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CABINET AGREES TO CONTINUE CEASE-FIRE; NO FURTHER MOVES PENDING BEGIN, REAGAN MEETING By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, June 20 (JTA) -- The Cabinet decided today that Israel would continue to observe the 48-hour cease-fire in Beirut requested by U.S. special envoy Philip Habib although it expired at noon today. According to a Cabinet statement, Israeli troops will not fire unless fired upon.

The decision followed conflicting reports on Habib's progress, or lack of it, in trying to get the Palestine Liberation Organization to lay down its arms in Beirut and pave the way for the establishment of a central Lebanese authority. Sources here said earlier in the day that the American diplomat had not even reached "the beginning of a settlement."

But later reports from Beirut spoke of progress toward the creation of a National Salvation Council which would extend Lebanese authority to west Beirut presently under PLO control. Those reports apparently were related to Walid Junblatt's reported decision to participate in a National Salvation Council. Junblatt, a leftist who heads Lebanon's large Druze community, is a key political figure. He reportedly promised Habib a decision by Monday.

The Cabinet indicated that Israeli forces in Lebanon would observe the truce at least until the outcome of Premier Menachem Begin's meeting with President Reagan at the White House tomorrow. Begin met with Secretary of State Alexander Haig in New York Friday.

U.S. Ready To Pressure Syria

According to reports reaching here, Haig repeated the American request that Begin keep Israeli troops out of west Beirut. He reportedly expressed U.S. readiness to exert its influence for a gradual withdrawal of Syrian forces from Lebanon, although probably not from the Bekaa Valley in eastern Lebanon which controls the approaches to Syria.

Haig is also said to have told Begin that the U.S. would not encourage further action against the PLO if the PLO completely abandoned its military role and became purely a political organization. Begin, for his part, reportedly claimed that the Palestinians were preparing to resume fighting in Lebanon.

He said a PLO presence in the town of Alei, east of Beirut, has been reinforced by large numbers of volunteers, including Iranians and Jordanians, with the apparent intention of trying to link up with the PLO forces in west Beirut.

Sources here meanwhile claimed there was little chance that the PLO would voluntarily dismantle its military infrastructure and hand over its weapons to the Lebanese army.

At today's Cabinet meeting, Deputy Premier Simcha Ehrlich flatly rejected a reported proposal by Habib that PLO chief Yasir Arafat form a Palestinian government in exile in Cairo which would participate in the autonomy negotiations. Ehrlich said he had no confirmation that Habib had ever proposed such a move but if the reports were cor-

rect, Israel would never under any circumstances negotiate with Arafat.

2 ISRAELI SOLDIERS KILLED, 3 INJURED By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, June 20 (JTA) -- Three Israeli soldiers were wounded in a clash with Syrian troops in south Lebanon Friday, a military spokesman announced today. He said five Syrian soldiers were killed in the brief exchange of fire east of Lake Karoun.

The spokesman disclosed that two Israeli officers were killed in Lebanon Thursday, one while trying to dismantle a booby trap and the other when his patrol came under fire south of Beirut. An Israeli soldier was wounded in that encounter. The spokesman reported artillery exchanges by Israeli troops south and east of Beirut with either Syrians or Palestinians who fired from inside the Lebanese capital.

Chief of Staff Gen. Rafael Eitan issued an order of the day warning Israeli forces to be constantly on the alert even though the main battles in Lebanon appear to be over. He said that snipers may still fire on Israeli soldiers or try to shoot down low-flying aircraft. He cautioned the troops to be especially watchful for booby-trapped objects. He warned also against looting and "taking souvenirs."

The army said, meanwhile, that it would soon release reservists called to duty when Israel invaded Lebanon on June 5. But most are expected to complete their required 40 days of active service.

BEGIN REVEALS SOVIET LETTER

By Kevin Freeman

NEW YORK, June 20 (JTA) -- Premier Menachem Begin today disclosed that he and Soviet President Leonid Brezhnev exchanged letters recently in which the Soviet Union reminded Israel that its troops were in the vicinity of the Soviet Embassy in Beirut.

Begin, appearing on the CBS-TV program "Face the Nation," said the letter was received "a few days ago" and spoke of the locale of the Embassy in relation to the position of Israeli troops. He said it spoke of the Embassy and "nothing else."

The Israeli Premier said he replied to the letter just prior to his departure to the United States and reminded the Soviets that the Israeli government respected the immunity of the Soviet Embassy. At the same time, Begin said he also reminded the Soviet Union of Israel's right to self-defense.

Begin's appearance on the CBS program came just a day before he is scheduled to meet with President Reagan at the White House. In preparation for the meeting with Reagan, Begin met last Friday with Secretary of State Alexander Haig in New York. The issue of Lebanon and the long stalled autonomy talks for Palestinian autonomy are expected to be discussed tomorrow.

Begin said that the autonomy proposal is the most far reaching of its kind ever proposed. He again said that Jerusalem must be one of the sites for the

autonomy negotiations, a point that has stalled the autonomy talks because of Israel's insistence on Jerusalem as a site and Egypt's refusal to hold the talks there.

Begin was asked whether he felt Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak has been embarrassed by the Israeli invasion into Lebanon and by the continued insistence to hold the autonomy talks in Jerusalem. He responded rhetorically, "Did I embarrass President Mubarak because we defended our people?"

Regarding the Israeli invasion of Lebanon, Begin would not specify on how long the Israeli troops will remain there. He said this could not be measured in days but would depend on "a criteria of security."

Seeks Multinational Force

According to Begin, Israel seeks to have a multinational peacekeeping force in southern Lebanon to keep the Palestinian terrorists from shelling Israel's northern settlements. He said the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) is not sufficient.

The Israeli Premier would not explain why the Israeli troops went beyond the originally stated intentions of the Israeli operation to push the Palestinian terrorists 40 kilometers (25 miles) north of the Israeli-Lebanese border. Begin seemed to imply that this occurred because the Israeli forces were pursuing the Palestine Liberation Organization.

Doesn't Want Arafat

Regarding the fate of PLO Chief Yasir Arafat, Begin said Israel had no plans to capture him, "because we don't want to deal with him at all. He would be a trouble for us. Let him go where he wants to."

Begin said Israeli troops have captured a massive quantity of Soviet weapons and ammunition from Palestinian terrorist bases in Lebanon. He said it would take 10 big trucks working day and night for six weeks to transport all of the captured arms to Israel. He said Lebanon had become a "Soviet base" for the Middle East.

Asked what he sees in the future for Israel, Begin spoke warmly of his nine grandchildren. "I have deep faith in my heart that my grandchildren will have peace," he said.

BEGIN DEFENDS RIGHT TO SELF-DEFENSE; URGES BAN ON WARS OF AGGRESSION By Yitzhak Rabi

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., June 20 (JTA) -- Premier Menachem Begin offered the United Nations General Assembly Special Session on Disarmament a three-stage plan for peace and disarmament.

The first stage is to ban aggressive war, he said Friday. The second stage is negotiation of a nuclear non-aggression pact by the nuclear powers. The third stage is the establishment of nuclear weapon free zones, he said.

In regard to the first stage, he said, "Self-defense is the sacred duty and right of man. As long as tyranny is armed, liberty must have and develop weapons for its defense. Otherwise, slavery will engulf all of mankind and all the pacts and visions will be in vain." He added "what should be banned, denounced and renounced, is aggressive war whether by conventional or by nuclear weapons."

On the second stage of his proposal, Begin said the nuclear powers should negotiate a nuclear

non-aggression pact. "They should undertake not to attack each other or any other country with those deadly weapons, the only exception being, if they, or their allies, are attacked with such weapons."

On the third stage of his proposal, he said it should be modeled after the Tlatelolco Treaty of Latin America, a treaty for creation of nuclear free zones in Latin America. "Israel is prepared to negotiate and sign such a treaty with all her neighbors in the Middle East," he said.

Vision Of Prophets

Begin expressed his belief that the day would come when the vision of Israeli prophets of peace in the world will prevail. He concluded "we can do it. All of us can do it. Even with animosity, even with a state of war ... let us meet. Let us shake hands, talk peace to each, make agreements and all of us will change the course of history of our nations."

When Begin started his speech, all the Arab delegates left the Assembly hall, except the Egyptian mission, which remained through his speech. However, more than 100 of the 157 UN delegations were absent during his speech. Ambassador Jeane Kirkpatrick led a full U.S. delegation to hear Begin's address.

FUNDS RAISED FOR ISRAEL

NEW YORK, June 20 (JTA) -- Premier Menachem Begin, appearing before enthusiastically approving Jewish audiences here, passionately defended Israel's invasion of Lebanon and claimed that its twin goals of "Peace for Galilee" and the destruction of the Palestine Liberation Organization had been achieved through the brilliance of Israel's defense forces.

Begin spoke Thursday night at a meeting of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations attended by 400 persons at the Waldorf Astoria Hotel and later at a United Jewish Appeal dinner at the Pierre Hotel attended by 500 guests.

At the UJA dinner it was announced that in the previous four days, \$4 million was raised in an emergency fund for Israel. Sums of \$1.5 million and of \$500,000 and \$400,000 in large contributions were announced at the dinner. It was also announced that the Federation of Jewish Philanthropies was making a loan of \$10 million, to be available this Monday, to Israel. It is part of a \$25 million commitment in emergency funds for Israel made by the UJA-Federation Campaign.

The Premier also addressed more than 2,000 Jewish leaders at an Israel Bond Organization luncheon at the Waldorf Astoria on Friday. He was presented with \$35 million in cash purchases of Israel Bonds. It was described as the single biggest Israel Bonds cash day since the Yom Kippur War.

Begin told the Jewish leaders that when he meets President Reagan tomorrow he would tell the President, who he called "a devoted friend of Israel," of the American Jewish community's support for Israel as well as the support of many Christian Americans. (By Yitzhak Rabi)

PARIS (JTA) -- French Premier Pierre Mauroy and Foreign Minister Claude Cheysson met here Sunday with Farouk Kaddoumi, the PLO's political relations head. Kaddoumi reportedly asked for French intervention to obtain an Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon. He said the PLO is "determined to keep fighting on as long as necessary and will never give up."

BEHIND THE HEADLINES

CAR TRIP FROM ISRAEL TO BEIRUT
REVEALS CONTRASTS OF PEACE, WAR

By Hugh Orgel

DOHA (Beirut Suburbs), June 20 (JTA) -- A car trip from the Israel border at Rosh Hanikra to this luxury bedroom suburb just south of Beirut, on a beautiful hilltop overlooking the international airport, reveals a patchwork, piecemeal sort of war.

The road followed the coast, at times almost on the beach itself; at other places on cliffsides high above the blue Mediterranean. Sometimes for two or three kilometers (a mile or so) the narrow two-lane roadway is undamaged. Orange and fruit groves are dusty in the summer heat but unharmed. Farm buildings and villages are whole, with bright flowers or vines trailing over them.

But then you come to a stretch of road -- a few kilometers -- pockmarked by shell and bomb craters. The buildings along the roadside are heavily damaged. Some look completely destroyed.

Telephone and electricity wires trail along the ground. Pylons and phone polls are shorn off by shellfire or blast. The carcasses of damaged or burnt-out cars litter the roadsides.

Some of the vehicles were propelled by the blasts on top of the rubble of what once was a house.

True Picture Of Lebanon

The difference -- between the undamaged areas and the evident signs of war -- shows where the advancing Israeli forces had to use their heavy fire power of the Air force to silence or overcome pockets of terrorist occupation or resistance.

The Lebanese will tell you that this is a true picture of their country under Palestinian and Syrian occupation. They all appear to agree that hope for the future of their beautiful but unhappy country lies only in the rapid departure of "all foreigners and that includes you Israelis as well as the Palestinians and Syrians."

The road from Rosh Hanikra to Beirut passes through a number of villages and two main towns -- Tyre and Sidon -- and a third, smaller town, Damour, some 10 miles south of Beirut. It is in all three that war damage is most evident, and civilian casualties reportedly the highest.

The damage and the casualties were not caused in the week of fighting because Israel sought to reek vengeance on the Lebanese, but because it was at these spots that Israel had to fight against well-armed opposition, even if terrorist forces were not a regular army.

Tyre, Two-Thirds, Destroyed

According to a local civil engineer from Tyre, almost two-thirds of the town was destroyed by air raids, artillery and tank fire. But he said the casualties were "remarkably small." The Israelis dropped leaflets in Arabic before making their assault, warning residents to take refuge outside the town or in the Red Crescent section of the town. But even so, the number of civilian dead runs into the several hundred in Tyre.

Damage was especially heavy in the port area where small vessels were sunk near the breakwater and buildings on the waterfront were severely damaged or completely destroyed.

In Sidon further to the north the second largest town in Lebanon, property damage in the central downtown and commercial area was the most severe. Large parts of the long central street will have to be razed and rebuilt because the buildings are be-

yond repair. But it is surprising that the damage and casualties were not higher, for Palestinian arms and ammunition dumps were found in the basements of high-rise buildings along the street. The residents say they were aware that they were living on terrorist and guerrilla arms dumps, but claim they could do nothing about it.

"They kept promising to remove them, but never did anything about it. And when the air raids started, we even took shelter in the basement, among the ammunition and bombs stored there," one woman resident told newsmen.

The newsmen visited the arms dump, next to the building now housing the Israel army's "town major" trying to restore civilian life to damaged Sidon. They could see the descriptions on the boxes, in English, Russian and Chinese, showing the countries of origin of the material. Some had been shipped from Libya, and some boxes, painted white, read "medical supplies" though they contained mortar bombs.

About 30 such arms caches have been found, all in the basements of residential buildings. The assault on Sidon, and the battle to gain possession, was heavy because Sidon was a main center for the Palestine Liberation Organization's occupation of Lebanon.

Although casualty figures have not yet been released, they were probably lower than they might have been because of Israeli warnings, transmitted through the Red Cross and other organizations, to the townfolk to take refuge on the beach, where they would not be harmed while the Israelis dealt with the Palestinians.

Some 70,000 of the over 100,000 residents spent days and nights on the beach, and some were still there this week, unable to return home because their dwellings no longer exist. They are living under the pine trees on the shore, surrounded by crudely strung plastic sheets, without any sanitary facilities and little more than the clothes they wear on their backs. Their children play naked in the fly laden filth around them.

The visible damage in Sidon, and the refugees still on the beach, have given rise to a serious credibility gap between Israeli officials and government spokesmen and newsmen who, visiting southern Lebanon, have and can still see the widespread damage and talk to the beach refugees. But officials, including the chief army spokesman have claimed that "damage in Sidon was confined to the streets" and that no refugees were to be seen still on the beach.

Damage in the town of Damour was heavy because this township, originally Christian and dominated by a church, was forcibly taken by Moslems during the civil war and occupied by Palestinians a few years ago, with its Christian residents expelled. It was accordingly regarded as a prime terrorist center by the Israelis and again further damaged in new fighting for its possession.

But despite the suffering and damages caused by the fight against the Palestinian terrorists and guerrillas during "operation Peace for Galilee," talks with Lebanese in the streets disclose remarkably little bitterness or rancor, even by Moslems harmed during the fighting.

They do not know whom to blame for their plight: themselves for not having spoken out against the Palestinian presence earlier; their government for being too weak by tradition; or the Israelis for rolling northwards with awesome fire power and strength.

There appears to be a 100 percent consensus that all foreigners should leave the country and that includes Syrians, Palestinians and Israelis and allow their country to rule itself as best it can.

Readiness to leave Lebanon and come back home is a sentiment shared by all Israeli soldiers, now resting after battle, or maintaining and repairing their fighting vehicles and equipment.

2500 RALLY IN SUPPORT OF ISRAEL

By Judith Kohn

NEW YORK, June 20 (JTA) -- Some 2,500 supporters of Israel's action in Lebanon rallied Friday in Dag Hammarskjöld Plaza, as Premier Menachem Begin delivered his scheduled address to the United Nations Disarmament Conference.

With balloons, Israeli flags and placards, the demonstrators welcomed Begin to New York, praised the Israeli invasion of Lebanon, and called for an end to terrorism and restoration of a sovereign Lebanon. Some of the banners protested the prosed sale of American Hawk anti-aircraft missiles to Jordan.

The rally was sponsored by the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, the New York Jewish Community Relations Council and the National Jewish Community Relations Advisory Council. Participants represented member organizations of the sponsors, as well as Hadassah, Jewish senior citizen centers, and the Jewish Defense League. Also present at the rally were members of the American-Lebanese Friendship League.

Howard Squadron, chairman of the Presidents Conference, who presided over the rally, announced he had been told that some of the Arab delegations at the United Nations would bring in large numbers of people to the UN General Assembly chambers today, so that when Begin began to speak there would be a large crowd getting up to walk out. "We are here as a large crowd, greeting him welcoming him and supporting him," Squadron said.

Oppose Pressure On Israel

Speakers representing Jewish organizations, New York City, U.S. congressional districts, the AFL-CIO and the National Christian Leadership Conference for Israel, urged the United States not to pressure Israel into withdrawing its forces from Lebanon until an arrangement has been found to restore Lebanese sovereignty.

"If the events of Lebanon have taught us anything, it is that we must not go back to the status quo," New York State Attorney General Robert Abrams told a cheering audience. "We cannot go back to a Lebanon of guerrilla camps, of private militias and Syrian troops. There cannot be a withdrawal until there is a permanent solution."

Messages from New York's U.S. Senators Daniel Patrick Moynihan and Alfonse D'Amato denounced the "selective morality" that they perceived in world criticism of Israel's action in Lebanon, and urged the U.S. Government not to press for an immediate Israeli withdrawal. "The time has come for all of us to insist that our government play a leading role in ensuring the reconstruction of a pluralist, democratic Lebanon -- free from foreign occupation," Moynihan said.

Meanwhile, some 600-700 supporters of the PLO were picketing the Israeli Consulate and the Israeli Mission to the UN. They moved on to the Waldorf Astoria Hotel where Begin is staying during his visit in New York. The demon-

strators included a Hassidic Jew who said he was a representative of the anti-Zionist Neturei Karta.

JEWISH SITES IN ROME BOMBED

By Lisa Palmieri-Billig

ROME, June 20 (JTA) -- The war in Lebanon is having serious repercussions for the Jewish community here and apparently has triggered a wave of violence in the Italian capital. Three bombs exploded early this morning, one at the offices of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, another at the Italy-Israeli Chamber of Commerce and a third at the main office of the American Express Co.

There were no immediate reports of injuries or damage. The bombings appeared to be in reprisal for the murders here last week of two young Palestinian activists. Hazziz Nazegh Matar, 32, was shot to death Wednesday night. Kamal Hussein, the 33 year-old deputy director of the Palestine Liberation Organization office in Rome, was blown to bits when a bomb exploded in his car Thursday. The PLO promptly accused Israeli agents. The Israel Embassy vehemently denied any Israeli connection with the killings.

Meanwhile, the scheduled festive opening ceremonies of the 11th National Congress of the Union of Italian Jewish Communities -- beginning today through June 22 -- were called off at the last minute. The ceremonies were to be held at the City Hall under the auspices of Rome's Mayor and with the prominent Italian Jewish novelist and Holocaust survivor, Primo Levi, as the main speaker. It was cancelled, according to telegrams sent to all delegates and broadcast on the radio "in consideration of the grave mourning which once again afflicts Israel and the other peoples of the Near East."

The cancellation avoided a potentially embarrassing situation. The Mayor of Rome led a pro-PLO march through the city only two days ago. Levi was one of a group of Jewish writers and intellectuals who signed an open letter calling for Israel's immediate withdrawal from Lebanon. The letter was sharply critical of Israel's invasion of that country.

APPLYING TORAH STANDARDS URGED

SPRING GLEN, N.Y., June 20 (JTA) -- Harold Jacobs, the president of the National Council of Young Israel, issued a call here last night for the religious community "to apply Torah standards to the policies and priorities of the Jewish state."

Addressing some 500 delegates at the group's 70th anniversary national convention, Jacobs urged the American Jewish community to mobilize so that "Israel is not forced to surrender, once again, at the peace table, what our brave boys won at such a terrible cost on the battlefield."

Jacobs, who was re-elected to a second term as president of the National Council of Young Israel continued: "The world continued to judge Israel with a double standard, denying to her the right of self defense that every other nation enjoys. Perhaps that should not be so surprising for, after all, whoever said being Jewish, or a Jewish State, was ever supposed to be easy?" We apply a higher, Torah standard to our own personal conduct, and it is time for us, as Torah committed Jews, to offer the Torah point of view on the issues confronting Israel today."

* * *

ROME (JTA) -- Pope John Paul II issued another urgent appeal for peace in Lebanon. In a statement June 16, published Saturday in the Vatican newspaper *Osservatore Romano*, he appeared to refer obliquely to Israel when he expressed hope "that in the soul of he who seems to be prevailing, magnanimity may triumph, wisdom and far-sightedness"