

# JTA daily news bulletin

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## SHARON SAYS ISRAEL WANTS PLO OUT OF LEBANON; SUGGESTS THEY CAN GO TO EGYPT BY SHIP OR ELSEWHERE

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, June 28 (JTA) -- Defense Minister Ariel Sharon said today that Israel wants to secure the evacuation of Palestine Liberation Organization forces from west Beirut "without shedding another drop of blood." He suggested that they might be removed to Egypt by sea.

Sharon addressed reporters after appearances yesterday and today before the Knesset's Foreign Affairs and Security Committee where he encountered sharp questioning from members of the opposition Labor Party on Israel's war aims in Lebanon and its conduct of the war. He told the media Israel would gladly welcome the dispatch of ships from Egypt to evacuate the PLO but he said he could not confirm news reports that five ships have already left Alexandria for Beirut for that purpose.

He cited yesterday's Cabinet offer of safe conduct to the PLO out of Beirut and out of Lebanon if they first surrendered their arms to the Lebanese army. He said Israel offered them a safe and honorable exit "to any Arab country." The Cabinet statement said "The departing columns of terrorists under the protection of the International Red Cross, will move across the international Lebanese-Syrian border," indicating they should go to Syria.

### Close To Achieving Goals

Sharon disclosed that Israel turned down a PLO request several days ago to allow women to leave west Beirut. Israel insisted that all PLO members, men and women, leave the city. "It all depends on the PLO now. They must know they have no chance. They are surrounded," Sharon said.

He told the Knesset committee today that Israel was "very close" to achieving its goals in Lebanon but denied that those goals had been expanded without the Cabinet's consent to include the establishment of a new government in Lebanon and the ouster of Syrian forces from Lebanon.

He said the latter goals, while they would be welcomed by Israel, were subsidiary and Israel had not gone to war to achieve them.

He insisted that Israel's main goal was and remains the destruction of the PLO in Lebanon. He also claimed he had never recommended to the Cabinet that the Israel army enter west Beirut, not because he thought it would be rejected but because he still hoped it was possible to oust the PLO from the city without a direct military assault.

Sharon angrily denied the charge by former Chief of Staff Gen. Mordechai Gur, a Labor MK, that he has been conducting a "one man war." He said the Israel army could not have halted its advance after achieving a terrorist-free zone 40 kilometers north of Israel's border because of military and topographical conditions.

The debate over the war in Lebanon shifts to the Knesset plenum tomorrow. Sharon will lead it off with a statement on behalf of the government. Premier Menachem Begin will deliver the closing statement after all factions express their views.

## ISRAEL ADMITS USING CLUSTER BOMBS, BUT NOT AGAINST CIVILIANS

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, June 28 (JTA) -- The army's ranking spokesman for the war in Lebanon acknowledged that Israel has used American-made cluster bombs there but insisted they were employed against Syrian military targets, not civilians in south Lebanon.

The disclosure by Maj. Gen. (res.) Aharon Yariv, spokesman for the Israel army's northern command, was the first official confirmation of widespread reports that Israel used the deadly weapon in Lebanon. When Premier Menachem Begin was questioned about this by members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee in Washington last Tuesday, he said he did not know but would ask Defense Minister Ariel Sharon when he returned to Israel.

There have been calls by some American Congressmen for an inquiry into Israel's use of American-made weapons in Lebanon. The cluster bomb was mentioned in particular because it is an anti-personnel weapon with devastating effects. Yariv, a former chief of military intelligence who served briefly in a Labor-led Cabinet after the Yom Kippur War and is presently director of Tel Aviv University's Institute for Strategic Studies, was called to active duty after Israel invaded Lebanon June 5.

His assignment to speak for the northern command which is conducting operations in Lebanon was said to have been in response to complaints that the army was giving out too little information, forcing the Israeli and foreign media to rely almost entirely on reports from Lebanese and Palestinian sources. Apart from the cluster bomb use, he said little at his press briefing yesterday that has not already been published locally and abroad.

### POPE READY TO GO TO LEBANON

ROME, June 28 (JTA) -- Pope John Paul II said today he is prepared to go to Lebanon to participate in any peace initiative. The Pope, addressing Cardinals attending a meeting of the Roman Curia, also appealed for an end to the fighting between Israeli, Syrian and Palestinian troops.

He said he is praying "for an end to the suffering of the Palestinian people" and "for a just solution to their problems."

Vatican sources, quoted by the Italian Radio, said they know of no concrete plans for the Pope's departure but added, "The Holy Father can decide to leave at any time." The sources also said that this declaration might prepare the way for Vatican diplomatic initiatives to try and save Beirut from renewed fighting.

### U.S. ASKS ISRAELI EXPLANATION

By Helen Silver

WASHINGTON, June 28 (JTA) -- The United States has asked Israel for an official explanation of its use of American-made cluster

bombs in the war in Lebanon, the State Department disclosed today. An Israeli military spokesman confirmed for the first time yesterday that the anti-personnel weapons had been used but said they were employed against military targets, not civilians.

State Department spokesman Dean Fischer said "Our Embassy in Tel Aviv today requested an official explanation from Israel. We will not have anything else to say until that (explanation) is received." He expressed confidence that Israel will respond to the U.S. as soon as its report on the matter is completed.

Fischer announced meanwhile that Secretary of State Alexander Haig, who resigned last Friday, will remain on duty throughout most of this week. He said a decision will be made by Haig, his successor, Secretary of State-designate George Shultz and President Reagan as to when "an orderly transition can be accomplished." Shultz met today with the National Security Council and with officials at the State Department. The Middle East situation was discussed, Fischer said.

With respect to the situation in Beirut, Fischer reiterated his statement of last week that "We have no information to suggest that the Israelis have departed from their previous assurances that they do not intend to capture or occupy Beirut." He said he had no confirmation of a Jerusalem radio report that five ships have left Alexandria for Beirut to evacuate Palestinian forces there to Egypt.

#### U.S. Veto Explained

Fischer commented at length on the U.S. veto last Friday of a United Nations Security Council resolution, proposed by France, calling on Israel to withdraw its forces 10 kilometers from the periphery of Beirut and on all armed elements in Beirut to respect the exclusive authority of the government of Lebanon. He said the U.S. had hoped that the Security Council would have added a series of Lebanese amendments to the resolution which would have served as the basis of American policy toward the Lebanese crisis.

He said these had called for the restoration of Lebanon's authority and sovereignty throughout the country and the restoration of Lebanon's territorial integrity. "In that context, our goals with respect to the situation in west Beirut are the same as the goals of the government of Lebanon," Fischer said.

He explained that "They were embodied in the proposed Lebanese amendments. ... These goals include the deployment of the Lebanese army in and around Beirut and an end to the armed Palestinian presence in and around Beirut, the withdrawal of Israeli forces from the area around Beirut and the redeployment of all of the forces in the Beirut area."

#### Saudi Threats Denied

Fischer added that "The U.S. has confirmation that the position of the Lebanese government at the Arab League meeting in Tunis was consistent with the proposed Lebanese amendments to the resolution." He said he was unaware of any response by the Israeli government to these goals. He also said the U.S. has made no specific public statement as to whether the Palestine Liberation Organization is included in the term "all foreign forces" when applied to Lebanon.

Fischer denied a report in the Sunday Times of London yesterday that Saudi Arabia had threatened an oil embargo and financial and dip-

lomatic sanctions against the U.S. if Washington failed to prevail on Israel to withdraw its forces surrounding Beirut. "No threats were made or issued by the government of Saudi Arabia," Fischer said.

#### PERES SAYS LABOR WILL SEEK TO PREVENT RESUMPTION OF FIGHTING By Gil Sedar

JERUSALEM, June 28 (JTA) -- Labor Party chairman Shimon Peres said today that his party would do its utmost to prevent a resumption of fighting in Lebanon. He stressed however that it supported the original objectives of the "Peace for Galilee" operation.

Addressing a press conference in Tel Aviv, Peres said Labor would be satisfied if Israel achieved further political benefits from the war in Lebanon as long as the government worked for them "through political and not military means." But under no circumstances would Labor join a national consensus for an attack on west Beirut to destroy the remnants of the Palestine Liberation Organization forces surrounded there, he said.

Peres' remarks reflected the position adopted by the Labor Alignment's political forum yesterday against continuing the three week-old war in Lebanon. Labor decided however to work through "parliamentary channels" to end the war. It rejected a proposal by MK Mordechai Gur, a retired general and former Chief of Staff, that the party launch a public campaign against the war now.

Peres refused to comment today on the various peace demonstrations of recent days. He said the Labor Party did not have to demonstrate because it would make its views clear in the Knesset.

#### Gur Wants Public Examination

Gur, interviewed by Voice of Israel Radio, said the time was ripe for a public examination of the war, especially since the cease-fire which took effect Friday night appears to be holding. He said the Labor Alignment had originally supported the government's stated objective in Lebanon, namely to secure a terrorist-free zone 40 kilometers (25 miles) north of Israel's border. He said that when Labor Party leaders Peres and Yitzhak Rabin met with Begin early in the fighting, they "were told that this indeed was the policy of the government." But the war escalated far beyond the originally stated objectives and involved a military confrontation with Syria, against which Peres and Rabin had warned, Gur said.

#### REUNION OF HUNGARIAN JEWS PLANNED

JERUSALEM, June 28 (JTA) -- A Congress of Hungarian Jews is being organized for Jerusalem in April, 1984.

The organizing committee here in Jerusalem said this week the Jerusalem International convention of Hungarian Jews would aim "to reunite a community shattered by Nazi persecution and to highlight its thousand year old heritage and great contributions to European culture. The date will mark the fortieth anniversary of the Nazis attempted destruction of all Hungarian Jewry."

Leading former Hungarian Jews will be invited, famous names in many disparate fields. Parallel to the convention the diaspora museum will dedicate an exhibition on prewar Hungarian Jewry.

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NEW YORK (JTA) -- The National Order of Brith Shalom has named the United Jewish Appeal -- winner of its 1982 Humanitarian Award.

## HAIG'S QUITTING LEAVES ISRAELIS UNSURE ABOUT U.S. ROLE IN LEBANON

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, June 28 (JTA) -- There has been unconcealed dismay in Israeli government circles at the sudden departure of U.S. Secretary of State Alexander Haig, recently dubbed by Premier Menachem Begin as "Israel's great and good friend." The dismay has been compounded by an undercurrent of anxiety over the nomination as his successor of George Shultz, president of the Bechtel Corporation with its massive business ties with Saudi Arabia.

None of this is being said officially, of course. In on-the-record reactions Israeli officials tend to stress the pledges coming out of Washington that there will be consistency and continuity in American policy.

In the immediate context of the war in Lebanon, which has been poised in suspense since Friday night's cease-fire, the resignation of Haig is apparently producing two differing lines of reaction within Israeli policymaking circles.

On the one hand there are those who feel that Israel must now strike, and strike fast, to achieve the defeat or surrender of the Palestine Liberation Organization in west Beirut. The protagonists of this approach argue that once Haig's resignation sinks in the tilt of U.S. Administration policy might veer away from Israel.

### Fear Weinberger Approach Will Dominate

This school of thought points out that the U.S. has been supportive of Israel's operation in Lebanon -- or at the very least has condoned it -- and the prime mover behind this policy in Washington has been Haig. It is no secret that Haig was locked in conflict with Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger over the question of the U.S. stance towards "Operation Peace For Galilee."

The apprehension in Jerusalem now must be that the Weinberger approach will begin to dominate policy thinking in Washington with the resignation of Haig and the appointment of a former Bechtel colleague of Weinberger, George Shultz, to replace him. Time, therefore, is working against Israel if it is ever to achieve the goal Begin and Defense Minister Ariel Sharon have publicly proclaimed, the utter defeat of the PLO hard core holed up in west Beirut.

If there is no snap military move by Israel -- say the advocates of this approach -- and U.S. special envoy Philip Habib's diplomatic efforts continue to flounder, Israel will find itself attempting to enforce a protracted siege of the terrorists in west Beirut, against a steadily eroding American stand and an increasingly hostile and impatient attitude on the part of other Western states.

### Israeli Opinion Increases Against Attack

In this connection it is noted here that the Europeans and friendly Latin Americans joined their votes to those of the Arabs, Soviets and hostile third worlders at the United Nations special General Assembly meeting last weekend.

On the other hand, there is a body of opinion within policy-making circles here that holds Haig's departure must be seen as bringing to an end any thought on Israel's part of defying the world and assaulting west Beirut by force of arms.

Even before the sudden and unexpected resignation, the protagonists of this line argue, an invasion of the PLO strongholds in Beirut was a difficult option for Israel to adopt. The whole world, including the U.S., was demanding it not be done, des-

pite Haig's private intimations that if it were done, he, ex post facto, would perhaps condone it. Inside Israel, moreover, a growing and vociferous body of opinion was speaking out ever more forcefully against attacking west Beirut, because of the inevitably high casualties to Israeli soldiers, and to Beirut civilians that such an attack would entail.

### Reason For Fighting Questioned

If this line of argument eventually gains the upper hand in the Cabinet, and an attack on west Beirut is ruled out -- and the defeat of the PLO there is also not achieved by diplomatic efforts -- then the government can be expected, naturally enough, to cite and stress Haig's resignation as an unexpected factor that befell Israel from the outside and disrupted what otherwise would have been a totally successful operation.

The government will use this argument in what is bound to be -- there are already clear signs of it -- a bitter public debate on the entire course of the war, and most especially the decision to extend the fighting beyond the originally-proclaimed 40 kilometer (artillery range) zone.

Last week's operations against the Syrians on the Damascus road, which themselves claimed more than a score of Israeli lives and scores of wounded, have been savagely attacked in an increasingly restive Israeli press. In Haaretz yesterday the respected military commentator Zeev Schiff headlined his article on this issue: "What are they dying for" and asserted that by no stretching of the term could the fight for the Beirut-Damascus road be defined as an action for the survival and security of the State of Israel.

### Sharon Hits Back

Sharon is hitting back at the press and at the opposition. On Friday night, in a TV interview, he quoted an unnamed frontline soldier who, seeing the newspapers arrive at his unit, observed: "Here comes the daily dose of poison." At a meeting of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee Thursday Sharon, attacked by Labor on account of the high casualty figures, turned on his attackers terming them "the heroes of the Yom Kippur War" and asserting that he "had nothing to learn from you about casualties."

But this sort of furious polemics will not necessarily sway Cabinet majority opinion behind the turbulent and controversial Defense Minister.

His Cabinet colleagues, facing now a desperately complicated and agonizing moment of truth, know that if they back him they will be held responsible, jointly with him, in the 'great debate' that will begin as soon as the guns fall silent.

By the same token, though, the temptation to achieve a really dramatic and crushing defeat of the PLO hard core -- and thus fully justify the casualties already suffered -- pulls at the ministers as they grapple with the rapidly shifting situation.

### Habib Used UN Veto

Well-placed sources said the weekend cease-fire and the U.S. veto of France's Security Council resolution were to be seen as closely linked; they were part of the backdrop that Habib had sought for his renewed efforts to negotiate a diplomatic solution in west Beirut.

The sources here acknowledge that Habib had demanded most strongly that Israel cease its fire -- and Israel had complied. Sharon in his TV interview admitted that last week's engagements, though technically triggered by Syrian infringements of the cease-fire, were "dictated" by Israel in terms of where and

how the battles developed. Israel did not, Sharon said, reply to the Syrian infringements solely or strictly where those infringements had transpired.

Habib also apparently demanded of his government that it veto the French resolution — thereby maintaining the diplomatic pressure on the PLO. The implication of the veto is that the U.S. will not demand an Israeli partial pull-back in advance of the disarming of the PLO in west Beirut.

The key question preoccupying Jerusalem policymakers is: how long will that continue to be the American position.

#### DEMOCRATS APPEAR TO SUPPORT ISRAELI POSITION ON LEBANON

WASHINGTON, June 28 (JTA) — The Democratic Party urged the United States to "exert every effort to reinstate Lebanese sovereignty and Israeli security" in its approach to the present war in Lebanon. That position was contained in the lengthy policy statement on economic, military, civil rights and other issues adopted by the Democrats at their three-day national conference which closed in Philadelphia yesterday.

The reference to the conflict in Lebanon, though brief and more general than specific in its recommendations, indicated that the Democrats' view paralleled that of Israel. This was apparent in the assertion that "The Democratic Party believes that the current situation in Lebanon presents an opportunity for the reunification and restoration of Lebanese sovereignty and independence, free from any form of foreign occupation, potentially breaking the vicious cycle of violence which has inflicted such tragic suffering on the people of Lebanon for the last decade."

The statement asserted that "International terrorism has been dealt a severe blow and Soviet influence has been reduced," a claim stressed repeatedly by Premier Menachem Begin during his visit to the U.S. last week.

#### Loss Of Life Regretted

The statement went on to say that "The Democratic Party states its deep regret as to all loss of life on both sides. The Party believes that the United States should exert every effort to reinstate Lebanese sovereignty and Israeli security. We support as well immediate humanitarian relief efforts by the United States to provide medicine, food and other badly needed aid to the civilian population of Lebanon. With strong and decisive leadership by the United States, a new opportunity exists to build a lasting peace for the people of Lebanon and greater security for Israel. We urge such leadership."

The statement on Lebanon reportedly was drafted by Mark Siegel, a Washington consultant who served for a time as President Carter's liaison to the American Jewish community. He left the Administration in 1979 after refusing to defend the sale of F-16 jet fighters to Saudi Arabia.

#### Opposition To Statement

The statement was adopted by the Democratic Party national conference against the opposition of some delegates who complained that it omitted reference to the heavy civilian casualties caused by the Israeli invasion of Lebanon. But it had strong support from Reps. Toby Moffett of Connecticut and Michael Barnes of Maryland.

Moffett, who is of Lebanese descent, concurred with the view that the Israeli invasion had contributed toward "the reunification and restoration of

Lebanese sovereignty and independence." He said it dealt "a severe blow" to "international terrorism" by the Palestine Liberation Organization and reduced "Soviet influence" in the Middle East. Moffett is running for the Senate against Republican incumbent Lowell Weicker, a long-time supporter of Israel.

Among the more than 800 delegates who attended the Democratic Party conference were two Americans from Israel representing Democrats Abroad (Israel). They are David Froehlich, chairman of Democrats Abroad (Israel) and Anna Gottlieb, who was one of three alternates in the delegation from Democrats Abroad.

#### BOND LEADERS IN ISRAEL

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, June 28 (JTA) — A delegation of 35 leaders of the Israel Bond Organization arrived today in Israel, and pledged to raise some \$100 million to relieve the economic strain that has resulted from the war in Lebanon.

The delegation, which is headed by the organization's general chairman, Sam Rothberg, comprises Jewish leaders from 24 communities in the United States, Canada and Western Europe. It will meet with Premier Menachem Begin, Finance Minister Yoram Aridor and other government leaders.

Rothberg reported that Israeli Bonds has undertaken its special fundraising effort at the request of the Israeli Government. He pointed out that the people of Israel are being called on to assume additional financial burdens in the form of new taxes as a consequence of the Lebanon operation.

The \$100 million effort was launched at a luncheon with Begin in New York on June 18, which was attended by 1,800 North American Jewish leaders. The project, known as the Emergency Development for Peace Campaign, will continue during the summer months through the High Holy Days in September.

#### ENVOY PRESENTS CREDENTIALS IN ZAIRE

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, June 28 (JTA) — Israel's Ambassador to Zaire, Michael Michael, presented his credentials today to President Sese Seko Mobutu. Zaire is the first African country to have resumed diplomatic relations with Israel after the Yom Kippur War.

Michael handed Mobutu a personal message from Premier Menachem Begin. And Begin promised Mobutu to exert his influence with the Americans for United States political and economic aid to Zaire.

In the message delivered by the Ambassador, Begin briefed Mobutu on his talks in Washington with President Reagan and with members of the Congressional subcommittee dealing with African countries. In those talks Begin explained the importance of supporting Mobutu's regime. There has been Congressional opposition to aid to Zaire.

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TEL AVIV (JTA) — Israel Navy Commander Admiral Zeev Almog disclosed Monday that Israel had purchased U.S. Naval guns of the Vulcan Phalanx type, as part of its defensive strategy against sophisticated sea to sea missiles. According to "Janes Fighting Ships" these are six-barrel weapons guided by radar which lock into low-flying attack missiles.

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There will be no Daily News Bulletin dated Monday, July 5 due to the July 4th postal holiday.