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PREPARATIONS UNDERWAY FOR ISRAELI TROOP WITHDRAWAL FROM LEBANON

By Yitzhak Shargil

TEL AVIV, April 10 (JTA)--Israel appeared to be caught in a dilemma as preparations got underway for the first stage of its partial withdrawal of forces from south Lebanon, commencing tomorrow at sundown. The second phase will begin Friday. Israel is still far from convinced that the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), to which it will hand over areas in the eastern and central sectors of the front, is capable of preventing the return of Palestinian terrorists to the region.

Israel is also anxious to avoid a new confrontation with the United States over its operations in south Lebanon. Sources here noted that when Israeli forces invaded south Lebanon on March 15, in the aftermath of the March 11 terrorist assault, the U.S. demonstrated understanding for Israel's need to establish a security belt near its borders.

But when the Israeli operation expanded a few days later to the banks of the Litani River, well beyond the area originally designated as a security belt, the U.S. Administration changed its attitude and initiated Security Council Resolution 425 which established UNIFIL and called for Israel's immediate withdrawal. The resolution was adopted March 19.

Israel is less concerned with its relations with UN Secretary General Kurt Waldheim who criticized the withdrawal plan as "inadequate." Officials believe that Waldheim may have acted under Arab pressure and suffered from lack of communications with the UN supreme commander in the Middle East, Gen. Ensio Siilasvuo. Circles here stressed today that Israel's withdrawal plan was agreed to by Siilasvuo but Waldheim may have been unaware of that.

Value of UNIFIL Questioned

The ultimate objective of Resolution 425 is to restore south Lebanon to the control of the Lebanese government and army. But until now the government in Beirut has been unable to exercise authority in the region. The dispatch of a few hundred gendarmes is regarded as symbolic without any practical military value. The value of UNIFIL, which is still well below its mandated strength of 4000 men, is also questioned by Israel.

Israeli military sources noted that Norwegian UNIFIL units were forced by the terrorists to evacuate Kaukba village several days ago, though they have since reoccupied it. Nevertheless, if the terrorists manage to return to south Lebanon to resume incursions against Israel and the bombardment of Israeli border villages, the entire Lebanon operation will have been a waste.

For that reason, Israel has set no timetable for withdrawals beyond those to be carried out this week. Its troops will continue to occupy the western sector of the front and all areas adjacent to the border. This raises the likelihood however of new strains developing with Washington.

Areas of Withdrawals Cited

Commencing tomorrow, Israel will hand over villages in the eastern and northeastern sectors to UNIFIL, including the Khardaleh Bridge area and the small localities of Habariyeh, Farade and Suba. Israel will remain for the time being in the Christian villages of Marj Ayoun, Kle'a and El-Khiam.

On Friday, withdrawal will begin from the eastern edge of the central sector, a rectangular shaped salient of some 50 square kilometers. It includes Taibeh village, a former terrorist stronghold within easy artillery range of Manara and Misgav Am, Israeli villages in Upper Galilee.

REPORT SHARP DIVISIONS IN CABINET OVER CONTINUING CONTACTS WITH EGYPT

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, April 10 (JTA)--Sharp divisions within the Cabinet over the value of continuing contacts with Egypt in their present form have surfaced in the past few days. In conversations with various members of the Knesset, Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan reportedly described the "Jerusalem-Cairo" axis as "barren," a reference to Defense Minister Ezer Weizman's meetings with President Anwar Sadat two weeks ago and his projected return visit to Cairo that was supposed to take place this week.

Although Weizman did not succeed in persuading Sadat to resume the military and political committee talks, suspended since January, he expressed the view, in his subsequent briefings of the Cabinet, that the maintenance of these contacts was the most effective way to break the negotiations impasse. He cited the fact that Sadat invited him to return in support of that argument.

But some Cabinet members claimed Sadat was engaging in a public relations play aimed at widening the gap between Israel and the U.S. It was also suggested that the Egyptians were trying to build up Weizman whom they regard as far more flexible than Premier Menachem Begin.

Wants To Coordinate Moves With U.S.

Dayan is expressing the view that contacts along the lines of the Weizman-Sadat meeting will be fruitless unless Israel coordinates its position beforehand with the U.S., as he claimed, the Egyptians constantly do. He stressed his belief that the U.S. must be kept in the picture under all circumstances, although he described the current situation as one of deterioration in Israeli-American relations.

According to Dayan, Israel and the U.S. may have had temporary differences in the past but were generally considered to be in the same camp. As Dayan sees it, Egypt has now become an ally of the U.S. and Israel finds itself in a corner.

Dayan warned that the current style of negotiations would lead to deadlock and the possible revival of the old proposal for nothing more than an end-of-belligerency agreement between Israel and Egypt. In that case, he said, Israel might make a partial withdrawal from Sinai as its contribution.

Nevertheless, Israel and Egypt were still reported to be engaged in behind-the-scenes preparations for a return trip to Cairo by Weizman. No date has

been announced and the visit may hinge on the outcome of the on-going debate in the Cabinet. So far both governments appear to be probing each other's intentions to determine whether there are good prospects for substantial progress if direct negotiations are resumed.

ISRAEL CONCEDES USING CLUSTER BOMB

TEL AVIV, April 10 (JTA)--The Israeli army officially admitted last night that it used cluster bombs in south Lebanon but stressed it was done only after Israeli settlements were shelled. Following pressure from reporters, the army spokesman issued a statement saying:

"In a number of cases artillery and Katyusha fire on Israeli settlements in the north continued without interruption. Against these artillery units and nearby field positions the Israeli Defense Force used cluster bombs." He gave no further details. The use of the anti-personnel bombs and the U.S. complaint were mentioned at yesterday's Cabinet meeting. But Cabinet Secretary Arye Naor refused to say whether they had been debated.

BROWN SAYS USE OF CLUSTER BOMBS IS NOT A BIG ISSUE

WASHINGTON, April 10 (JTA)--Defense Secretary Harold Brown said Israel's use of the cluster bomb in south Lebanon last month was not a big issue and that the United States is discussing with the Israelis "their reassurances" that its agreements with the U.S. not to use American-made weapons other than to maintain internal security or in the pursuit of legitimate self-defense "will be observed in the future."

Brown also said yesterday during an interview on CBS-TV's "Face the Nation" that Israel's invasion of south Lebanon was clearly in reaction to a terrorist attack. The attack referred to the March 11 raid in which 33 men, women and children were massacred. "The question one has to ask is, 'was the (Israeli) response proportional?'" Brown said.

He stated that the U.S. has told Israel "they must expedite their withdrawal" from south Lebanon. He declined to specify whether he thought Israel was withdrawing its forces too slowly from that area and denied that the U.S. was putting pressure on the Jewish State. Brown said the speed of Israeli troop withdrawal was only one factor in the U.S. judgment of the Israeli action.

"We will not judge Israeli actions solely on this basis, but it is an important factor," he stated. "The important thing is that they be withdrawn. They are withdrawing, and so long as that goes on at a reasonable pace I have hopes that that particular problem can be settled."

REPORT ON TERRORISTS WAS A HOAX

TEL AVIV, April 10 (JTA)--After a 24-hour search in the Ashdod-Ashkelon area, police tonight concluded that the report that terrorists had landed on the southern Israel coast was a hoax. Before the search was called off it involved thousands of men in the army, police, border guard and civil guard. Many residents of Ashkelon spent the night in air raid shelters.

The cruel hoax began when an employee of the Israeli Agricultural Export Company (Agrexco) heard someone saying over the company car radio, "Help, terrorists are attacking us, they have killed the woman near me. Help, they

are coming." When the worker tried to communicate with whoever was talking, over the radio he was unable to do so but then the voice came on again in Hebrew with an Arabic accent, "We shall slaughter you," it said. "We are Palestinian guerrillas. We are going towards Ashkelon."

The last part of the conversation was also heard by police and within minutes emergency procedures went into effect and roadblocks were set up from Rishon le Zion south to Ashkelon. The army had a news blackout on the incident and the first report did not come over the army radio station until midnight, three hours after the alleged event. The army station was the only one broadcasting news, because of the strike of radio and television journalists.

With no official information available there were numerous rumors as people telephoned each other. The army had advised against urging the civilian population to go into shelters but in Ashkelon some people used loudspeakers urging the residents there to go to the shelters. The police advised them to leave.

FORD SAYS CARTER HAS MADE SERIOUS MISTAKES IN HIS TREATMENT OF ISRAEL

NEW YORK, April 10 (JTA)--Former President Gerald Ford, in a speech strongly critical of President Carter's Middle East policy, charged last night that Carter is making "serious mistakes" in his treatment of Israel.

"Nothing is more destructive to the negotiating process than for the United States to leave the impression that it dogmatically insists that Israel make concessions," he told some 1400 persons at a dinner sponsored by the National Council of Young Israel at the Americana Hotel. "Only the parties themselves can negotiate peace."

Ford said that the Carter Administration's major mistake in the Mideast was bringing the Soviet Union back into the region. The USSR has never shown any signs of playing a constructive role in the area, he stressed.

The Carter Administration should use the 1975 Israeli-Egyptian agreement worked out during the Ford Administration as a basis for future negotiations, the former President said. He noted that at present "a totally separate peace . . . may not be a realistic option for Egypt. It can only provide a foundation and umbrella for later agreements between Israel and Jordan and Israel and Syria."

Critical of Public Rhetoric

Ford also criticized what he called "escalating public rhetoric" in current U.S. diplomacy. He said the U.S. should go back to the quiet diplomacy of his Administration and be willing to do more listening than talking. "Private cooperation is more helpful than public condemnation," he said.

In an oblique reference to recent reports that the Carter Administration is interested in ousting Premier Menachem Begin from office, the former President said: "America should never be in the position of telling another nation who its leader should be." Ford, who has expressed interest in running for the Presidency in 1980, also declared: "I remember some of the statements made by Mr. Carter in October 1976 during the heat of the campaign. It just goes to show that performance and not campaign promise is the true test of the Presidency."

TEL AVIV (JTA)--Another effort to end the week-old strike of television and radio journalists failed Sunday. El Al operations continue suspended.

GOLDBERG SAYS USSR HAS NOT LIVED UP TO ITS COMMITMENT TO HELSINKI ACT

By Helen Silver

WASHINGTON, April 10 (JTA)--Ambassador Arthur J. Goldberg who headed the American delegation at the Belgrade conference to review the Helsinki Final Act, charged last night that the ideals to which the Soviet Union has committed itself in the Final Act are far from realization.

He said this was evidenced by the fact that Jews in the USSR are still unable to exercise freely their right to emigrate, to practice their religion or develop their culture and by the Soviet Union's inclination "to retreat for a time into retribution" when confronted with "honest criticism."

Goldberg, the former Ambassador of the United States to the United Nations, reported on the Belgrade conference at the opening session of the National Conference on Soviet Jewry (NCSJ) leadership conference here. (See related story, p. 4.)

Earlier, more than 1000 school children from the Greater Washington area marched from Lafayette Park, in front of the White House, to the Soviet Embassy where they attempted to deliver a letter addressed to Soviet President Leonid Brezhnev appealing for the rights of Soviet Jewish children to emigrate to Israel or elsewhere. The youngsters waited outside the Embassy for 10 minutes but no one appeared to accept their letter.

Cites Soviet Record

Goldberg told the NCSJ leaders that the record of Jews in the USSR shows that they are not able to "freely profess and exercise their religion, fully develop their national heritage and culture, nor live without fear of reprisal and without prejudice to their ability to work or study, to seek to exercise the right guaranteed not only in the Helsinki Final Act but also in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights to leave their country to go to Israel or to another country of their choice."

He said that the Soviet Union's "sensitivity to honest criticism can lead it to retreat for a time into retribution." Referring to the recent imprisonment of Jewish activists and other dissidents, Goldberg declared: "The temptation exists as we have seen in its reaction to the brave efforts of individuals--many but by no means all of whom are Jewish--to monitor Soviet compliance with Final Act."

"What happens to these individuals--the Orlovs, the Ginsburgs and to Anatoly Shcharansky, who combines in his person both the role of monitor and 'refusenik', seeking to exercise his right to emigrate to Israel--will tell us much about how in the short term the Soviet Union will respond to this new imperative of international affairs and about how far the detente process can presently go."

Confident Human Rights Will Prevail

He called "detente between East and West precarious and subject to reversal" but added: "Over the long run I am confident that the powerful idea of human rights, not only for Jews but for all, which was articulated in Brussels seven years ago and which has now become a central element, must prevail." Goldberg said that the U.S. government will publish the proceedings of the Belgrade conference which lasted six months and ended early this year.

He also said he was disappointed by the poor press coverage of the conference, especially by the American press, but attributed it largely to the fact that most of the sessions were closed. He said he was not sure that he would attend the next conference to monitor the Final Act which is to be held in Madrid in 1980 but will continue to discuss human rights with American and world leaders in the interim.

The children's march to the Soviet Embassy was the opening event of National Solidarity Day for Soviet Jewry. It drew a crowd of some 4000. The rally that preceded it was addressed by several members of Congress.

The letter addressed to Brezhnev pointed out that the principle of the Helsinki Final Act was the right of "all people to live in a country of their choice. That chance to go elsewhere is why our parents and grandparents came to this country," the letter continued. "We can work to build our country or we can leave and grow up elsewhere. In fact, many of our friends and their families have gone to Israel to build a Jewish state."

ISRAEL RESUMES PAYMENTS TO UNESCO

JERUSALEM, April 10 (JTA)--Israel decided yesterday to resume payments to the annual budget of UNESCO, according to an official Cabinet announcement. The decision was approved by the Cabinet following a proposal by Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan that Israel pay \$374,000 which represents its debts to UNESCO for the last two years.

Israel suspended payments three years ago after UNESCO adopted an anti-Israel resolution which barred it from the activities of UNESCO's European regional group. This followed allegations by Arab delegates that Israel was engaged in archaeological work which was altering the features of Jerusalem.

Israel was readmitted in November, 1976 after international protests and a decision by the United States to suspend contributions to UNESCO's budget. The U.S. resumed payments last year. Dayan's own proposal to resume payments was based on the fact that UNESCO has refrained from passing anti-Israel resolutions in the past period.

By paying its debts Israel will be ensured of participation, with full voting rights, in the next UNESCO conference in Paris next autumn. Arab efforts to mobilize support for a resolution to be presented at the conference which condemn Israel as "racist" have so far failed. Meanwhile it was reported that UNESCO is due to publish a report on Israeli educational activities on the West Bank. A UNESCO delegation visited the West Bank last year to study this situation and Israel cooperated fully with them during their tour.

REHABILITATION FOR SOLDIERS

TEL AVIV, April 10 (JTA)--A special workshop, designed to rehabilitate Israeli soldiers who suffered brain injuries, has been established through the cooperation of Bar Ilan University's department of psychology and the Defense Ministry's rehabilitation center. Dr. Solly Katz, of Bar Ilan University and head of the project, explained that the purpose is to provide a series of graduated psycho-social and vocational tasks which are designed to elicit responses from people who have suffered brain damage.

The function of the workshop, which is located in an industrial area to give it a realistic environment, is to provide supervised work conditions for the brain injured. The work is subcontracted from factories and is specially selected to develop coordination between hands and eyes and demands concentration.

BEHIND THE HEADLINES **NEW FRENCH GOVERNMENT EXPECTED** **TO CONTINUE SAME FOREIGN POLICY**

By Edwin Eytan

PARIS, April 10 (JTA)--The new French Cabinet which convened here several days ago for the first time is practically identical to the outgoing Cabinet and is expected to continue its line in foreign affairs. Diplomatic observers foresee no major change in France's Middle East policy and no dramatic improvement in Franco-Israeli ties.

The new Cabinet, appointed after President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing's victory in last month's legislative elections, is again headed by Premier Raymond Barre with Louis de Guiringaud as Foreign Minister. De Guiringaud, a former career diplomat, has consistently applied foreign policy decisions as laid down by the Elysée Palace. De Guiringaud's reappointment to the Quai d'Orsay is seen as proof that the President intends to continue pursuing the same foreign policy.

Defense Minister Yvon Bourges, who has negotiated France's recent large scale arms deals with Saudi Arabia and Egypt, has also been reappointed. Bourges had privately indicated before the recent elections that he intends to further develop Franco-Arab cooperation in military matters.

He also hopes to sell the two new French fighter planes, the Mirage 200 and the Mirage 400, in large quantities to the Middle East. The 200 is described as equivalent to the F-15 and the 400, which is still on the drawing board, is even more sophisticated.

Ministers Friendly Toward Israel

The government's only Jewish Minister, Simone Veil, has been reappointed to the Ministry of Health and promoted to second place within the government. Her name follows in the official list of precedence, that of Justice Minister Alain Peyrefitte.

Veil is a concentration camp survivor who has visited Israel several times. She has also attended meetings organized by the Alliance Israelite Universelle and the World Jewish Congress. In the past, she has, however, refrained from intervening in matters of foreign policy which concerned Israel or France's Jews. Observers believe she will maintain this stance.

Two newly appointed ministers, Jean Philippe Lecat and Maurice Papon, have shown themselves friendly to Israel in the past. Lecat, appointed Minister of Culture and Information, has a Jewish wife who learned some Hebrew while attending classes at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem. Lecat is also close to his in-laws who are active members of the Jewish community.

Papon, appointed Budget Director--which is a Cabinet post in the new government--is the former Paris chief of police and as such has shown himself friendly to various pleas and requests forwarded to him by Jewish organizations in France. In spite of these two new appointments, the new government is not expected to change its policy in the Middle East. If anything, pre-election Socialist declarations on the Palestinian issue and the American Administration's own stand, will continue to further harden its demands for a Palestinian homeland and major Israeli concessions.

JACKSON WARNING ON HIS AMENDMENT

WASHINGTON, April 10 (JTA)--Sen. Henry

M. Jackson (D. Wash.) warned today that some members of the Senate are attempting to circumvent the Jackson Amendment to the U.S. Foreign Trade Act which links American trade and financial transactions with the Soviet Union to the latter's easing of its restrictions on emigration and general compliance with human rights agreements. He urged that such measures must be defeated on the Senate floor or in the realm of public opinion "if personal persuasion doesn't work."

Jackson, author of the amendment that bears his name, addressed the national leadership conference of the National Conference on Soviet Jewry (NCSJ) here. "Right now efforts are underway by some Senators to try to grant credits to the Soviet Union and other non-market countries with no quid pro quo whatsoever in freer emigration," he said. "We must resist these efforts. We must persuade their proponents if possible, and defeat them on the Senate floor or in the contest of public opinion if personal persuasion doesn't work."

Jackson said "The underlying logic" of his amendment was the proposition "to the Soviets that they relax their restrictions on emigration and that we, in turn, relax our restrictions on access to our market and credit. They have so far refused our offer. So we must do the same. We must continue to withhold credits and most-favored-nation status. To do otherwise would be to throw in the towel. The Soviets can't have the economic benefits they desire without giving anything in return."

According to Jackson, "the Soviet economy is bleak" in most vital areas and they "stagger under a military budget that takes twice as much of their resources as our budget takes of ours." He observed that "As the Soviet economy deteriorates, the continued practice of repressive emigration becomes increasingly costly." Therefore, he said, "We can afford to be patient until the Soviets recognize where their real interests lie. The Jackson Amendment constitutes just the sort of leverage that we ought to be using on behalf of basic human liberties."

AMERICAN JNF OFFICIALS PLANT BEGIN GARDEN IN JERUSALEM PEACE FOREST

JERUSALEM, April 10 (JTA)--Thirteen officials of the Jewish National Fund in the United States ended their study mission to Israel by planting a 100-tree garden in the Jerusalem Peace Forest in honor of Premier Menachem Begin.

The JNF officials lauded Begin for his "determination to seek with (Egyptian President Anwar) Sadat a new era of peace, cooperation and constructive development. These trees symbolize our yearning for life, growth and creative prosperity for Egypt, Israel and all the people of the Mideast."

The study mission was designed to provide the American JNF people an opportunity to exchange views with Israeli JNF officials and to inspect major American JNF projects of land reclamation, afforestation, road building and preparation of sites for new settlements all the way from the Lebanese border to Eilat. Mission participants were escorted in their visits around the country by JNF board chairman Moshe Rivlin and JNF director general Shimon Benshemesh.

UNIVERSITY, Ala. (JTA)--Israel Awareness Week will be held at the University of Alabama through Thursday. It is sponsored by the American Zionist Youth Foundation and the B'nai B'rith Hillel Foundation in association with the Alabama Union at the Capstone.