

U.S. OFFICIALS TELL JEWISH LEADERS THAT REAGAN HAS NOT CONSIDERED SANCTIONS AGAINST ISRAEL

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, Aug. 5 (JTA) -- A delegation of Jewish leaders were told by Administration officials today that President Reagan has not considered sanctions against Israel because of Israel's military action against the Palestine Liberation Organization terrorists in west Beirut.

"Until now, the President has not considered sanctions," Julius Berman, chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, said the Jewish leaders were told during three hours of briefings at the State Department.

When Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger who was one of the officials conducting the briefings, was asked about sanctions as he was leaving the State Department, he said that discussion about this should come from the President and the State Department.

In addition to Weinberger, the briefings were conducted by Vice President George Bush, Secretary of State George Shultz and members of the National Security Council. The more than 30 Jewish leaders who attended were mostly members of the Presidents Conference and several members of the National Jewish Republican Coalition.

Berman told reporters after the meeting that both Israel and the Reagan Administration agree on the goals of establishing a sovereign government in Lebanon and of removing the PLO from the country, but they differ on the "tactics."

Wary Of A Signal

However, Berman noted that "what we are wary about is that there should not be a signal coming out of Washington which might indicate to the PLO that there is a major grace period and maybe if they stick it out," there will be "handcuffs," placed on Israel and there will not be a diplomatic solution because there will not be military pressure.

But, he added, in his opinion, the Administration "realizes military pressure is necessary. They say so. As to the specific military pressure and the timing of this, there is obviously a difference of opinion."

Denies U.S. Coolness Towards Israelis

Berman said that the Administration spokesmen denied that an effort was made during the picture-taking ceremony when Israeli Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir met with Reagan at the White House Monday, to demonstrate a United States cold attitude toward the Israelis, as had been reported in the press.

Berman said the Jewish leaders were told that the seating arrangements in which Shamir and his party sat directly across the table from Reagan and his advisors was a normal one when foreign visitors come to the White House.

Berman noted that during the briefings, not only Lebanon but the entire Administration policy toward the Mideast was discussed. He said the

Administration officials restated the U.S. position that it will not recognize or negotiate with the PLO until it meets the conditions outlined by the United States since 1975. He said the officials also stressed that Reagan is committed to ending terrorism wherever it exists."

Calling the Jewish leaders "good Americans," Bush said while they had differences with the Administration, they were willing to listen to his outlining of the President's position.

Both the governments of Israel and the United States "want a diplomatic solution," Berman said. "They both realize that without military pressure, there will be no diplomatic solution. Otherwise, there is no incentive for the PLO to leave Lebanon."

Optimism About Habib's Efforts

But Berman noted that the Administration feels there should be a "pause" now in military pressure. He said the Administration spokesmen said they were "more optimistic" than they were a week ago that Reagan's special envoy, Philip Habib, will be successful in his efforts to negotiate the PLO departure.

This Administration position was confirmed by both Bush and Weinberger as they left the State Department. Both said they believed that a diplomatic solution would be achieved without any more military pressure.

Bush said he emphasized that "given the status quo in Lebanon, the PLO must withdraw, they must withdraw promptly." He said Habib is "working hard" on the problem of finding them a place to go.

Bush stressed that the Administration believes "this should happen with no more loss of innocent human life. We believe this goal can be accomplished if our various friends will be supportive, if various countries around the world will be supportive, of what the President is trying to do."

19 ISRAELI SOLDIERS KILLED, OVER 80 WOUNDED IN WEDNESDAY'S FIGHTING

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Aug. 5 (JTA) -- The Beirut area was today reported to be "relatively quiet" after what probably proved to be the most costly day for Israeli forces yesterday, with 19 killed and over 80 soldiers wounded: The number of PLO terrorists and Syrian soldiers and civilian casualties is not known.

The army spokesman insists that the fighting yesterday, said by war correspondents to be the most violent to date, was not the expected major assault on the Lebanese capital for an attempt to cut the area into two, dividing the Palestinian refugee camp and residential area in the south from the "Ras Beirut" or city part of the town to the north.

The Israeli forces did not advance more than a few hundred meters in the central sector along the west-east axis, though larger advances were made along the south to north axis close to the seashore.

The commander of the central force told Israel Radio today that his men had captured the Beirut National Museum only after a slow and careful attack on the building and its surroundings, to avoid damaging the structure and its contents.

But when his soldiers finally entered the building to ensure that it was free of terrorists they found it was a fortified stronghold more than a museum, with sandbag emplacements and guns and artillery pieces mounted on statue bases.

The museum area and the nearby Hippodrome racetrack and the wooded Beirut forest area gives the Israeli forces a considerable tactical advantage, as the region commands the surrounding city area from which terrorists have been firing at Israeli forces and the Christian area in Beirut.

The area now being fought over already consists of high-rise buildings of 10-15 stories, which provide special problems for the attacking Israeli forces.

TENSE RELATIONS BETWEEN U.S., ISRAEL

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Aug. 5 (JTA) -- The Cabinet convened here this evening in special session to consider the war in Lebanon under lengthening shadows clouding relations between Jerusalem and Washington. A message from President Reagan to Premier Menachem Begin expressing "the absolute necessity of re-establishing and maintaining a strict cease-fire in place" was characterized by Israeli sources as the toughest ever sent by the President to the Premier.

Reagan's message, and a separate statement by him expressing his "strong conviction" that the PLO must not delay further its withdrawal from Lebanon, followed a two-hour meeting of the Special Situation Group headed by Vice President George Bush and a one-hour meeting of the National Security Council.

Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir, just back from Washington, was to report to the Cabinet on his own impressions of growing American anger over the ongoing war in Beirut. The U.S. abstention last night at the United Nations Security Council on a Spanish-Jordanian resolution, which demanded that Israel withdraw its troops and censured Israel for disregarding previous Council resolutions concerning the Lebanese crisis, was seen here as a further portent of Washington's wrath. (See separate UN story.)

Sharon Accuses U.S. Diplomats of Lying

Israel Radio reported today a "tough" conversation yesterday between Defense Minister Ariel Sharon and the U.S. charge d'affaires William Brown, with Sharon accusing U.S. diplomats in Beirut (U.S. special envoy Philip Habib and the Ambassador to Lebanon) of sending "untrue" reports to Washington on the state of the fighting in the city.

The radio said Sharon had referred to the diplomats using a telephone line to relay the sound of Israeli shells falling -- whereas in fact they were Palestinian shells. The radio used the word "lies" in its report which was presumably based on sources close to Sharon.

Sharon and other headline ministers are known to have all but lost faith in Habib's efforts and to believe that only Israeli military pressure can still bring the PLO to leave the city without an all-out assault on the terrorist-strong holds.

The Israeli position is the precise reverse: Reagan, in his message, reportedly said Habib was on the brink of wrapping up the agreement for the PLO's evacuation -- when Israel's attacks yesterday thwarted him. Washington believes successful negotiations must be predicated on a total cease-fire.

BEGIN SAYS THE FIGHTING WILL SOON BE OVER; SEES 40 YEARS OF PEACE

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Aug. 5 (JTA) -- Premier Menachem Begin declared last night that when the IDF hit back -- they hit back hard. Everybody should remember that, when they raise a hand against a Jewish child...

Addressing an emergency United Jewish Appeal Prime Minister's Mission at the Knesset as the IDF guns tanks and planes were hitting at west Beirut last evening, Begin said the fighting "will soon be finished.... We may look today beyond the fighting... There may be an historic period of peace for Israel."

He cited the Biblical passage "and the land was quiet for forty years," saying it might well apply to Israel now that the northern border threat had been dealt with.

"The peace with Egypt is holding," Begin declared. "The Egyptians curse us -- but Men Ken Lebben Mit Dos (we can live with it...) There was not a single Egyptian soldier within 150 kilometers of Israel's border, in line with the Sinai demilitarization terms, he noted.

"Jordan cannot attack us. Syria cannot attack us, it does not have the capability. With Lebanon we shall sign a peace treaty." Begin held out the prospect of tourist package tours embracing Israel, Egypt and Lebanon. He said he would seek peace talks with Jordan's King Hussein.

Refers To Growing U.S. Anger

In an apparent oblique reference to growing U.S. anger at the IDF operations in Beirut, Begin recalled that on the first Thursday of the war the Israel Cabinet had rejected a cease-fire appeal from President Reagan on the grounds that at that stage some PLO fighters were only 18 kilometers from Metulla.

Israel had only agreed to stop fighting next day, when all PLO forces had been pushed back beyond the 40 kilometer limit, but the PLO had not abided by the cease-fire, triggering fresh hostilities, Begin said.

The Premier said Israel would "one day" share its secret method of destroying advanced Russian SAM air-to-air missiles. "It will change the relative strengths of NATO and the Warsaw Pact countries," he said.

Reactions to a report from Washington that Sen. Charles Percy (R. Ill.), chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, had urged President Reagan to bring Israel to its knees, Begin declared: "Nobody is going to bring Israel to its knees.... Jews kneel only to God...." And he reiterated that if the PLO failed to leave Beirut "we shall have to solve the problem."

Percy Denies Allegation

(In Washington, Percy issued the following statement: "The allegation that I said Israel should be brought to her knees if she invades west Beirut is utterly false. I never made such a statement, and other Senators who attended the meeting at the White House with the President agree that I never made such a statement nor anything like it. I have informed Prime Minister Begin by cable that the report is untrue....")

AFL-CIO SUPPORTS ISRAEL'S MILITARY ACTION IN LEBANON

By Judith Kohn

NEW YORK, Aug. 5 (JTA) -- In its first official statement on the war in Lebanon, the American Federation of Labor-Congress of Industrial Organizations today declared its unequivocal support for the Israeli invasion.

The resolution was adopted unanimously by the organization's Executive Council at the end of a three-day summer meeting in which Council members heard a report by AFL-CIO officials who returned recently from a visit to Israel and Lebanon.

"The Executive Council considers the Israeli invasion of Lebanon entirely justified on security grounds," the statement said. "The seizure of vast caches of PLO weapons and ammunition in southern Lebanon is proof of a PLO military buildup which posed a direct threat to Israeli security. To protect its security, Israel was justified not only in altering its stated objective of removing the immediate threat but in attacking its source -- the command structure of the PLO itself."

The statement expressed deep regret over the loss of civilian lives in the conflict. But in response to a question at a press conference held at the Council meeting's conclusion, AFL-CIO president Lane Kirkland said that "in the absence of any action by Israel in moving into Lebanon, there was wholesale slaughter by the PLO and Syria in Lebanon -- slaughter that dwarfs anybody's estimate of civilian casualties since this event began."

The statement left the position of the AFL-CIO on the war in Lebanon unambiguous. "In the conflict between Israel, on the one hand, and the PLO and Syria, on the other, the AFL-CIO is not neutral," it said. "We support Israel. The world should demand that the PLO and Syria leave Lebanon now and allow the Lebanese to proceed with the task of reconstruction and the creation of an independent central government."

Maintaining that the PLO is not only "dedicated to the destruction of Israel" but is also "a terrorist organization," the resolution urged the U.S. government "to continue withholding recognition from the PLO and to refrain from any actions which would encourage the PLO to believe that it can snatch a political victory from military defeat."

ARENS DENIES SHAMIR SNUBBED REAGAN

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, Aug. 5 (JTA) -- Israeli Ambassador Moshe Arens denied last night that Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir had "snubbed" President Reagan by refusing to stay in Washington to receive a message from him yesterday.

Appearing on ABC-TV's "Nightline" program, Arens said he could easily "debunk" the news reports about the alleged snub. He said he was in Shamir's hotel room here yesterday morning when Secretary of State George Shultz telephoned and asked that either Shamir or Arens remain in Washington since the Administration might have a message for Israel later in the day.

Arens said that since Shamir had several appointments in New York he stayed in Washington and received the letter that Reagan sent Israeli Premier Menachem Begin urging that the cease-fire be maintained in west Beirut.

The Ambassador said he did not "read" the letter as threatening sanctions on Israel if it continues its military pressure on the Palestine Liberation Organization terrorists. He said for the U.S. to take sanctions against Israel would not only harm its strongest ally in the Middle East, but U.S. interests.

But Arens stressed that Israel would not bow to U.S. pressure if it were exerted. In Lebanon, Israel is "sacrificing its most valuable asset -- its sons -- for what it considers to be its security interests. So you can be sure that Israel would be ready to sacrifice economic assets if it came to that," the Ambassador said.

Arens stressed that the PLO will be willing to negotiate its withdrawal from Lebanon "only under direct and imminent threat of military action." He noted that "the PLO is certainly not eager to get out of west Beirut" because in whatever country they go to they will not have the "kind of facilities for practicing terrorism they had in Beirut."

UN SECRETARY GENERAL SAYS PLO, LEBANON HAVE AGREED TO IMPLEMENT SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION

By Yitzhak Rabi

UNITED NATIONS, Aug. 5 (JTA) -- Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar said today that the Lebanese government and the PLO have agreed to implement last night's Security Council resolution while Israel said that its response would be made only after the Cabinet meeting later tonight.

Last night's Security Council resolution, adopted by a vote of 14-0 with the United States abstaining, called for an immediate cease-fire in Beirut, demanded "the prompt return of Israeli troops" around Beirut "which have moved forward" since Sunday, and censured Israel for failing to comply with previous Council resolutions concerning the Lebanon crisis. The resolution also requested the Secretary General to report to the Council today on the implementation of last night's resolution. His report was issued here this afternoon.

De Cuellar said in his report that the situation in the Beirut area was generally calm today. But "fires from previous engagements were burning in several part of the city," he said. The Secretary General said he will submit a further report to the Council as soon as the reply of the Israeli government is received, together with available information regarding developments in the area.

The Secretary General also reported that he appealed to Premier Menachem Begin of Israel to strictly observe the cease-fire. De Cuellar also told Begin, through the Israeli representative to the UN office in Vienna, that he was prepared to go to Israel and Lebanon to discuss the crisis with all parties concerned.

But Begin, according to de Cuellar's report, replied that the Israeli government would welcome a visit by the Secretary General if there were not a parallel visit to PLO leader Yassir Arafat. De Cuellar said he could not accept Begin's condition as he felt it his duty "to meet with all parties involved in the hostilities."

U.S. Explains Abstention

The American representative to the Security Council, Carl Gershman, in explaining the U.S. abstention on last night's resolution, said that the measure "has one fatal flaw: it does not explicitly and unequivocally call for the withdrawal of the PLO from Lebanon."

Yehuda Blum, Israel's Ambassador to the UN, told the Council that "it is imperative that the terrorists leave (Beirut) without any further delay." Israel, Blum added, had no intention of remaining in Lebanon, and once the objective of the "Peace for Galilee" operation is attained, Israeli troops will withdraw to the international border.

JERUSALEM (JTA) -- The new Ambassador of Costa Rica, Karen Olson, presented her credentials Thursday to President Yitzhak Navon. Costa Rica was the first of 13 embassies which left Jerusalem two years ago and moved its embassy to Tel Aviv following the enactment of the Jerusalem Law which declared that united Jerusalem is Israel's capital. It was also the first country which decided to return its embassy to Jerusalem.

BEHIND THE HEADLINES UNOFFICIAL 'GOOD WILL' AMBASSADORS FROM BLACK AFRICA IN ISRAEL

By Rochelle Saidel-Wolk

JERUSALEM, Aug. 5 (JTA) -- Unofficial "good will ambassadors" from Black African states have been visiting Israel for a unique learning experience every year since 1975, despite the cut-off of diplomatic relations by these states in 1973.

Although the presence here of these visitors is not directly related to Zaire's recent resumption of diplomatic ties with Israel nor with Premier Menachem Begin's pending trip to that country, the program in which the Africans are enrolled has been indirectly beneficial to the improvement of Israel-Black Africa relations.

Under the auspices of the Israel Interfaith Committee and the African Committee for an Ecumenical African Biblical Institute in Jerusalem, summer seminars in Israel have been held for seven years for African clerics and religious leaders and students. These participants return to their homelands to become teachers, clerics and leaders in Christian institutions, and they bring with them an affinity for the people and culture of Israel.

In addition to the 15 men and six women from Zaire, Benin, Cameroon, Guinea, Madagascar, Togo, Ile-Maurice, Senegal, and Rwanda who are attending the seminar this summer, a total of 116 students have attended in previous years.

The participants tour the country and also attend classes at the Mount Scopus campus of Hebrew University, studying such subjects as history, geography and archaeology of the Holy Land, Jewish prayer, Jewish-Christian relations, Jewish roots of Christianity, and Hebrew.

Sees Israel In A Different Light

Louis Fohssie of Cameroon, who is studying to be a Catholic priest, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that he came to the seminar in Israel because he wanted to see the places where Bible history occurred.

"When a young student is going to become a priest, it is important to make concrete the relation between what you study in theology and what Israel is today," he said. "Now that I have seen Israel, I have a different view of what I read in the Bible and what I interpret at the university." The participants are affiliated with both Catholic and Protestant institutions, and seminar classes this summer are taught in French.

Observed during their third Hebrew lesson, taught by Mordechai Nahlieli, the students were not only learning the rudiments of Hebrew, but were also obviously enjoying the experience. Using the method he devised for his Tutor Tape (Israel) business, Nahlieli teaches beginning Hebrew pronunciation with Latin consonants and Hebrew vowels.

The African students had already mastered this form of pronunciation and were practicing simple dialogues and the conjugation of verbs. Encouraging their efforts, Nahlieli told them in French that he should shower them with candy, but instead offered them "bonbons spirituels."

A sabra, born in Safed in 1916, Nahlieli was in the British and Israeli armies. He then worked in the Finance Ministry for six years after 1948, translating Israeli tax books from English to Hebrew. Trained and ordained as a rabbi in 1948,

he established Tutor Tape in Israel five years ago. In addition to teaching Hebrew and teaching other languages to Hebrew-speaking Israelis, he strongly advocates that Israelis should learn Arabic.

One night a week, Nahlieli travels to Kiryat Arba, the Jewish suburb of Hebron, where he teaches Arabic to Orthodox Jewish housewives. Just as he believes that some knowledge of Hebrew will promote a better understanding of Israel by the African students at the summer seminars, he is convinced that familiarity with Arabic will help the residents of Kiryat Arba to better live among their Arab neighbors. In both instances, his ultimate goal is the same: peace.

SAMUEL GABER DEAD AT 67

PHILADELPHIA, Aug. 5 (JTA) -- Funeral services were held here Tuesday for Samuel Lewis Gaber, formerly longtime Pennsylvania-West Virginia-Delaware regional director of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith. He died last Friday at age 67 in West Palm Beach, Fla., where he moved last year upon his appointment to head ADL's Palm Beach County office. A native Philadelphian, Gaber headed the ADL Philadelphia office since he joined the human relations agency in 1964.

After World War II, he was cultural consultant for Germany and Austria for the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee and served as administrative director of the Board of Education and Culture, a tripartite agency consisting of the JDC, the Central Committee of Liberated Jews and the Jewish Agency for Palestine.

Gaber also worked with the displaced persons branch of the U.S. Army of Occupation, the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration and its successor, the International Relief Organization.

He was a former member of the field staff of the American Jewish Congress and the national staff of the American Jewish Committee. He was the director of the Jewish Federation of Greater Kingston, N.Y.

An honor graduate of the University of Pennsylvania School of Education, Gaber was named a Feis Scholar at the University of Pennsylvania's Institute of Local and State Government and a Fulbright Scholar for adult education in The Netherlands. He received a master's degree in human relations from the University of Pennsylvania, where he later served on the faculty as an instructor.

In 1973, Gaber became the first recipient of ADL's annual Milton Senn Award for Professional Excellence. In 1975, he was named a member of the Legion of Honor of Philadelphia's Chapel of the Four Chaplains in recognition of his interfaith achievements.

Gaber was vice president of the Association of Jewish Community Relations Workers, secretary-treasurer of the Pennsylvania Jewish Community Relations Conference and secretary of the Pennsylvania Equal Rights Council.

JERUSALEM (JTA) -- Israel has a nuclear option, but it will not be the first country to introduce such weapons in the Middle East because of its moral views, Knesset Speaker Menachem Savidor told a delegation of North American women leaders, participating in a seminar for women. Savidor said the "Peace for Galilee" operation was launched June 6 because Israel believed it was facing the danger of an immediate military initiative by Syria. The operation prevented Syria's plans to attack Israel, he noted.