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U.S. WELCOMES ISRAEL'S MOVE TO REMOVE ALL ITS FORCES FROM SOUTH LEBANON

By Helen Silver

WASHINGTON, May 22 (JTA)--The State Department welcomed Israel's announcement yesterday that all of its forces would be withdrawn from south Lebanon by June 13. Commenting on the Israeli Cabinet's decision, Department spokesman Tom Reston noted today that when Premier Menachem Begin was in Washington earlier this month, he promised Secretary of State Cyrus Vance that the Cabinet would decide on a final date for withdrawal "and that is what the Israeli Cabinet has done."

With respect to the questions put to Israel by the U.S. for clarification of aspects of its peace plan, Reston told reporters, "We have no time deadline in reviewing or getting those answers back." The Israeli Cabinet had been expected to discuss the matter at its weekly session yesterday but instead deferred it to a later date.

Reston's statement on south Lebanon said: "We obviously welcome the announcement of the date by which Israel will complete its withdrawal from Lebanon. The U.S. strongly supports United Nations Resolution 425 which calls for Israel's withdrawal and established the UN peacekeeping force in order to restore peace and security in the area and restoration of the Lebanese government's authority over south Lebanon. We have been impressed with the speed with which the UN force was established and put into place."

Reston added, "We believe it is important to implement all elements of Resolution 425 so that Lebanese authority over the area can be re-established as soon as possible. We also believe it is important that all parties support the peace-keeping force in carrying out its mandate."

"From the outset of this whole thing, the Israelis have said they did not intend to remain in southern Lebanon and assured the UN that they would comply with Resolution 425 in all its aspects. When Premier Menachem Begin was here in Washington he assured Secretary Vance that at the first possible Cabinet meeting, the Israeli Cabinet would address itself to the question of a final date for withdrawal and that is what the Israeli Cabinet has done."

DEFENSE MINISTRY CONSIDERING EXPANDING GUSH SETTLEMENTS AREA

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, May 22 (JTA)--The Defense Ministry is considering proposals to expand the area of the controversial Gush Emunim settlements on the West Bank, a move that has already aroused protests from neighboring Arab villagers and could have political repercussions at home and abroad.

If the Ministry decides to go ahead, four Gush settlements near Jerusalem will be the immediate recipients of 100-250 additional acres of land each which they claim is not owned by Arabs but is government property. Defense Ministry sources have stressed that so far they are only looking into the issue following a visit to the settlements last week by Deputy Defense Minister Mordechai Zippori, and that there has been

no decision, even in principle, to seize the land.

A group of Arab residents near the Nabi Salih settlement north of Jerusalem filed an injunction in the Supreme Court yesterday against the seizure. The plan must be approved by the Cabinet before it can be implemented.

Last week, the Ministerial Settlement Committee announced that it would review shortly a plan to "thicken" six settlements, four of them surrounding Jerusalem and the others in the Samaria district. The apparent intensification of settlement activity on the West Bank has coincided with reports that the military government plans to expropriate Arab lands there valued at millions of pounds whose owners live abroad.

NO CONFIRMATION OF NEW POLICY

Until now, the government has distinguished between land belonging to Arabs who fled to "enemy," i.e., other Arab countries, and those who became residents of neutral or Western countries. In the former case, the land was considered abandoned property and taken over by the government. But many Arabs now living in the West left their property in the hands of other-Arabs whom they furnished with powers of attorney.

They have been recognized as the legal owners but the military government reportedly intends to abolish the distinction. According to some reports, former West Bankers in the U.S. have organized groups to petition the U.S. government to restrain Israel from taking over their property.

There has been no confirmation of any new policy on the part of the government. But Yaacov Vekin, director general of the Israel Lands Administration, told reporters today that new directives have been issued against allegedly forged powers of attorney. According to press reports, the measures were taken on the basis of reports that enemy organizations have bought absentee Arab property to keep it from falling into Israel's hands.

The entire issue of real estate transactions on the West Bank is cloaked in a veil of secrecy and it is difficult to get any on-the-record comments from either Arabs or Jews.

ATTACK AT ORLY AND TERROR GROUP COMMUNIQUE SEEN AS WAR AGAINST FRANCE

By Edwin Eytan

PARIS, May 22 (JTA)--French public opinion and French security services consider Saturday's terrorist attack at Orly Airport and the communiqué later released by a group calling itself the Sons of South Lebanon as being, to all practical purposes, a declaration of war against France. The communiqué, released in Beirut a few hours after three terrorists tried to machinegun passengers waiting to embark on an El Al flight to Tel Aviv, stated:

"We have carried out this operation (the attack) on French territory to remind the French government of its colonial past and to warn it against any return to the colonial policy which was carried out before General de Gaulle." General de Gaulle, who became President in 1958, ended the Algerian war, strained France's relations with Israel and tried to improve Franco-Arab ties.

The communiqué said the terrorist attack carried the code name "Abbasieh," after the village in south Lebanon where French paratroopers serving

with the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), clashed with Palestinian guerrillas. In a telephone call to the Beirut office of the French daily *Le Figaro*, a spokesman, claiming to speak on behalf of the terrorist organization, explained: "We have nothing against the French as such but if they become 'the Cubans of the United States,' we shall be forced to act the way the French act in south Lebanon, Chad and Zaire."

The spokesman added: "The Orly operation is only the first of a series which we intend to carry out in Africa and the Middle East. We, the sons of south Lebanon, will never forget the massacre carried out by French soldiers against Patah fighters in Abassieh."

Involvement Of Soviet Union Seen

Several French papers believe that the new terrorist organization is controlled by the Soviet Union and is part of its attempt to stop French intervention in Africa. One paper, *L'Aurore*, claimed that "Carlos," the mysterious Venezuelan-born terrorist, is at its head, and personally directed the Orly attack.

French police say they have no inside information of who is behind the attack or the organization itself. The three terrorists who were killed in the ensuing shoot-out carried Tunisian and Lebanese passports believed to have been forged. Their grenades were Soviet-made but their sub-machineguns were a recent model of the Italian Beretta automatic pistol.

The police take seriously the Sons of South Lebanon warning. French security forces have started reorganizing the procedures at Orly Airport and are about to construct separate channels for departing passengers according to their destination to prevent passengers in transit from mixing with them.

The three terrorists reportedly held boarding cards for Tunis and joined the crowd in the transit lounge waiting to embark for Israel. The police also hope that the official PLO representatives in Paris will help them track down any possible accomplices still hiding here.

Political And Diplomatic Consequences

Saturday's attack and the terrorist communiqué's vehement attack on France and President Valery Giscard d'Estaing's foreign policy can have important political and diplomatic consequences. It comes at a time when French public opinion and the French political establishment are increasingly critical of Israel's foreign policy and favorable to Egyptian President Anwar Sadat and the Arab cause.

The attack also is seen by French political leaders as opposition by violent means to the French policy of intervention in Africa and the Middle East. In addition, the attack has shown in no uncertain way that the PLO cannot control all Palestinian elements and cannot claim to be the sole representative of the Palestinians, as it does.

Meanwhile, resentment has been expressed privately by French police officials over Israeli claims that the terrorists were shot by Israeli security agents practically without the help of the French riot police which guard the airport terminal and patrol the corridors and lounges.

The police are bitter, stressing that the only non-terrorist victim is a French police sublieutenant who paid with his life for the French police intervention. The police also stress that El Al is granted more privileges than any other airline operating in France and that the El Al security

guards had always enjoyed the full help and cooperation of the French authorities.

REPORT CAIRO JEWISH CEMETERY DESECRATED

PARIS, May 22 (JTA) -- Several companies and individuals have started constructing villas and other housing projects on the site of Cairo's Jewish cemetery at Bassatine. A Jewish tourist who recently visited Egypt told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that tombstones have been torn out and graves desecrated as the construction work goes on. In several cases the tombstones have been used for the project. Several of the people responsible for the project appear to be Egyptian army officers, the eyewitness said.

Preliminary work on the project started two years ago but the local Jewish community appealed at the time to Egyptian President Anwar Sadat to have it stopped. Sadat, the witness said local Jews told her, personally intervened and the construction stopped.

Three months ago, however, work was renewed and is now in progress. The local community, the eyewitness said, has given up all hope and no longer plans to ask for Sadat's intervention. The Bassatine Cemetery is the main burial ground for Egypt's Jews and is more than 100 years old.

ISRAELI DOVES CANCEL TRIP TO EGYPT AT THE REQUEST OF THEIR HOSTS

JERUSALEM, May 22 (JTA) -- A group of academics and journalists associated with the Socialist-Zionist New Outlook magazine, cancelled their departure for Egypt yesterday after receiving a request from their Egyptian hosts to defer the visit which was arranged some time ago.

According to members of the delegation, the Egyptians made the request because Egypt was in the midst of a controversial referendum on President Anwar Sadat's proposed measures to outlaw opposition groups in light of Egypt's serious domestic difficulties. According to reports from Cairo today, Sadat won a 98 percent victory.

Members of the group said they hoped to go through with the planned visit in a week or two. They include Profs. Shimon Shamir, Shaul Friedlander and Yehoshua Arieli, all prominent political scientists and writers David Shaham and Simha Flapan. They had been granted permits to leave for Egypt by the Interior Ministry last week. The visit would have marked the first personal contacts between Israeli and Egyptian intellectuals since peace talks were broken off in January.

HEBRONITE DIES AT THE AGE OF 150

JERUSALEM, May 22 (JTA) -- When Israel celebrated its independence 30 years ago, Yusuf Awad Mohammad Burkan was 120 years old, and still going strong. Last week he died at the age of 150, leaving three wives, 48 children and their descendants the legacy of a long and healthy life. Burkan was 100 years old when he married his third wife who was a mere 17 years old. The union was a happy one and they had several children.

The Jerusalem Arabic-language paper *Al-Anba* which disclosed the death of the old Hebronite, said Burkan was one of the workers who took part in the digging of the Suez Canal in the middle of the last century, served for 35 years in the Ottoman Empire army and for the last 70 years cultivated his lands near Hebron.

BEHIND THE HEADLINES**THE AFTERMATH OF THE JET SET VICTORY**

By Joseph Polakoff (Washington).
and Yitzhak Rabi (New York)

May 22 (JTA)—A cartoonist's version of the Senate's approval last Monday by a vote of 54-44 of President Carter's Mideast warplanes package shows a dove bearing an olive branch tagged 54-44 and a startled Premier Menachem Begin of Israel looking at it while holding a poster declaring with emphatic negativity: "no compromise, no deals, no trades, no bargains, no nothing." The dove is saying, "Message for you Menachem," but a tiny bird in a corner is whispering "More of a hint, really."

The cartoon essentially captures the general impression being conveyed by much of the media on the vote's meaning and the continuing distortion of the Israeli government's negotiating positions: the "watershed" for Israel's concept in U.S. relations; defeat of the "Jewish lobby"; contrast with previous Senate attitudes; the rise in the estimation of Saudi Arabia and Egypt and the downgrading of Israel into "even-handedness" with the Arab powers emerging as results of the vote.

Nevertheless, through it all runs the vein that Israel continues to have U.S. support—the difference is that now Israel is not the favorite but a co-favorite in the U.S. pursuit of peace and the U.S. national interest in Arab oil and Arab influence. The "Jewish lobby," which is cropping up often with ominous foreboding, is seen in many quarters as suffering a defeat.

Some Jewish commentators, using their Jewishness as a qualification for expertise, are talking of a change that the community must now consider in its relations with the Administration and Congress. They suggest the Jewish leadership must cut its cloth to suit the new circumstances in the perceived new mood.

Subjects For Debate

Whether a bandwagon effect is in process to Israel's disadvantage or whether this is a clever, if tainted package maneuver by the Carter Administration, is a question that will be long discussed. Whether the pro-Israeli Americans should have attacked the Administration's proposal, although they knew—at least many did—that defeat in Congress was probable, is another subject for debate. Political logic is seldom straight and reasoning either way is considered plausible.

The debate showed many Senators voted for the package not because they liked Saudi Arabia or even Egypt's President Anwar Sadat, certainly not to please President Carter and absolutely not against the so-called "Jewish lobby" and Israel. As some made known, they voted for it because they oppose tearing down the President's commitment to the Arabs, feared the consequences of Saudi Arabia's undeniable grip on world finance, and of course, worried over the flow and price of oil. The Saudi factor in the equation became paramount because of America's economic weakness and energy dependence.

The "watershed for Israel" viewers are probably unpopular with the leadership of both major parties. The President and top people in his Administration lost no time telling the Jewish community leaders and their backers that Israel will not suffer and not to consider the Administration anti-Israel.

Strong Reassurance From Mondale

This point was underscored by Vice President Walter Mondale in his address to the 72nd annual meeting of the American Jewish Committee in New York last Thursday night. He told the 1000 Jewish leaders from around the country that the "special partnership" between the U.S. and Israel "will not be undermined."

In an apparent reference to accusations made after the Senate voted last Monday that the White House "sold Israel for oil," Mondale declared: "We would never forsake that commitment (to Israel's security)—not for the trappings of office, not for 100 planes and not for thousands of barrels of oil."

In what seemed designed to end recriminations on either side of the planes sale debate, the Vice President stated: "We will never reach the goal (of peace in the Mideast) if every step demands new proof, not of the rightness of our cause or the rationality of our judgement but of the purity of our intentions."

Denies Pressure On Israel

He told the audience that American military and economic assistance to Israel will continue "not as a lever to force accommodation but as a fundamental commitment to the strength and survival of a free democracy. It will never be used as a form of pressure against Israel. And it will always reflect a special relationship—which will always remain special."

Mondale underlined this by affirming: "We must not doubt the sincerity of a President who speaks of a 'total' and 'absolute commitment' to Israel, not for another 30 years, but 'forever.' There is no question in my mind that President Carter will fulfill the letter and the spirit of that promise."

Throughout his address, the audience responded politely without the enthusiasm such a strong statement would have evoked only two weeks ago. Nevertheless, Mondale received a standing ovation at the end of his speech. Minutes before Mondale spoke, Israeli Ambassador Simcha Dinitz stated: "Last Monday (the day of the Senate vote) was not the happiest day in the United States-Israeli relations. I stand before you as a representative of a country not angry, but a little injured."

Embarrassed GOP Leadership

The Republican leadership, embarrassed by the better than 2-1 vote the Republican Senators gave the President, rushed to blame the Administration for political chicanery with the idea of packaging the sale of planes to Israel with that to Saudi Arabia and Egypt and pledged continued support for Israel. In addition, top GOP leaders sought to utilize the dissatisfaction among Jews, traditionally heavily Democratic, with the Carter Administration to appeal to Jewish opinion.

This was evidenced over the weekend in speeches to Jewish audiences in New York by William Brock, chairman of the Republican National Committee, and Sen. Robert Packwood (Ore.), chairman of the Republican Senate Campaign Committee. Brock, in an address at the 80th anniversary dinner of the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations, said the planes sale signaled "an absolutely clear and inescapable shift in American foreign policy." (See full story in May 22 Bulletin.)

Packwood, addressing the massive "Solidarity Sunday for Soviet Jewry" rally, said the planes sale was similar to the appeasement of Hitler at Munich. "I would have also thought that Munich

would have taught us the lesson: 'Never again,' he said. The Senator denounced the State Department for a "long-standing and blatant" anti-Jewish bias and said that "They have won a new battle in which they have either captured a President, or worse, they have taken in a willing partner." He also blasted the State Department for "the sinister allegation that the so-called Jewish lobby or Israel lobby is disloyal to America."

Some analysts are now saying that the warplanes' vote was hardly a barometer of "Jewish influence" and that the Republicans missed a great opportunity to swing a large segment of the voting blocs in key states to their side.

Whatever the postmortems may be, the country now is watching which way the President will move next in the Middle East peace process. If he continues to press Israel for concessions without using the force of his public appearances to induce Egypt, Saudi Arabia and Jordan into recognizing them must also move to accommodate Israel's territorial and security requirements, the warplanes package "defeat" may be seen as merely another instance of the Carter Administration favoring the Arab cause to Israel's disadvantage. The political tide, consequently, then may well take a decisive change, it is said, and probably in a way the White House will rue.

PEACENIKS DEMONSTRATE IN JERUSALEM

By David Landau and Yitzhak Sharot

JERUSALEM, May 22 (JTA)--Several hundred supporters of the Peace Now movement demonstrated outside the Prime Minister's Office during yesterday's Cabinet meeting and heckled ministers as they left the premises after their five-hour session. The demonstrators had assumed, mistakenly, that the Cabinet was discussing key questions posed to Israel by the United States several weeks ago seeking clarification and further details of Israel's peace plan.

But the Cabinet deferred consideration of that matter to a later date. Meanwhile, Peace Now leaders met with a group of American Jewish leaders who support their aims, among them Rabbi Arthur Hertzberg, former president of the American Jewish Congress, and Rabbi Wolfe Kelman, executive vice-president of the Rabbinical Assembly of America, the rabbinical branch of Conservative Judaism in the U.S. According to press reports, both men offered to raise funds for the movement in the U.S. or to help the Peace Now leaders raise funds themselves.

Golda Castigates Peace Now Movement

The Peace Now advocates encountered a powerful foe in former Premier Golda Meir who denounced them yesterday during a festive meeting of the Labor Party in Tel Aviv honoring her on the occasion of her 80th birthday. Mrs. Meir, who has maintained public silence until now in the political debate over the Begin government's peace policies, claimed that the Peace Now supporters were naive and did not in fact know what they want.

She said she could not understand the thinking of such people and asked whether any of them could guarantee that their children would grow up in peace if their policies were adopted. According to Meir, any peace agreement signed with President Anwar Sadat of Egypt would become worthless if Sadat's successor decided to tear it up.

She criticized the Begin peace plan for being too generous in offering to return all of Sinai to

Egyptian sovereignty--albeit with extra-territorial rights for Israeli settlers--and called for a permanent buffer zone between Israel and Egypt embracing the Gaza Strip and the Rafah salient of Sinai. She said she would never withdraw from the Golan Heights and observed that no previous government would accept Arab demands for Israel to return to its 1967 borders.

Meir insisted that she was for peace, but not necessarily now and not with any deadline "like a sword looming over any Israeli government." Meir said she would like to meet with Peace Now members to hear their ideas. Leaders of the movement said later that they would seek a meeting with her and also with Shimon Peres, leader of the opposition Labor Alignment, to sound out Labor's attitude toward their views.

NEO-NAZIS UNDER DEATH THREATS

By Edwin Eytan

PARIS, May 22 (JTA)--A group calling itself The Remembrance Commando has threatened to kill one of the leaders of France's minute neo-Nazi party. The group, which has already assumed responsibility for the murder on March 20 of right-wing parliamentary candidate François Duprat, telephoned the French News Agency AFP yesterday to say "we intend to immediately execute the neo-Nazi Pierre Clementi."

The Remembrance Commando apparently is accusing Clementi of being responsible for the explosion which last week slightly damaged the Paris offices of the Association of French Concentration Camp Deportees.

Clementi is a former officer in the French Legion of Volunteers which fought with the Nazis on the Russian front during World War II. Sentenced to death after France's liberation, he has since been pardoned and now leads the small New European Order, a neo-Nazi organization.

An anonymous group calling itself The Palper Commando, named after the SS Colonel who was murdered in his villa in southern France on July 14, 1976, has assumed responsibility for several bomb explosions in Paris. The Remembrance Commando apparently believes that Clementi, now in his 70s, and his men are behind these attacks.

Duprat, a university lecturer who specialized in translating into French former Nazi pamphlets, was killed by a bomb which blew up his car on the eve of France's parliamentary elections earlier this year. Duprat was running for Parliament on an extreme rightwing ticket. French police have suspected since then that the two minute groups, neo-Nazis and Jewish extremists, are engaged in a sort of gang warfare.

ISRAELI INDEPENDENCE BALL JUNE 18

WASHINGTON, May 22 (JTA)--First Lady Rosalynn Carter is honorary chairman of the annual Israeli Independence Ball to be held Sunday, June 18 at the Washington-Hilton Hotel in celebration of Israel's 30th anniversary. The black-tie affair is under the patronage of Israeli Ambassador and Mrs. Simcha Dinitz. The honorary committee which she heads includes Vice President Walter Mondale, House Speaker Thomas O'Neill and five Cabinet members--Treasury Secretary Michael Blumenthal, Agriculture Secretary Bob L. Bergland, Commerce Secretary Juanita Kreps, Labor Secretary Ray Marshall and Transportation Secretary Brock Adams. Others on the committee are Senate and House Democratic and Republican leaders.