11 terrorist raid toward achieving a peace settlement. He said the challenge is to Israel's security and the opportunity is the chance to negotiate peace with the Arabs. "Despite terrorists and other danger," Carter said, "this opportunity must not be allowed to slip into the cycle of hatred and violence."

Alluding to the "challenge and opportunity," Begin pointed out that Israel has already made major contributions toward achieving a settlement. He spoke of Israel agreeing to Egyptian sovereignty in the Sinai, self-rule for the Arabs in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip and Israel's draft of principles to govern further peace negotiations.

### Carter Pushes For Planes Sale To Arabs

Meanwhile, Carter met late today with the House International Relations Committee and scheduled a meeting for tomorrow morning with the Senate Foreign Relations Committee to advance rapidly his proposal to provide warplanes to Israel, Egypt and Saudi Arabia in a single package.

Although customarily, the Administration

would not take public action on so controversial an issue when the leader of one of the countries concerned is in Washington, in the case of Begin, the President is apparently more concerned with pressure from Saudi Arabia to deliver the 60 F-15 jets he has promised it.

### RABBI WARNS JEWS

NEW YORK, March 22 (JTA)--Rabbi William Berkowitz, who was officially installed as the president of the Jewish National Fund at the organization's inaugural conference Monday night, told the 1500 guests that "Jews must assert their own special interests, to become more 'particularistic' and devote their energies first and foremost to the survival of the Jewish people." He criticized those Jews, many of them young, who, he said, seek to serve humanity in general at the expense of Jewish interests.

Elie Wiesel, the renowned author, in installing Berkowitz, stated: "Events are in the making which may be dangerous to Jews and for which we need leadership; leaders who will be our messengers to those who rule the world; leaders who will tell you where to go, when to protest and why." He pointed to times in Jewish history, including the Holocaust period, when, he said, Jewish leadership proved to be inadequate.

Berkowitz, who is the spiritual leader of Congregation B'nai Jeshurun, succeeds Meyer Pesin as head of the JNF. He served previously as a JNF honorary vice-president and has been a member of its board for several years.

### DOCUMENT CALLS JEWS 'FIFTH COLUMN'

NEW YORK, March 22 (JTA)--An official document presented to the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet claims that Soviet Jews are a "fifth column" who remain "to undermine us from within," according to the Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry and the Union of Councils for Soviet Jews.

The document is written by Soviet Academy of Sciences researcher Valery Emelyanov, a well-known anti-Semitic lecturer, the two groups said. Emelyanov asserts that the threat of Jews in the USSR is so great that "if there is a new war, we will not even have the opportunity to organize against this internal danger that we had in 1941."

Zionist penetration of the Soviet Union is so complete, Emelyanov claims, that snowflake decorations in Soviet shop windows have a Star of David outline, as do loudspeaker grilles in the Moscow subway and crossword puzzles in newspapers. In the U.S., Zionists control 90 percent of the economy and 99 percent of the media. The document further claims, according to the two groups, that through the Masons, the Zionists have elected President Carter to control the White House and that Zionists order many Jews to remain in the USSR to subvert the country from within. Emelyanov proposes a vast anti-Zionist front and a mass educational camp to expose Zionism which "is racism aimed at every 'goy' on earth."

BUCHAREST (JTA)--The reconstruction of Bucharest's main synagogue, the Choral Temple, has been concluded and the 120-year-old synagogue damaged during last year's earthquake will open its gates for Passover. The Federation of Jewish Communities in Rumania announced that two other synagogues in Bucharest, Malbim and Eshuvatova, have also now been restored and are ready to welcome worshippers. The cost of restoration was estimated at \$1 million, which was met by the Federation.

## BEHIND THE HEADLINES CONCERN OVER UN ACTION ON LEBANON

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, March 22 (JTA)--Two elements of serious concern emerged here over the Security Council's resolution calling for an Israeli pullout of south Lebanon and the creation of a United Nations peace-keeping force there. The immediate apprehension is that the UN force, as envisaged by the Security Council, will be incapable of preventing terrorists from returning to south Lebanon.

A longer range concern is that the Carter Administration's unseemly haste in pushing for the resolution created a precedent that will permit the U.S. to take similar actions in the future without prior consultation with Israel.

Dismay was expressed here that the terms of reference for the new UN force, as reported to the Security Council by Secretary General Kurt Waldheim, envisages a body similar to the United Nations Emergency Force (UNEF) in Sinai and the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) on the Golan Heights. These forces are not provided with armor and are under orders not to shoot except in self-defense.

Observers here doubt that such a force can deal with the heavily armed Palestinian terrorists. It is also feared here that the UN force will disarm the Lebanese Christians who have been Israel's allies throughout the two years of civil war in Lebanon. Israel, for its part, wants the Christians recognized as the nucleus of an all-Lebanese policing force in south Lebanon.

### See U.S. Creating A Precedent

Observers also believe that American sponsorship of the UN resolution without prior exhaustive consultations with Israel was a forewarning of what Premier Menachem Begin could expect in his meetings with President Carter. They feel that Carter acted deliberately to demonstrate that he will not be hamstrung by pro-Israel forces in Congress. The observers believe furthermore that the Administration saw the Lebanese situation as an opportunity to set the precedent of creating a UN interim force without Israel's prior approval.

Such a precedent might be useful in the West Bank context in the future, they pointed out, should serious rioting break out on the West Bank or new military tension develop between Israel and Jordan. Washington could use such developments as the pretext for creating another UN force to police Israel's eastern borders, they said, rendering academic the dispute over the applicability of Security Council Resolution 242 to the West Bank.

### 'OPEN LETTER' TO BEGIN ...

NEW YORK, March 22 (JTA)--A delegation of evangelical Christians and leading conservatives in the metropolitan area issued an "open letter" to Israeli Premier Menachem Begin expressing "deepest sympathy" with the people of Israel concerning the "unspeakable atrocity" of the terrorist massacre of 32 people on March 11 and calling for the New York office of the Palestine Liberation Organization to be closed down.

The delegation represented a recently formed group, the Ad Hoc Committee to Encourage Prime Minister Begin and Israel, headquartered in New York, and the group's view was stated in "An Open Letter to an Israeli Patriot, Prime Minister Menachem Begin, From Patriotic Americans."

The letter, written on a special parchment

paper and signed by more than 30 people, was handed to Yehial Kadishia, director of the Prime Minister's Bureau, at the Waldorf Astoria just before Begin left for Washington Monday. The delegation was headed by Rev. Roger Fulton, chairman of the ad hoc committee, and Rev. Nathan Houghton, the committee's vice-chairman.

The letter expressed "admiration and appreciation" for Begin's "record of unswerving commitment to the promises of your election campaign, including the promise to see that the West Bank of the Jordan should never become a PLO-dominated region." In a statement when the letter was delivered, Houghton said: "We stand side by side with Lebanese Christians and we pray that Israel will never give in to Soviet-UN pressures that would jeopardize the security of Lebanese Christians and those Israelis in border areas and elsewhere who have been victimized by wanton PLO terrorists."

Among those whose names were on the letter were Gov. Meldrim Thomson of New Hampshire; Serphin R. Maltese, New York State Conservative Party executive director; Rev. Ithiel C. Clemmons, Bishop for the Chaplaincy of Armed Forces and Institutions, Church of God in Christ U.S.A.; Ralph de Toledano, syndicated columnist, contributing editor of the National Review; Rev. Edward H. Flannery, director of Continuing Education of the Clergy, diocese of Providence, R.I.; William Loeb, publisher, Manchester (N.H.) Union Leader and Sunday News; and Sister Rose Thering of Seton Hall University, South Orange, N.J.

### 'OPEN LETTER' TO PALESTINIANS

WASHINGTON, March 22 (JTA)--Sen. Floyd K. Haskell (D. Colo.) has told Congress and the Palestinian people that the goals of the Palestine Liberation Organization "are contemptible and compel even the most impartial observer to question the wisdom of even considering the PLO as a participant in the Middle East negotiations."

In an "Open Letter to the Palestinian People," which he entered into the Congressional Record following the "senseless and savage slaughter of innocent Israeli civilians" March 11, Haskell asked the Palestinian people: "How can a people of acknowledged intellectual and artistic achievements permit themselves to be represented by butchers? Why should humanity care about your fate when those designated as your sole legitimate representative have so little regard for humanity? Why should Israel make the slightest concession to you when the Palestinian cause is so frequently associated with cowardly attacks on children and unarmed civilians?"

"If the tone of this letter appears intemperate," Haskell added, "I freely acknowledge it. The time for refined discourse and diplomatic restraint is long past."

Haskell, who has demonstrated in the past that he is not "insensitive to the plight of Palestinian refugees," said, "I see no connection between the barbarism constantly committed by the PLO and the disposition of homeless Palestinians scattered throughout the Arab world." He said the "immediate objective of this latest atrocity" is to "sabotage the prospects for a negotiated settlement."

In an accompanying letter to the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, Haskell said he is "hopeful that expressions of outrage and condemnation by many concerned individuals will contribute to an end of terrorism which has plagued the State of Israel."

JERUSALEM (JTA)--Golda Meir received a cable from President Carter wishing her "a swift and complete recovery" from her illness.