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**NEXT 48 HOURS CRUCIAL TO TALKS
FOR PLO DEPARTURE FROM BEIRUT**
Reagan Agrees In Principle To Have U.S. Troops
Participate In Evacuation Of PLO From Lebanon
By David Landau and Hugh Orgel

JERUSALEM, July 6 (JTA) -- Israeli sources said today that the next 48 hours would be "crucial" to negotiations for the departure of Palestine Liberation Organization forces from west Beirut. They gave that assessment following a meeting in Beirut yesterday between U.S. special envoy Philip Habib and Israel's Defense Minister Ariel Sharon.

Israel radio said this morning that the U.S. and France have agreed to send military forces to Beirut to occupy positions now held by the PLO and to supervise the PLO's evacuation from Lebanon.

The U.S. denied that any agreement has been reached, but according to White House deputy press secretary Larry Speakes, President Reagan has agreed in principle to the participation of the American troops to help in the evacuation. However, according to reports from Los Angeles where Reagan was today as part of a working vacation in California, Speakes said the sending of U.S. troops would depend on agreement between Israel, the Lebanese government and the PLO. (See separate story.)

According to reports from Paris, sources indicated that French troops might participate in helping the PLO's evacuation from Beirut. A French task force, reports said, might join U.S. troops in that undertaking. However, French Foreign Minister Claude Cheysson said today that no agreement has yet been reached and termed reports of French troop involvement as "premature." (See separate story P.3).

The Israeli sources said it should be clear by the end of this week whether the PLO is in fact ready to leave Beirut or whether it is stalling for time, as some Israeli policy-makers maintain, in the hope that France or some Arab countries would back its terms for withdrawal which Israel has rejected without reservations.

Optimistic Prognosis Offered

David Kimche, Director General of the Foreign Ministry who accompanied Sharon at his meetings with Habib, was said to have brought back the "optimistic" prognosis on American mediation which persuaded the Cabinet to give Habib's diplomatic efforts another week to bring results.

The Israeli army, meanwhile, continued to tighten its grip around Beirut. After a day of heavy tank, artillery and rocket exchanges with PLO forces, another cease-fire was called last night. PLO resistance was reportedly ineffective in halting the Israeli advance which was said to be deliberately slow. Israeli troops were reported moving foot-by-foot to within a few hundred yards of PLO strong points. In some areas they took over positions held by Israel's Christian Phalangist allies.

There was no confirmation today that Israeli armored personnel carriers had entered the Beirut port area or that they had sealed off the last remaining corridor between west and east Beirut.

A military spokesman announced today that four Israeli soldiers were wounded yesterday, three by PLO rocket fire near the Beirut airport and a fourth by a Syrian sniper east of Beirut.

U.S. Urging Restraint

Israeli sources acknowledged today that Jerusalem was receiving messages from the U.S. urging restraint while Habib's diplomatic negotiations continued. Officials here also confirmed that the U.S. supports the PLO demand for an "office" in Beirut after its fighting forces leave.

The U.S. Embassy in Tel Aviv refused to comment on a report in Haaretz today that the U.S. also supported the PLO demand for a token military presence in those areas of Lebanon still occupied by Syria. According to Haaretz, the U.S. envisages two units of 250 men each at least temporarily after the main body of the PLO departs the country. The units apparently would be attached to the Lebanese army.

Those terms were categorically rejected by the Cabinet Sunday. Israel also refuses to entertain the idea of a PLO political office in Lebanon. Eliahu Ben-Elissar, chairman of the Knesset's Foreign Affairs and Security Committee said today that such an office in Beirut would be "the nucleus of a new cancer." According to Ben-Elissar, Israel has been more than generous in offering to allow the PLO to leave Lebanon under a safe conduct guarantee and with their personal weapons.

U.S. PREPARED TO SEND UP TO 1,000 TROOPS TO LEBANON By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, July 6 (JTA) -- The United States said today it was prepared to send up to 1,000 troops to Lebanon to help in the evacuation of the Palestine Liberation Organization and to ensure the establishment of a strong central government in that country.

The offer, first revealed by Israel Radio, was confirmed by deputy White House press secretary Larry Speakes in Los Angeles where President Reagan is vacationing. But Speakes added that a request must be made from the Lebanese government for U.S. troops before they would be sent.

According to Speakes, President Reagan may deploy a battalion of some 800 U.S. troops joined with participation by ships of the U.S. Sixth Fleet in the Mediterranean to help in the evacuation of the estimated 6,000 Palestine terrorists who remain entrenched in west Beirut.

While there has been discussion that the proposed agreement would involve the Marines, White House officials in California said personnel from other military branches could not be ruled out. But White House officials said any presence of American military personnel "would be limited in size and duration."

Speaking today to a meeting of city mayors and state legislators, Reagan confirmed U.S. willingness to help in the evacuation of Palestinians from Beirut. While Reagan said there had yet to be a formal request from the Lebanese government, he

added that he has "agreed in principle to contribute a small number of U.S. personnel, subject to certain conditions." He did not say what those conditions were.

At the State Department, spokesman Dean Fischer refused to comment on the troops offer, referring all questioners to the Spokes briefing.

Transitional Office For Haig

Meanwhile, Fischer revealed that Secretary of State Alexander Haig, who had been involved in the Mideast negotiations during his weekend vacation in West Virginia ended that involvement sometime yesterday. Fischer said that Haig, Reagan and Secretary of State-designate George Shultz have agreed that until Shultz is confirmed by the Senate and sworn in, Deputy-Secretary Walter Stoessel will serve as acting Secretary of State.

However, Haig will have a transitional office in the State Department for 45-60 days, Fischer said, although he did not know if the Secretary would use the office personally. He said it would be staffed by Haig's aides, including Sherwood Goldberg, his executive assistant, and Muriel Hartley, an assistant to the Secretary. Reporters noted that when Secretary of State Cyrus Vance resigned in the Carter Administration, he left the Department the next day and had no such office.

U.S. Ensuring Safety of Lebanese Civilians

Meanwhile, Fischer stressed that the U.S. is doing everything possible to help ensure the safety of the civilian population in Lebanon, including urging Israel to lift its blockade of west Beirut. "We have a deep concern about the human dimensions of the conflict," he said. He said that the Department has been informed that water service has been restored to west Beirut although not electric power.

Fischer stressed that through seeking to maintain the cease-fire and trying to bring about a peaceful solution to the conflict, "we are trying to prevent actions that endanger the lives or welfare of innocent civilians." He noted that Peter McPherson, Administrator of the Agency for International Development (AID) is co-ordinating the U.S. relief assistance to Lebanon in cooperation with international efforts. Fischer also noted that the U.S. voted for the UN Security Council resolution Sunday night which was aimed at the protection of the civilian population in Lebanon and the restoration of all services. In concluding, Fischer stressed that the U.S. urges "all parties in the conflict to respect the rights of all civilians."

FRENCH SOLONS WHO VISITED LEBANON PRAISE BEHAVIOR OF ISRAELI ARMY

By Edwin Eytan

PARIS, July 6 (JTA) -- Four opposition members of the French Parliament who just returned from a study mission to Israel and Lebanon, paid tribute yesterday to the Israeli army for its "correct and even generous" attitude towards the Lebanese civilian population. They said the press had "grossly distorted" the truth when presenting a near-apocalyptic picture of alleged destruction and killings in major Lebanese cities and refugee camps.

The group, led by former Centrist Deputy Jean-Pierre Bloch, visited the area at the invitation of the Israeli Foreign Ministry, said they were free to meet with whomever they wanted to

see and mingle at will with the civilian population. Didier Barlani, head of the tiny Radical-Valoisian Party, said the recent appeal for Israeli-Palestinian negotiations launched by three prominent Jewish personalities is "highly respectable but far from reality." The three, former French Premier Pierre Mendes-France, and former World Jewish Congress presidents Nahum Goldmann and Philip Klutznick, appealed last week for an immediate cease-fire and a compromise peace in Lebanon. Barlani said their declaration has had "little if any effect" in the countries concerned.

MORDECHAI BEN-PORAT APPOINTED MINISTER-WITHOUT-PORTFOLIO

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, July 6 (JTA) -- The Knesset voted 52-45 last night to confirm the appointment of Mordechai Ben-Porat as a Minister-Without-Portfolio in Premier Menachem Begin's coalition Cabinet. The vote followed a stormy debate during which Labor Alignment dove Shulamit Aloni denounced the war in Lebanon and Likud MK Roni Milo lashed out at the foreign news media and Israel television for allegedly distorting the war news to put Israel in a bad light.

Ben-Porat and former Finance Minister Yigal Hurwitz had comprised the Telem faction, founded by the late Moshe Dayan. They dissolved it voluntarily and joined the coalition. This restored Begin's one-seat Knesset majority which he lost several months ago by the defections of Likud MKs Amnon Lin and Yitzhak Peretz. The government is reportedly now negotiating with the ultra-nationalist Tehiya faction to bring it into the coalition as well.

Aloni, who heads the Civil Rights Movement within the Labor Alignment, opposed Ben-Porat's appointment and demanded the removal of Defense Minister Ariel Sharon. She said she spoke in the names of 22 Israel Air Force pilots who had publicly deplored Israel's actions in Lebanon and demanded Sharon's resignation. She was shouted down by Labor hawks Shulamit Arbeli-Almoslino and Arye Nehamkin who denied that Aloni spoke for the Labor Alignment or that the pilots represented the Israeli defense force.

Milo claimed that Israeli intelligence had confirmed that the Palestine Liberation Organization in west Beirut took comfort and encouragement from opposition critics of the war. He also urged Ben-Porat to "straighten out" Israeli television. Ben-Porat has pledged to involve himself as a minister in the dissemination of information, although authority over Israel television rests with the Education Ministry.

Reporters Charge Political Censorship

While the Knesset was embroiled in debate, senior reporters at the television studios a mile away were accusing TV director Tuvia Saar of exercising political censorship. The reporters' workers committee ordered them not to participate in the daily news coverage planning session presided over by Saar.

According to the reporters, the "last straw" was Saar's decision -- allegedly for budget reasons -- not to send a mobile unit to cover the Peace Now antiwar demonstration which drew some 100,000 protesters to Tel Aviv's municipal square last Saturday night.

FRENCH TROOPS MIGHT ASSIST IN PALESTINIAN EVACUATION OF BEIRUT

By Edwin Eytan

PARIS, July 6 (JTA) -- French troops might take an active part in assisting the Palestinian evacuation of Beirut, French sources said here today. A French task force might join American marines who will supervise the Palestinian withdrawal from west Beirut and ensure their safe departure from Lebanon.

Foreign Minister Claude Cheysson said this evening that no agreement has been reached yet and termed these reports "premature." Other officials, who did not want to be named, said, however, that the talks on French participation in the Palestinian evacuation are "advanced" and that an agreement might be signed at any moment.

Cheysson himself broadly hinted, when he addressed the French National Assembly this afternoon, that the Palestinians have agreed to evacuate the city. He said, "I can confirm that the Palestine Liberation Organization has accepted to switch its activities from an armed struggle to a political campaign." He gave no additional details but observers recalling the close ties developed in recent days between Paris and the PLO said his words clearly indicate that agreement has been reached or is about to be reached.

Cheysson also said that President Francois Mitterrand's envoy to the Middle East, Foreign Ministry Secretary General Francis Guttman, returned to Paris today after talks with PLO Chief Yasser Arafat in Beirut and meetings with Israeli, Syrian, Jordanian and Saudi Arabian leaders.

A Palestinian spokesman in Beirut denied this evening that the PLO has agreed to the evacuation and to the stationing of American troops in Beirut. Egyptian Foreign Minister Kamal Hassan Ali said in Cairo, however, that the Palestinians have agreed to the stationing of American troops. Ali did not mention the possibility of French participation.

JANNER OFFERS STRONG SUPPORT FOR ISRAEL'S ACTIONS IN LEBANON

By Maurice Samuelson

LONDON, July 6 (JTA) -- Strong support for Israel's actions in Lebanon was expressed here today by MK Greville Janner, president of the Board of Deputies of British Jews, who spent yesterday in east Beirut as guest of the Israeli army.

"I was astonished to see the people there waving victory signs at us and the extraordinary warmth of their welcome for the Israelis," Janner told a press conference in the House of Commons.

"I spoke to dozens of people, Moslems as well as Christians, who said they wanted the Palestine Liberation Organization to be removed from Lebanon. They criticized Israel not for coming in but for taking so long to do so."

Claiming to have encountered no hostility in east Beirut, Janner quoted a Lebanese Moslem as complaining that Israel had not yet removed the PLO. "It should have done the job with the same thoroughness that the Jordanians had used against the PLO in Amman in Black September in 1971," the Moslem had told him.

Janner, who was flown to Beirut by Israeli army helicopter, said that internal Israeli oppo-

sition to the Lebanese operation had been exaggerated by Western press reports. The removal of PLO leader Yasser Arafat from Beirut "will have the backing of the vast majority of Israelis," he said.

Janner's impressions of Lebanon were in sharp contrast with the harrowing reports which have recently flooded the British press. British press coverage of events in Lebanon he said, was "disgraceful, unfair, unworthy and an unbalanced portrayal of Israel's first-class case."

ELIAV MAY HEAD REHAB EFFORTS FOR PALESTINIAN REFUGEES IN LEBANON

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, July 6 (JTA) -- The government is considering the appointment of Arye Eliav, former leader of the leftist Sheli faction, to take charge of rehabilitation efforts for the Palestinian refugees in Lebanon, it was learned here.

Eliav, a leading dove, tentatively accepted the assignment pending a final decision by the government. He has already toured the refugee camps and submitted his report to the Israeli authorities. He declined to disclose its contents but said it was a basic proposal on how to tackle the problem. The first stage would not require a large expenditure, he said.

An estimated 500,000 Palestinians live in Lebanese refugee camps some of which served as Palestine Liberation Organization strongholds before the Israeli invasion of Lebanon. Israeli forces destroyed the PLO in all of the camps except the Shatila and Sabra camps in Beirut. Eliav said he would limit his work strictly to the Palestinian population, observing that the Lebanese population could take care of itself.

One of the first steps should be a comprehensive study of the problems by a variety of experts who have dealt with the rehabilitation of refugees in the past, Eliav said. He himself was in charge of absorbing the massive Jewish immigration into Israel from North African countries in the 1950s.

Eliav is an outspoken supporter of an independent Palestinian state on the West Bank and Gaza Strip which is anathema to the Likud government. But he expressed hope that he could cooperate with the government on behalf of the Palestinian refugees in Lebanon despite the vast political and ideological differences between them.

ENVOY SAYS ISRAEL IS VICTIM OF A PROPAGANDA CAMPAIGN

BONN, July 6 (JTA)--The Israeli Ambassador to West Germany, Yitzhak Ben Ari has charged that Israel has been the victim of a propaganda campaign by critics who allege that it is blocking the shipment of humanitarian aid to homeless civilians in Lebanon. According to Ben Ari, several German relief organizations attempted to ship supplies through the Lebanese ports of Sidon and Tyre which are not operational. They refused to divert the aid cargoes to Haifa.

Because of this, the envoy said, the organizations have mounted an anti-Israel campaign which has been supported in part by leading public figures in West Germany.

Meanwhile, the newspaper Die Welt reported last Saturday that a new organization headed by the international terrorist known as "Carlos" has surfaced in west Beirut where the remnant of the Palestine Liberation Organization is holding out. Leaflets signed by "Carlos" have appeared promising the liberation of Lebanon from "Zionists, imperialists and especially the United States." The new group calls itself "Red Palestinians." Die Welt said "Carlos" himself is in west Beirut.

SHARP RISE OF RIGHTWING GROUPS REPORTED IN WEST GERMANY

By David Kantor.

BONN, July 6 (JTA) -- Internal security services have reported a sharp rise last year in the number of extreme rightwing organizations operating in West Germany and in their membership which was placed at 10,300. According to security sources 1981 was the first year since 1969 that the far right has managed to increase its membership.

Officially, only 19 groups with a membership of about 1150 are classified as "neo-Nazi." But that number does not include about 600 members of the outlawed Wehrsportgruppe Hoffmann and the Peoples Socialist Movement. The security services do not classify the rightwing National Democratic Party (NDP) as neo-Nazi but most West German political leaders do and the NDP is referred to as neo-Nazi by most newspapers.

The security services are most concerned by the growing propensity for violence among neo-Nazis and rightwing extremists. About 250 known neo-Nazis have been classified as violent and are officially considered as much a danger to the public as the leftwing urban guerrillas.

Left And Right Extremists Differ

The difference, according to security sources is that while extremists on the left operate on the basis of long-term planning, rightwing terrorist activities appear to be "spontaneous." The neo-Nazis, moreover, have developed contacts in recent years with like-minded groups elsewhere in Europe and overseas. They have resorted to bank robberies to finance their activities, the security sources said.

The Defense Ministry, meanwhile, has opened an investigation of what it described as "fascist incidents" among officers at an army training school in Hamburg. According to the Ministry, groups of officers at the school have spent evenings listening to tapes of speeches by Hitler and Goering. On one such occasion, June 14, several officers fired blank pistols and shouted Nazi slogans.

The Ministry has assigned Gen. Walter Windisch, Vice Chief of Staff of the Army, to investigate the alleged behavior of the officers and take disciplinary measures where indicated. Officers at military training schools in Munich faced disciplinary action several years ago for allegedly burning Jews in effigy and shouting Nazi slogans. They were acquitted on grounds that they had been drunk at the time.

Hundreds of demonstrators marched through the center of Nuremberg last week to protest rightwing extremism. The marchers gathered at the site where a young neo-Nazi killed three people in a shooting rampage last month and then committed suicide.

Police said the killer, Helmut Oxner, 26, apparently acted on his own although he was a member of several neo-Nazi organizations and of the NDP. Two days earlier, a close friend of Oxner was sentenced to 15 months imprisonment for making threatened night telephone calls to Jewish residents of Nuremberg.

PONDER LEGAL ACTION AGAINST ISRAELI EDITOR WHO MET ARAFAT IN BEIRUT

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, July 6 (JTA) -- Interior Minister Yosef Burg has asked the Attorney General for a legal opinion as to whether official action should

be brought against former MK Uri Avneri who visited Palestine Liberation Organization chief Yasir Arafat for two hours last Friday and allegedly embraced the terrorist leader when they met.

Avneri, editor and publisher of the weekly magazine Haolam Haze and a leader of the leftwing Sheli faction, said his meeting with Arafat was solely in his capacity as a journalist, therefore he had broken no law. Burg observed that reporters do not normally embrace in friendship people they interview. To do so was a sign of identification with Arafat and encouragement for his policies, Burg said. Government supporters are accusing Avneri of treason and demand he be brought to trial.

Meir Payil, another leader of Sheli, said Avneri had talked to Arafat as a journalist, not as a representative of the political faction. But Payil admitted that had he been in Avneri's place he would have consulted with the government before seeing Arafat.

Avneri said Arafat told him that on several occasions he had been ready to recognize Israel. Victor Shemtov, leader of Mapam which strongly opposes the Likud government's policies, remarked that if such had ever been Arafat's intentions "it has evidently been kept a close secret from us or anybody else."

Avneri, who spent a total of four hours in west Beirut, which is under siege by Israeli forces, said he found the PLO leader calm "but somewhat fatalistic." He said Arafat told him he expected an Israeli attack on west Beirut and that his men were ready for it. Avneri said he spent some time with the only Israeli captured by the PLO during the three weeks of fighting in Lebanon -- Air Force pilot Aharon Ahiaz. He said he found Ahiaz "relatively good spirits."

AMERICAN LEBANESE LEAGUE LEADER SUPPORTS ISRAEL'S ACTION

NEW YORK, July 6 (JTA) -- A representative of the American-Lebanese League in Birmingham, Ala., said that his organization supports and will "continue to support Israeli action in Lebanon until the PLO has been swept from the area," it was reported to the Jewish Telegraphic Agency by Israel's Consul General for Southeastern United States in Atlanta, Ga., Yehoshua Trigor.

The League's representative, Joseph Boohaker, vice president of the organization for the southern region, spoke at a joint press conference with Trigor last week in Birmingham. The conference was also attended by Padgett Cope, senior minister of the Ruhama Baptist Church in that city, and Dr. Jimmy Harper, regional director of the National Conference of Christians and Jews (NCCJ).

According to Trigor, Boohaker asserted that "Until Syrian and PLO troops are removed, Lebanon cannot have a free democracy and pluralistic society." Trigor noted that Boohaker's comments came a week after representatives of the American-Lebanese League, the NCCJ, the Jewish Community Relations Committee of Birmingham, and other Jewish and Christian leaders, issued a statement of support for Israeli military objectives in Lebanon. The statement said that blame for civilian casualties in the Lebanon war "rests squarely on the PLO."

JERUSALEM (JTA) -- Citizens of Lebanon and visitors to that country who wish to travel abroad will be allowed to do so through Ben Gurion Airport, under orders by Interior Minister Yosef Burg.