

JTA daily news bulletin

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

Vol. LIX - 64th Year

Wednesday, July 22, 1981

No. 139

CABINET CONSIDERS U.S. CALL FOR A CEASE-FIRE IN LEBANON

By David Landau and Hugh Orgel

JERUSALEM, July 21 (JTA) -- The Cabinet met in special session for almost six hours today to consider the U.S. call for a cease-fire in Lebanon. No statement was issued and none was expected until Premier Menachem Begin conveys the substance of the Cabinet's decision to U.S. special envoy Philip Habib with whom he was expected to meet later in the day. (See late report P.3).

Meanwhile, warfare continued over the Israeli-Lebanon border with Palestinian terrorists firing rocket and artillery shells at Israeli towns and the Israel Air Force striking at Palestinian strongholds in south Lebanon.

A report from Beirut today said Syria was considering a Palestinian request that it ring the Lebanese capital with SAM-6 anti-aircraft missiles against a repetition of the massive Israeli air raid last Friday which caused heavy civilian casualties.

Shelling Continues In Northern Israel

Last night was described as "relatively quiet" along the border in Upper Galilee. Only six rocket salvos were fired during the night. But heavy rocket and artillery fire was resumed this morning. A resident of Nahariya was injured by a shell burst at noon and a woman was treated in a hospital for shock. No other casualties were reported but the shelling touched off brushfires and damaged crops in Upper Galilee.

The Israel Air Force went into action within hours after the Cabinet met. A military spokesman said terrorist positions near Rashadiyah were bombed. Military sources here said that over 840 shells and rockets have been fired at 25 settlements and towns in northern Galilee since last Wednesday. The towns of Nahariya, Kiryat Shemona and Metullah were hit by more than 100 shells each. Nearly all kibbutzim and moshavim in the area have been damaged by Katyusha rockets or artillery shells, sources said.

The escalating violence has caused five civilian deaths and wounded more than a score of people in northern Israel since last Wednesday. One Israeli army officer, Maj. Joseph Tahal, 28, was killed during a commando raid on terrorist positions in south Lebanon yesterday.

Focal Point Of Cabinet Meeting

A focal point of today's Cabinet meeting was said to be President Reagan's decision, announced last night, to continue the suspension of deliveries of F-16 warplanes to Israel indefinitely. That move was linked here to the fighting across the Lebanese border and U.S. attempts to secure a cease-fire.

Israel is reported to be reluctant to accept a cease-fire that might end the shooting temporarily but give the Palestinians time to recuperate from their losses and continue the massive build-up of weapons Israel says they are receiving from Syria, Libya and the Communist bloc countries.

Israel is reported to be urging a comprehensive cease-fire arrangement that would halt the

supply of weapons to the Palestinians. Israel is also said to have pressed Habib for assurances that the Lebanese government will act to remove the Palestinian terrorist threat from Israel's northern border. But many observers here believe that even with the best intentions, the Beirut government is too weak to impose its will on the terrorists.

Israeli officials contend that the suspension of F-16 deliveries should not be linked to the situation in Lebanon. The embargo was imposed following Israel's June 7 air raid on Iraq's nuclear reactor. The Reagan Administration said at the time that a decision on the deliveries depended on a determination of whether or not Israel violated its arms agreement with the U.S. by using American-supplied aircraft in the Iraqi raid.

Officials here insist that Israel's latest air raids over Lebanon cannot be a consideration because they are purely "self-defensive" in nature and therefore do not constitute a violation of the arms agreement.

REAGAN POSTPONES FOR AN INDEFINITE PERIOD ANY DECISION TO RESUME DELIVERY OF F-16 PLANES TO ISRAEL

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, July 21 (JTA) -- President Reagan has put on the back burner any decision on when to resume shipping F-16 jet fighter bombers to Israel, at least until the violence across the Israeli-Lebanese border is ended. This became clear today when State Department deputy spokesman Alan Romburg said here that the U.S. has no "preconditions" for resuming the shipment.

The President announced from Ottawa yesterday where he was attending the economic summit that he is delaying the shipment of six F-16s which were scheduled to fly to Israel today as well as the four F-16s whose delivery was suspended after Israel destroyed Iraq's nuclear plant June 7.

Romburg said that Secretary of State Alexander Haig, in announcing the President's decision last night, made clear that in "the context of the escalating cycle of violence" it was deemed "inappropriate" to go ahead with the F-16s deliveries. However, the decision does not affect the delivery of any other arms to Israel.

Reagan was expected to announce his decision on all 10 F-16s last Friday but put it off after the Israeli raid on the terrorist headquarters in Beirut. However, Romburg said today that the President's decision does not "cast blame" on Israel or take sides. The decision "is not sending a message or casting any particular responsibility on Israel," the spokesman said.

Waiting To See What UN Does

In that context, Romburg said that the U.S. would have to wait and see what, if any, resolution was presented to the United Nations Security Council on the situation in Lebanon before deciding on a position. "We would oppose any call for sanctions against Israel or an unbalanced resolution that sought to single out only one side," Romburg said.

He said the U.S. is looking for a cease-fire across the Israeli-Lebanese border and "ultimately a more permanent resolution of the problem." He noted that U.S. special envoy Philip Habib is in Jerusalem today seeking Israeli agreement to a cease-fire.

Romburg said other parties that have contacts with the Palestine Liberation Organization are seeking to persuade the terrorist group to end the shelling of northern Israel. He said that these parties are undertaking this task without necessarily being asked to do so by the U.S.

He refused to name any of these parties although a State Department source identified one of them as United Nations Secretary General Kurt Waldheim. Romburg reiterated the U.S. position that the U.S. will not negotiate or have any other contacts with the PLO until the PLO recognizes Israel's right to exist and accepts UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338.

Statement Issued At The Summit Conference

Romburg denied that Reagan's decision was made in return for support by the other six participants at the economic summit for positions the Reagan Administration sought. He said the decision was made after Reagan met with his own advisors in Ottawa. The U.S. did, however, go along with a statement issued at the summit and read by Prime Minister Pierre Elliott Trudeau of Canada, the host of the conference. It said, in part:

"We are deeply distressed by the scale of destruction, particularly in Lebanon, and the heavy civilian loss of life on both sides. We call on all states and parties to exercise restraint and in particular to avoid retaliation which only results in escalation and to forego acts which could lead in the current tense situation in the area to further bloodshed and war.

"We are particularly concerned in this respect by the tragic fate of the Lebanese people. We support the efforts now in progress to permit Lebanon to achieve a genuine national reconciliation, internal security and peace with its neighbors."

White House Counselor Edwin Meese III said in Ottawa yesterday "The President doesn't want to do anything about the timing of his decision that will interfere with obtaining a cease-fire." His decision to continue the F-16s embargo appears to have been supported by top Administration officials, including Defense Secretary Casper Weinberger and Vice President George Bush with whom Reagan was in telephone contact.

Apparently it was also the consensus of Haig, Meese and National Security Advisor Richard Allen. A suspension of arms deliveries to Israel was advocated yesterday by Sen. Charles Percy (R. Ill.), chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, and by several other prominent Republican Senators.

Future Shipments Classified

Meanwhile, Romburg said the Administration hoped to make a decision on the F-16s before any other shipment of the planes was scheduled. Israel has received 53 of the 75 F-16s ordered in 1978. Romburg said he had been told that the dates for the future shipments to Israel had been classified.

But the Pentagon, earlier today, told reporters that the final 12 planes in the order were scheduled to be shipped out in batches of four each in mid-August, mid-September and mid-October.

HAIG: DECISION ON F-16s BASED ON 'OBJECTIVE REALITY'

By Kevin Freeman

NEW YORK, July 21 (JTA) -- Secretary of State Alexander Haig said last night that the decision to continue a delay of shipment of F-16 jet fighters to Israel was based on the "objective realities" of the situation in Lebanon but noted that this will have no affect on Israeli-American relations.

"Israel is a long-standing friend and ally, our relations will continue on that long-standing and historic friendship," Haig said on ABC-TV's "Nightline" program in a live interview from Ottawa where he is attending the seven-nation economic summit. He said the continued delay on the shipment of F-16s was based on a "unanimous decision in the Executive branch" that it "would be highly inappropriate" for the Reagan Administration to send the planes to Israel in light of the "tense situation" in the Mideast.

Haig was particularly evasive when asked what the U.S. was doing to halt Palestinian terrorist attacks on settlements in northern Israel or when it was suggested that it seemed "unfair to punish" just Israel in this situation.

He reiterated that it was "inappropriate to send such lethal weapons" to the Mideast while this "tense situation" prevailed. Haig added, however, that there was no decision to stop sending other weaponry to Israel, although he failed to mention just what those other items were.

Noted Conditions For Resuming Deliveries

Haig noted that several developments would be necessary before deliveries of F-16s could be continued: a "quieting down of situation" in Lebanon, success of special envoy Philip Habib's mission to attain a cease-fire or a return to the status quo ante.

Haig announced earlier in the afternoon yesterday that President Reagan, who is in Ottawa for the economic summit, had indefinitely suspended the delivery of F-16 jet fighters to Israel. The President was expected to decide last Friday whether to lift the suspension of F-16s that was imposed after Israel destroyed the Iraqi nuclear reactor June 7 as well as give the go ahead on six more F-16s scheduled to leave New Hampshire for Israel today.

ADMINISTRATION RAPPED FOR ITS SUSPENSION OF F-16s DELIVERIES

NEW YORK, July 21 (JTA) -- Two Jewish leaders expressed anger and disappointment today over President Reagan's decision to continue the suspension of shipments of F-16 warplanes to Israel. Rabbi William Berkowitz, president of the Jewish National Fund, called it "deeply disappointing and one-sided" and urged the Administration to make a "quick reversal."

Ivan Novick, president of the Zionist Organization of America, released the text of a telegram he sent to the President in which he charged that the decision "improperly punishes" Israel. He urged Reagan to address "the base problem that plagues the peace of the Middle East ... the covenant of the terrorist Palestine Liberation Organization which calls for the elimination of the Jewish State."

Berkowitz, too, called on the President to "focus instead on the open declaration of war by (PLO chief Yasir) Arafat and the continuous use of southern Lebanon for Soviet-armed PLO terrorists who with Syrian collusion use it as a base to shell and raid northern Israel." He said that "As long as the rampages and attacks of the PLO go on, one-sided condemnations of Israel cannot be expected to result in any constructive purpose."

Reagan Urged To Take Steps

The steps Novick called on Reagan to take were to "voice public support of the government of Lebanon by encouraging it to act immediately to remove the PLO as a realistic and imperative step to avoid further conflict." He also urged that "until such time as Saudi Arabia disassociates itself from the PLO, ceases its financial support and other types of moral and material assistance, the United States must refuse to provide it with F-15 enhancements and AWACS."

Novick further urged the President to state "personally and publicly" that "the PLO must be held responsible for tragic consequences of the loss of human lives" and to "instruct our Ambassador to submit a formal resolution of condemnation to be acted upon by the United Nations."

Novick said the "properly assumed policy" of the U.S. to refuse to recognize the PLO "is no longer a sufficient answer. Because the PLO is a vehicle of anti-Semitism in the United Nations and in the world, America must not only refuse to recognize, but must now publicly reject, indeed condemn, the PLO as the primary instrument of worldwide anti-Semitism ... The United States must act to disassociate itself in a way that the world will understand."

SPECIAL TO THE JTA
UN SECURITY COUNCIL MEMBERS
PONDER DRAFT RESOLUTION ON LEBANON
 By Yitzhak Rabi

UNITED NATIONS, July 21 (JTA) -- Members of the Security Council continued their closed door deliberations today on a draft resolution to be presented to the Security Council on the situation in Lebanon. The Jewish Telegraphic Agency obtained the text of the resolution which was initiated by the Western European countries.

While it is subject to final changes of wording, sources here said that they believe it is the version that will be presented for a vote as soon as the Security Council convenes. The text reads:

"The Security Council, recalling the appeal made by the President of the Security Council on 17 July, 1981; gravely concerned at recent events in the Middle East and at the tragic level of civilian casualties and the massive destruction, especially in Lebanon; concerned also at the serious implications for peace and security of continued hostilities in Lebanon.

"1. Calls for an immediate cessation of hostilities, 2. reaffirms its support for the sovereignty, territorial integrity and independence of Lebanon within its internationally recognized boundaries, 3. requests the Secretary General to report back to the Council within 72 hours on the implementation of this resolution."

Sources here explained that Lebanon's original intention to seek sanctions against Israel unless Israel agreed to stop military actions is omitted from the present draft because the Secretary General is requested to report to the Council within 72 hours on the implementation of the cease-fire. In case Israel refuses to adhere to the cease-fire call of the Security Council, the request for sanctions will be made, the sources said.

IMPROVED OUTLOOK FOR CEASE-FIRE
 By David Landau

JERUSALEM, July 21 (JTA) -- The prospects for a cease-fire on Israel's northern border seemed to improve tonight following a lengthy Cabinet meeting here and talks between Premier Menachem Begin and U.S. special envoy Philip Habib. Israeli officials told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency after these meetings that Israel was prepared to hold its fire if the other side stopped shooting.

(United Nations sources in New York and Palestine Liberation Organization sources in Beirut indicated that PLO chief Yasir Arafat had given virtually the same undertaking at his meeting yesterday with Gen. William Callaghan, commander of the UN Interim Force in Lebanon.)

Israel publicly reiterated its refusal to negotiate directly or indirectly with the PLO, and its de-

termination to defend its citizens who were being threatened by PLO guns and rockets fired from inside Lebanon.

Statement By The Cabinet

Begin, reading the Cabinet's statement to reporters, noted first that he had reported to the ministers on his earlier talks with Habib and on "personal messages" received from U.S. Secretary of State Alexander Haig. The Cabinet statement said:

"The government agrees that Mr. Habib embark upon contacts with the President of Lebanon Mr. (Elias) Sarkis and the government of Lebanon with the aim of establishing peaceful relations between Israel and Lebanon from where the terrorist organizations incessantly attack the territory of Israel and murder and maim its citizens.

"The government of Israel will under no circumstances conduct negotiations directly or indirectly, with the Arab terrorist organizations whose declared aim is the destruction of Israel and its people and who intentionally turn their arms, supplied to them in large quantities by the Soviet Union, Libya and Syria, against the Jewish population.

"Likewise the government of Israel does not authorize anybody to conduct negotiations with the aforementioned organizations. The government will continue to defend the citizens of Israel. This is its right and its duty."

Statement By Habib

Habib, for his part, read a statement to waiting reporters following his meeting with Begin saying that: "On the basis of the statement by the government of Israel I will proceed with my mission as directed by President Reagan to seek to secure a cease-fire along the Israeli-Lebanese border as a first step to bringing calm to the area."

Israeli officials said the upshot of the two statements was "that Habib can negotiate a cease-fire." They said he could talk with Lebanese, Saudi Arabian and Syrian leaders but not with the PLO.

But political observers noted that the U.S., the UN and other states are known to be in private or public contact with the PLO and that the PLO's consent will plainly have to be procured for a cessation of shooting along the border. UN sources told the JTA that the UN's efforts were reported through its headquarters in New York to the U.S. government.

EGYPT OFFERS PLO MEDICAL SUPPLIES
BUT NO CHANGE IN ATTITUDE

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, July 21 (JTA) -- Egypt's Ambassador to Israel, Saad Mortada, said on an Israel Radio interview that the aid Egypt has offered to the Palestine Liberation Organization consists only of medical supplies and does not signify any change of Egypt's cool attitude toward the PLO.

Reports from Cairo yesterday said Egypt had accepted a Palestinian request for medical aid to treat victims of Israel's air raid on Beirut last Friday. It was the first official contact between Egypt and the PLO since the Israeli-Egyptian peace treaty was signed two years ago.

Mortada said the fighting now going on in Lebanon would not have occurred if the Arab states had followed President Anwar Sadat's lead and made peace with Israel. Meanwhile, the economies of towns and villages in northern Israel have been hard hit by the continuing shelling and rocket fire from terrorist positions in Lebanon. Hotels in Nahariya, where three people were killed by rockets last Wednesday, reported a drop in the occupancy rate from 90 to 10 percent and many cancellations.

BEHIND THE HEADLINESZIONIST COUNCIL PICKS UP MOMENTUM

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, July 21 (JTA) -- Ten years ago the Zionist Council was formed to promote Zionist activities within Israel. Now, close to its 10th anniversary, the organization, which is an umbrella group for various Zionist bodies in Israel, is also promoting Zionist activities among the Israeli Druze.

The Council is actively involved in supporting those Druze -- both in Israel itself and on the Golan Heights -- who wish to acquire Israeli citizenship and combat Communist influence in the Druze villages in Israel. Some 40,000 Druze in Israel are full citizens. Several thousand Druze on the Golan Heights are Syrian citizens but who under recent legislation can acquire Israeli citizenship if they so wish.

This has been an issue of controversy among the Golan Druze. Five local leaders sympathizing with the Syrians, who campaigned against acquiring Israeli citizenship, were arrested two months ago under an administrative detention order for their "subversive actions." Communist influence in the Druze villages in Israel is less effective than in the Golan villages but it is growing stronger. The Zionist Council began working with the Druze through Druze "Zionist clubs" in the villages of Osfiya and Daliat el-Carmel.

Thus, in its effort to work not only with Jews but with anyone who considers himself a Zionist, the Council recently promoted a rally in Daliat el-Carmel during which the representatives of the Golan Druze demanded that the entire Druze community in Israel support their demand for Israeli citizenship. They did not speak of annexing the Golan but urged that Israel declare that it would not desert the Golan.

As a result, the Zionist Council now plans to form a Druze Zionist club on the Golan, in addition to those already in existence in Osfiya and Daliat el-Carmel. Members of those clubs represent the elite in Israel's Druze community, including reserve army officers. Members of the Druze community, unlike the Arabs in Israel, serve in Israel's Defense Force.

Promoting Knowledge Of Diverse Cultures

The Zionist Council has also invested considerable efforts in another sensitive area of Israel public life: the advancement of Jews from Arab lands and North Africa now living in Israel. Last year the Council held 11 seminars to disseminate information about the culture and heritage of those Jewish communities. It cooperated with the "Beyahad" group which organizes the Mimouna festivities of the Moroccan Jews and sent leaders of the various communities to address students in an effort to close the gap in their knowledge about these communities.

"We wanted to stress the beauty and richness of the Zionist heritage of each community," Arye Zimuki, chairman of the Council, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency. One of the projects organized by the Council was the anniversary of the rescue operation of North African Jewry. "That illegal aliya was no less impressive than the European illegal aliya in the forties," Zimuki said.

The Zionist Council will commemorate its 10th anniversary at the end of this year. Its main event will be a session of "reckoning" in which

the lessons of the past will be studied and plans for the future will be worked out.

The event will undoubtedly be a milestone in the career of Zimuki, who has worked on the project simultaneously with being the political correspondent of Yediot Achronot. Zimuki, a volunteer, says he spends six hours a day for the Council. "I regard the work as a national mission," he said. "The vast majority of the Israeli society regards itself as a partner of the Jewish people. One must merely encourage them and enlist them in the cause."

Other activities of the Zionist Council include support for the new outposts in the Galilee, information activities in high schools, action against yerida, assistance to new olim, promotion of the Hebrew language, and strengthening Zionist activities on the municipal level.

ZINKOFF DEDICATES BASKETBALL COURT FOR SEPHARDIC YOUNGSTERS IN JAFFA

By Haskell Cohen

TEL AVIV, July 21 (JTA) -- David Zinkoff of Philadelphia, Pa., renowned the world over as the leading sports public address announcer, who was here for the Maccabiah Games, dedicated a basketball court on the roof of the Jaffa community center, during the last day of the Games, last Thursday.

Zinkoff, whose mellifluous voice has been heard by millions of people on radio and TV, donated the court to the undernourished youngsters of Sephardic families after learning of the plight of the kids who attend the Jewish Community Center (JCC). The center's principal Rabbi David Protovitz, of Brooklyn, N.Y., advised the Zink, as he is affectionately known, that the JCC needed another basketball court for the youngsters and Zinkoff came up with the necessary funding.

At the dedication, Vice Mayor Yitzhak Caspi of Tel Aviv spoke laudingly of the Zink's gift and Zinkoff responded by stating: "This is the proudest moment of my life. I hope the youngsters will enjoy the court and some of you will grow up to be basketball stars. Above all, I trust and hope you will grow up to be good and decent Jews."

Zinkoff, for many years was the voice of the Philadelphia Sphas in the old American Basketball League and in recent years has served in the same capacity for the Philadelphia 76'ers of the National Basketball Association. On their international tours, which took them all over the world for many years, Zinkoff did the announcing for the incomparable Harlem Globe Trotters. He was commended for his mike techniques by Soviet President Leonid Brezhnev who attended the Globe Trotters exhibitions in Moscow and heard the Zink perform.

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JERUSALEM (JTA) -- Israel radio and TV will be banned from referring to the "West Bank" if a Supreme Court application from the Judea and Samaria Settlers Association is upheld. The Association, through its lawyer, Elyakim Haetzni of Kiryat Arba, has submitted arguments to the court that the term "West Bank" is essentially a Jordanian concept, implying Jordanian rule over both banks of the Jordan River. The applicants want Israel Radio and TV to be ordered to refer to the area as "Judaea and Samaria" (as Premier Menachem Begin and his aides invariable do.) Present usage on radio and TV refers to the "West Bank" or "Judaea and Samaria" interchangeably -- as do most Israelis, including most civil servants and army personnel. The Supreme Court will consider the application after the summer recess.