

## ISRAELIS IN COUNTER-ATTACK AGAINST-SYRIAN POSITIONS

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, June 23 (JTA) -- The Israel Air Force went into action today for the second time in 24 hours against Syrian artillery and tanks which tried to advance on Israeli positions south of the Beirut-Damascus highway, a military spokesman said.

He said the aerial sorties began at noon in support of an Israeli counter-attack which repulsed the Syrian advance east of Lake Karoun. He said two Syrian soldiers were killed and several wounded with no Israeli casualties. Israel Radio said today that the Syrians were re-enforced by volunteers from Iran whose presence spurred the Syrians to renew the fighting.

Two Israeli soldiers were wounded this morning when their vehicle struck a land mine in the Rashaya area of the eastern front close to the cease-fire line, a military spokesman said. He disclosed that 47 Israeli soldiers were wounded in fire exchanges yesterday, three of them seriously. The rest sustained light to moderate wounds, he said.

Israel offered to accept a cease-fire yesterday after an escalation of fighting with Syrians east of the city and with Syrians and Palestinians in west Beirut. Beirut was reported quiet today except for several explosions of undetermined origin. Israel resumed its air attacks on Syrian positions yesterday after a nine-day hiatus in order to silence Syrian artillery.

## Labor Urges Maintaining Cease-Fire

The Labor Party's Knesset faction adopted a resolution last night calling for strict observance of the cease-fire in Lebanon and warned against any attempt by Israeli forces to capture Beirut or advance against Palestinian forces holding out in the western districts of the city. The faction reversed an earlier decision not to debate the government's handling of the war in Lebanon until Premier Menachem Begin returned from the U.S. and reported to the Cabinet.

Labor's position is that it supported the original objectives of the government in Lebanon but will not support the subsequent widening of the fighting which took Israeli troops to the outskirts of Beirut with heavy casualties. When Israel invaded Lebanon on June 5, Begin insisted that its sole objective was to establish a 40 kilometer (25 mile) buffer zone in south Lebanon to protect northern Israel from further rocket and artillery attacks by Palestinian terrorists.

The Labor Party stated further that while the Palestine Liberation Organization has been dealt a heavy blow, it has not been destroyed and the danger it poses to Israel can be removed only by diplomatic action.

## WEINBERGER FAVORS PHASED WITHDRAWAL

WASHINGTON, June 23 (JTA) -- Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger told American Jewish leaders yesterday that he favored a phased withdrawal of Israeli forces from Lebanon while Syrian forces also left that country. He said he hoped

one result of the Israeli incursion into Lebanon would be the emergence of a strong, independent central Lebanese government.

Weinberger met for an hour at the Pentagon with a delegation of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, headed by its chairman-elect, Julius Berman. The Jewish leaders said they told him that the American Jewish community is "totally united" in support of Israel's action against the Palestine Liberation Organization in Lebanon and stressed that U.S. participation in efforts to restore peace and security to the area was "essential."

Berman was accompanied by Rabbi Alexander Schindler, president of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations; Jacob Stein, President Reagan's former liaison to the Jewish community, and Yehuda Hellman, executive director of the Presidents' Conference.

They gave Weinberger a letter from Howard Squadron, outgoing chairman of the Presidents' Conference, sharply criticizing the Defense Secretary's remarks on a television appearance last Sunday comparing Israel's invasion of Lebanon to Argentina's aggression against the Falkland Islands.

Squadron, who was unable to attend the Pentagon meeting, claimed "The situations are not comparable. There was no bombardment of the Falkland Islands from Argentina. The action by Israel was for the purpose of putting an end to such bombardment of northern Israel without any territorial claim or ambition."

## THATCHER: NO EEC SANCTIONS AGAINST ISRAEL

By Yitzhak Rabi

UNITED NATIONS, June 23 (JTA) -- British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher said today that she did not expect the European Economic Community (EEC) to impose sanctions against Israel for its invasion of Lebanon.

But she stated in unequivocal terms at a press conference here that Israel should withdraw from Lebanon, as called for by the United Nations Security Council in the resolutions passed after Israel opened its "Peace for Galilee" operation. Thatcher said that she hoped that the measure taken so far by the EEC, suspending a loan from the EEC to Israel, was only temporary.

## BEGIN CLAIMS REAGAN BACKS ISRAEL'S GOALS IN LEBANON

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, June 23 (JTA) -- Premier Menachem Begin returned from the U.S. today claiming that he had gained the support of the Reagan Administration for Israel's objectives in Lebanon. He said the proof of this was President Reagan's public endorsement of two key principles: the need for all foreign forces to leave Lebanon and the need for a buffer zone in south Lebanon to protect Israel from future attacks.

Begin defined "foreign forces" as the Syrians, armed elements of the Palestine Liberation Organization and the Israeli army. But Begin's first words to Israeli and foreign reporters after he

landed at Ben Gurion Airport at noon were that "never has the great American Jewish community been more united behind the State of Israel, the 'Peace for Galilee' operation and the government's policy than it is today." He said he had stressed that to Administration officials.

The Premier also spoke at length of the stormy meeting he had yesterday with the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and the House Foreign Affairs Committee in Washington where many Congressmen known to be friendly to Israel questioned him sharply on Israel's conduct of the war in Lebanon and its policies on the West Bank.

Begin said he told Reagan at their White House meeting Monday that Israel wanted to withdraw from Lebanon as soon as possible by which he meant as soon as "arrangements are made" to ensure the removal of any PLO threat to Israel's northern towns and settlements and to the entire country. He also claimed he had achieved a "deep understanding" in his meetings with Secretary of State Alexander Haig which encompassed "Israel's positions, its role in the West Bank and its requirements."

#### Opposes Expanding UNIFIL

Begin said he had stressed to Reagan and other Administration officials Israel's opposition to an expanded United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) on grounds that any force under UN authority "cannot be objective." He said he had noted in that connection that more than half of the current members of the Security Council "do not even have diplomatic relations with Israel."

Begin said Reagan was "considering" U.S. participation in a multinational force to patrol a south Lebanon buffer zone which, from Israel's standpoint would be desirable. "But we do not demand anything," Begin said, adding that a multinational force could be set up without the participation of American forces.

He said Reagan began their conversation by saying he had "expected" the Israel-Lebanon-PLO issue to be resolved by diplomatic means. "But I explained the developments to the President... As a result I think he understood, the proof being his statement to the press" endorsing a buffer zone and the withdrawal of foreign forces from Lebanon.

Begin also said he tried to persuade the Administration and public opinion that the Western media were "biased" in reporting the war in Lebanon. He singled out the American electronic media and some of the press which, he alleged, published civilian casualty figures "put out by Arab organizations" to the effect that the Israeli action rendered 600,000 people homeless. He claimed the true figure was 20,000. He insisted that the figure of 4000 civilians killed in the Israeli attacks on Tyre was a "tenfold exaggeration."

#### Congressional Meetings Called 'Beneficial'

Begin called his session with the Congressmen before his departure from the U.S. yesterday "very good, beneficial, and even warm." He said the "troubling" questions he was asked did not offend him. He said one member of the Senate committee praised Israel's action in Lebanon and "One young Senator, who made the best speech I heard in a long time," praised the Lebanon operation but castigated Begin's West Bank policies and urged a cut in U.S. aid because of it.

Begin said he had responded to this by observing that aid "is not a one-way street" and claimed that Israel's incursion into Lebanon aided U.S. interests. He said he also reminded the Senator of his "solemn pledge" that no threats would ever extract concessions from Israel.

#### Tough Exchange

Senators who participated in the give-and-take session with Begin were quoted today as saying it was the toughest exchange American lawmakers ever had with a foreign head of government. Sen. Paul Tsongas (D. Mass.), a consistent friend of Israel, said, "Never in my eight years in Washington have I ever seen such an angry session with a foreign head of state."

Sen. Larry Pressler (R. S.D.), said, "This is the first time I have seen such a confrontation between the Prime Minister of Israel and Senators in terms of head-on disagreement. He is taking question after question and just hitting them head on. He is not budging an inch."

The most bitter exchange was reported between Begin and Sen. Joseph Biden (D. Del.), another prominent friend of Israel who, though not critical of the Lebanon campaign, urged Israel to halt its policy of establishing new settlements on the West Bank. He said that policy was costing Israel support in the U.S. Israel's policies were defended by Sens. Daniel Moynihan (D. N.Y.), S.I. Hayakawa (R. Calif.) and Rudy Boschwitz (R. Minn.). Senate Majority Leader Howard Baker (R. Tenn.) observed, "I think anytime you have a conflict of this magnitude it puts a strain on friendships, but I don't think there will be a permanent dislocation." Nevertheless, Begin's confrontation with the key Senators involved in U.S. foreign policy indicated to many observers an erosion of support for certain of Israel's actions and policies.

#### Cluster Bomb Use Questioned

Some of the legislators seemed disturbed by Israel's use of American weapons in its invasion of Lebanon, especially cluster bombs which have a devastating effect on civilians. Begin reportedly said he was not aware that cluster bombs were used but would ask Defense Minister Ariel Sharon when he returned to Israel.

At the airport today, Begin made no reference to the immediate issue occupying Israel and world attention -- Israel's intentions regarding Beirut, where Palestinian and Syrian forces are holding out. The Cabinet agreed yesterday to observe a new ceasefire after one arranged over the weekend broke down. But there were reports of renewed fighting this morning. The Cabinet decided Sunday, over Sharon's objections, not to send Israeli forces into west Beirut to root out the PLO remnants there.

Begin said he would brief the Cabinet tomorrow on his American trip. "I know there are still exchanges (of fire) and we are suffering casualties," he said. "We want to put an end to all this bloody episode and to make peace between ourselves and Lebanon and bring our soldiers home. We will do so when peace is ensured for the Galilee and for the whole State of Israel," he said.

TEL AVIV (JTA) -- Health Minister Eliezer Shostack told the Knesset Tuesday that about 400 civilians were killed in Sidon, 50 in Tyre and 10 in Nabatiye during the Israeli drive to capture those Palestine Liberation Organization strongholds in Lebanon. He denounced the International Red Cross for allegedly disseminating grossly exaggerated civilian casualty figures.

## ARENS SAYS DEFEAT OF PLO MAY MAKE ACHIEVING AUTONOMY EASIER

By Helen Silver

WASHINGTON, June 23 (JTA) --

Moshe Arens, Israel's Ambassador to the United States, said today that Israel's military operation in Lebanon may provide a basis for movement on Palestinian autonomy on the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

"I think there is reason to hope that we may be able to move more expeditiously than we thought we could before in the negotiations for autonomy for Palestinian Arabs living in Judaea, Samaria and the Gaza area," Arens said in a speech to the National Press Club here today.

According to Arens, the participation of local Palestinians in autonomy was severely inhibited by the Palestine Liberation Organization which, he said, murdered moderates willing to cooperate with Israel.

"We hope this impediment in the foundation of the peace making has now been removed," Arens stated, referring to the military setback of the PLO in south Lebanon. He said that the Israelis "may have taken a step forward towards that comprehensive peace in the Middle East that we are working for and hoping for."

### Peace Treaty With Lebanon Foreseen

He predicted that the day may not "be far off" when Lebanon, like Egypt, will sign an independent peace treaty with Israel, "and then almost inevitably the other Arab states will have to follow suit."

In his address, Arens outlined the background of the Lebanese situation, engulfed in violence, and with over 60 percent of its land occupied by the PLO and Syrian forces. He said Israel had found a situation over the years where the settlements on the northern border became "hostages" to the PLO artillery and rocket fire launched from southern Lebanon.

He said today, the PLO presence in southern Lebanon has been "effectively eliminated... they are not there anymore." He pointed out that for the first time in eight years, since the 1975-1976 civil war, Lebanese President Elias Sarkis has succeeded in putting together a Cabinet, in the form of a Committee for National Salvation which includes representatives of all major ethnic and religious groups in Lebanon.

### Huge PLO Arms Supply Found

Arens said the Israeli army found in southern Lebanon a quantity of PLO weapons and ammunition that was ten times as large as Israeli intelligence estimated prior to the operation, a quantity the envoy said was "beyond our expectations and almost beyond our belief." Furthermore, documents found in Palestine terrorist emplacements proved beyond a doubt a close "almost organic inter-connection" between the PLO and the Soviet Union, he said.

There were also membership cards in the PLO not only for Palestinians, Iranians and Syrians, he said, but also for people who came from the Philippines, Vietnam and East Germany. He described this as a "conspiracy of international dimensions."

According to Arens, the number of lives that have been reported lost in south Lebanon from the Israeli invasion has been "grossly exaggerated by the American media." "It was not difficult to assume that in many cases it was not deliberately exaggerated," Arens said.

"Of course, Arens said, "we are concerned and are doing everything possible to bring relief to the victims." He said Israel has already mounted a large scale effort of assistance in the medical fields and providing food and shelter, most of it voluntary and organized by the Israeli government. He said a minister in the Israeli government has been appointed to deal with this relief help.

### LEBANESE ENVOY URGES WITHDRAWAL

By Yitzhak Rabi

UNITED NATIONS, June 23 (JTA) -- Lebanon called today for the withdrawal of all Israeli troops from Lebanon and the restoration of Lebanese independence and sovereignty to the Lebanese people.

Ambassador Ghassan Tuani, in an address to the United Nations General Assembly Special Session on Disarmament, declared that "Lebanon should never again be the arena where friends and foes find it convenient to wage their wars."

He stressed that "Lebanon should have a strong national army, not merely as a protection against further destabilization, but as a catalyst, integrating a traditionally pluralistic society capable of absorbing and containing present fragmentary forces." He added that Lebanon's security and independence "should not remain contingent upon extraterritorial considerations of any sort, whether regional or international."

Tuani said the Lebanese alone must decide their future for themselves and that they are determined to achieve peace in their country without waiting for the achievement of a comprehensive peace settlement in the Middle East.

The Lebanese Ambassador said his country "should never again allow its liberty to be taken hostage by those to whom it was extended," a clear reference to the Palestine Liberation Organization. "Our reservations, past and present, concerning Palestinian military activity in Lebanon do not undermine our solidarity with the Palestinian cause," he added. He said the present war in Lebanon was "becoming a danger, not to Lebanon alone, but to others as well, and probably the entire world."

### BOOK AIMED AT ASSAULT ON RIGHTS

By Kevin Freeman

NEW YORK, June 23 (JTA) -- In an effort to counter the "ferocious and perhaps unprecedented attacks against the civil and religious liberties to all Americans," the Union of American Hebrew Congregations (UAHC) announced today it has launched a nationwide education and social action program.

Albert Vorspan, UAHC vice president, said the key tool in this program will be a new 145-page book that provides analysis and background information, suggests strategy and tactics, lists arguments, cites court decisions and quotes Jewish values applicable to eight key issues.

The issues detailed in the book, titled "Assault on the Bill of Rights; the Jewish Stake," includes: the First Amendment; "scientific creationism"; abortion; censorship; prayer in the public schools; missionary activities; federal aid to parochial schools; and religious celebrations in public schools.

At a press conference Vorspan charged that the "freedom and security of Jews and other minority groups are being seriously threatened by assaults on the Bill of Rights such as the proposed school-prayer amendment." He said that the proposal by President Reagan would "inflict a deep and serious wound on the guarantee of religious liberty and church-state separation that has protected all Americans since the earliest days of the republic."

## CANADIAN JEWS DENOUNCE TRUDEAU FOR CRITICIZING LEBANESE ACTION

By Michael Solomon

MONTREAL, June 23 (JTA) -- Leaders of Canadian Jewry addressing more than 2500 people at a mass rally for Israel here Monday night, expressed enthusiastic approval of Israel's actions in Lebanon and blasted Canadian Prime Minister Pierre Elliott Trudeau for condemning it. The rally, at the Queen Elizabeth Hotel, began with a procession of Jewish war veterans and the chanting of the El Moleh Rahamin prayer for fallen Israeli soldiers.

Zeev Ettinger, deputy chairman of the Canadian Zionist Federation, declared, "We deplore the policy of our government and the statement by the Prime Minister Pierre Elliott Trudeau and call on the Canadian government to assist by taking the necessary steps leading to a just peace which will insure the security of Israel's northern border."

Frank Schlesinger, chairman of the Canadian Jewish Congress-Quebec region condemned "the relentless terrorist attacks coming from Lebanon against Israel." Declaring the "full support of the Jewish community of Canada with the State of Israel," he asked, "If terrorists would be hiding in our midst and striking against innocent people, would not Canada intervene to uproot them?"

Avy Chrestal, president of B'nai B'rith, said "The values Israel holds dear like freedom and democracy are the same the British have fought for in the Falkland Islands." He announced a program of relief for the Lebanese people who have suffered during the war.

### Lack Of Condemnation Of PLO Noted

Leo Kronitz, executive vice president of the Canadian Zionist Federation, said "We didn't hear from the Prime Minister of Canada nor from the provincial Premiers a condemnation of the PLO murders against men, women and children in Israel ... A Jewish army now protects Jewish life."

Maurice Saade, president of the Sephardic Federation also expressed solidarity with Israel and condemned the PLO. Irving Cotler, president of the Canadian Jewish Congress also attacked Trudeau's statement that Israel's actions in Lebanon were "unacceptable."

Cotler said, "If Canada will never tolerate terrorist acts against each national territory or criminal attempts against the life of its diplomats abroad, the same reluctance is valid for Israel. The PLO must never again threaten the people of Israel." Cotler demanded the disarming of the PLO terrorist center in Beirut.

Yitzhak Meir, Consul General of Israel in Montreal warned that "An attack on Israel is an attack on all of us. We don't owe apology to anyone." The people attending the rally were urged to send postcards to Trudeau expressing their anger at Canada's official policy toward Israel.

### ORTHODOX LEADER URGES NUCLEAR FREEZE

SPRING GLEN, N. Y., June 23 (JTA) -- The newly elected president of the Rabbinical Council of America (RCA) last night became one of the first Orthodox leaders to call for a nuclear freeze "under guaranteed protection for our country's potential to maintain our effective deterrent posture."

Rabbi Gilbert Klaperman, a Special Professor of law at Hofstra University, and spiritual leader of Congregation Beth Shalom in Lawrence, Long Island, also said that he doubted that the United

States "can negotiate with the Russians to achieve total nuclear disarmament with foolproof safeguards and controls. The USSR is too devious and untrustworthy to be entrusted with the security of our country. But if we cannot reach nuclear disarmament we must seek a nuclear freeze under guaranteed protections for our country's potential to maintain our effective deterrent posture."

Klaperman did not attend the 46th national convention at the Homowack Hotel because of the death last Friday of his wife, Mrs. Libby Klaperman. His comments were read at the convention in a message he had prepared before the gathering which ends tomorrow.

Klaperman said in his message to the convention that "it is vital that we pronounce our abhorrence of nuclear proliferation and our unmitigated fear of the threat of nuclear war. How can we permit ourselves to allow the world to be hurled towards destruction and obliteration?"

He pointed out "that the Jewish community by and large," and the Orthodox community especially, has been unbelievably silent about this 'democletive' sword which hangs suspended over the world. We may have been relying too much on the promise that God made after the flood not to destroy the world again. But then the promise was that he would not bring another flood upon the world to destroy it. The frightening potential for nuclear destruction, however, is too real to be ignored."

Klaperman stressed that the "nuclear race is a race toward extinction. Jewish tradition urges our rejection of any system dedicated to human extinction and enjoins our respect and affirmative responsibility for the preservation of precious human life."

### BRAZILIAN JEWISH POPULATION LESS THAN HAD BEEN BELIEVED

By David Markus

RIO DE JANEIRO, June 23 (JTA) -- The number of Jews living in Brazil has been officially listed at 118,991 -- far short of the 180,000 figure generally assumed to represent Brazil's Jewish population.

The preliminary official figures, published in the recent issue of the Brazilian Institute for Statistics, a government agency, indicate 27,547 Jewish residents in Rio de Janeiro; 72,530 in Sao Paulo; 7,939 in Porto Alegre and 2,436 in rural areas of the country.

The former president of the Brazilian Institute for Statistics, Dr. Isaac Kerstenetzky, told Jewish community leaders that the final figures of the census will undoubtedly reveal a larger number of Jews. However, he expressed pessimism about prospects for the growth of Brazil's Jewish population, which has been put at one percent a year, with a tendency to decrease.

Community leaders have suggested two reasons for the difference between the official and non-official figures. One reason offered is possible inefficiency by the census takers. Many Jewish families claimed they were never visited. It was also suggested that the large number of youth who consider themselves atheists might have contributed to the low figures.

Previous censuses -- taken in 1970, 1960 and 1950 -- had no columns for Jewish religion or ethnic groups. About 59,000 respondents to the census of 1940 said their religion was Jewish, in contrast to the 110,000 figure given by Jewish community leaders at the time. In the following years, the community was enlarged by over 25,000 Israelis and about 20,000 refugees from Egypt.