

# JTA daily news bulletin

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## ALL OBSTACLES BUT ONE TO PLO EVACUATION HAVE BEEN REMOVED

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Aug. 16 (JTA) -- All remaining unresolved issues preventing a full Israeli approval of the proposed plan leading to the evacuation of the Palestine Liberation Organization from Beirut have been removed except for Israel's demand that the PLO release immediately a captured Israeli pilot and the bodies of nine Israeli soldiers killed in fighting in Lebanon, political sources said here today.

Israel's concessions on a number of points in the plan proposed by special U.S. envoy Philip Habib was reported yesterday at the conclusion of the weekly Cabinet meeting when Cabinet Secretary Dan Meridor said that there were "prospects" for an Israeli approval of the agreement and that Israeli officials had shown "flexibility" when meeting with Habib for two-hours prior to the Cabinet session.

Israel's one final demand, which political sources said today was "an absolute must" before full approval, calls for the PLO to immediately release Aharon Achiaz, an Israeli pilot captured by the PLO and believed held in west Beirut, and for the PLO to release the bodies of nine Israeli soldiers killed in the Litani operation in Lebanon three years ago and in the current fighting.

There were indications from Beirut that the PLO would meet this demand and arrange for the transfer through Red Cross intermediaries. But sources here said that the agreement leading to the PLO withdrawal could fall or stand depending upon the PLO's implementation of the release of the bodies and the one pilot.

### Issue Of The Multinational Force

One issue that had prevented Israel's agreement to the U.S. plan concerned the deployment of the multinational force which is to take up positions between the departing PLO and Israeli troops around the besieged Lebanese capital.

Israel reportedly agreed that the French forces making up part of the multinational force should take up positions simultaneously with the departure of the PLO. Israel had insisted that the international force, which will include Italian, U.S. and French forces, enter Beirut only at the final stages of the evacuation.

Israel continues, however, to maintain that the countries participating in the force provide Israel with assurances that the multinational force will not be used as a shield for the PLO if the evacuation is interrupted for any reason. Deputy Foreign Minister Yehuda Ben-Meir told Israel Radio today that Israel insists that assurance will be provided by the three countries that if the PLO does renege on its commitment to depart from Beirut, the multinational force will stand aside and not act as a shield.

"This is a solid commitment by the U.S. and we will have to have it by other participating countries," Ben-Meir said. He noted that the PLO had dropped its previous demands which included its request for a political office to remain in west Beirut, the incorporation of some contingents

of the PLO as part of the Lebanese army, and an Israeli withdrawal prior to the evacuation of the PLO forces.

French Foreign Minister Claude Cheysson reportedly conveyed a commitment to the Israeli government that if the evacuation is disturbed or should cease at any point, the French forces will withdraw. U.S. and Italian officials have reportedly conveyed a similar understanding.

### Accord On Limited UN Observer Force

The other concession Israel agreed to is the presence of a small United Nations observer force. There are currently some 20 such observers serving with the UN units staffing buffer zones. The United States favors at least a symbolic UN observer presence in the evacuation process, to show some linkage between the evacuation, the international force and the UN.

According to the statement released by the Cabinet following its session yesterday, Israel has insisted that "a check be made of the lists of terrorists to leave Beirut and Lebanon." This was apparently an indication of a softening on the Israeli position that a full list be presented to Israel of the estimated 6,000 PLO fighters who are expected to evacuate Beirut. Israel claims that the total of evacuees is around 13,000. This figure would include, presumably, members of the Lebanese leftist groups and the Syrian occupation forces.

The evacuation is expected to begin at the end of this week or the early part of next week unless unexpected developments arise, in which case, sources here noted, the military option remained open to see that the PLO evacuation does take place.

### Reactions In Arab Capitals

Meanwhile, in Beirut today, Lebanese Prime Minister Shafiq al Wazzan said after meeting with Habib that differences on the evacuation plan had "narrowed until they have almost disappeared" and that he expected the PLO evacuation to begin this week.

In Cairo, Egyptian officials said the long-stalled talks on autonomy for the Palestinians on the West Bank and Gaza Strip would not be resumed until Israel has completed its withdrawal from Lebanon. The officials hinted that there would also have to be a change in Israel's interpretation of the Camp David accords outlining the proposal for Palestinian self-rule.

Syria meanwhile appeared to affirm that it will stay in Lebanon where its forces have been since 1976 under a mandate from the Arab League. "Syrian forces belong to the Lebanese legality. They are legally present in Lebanon and will defend their presence against anti-Israeli threats," state-run Damascus Radio said today. There was no mention of Beirut, indicating that Syrian forces might be ready to quit Beirut while not pulling out entirely from Lebanon.

### UNIFIL MANDATE EXTENSION RECOMMENDED By Yitzhak Rabi

UNITED NATIONS, Aug. 16 (JTA) -- Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar recommended today that the mandate of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) be extended for two more

months. The current mandate of the force, which was last extended by the Security Council June 18, expires Thursday.

In a report to the Security Council, DeCuellar said that extension of UNIFIL's mandate was requested by the Lebanese government. He pointed out, however, that an extension was needed in view of the present situation in Lebanon.

"The overall situation in the area," the Secretary General reported, "remains uncertain and fraught with danger." DeCuellar said that he had been in constant touch with the government of Lebanon, which had indicated that in the existing circumstances UNIFIL should continue to be stationed in the area for an additional period of two months, pending further consideration of the situation in Lebanon by the Security Council.

The Secretary General said that UNIFIL has been "deeply engaged in extending protection and humanitarian aid" to the civilian population in Lebanon. He added: "There is no doubt in my mind that the presence of UNIFIL has provided an important stabilizing and moderating influence in south Lebanon during these difficult weeks."

#### IDF TRYING TO DETERMINE IDENTITY OF ISRAELI SOLDIERS BURIED BY THE JEWISH COMMUNITY OF DAMASCUS

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Aug. 16 (JTA) -- The Israel Defense Force is trying to clear up the mystery of the identity of Israeli soldiers buried by the Jewish community of Damascus last month, whose names as reported by the Syrians to the International Red Cross have proved to be those of soldiers still living and serving with the Israel army in Lebanon.

The army spokesman has said that eight soldiers are reported as still missing from fighting on the eastern sector of the Lebanon front. The men, officially assumed to be prisoners of the Syrians, include six members of ground troops and two members of a Phantom jet crew shot down on July 24.

The eight do not include the driver of a water tanker which strayed by error into Syrian-held territory last week and who is presumed to have been captured by the Syrians. The driver's partner is reported to have escaped by commandeering a taxi and ordering the driver to take him back to Israeli-held territory.

The army spokesman pointed out that the foreign press and television reported last month that the Damascus Jewish community had buried four Israeli soldiers in the Damascus Jewish cemetery. The Syrians gave the Red Cross the names of three of them -- but upon investigation these proved to be the names of three living soldiers currently serving with the Israel Defense Force.

The army is now trying to clear up the mystery of how the Syrians obtained these names and the identities of the soldiers buried in the Damascus cemetery. The army is also trying to find out what happened to the other men listed as missing.

Israel hopes to recover the one Israeli pilot held by the PLO in west Beirut, whose release Jerusalem is demanding as part of the deal whereby PLO terrorists will be allowed to leave Beirut.

#### LABOR ALIGNMENT EMBROILED IN A BITTER INTERNAL DISPUTE

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Aug. 16 (JTA) -- The Labor Alignment Knesset faction is embroiled in a bitter internal fight over the role it has played during the

"Peace for Galilee" operation. During a meeting of the faction today there were mutual recriminations over the lack of party clarity on this issue and criticisms that the public statements of some of its leaders blurred differences between the Alignment and the Likud coalition.

Yair Tzaban of Mapam sparked the fight when he demanded the establishment of a state inquiry commission to investigate the various aspects of the war in Lebanon. But Labor Party leader Shimon Peres rejected the demand, saying that it was too early to conduct such an investigation, that the proper time would be when the war ends.

Tzaban's demand was similar to one issued last week by Mashe Shahal, the chairman of the Alignment Knesset faction. He was reacting to a report on Israel Radio that a senior army officer, briefing soldiers on the first day of the war, stated that the goals of the campaign went far beyond the stated aim of the government to establish a 40-kilometer buffer zone between the PLO terrorists and Israel's northern border. The officer reportedly said that the real aim was for the Israel Defense Force to go all the way to the Beirut-Damascus road and to create "a new order" in Lebanon.

Shahal said that only a state inquiry commission could find out whether this was the "decision of one person without the knowledge of the government, or whether this was a Cabinet decision which was kept from the Knesset." Shahal said the senior officer's statement conflicted with Premier Menachem Begin's statement of the objectives of the war when it began June 6.

#### Peres Rejects Call For Sharon's Dismissal

At the Alignment faction meeting today, Yehezkel Zakai asked that the party demand that Defense Minister Ariel Sharon be dismissed. Peres rejected this, saying: "If we ask for his dismissal we will play into the hands of the Premier. Begin wants to cast the entire responsibility (of the conduct of the war) on the Defense Minister, but the entire Cabinet is responsible. It is for Begin himself to resign."

Yossi Sarid, a leading Labor Party dove, complained that the stand of the party on the war was not clear. He blamed Peres for not having stressed the differences between the Alignment and the government coalition.

Peres urged the Knesset faction members to adopt a unified stand in representing the Alignment and to avoid public differences of opinion. But this went unheeded. Coming out of the meeting, Peres said that during the infighting he maintained a low profile on the differences with the government. He departed afterwards for France, leaving behind him what one faction member described as a bitter and torn Knesset faction.

During his 24-hour visit to France, Peres will meet with President Francois Mitterrand, Prime Minister Pierre Mauroy, Interior Minister Gaston Defferre and leaders of the Jewish community. Sources here said Peres was not carrying any message from Begin and had not been given any assignment by the Israeli government.

#### ONE OF THE TERRORIST WEAPONS IN PARIS RESTAURANT ATTACK IS FOUND

PARIS, Aug. 16 (JTA) -- French police sources revealed today that one of the weapons which was used in the terrorist attack on Goldenberg's restaurant in the heart of Paris' traditional Jewish quarter last week has been found.

The Polish-made "WZ-63" submachinegun was found Friday in the Bois de Boulogne in western Paris. Fingerprints have been found on the weapon and French police are currently checking with several west European countries trying to establish the identity of the attackers.

Ballistics tests have already proved that this weapon had indeed been used in the attack on Goldenberg's in which six people, including two American citizens were killed, and some 22 others were wounded. The same weapon, or one highly similar, is believed to have been used in the attack on Israel's Ambassador to Britain, Shlomo Argov, last June, and in the attack against a Vienna synagogue last August.

Police officials remained perplexed as to the circumstances of the discovery, questioning why the attackers would leave the weapon in a relatively exposed area as the Bois de Boulogne where it would undoubtedly be found. Nevertheless, the discovery of the weapon is the first significant clue police officials have in the search for two men, believed to be of Middle East origin, who are responsible for the attack on the restaurant.

#### STATE DEPARTMENT SAYS MOST OF THE OUTSTANDING ISSUES ON PLO DEPARTURE HAVE BEEN RESOLVED

By Helen Silver

WASHINGTON, Aug. 16 (JTA) -- The State Department said today that it appeared that "most of the outstanding issues" in the negotiations for the evacuation of the besieged PLO terrorists in west Beirut have been resolved.

Alan Romberg, the Department deputy spokesman, gave that summary at the Department's regular press briefing, basing it on the meetings of special Presidential envoy Philip Habib with officials of Israel, Lebanon and the Palestine Liberation Organization this weekend and last week.

Reiterating that the United States wanted all foreign forces to withdraw from Lebanon, Romberg said that, "following the resolution of the Beirut situation, we will be looking to the overall Lebanon situation with the objective of helping to establish a Lebanese central governmental authority throughout the territory of Lebanon," a goal he indicated required "withdrawal of all foreign forces."

He said "our view is clear that we would want all foreign forces, including the Israelis, to leave Lebanon." He added that he could not comment on the question of the withdrawal of the Syrian forces from west Beirut, on which Israel has insisted.

#### Meetings On Broader Mideast Question

Romberg was asked why Secretary of State George Shultz met today on Capitol Hill with Senate Majority leader Howard Baker (R. Tenn.) He replied that President Reagan and Shultz "have discussed on several occasions and at length on what might be done," in the context of "the broader Middle East question," to address "not only the entire Lebanese question but also the Middle East peace process."

Romberg said that in those discussions, Reagan asked Shultz to "seek the views of members of Congress. He is now actively engaged in doing that." Shultz attended a Senate Republican leadership luncheon today to seek the views of the Republican Senators "on the Middle East situation, particularly the Palestinian question."

Asked about restoration of basic services to west Beirut, Romberg said that "water has been flowing to the city for the last several days and we understand that the Israel Defense Force has permitted International Red Cross

medical convoys to enter the city." He said the United States "continues to notice there are problems in assuring regular deliveries" to west Beirut "of fuel supplies." He added "we are working on this problem, particularly with respect to assuring delivery of fuel to hospitals."

#### Denies Sharon Got The Cold Shoulder

Romberg was asked about a report that Israel's Defense Minister, Ariel Sharon had indicated he wanted to visit Washington, presumably to confer with U.S. officials about the situation in Lebanon, but had been refused an invitation. Romberg said that the question of such a visit by Sharon had been raised.

He said that while the Reagan Administration felt that "Minister Sharon is welcome at any time," the point "was made clear, however, that Ambassador Habib is our negotiator and has the confidence of both the President and Secretary (of State) and communication with Washington." Romberg said "that is where the focus on that particular discussion rests."

Romberg said he had no details on why Sharon wanted to come but that reports about a "frosty" reaction to the possibility of a Sharon visit here were "not accurate."

#### U.S. AGUDATH LEADERS CONDEMN EL AL WORKERS WHO BARRED AGUDISTS FROM BEN GURION AIRPORT

NEW YORK, Aug. 16 (JTA) -- A resolution expressing "shock and dismay at the unprecedented act of anti-Jewish hatred displayed by El Al employees last Thursday at the Ben-Gurion airport terminal in Israel" was adopted at a combined emergency conference in New York held today of the Leadership Council of the American executive of the Agudath Israel World Organization and of Agudath Israel of America.

The meeting was called and chaired by the president of Agudath Israel of America, Rabbi Moshe Sherer, who is also chairman of the Agudath Israel World Organization, in reaction to the incident at Ben Gurion airport last week when El Al employees selectively barred Agudath Israel members from entering the terminal to embark on their overseas flights.

The El Al employees acted out of anger at the agreement that the Agudath party in Israel made with the Israeli government to cease all flights on the Sabbath and religious holidays beginning September 1. The Agudath leadership conference labeled the action of the El Al employees "an outrageous anti-Jewish act which, had it transpired at any other airport in the world, would have triggered instant protest demonstrations by Jews of all persuasions."

The Agudath Israel resolution continued: "What is painfully grievous to the Jewish soul is that the ugly scene at Ben Gurion airport last week, in the midst of a costly war, was a brazen demonstration of defiance against a basic pillar of Judaism -- observance of Shabbos -- which is no less meaningful to the security and survival of Israel than tanks and artillery."

The conference sent a letter to Israel's Transportation Minister Chaim Corfu and to Tourism Minister Yosef Sharir demanding that the government take "immediate punitive action" against those "guilty of perpetrating this shameless discriminatory act arbitrarily selecting Orthodox Jewish passengers" and to make certain that such discriminatory acts should not be repeated.

Agudath Israel of America also instructed its staff counsel to consider legal action on behalf of the American members of Agudath Israel who were prevented, through the "illegal use of force by El Al employees from realizing the full value of the flight tickets they had purchased, which includes unhindered access to the airport of departure."

**ANTI-ISRAEL RALLY IN BRAZIL**

By David Markus

RIO DE JANEIRO, Aug. 16 (JTA) -- An estimated 300 PLO supporters participated in an anti-Israel rally in the center of the city last Friday. The participants shouted anti-Zionist slogans and denounced Israeli Premier Menachem Begin and Defense Minister Ariel Sharon. When a group of Bnai Akiva youngsters sought to distribute leaflets depicting PLO atrocities, they were attacked by the crowd. Leaders of the rally called off a scheduled march on the U.S. Consulate after police persuaded them not to stage the protest march.

The rally, which was sponsored by some leftwing groups, including the illegal Communist Party and some members of the Peace Now movement, was denounced by Katan Rezwan, president of the Lebanese League in Brazil. In a statement published in *Jornal do Brasil*, he termed the leaders of the rally as "false spokesmen" because they are "supporting the PLO and terrorism." The rally had been advertised as "a manifestation for peace in Lebanon."

In a statement to the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, Abraham Foxman, associate national director of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, and Rabbi Morton Rosenthal, the ADL's Latin American affairs director, who are visiting Brazil, said: "The propaganda themes we have heard in Brazil are those we are hearing in Europe and the United States. So, too, is the tactic of giving undue prominence to critical statements by small numbers of Jews. The Brazilian Lebanese League's public repudiation of the pro-PLO propagandists is very significant."

**ANTI-ISRAEL SENTIMENTS IN FRANCE, GREECE, WEST GERMANY**

PARIS, Aug. 16 (JTA) -- There has been an increasing display of anti-Israel sentiments here, in Greece and West Germany in recent days among Jews and non-Jews who have been angered by Israel's invasion into Lebanon and others who oppose the policies of the government of Premier Menachem Begin.

In Paris, a group of 60 prominent physicists, including many Jews, have called on scientists throughout the world to cut off their relations with Israeli scientific institutions while also appealing to Israeli scientists to protest the actions of the Begin government in Lebanon.

At the same time, a prominent Jewish law professor and scion to one of France's best known Jewish families recently delivered a blistering attack against Israel for its invasion into Lebanon and against the Jewish State's traditional policies toward the Palestinians. Gerard Lyon-Caen, a law professor at the Sorbonne University, attacked the policies on both legal and moral grounds in a half page article in *Le Monde*. He called for a change of policy beginning with a "political dialogue" between Palestinians and Israelis.

Lyon-Caen was particularly harsh in criticizing Israel's decision to consider the Palestinians captured in Lebanon as common-law criminals. "There is no precedent (in legal history) of a country detaining under administrative arrest people captured during a military operation on the territory of another state," he said.

The Paris professor said "a thousand signs indicate that the PLO is ready today to negotiate. Should Israel refuse to lay aside its weapons and admit the existence of the other side, it will be doomed to perpetual war with its neighbors and

internal strife." Meanwhile, several thousand people demonstrated earlier this month in front of the Israeli Embassy here calling for an Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon and "an end to the genocide of the Palestinian people." Police said the demonstration, called by the Communist dominated CGT trade union, numbered around 2,000.

The Embassy building, where all shutters and gates were closed, was guarded by several squadrons of riot police who barred both ends of the mission's street. Several Jews participated in the rally displaying placards with Begin caricatures and bearing slogans as "No to Begin and Sharon."

A smaller demonstration, some 1,000 people, according to police estimates, took place in front of the American Embassy. It was organized by various pro-Palestinian organizations.

**Charges Of Anti-Semitism In Greece**

In Greece, members of the Parliament have charged that the country "is being turned into a center of anti-Semitism," a charge denied by an official spokesman for the Greek government, according to a broadcast monitored by sources of the World Jewish Congress.

WJC monitoring sources attributed the reported charges and denial to a broadcast earlier this week carried by Athens Armed Forces Radio. The broadcast reported that the denial was in response to a question directed to the Prime Minister and the Foreign Minister by five deputies of the opposition New Democracy Party. The parliamentarians had declared that "the entire state and party propaganda machinery have unleashed an open and violent campaign of anti-Semitism."

In his response, the government spokesman stated that "not even for a moment have the Greek government and people expressed the slightest anti-Semitism." He added that Greece "has always supported the position that Israel should acquire a homeland and live in security" while noting that "at the same time the Palestinian people should also have their own homeland so that there may be peace in the area."

The spokesman, the broadcast reported, cited the Greek government's denunciation of "the barbarous attack by the Israeli people against the non-combatant Palestinians and Lebanese people," while also remarking that the "protests and representations by the Greek government concern the Israeli government which is handling the issue in this matter, and not the Israeli nation."

Meanwhile, in Munich, some 1,000 German and Arab demonstrators rallied last week against Israel. There were no incidents reported.

**ANTI-ISRAEL INCIDENT IN ITALY**

ROME, Aug. 16 (JTA) -- Police officials in the village of Terni have arrested a local grocery store owner for "slandering a foreign state" after he placed a sign outside his shop saying "Zionists are not welcome here -- we are for the Palestinians."

The incident which incited the store owner to place the sign, occurred after Israeli tourists from the nearby village of Piediluco, where six Israeli athletes are participating in the International Canoeing Championship, ventured into the shop to purchase several bottles of mineral water.

In the store they confronted the owner who was reading a newspaper with an anti-Israel slant on the situation in Beirut. The Israelis defended the Lebanon action saying "We are fighting a war of defense, not aggression." After the Israelis purchased their water and departed, the store owner said he "discovered" that two liquor bottles were missing and he was sure it was the Israelis who had taken the bottles.