

JTA daily news bulletin

Contents copyright. Reproduction only by previous arrangement.

Published by Jewish Telegraphic Agency / 165 West 46th Street / New York, New York 10036

Vol. XLV - 61st Year

Thursday, May 11, 1978

No. 92

ISRAEL TO WITHDRAW ALL ITS FORCES FROM LEBANON, BUT NO DATE IS SET

By Gil Sedar

JERUSALEM, May 10 (JTA)—Israel will eventually withdraw its forces completely from Lebanon, Chief of Staff Gen. Rafael Eitan told the Knesset's Foreign Affairs and Security Committee. "But no date has been set for the final withdrawal," he said.

In his first appearance before the committee since he took office last month, Eitan said that cooperation between Israeli forces and the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) has been satisfactory to date. He said UNIFIL has succeeded in preventing terrorist infiltration into south Lebanon in some cases but failed in others. There are "problems which have not been solved," Eitan said, and he will be meeting shortly with Gen. Ensio Siilasvuo, supreme commander of UN forces in the Middle East to discuss the situation.

Eitan said the Israel army presence in south Lebanon is necessary until UNIFIL can deploy its troops effectively over the entire area and is capable of preventing the return of terrorists to the region.

He indicated that this will not be possible until UNIFIL receives the 2000 additional soldiers approved by the UN Security Council last week which will bring its forces up to 6000 men. Until then, Israel will continue to hold a 10-kilometer-deep security belt running the entire length of the Lebanese border.

DMC TRYING TO STEM REVOLT IN ITS RANKS

By Yitzhak Shargil

TEL AVIV, May 10 (JTA)—The Secretariate of the Democratic Movement for Change (DMC) is trying to stem an open revolt within the party against the leadership of Prof. Yigael Yadin. It voted unanimously last night to condemn Dan Bibaro, chairman of the DMC's Council, for participating in a meeting of DMC dissidents urging Yadin's removal. Bibaro himself was urged to resign.

The DMC, which emerged from the elections just a year ago as Israel's third largest political party, has been wracked by internal differences since then. These were magnified when the party leadership voted to join Premier Menachem Begin's Likud-led coalition late last year. That move alienated the DMC's "Shinoo" (Change) faction and other moderates.

The dissident factions convened the meeting Monday night at which Yadin and other party leaders were accused of abandoning DMC principles and looking after their own interests. The meeting drew barely 100 members, but these included Bibaro who occupies a leadership position. Letters of support were received from two DMC Knesset members, Mordechai Vinikovsky and Shmuel Toledano.

The Secretariate's unanimous condemnation of the meeting indicated that Yadin still enjoys substantial support in the party that he founded. But his political base has shrunk considerably. From 40,000 registered members a year ago, the DMC is now down to 10,000, a 75 percent drop over a 12-month period.

Although Yadin holds the office of Deputy Premier, nominally the second-ranking man in government, and presides over the Cabinet when Begin is absent, his influence in government policies has been minimal. His critics say there is no evidence of any DMC in-put in foreign policy and no sign that Yadin has made any headway toward effecting the social reforms that were a key element in the DMC's election platform.

INDEPENDENCE DAY STATISTICS

JERUSALEM, May 10 (JTA)—Israel's population on her 30th anniversary was 3,676,000 people, 3,095,000 of them Jews. When the State was founded May 14, 1948 the number of Jews in Israel was 650,000 compared to 150,000 non-Jews. Of the 2,445,000 Jews that were added to the population since 1948, some 1.3 million came on aliya, and the rest are sabras. Close to 500,000 have emigrated from Israel, the majority of them to the U.S., where it is believed there are now some 400,000 Israelis.

ISRAEL MARKS ITS 30TH ANNIVERSARY

By Yitzhak Shargil, Gil Sedar and Barbie Zelizer-Meyuhos

JERUSALEM, May 10 (JTA)—Fireworks lit up the skies over Jerusalem tonight as Memorial Day ended and festivities began in celebration of the 30th anniversary of Israel's independence. The transition from solemnity to the joyous mood of "Yom Haatzmaut" was marked at sundown by the kindling of a torch on Mt. Herzl by Knesset Speaker Yitzhak Shamir.

In rapid succession, 12 other torches were lit by the children and grandchildren of Israeli fighters since the days of the pioneer Hashomer. The torches symbolized the Twelve Tribes of Israel. As the flames soared into the air, a switch was thrown illuminating a giant "Shalom" sign on the hillside overlooking the capital.

Israelis, by tradition, each year precede their Independence Day celebrations with a day of remembrance for the war dead. The tributes to the fallen began last night. Today, thousands of bereaved families assembled at military cemeteries and in various arenas and auditoriums around the country for memorial services.

President Ephraim Katzir attended services in Jerusalem. Premier Menachem Begin went to Safad to honor underground fighters executed by the British Mandatory authorities in the pre-State years. Memorial parades and ceremonies were held at all military bases. The day was observed even in Calat where a small Israeli military mission has been stationed since talks with the Egyptians were broken off last January. Yesterday, a memorial service was held in Ravenna, Italy, at the graves of 33 soldiers of the Jewish Brigade who died there during World War II.

Defense Minister Ezer Weizman addressed the families of war dead at the Halfa Memorial Garden. He said that after 30 years of war and fighting, Israel has reached a point where peace is possible. But to achieve it, Israel must be strong, he declared.

300 Festivities Planned

About 300 Independence Day festivities will be

held throughout the country tomorrow, most of them centered on folk dancing by youth groups. The Israel Philharmonic Orchestra will give an outdoor concert in Tel Aviv under the baton of Zubin Mehta. There was a symphony concert tonight at the foot of Mt. Zion in Jerusalem.

There will be no massive military parade such as have been held in previous years and government plans for other grandiose events have been toned down for lack of funds. But pre-State underground veterans will march at the Hebrew University stadium tomorrow and there will be a display of some of Israel's latest weaponry including the Merkava tank and F-15 jet fighters.

The 1978 Israel Prize will be awarded to 10 recipients at the Jerusalem Theater tomorrow. President Ephraim Katzir will receive the foreign diplomatic corps at his residence in the afternoon and Mayor Teddy Kollek of Jerusalem will receive the public at David's Tower in the Old City. More than 30,000 soldiers, police, border police and civilian guards are on special security duty for the 24-hour period. The public has been alerted to keep an eye out for suspicious-looking objects or activities.

In an Independence Day message to the nation, Katzir expressed confidence that a true and lasting peace will eventually come in spite of the "short-term crises in the negotiations." The President added, "While we celebrate, we must reflect on how to improve society and make it more inviting for Jews abroad." In a special message to diaspora Jewry, Leon Dulzín, chairman of the World Zionist Organization Executive, stressed the need for aliya to preserve Jewish life into the 21st Century.

Celebrations Around The World

Israelis are not alone in celebrating their 30th anniversary. Avraham Shenker, chairman of the WZO's Committee for Independence Day Festivities, announced that more than 300 events will take place in Jewish communities abroad.

These include "Shalom Israel" celebrations in Paris, Marseilles, Lyon, London, Geneva, Brussels and in major cities of the United States and Canada. Thousands of posters have been sent to those communities and Israeli documentary films were made available.

About 100,000 letters were sent recently by Israeli school children to Jewish students abroad as part of a Jewish National Fund campaign for the Jewish Children's Forest. The WZO's department of education and culture has issued a special prayerbook in Hebrew and English honoring Independence Day.

KISSINGER AFFIRMS ACCORD WITH U.S. MIDEAST PLANE DEAL, AND AGAIN RECOMMENDS MORE PLANES FOR ISRAEL By Helen Silver

WASHINGTON, May 10 (JTA)—Former Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger, appearing before the House International Relations Committee this morning, affirmed that he favored each part of the Administration's proposed sale of advanced jet aircraft to Israel, Egypt and Saudi Arabia on its merits and repeated his recommendation that the 15 F-15 fighters earmarked for Israel be increased by 20. The current Administration proposal is for 15 F-15s to Israel and 60 to Saudi Arabia, 75 F-16s to Israel and 50 F-16s to Egypt.

Kissinger presented basically the same views to the House panel today as he did Monday in his testimony before the Senate Foreign Relations

Committee. Both in his prepared statement and in reply to questions by committee members, he stressed the need for assurances to Israel that the sale of planes to Saudi Arabia will not jeopardize its security and assurances from Saudi Arabia as to the deployment, use and non-transfer of the aircraft. Kissinger expressed hope that the Administration will work out a solution so that the matter does not become the subject of a divisive debate in Congress.

Meanwhile, the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, reported to be closely divided on the issue, prepared to vote tomorrow on the Administration's proposal. Its House counterpart will vote early next week.

Issues For Israel, Saudi Arabia

Kissinger told the House body that in its military planning, Israel must be prepared for the "worst contingency" and that "Israel can be assured by the addition of 20 F-15s" to its part of the package. He said that from Saudi Arabia "we can get assurances as to the deployment of the planes so that they are merely used against the threats against Saudi Arabia."

He said that "equipment limitations can direct them to... defensive missions." He said the U.S. could also get assurances against transfer of the F-15s to other countries in the region and assurances that they are not part "of a total package of advanced aircraft but that they may be the only aircraft Saudi Arabia can be supplied." He was apparently referring to the possibility that Saudi Arabia might purchase advanced French Mirage jets in addition to the F-15s.

"I think these (assurances) can all be positive contributions," Kissinger said. With respect to timing the deliveries, he said, "It would seem the easiest solution to do it in the same time frame so that any concerns that might exist about the planes might be reduced."

Questioned about the commitments made to Israel during his term as Secretary of State, Kissinger said that at the time of the Sinai II interim agreements in September, 1975 "there had been a memorandum" on the sale of planes. "There was no specific reference as to the numbers or timing," he said, "but the Israeli request then was for 150 F-16s. The biggest hang-up at the time was the request (by Israel) for co-production" rights, he said.

PUSH ON FOR PLANES DEAL VICTORY By Joseph Palakoff

WASHINGTON, May 10 (JTA)—The Carter Administration was driving relentlessly today towards virtually a complete victory for its war-planes package to Saudi Arabia, Israel and Egypt. Two senior Cabinet officials suggested to President Carter, according to Capitol reports, that victory would be assured if the President relented sufficiently to grant Israel 20 more F-15 warplanes or a total of 35 in the proposed allotment. Israel already has 25 F-15s which would be equal to the 60 F-15s proposed for Saudi Arabia.

In addition, Secretary of State Cyrus Vance and Secretary of Defense Harold Brown, who are leading the Administration's maneuvers for the package, also are suggesting that Brown send a letter to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee that would say, in effect, that the government of Saudi Arabia has no aggressive intentions against any state and would use the F-15s only for self-defense. Supporters of Israel have pointed out that Saudi Arabia's use of the F-15s would make

it a confrontation state against Israel.

Charges Economic Blackmail

In a related development, former Presidential assistant Mark Siegel has charged that Carter "succumbed" to "economic blackmail" in proposing to provide the 60 F-15s to Saudi Arabia. In a letter to some members of Congress, Siegel said the Administration has been disseminating "distortions and untruths" about the possibility the planes might be used against Israel.

The letter, whose contents became known today, urged the Senate Foreign Relations Committee to "reject this attempt to coerce the Congress into acquiescing in the sale of arms whose future use, in the absence of a genuine Mideast peace, will most probably be against Israel. The Saudi demand for immediate approval of the sale was tied to a discussion of OPEC oil prices and the falling value of the U.S. dollar abroad," Siegel wrote, according to a report in the Washington Star today. Siegel was quoted as saying that Saudi Arabia's King Khalid "threatened the President of the United States with economic blackmail and the President succumbed."

At the White House, Presidential news secretary Jody Powell charged that "these allegations of economic blackmail, either explicit or implicit, are totally and completely fabrications." Powell said Siegel was not present at the meeting between Carter and King Khalid but that he, Powell, was present. Powell said that in the light of the Siegel charges, he reviewed his notes of that meeting and said that there was "absolutely no discussion of oil or prices or of the dollar."

WEICKER DENOUNCED FOR HIS STATEMENT

By Joseph Palakoff

WASHINGTON, May 10 (JTA)--Three Senators and various Administration officials today forcefully denounced a speech by Sen. Lowell Weicker (D. Conn.) in which he accused the Carter Administration of following "a policy of confrontation with Israel" and "appeasement" of the Arabs and alleged that the President's National Security Advisor, Zbigniew Brzezinski was urging that the U.S. "disengage from its historic alliance with Israel."

Weicker drew the heaviest fire for his implied charge that Brzezinski, who is chairman of the National Security Council, was acting out of anti-Israel and anti-Semitic motivations. The White House, in a telephone call to the Jewish Telegraphic Agency today, quoted Brzezinski as having said that "the U.S. commitment to Israel is unshakable. It is deeply ingrained in the fabric of our own society.... They are deeply binding moral ties...."

Weicker attacked the Administration's Middle East policy in a speech Monday night to the 19th annual policy conference of the American-Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC), which was interrupted 26 times by applause from the 1000 pro-Israel delegates.

He implied that the Administration was trying to make Jews the scapegoats for its foreign policy difficulties and noted that "time and time again" in history "when national leaders run into difficulties they found it convenient to blame their problems on the Jews and we know the results." A spokesperson for Weicker said today that the Senator stood by his speech.

Terms Statement Absolute Outrage

But Weicker's Democratic colleague from

Connecticut, Sen. Abraham Ribicoff, said today: "I think it is an absolute outrage for anyone, Jew or non-Jew alike, to infer that there is anything in President Carter or Secretary of State Vance or Vice President Mondale that is antipathetic to the State of Israel or to people who are Jewish."

Ribicoff said he had not read Weicker's speech but noted that he has talked regularly with Carter, Vance and Mondale for the last 17 months and "these three men have been continuously concerned with the survival, strength and independence of the State of Israel."

Ribicoff said that while he did not know Brzezinski as well as he knew the others, "I think Brzezinski is a dedicated man who is working for the President of the United States.... I think it is outrageous to infer that a person is anti-Semitic when there is absolutely no proof to that. I think it is a very dangerous policy for any individual to throw around and try to besmirch anyone with the epithet that he is anti-Semitic."

Sen. Jacob K. Javits (R. N.Y.), himself a frequent critic of the Administration's Middle East policies, said the Administration was "tilting too far in favor of the Arabs" but "I cannot subscribe to the notion that there is some animus against Israel in this situation. I don't think it is in the hearts or minds of the American people either."

Sen. Charles Percy (R. Ill.) said, "I have seen no evidence whatsoever to sustain the allegation made by Weicker." Jerold Schechter, spokesman for the National Security Council, said Weicker's charges were "false, inflammatory statements." He said Brzezinski "has repeatedly made it clear that the U.S. commitment to Israel is unshakable because it is derived from the strongest moral imperatives."

The State Department's chief spokesman, Hodding Carter, asked today to comment on Weicker's speech, said, "I think what he said was reprehensible, a gross misstatement of fact, demagoguery." He said he thought Weicker has been "answered" adequately by Javits, Ribicoff, Moynihan and Lipshutz. "He was referring to White House Counsel Robert Lipshutz and Sen. Daniel P. Moynihan (D. N.Y.) who were at the AIPAC conference and spoke up immediately after Weicker's remarks."

Weicker's press secretary, Rebecca Lett, said today that "those people who have read the entire speech, by and large, have had a different impression of what he was saying than those who have read only news accounts of it."

FAMILIES IN ISRAEL ARE MOBILE

JERUSALEM, May 10 (JTA)--Every fourth family in Israel owns a car notwithstanding the extremely high cost of private vehicles and a much higher percentage owns major household appliances such as refrigerators, washing machines and TV sets, a recent survey by the Central Bureau of Statistics disclosed.

A standard Volkswagen "Beetle," probably the cheapest car on the market, costs the equivalent of \$10,000, including taxes, which is over 30 times the average monthly wage in Israel. The survey showed a co-relation between car ownership and education. Fifty-five percent of the heads of families with cars had 13 or more years of education compared to only three percent with no education who owned cars.

The survey, conducted between July-September, 1977 showed a continuing upward trend in the purchase of cars and costly household appliances.

ADL URGES THAT PLO OFFICES BE CLOSED

NEW YORK, May 10 (JTA)—The Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith has urged the State Department to close Palestine Liberation Organization offices in Washington and New York City because PLO representatives have illegally engaged in fund-raising activities.

Such activities, according to Arnold Forster, ADL's general counsel, violate the terms of the visas held by PLO representatives and of the new Washington office's own sworn submission of purpose. Under the terms of the Foreign Agent Registration Act, foreign agents must file with the Attorney General a "true and complete registration statement...." The registration statement of the Washington PLO office does not declare any intention to engage in fund-raising, Forster said.

Examples Of Violations

In a letter to Secretary of State Cyrus Vance, Forster cited three examples of PLO fund-raising activities, one as recent as April 26. On that date, Hatim I. Hussein, acting director of the PLO office in Washington, made a fund-raising speech at Oklahoma State University in behalf of the Palestinian cause. A box was passed around for contributions from the students in attendance.

Previously, Zehdi Labib Terzi, head of the PLO Observer Delegation to the UN, and Hasan Rahman, his deputy, engaged in fund-raising activities in New York. On one occasion, the two men raised funds for the PLO in the name of "Palestinian Red Crescent," an official PLO organization, at a meeting held at the Armenian Orthodox Church in Manhattan.

Terzi and Rahman also participated in a PLO fund-raising function held in a meeting hall in Brooklyn, Forster reported. There, in addition to a \$5 admission charge, the 200 attendees were also asked to contribute funds to the PLO. Terzi was one of the featured speakers at the meeting, along with Ambassador Abdul Raschad of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen; Charlene Mitchell, 1968 Vice Presidential candidate for the Communist Party; and Sheila Ryan of the Palestine Solidarity Committee. The meeting was called to celebrate the eighth anniversary of the Democratic Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, a constituent group of the PLO.

PLO representatives are present in the United States on the basis of the UN General Assembly's 1974 invitation to send observers to UN sessions in New York, Forster noted. Members of the PLO Observer Delegation are here under visas restricting their movement to the UN headquarters district and its immediate vicinity, a 25-mile radius from Columbus Circle. Individual members of the PLO delegation have on occasion received permission from the State Department to travel beyond the 25-mile limit on personal business, provided that they engaged in no political activity.

Workmen's Circle Calls For Probe

In a related development, William Stern, executive director of the Workmen's Circle, sent a telegram to Vance urging him to conduct an investigation of Terzi's status in view of his "exhortation attacking U.S. aid to Israel." Stern said Terzi made the attack Sunday while addressing a counter-rally to Israel's 30th anniversary celebration in New York and that his attack was carried live on NBC-TV which covered the counter-rally. Stern said he was asking Vance to determine

whether Terzi's involvement in U.S. internal affairs disqualify him as head of the PLO Observer Delegation at the UN.

APPEAL FOR SOVIET JEW

BALTIMORE, May 10 (JTA)—Grigori Svirski, a professor of Russian language and literature at the University of Maryland, has appealed to people of good will to help his cousin, Lev Rozenberg, emigrate from the Soviet Union along with his wife and mother-in-law to live with relatives in Israel.

According to Svirski, a former Moscow activist and author, Rozenberg, 50, his wife, Valentina, 49, and his mother-in-law, Shifra Sharf, 83, first applied for an exit visa in 1975. The visa application was rejected because Soviet officials claimed that Rozenberg's former job as an engineer at the Toupolev airplane plant was classified as "secret."

Svirski said that "the term within which secrecy must be maintained long ago expired. More than five years have passed since he changed his 'secret' job for a 'non-secret' one." The family, Svirski added, re-applied eight times since the first refusal and four times was turned down without any explanation; four other letters of visa requests remained unanswered.

"Mr. Rozenberg has been writing letters to (Soviet President Leonid) Brezhnev, (Supreme Soviet chairman Nikolai) Podgorny, and other authorities demanding a formal written explanation of the refusals, reasons, and the exact time they would have to wait. He never received an answer," Svirski said. "The point of the matter is blatant lawlessness, even from the standpoint of 'Soviet law.'"

FRIENDSHIP FLIGHT MEMBERS IN REUNION

HARTFORD, Conn., May 10 (JTA)—Some 300 of the 800 Hartford area residents who visited Israel in January as part of the Friendship Flight exchange or hosted an Israeli family who came here, had a reunion at the new Hartford Jewish Community Center Day Camp. They were among 6500 persons who participated in activities at the camp Sunday as the Hartford Jewish Community Center and Greater Hartford Jewish Federation began eight days of celebrations in honor of Israel's 30th anniversary.

The Hartford "Friendship Ambassadors" heard a report on events in Israel since their visit from Benjamin Abileah, director of the Israel Information Center in New York. They watched a film and admired each other's scrap books of the Israel visit. About 75 of the "ambassadors" marched as a group among 2000 persons in a nine-mile walkathon earlier in the day from the Beth Hill Synagogue to the day camp for a public outdoor picnic festival. Numerous other events are being planned here through next Sunday.

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

TEL AVIV, May 10 (JTA)—Israeli parents are constantly searching for new, fashionable names for their children. Yet a survey conducted in the army of popular names of soldiers revealed that the majority of the parents stick to old, Biblical names. Among the male soldiers the most frequent name is Joseph (4428), followed by David (4140); Moshe (4069) and Avraham (4052). In descending order of frequency are Yaacov, Yitzhak, Chaim, Shlomo, Eliyahu, Magedchai, Shimon, Michel and Aryeh. Among the female soldiers the leading name is Rina (1378), which is well ahead of the runners-up — Rachel (903) and Esther (849). Other popular names are, in order, Sara, Ilana, Miriam, Ruth and Hanna.