

# JTA daily news bulletin

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## BEGIN TO MEET JEWISH GROUPS IN NEW YORK; SCHEDULES MEETING WITH HAIG FRIDAY, REAGAN MONDAY By Yitzhak Rabi

NEW YORK, June 16 (JTA) -- Premier Menachem Begin of Israel, who arrived here late last night, has a tight schedule of meetings and public appearances during his ten-day U.S. visit.

Begin, who is resting today in his suite at the Waldorf Astoria Hotel, will begin his formal activities tomorrow morning when he will attend the United Nations General Assembly's Special Session on Disarmament to hear President Reagan's address. Later in the day, Begin will address a special meeting of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations at the Waldorf, where he will discuss the situation in Lebanon and Israeli plans and conditions for ending the crisis.

On Friday morning Begin will be the first speaker at the UN conference and will meet with Secretary of State Alexander Haig to discuss the Lebanese situation.

### Rally To Support Israel

The Jewish community's solidarity and support of Israel and its invasion of Lebanon will be marked by three major events in New York: a dinner at the Pierre Hotel tomorrow night sponsored by the United Jewish Appeal and attended by several hundred Jewish leaders and other guests; a luncheon sponsored by Israel Bonds at the Waldorf on Friday and attended by more than 500 people; and a rally by some 10,000 people on Friday across from the UN, while Begin addresses the General Assembly. The rally, sponsored by the Jewish Community Relations Council, is to express support of Israeli actions in Lebanon and to urge continued U.S. support for the Jewish State.

Begin will be the guest of honor in both the UJA and Israel Bonds meetings and will address the audiences attending the meetings.

Begin's visit here, which was scheduled long before the Israeli invasion of Lebanon, is underscored by the tense situation in that country and the continued hostilities around Beirut. On his arrival last night Begin termed the Israeli invasion of Lebanon as an "inherent right of self defense against those who were killing women and children," namely, the Palestinian terrorists.

Begin is scheduled to meet in Washington next Monday with President Reagan. Reports from Washington yesterday suggested that the Reagan Administration is unhappy with the continued hostilities in Lebanon and that President Reagan might snub Begin should Israel capture the city of Beirut. But Israeli officials here said today that they know of no change in the scheduled meeting between Reagan and Begin and that they expect it to take place Monday as was originally set.

### HEAVY CIVILIAN CASUALTIES DENIED

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, June 16 (JTA) -- Chief of Staff Rafael Eitan yesterday dismissed reports that

some 10,000 civilian dead resulted from the Israeli action in Lebanon with up to 600,000 left homeless. Briefing the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee which toured the battle zones in the east, Eitan said such figures were enormously inflated. There were not 600,000 civilians living in the entire area taken by the Israeli army, he noted.

Eitan clashed sharply with Labor dove Yossi Sarid over the question of casualty figures and over the extent to which the army had tried to avoid hitting civilians. Eitan insisted that the Israeli Army had gone out of its way, often at direct risk to its own men, to minimize casualties among noncombatants.

It was simply untrue that Tyre and Sidon had been razed, Eitan continued. Only specific areas which housed Palestine Liberation Organization positions and arms dumps had been bombarded, he said. The army had warned citizens to leave the towns and stay on the beaches during the attacks, and a great many had indeed done so and had come to no harm.

Eitan said PLO chief Yasir Arafat had sought and received asylum at the Soviet Embassy in Beirut. Subsequent reports in the media here say Arafat has returned to his forces in Beirut.

Reporting on the battles, the Chief of Staff noted that no Israeli servicemen in the new Merkava tank had been killed and this was thanks to crew protection equipment built into these tanks. Israel has said its Merkavas knocked out nine Soviet super modern tanks.

### SENATORS URGE 'DISMANTLING' PLO

By Helen Silver

WASHINGTON, June 16 (JTA) -- Thirty eight Senators have expressed support for the Reagan Administration's diplomatic effort to work for the "dismantling" of the Palestine Liberation Organization's political and military control of Lebanon, the withdrawal of Syrian and Israeli forces and the establishment of a strong central government in Lebanon.

According to a spokesman for Sen. Robert Packwood (R. Or.), one of the signators of a letter to President Reagan yesterday, the Senators said:

"It is crucial that a ceasefire be firmly established so that the way will be open for steps to reduce the possibility of further confrontation and conflict. Therefore we support strongly American diplomatic initiatives which combine the following elements:

"Dismantling of the PLO's ability to exercise military and political control over significant portions of Lebanese territory and to threaten Israel from that territory; complete withdrawal of all Syrian forces from Lebanon; complete withdrawal of all Israeli forces from Lebanon; and reestablishing full control and sovereignty of the central government of Lebanon over all its territory and the capability of keeping itself free of all foreign forces."

The letter, initiated by Senate Minority Leader Robert Byrd (D. W.Va.), deplored the instability of Lebanon which has racked that country since 1976. The lawmakers welcomed Secretary of State Alexander Haig's statement last week that "a solution to the crisis must include withdrawal of foreign military forces from Lebanon, a restoration

of the unity, and full independence for that country and the removal of the PLO's ability to conduct military and terrorist activities against Israel."

The letter concluded that "a long range negotiated settlement along these lines should be our ultimate objective. We fear that without such an agreement, the region will continue to be plagued by the kind of instability which has precipitated the present crisis."

#### FIGHTING IN LEBANON AT STANDSTILL

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, June 16 (JTA) -- An Israel Defense Force spokesman denied today reports of gun battles in Beirut between the IDF and the Palestinian terrorists.

The spokesman said that the entire front had been quiet since the early morning hours.

The situation on the battle front in the Lebanese capital seemed to have reached a standstill, with all the parties facing each other, at some places within a distance of only several hundred meters, waiting for developments.

The Israelis will not enter Beirut to wipe out the 6,000 terrorists still in the city, the Cabinet decided yesterday. IDF units were present in the eastern, Christian quarters of the city but according to the Cabinet decision, no attempt will be made by Israeli forces to enter the Moslem, western section, where the terrorist headquarters are located.

#### 2 Foreign Envoys In Beirut

Two foreign envoys are in Beirut trying to defuse the situation: U.S. Presidential envoy Philip Habib, and the envoy sent by French President Francois Mitterrand, Francis Guttman. Both were reportedly trying to work out a formula which would restore control in the city to the Lebanese government. Habib reportedly refused to make any contacts with the PLO—but the French envoy did.

Israel is watching the situation, and apparently waiting for the outcome of these diplomatic efforts, made under the shadow of Israeli guns.

According to estimates here, it is still not clear whether these efforts will succeed. Alternatively, the Israelis hope for two other possible developments; that the terrorists will give up, because of their encirclement, or that the Christian Phalangist forces will confront them.

#### Christian, PLO Confrontation Seen

According to Arab sources, the situation in Beirut is still very unstable, and renewed fighting is feared. The main concern is that renewed fighting would not be limited to the Israelis and the PLO, but would involve the various factions in the Lebanese capital itself -- notably a major confrontation between the Christian forces and the PLO. According to these sources, Syrian forces and units of the PLO's Palestine Liberation army are fortifying themselves on the eastern section of the Beirut-Damascus road and in the southeastern suburbs of the city.

The commander of the Christian Phalangists, Sheikh Bashir Jemayel, told Habib yesterday that the eight-year old fighting in Lebanon is coming to an end, and all the parties concerned must make the difficult decisions needed to save the country.

#### ISRAELIS CRITICIZE WAR

By David Landau

is beginning to be voiced over the government's handling of the war in Lebanon and indeed over the necessity for the war. Some Labor Party figures have begun to air criticism, and the Peace Now movement, having deliberately kept silent up to now, placed newspaper ads yesterday demanding that the hostilities end.

The criticism is still muted, in view of the ongoing state of military emergency and the sorrow and grief that has befallen so many Israeli families in the wake of the war casualties. "The time is not yet at hand to make our reckoning with the government," Labor leader Shimon Peres told a long and stormy faction meeting yesterday. He said he would wait until the mourning period was over.

But some members of the faction did not wait. Rabbi Menachem Hacohen, a Labor MK, said he was not at all sure that the Israeli blood spilled had been worthwhile. Adi Amori noted that more Israelis were killed in this campaign against the Palestine Liberation Organization in Lebanon than had been killed by the PLO over the past dozen years and more.

Another doveish Labor Knesseter, Nava Arad, said she felt the operation could have been prevented had the opposition acted more forcefully.

But other Laborites, mainly the hawks in the party such as Michael Bar-Zohar and Shoshana Arbeli, spoke in favor of the operation in both the initial operation against the PLO and the extended battles with the Syrians.

The Peace Now ads note that thousands of civilians "are being killed in this war. This is unprecedented in Israel's wars. Why are they being killed...? Why are (Israelis) being killed...?"

"Will this terrible war break the cycle of violence and hate? Is our existence in the balance? We say to the government. Stop."

The ads urged that the time was now right for a call "to the Palestinian people to join a negotiation on peace. Now is the time to set up a peace based on mutual recognition..."

Movement leaders said they would still desist from street demonstrations pending a stabilization of the cease-fire. But they indicated that such demonstrations would be called.

#### EL AL MAY FLY TOURISTS FROM LEBANON

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, June 16 (JTA) -- El Al may fly out tourists who were caught in Lebanon during the course of the fighting, Transportation Minister Haim Corfu said today. Corfu said he knew of many such tourists.

El Al was ready to honor any tickets of other airlines originally made for flight from Beirut. The problem which has not yet been solved was how to get those tourists from Lebanon to Israel. Corfu said he had asked for the consent of Defense Minister Ariel Sharon to operate two bus lines, one from Nahariya to Sidon on the coast, and the other from Kiryat Shmona to Nabatiya in the central region.

Zvi Zafriri, the director general of the Israel train network, proposed to reconstruct the railway from the border point of Rosh Hanikra to Beirut. He said work could be completed within six weeks at the cost of \$650,000.

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NEW YORK (JTA) -- Tourism to Israel is continuing unhampered by the Israeli campaign in Lebanon. Both El Al and TWA spokesmen confirmed that flights from the U.S. and Canada are arriving full, mostly with tourists, and in Israel, hotels and tours are operating normally.

JERUSALEM, June 16 (JTA) -- Public criticism

# WHITE HOUSE CONFIRMS REAGAN'S MEETING WITH BEGIN WILL TAKE PLACE AS SCHEDULED ON MONDAY

By Helen Silver

WASHINGTON, June 16 (JTA) — The White House confirmed today that the scheduled meeting next Monday between President Reagan and Premier Menachem Begin will take place as had been previously scheduled. They would not however disclose the time of the meeting.

At the same time, the State Department announced that Secretary of State Alexander Haig will meet in New York Friday morning with the Israeli Premier. Begin is scheduled to address the United Nations Special Session on Disarmament Friday morning.

According to various press reports today, administration officials have suggested that Reagan may not meet Begin as a means to insure that Israeli troops do not take over Beirut. (Begin, in an interview with Israel television shown last night after he departed to New York, refused to say what Israel would do. "I don't want to dodge, so I'd rather not reply at all ... in a few days it might become clear.")

## 'Differences Of Nuance'

(Begin said there were some "difference of nuance" with the U.S. regarding "a line that has stabilized," but the discussions were being held "as between friends." He stressed the fundamental unanimity between Jerusalem and Washington on the key issue that Lebanon must not be allowed to become a springboard for PLO terrorism again.)

At the State Department today, spokesman Dean Fischer had limited comment on troop movement in and around Beirut. But he added that the U.S. expected "that the various parties will adhere to their cease-fire declarations."

Fischer said that special U.S. envoy Philip Habib continues to remain in Beirut and is having "discussions with a wide variety of Lebanese governmental and political leaders." He said however that while Habib has not had direct contact with the PLO, he had had meetings with people who have direct contact with the PLO. "Obviously many Lebanese leaders have contact with the PLO," he said.

The spokesman said he thought there was "nothing unusual" about a report that the Soviet Union has moved an airborne division near its border with Syria.

# SHAMIR: NO QUARREL WITH PALESTINIANS

By Edwin Eytan

PARIS, June 16 (JTA) — Yitzhak Shamir, Israel's Foreign Minister, yesterday blamed the situation in Lebanon on "the extremist elements which traditionally lead the Palestinians" and added that Israel has no quarrel with the Palestinian people as such "with whom we want to achieve a peaceful coexistence."

Speaking at a press conference during a visit which included a lengthy meeting with French President Francois Mitterrand, Shamir said "It is because of these extremist elements, the PLO in particular, that the Palestinians find themselves in their current situation." But, he said, "they have a homeland in Jordan."

He reiterated Israel's position that Israel has no territorial ambitions in Lebanon and that all Israel wants is creation of an independent, strong and efficient government in Lebanon which can rid the country of all foreign elements of domination.

He also said Israel's main purpose for its "Peace for Galilee" military operation was to "put out of action the terrorist organizations." He also declared that the fate of the PLO leadership, including Yasir Arafat, believed trapped in encircled Beirut, was "only a detail with which our security services and our army will have to deal." Shamir refused to say whether Israel knows where Arafat is now and what fate awaits him if Israel captures him.

Prior to the press conference, Shamir met for 50 minutes with Mitterrand. Israeli sources said the meeting was a "dialogue" but diplomatic sources said Mitterrand renewed his call for an immediate cease-fire and an Israeli withdrawal from its positions around Beirut. Mitterrand reportedly told Shamir that the cease-fire and withdrawal was as necessary for Israel as for Lebanon.

During the press conference, held at the Israeli Embassy, several Jewish demonstrators gathered outside the building to call for a halt to Israel's military operations in Lebanon. Led by world-famous Jewish intellectuals, the demonstrators clashed with members of a counter-demonstration organized by a Jewish-fringe group, "Jewish Revival." There were no casualties and no arrests.

# KREISKY RAPS ISRAEL LABOR PARTY FOR SUPPORTING ACTION IN LEBANON

By Monika Brenner and Reinhard Engel

VIENNA, June 16 (JTA) — The Austrian Chancellor, Bruno Kreisky, today called the situation in Lebanon disastrous and he hinted at action to be taken in the Socialist International against the Israeli Labor Party which had supported Premier Menachem Begin's military action against the PLO in Lebanon.

"We will have to talk very seriously with the Israeli Labor Party within the Socialist International," Kreisky said. "The Labor Party acted in a way that does not correspond with our common values."

Asked whether he meant an expulsion of the Israeli Party, Kreisky answered that he does not favor "administrative action." Still, he said, he would openly criticize the Labor Party for its stance on the invasion of Lebanon.

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PARIS (JTA) — The 10-nation member states of the European Economic Community announced that their foreign ministers will meet Sunday in Luxembourg to consider the possibility of sanctions against Israel. The EEC said the question of economic sanctions had been raised during a foreign ministers meeting in Bonn last week.

The EEC submitted a questionnaire to Israel asking whether the arrested Palestinians will be treated as prisoners of war and whether Red Cross convention will be applied. The request for information was submitted by the Belgian Ambassador in Tel Aviv acting on behalf of the Ten.

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RIO DE JANEIRO (JTA) — Three new Orthodox rabbis have been ordained here following their graduation from the Yeshiva Machane Israel. The yeshiva is directed by Rabbi Chaim Benyamini and located in the hills of Petropolis, near Rio De Janeiro. The three new rabbis, all born in San Paulo, are: Nissim Katri, Yechiel Yosef Zayontz, and Shmuel Ende, all between the ages of 20 and 21. This brings to five the total of rabbis which have graduated from the Yeshiva Machane Israel. (By David Marcus)

## 5 NEW MEMBERS ON JTA BOARD; FOX RE-ELECTED PRESIDENT

NEW YORK, June 16 (JTA) -- Martin S. Fox, who was re-elected president of the Jewish Telegraphic Agency for a fourth one-year term, announced the election of five new members to the JTA Board of Directors. They are Robert Adelstein of Denver, Prof. Marcus Arkin of Johannesburg, Irwin S. Field of Los Angeles, Norman Jacobson of New York and Harriet Zimmerman of Atlanta.

In addition, Fox announced the re-election of William M. Landau as chairman of the Board, Robert H. Amow as chairman of the Executive Committee and Raymond Epstein, Philip Slomovitz, Melvin M. Swig, and Marshall Weinberg as vice-presidents. Also re-elected were Julius Berman, secretary, and Abraham Goodman, treasurer.

Robert Adelstein is a member of the Board of the Allied Jewish Federation of Denver, a Trustee of the National Jewish Hospital of Denver, and a delegate to the Large City Budgeting Conference (LCBC). He is also active in several other local and national Jewish organizations.

### South African Zionist Official

Prof. Marcus Arkin, Director-General of the South African Zionist Federation, was formerly head of the Dept. of Economics of Rhodes University, Grahamstown, S. Africa, where he was also Dean of the Faculty of Social Science. He is the author of several books on economics and on the history of Zionism. He has written numerous articles for Jewish and general publications in South Africa and other countries. He is chairman of the Association of Jewish Communal Professional Executives of So. Africa and a member of the scientific advisory board of the Institute for Interdisciplinary Research at Tel Aviv University.

Irwin S. Field is immediate past president and honorary national chairman of the United Jewish Appeal. From 1978-80, he was UJA's national chairman and in directing the nation-wide campaign effort was a moving force in the American Jewish community's acceptance of Project Renewal as a vital new campaign responsibility. He is a vice president of the Jewish Federation Council of Los Angeles, a member of the Jewish Agency Board of Governors, and serves on the executive committee of the JDC and the United Israel Appeal.

Norman Jacobson is a member of the Board of HIAS and the Jewish National Fund. He is on the Board of Trustees of Israel Bonds and active in other Jewish organizations. He is a vice president of the real estate firm of Swig, Weiler and Arnow.

### All Involved In Communal Affairs

Harriet Zimmerman is a member of the National Women's division Board of UJA and was the 1979-81 Women's Division campaign co-chairman in Atlanta. She serves on the Executive Board of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee, the American Jewish Historical Society, the Joint Distribution Committee, and the Board of Trustees of the American Friends of Tel Aviv University. She is also a member of the Board of Governors of the American Jewish Committee and the Anti-Defamation League, and a Board member of the Atlanta Jewish Federation.

In making the official announcement of the elections which were held at the annual JTA Board of Directors meeting in New York on June 8, Fox stated: "All five new members are deeply involved

in Jewish communal affairs and devoted to the cause of the Jewish people in this country and throughout the world. Their long standing contributions to both causes will further provide the Jewish Telegraphic Agency with their manifold talents and expertise to assure its continued success in providing Jewish communities worldwide with news and information of vital interest and concern to all."

## U.S. IMPORTS FROM ISRAEL UP 30 PERCENT

NEW YORK, June 16 (JTA) -- American imports from Israel increased by nearly 30 percent in 1981 over the previous year, according to figures released here today by the Government of Israel Trade Center.

The total of \$1.265 billion in 1981 over the previous year's total of \$977 million in 1980 was a record for Israeli exports to the United States and marked the first time the dollar value of such exports had exceeded \$1 billion in a single year, the report said.

The fastest growing category of Israeli exports to the U.S. continues to be electrical and electronic products, which registered a rise of some 89 percent in 1981 over the 1980 total. Much of the gain came in the form of high technology products researched and developed by Israeli scientists and engineers, it was noted.

Transportation equipment rose 79 percent in 1981 over 1980. A major factor in this increase, according to the report, was the success of the Westwind business jet manufactured by Israel Aviation Industries which were sold in the U.S. by Atlantic Aviation of Wilmington, Del. Impressive gains were also scored in Israeli food exports, which increased by 80 percent over the 1980 total. Goods under the heading of light industry, such as jewelry, rose 42 percent, the report said.

In all, exports to the U.S. accounted for 22 percent of Israel's total overseas sales in 1981, according to Shmuel Ben-Tovim, Israel's Trade Commissioner in the U.S. He said Israeli export figures for the first quarter of 1982 confirmed the steady growth of sales to the U.S.

### Policies Don't Affect Buying Decisions

Meanwhile, the Trade Center reports that according to a market research study attitudes toward Israel have very little impact on decisions by American shoppers to buy Israeli products.

A spokesperson said that the survey was made last October. It was based on a national probability telephone sample of 1,026 male and female heads of households. The survey indicated that awareness by Americans of Israeli products is very high. The spokesperson stressed that the Americans questioned covered the total population.

Nine of every ten shoppers are aware of at least one product made in Israel and more than half could list four or more Israeli-made products. Those most known and most frequently purchased by American consumers are food, clothing and jewelry. The respondents rated products from Israel as above average in quality but competitively priced with non-Israeli products, the Trade Center reported.

One-fourth of those surveyed had purchased at least one Israeli-made product and gave practical, rather than emotional, reasons for doing so. In order of importance, reasons were: Israel products better met needs; personal preference; high quality and curiosity. Shmuel Ben-Tovim, Israeli Trade Commissioner to the United States, said the results of the survey are being used to develop and implement a marketing plan for Israeli imports.