

# JTA daily news bulletin

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## 4 ISRAELI SOLDIERS KILLED IN BEIRUT SECTOR; ONE WOUNDED

TEL AVIV, July 8 (JTA) -- Four Israeli soldiers were killed in the Beirut sector yesterday when their half-track sustained a direct hit during an artillery duel with Palestine Liberation Organization forces, a military spokesman announced today. Another soldier was wounded by sniper fire today.

The latest casualties in the month-long war were disclosed as newspaper and radio reports made it clear that Israeli forces are preparing for a long stay in Lebanon and are consolidating positions in the areas of the country they control. Commanders of camps and installations have been ordered to move to flatter terrain and prepare an infrastructure, including water pipelines from wells declared safe by the Army Medical Corps.

Officers in command of reserve units have been ordered to prepare to rotate their men so that the burden of service in Lebanon will be more evenly distributed among reservists. The army engineers and military police are completing the construction of a detention camp in the Nabatiya area of south Lebanon for the internment of Palestinian terrorists captured during the fighting.

Israel classifies these prisoners as detainees rather than prisoners of war. The PLO has asked that its men be accorded POW status but the Israelis refuse on grounds that this would imply recognition of the PLO as a national organization with its own regular army.

Several dozen prisoners have already been installed in the new facility following interrogation inside Israel. The camp consists of tents surrounded by high barbed wire fences with watch towers. The entire perimeter of the camp is encircled by high earth dikes which shield it from outside viewers. The camp is supplied with water, electricity and a kitchen manned by the detainees.

## BEGIN: ISRAEL WILL GIVE HABIB MORE TIME TO GET ACCORD FOR DEPARTURE OF PLO FROM BEIRUT

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, July 8 (JTA) -- Two U.S. Senators said today they accepted Premier Menachem Begin's assurances that Israel will give U.S. special envoy Philip Habib more time to negotiate an agreement leading to the departure of all Palestine Liberation Organization forces from west Beirut.

Sens. Christopher Dodd (D. Conn.) and Carl Levin (D. Mich.) told reporters after a meeting with Begin that the Premier continued to be optimistic that Habib's efforts will succeed, although time is running out.

"Mr. Begin wants to give Philip Habib every opportunity possible and all the time he needs to secure a peaceful withdrawal," Dodd said, adding, "there is no ultimatum." Israeli newspapers reported today that Israel has set next Sunday as the deadline for negotiations.

The two American lawmakers, on a fact-finding mission with respect to the war in Lebanon, confirmed that Begin was adamant against the PLO retaining a political office in Beirut or a token mili-

tary presence within the Lebanese army after the departure of its main body from Lebanon. Dodd is a member of the Foreign Relations Committee and Levin a member of the Armed Services Committee.

Political sources here said, meanwhile, that because of the complexity of the negotiations being conducted by Habib, a political agreement was not certain to be reached. In that connection they warned the PLO to cease fire in Beirut. Otherwise, the Israel army would react with "the strongest measures," they said.

## BREZHNEV'S WARNING TO REAGAN AGAINST U.S. TROOPS IN LEBANON WILL NOT AFFECT PRESIDENT'S OFFER

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, July 8 (JTA) -- A letter from Soviet President Leonid Brezhnev to President Reagan warning him against sending American troops to Lebanon will not affect Reagan's offer of a contingent of U.S. Marines to help Palestine Liberation Organization forces evacuate west Beirut, State Department spokesman Dean Fischer said today.

Fischer confirmed that Reagan received Brezhnev's letter which he said Soviet Ambassador Anatoly Dobrynin gave acting Secretary of State Walter Stoessel at the State Department yesterday. Fischer refused to provide any details of the letter or to say what the U.S. response would be, except that it would not affect the offer of American troops.

Brezhnev's letter reportedly warned against sending troops into Lebanon and said if the U.S. did so, the USSR would have to build its policy on that fact. Some observers believe Brezhnev's letter was not aimed at the U.S. but at the PLO and was a message from its chief supplier of arms not to leave west Beirut, even though surrounded by Israeli forces.

## Hopeful A Solution Will Be Found

"All of our actions and policies ... are aimed at a peaceful resolution of the situation," Fischer stressed. He noted that U.S. special envoy Philip Habib is continuing his consultations in Beirut "and we are hopeful a solution will be achieved." The negotiations include the creation of a multinational force to which the U.S. would contribute a contingent of up to 1,000 men to escort the PLO out of Lebanon, Fischer explained.

The spokesman again stressed that there was no Israeli deadline for reaching an agreement and noted that Premier Menachem Begin was quoted as saying so himself. At the same time, Fischer said, "We feel it is a matter of great urgency to achieve a solution to the problem of west Beirut."

Fischer also revealed that the Foreign Ministers of Syria and Saudi Arabia are coming to Washington but no date has been set for their visit. He said they are being sent by the Arab League and that the Administration and the ministers are trying to find a "mutually convenient early date" for them to come here. In other matters, Fischer said the U.S. is in daily contact with Israel on the humanitarian

aspects of the situation in Lebanon. He said the U.S. was "pleased" to note that central services such as electricity and water have been restored to west Beirut.

Fischer had no comment on the closing down of Bir Zeit University on the West Bank by the Israeli military authorities today. But he said the ouster of the Mayor of the West Bank town of Jenin by the Israelis this week "was regrettable." He observed, "The (municipal) elections in 1976 represented the only recent expression of the popular will on the West Bank." (See separate story P.3.)

Meanwhile, Fischer said that Secretary of State-designate George Shultz was at the State Department and was being briefed on the situation in Lebanon. He said Shultz is preparing for his confirmation hearings before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee which will begin next Tuesday.

#### U.S. RABBI WHO VISITED WOUNDED ISRAELI SOLDIERS SAYS THEY FEEL MALIGNED BY AMERICAN NEWS MEDIA

By Judith Kohn

NEW YORK, July 8 (JTA) -- An American rabbi who just returned from Lebanon and Israel, where he visited close to 400 wounded Israeli soldiers, conveyed today what he said was a prevailing feeling among the Israel Defense Force that they are being unjustly maligned by the American news media. He also maintained there was a broad consensus in Israel in support of the government's operation in Lebanon.

Speaking at a press conference of Americans for a Safe Israel, Rabbi Avraham Weiss, of the Hebrew Institute of Riverdale, N.Y., said that the question most frequently asked him by hospitalized soldiers with whom he visited was: "Why does the news media portray us like animals."

He added that accounts related to him by the wounded men of Israeli casualties resulting from efforts to spare civilian lives refute the reports of IDF disregard for human life that Americans are hearing. "I heard many accounts of terrorists grabbing women and children, using them as shields, and then shooting an Israeli soldier who could not kill a child," Weiss said.

Weiss, who is a member of the Executive Committee of Americans for a Safe Israel, also denied that the crisis in Lebanon has divided Israeli public opinion. "Nothing could be further from the truth," he said. "The Israeli public is firmly behind the government and the army's morale is very high." He dismissed recent anti-war demonstrations in Israel as "insignificant," calling the participants "a small group that is viewed in Israel literally as a treasonous group."

#### Campaign To Aid Medical Center In Beirut

At a separate meeting this morning, Dr. Malcolm Kerr, president of the American University of Beirut, announced the launching of an emergency fund-raising campaign for that institution's medical center, whose finances he said are being drained by the current crisis.

The hospital, which, according to Kerr, treated 1,100 casualties, predominantly civilians, last month alone, has run up a deficit of \$1.1 million as a result of the flood of emergency treatment of patients who could not afford to pay for their medical care. He said he expected an additional flood of backlog cases, once the fighting ends and movement in Beirut becomes safe.

At the conference of Americans for a Safe Israel, Weiss told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that he supports the efforts of American Jews to provide emergency relief to Lebanese civilians. But he said he was "outraged with American Jewish organizations for not having shown sufficient support for the Israeli soldiers and people during this action."

#### JDC ANNOUNCES DELIVERY OF NECESSITIES TO LEBANESE OFFICIALS IN TYRE AND SIDON

NEW YORK, July 8 (JTA) -- The American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (JDC), acting on behalf of the American Jewish community, announced today that it had delivered 3,000 foam rubber mattresses, 500 cartons of cooking stoves, pots and pans and eating utensils and 1,000 gallons of kerosene to the Lebanese social welfare authorities in Tyre and Sidon.

The JDC announcement, made in a report to Ralph Goldman, JDC executive vice president, from the coordinator of its Lebanon program, Dr. Samuel Halperin, noted that the distribution was being made with the full cooperation of the Israeli and Lebanese authorities. The report noted that the JDC was also delivering baby food, powdered milk and blankets donated by others.

On June 17, JDC president Henry Taub, speaking on behalf of the American Jewish community, had committed \$100,000 for emergency relief in Lebanon. Taub today observed that over \$90,000 of the commitment by JDC had been reimbursed by donations from the Jewish community and he noted contributions were still being received.

#### GOLDMANN, KLUTZNICK UNDER FIRE

JERUSALEM, July 8 (JTA) -- The World Zionist Organization Executive has sharply attacked Nahum Goldmann and Philip Klutznick, two past presidents of the World Jewish Congress, for their statement in Paris last Friday calling upon Israel to lift its siege of Beirut and for mutual Israeli-Palestinian recognition. The same statement was also made by former French Premier Pierre Mendes-France.

In a communique issued here, the WZO "rejected the harmful and unnecessary interference in Israel's internal affairs by Messrs. Goldmann and Klutznick. They represent neither the Jewish people nor the organizations they once headed. They speak only for themselves."

Rafael Kottlowitz, the acting chairman of the WZO Executive, issued an even stronger statement, in his own name, blasting Goldmann and Klutznick for "sticking a knife into the nation's back ... Instead of standing by the State of Israel and the Zionist movement in their struggle, these people try to save the chief murderer (PLO leader Yasser Arafat) and his terrorists, militarily and politically."

#### WJC DISSOCIATES ITSELF FROM GOLDMANN-KLUTZNICK STATEMENT

By Edwin Eytan

PARIS, July 8 (JTA) -- The president of the World Jewish Congress, Edgar Bronfman, today dissociated himself and the WJC's Executive from the statement issued here last week by Nahum Goldmann and Philip Klutznick, both past presidents of the WJC, and former French Premier Pierre Mendes-France calling upon Israel to lift its siege of Beirut and for mutual Israeli-Palestinian recognition.

Bronfman told the WJC Executive "I have no quarrel with their right to make such a statement but I personally would neither join them nor would I

endorse their statement." After a two-hour debate, described as "stormy" at times by some of the participants, the Executive dissociated itself as well from the joint statement, with no further comment.

Klutznick, who attended the Executive meeting, was attacked by Howard Squadron, a former chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, Greville Janner, president of the Board of Deputies of British Jews, and Akiva Levinsky, treasurer of the Jewish Agency.

#### Terms Statement Untimely

Bronfman noted that Goldmann, Klutznick and Mendes-France "quite properly and clearly said they were speaking for themselves as private citizens and not for the World Jewish Congress."

He said "my own view is that their statement was as untimely as it was newsworthy. With the Israeli army standing outside Beirut at the time and an intricate negotiation going on with the PLO, it seemed to me exactly to be the wrong time to propose recognition, thus possibly encouraging the PLO to toughen its bargaining position, and endangering even more lives."

But, Bronfman added, "in long-range terms, this statement by our friends does represent a realistic recognition and underscoring of the fact that Israel and the Palestinians must ultimately not only recognize each other, but recognize their mutual state in peace and security." This, he said, "can and should be done within the context of the Camp David accords, the only promising peace process."

#### BIR ZEIT UNIVERSITY CLOSED DOWN FOLLOWING DEMONSTRATIONS ON CAMPUS By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, July 8 (JTA) -- Israeli military authorities closed down Bir Zeit University on the West Bank today following demonstrations on the campus earlier in the week at which more than 100 students were arrested. Bir Zeit, 10 miles north of Ramallah, is considered an intellectual stronghold of support for the Palestine Liberation Organization. It has been closed down several times in the past after anti-Israel demonstrations by the student body.

The university was ordered closed today for a period of three months because of student protests against the Israeli occupation despite repeated warnings by the West Bank civil administration and the army, the authorities said. It had been reopened only a few months ago after the faculty heads promised that the students would stay in their classrooms and refrain from demonstrations. Israel's invasion of Lebanon is believed to have triggered the latest protests.

There were demonstrations elsewhere on the West Bank following the ouster of Mayor Ahmad Shawki of Jenin and his town council by the Israeli authorities. He is the fifth West Bank Mayor to be removed by the Israelis in less than a year for alleged pro-PLO sentiments and refusal to cooperate with the civil administrations. The Israelis replaced him Tuesday with Shehab Sanouri, a local contractor. Two town councilmen were also replaced.

Meanwhile, members of the Gaza municipal council today rejected a demand by the Israeli civil administration to end its strike and cease all political activities.

#### KREISKY ANNOUNCES NEW PLO DIPLOMATIC ENVOY IN AUSTRIA By Monika Brenner and Reinhard Engel

VIENNA, July 8 (JTA) -- Chancellor Bruno Kreisky confirmed yesterday that Abdullah Frangi, the Palestine Liberation Organization's diplomatic representative in Bonn, will become the PLO's diplomatic envoy in Austria as well. "He shall get his accreditation," Kreisky said.

The announcement was unexpected inasmuch as the Austrian government appeared in no hurry to receive a replacement for the former PLO representative, Ghazi Hussein, who was declared persona non grata and ousted from the country last summer for his alleged involvement in an arms smuggling attempt at the Vienna airport.

Frangi had been considered as a possible successor for several months but Kreisky himself said there was no rush to fill the post. He apparently changed his mind in light of the PLO's precarious position following the destruction of its military forces and bases in Lebanon by Israel.

Kreisky met Frangi here yesterday and described him to reporters later as a "balanced and proper man who has always been in line with (PLO leader Yasir) Arafat." The Austrians have always differentiated between Arafat's mainstream El Fatah and the other Palestinian groups within and outside of the PLO.

The line was drawn sharply after the terrorist attack on the Jewish community center in Vienna last August which caused several fatalities. That outrage has been attributed to an extremist group of Palestinians headed by Abu Nidal.

Austria was the first Western nation to grant the PLO quasi diplomatic accreditation. The PLO diplomat in Vienna represents his organization before the Austrian government and at several United Nations agencies based here where the PLO holds observer status.

#### SHARON: ISRAEL'S ACTION IN LEBANON FORESTALLED ALL-OUT WAR PLANNED BY SYRIA AND THE PLO By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, July 8 (JTA) -- Defense Minister Ariel Sharon claimed that Israel's invasion of Lebanon forestalled an all-out war planned by Syria and the Palestine Liberation Organization against Israel within the next year or two. The war planned by the Syrians and the PLO would have hit Israel under far worse conditions than exist now, Sharon told the graduating class of the Israel Army Staff and Command College.

Sharon replied to criticism expressed by many Israelis in recent days of his extension of the war in Lebanon far beyond the 40 kilometer security zone that the government professed was its objective when it launched the invasion on June 6.

He maintained that the alleged Syrian and PLO war plans proved that Israel's campaign in Lebanon was defensive, not a political war as the critics claim. He compared it to the Sinai campaign of 1956, ordered by Premier David Ben-Gurion and the Six-Day War of 1967 when another labor government, headed by Premier Levi Eshkol was in power.

According to Sharon, the Syrians and PLO were confident that their Soviet-built T-72 tanks and SAM anti-aircraft missiles would assure them of victory over Israel.

# CIVIL MEASURE TO HELP AN 'AGUNAH' OBTAIN A 'GET' APPROVED BY THE N.Y. STATE LEGISLATURE

By Ben Gallo

NEW YORK, July 8 (JTA) -- A civil measure designed to ease a centuries-old disability imposed on the observant Jewish wife whose husband refuses to give her a Jewish divorce decree, called a "get," has been approved by both houses of the New York State Legislature.

The bill, believed to be the first of its kind in American law, is awaiting certain signature by Governor Hugh Carey, Assemblyman Sheldon Silver, author of the measure, said today. The measure will become state law when the governor signs it expectedly before the end of the month.

Silver, a Democrat-Liberal representing Manhattan's Lower East Side, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that the bill was the product of months of careful drafting to avoid any possibility of conflict with the Constitutional church-state separation doctrine.

Under Jewish religious law (halacha), a wife refused a "get" has the status of an "Agunah," and may not remarry religiously even after winning a civil divorce.

## Principle Behind The Bill

Silver explained that the principle behind the bill is that "a matrimonial action is an action in equity. One of the doctrines of equity is that the court should leave the parties with equal status." He added that the measure permits one party to allege that "if this (divorce) court dissolves this marriage, civilly I will have a barrier to re-marriage." The barrier will be the husband's refusal to give his wife a "get," though the measure makes no reference to that religious action.

The measure provides that when one party to a civil divorce action complains of a barrier to re-marriage imposed by the other party, the issue may be submitted to a fact-finding and mediation panel which will have the function of determining whether such a barrier exists and, if it does, whether either party can remove it.

The measure provides for the judge hearing the divorce case to name the panel which can make recommendations for removal of the barrier. The panel is thus an agency of the court. The court may, at its discretion, withhold a final judgment on the civil divorce if the party seeking the divorce -- in such cases, the Jewish husband -- fails to comply with the recommendation of the panel -- presumably to give his wife a "get." The panel has 30 days to make its recommendation. To avoid legal problems, the measure was written to withhold intentionally any authority for the judge to hold in contempt the divorce party rejecting the panel's recommendations. The clout the judge can exercise for the wife of a recalcitrant Jewish husband is to refuse to give him and his wife a civil divorce.

Silver was asked by the Jewish Telegraphic Agency what recourse the wife has if the judge, exercising his discretion, gives the husband and wife a civil divorce despite his panel's recommendations that the civil divorce be withheld on grounds the wife will have a barrier to re-marriage.

Silver replied that, under standard procedures in the State Supreme Court, which has jurisdiction in divorces, the wife can appeal to the next highest state court, the appellate division.

Prof. Aaron Twerski, a Hofstra law professor who is chairman of the Commission on Legislation

and Civic Action of Agudath Israel of America, an Orthodox agency, helped draft the legislation. Calling the measure "a low profile resolution to a high profile problem," Twerski said the drafters "very studiously stayed away from the question of a court-coerced get" to avoid getting into the thicket of halachic questions.

Also consulted on the measure were such rabbinical authorities as Rabbi Moshe Feinstein, president of the Union of Orthodox Rabbis of the United States and Canada, a world authority on halacha; Rabbi Jacob Kamenetski, dean of Yeshiva Torah Vodaath of New York; and Alan Dershowitz, a Harvard law professor and expert on civil liberties law.

Approval of the bill in the assembly was by 132 to six. The measure was introduced in the State Senate by Sen. Martin Connor, also a Democrat-Liberal from the Lower East Side, where approval was unanimous.

## Complaints Of Unethical Conduct

Orthodox leaders said that only in recent years have marriages in the cohesive Orthodox community begun to break up in significant numbers, bringing an increase in complaints of unethical conduct by parties to divorce, mostly on the part of husbands.

There have been widespread reports that such husbands are denying "gittim" to their wives, sometimes out of spite, and sometimes to coerce wives to sign away rights to property, child support and maintenance of civil divorce actions.

Silver said there are an estimated 150,000 Orthodox Jewish women in New York State alone, who are civilly but not religiously divorced, adding that some have been waiting as long as two decades for a "get." He said the new measure will not help any of the 150,000 "but it may help others in the future."

It may also help a much smaller number of Orthodox husbands, who assert they are denied religious divorces by wives who refuse to accept a "get." Rabbis said women also are using the "get" for leverage in civil settlements, though halacha provides options to men not available to women.

Rabbi Moshe Sherer, Agudath Israel president, said "we hope this bill will have the effect in the Orthodox Jewish community of discouraging coercion and blackmail in divorce procedures."

## INDIA OUSTS ISRAELI DIPLOMAT

JERUSALEM, July 8 (JTA) -- Political sources here said today that Israel's limited diplomatic relations with India would continue despite the ouster of the Israeli Consul General in New Delhi for "unacceptable intervention in the affairs of India."

The Consul, Yossef Hasson, was asked to leave after an interview in which he criticized India's negative attitude toward Israel. The sources here said the ouster should not be seen in the context of the war in Lebanon. Israel only has a consular office in Bombay which Hasson has headed since 1979.

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PARIS (JTA) -- The former president of the Fonds Social Juif Unifié, Guy de Rothschild, and its outgoing director, Adam Löss, were Wednesday awarded the City of Paris Medal. Mayor Jacques Chirac personally made the presentation and thanked both men for their contribution to Paris' cultural and educational development. Leading political figures as well as community leaders were present at the ceremony in the capital's historic town hall.