

JTA daily news bulletin

Contents copyright: Republication only by previous arrangement.

Published by Jewish Telegraphic Agency / 165 West 46th Street / New York, N.Y. 10036-2574

Vol. LX - 65th Year

Wednesday, June 9, 1982

No.109

PRESIDENTS CONFERENCE URGES ADMINISTRATION TO UNDERSTAND NEED FOR ISRAEL'S ACTION

By Kevin Freeman

NEW YORK, June 8 (JTA) -- The Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations today called on the Reagan Administration to "express understanding" of the danger posed by Palestinian terrorists in southern Lebanon to Israel and thus to reject any proposal to impose sanctions on the Jewish State for its military operation inside Lebanon.

According to Howard Squadron, chairman of the Presidents Conference, this would include any direct or unilateral actions which may include an international effort at the United Nations to impose sanctions on Israel. He said the U.S. should also reject any attempt to "punish or penalize" Israel, adding that this is not the way to deal with Israel. Lebanon today asked for an urgent meeting of the UN Security Council.

Squadron told reporters at a press conference here today that "the battle Israel is conducting is the battle that all democracies" should engage in, that of international terrorism. He stressed that as Israel has indicated in the past, it has no intention of occupying Lebanon but just to rid the Palestine Liberation Organization from the southern area of Lebanon to prevent any further shelling of Israeli settlements in northern Israel.

Urge 'Diplomatic Offensive' Against Terrorism

A statement released by the Presidents Conference today at the press conference called upon the Reagan Administration to also join Israel "in a diplomatic offensive" around the world aimed at "outlawing and quarantining the PLO, of expelling the PLO from international agencies in which it is now participating, and of punishing any state that furnishes financial, military or political support to the PLO."

"In so doing," the statement continued, "in joining with Israel against the PLO our country will demonstrate there is common concern that requires democracies to stand together, a common interest that refuses to countenance terrorism, a common commitment to the values of human liberty and human dignity."

The concern expressed today by the Presidents Conference over the possibility of the Reagan Administration imposing sanctions on Israel stemmed from last summer when following the Israeli attack on the Iraqi nuclear facility, the U.S. withheld delivery on jet-fighter aircraft. The delivery was withheld further when Israel, just one month later, launched an attack on Palestinian terrorist bases in Beirut, killing scores of people.

The Presidents Conference said that Israel "asks only that a Lebanese government or international peacekeeping force guarantee that the regime will not serve as a launching ground for renewed violence against Israel. All Americans who love peace and cherish democracy, and who recognized that our own country's security depends on the ability of democratic societies to defend their citizens, will understand and support Israel's action."

ENVOY SHOWS SOME IMPROVEMENT

By Maurice Samuelson

LONDON, June 8 (JTA) -- A hospital bulletin today said Israeli Ambassador Shlomo Argov has shown

marginal improvement but remains unconscious and is still in critical condition. The 52-year-old envoy underwent surgery last Friday. He was shot through the head in an assassination attempt by an Arab outside a London hotel late Thursday night.

Meanwhile, the Board of Deputies of British Jews said today it expects thousands of people to attend a rally at the Royal Albert Hall tonight where prayers will be said for Argov's recovery and demands will be made to close the Palestine Liberation Organization office in London.

The rally, to be attended by the Ambassador's wife, Mrs. Hava Argov, will be addressed by Britain's Chief Rabbi Sir Immanuel Jakobovits, Yoav Biran, Minister and Interim Charge d'Affaires at the Israel Embassy and MP Greville Janner, president of the Board of Deputies.

PILOT'S DEATH IN LEBANON PROTESTED

By Edwin Eytan

PARIS, June 8 (JTA) -- The organization of French Jewish Socialist students has protested against "the inhuman and barbaric" treatment meted out to an Israeli air force pilot murdered by Lebanese and Palestinian civilians after he bailed out from his plane during the recent fighting.

French television showed the pilot's maltreatment by the crowd and Israel later announced that he died as a result of his wounds.

The Jewish group also called upon the government to close the Palestine Liberation Organization bureau in Paris and expel its representatives.

U.S. SAYS IT IS WORKING 'DILIGENTLY' FOR CEASE-FIRE

By Helen Silver

WASHINGTON, June 8 (JTA) -- The State Department said today that the U.S. is "working diligently for a cease-fire" in Lebanon "and Israel's withdrawal" of its forces in compliance with the United Nations Security Council resolution to that effect. "The U.S. hopes that no actions from any quarter will be taken that would further aggravate the situation," Department deputy spokesman Alan Romberg said.

Secretary of State Alexander Haig, at a press conference in London today, said "there has been no decision" by the U.S. to impose sanctions against Israel as a means of affecting its withdrawal from Lebanon. "President Reagan made it clear the first priority must be to do all possible to bring about a termination of the bloodshed," Haig said. The Secretary of State who is accompanying Reagan on a state visit to Britain, noted that U.S. special envoy Philip Habib met with Premier Menachem Begin in Jerusalem yesterday and today. He said their talks had been "profitable."

"Until we see how these discussions proceed, value judgments will be deferred," Haig said. He added that "The primary objective of U.S. policy, and it will become increasingly urgent, will be to strengthen the Lebanese government. We would hope there would be a lessening of the Syrian presence and a strengthening of Lebanese institutions." Haig also said the U.S. "would view ... with grave concern" any appeal by the Palestine Liberation Organization for assistance from the Soviet Union.

Romberg, asked about reports that PLO chief Yasir Arafat had asked the Soviets for help, said "We do not expect Soviet forces to be involved." He also said, in reply to questions, that he was "not aware" that the PLO has made any direct or indirect contacts with the U.S. "As in the past, the patterns of our activity is that we are in touch with people who have influence in the situation. I am not aware of any effort by the PLO to get in touch with us either directly or indirectly," he said.

Romberg said he had seen, but could not confirm, reports that Iran might send its forces to join the fighting in Lebanon. "We certainly trust that the conflict will remain contained within the present context and we strongly urge all parties to do nothing further that will result in a widening of the fighting," he said. Romberg said he could not confirm reports that Haig would go to the Middle East after his present visit to Europe.

Meanwhile, several Arab Ambassadors met today, at their request, with Undersecretary of State for Political Affairs Walter Stoessel Jr. The Israeli Ambassador, Moshe Arens, met with Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger. No details of these meetings were released.

ISRAELI DIPLOMAT SEES MILITARY PHASES OF OPERATION ENDING SOON

By Judith Kohn

NEW YORK, June 8 (JTA) -- Israel's Consul General in New York, Naphtali Lavi, said today that the military phase of Israel's invasion of Lebanon -- dubbed "Operation Peace for Galilee" -- would end "in a day or two," barring a possible confrontation with Syrian forces.

Pointing to a map of the Palestine Liberation Organization strongholds overrun thus far by Israel, Lavi told reporters at a press conference for the Jewish news media, "the aim of this operation is to drive the PLO out of the area, where they will not have the advantage of keeping the Israeli settlements in their range." He added "We hope that this operation will be completed in a day or two, so that the existing pockets of the PLO that are still holding on in the area will cease to exist."

Completion of the military operation should give way, within two or three days, to a second, political stage, in which a restoration of authority to Lebanon's central government will be sought, Lavi said. But he added that this will depend on the response of Syria, whose forces have already clashed with Israel's in the air, over Lebanon and the Galilee, resulting in the downing of five Syrian planes. Lavi, who would not confirm reports that ground battles between Israel and Syrian forces have already taken place in Lebanon, warned that "if the Syrians have any intentions to expand their involvement and engage themselves in battle on the ground, this will change the whole scope of the operation."

Dealing With Syria

If Syria refrains from engaging Israeli forces in Lebanon, Lavi said "We will have to deal with the Syrian presence in Lebanon ... in a different way." How Israel decides to deal with the Syrian presence, he said, would depend to some extent on the position taken by the U.S. "We would like the United States to understand why Israel had to act," Lavi said. He added that the U.S. "can also help in restoring law and order in the area by supporting a central govern-

ment in Beirut, the Lebanese government, by giving it strength to take over responsibility and to restore its authority in the area that we have cleared out of the PLO elements."

Defending Israel's action in Lebanon, Lavi said it will benefit not only the Lebanese people and Israel, but "the whole Western world," whose interests are linked to stability in the area. In this context, he suggested that Israel might be giving impetus to the stalled autonomy negotiations, by bringing an end to "the political and psychological consequences of PLO presences in the Middle East. "If the PLO threat will not exist here, then we have a fair chance that leaders in the West Bank -- Judea, Samaria and Gaza -- will not be intimidated in the future and will be able to join the talks on the autonomy implementation," Lavi said, adding that Jordan's King Hussein might also be induced to join in the talks.

No Illusions

Lavi stressed that Israel had no illusion about eliminating the PLO entirely, and sought only to eliminate the immediate threat to Israel's security by hitting at the organization's infrastructure in Lebanon. "I do not believe we can put an end to the PLO as such," Lavi said.

Meanwhile, the Israeli Consulate reported that students of the Manhattan Day School have prepared gift packages to be distributed to Israeli soldiers in Lebanon. The packages, which include books, magazines and clothing, will be shipped to Israel by El Al, and distributed through Israel's Committee for the Association for the Welfare of Soldiers.

NJCRC URGES ACTION THAT WILL END USE OF LEBANON BY TERRORISTS

NEW YORK, June 8 (JTA) -- The chairman of the National Jewish Community Relations Advisory Council (NJCRAC), Bennett Yanowitz, today called on President Reagan "to press for arrangements that will avoid Israel's need to act again in its self defense."

"The issue is not Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon," Yanowitz said in a telegram to the President released simultaneously in New York and Washington, "but of conditioning withdrawal on arrangements that will prevent Lebanon from being used as a launching pad for attacks against Israel, and that will restore Lebanese sovereignty which was destroyed by the PLO and Syria."

Yanowitz appealed to Reagan to "stand against punitive action directed at Israel by the UN or even by officials of our own government." The telegram was released after more than 1,000 Jewish community leaders in 50 cities throughout the U.S. were briefed by Yanowitz and Gen. Natan Sharon, a recently retired chief planner for the Israel Defense Forces, through a conference call arranged by NJCRAC. Sharon was sent by the government of Israel to the U.S. to provide background on events in Lebanon, the NJCRAC said.

JERUSALEM, June 8 (JTA) -- Leon Dulzin, chairman of the World Zionist Organization and Jewish Agency Executives, cabled Zionist Federations all over the world today urging the Jewish people to express solidarity with the Israel government's decision to invade Lebanon in what he called "the just fight ... to put an end to the destruction and the bloodshed in Galilee." Dulzin urged Jews to "unite today in the common task, bear the responsibility together and pray for the success" of the operation.

BEGIN, HABIB IN SECOND MEETING; NEITHER MAKE STATEMENT AT END

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, June 8 (JTA) -- Premier Menachem Begin met with U.S. special envoy Philip Habib for about an hour this afternoon in the Premier's Knesset office. Neither man made a statement when the meeting ended. It was their second meeting since Habib arrived here late Sunday night, shortly after Israel's invasion of Lebanon.

Habib was dispatched to Jerusalem after consulting with President Reagan at Versailles where the President was attending a Western economic summit meeting. Meanwhile, there was no confirmation of reports that Secretary of State Alexander Haig, who is accompanying Reagan on his European trip, would come to the Middle East shortly. Voice of Israel Radio said today that Haig was expected here in 10 days and would conduct negotiations in Jerusalem, Damascus, Beirut and Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

ISRAEL MOPS UP POCKETS OF PALESTINIAN RESISTANCE

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, June 8 (JTA) -- Israeli forces, heavily supported by air and naval bombardment, were deep in Lebanon today mopping up pockets of Palestinian resistance. Clashes with Syria have been limited to aerial dogfights. A military spokesman reported today that four Syrian MIG fighters were shot down today after attempting to interfere with Israeli aircraft.

According to the latest reports, Israeli troops have advanced some 80 kilometers (50 miles) north of the border. This is twice the distance Premier Menachem Begin said the Israelis would move to push Palestinian rockets and artillery out of range of northern Israel. Israeli forces have surrounded the port town of Sidon and advanced into the area of Damour, a major Palestinian base about 10 kilometers (6 miles) south of Beirut.

Advances have also been made in the central sector, taking Israeli armor and troops north of the Zaharani River, and in the eastern sector, the area known as "Fatahland." Progress has been slower there, a military spokesman said, because the Israelis are seeking to avoid a direct clash with Syrian troops stationed in the region.

25 Israelis Killed, 96 Wounded

Israel released its first report of casualties today. A military spokesman said that as of midnight last night, 40 hours after the push into Lebanon began, 25 Israeli soldiers were killed, seven were missing, 96 were wounded and one Israeli pilot was downed and captured. The spokesman said that 66 of the wounded sustained only slight injuries, 19 had moderate wounds and 11 were seriously wounded.

The army had said originally that it would not release casualty figures until the fighting ended. This morning's announcement was apparently intended to scotch rumors of heavy casualties circulating in Israel and abroad. British sources quoted in a BBC broadcast last night, claimed that some 500 Palestinians are believed to have been killed and Israeli dead and wounded amounted to 400.

Two Katyusha rockets were fired into the Upper Galilee panhandle shortly after midnight, apparently from Palestinian positions in "Fatahland" where Israeli troops are proceeding cautiously to avoid contact with the Syrians. The rest

of Galilee was free from attack and life in the border towns and villages has returned to normal. But Katyusha rockets and artillery were still blasting the Christian enclave in south Lebanon held by Maj. Saad Haddad's Israeli-backed militia.

Syrian MIGs Shot Down

A military spokesman said those weapons were fired from the Syrian-occupied area which Israel so far has refrained from attacking. Syrian forces were reported at noon today to have evacuated the township of Jezinne, some 15 kilometers east of Sidon which is encircled by Israeli forces. The Syrians reportedly handed the town over to the Palestinians.

The report of today's air battles said two of the Syrian MIGs were shot down when they tried to intercept an Israeli mission north of Beirut and two others were downed over the Galilee panhandle. They were the first Syrian planes to be brought down in Israeli territory.

KNESSET BACKS LEBANESE OPERATION

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, June 8 (JTA) -- The Knesset today overwhelmingly defeated a motion of no confidence presented by the Hadash Communist Party against the government's invasion of Lebanon. The vote was 94-3. Yossi Sarid and Shulamit Aloni of the Labor Alignment and Mordechai Virshubsky of the Shinui faction, outspoken critics of the Likud government, were absent.

Premier Menachem Begin utilized the debate to urge Syria not to enter the conflict in Lebanon and to reiterate that Israel's objective was only to push the Palestinian terrorists beyond rocket and artillery range of northern Israel.

Begin called on President Hafez Assad of Syria not to attack Israeli forces in Lebanon. He said if Assad complied, no harm would be done to the Syrian army in Lebanon. Begin said Assad has demonstrated that he could honor agreements by preventing the Palestine Liberation Organization, so far, from attacking Israel from Syrian soil. If he continues this policy, his army will be safe in the future, Begin said.

The no-confidence motion was presented by Hadash MK Meir Wilner to an almost empty chamber. Coalition and opposition MKs boycotted Wilner's speech but turned up later to vote in support of the government. Shimon Peres, chairman of the Labor Party, stressed the need for unity in time of stress. He said the problem in the Middle East was not the Palestinians but the extremism of their leaders. He said a political solution should be sought for the problem of Syrian and PLO forces in Lebanon. He hoped that U.S. special envoy Philip Habib could get that message across to President Assad. Otherwise there would have to be a different solution which no one wanted, Peres said.

PARIS (JTA) -- Some 100 persons demonstrated Monday on behalf of Soviet Jewry aboard a specially chartered vessel which sailed along the River Seine, through the heart of Paris. The passengers included representatives of France's major Jewish organizations.

JERUSALEM (JTA) -- The number of teachers sent from Israel to Jewish Schools abroad, increased this year from 114 last year to 285, according to Sara Hos, director of the section of teachers emissaries at the World Zionist Organization's Department for Education and Culture in the diaspora. The teachers are in 20 countries. In the U.S. and Canada, there are 136 teachers; 91 in Latin America and 35 in Mexico. In Europe there are 44 teachers, and in South Africa and Australia there are 14 teachers.

