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## BEGIN DISCLOSES HE ORDERED AIR STRIKE 11 DAYS AGO AGAINST SYRIAN MISSILES BUT ATTACK DELAYED BY BAD WEATHER, LETTER FROM REAGAN By Gil Sedar

JERUSALEM, May 11 (JTA) -- Premier Menachem Begin disclosed in the Knesset today that he had ordered the Air Force 11 days ago to attack Syrian SAM-6 anti-aircraft missile batteries in eastern Lebanon and indicated that he would not hesitate to order an air strike again if the Syrians refuse to remove the missiles.

Begin said the planned attack was delayed first by bad weather and then by a personal letter from President Reagan urging Israel not to take any action until all diplomatic means to resolve the crisis are exhausted. Begin described Reagan's message as "one of the friendliest letters received by an Israeli government from an American President in recent years" and implied that its tone convinced him to exercise restraint for the time being.

Veteran U.S. diplomat Philip Habib, Reagan's special representative, is due here today from Damascus on his mission to defuse the situation and avoid an Israeli-Syrian confrontation. Reports from the Syrian capital indicated that Habib made little headway with President Hafez Assad. Most Israeli officials have said they have little hope that the missile crisis can be resolved peacefully.

### Extent Of Missiles Deployment

In his political statement to the Knesset, Begin described the extent of the deployment of missiles in Lebanon. He said there are presently 14 anti-aircraft batteries in that country and on the Lebanese-Syrian border. One of them, a SAM-9 battery, is operated by Libyan soldiers, Begin said. In Lebanon proper there are presently five Syrian SAM-6 batteries and on the border four SAM-6, two SAM-2 and two SAM-3 batteries.

Labor Alignment MKs immediately attacked Begin for revealing those details, saying he demonstrated a lack of national responsibility. Begin ignored the protest. He told the Knesset that the day after he gave Chief of Staff Gen. Rafael Eitan orders to unleash the Air Force he received a letter from Secretary of State Alexander Haig asking Israel for time to exhaust the diplomatic process. He said Reagan's letter followed.

He said Reagan had asked in his letter, "What indeed is the danger?" of delay. He said he replied, in a message delivered to Reagan last week:

"In addition to all else, when our pilots embark to do what they will have to do, for the sake of the most vital interest of our security, which is an integral part of the security of the free world, some of them may be downed, killed or taken prisoner. If any of them fall into captivity, they will suffer the most cruel torture ... I speak, Mr. President in the name of experience. These are dangers and risks we take upon ourselves by accepting a further delay of action." Begin praised the present state of relations between Israel and

the U.S., saying he could not recall a previous time when the understanding between the two countries was so great. Nevertheless, he repeated Israel's opposition to the Administration's proposal to sell advanced weapons to Saudi Arabia.

The Premier also took the occasion to attack Egyptian Foreign Minister Boutros Ghali for implying a week ago that Egypt might support an Arab country that was attacked by Israel. He claimed that statement was contrary to the letter and spirit of the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty and expressed hope that it was made without the knowledge or consent of President Anwar Sadat.

### Bitter Message To Assad

Begin addressed a bitter message to President Hafez Assad of Syria, as "from one enemy to another." He demanded that Assad refrain from brinkmanship and warned that if Syria does not remove its missiles from Lebanon, Israel will not tolerate their continued presence.

Begin implied that there was a national consensus on the Lebanon crisis when he quoted Labor Party chairman Shimon Peres as saying that if diplomatic efforts fail to get the missiles removed, the use of military force should not be excluded. Peres, who addressed the Knesset in reply, said that while he did not rule out the use of military force, there was no national consensus "on most of the issues on the agenda."

According to Peres, Israeli policy in Lebanon suffered from lack of a defined purpose. Whereas Begin declared unflinching support for the Christian forces in that country, Peres said it was up to the Christians to decide what kind of Lebanon they wanted but it was not up to Israel to fight their battles for them.

"Will the Israeli army fight instead of the Lebanese army?" he asked, "and will this war be limited against the Syrians and not against the Moslems of Lebanon? War is no small matter. We must not commit ourselves to a path of generalizations and euphoria which has no clear definitions or limitations," Peres declared.

Peres also questioned the wisdom of declaring, as Begin did to a Likud forum last night, that Israel intended to launch its air force against the missiles in Lebanon. "Who needed the specifications?" he asked, adding: "This is a serious period for the people and the State." While the Knesset debate continued into the evening, it was apparent that there will be no joint resolution when it ends.

### SPECIAL ANALYSIS

#### MITTERRAND'S VICTORY BODES

#### WEIL FOR IMPROVED MIDEAST POLICY

By Edwin Eytan

PARIS, May 11 (JTA) -- French President-elect Francois Mitterrand is determined to try and improve Franco-Israeli relations, adopt a more balanced French policy in the Middle East and try to stem West European initiatives on the subject for the time being.

Sources close to the 64-year-old Socialist who yesterday inflicted a shattering defeat to outgoing

President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, said he plans to implement all his pre-electoral pledges. These include a halt to the shipments of enriched uranium to Iraq, a re-evaluation of French arms sales to the Arab countries and the extension of official invitations to the Israeli President and Premier to visit France.

Mitterrand's first official function today, after he returned to Paris from his country home at Chateau-Chinon, was to visit the grave of his life-long friend Georges Dayan at Montparnasse Jewish Cemetery. The Jewish Senator, who served as Mitterrand's main contact with Israel and the Jewish community, died two years ago during the 1974 electoral campaign, which Giscard won. Dayan was slated for a senior Cabinet post.

#### High Posts For Several Jews, Friends of Israel

Mitterrand is expected to assume his Presidential function on May 25th when he will appoint a caretaker government, dismiss the National Assembly and call for new parliamentary elections in the hope of winning a friendly majority in the house.

The caretaker government will probably include several Jews and several of Israel's best known friends such as Marseilles Mayor Gaston Defferre, who is expected to become Vice Premier; Jewish attorney Robert Badinter, slated to become Attorney General; and economist Jacques Attali, mentioned as the probable next Elisee Palace chief of staff and main presidential adviser. Both Badinter and Attali are board members of the Fonds Social Juif Unifié (FSJU), France's central Jewish welfare fund.

#### Role For The Communist Party

Simultaneously, the Socialists will start negotiations with the Communist Party to reach a basic electoral agreement for the legislative elections expected to take place next month. Mitterrand was elected with the help of five million Communist voters and he will need the Communist party's active help if he is to win a friendly majority in the house.

France's 1958 constitution promulgated by Gen. Charles De Gaulle would practically paralyze the President unless he wins a majority in the Chamber of Deputies now ruled by the center-right parties which backed Giscard.

Many here fear that Mitterrand's need for active Communist support might force him to moderate his pro-Israeli views. An extreme leftwing group within his own party known as the CERES, is also known for its pro-Palestinian tendencies and its lukewarm support for Israel.

The new Administration's government will be appointed only after the June 28 parliamentary elections. Communist Party chief Georges Marchais last night, minutes after the official results became known, demanded Communist governmental participation in the new regime. Marchais also stressed that the Socialists and Communists will have to reach an overall policy agreement as the price for a joint electoral campaign. It is not known whether the Communists will insist on concessions on Israel as part of this price.

#### Mitterrand Acquainted With Israel

Mitterrand is well acquainted with Israel and its leaders. He visited Israel five times during the last 10 years and conferred with Israel's Labor Party on many occasions at the International Socialist conferences which both parties attend.

He served in 11 ministerial posts in the pre-De Gaulle French Fourth Republic. His last post was Attorney General in Guy Mollet's 1958 war Cabinet which led France during the Suez campaign when a joint Franco-Israeli force tried to topple the Nasser regime and with Britain's help open the Suez Canal to international shipping.

After running, and losing, in the 1968 Presidential election against De Gaulle, Mitterrand devoted himself to the reconstruction of the Socialist Party. From that time on, he found himself in close personal contact with dozens of Jews who, since Leon Blum's 1936 Socialist Premiership, have traditionally flocked to the country's leftwing parties.

#### Majority Of Jews Backed Mitterrand

First available polls show that a majority of France's 400,000 Jewish voters backed Mitterrand. A splinter Jewish organization, Jewish Revival, had actively campaigned for an anti-Giscard "sanction vote" and many of Mitterrand's Jewish supporters had campaigned in favor of the Socialist challenger.

Mitterrand's victory might change a 23-year-old French traditional pro-Arab policy in the Middle East. De Gaulle, upon his rise to power in 1958, started a process of loosening of formerly close Franco-Israeli ties. He imposed an arms embargo on the eve of the Six-Day War. His two successors, Georges Pompidou and Giscard, continued this policy and even gave it additional weight.

#### Four Elements In The Mideast Policy

Mitterrand's Middle East policy, as it appears from press interviews, official Socialist documents and his May 6 meeting with a delegation from the Representative Council of Major Jewish Organizations in France (CRIF), contains four basic elements:

\*Full support for the Camp David agreements which the Socialists see as an important step towards a global agreement in the Mideast. France, it is believed, will press its nine European Economic Community (EEC) partners to come out in support of the Israeli-Egyptian peace treaty.

\*Recognition of the Palestine Liberation Organization as "the most representative" Palestinian organization and accepting the eventual creation of a Palestinian homeland. The Palestinians, in the Socialist view, are called to play an important role in future negotiations for a global peace agreement on condition that they recognize Israel and accept its right to exist.

\*Halting the shipments of enriched uranium liable to be used for military purposes by Iraq and a re-evaluation of overall French arms sales to the Arab countries. In his reply to the CRIF leaders, Mitterrand broadly hinted at the possibility of French arms sales to Israel by saying that "it is not enough to recognize Israel's right to exist unless it is given the means to ensure its independence."

\*A more restrained attitude on Lebanon than that of the outgoing Administration. The French Socialists are not overly warm supporters of the Christians nor are they in favor of stationing a French peacekeeping force in the country. The Socialists would also have second thoughts about an Israeli pre-emptive strike in Lebanon and are in favor of a relaxation of tensions between Israel and Syria which could provoke a new oil crisis.

Most observers nonetheless, believe that in spite of Mitterrand's pre-electoral pledges and his good intentions, France is about to enter into a period of uncertainty and that only time will reveal how Mitterrand will manage to cope with the mass of problems which he will have to face. The Middle East will be one of the main issues on his path of an understanding with France's powerful Communist Party.

## DUTCH F.M. DOUBTS USEFULNESS OF EUROPEAN MIDEAST INITIATIVE

By David Landau

**JERUSALEM, May 11 (JTA)** -- Foreign Minister Christoph van der Klaauw of The Netherlands, current chairman of the Council of Ministers of the European Economic Community (EEC), said on his arrival in Israel today that he was frankly doubtful that the European initiative in the Middle East could indeed lead to a comprehensive peace in the region. But he said he would continue his efforts to solicit the views of the various parties concerned.

Van der Klaauw's visit here is the second phase of a fact-finding mission undertaken on behalf of the EEC. Last month he visited several Arab states and met in Beirut with Palestine Liberation Organization chief Yasser Arafat, a contact that infuriated the Israelis.

Officials here said that Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir expressed "displeasure" when he greeted the Dutch diplomat today, that he had seen fit to meet the head of an organization that has the avowed purpose of destroying Israel.

Van der Klaauw's doubts about the European initiative came, as a surprise inasmuch as his Middle East mission was undertaken in connection with last year's Venice declaration by the EEC heads of state which supported territorial compromise and PLO association with the Mideast peace process. Van der Klaauw also told reporters that the EEC Council of Ministers was very much concerned over the crisis in Lebanon but was not planning any initiative or intervention to restore tranquility in that country.

## U.S. CONTINUES TO CALL SITUATION IN LEBANON 'EXTREMELY DANGEROUS'

By David Friedman

**WASHINGTON, May 11 (JTA)** -- The State Department continued to maintain silence today on any specifics with respect to the situation in Lebanon except to call it "extremely dangerous."

"We see the situation as extremely dangerous and continue to urge restraint on all involved," Department spokesman Dean Fischer told reporters. "As such, that means we are applying the same rule to ourselves," he said. Fischer cited that rule to explain why he could not comment on a statement by Israeli Premier Menachem Begin yesterday that Israel would order its air force to attack the SAM-6 anti-aircraft missiles Syria has deployed in Lebanon if they are not removed peacefully, or on Begin's disclosure today that he had ordered an attack 11 days ago.

Fischer noted that the State Department has not commented on any public statements by the officials of any of the countries involved. He also declined to say whether the Soviet Union is being helpful in the Lebanese situation or whether Philip Habib, who was sent to the Middle East by President Reagan last week to help defuse the tension would start another round of talks after he completes his current meetings with Israeli officials.

## Possible Shuttle Diplomacy For Habib

Habib arrived in Jerusalem from Damascus today. A White House official indicated that he might begin a round of shuttle-type diplomacy between the key capitals if requested to do so by Secretary of State Alexander Haig. According to reports from Jerusalem, Habib met for 90 min-

utes with Begin and said afterwards that his talks with the Premier had been "useful." He told reporters that he informed Begin of his efforts in Lebanon and Syria and that they would meet again tomorrow.

Fischer noted that so far Habib has followed a set schedule by visiting Lebanon, Syria and Israel in that order. He reminded reporters, however, that at the outset of his mission, the State Department had said that Habib's schedule was "flexible."

Apart from terming it "dangerous," the State Department has refused to make any substantive comments on the crisis in Lebanon which erupted last month after the Syrian army attacked Christian forces in Zahle. Fischer refused to say today whether the U.S. still considers the Syrian army in Lebanon to be a peacekeeping force. But he cautioned reporters not to infer any change of policy from his silence.

## MODAI DEFENDS ISRAEL'S AID TO THE CHRISTIANS IN LEBANON

By Michael Solomon

**MONTREAL, May 11 (JTA)** -- Energy Minister Yitzhak Modai of Israel said that the Syrians "have taken hold of a great part of Lebanon and are wiping out the Christian population of Lebanon. The only country helping the Christians is Israel because we have a great interest in an independent and free Lebanon. Israel will never allow Syria to take over Lebanon or any other neighboring country to Israel."

Modai, who was here after visiting Washington where he had talks with Reagan Administration officials, told a press conference here last Friday that it is "within the power of Israel to preserve the status quo in Lebanon and if the Soviets want to intervene, then Lebanon will become an issue for the free world because it is oil territory and the gate to Asia and Africa. Israel can take risks up to a limit and is capable of eradicating the missiles Syria now has in Lebanon. Legally, and from a viewpoint of security, Israel is entitled to remove the missiles."

Discussing his talks in Washington, Modai said he met with Secretary of Energy James Edwards and was told that increases in oil prices had nothing to do with the Israel-Arab conflict nor with the Iraqi-Iranian war. He said he had found common ground with the Reagan Administration and had not asked for any compensation to offset the American arms sales to Saudi Arabia. "I emphasized that Israel rejects or opposes any such deal and I was not seeking any compensation," Modai said. "I asked that the (arms) deal not be implemented."

Asked whether the strong reactions by Premier Menachem Begin of Israel to the presence of Syrian SAM-6 missiles in Lebanon was in part motivated by the approaching elections in Israel next June, Modai replied: "We spent too much blood already to play with more blood of Israeli soldiers for the sake of an election. But elections will not stop us from securing our borders."

## Defends Begin's Criticism Of Schmidt

Regarding Begin's denunciation of Chancellor Helmut Schmidt of West Germany, Modai said "the behavior of Chancellor Schmidt indicates a denial of the responsibility of the German people for the victims of the Holocaust." The Israeli energy minister noted that almost at the same time that Schmidt was ignoring the Holocaust, in a television interview on the day Israel was commemorating Yom Ha'Shoah, President Reagan said in a Yom Ha'Shoah ceremony at the White House that the world must remember the Holocaust. "I say for Chancellor Schmidt to forget it goes against the grain and against humanity," Modai said.

## N.Y. STATE ASSEMBLY SAYS NO TO ARMS SALE TO SAUDI ARABIA

ALBANY, N.Y., May 11 (JTA) -- A resolution calling on the U.S. Congress to disapprove the Reagan Administration's proposed sale of advanced weaponry to Saudi Arabia was adopted by acclamation by the New York State Assembly here last week. Its sponsor, Assemblyman Jerrold Nadler (D-L) of Manhattan said afterwards, "Since this Administration claims that it wants feedback from the 'grass roots' of America, this will tell them that the nation's second most populous state ... stands united against this sale."

The resolution cited, among numerous reasons for opposing the proposed weapons package, the fact that both the Congress and the Israeli government were given commitments, at the time F-15 fighter planes were sold to Saudi Arabia in 1978, that there would be no enhancement of the offensive capabilities of those aircraft.

"The sale of the AWACS (Advanced Warning and Command Systems) and the auxiliary F-15 equipment will constitute a severe danger to the security of Israel, our staunchest ally in the Middle East," the resolution said, and "completion of the sales will greatly exacerbate the Middle East arms race."

### Grave Danger Cited

The resolution also expressed concern that there was "a grave danger of this equipment falling into the hands of unfriendly powers." Nadler explained that "the Saudi government is an unstable one that is threatened by radical leftists allied with the Soviet Union and Libya on one side and fanatical Muslims who sympathize with the Ayatollah Khomeini in Iran, on the other. In the event of a successful revolt, our country could not afford to lose any more top secret weapons such as AWACS. We couldn't take another intelligence debacle such as happened in Iran without seriously damaging our own national security."

Nadler suggested two other possibilities that could transpire if the AWACS are provided to Saudi Arabia. He said that in the event of another Arab-Israeli war, Saudi AWACS with American personnel aboard could be shot down by Israelis using American F-15s, an "ironic spectacle." If the Saudis should use the weapons against Israel in another war, "then the oil fields these weapons are meant to protect would be a legitimate target for Israel. In the guise of protecting these oil fields, these weapons would be the means of their destruction," Nadler said.

## APPEAL TO U.S. GOVERNMENT TO SAVE LIFE OF ANATOLY SHCHARANSKY

NEW YORK, May 11 (JTA) -- Avital Shcharansky, the wife of Prisoner of Conscience Anatoly Shcharansky, issued an "appeal to the American government" to save her husband's life. At a meeting today at the World Jewish Congress with Sen. Alfonse D'Amato (R., N.Y.), she reported that her husband has spent four months in solitary confinement, that his weight is down to 105 pounds and he is losing his memory.

In response to Mrs. Shcharansky's plea, D'Amato said that the life of Shcharansky "will be the number one concern of my office." He said he was taking immediate steps for her to meet with Secretary of State Alexander Haig or top level Department officials. Leaders of some two dozen American Jewish organizations at the

meeting joined in declaring their solidarity in urgent efforts on Shcharansky's behalf.

D'Amato also told the meeting at the Park East Synagogue, which was convened by Rabbi Arthur Schneier, chairman of the WJC Congress-American Section and the synagogue's spiritual leader, that he was "adamantly opposed" to sale of AWACS and enhanced F-15 equipment to Saudi Arabia. He noted that the issue was not simply one of Israel's security but involved also the jeopardy of sophisticated arms being sold to a regime whose stability is questionable. D'Amato urged the Jewish community "not to let their guard down" for "if the AWACS system is the price of oil today, what will be the price tomorrow?"

## FLATTO-SHARON SENTENCED TO NINE MONTHS IN PRISON

By David Landau.

JERUSALEM, May 11 (JTA) -- Shmuel Flatto-Sharon, the controversial independent Knesset member, was sentenced to nine months' imprisonment by a Jerusalem magistrate yesterday for buying votes in the 1977 elections. He was given an additional 27-month sentence which was suspended. He announced that he will appeal his conviction, handed down three weeks ago, and the sentence. A campaign aide, Jacques Ben-Odis, who was convicted on the same charge, was given a suspended sentence and a fine.

Although Flatto insists that he will run for re-election June 30, his future as an MK is clouded. Recent legislation automatically removes from office any MK who is convicted of a crime and sentenced to a year or longer in jail. While Flatto's sentence falls three months short of a year, the Knesset House Committee is expected to initiate the legal process to strip him of his parliamentary status.

Flatto came to Israel from France more than five years ago to escape trial there on charges of embezzlement and fraud, extraditable offenses. It was widely believed that he ran for the Knesset in order to avoid extradition. He was subsequently convicted in absentia by a French court. His sentence here will not begin for 45 days to allow time for appeal. Meanwhile, Flatto announced a three-member Knesset list with himself at the head, Jerusalem attorney Yitzhak Toussia-Cohen in the No. 2 spot and Flatto's wife as No. 3.

## NEO-NAZI GROUP TO RUN FOR OFFICE

VIENNA, May 11 (JTA) -- The Ministry of Science has ruled that the neo-Nazi Aktion Neue Rechte (ANR) is eligible to run in the upcoming elections of student representatives at Austrian universities. Earlier, the electoral committees at the universities in Vienna and Graz had rejected the ANR's application.

The Ministry, in announcing its decision, stated, "We do not have to examine the political intentions of groups applying for candidacy. We only examine the formal requirements." Last year's student elections were declared unconstitutional by the Supreme Court because ANR participation was blocked by other political groups.

Last week the Oesterreichische Kinderfreunde, a Socialist child welfare organization, called for a ban on the ANR and the right-wing Nationaldemokratische Partei (NDP). It urged that clear anti-fascist positions be incorporated in the education provided by Austrian schools and youth clubs.

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There will be no Daily News Bulletin dated May 25 due to Memorial Day, a postal holiday.