

# JTA daily news bulletin

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## U.S. URGES CONTINUATION OF CEASE-FIRE AS TALKS BETWEEN HABIB, LEBANESE OFFICIALS GO ON By Helen Silver

WASHINGTON, June 29 (JTA) -- The State Department said today that negotiations between special U.S. envoy Philip Habib and Lebanese government officials continued and called on all parties involved in the Lebanon crisis to observe the current cease-fire.

Department spokesman Dean Fischer emphasized the importance of "all parties observing the cease-fire so that the political dialogue can continue and further loss of life can be avoided." He repeated an earlier statement that the goals of the U.S. and the Lebanese government "are in effect goals which we hold in common." Fischer would not comment on the success or failure of the Habib mission.

Habib is currently working for a settlement between parties involved in the Lebanon conflict where Palestinian terrorists in West Beirut remained encircled by Israeli military forces. Fischer refused to disclose the U.S. position on whether the Palestine Liberation Organization should be allowed to stay in Lebanon as part of an overall negotiated settlement. He said yesterday that the U.S. had no objection to the PLO retaining a political office in Beirut if that is acceptable to the Lebanese government but added that "it is a problem for the Lebanese government to decide."

### Denies Saudis Threats

Fischer said reports that Saudi Arabia exerted pressure by threatening an oil boycott were "not true." He would not confirm reports that Saudi Arabia offered transportation for the PLO out of Lebanon.

Fischer reported that the U.S. had "frank and wide ranging" discussion with Egyptian officials when he was asked to comment on Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak's charge that the U.S. revealed "a lack of firmness" in the Lebanon crisis. "We believe that our two governments remain in basic accord on objectives in the Middle East," the spokesman said.

Fischer would not comment on the unanimous declaration by the 10-member European Economic Community (EEC) countries issued in Brussels today which condemned the Israeli invasion.

### ISRAELI CASUALTY FIGURES

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, June 29 (JTA) -- Israel's casualties in 20 days of fighting in Lebanon amount to 269 soldiers killed and 1255 wounded, a military spokesman announced yesterday. The figures cover the period from June 6, when the Israeli invasion of Lebanon began, through June 26 -- last Saturday night -- when one soldier was killed and two were seriously wounded after their vehicle came under fire east of Damour.

But Defense Minister Ariel Sharon gave slightly higher figures in the course of today's Knesset debate on the war in Lebanon (see separate story). He said Israel's casualties stood at 271 dead, 11 missing and 1470 wounded. Of the latter, 69 were gravely wounded and 271 sustained moderate wounds.

Israel continued to observe the cease-fire around Beirut today. The Air Force dropped leaflets over the city urging civilians to leave west Beirut and take refuge in the Israeli or Christian-held areas of the city and its outskirts. No military activity was reported as of noon. The Israeli army continued mopping up operations south and east of the Lebanese capital, searching for Palestinian or Syrian army stragglers. The army said it was discovering new terrorist arms caches daily.

### TV NETWORKS REFUSED FACILITIES

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, June 29 (JTA) -- Communications Minister Mordechai Zipori confirmed today that he had refused foreign television networks the use of Israel's satellite broadcasting facility to beam programs from Beirut which he claimed were fiercely hostile to Israel.

Zipori said he acted with the Cabinet's approval after the military censor informed him that foreign TV teams wanted the service of Israel's satellite station because the Beirut station had been destroyed by bombings.

"It is unheard that we shall place our satellite services at the service of enemy propaganda," Zipori said. He added that he was not concerned that Israel's image abroad might be damaged by his action.

### EEC CONDEMNS ISRAELI INVASION, DEMANDS WITHDRAWAL FROM LEBANON

By Edwin Eytan

PARIS, June 29 (JTA) -- The European Economic Community (EEC) today "vigorously condemned" Israel for its invasion of Lebanon and called for a simultaneous withdrawal of Israeli and Palestinian forces from Beirut and its immediate vicinity. The 10 West European heads of state and government refrained, however, from imposing economic sanctions on Israel as several member-states had wanted.

The European summit, which concluded a two-day round of meetings, also called for the Palestine Liberation Organization's participation in future negotiations. The joint declaration said: "The Palestinians should have the opportunity to exercise their right to self-determination with all that this implies." The statement added, "The position of the 10 remains that the Palestine Liberation Organization should be associated with the (future) negotiations." This was a reiteration of the EEC's 1980 Venice declaration.

### Mitterrand Urges Stronger Resolution

Diplomatic sources in Brussels said President Francois Mitterrand called on France's European partners to adopt a strong resolution and specifically spell out the need for a Palestinian state on the West Bank and Gaza. The final declaration was toned down at West Germany's and Holland's request.

The Dutch, reportedly refused to underwrite any statement which could be interpreted as anti-Israeli. The West Germans argued that Europe has enough problems with the United States as it is

and should not further widen the rift with the American Administration.

The joint declaration which was finally issued stressed that Israel "will not obtain the security which it wants by using force. It can obtain it only by satisfying the legitimate aspirations of the Palestinian people." The 10 called for "an immediate withdrawal of Israeli forces from their positions around the Lebanese capital as a first step towards their complete withdrawal" from Lebanon. It said the Palestinians should simultaneously withdraw their forces from their enclave in West Beirut.

The 10 added: "In order to facilitate this withdrawal, the separation of (enemy) forces should be controlled during this short transitional period by the Lebanese army and, by agreement with the Lebanese government, by United Nations observers and, or UN forces."

European sources in Brussels said the 10 were "very critical" of past American policies in the Middle East and especially of the U.S. Security Council veto and its negative General Assembly vote. During their private sessions, only British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher defended the American stand. She maintained that Western Europe should refrain from widening rifts at a time when the West should close ranks.

#### Mubarak Urges Action

The session opened yesterday with a personal note from Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak asking Europe "to act immediately to obtain a complete cease-fire in Lebanon." Mubarak's message called on the 10 "to make it evident that aggression does not pay." The Egyptian President rapped the U.S., saying that its Security Council veto "has been a great discouragement." "It shows," Mubarak said, "that the United States after having accepted the role of full partner in the (Camp David) peace process refuses, however, to adapt its policy in consequence."

European diplomats said Mubarak's tone was the harshest Egypt had used against either America or Israel since the Camp David agreements were signed.

The Egyptian Deputy Foreign Minister, Butros Ghali, arrived in Paris today with a similar message to Mitterrand thanking him for his past efforts and urging him to continue trying to obtain "an honorable withdrawal" of the PLO and Israel's total evacuation of Lebanon. Ghali met with Mitterrand only minutes after the French President returned to Paris from the Brussels summit meeting.

#### KNESSET DEBATE SUBDUED

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, June 29 (JTA) -- The Knesset's full scale debate today on the war in Lebanon was uncharacteristically subdued. Labor Party chairman Shimon Peres stressed that the opposition would "try to maintain unity" as long as Israeli soldiers are at the front and in danger.

Defense Minister Ariel Sharon, who opened the debate with a lengthy statement on behalf of the government, seemed most interested in refuting charges by Laborites and other critics that he made operational decisions without the knowledge or full comprehension of the Cabinet. He defended the extension of the war beyond the 40 kilometer terrorist-free zone which Israel claimed was its sole objective when it invaded Lebanon on June 6 and which was achieved after the first 24 hours of fighting.

Sharon gave a detailed chronological account of the fighting to prove that Israel did its utmost

to avoid a confrontation with Syrian forces in Lebanon and risked the safety of its own soldiers to hold civilian casualties to a minimum.

Peres, speaking for the Labor Alignment, said it had serious criticism of the "scope of the war" but would exercise restraint out of a sense of "national responsibility" until the fighting was over. He made it clear that Labor vigorously opposed the entry of Israeli troops into west Beirut to destroy the remnants of the Palestine Liberation Organization forces there. He angrily rejected the government's charge that by publicly stating that position Labor weakened Israel's position in the negotiations to get the PLO to lay down its arms and leave Beirut and Lebanon.

#### Sharon Urges PLO To Evacuate

Sharon said the Israeli army could seize west Beirut at any time, but Israel "did not rejoice" in that prospect. He called on the PLO "to make a heart-searching reappraisal at this moment of truth and accept an honorable evacuation."

Sharon quoted extensively from formal Cabinet decisions at crucial junctures of the war to demonstrate that whatever military actions were taken had the full knowledge and approval of the Cabinet. He said the Cabinet approved his proposal, on the fourth day of fighting, to knock out Syrian anti-aircraft missile batteries in eastern Lebanon because they threatened Israel's advance. He blamed Syrian violations of cease-fire agreements for the extension of the war to the outskirts of Beirut.

The Defense Minister insisted that the advance beyond the 40 kilometer line in south Lebanon did not contradict Israel's stated war aim which was to destroy PLO "bases and headquarters" in Lebanon. He said Israel's statement of its objectives when it invaded Lebanon on June 6 was much closer to the truth than the statements which preceded the 1956 Sinai campaign and the 1967 Six-Day War, both of which were conducted by Labor-led governments.

#### Dispute Over Objectives

The only uproar of the debate developed when Peres claimed that if the government had adhered to its original objectives, Israeli casualties would be much lower than they are today. He noted that on the second day of fighting when the terrorists had been driven more than 40 kilometers from the border, Israeli casualties stood at only 25 dead and 96 wounded. Likud MKs shouted that Labor was "trading on the fallen" for political reasons.

At another point in the debate, the Knesset was angered when Hadash Communist MK Tawfiq Toubi refused to stand to observe a minute's silence for Israel's war dead.

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NEW YORK (JTA) -- In a demonstration of unity on behalf of the plight of Ethiopian Jewry, 16 major Jewish youth movements and organizations have banded together to stress their commitment to the Falashas "and to the education of the American community as to their struggle." "Our aim is to make our concern known to American Jewish and Israeli leaders and to call upon them to make the rescue of Ethiopian Jewry a matter of highest priority," said Steven Eisenbach, president of Young Judea, the youth movement of Hadassah. "This ancient Jewish community once numbering over half a million, now verges on total destruction." The youth movements are planning joint education programs, rallies, and letter writing campaigns.

**SPECIAL INTERVIEW: PART I  
NEW PRESIDENTS CONFERENCE HEAD  
SAYS JEWS BACK LEBANESE OPERATION  
By Yitzhak Rabi**

NEW YORK, June 29 (JTA) -- Julius Berman, the newly elected chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, assumes office Thursday at a time when Israeli-American relations -- like almost everything else as result of the Israeli invasion of Lebanon -- are at a crossroads, with more questions asked than satisfactory answers found.

In a one-hour interview with the Jewish Telegraphic Agency held at Berman's law office in Manhattan just hours before Secretary of State Alexander Haig's resignation was announced, the 46-year-old Berman, who is president of the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America and also secretary of the Board of Directors of the JTA, gave his views on a wide variety of topics.

In this first part of the interview, Berman discusses the current situation in Lebanon, the attitude of American Jewry and the implication of the crisis on U.S.-Israel relations.

In Part II to be published tomorrow, he gives his views on the Presidents Conference, its role in American Jewish life and its relationships with the Government of Israel and the White House.

Excerpts from the interview follow:

- Q. How would you assess the degree of support among American Jews of the Israeli operation in Lebanon?
- A. I believe that generally there is an overwhelming consensus of the American Jewish community in support of the decision by Israel to ensure, once and for all, that the thousands of inhabitants of the Galil shall live and sleep in safety and security and no longer live from minute to minute with the overwhelming fear that another incursion will take place from southern Lebanon or a Katyusha rocket will fall on them.
- Q. What are the short term and the long term implications of the operation in your view?
- A. The immediate implication, as I indicated above, is that the hoped-for "Shalom L'Galil (Peace in the Galilee)" will actually take place, i.e., that the inhabitants of the North will live in peace as in the rest of the country. The long term implications may be extremely far-reaching. There is great hope and desire, not only in Israel but in the United States as well, that Lebanon as a country, will finally have a new opportunity to reconstruct itself, to be the free and independent country it once was, where Christians and Moslems -- and Jews, for that matter -- can live together in peace and harmony, without being occupied by foreign elements, whether they be Syrian forces, PLO terrorists, or even Israeli troops.
- Q. The operation faced a lot of criticism here in the media and in official circles during Begin's visit. Do you think support for Israel is eroding in the United States?
- A. I do not believe that to be the case. I believe one of the problems that has recently arisen is the fear, repeated again and again in the media, that Israel will attack west Beirut. Between that fear and the exaggerated figures that have been thrown around about civilian

casualties in Lebanon, the impression may have arisen in various places within this country that Israel intends, for all intents and purposes, to take over Lebanon. Because in my mind there is no question but that Israel wants to get out of Lebanon as quickly as possible -- provided that adequate assurances are established within the 25 miles of the southern border of Lebanon against further incursions from Lebanon into Israel -- and the Israeli troops never attempt to kill or maim civilians.

### Golden Opportunity

- Q. Do you think the Reagan Administration is seeing eye to eye with Israel on the importance of the operation to American interests? Are there any parallels between American interests and Israeli interests?
- A. There are certainly parallels. And there is no question that there is a similarity of thinking in large part with respect to Lebanon. However, there is no question that both Israel and America believe that this may be a golden opportunity, in terms of both the future of Lebanon and peace in the Mideast. However, that does not mean that both countries are of the same mind with respect to each individual decision made by Israel in the course of the battle. That has never been the case, nor could it be, with two independent countries, each with its own relationships, priorities and opinions. For example, since we have known for many months now that it is the position of the Reagan Administration that the allegedly moderate Arab countries, such as Saudi Arabia and Jordan, should be accommodated by the United States in various ways, including the provision of the most advanced technological weapons we have, there is no question that the United States is approaching the Lebanon situation keeping in mind that this general desire of it shall be salvaged or, if possible, even secured.
- Q. In recent days there has been criticism regarding the civilians killed as a result of the Israeli invasion. What is your answer to these charges and especially to charges that American Jews are keeping silent on the issue?
- A. My answer basically is that all Jews, including the Jews living in Israel and those within the Israeli government and, for that matter, in the Israeli armed forces, abhor the killing of any human being of whatever religion. This is our tradition of old, and it is ingrained in our personalities. If I felt that even one civilian died because of an intentional infliction of death upon him or her by the Israeli armed forces, I too would feel a sense of criticism toward what was occurring. However, it is my clear understanding that whatever civilians died, died as the result of attacks or counter-attacks upon Syrian armed troops or PLO terrorists, and, the unfortunate positioning of these entities near or within the civilian population, which leads to this unfortunate -- very unfortunate -- by-product of war.
- Q. There is no doubt that the situation now is in a crisis state. How can American Jews help? Is there any role they can play?
- A. I believe that the American Jewish Community has to gird itself for the immediate task ahead which is to support the Administration's desires to aid in the effort to create a new inde-

pendent country in Lebanon. I have reason to believe from personal contacts upon the meetings between Prime Minister (Menachem) Begin and the President, that it is the intention of the Administration to aid in arranging for a new government authority that will be sovereign in the country of Lebanon. To the extent political support is needed to implement those desires, the American Jewish Community has its task cut out for it.

#### U.S. BORN SOLDIER KILLED

HOLLYWOOD, Fla., June 29 (JTA) -- A 24-year-old immigrant from Florida was the first American-born Israeli soldier to die in Lebanon since Israel's invasion of that country, it was announced this week by the United Jewish Appeal. Relatives told the Orlando Jewish weekly, "Heritage," that the soldier -- Jerry Wolf -- had gone to Israel in 1979 "to find an important cause." He lived with an Israeli family for three years at a moshav called Neir Bonim. His adopted family had a son about his age, to whom he had grown very close. Friends said the son died in Lebanon only one day before Wolf was killed. The two were buried at the moshav.

#### JOINT CAMPAIGN FROM JUDAISM'S 3 BRANCHES AIMED AT UNAFFILIATED URGED

NEW YORK, June 29 (JTA) -- The president of the American Reform rabbinate proposed tonight that representatives of Reform, Conservative and Orthodox rabbinical councils meet to consider how to mount a joint campaign in a common effort to win unaffiliated Jews to synagogue membership.

The proposal was made in an interview by Rabbi Herman Schaalman, of Chicago, president of the Central Conference of American Rabbis, during the opening session here of the 93rd annual convention of the CCAR.

Schaalman said "the time has come for our Orthodox colleagues to accept the validity of Reform Judaism, set aside their differences and join in a common effort, together with Conservative rabbis, to dramatize the vitality of religious Judaism to those who have become alienated."

Schaalman's evident expectation that opposition to such a united effort approach would come from Orthodox rabbis and not from Conservative rabbis was confirmed by a statement from Rabbi Arnold Goodman of Minneapolis, president of the Rabbinical Assembly, the association of Conservative rabbis.

#### Conservative Rabbi Approved

Goodman declared "we congratulate Rabbi Schaalman on his forthright talk for a common effort to win unaffiliated Jews into the fold of the synagogue. We welcome every opportunity to bring together the Jewish religious community so that we may better serve American and world Jewry."

Schaalman said he regretted that too many Jews "define themselves in secular terms." He said "surely we and our Orthodox and Conservative kinsmen are on the same side of the battle line regarding this challenge." He also said he felt such a common effort would also assist in rebuilding the Jewish family and provide a vehicle to combat such other concerns as the low Jewish birthrate, Jewish population shifts, and increase in Jewish divorces, and to intensify Jewish education, and, in time, "we could even affect the religious life in Israel."

A spokesman for the CCAR was asked by the Jewish Telegraphic Agency just how such a cooperative congregational recruiting effort would work, given the hostility of the Orthodox rabbinate to non-Orthodox forms of Judaism. The spokesman replied that Schaalman was seeking agreement on approval for the proposal by the three rabbinic groups first, with details on procedure to be worked out once approval had been achieved.

#### RABBI SHNEUR KOTLER, DEAD AT 64

NEW YORK, June 29 (JTA) -- Thousands of mourners attended funeral rites in the United States and Israel for Rabbi Shneur Kotler, a member of the Council of Torah Sages of Agudath Israel of America and dean of the Beth Medrash Gohova yeshiva in Lakewood, N.J., who died last Thursday at the age of 64. Rabbi Kotler was regarded as one of the world's leading Talmudic scholars who had a major role in the expansion of advanced Torah studies in the United States.

More than 5,000 attended a rite in the main study hall of the Lakewood yeshiva on Sunday morning for the scholar who died in a Boston hospital. From Lakewood, the funeral moved to the Boro Park section of Brooklyn, where at the Yeshiva Toras Emes Kaminetz more than 30,000 Jews met to pay their final respects, filling the yeshiva and the block outside. The body was flown that evening to Israel where on Monday, Rabbi Kotler was buried next to his father, Rabbi Aharon Kotler. Some 40,000 Jews took part in funeral services in Jerusalem.

Rabbi Kotler was born in Slutsk, Russia, and settled in Palestine in 1940 to continue his studies under his grandfather, Rabbi Isser Zalman Meltzer. In 1946, he joined his father in Lakewood where the Beth Medrash Gohova had been transplanted from Europe. He assumed leadership of the institution on the elder Rabbi Kotler's death in 1962. Since then its student body grew from 180 to over 1000.

#### VIENNA TRANSIT CENTER CLOSED

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, June 29 (JTA) -- The World Zionist Executive announced today that it was shutting down the Jewish Agency's immigrant transit center in Vienna "for budgetary reasons."

Rafael Kotlowitz, head of the Agency's Immigration and Absorption Department, said there was no justification to pay high rent for the facility at a time when few Jews are leaving the Soviet Union and even fewer are continuing on to Israel. He said that of the 169 Jews who reached Vienna from the USSR this month, only 48 came to Israel.

From now on, the Jewish Agency will transfer immigrants to Israel on the day of their arrival in Vienna or, at most a day or two later. Immigrants who want to re-unite with first degree relatives in countries other than Israel, will be referred to the Joint Distribution Committee for assistance.

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NEW YORK (JTA) -- President Luis Alberto Monge of Costa Rica said here that the return of the Costa Rican Embassy to Jerusalem was a "Principled act of a sovereign democratic country" and that it was consistent with his nation's long term policy toward the State of Israel. In a meeting last Friday with a delegation of representatives from the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith and the American Jewish Committee, Monge also condemned the three Arab countries -- Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates -- who broke relations with his country.