



FIRST CASUALTY FOR UNIFIL

By Yitzhak Shargil

TEL AVIV, March 29 (JTA)--The United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) suffered its first casualties today. One Swedish soldier, Karl Johansen, was killed and another, Marc Lindberg, was injured by a mine explosion in the vicinity of the Khardala Bridge which Swedish forces occupied yesterday. The bridge is the easternmost span over the Litani River.

(At the United Nations in New York, Secretary General Kurt Waldheim said he "deeply regretted" the incident and sent condolences to Johansen's family. He ordered UNIFIL officials in south Lebanon to begin an immediate investigation of the incident.)

It was learned meanwhile that Gen. Ensi Siilasvuo, supreme commander of UN forces in the Middle East, has assigned another officer to replace Col. Jonas Lindgren as commander of the Swedish unit in south Lebanon. Lindgren was removed from command reportedly because he ordered his troops to retreat when they came under fire in their initial attempt to take over the Khardala Bridge. The two remaining Litani bridges were also under UNIFIL control today.

Iranian troops occupy the Akia Bridge in the central region and French troops, after being turned away yesterday, succeeded in taking the Kasmyeh Bridge in the west which controls the approaches to the terrorist-held port of Tyre.

Terrorist Shelling Continues

Terrorist artillery north of the Litani River continued to shell Israeli towns in Upper Galilee today. There were no casualties but some damage was done to electric power lines and water pipes which were quickly repaired. Yesterday, Israeli Defense Minister Ezer Weizman gave the terrorists 48 hours to end their shelling or, he warned, Israeli forces would take action.

Israel is still waiting today for the results of Gen. Siilasvuo's latest efforts to get the terrorists to comply with the cease-fire. He visited Beirut and Damascus today. It was reported that PLO chief Yasir Arafat promised UNIFIL Gen. Emmanuel Erskine of Ghana that the terrorists would observe the cease-fire and assist the UN forces in their mission.

NAVON AGREES TO RUN FOR PRESIDENT WHILE SHAVEH WITHDRAWS FROM RACE

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, March 29 (JTA)--Labor Party veteran Yitzhak Navon, who last week withdrew as a candidate to succeed Israeli President Ephraim Katzir, today appeared likely to be Israel's next President without any opposition. Navon announced his renewed candidacy today, a day after Prof. Yitzhak Shaveh, Premier Menachem Begin's personal choice for the presidency, withdrew.

Shaveh withdrew because of strong opposition from Likud's Liberal Party wing which supported its own veteran leader, Elimelech Rimalt. But, after Navon's announcement, Rimalt said that he is withdrawing because he learned that members of Begin's Herut will support Navon. He said he wanted to prevent a split in the Likud

and the government coalition.

Sources close to Begin told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that the Premier had not asked Shaveh to step down. But he is understood to have let his political intimates know that he would welcome a voluntary withdrawal. Shaveh, a nuclear physicist, was virtually unknown outside of scientific circles until Begin summoned him home from work in Paris last month and persuaded him to be a candidate to succeed Katzir whose four-year term ends in May.

Begin's selection of Shaveh angered his Liberal Party partners in Likud. When Rimalt announced his candidacy, the Liberals endorsed him. Rimalt was also supported by elements of the Labor Party, the Democratic Movement for Change, several small leftist factions and some members of the religious parties. Shaveh's candidacy seemed doomed and to continue it would only have added to the political embarrassment of Begin.

Shaveh said as much on a radio interview yesterday. He said he was withdrawing because his candidacy was causing needless rifts within the coalition, and Likud. He also complained that the media had not always been fair to him and at times, cruel and tendentious. Shaveh was widely reported to hold extreme right-wing nationalist views.

Will Seek To Represent Entire Country

Navon told a press conference today that he decided not to put forward his candidacy last week because "I felt I lacked the necessary backing among Knesset members. Since then it had become clear that there is ample support for my candidacy in the Knesset, irrespective of factions, blocs and community."

Navon, who is a Jerusalem-born Sephardi, said he will not represent any single party or group but will seek to represent the entire country. National Religious Party leader Yehuda Ben Meir said that his faction would support Navon and Navon is expected to have the support of Labor, most DMC members and many in Likud.

Israel's President is elected by the Knesset. The elections, originally scheduled to be held on April 10, were postponed to April 19 at the request of Likud and NRP members to give the government time to extricate itself from the embarrassment caused by Begin's endorsement of Shaveh.

BEGIN TO KNESSET: ISRAEL WILL ADHERE TO ITS PEACE PLAN; KNESSET VOTES 64-32 TO APPROVE BEGIN POLICY

By Yitzhak Shargil

JERUSALEM, March 29 (JTA)--Premier Menachem Begin, opening a political debate in the Knesset today, declared that Israel would stick to its peace plan which he maintained, was fair and just. He insisted that it had been acceptable to the United States until Egypt turned it down.

Begin also claimed that the Egyptians would agree to Israel's proposals for a joint declaration of principles once they are convinced that they could not obtain Israel's agreement to "demands which we have announced from the start that we shall not be able to accept." His implication was that there might have been an agreement with Cairo had the United States not tilted toward Egypt as he alleged it did.

At the end of the nine-hour debate, the Knesset voted 64-32 to approve Begin's policies. There were nine abstentions, including seven members of the Democratic Movement for Change (DMC), Likud's coalition partners.

Peres Attacks Government's Policies

Labor Alignment chairman Shimon Peres, speaking for the opposition, strongly attacked the government's diplomatic approaches and Begin personally for bringing about a confrontation with the U.S. "not at the proper time and not on the proper subject."

He questioned Begin's claim that the U.S. originally found his peace plan acceptable. When President Carter described the Israeli plan as a fair one it should not have been interpreted as an American undertaking to accept it, Peres said. "Begin" took what may have been suggested as a start for negotiations as an accomplished agreement," he charged.

However, Peres said, the Labor Alignment would not move for a vote of no confidence in the Begin government at this time because the Americans did not behave properly when Begin was in Washington last week. He appeared to be referring to reports that the U.S. was actively seeking to depose the Begin government.

Points Of Agreement, Differences

The Premier told the Knesset that there were points of agreement and points of difference between Israel and the U.S. over the substance and character of a peace settlement: He said both countries agreed on the nature of peace, including open borders and diplomatic, economic and trade relations between Israel and its neighbors. They agreed that there should not be a Palestinian state on the West Bank and Gaza Strip, that the PLO should not be a party to negotiations and that the Palestinians be given a voice in determining their future, he said.

"We have suggested administrative autonomy (for the Palestinians) with free choice of Israeli or Jordanian citizenship with full parliamentary rights," Begin said. He explained that Palestinians opting for Jordanian citizenship would be able to vote in the Jordanian parliament and those choosing Israeli citizenship could vote in Knesset elections.

However, he said, the U.S. proposed that a plebiscite be held after five years to determine the future of the territories. "We were obliged to reject this plan because holding such a plebiscite would bring about what the Americans themselves agreed should not be established—a Palestinian state."

In Begin's view, "this is a question of life or death" for Israel "but for other countries, including the U.S., it is policy." The Premier insisted that Israel would never return to its 1967 borders and never accept a Palestinian state. "The question of the Palestinian Arabs will find a just solution and the Palestinian Arabs will have a right to determine their future in talks between Israel, Egypt and Jordan and the true representatives of the Palestinian Arabs," he said.

Begin acknowledged that another area of disagreement with the U.S. was over Israeli settlements in the occupied territories. "In our last talks the Americans expressed their view that the settlements violate international law and are an obstruction to peace. Israel's views differ," he said.

In his response to Begin, Peres said he believed Begin wants peace but regretted his ideolog-

ical stance which does not take into account current developments, ties his hands and prevents him from carrying out a proper, coherent policy. He accused the government of making many mistakes, of failing to foresee events and acting in ways that undermined Israel's credibility.

Raps Settlement Policies

Peres also attacked the government's settlement policies. "It is known to all that in order to achieve peace we shall have to return areas to Arab sovereignty. We have to think of peace as a national interest. Without a declaration of readiness to compromise on Judea and Samaria, there will be no peace," Peres declared.

He said the argument with the U.S. over the interpretation of Resolution 242 was unnecessary and blamed the Likud platform for forcing the government to pursue an unrealistic policy which leads to repeated confrontation with the U.S. Support and opposition of Begin's policies followed party lines.

29 SOLONS URGE CARTER TO DELAY HIS PROPOSED MIDEAST PLANES SALE PACKAGE

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, March 29 (JTA)—Sen. John Heinz (R. Pa.) and 28 members of the House of Representatives have written to President Carter urging him to delay his proposed Middle East aircraft package for "six to eight months," the Jewish Telegraphic Agency learned today.

Having Congress act "now would jeopardize the delicate structure of negotiations already in place in the Middle East and would lead to a divisive debate in our own country which could divert public support from a negotiated settlement," the signers said in a letter dated March 24.

"We recognize and are committed to fulfilling your historic responsibilities for the security of Israel," it added. "We agree that the Administration needs to develop constructive relationships with all the parties in the Middle East. At this time, however, encouragement for negotiations must receive the highest priority."

The letter was initiated by Reps. Toby Moffett (D. Conn.); Thomas J. Downey (D. NY), and Silvio O. Conte (R. Mass.), who are chairmen of committees in "Members of Congress for Peace Through Law." They circulated their letter within the organization for a week for signatures before sending it to the President.

The organization, which had its inception in 1959 on a proposal by Sen. Jacob K. Javits (R. NY), consists of 33 Senators and 142 House members, roughly a third of the combined Senate-House membership of 535.

Eilberg Protests Against The Action

Rep. Joshua Eilberg (D. Pa.) protested his colleagues' action in a letter to Rep. Charles W. Whalen Jr. (R. Ohio), chairman of the organization. Whalen did not sign the letter. Eilberg pointed out the moratorium advocated in the letter ignores a written pledge by the United States to sell arms to Israel.

Opposing the package idea, Eilberg said the package deal would mark a change in U.S. policy toward Israel and in addition would "encourage" a "dangerous new precedent in making the sale of arms to Israel contingent on the sale of arms to Arab nations." He urged the Congress to consider each sale "on its own merits."

REPORT WEIZMAN DUE IN CAIRO THURSDAY

JERUSALEM, March 29 (JTA)--Israel Radio has confirmed unofficially reports from Cairo that Defense Minister Ezer Weizman will fly there tomorrow for talks with Egyptian War Minister Mohammed Gamassy and possibly meet with President Anwar Sadat. There has been no official word from the Israeli government and apparently none is expected until Weizman actually leaves for Cairo.

According to the radio report, he will be accompanied by the Attorney General, Aharon Barak, and by two aides, one a soldier and the other a civilian. The radio report said Weizman would be returning to Israel tomorrow evening but indicated that the brief visit may be to lay the groundwork for the resumption of the military committee talks.

KLUTZNICK: PROPOSED SKOKIE MARCH REFLECTS GROWING ANTI-SEMITISM, NEO-NAZISM THROUGHOUT THE WORLD

KIAMESHA LAKE, N.Y., March 29 (JTA)--A "growing neo-Nazism and anti-Semitism in the United States and other countries throughout the world is reflected in the proposed Skokie march," according to Philip Klutznick, president of the World Jewish Congress.

He told the 600 delegates at the 78th annual convention of the Rabbinical Assembly, the association of Conservative rabbis, that the "Skokie saga has become an international symbol of the effort to rebuild Nazism and all it implies and it is internationally observed." Concerned with the growth of anti-Semitism and the Nazi spirit in West Germany, France, and in many Latin American countries, as well as in the United States, Klutznick said:

"The increasing number of incidents in the Federal Republic of Germany and the recurrence of the Hitler story has upset not only that government but has also raised important questions for all of us." Reports from France, in relation to the recent elections there, have been identified by some as a new wave of anti-Semitism. Anti-Semitic activities of certain governments and groups in Latin America have grown."

Critical Of Civil Libertarians

Criticizing the civil libertarians, Klutznick said that "the proposed march" in Skokie "is not an effort to expand the freedom of human rights and the freedom of speech and assembly. It is an attempt to stamp out democracy and freedom and to erect in its place once again the hideous symbol, if not the reality, of the tyranny of Nazism. Skokie has aroused a sense of danger."

The task ahead, he said, "is to act before it is too late. The forces of darkness lurk in Skokie and other parts of the world, once again. And those who would see the light have a huge responsibility to discharge."

No Action On Women As Rabbis

Reporting to the convention on the 13-member Commission for the Study of the Ordination of Women as Rabbis, Chancellor Gerson D. Cohen of the Jewish Theological Seminary of America said the commission had met twice since it was appointed last May. Not even "tentative conclusions" have been reached, he said, "but I am confident we will have a report for the 1979 Rabbinical Assembly convention as we are mandated to do."

"The only two things I would say we have

agreed on are: It was generally agreed that any decision of the commission would be based first and foremost on Halachic considerations, as these would be sought out and interpreted to the commission by those qualified to do so. The commission is in agreement that it does not consider the issue to be one which demands only a 'yes' or 'no' answer, and consequently it will also be considering possible intermediate positions."

Dr. Saul I. Teplitz, rabbi of Congregation Sons of Israel of Woodmere, N.Y., was elected president, succeeding Rabbi Stanley Rabinowitz of Washington.

LANDAU CONFIDENT OF PEACE WITH EGYPT

By Michael Solomon

MONTREAL, March 29 (JTA)--Israeli Minister Without Portfolio Haim Landau expressed confidence today that Egypt will sign a peace treaty with Israel. "I believe that (Egyptian President Anwar) Sadat will endorse our peace plan and will sign a bilateral treaty," he said, in an interview with the Jewish Telegraphic Agency. "For the time being he hopes to squeeze a little more if he can."

The Minister noted that Israeli Premier Menachem Begin sent a letter yesterday to Sadat urging him to reconvene the peace negotiations and that Israel is now awaiting Egypt's counter-proposals.

Landau, a longtime close aide of Begin, stressed that "We live in tough times and we shall face tough times in the future." He said the news media does not reflect the true situation in Washington or in Israel. "Headlines such as that Mr. Begin should resign are the initiatives of a few Americans sitting in Israel for the past few weeks to lobby Israel public opinion that Begin is intransigent," he said.

The U.S. and Israel can disagree because "we are friends," Landau stressed. "We are right and they are wrong in respect to our peace plan." He said he was optimistic about Israel's relations with President Carter.

Concerning the dispute with the U.S. over United Nations Security Council Resolution 242, Landau said the resolution "is not the relevant problem, but our security is. We accept 242 as a basis for negotiations. If we withdrew from Samaria and Judea what effect would this have on our security?"

Answering his own question, he said "there will be an Arafat state using Soviet Katyusha (rockets)... The Soviets will be there and when we shall move the army against them we shall be in trouble. Therefore, should we accept President Carter's proposal that will mean collective suicide for Israel and we are not ready to commit suicide."

Landau declared that Israel's "security cannot be based on Arab good will or anyone's guarantees. After the Holocaust, the conspiracy of silence, after 50,000 Christians were killed in Lebanon, how can we as a people live in mortal danger" as (Carter's National Security Advisor Zbigniew) Brzezinski said. Appeasement never leads to peace, but to Munich."

MEXICO CITY (JTA)--The Mexican government has not yet responded to a request from Israel that it close down the Palestine Liberation Organization office here in the wake of the terrorist massacre which killed 32 civilians in Israel March 11. Mexican newspapers this week expressed the hope that the government's inaction on the PLO office would not affect Jewish tourism to Mexico. Tourism was adversely affected after Mexico voted for the anti-Zionist resolution in the UN General Assembly in 1975.

DEMONSTRATIONS AT OSCAR CEREMONIES SCHEDULED OVER REDGRAVE NOMINATION

By Murray Zuckoff

NEW YORK, March 29 (JTA)--A different kind of excitement may be injected into the Oscar ceremonies in Los Angeles next Monday if the Jewish Defense League and pro-Palestinian groups have their way.

The JDL has announced that it will stage a demonstration at the internationally televised Motion Picture Academy Awards ceremony to protest the nomination of British actress Vanessa Redgrave for an Oscar as best supporting actress in "Julia." At the same time, Arabs and pro-Palestinian sympathizers announced plans to stage a counter-demonstration against the JDL.

Anger against Ms. Redgrave has been expressed by the JDL and other Jewish groups for having made a documentary film, "The Palestinian," which presents what has been termed a one-sided pro-Palestinian-anti-Israeli view. Protests against the film have been mounted in cities where it has been shown in this country and some have called for a boycott against that film and any film in which the actress appears.

Reasons For Opposing Protests

At the same time, many in the film industry and outside, Jews as well as non-Jews, have voiced opposition to these demonstrations and calls for boycott. Among the reasons for opposing these actions, and specifically the one planned next Monday night, is that Ms. Redgrave has been nominated for her role in "Julia" in which she portrays a member of the anti-Nazi underground which smuggled Jews out of Germany, a film she made after "The Palestinian."

Other reasons given are that the boycott has been used against Jews in the past and, in fact, is now being used by the Arabs in their economic boycott of Israel and Jewish-owned enterprises around the world and firms dealing with such enterprises; and that a boycott against Ms. Redgrave as an actress evokes bitter memories of similar actions against actors and actresses during the McCarthy witch-hunt period in the 1950s.

Termed Unrelenting Propaganda

"Many Jews throughout the country have taken issue with Ms. Redgrave's anti-Zionist and anti-Israel attitudes but oppose any demonstrations at the Oscar ceremonies. Among them is Dore Schary, famed film producer and playwright who is a member of the Motion Picture Academy, and who has headed the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith and is its honorary chairman.

Schary said he has seen some two hours of the two-and-three-quarters-hour pro-Palestinian film and that it is both anti-Israel and anti-Zionist. He, as others who have seen "The Palestinian," described it as rambling, tiresome and tedious.

The film, which has been termed an unrelenting presentation of the Palestinian cause and which contains statements by Palestinians characterizing Zionism as Nazism and comparing Israel to Nazi Germany, was defended by Ms. Redgrave as an effort to present the Palestinian cause to the West which, she claimed, has not given that cause a fair hearing.

Nevertheless, Schary is opposed to any form of protest at the Oscar ceremonies. "I feel very strongly about her (Ms. Redgrave) political position but I don't believe in boycotts," he said. "Many years ago, in Hollywood, when people were called Communists, attempts were made to

toss them out of the industry on the basis of political principle. It was an awful time."

The calls for a boycott of Ms. Redgrave have also been criticized by Richard Roth, producer of "Julia," 20th Century Fox, the Motion Picture Academy, the Screen Actors Guild and distributors of "Julia."

Feelings High Against Redgrave

Nevertheless, feelings against the actress, who for years has been espousing a Trotskyist view, are running high as a result of "The Palestinian." Dr. Eli Spira, president of the B'nai B'rith Shalom Lodge, a Jewish social organization in Los Angeles, which announced it would take part in the protest demonstration next Monday, said: "She should not be nominated for best supporting actress. What she supports best is murder, terrorism and destruction of innocent people."

Herbert Luft, the Jewish Telegraphic Agency's motion picture columnist, and himself a native of Germany and a victim of Nazism, wrote in a recent JTA column that "The Palestinian" was produced in conjunction with PLO chief Yasir Arafat and that Ms. Redgrave has allegedly made public statements that Israel should be dissolved altogether and transformed into a multi-national society governed jointly by Moslems, Christians and Jews.

"The dilemma faced by Hollywood," Luft wrote, "not merely deals with the freedom of expression. The question arises whether we as Jews and Americans can afford to endorse by our silence the blunt advocacy of a destruction of the Jewish State--after more than six million Jews were murdered by the Nazis because there was no national country to protect or shelter them at that time."

Irv Rubin, West Coast head of the JDL, told a press conference yesterday in Los Angeles that his organization is no longer calling for Ms. Redgrave to be boycotted professionally and that the JDL is not planning its demonstration "to destroy the Academy but to tell Vanessa Redgrave, never again. We will be innovative with this demonstration. We will be peaceful."

JNF APPROVES IL 745 MILLION BUDGET

JERUSALEM, March 29 (JTA)--The Jewish National Fund directorate has approved an IL 745 million budget for the coming fiscal year. It contains IL 536.5 million from the land development agency's own resources and the balance provided by other organizations, JNF director-general Shimon Ben Shemesh said at a press conference here. He said that some 15 percent of the JNF's overseas fund-raising receipts comes from the traditional "blue boxes" into which Jewish children and others drop their modest contributions.

JNF chairman Moshe Rivlin said the agency would concentrate on development work in Galilee and the Negev next year. It will prepare some 31,000 dunams of land for new settlements with the objective of doubling Galilee's Jewish population. The JNF will operate on 262 sites throughout the country and in the occupied territories, Rivlin said, an increase of 37 percent over last year. He said there were only 21 JNF emissaries presently on overseas assignments.

NEW YORK (JTA)--Uriel Lynn, 42, an Israeli-born lawyer and industrial executive, has arrived in New York to direct the North American headquarters of the Government of Israel Investment Authority, it was announced here by the Authority. Lynn will oversee the operations of the seven Authority offices in the United States and Canada.