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SEVERAL MINOR CEASE-FIRE VIOLATIONS BY THE PLO REPORTED

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Aug. 17 (JTA) -- Several minor violations of the cease-fire by PLO terrorists was reported today by an Israel Defense Force spokesman. He said terrorists directed some small arms fire at Israeli positions in the Beirut area and small arms and bazooka fire on the eastern sector near the area held by Syrian troops. There were no Israeli casualties. The Israelis, who at first held their fire, responded with small arms fire.

Defense Minister Ariel Sharon today ordered the IDF to lift restrictions imposed yesterday on the movement from Israel to Lebanon of personnel belonging to the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL). No explanation for the ban was given. At the same time, Israeli forces and the Lebanese Christian militia eased their ban on fresh fruits and vegetables entering Beirut, according to reports from wholesalers in that city. Five large truckloads of vegetables and fruits came into west Beirut this morning, whereas a week ago fresh food was filtering through only in small quantities, the dealers said.

Some Areas Are Returned

According to reports from Beirut today, Israeli troops have handed over to Lebanese army men control of the Galerie Sema, a crossing point between east and west Beirut, and will hand over to them the National Museum crossing point tomorrow.

The move appears to be part of an Israeli withdrawal from the area directly outside the Lebanese Parliament building where the Lebanese Parliament is due to elect its new President on Thursday.

The Lebanese are reported to have asked for the withdrawal of some yards to avoid the impression that the election of the Lebanese President is being carried out under the pressure of Israeli guns.

Beirut reports also spoke of flights by Israeli planes over west Beirut today for the first time since last Thursday's cease-fire was declared by Israel. The aircraft dropped no bombs but caused sonic booms throughout the region.

Israel Insists On Missing Pilots Return

Meanwhile, Israel was awaiting word from Beirut as to whether the PLO will meet its final condition for ending its siege of the city by freeing a captured Israeli pilot, a senior official said today in Jerusalem. The official warned that it would block any plan for evacuating PLO forces from west Beirut until the pilot, Aharon Achiaz, and the bodies of nine Israeli soldiers killed in Lebanon are returned.

Achiaz was taken prisoner after his jet crashed near the PLO stronghold of Beaufort Castle in the first days of the war. Israel, which softened a string of earlier demands, has said it is absolutely essential that Achiaz be freed before it agrees to the evacuation plan by U.S. special envoy Philip Habib.

U.S. ADMINISTRATION IS SIGNALING THAT IT WANTS TO PUT SOME DISTANCE BETWEEN ITSELF AND ISRAEL

WASHINGTON, Aug. 17 (JTA) -- An effort seems to be underway by the Reagan Administration to put some distance between itself and Israel in the aftermath of recent criticism of what is perceived here to be Israel's excessive bombing of west Beirut, and to reestablish its position as a friend of Arab nations.

This effort was seen by observers as emerging from a series of consultations begun yesterday by Secretary of State George Shultz with Congress on ways to settle long-standing disputes in the Middle East, including the future of the Palestinians, once the crisis in west Beirut is over. The U.S. is also seeking to make it clear that it is not the pawn of Israel.

Shultz had a luncheon meeting yesterday with Senate Majority Leader Howard Baker (R. Tenn.) and other members of the Senate Republican leadership and key Democrats "primarily to listen, to seek their views" rather than to advance proposals of his own for future U.S. diplomacy in the Mideast, according to State Department spokesman Alan Romberg.

Evolving Policy Line

Nevertheless, Shultz is reportedly determined to let Israel know that what happened since the war in Lebanon began June 6, including the widespread feeling among Administration policy makers and "moderate" Arab leaders, specifically the Saudi Arabians, that the U.S. has been a hostage to Israeli policy, could not be repeated.

How this would take shape was not disclosed to the Senators, but Shultz indicated the direction of this policy in his opening statement to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee hearing on his confirmation last month.

He said then that "the crisis in Lebanon makes painfully and totally clear a central reality of the Middle East: the legitimate needs and problems of the Palestinian people must be addressed and resolved -- urgently and in all their dimension."

The Administration is considering, according to official sources, plans to expand the perimeter of the negotiating process flowing from the Camp David peace accords and the Israeli-Egyptian peace process. This would involve the participation of Jordan and the Palestinians on the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, an objective of the U.S., Israel and Egypt from the beginning but which has never gotten off the ground.

Romberg said yesterday that Shultz's consultation with Congress resulted from several meetings between the Secretary of State and President Reagan, their meeting last week and at Camp David at which several senior Administration officials participated. The topics for discussion, Romberg said, included issues remaining in Lebanon after the Beirut crisis is settled and the Mideast peace process, especially the Palestinian question.

After his meeting yesterday with the Senators, Shultz told reporters that Reagan "has been trying to think beyond the issues presented in west Beirut to Middle East problems more generally, and the problems of the Palestinian people."

International Force Ready To Go To Beirut

Meanwhile, in anticipation for announcing the agreement on terms for the withdrawal of PLO forces from west Beirut and the introduction of American, French and Italian troops to supervise the evacuation, some 1,800 marines aboard five U.S. Navy ships set sail from Naples yesterday for the Lebanese coast. French and Italian troops are also on standing orders from their governments to enter Lebanon once the agreement on the pullout is officially announced.

PERES SAYS HE DOES NOT BELIEVE FRANCE IS CENTER OF ANTI-SEMITISM

PARIS, Aug. 17 (JTA) -- Israel opposition Labor Party leader Shimon Peres said today after meeting with President Francois Mitterrand that he did not believe France was a center of rampant anti-Semitism.

"I myself believe that there may be anti-Semites in France but France herself is not anti-Semitic, neither by culture, neither by philosophy, nor by tradition," Peres said after a 90-minute meeting with the President.

Peres arrived here yesterday at the invitation of Mitterrand in an effort to relieve the strains developing between Paris and Jerusalem in the wake of several terrorist attacks against Israeli and Jewish-owned installations, culminating in the terrorist attack on Goldenberg's restaurant in the heart of Paris' traditional Jewish quarter last week.

Israel has blamed France for having "created an anti-Semitic climate" because of its support for the PLO in the Lebanon fighting. Premier Menachem Begin issued a sharply worded attack on the French government last week.

Says Strains Have Been Eased

Peres said he was confident that the strain in relations between Israel and France has been eased by his visit "because what was necessary was a clarification and not just an exchange." He added: "I think when polemics are overtaking politics we are all in trouble."

Peres said that Mitterrand provided a detailed account of the government's efforts to combat the surge of terrorism in France. Mitterrand is scheduled to make a television address tonight to announce new anti-terrorism measures and clarify French policy in the Middle East.

Peres, who is an old friend of Mitterrand from the Socialist International, said France and Israel have similar views in the Middle East except for the issue of a Palestinian state and the role of the PLO in the region.

During their meeting, which was described as "extremely friendly," Mitterrand reaffirmed France's willingness to contribute to a peaceful evacuation of the PLO forces from Beirut but emphasized that all foreign armies -- the Israelis, Syrians and the PLO -- must withdraw from Lebanon.

As for the long-range political solution of the Palestinian problem, Mitterrand called for the "participation" of the PLO in the negotiating process as "one element, among others."

There was no insistence on his part for recognizing the PLO as the "sole representative" of the Palestinian people, nor did he repeat the traditional French call for a Palestinian state.

TWO HISTORIANS RAP BEGIN FOR OVER-USING THE TERM 'HOLOCAUST' By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Aug. 17 (JTA) -- Two noted historians today sharply attacked Premier Menachem Begin for what they said was his excessive use of the term "Holocaust" for political purposes.

Shmuel Ettinger of the Hebrew University and Prof. Yisrael Gutman of the Yad Vashem Institute held a press conference here in front of Yad Vashem to protest Begin's frequent use of the term. The press conference coincided with the end of a one-week hunger strike by Holocaust survivor Dr. Shlomo Schmeltzman who was protesting the war in Lebanon. He conducted his hunger strike outside the gates of Yad Vashem.

"I am deeply ashamed of myself for not having the power to do the same thing and sharply protest the actions of our government," Ettinger said. "Those acts are in total conflict with the moral and historical tradition of the nation and of the Zionist movement."

Cites 'Criminal Deviation From Judaism'

Continuing, Ettinger said: "Our father Abraham asked to save Sodom and Gomorrah for only 10 just people. Our government, in order to kill several hundred terrorists, is ready to kill thousands of women and children and innocent citizens. Never before has there been such a far-reaching and criminal deviation from Judaism. No other person has desecrated the memory of the Holocaust as that Premier (Begin)."

Gutman said that a trend had developed several years before the war in Lebanon to misapply the term Holocaust by over-using it, frequently for political ends. At the same time, he added, government spokesmen often criticized opponents of government policies as being anti-Semitic. "In that case, we are also anti-Semites," Gutman said.

Schmeltzman told the press conference that "It is time for us to take off our blinders and look at reality and see that our society is sick. There are symptoms of a malignant illness, which I used to feel as a child in Poland and Germany. It is time for us to wake up and renounce the worship of power."

3 ISRAELI VICTIMS OF PLO TERROR ARE IN THE U.S. TO TELL AMERICANS 'WHAT THE PLO IS ALL ABOUT' By Helen Silver

WASHINGTON, Aug. 17 (JTA) -- Three Israeli citizens who have been victimized directly or indirectly over the years by the Palestine Liberation Organization, arrived here to begin a two-week tour of eastern U.S. cities to tell the American public "what the PLO is all about."

"We feel we have to tell what the PLO is all about," Ankie Spitzer, whose husband was one of the 11 Israeli athletes killed at the Munich Olympics in 1972, said. "It is being portrayed here" by the U.S. media "as an organization of freedom fighters and we feel this is not accurate. We think they are one big killing machine."

At a press conference at the Israel Embassy here yesterday Spitzer was joined by Yossi Hochman, whose wife and two children were killed in a 1978 coastal road terrorist attack and in which he lost the lower part of his legs; and Preeti Sylvia Arroyo, whose two children were killed in a grenade attack in January 1971 in the Gaza Strip.

The three are all members of the Israel-based Organization of Victims of PLO Terror, which claims

a membership of around 2,000 people plus many other members who are relatives of PLO victims. The three Israelis stressed that they came here at their own expense to tell their stories to the American people, but not to make political statements.

But Spitzer, while indicating she was not here for political statements, said "we do support the actions of the Israel army in Lebanon against the PLO terrorists." She expressed "frustration" that "the emphasis is on what is going on now and people seem to forget what these people have done in the past and what initiated" the Israeli action into Lebanon.

Earlier, the three Israelis demonstrated across from the White House for an hour distributing to passersby handouts and a booklet describing PLO atrocities committed in Lebanon. Michael Gale, the White House liaison to the Jewish community, said he would describe the purpose of their mission to President Reagan. They then marched to the PLO's Washington office on Wisconsin Avenue, but no representative would meet with the Israelis.

SENATE UNIT RESOLUTION SAYS MAGAN DAVID ADOM SHOULD BE RECOGNIZED BY WORLD RED CROSS By Helen Silver

WASHINGTON, Aug. 17 (JTA) -- The Senate Foreign Relations Committee today adopted a resolution expressing the sense of the Committee that Israel's Red Cross, the Magan David Adom, should be formally recognized by the International League of Red Cross Societies.

The resolution was first introduced last April by Sen. Paula Hawkins (R. Fla.) but the Committee adopted a similar substitute resolution proposed by Committee chairman Charles Percy (R. Ill.) The resolution adopted today, which differs only in minor technical details from that introduced by Hawkins, has 15 co-sponsors.

A spokesman for Percy's office explained that in times of conflict, parties to the Geneva Convention are obliged not to interfere with the work of Red Cross Societies that are formally recognized. Percy said he felt that the Israeli Red Cross should be afforded this international legal protection, which it does not have at present.

Recognition Has Long Been Sought

American Jewish organizations have been seeking this recognition for a long time, and the American Red Cross and the State Department strongly support the resolution, the spokesman said.

In the past, the International League of Red Cross Societies has said it does not want a proliferation of symbols as the reason for not recognizing the Israeli Red Cross. However, critics have noted, it has recognized the Red Crescent in Moslem countries, in addition to the Red Cross used by many other countries.

The full Senate is expected to take up the resolution before it recesses on Friday. A "sense of the Senate" resolution stands on its own and a similar House bill is not required.

BLUM: ISRAEL SUPPORTS THE FULL RESTORATION OF LEBANON'S SOVEREIGNTY By Yitzhak Rabi

UNITED NATIONS, Aug. 17 (JTA) -- Ambassador Yehuda Blum of Israel declared today that Israel stands for the "full restoration of Lebanese sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity." But, he stressed, it is essential "that

all non-Lebanese elements without exception remove themselves from Lebanese soil and that the Lebanese people be enabled to take their destiny into their own hands."

Speaking at the emergency special session of the General Assembly on the Palestine question, which opened here yesterday, the third of its kind this year, the Israeli envoy reiterated Israel's claim that it has no territorial ambitions in Lebanon. "We do not covet even one single square inch of Lebanese territory. We do not want to stay in Lebanon or in any part thereof."

But, Blum continued, "we are entitled to demand that proper arrangements be made so that Lebanon should not serve again as a staging ground for terrorist attacks against Israel's civilian population."

Blum said that Israel wishes to have peace "in and with Lebanon. Israel has no quarrel with Lebanon, only with those who subjugated it." As for the Palestinian question itself, Blum said that it should be solved in the framework of the Camp David accords, which, he said, invite the Palestinians "to play an active role in shaping their future."

The emergency session was convened at the request of the non-aligned group here after it was urged to do so by the PLO.

The Assembly is expected to endorse overwhelmingly, as it has done on previous occasions, a resolution or resolutions reaffirming the right of the Palestinians to a homeland, denouncing Israel's occupation and demanding Israel's withdrawal from all territories, including the withdrawal of Israeli troops from Lebanon. The Assembly is also certain to call for sanctions against Israel. But General Assembly resolutions, however, are not binding and only the Security Council can impose sanctions on a member-state.

The UN And Anti-Semitism

In another development here today, Blum sent a letter to Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar in which he charged that the United Nations shared responsibility for the recent anti-Semitic incidents around the world.

"Responsibility for the ominous and sinister developments of recent years -- culminating in numerous acts of anti-Jewish violence -- rests heavily with the United Nations which, in a barrage of 'anti-Zionist' and 'anti-Israel' resolutions in recent years (most notably the infamous General Assembly resolution of November 10, 1975, which contained the obscene proposition that Zionism was a form of racism), accompanied by 'anti-Zionist' rhetoric and activities of various kinds, has been converted into one of the foremost forums of contemporary international anti-Semitism," Blum wrote.

Meanwhile, Farouk Kaddoumi, the PLO's spokesman on foreign affairs, urged the UN to impose sanctions on Israel or suspend its membership in the world body for the "dirty war" Israel is waging in Lebanon. In a sharply worded speech at the opening session of the Assembly last night, Kaddoumi also delivered a blistering attack on American policy in the Middle East.

"The United States is trying to play the role of mediator in a process of flagrant hypocrisy and blackmail," the PLO official declared, referring to the mediation efforts in Beirut undertaken by American special envoy Philip Habib. "What peace is America going to establish in the Mideast? Is it an Israeli peace, based on aggression and expansionism?" Kaddoumi added.

Labeling Israel as "Nazi" and "barbaric," the PLO official said that the PLO was not defeated in Lebanon. He said the PLO was ready to leave Beirut in order to protect the city from destruction.

PLACEMENTS REPORTED FOR THE NEWEST GROUP OF WOMEN RABBIS

By Ben Gallob

NEW YORK, Aug. 17 (JTA) -- Seven of 12 women ordained last May and June as Reform rabbis have been placed in pulpits, three have accepted appointments as Hillel Foundation staff members, one has been named as a youth leader, and one remains unplaced, according to the Jewish Telegraphic Agency's annual survey of placements of newly-ordained women rabbis.

The situation for two women ordained last June as Reconstructionist rabbis is unique in the 10-year history of the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College (RRC) in Philadelphia. Rabbi Susan Schnur of Trenton, N.J. and Rabbi Nancy Fuchs-Kreimer of Stanford, California, were both pregnant at their ordinations.

Rabbi Fuchs-Kreimer, who is married to Seth Kreimer, is expecting the couple's first child this winter and is serving temporarily as rabbi of the Manhattan Reconstructionist Havurah. She expects to continue in that position through the upcoming High Holy Days and thereafter until the birth takes place.

Rabbi Schnur, who is married to Leonard Fishman, was much closer at her ordination, to giving birth, and placement for her was accordingly postponed. She gave birth to a boy on August 7.

The 12 new Reform rabbis and the two Reconstructionist rabbis bring to 61 the total number of women ordained since Sally Preisand was ordained in 1972 by the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, the Reform-high education and rabbinical seminary, as the first woman rabbi in American history.

Rabbi Donna Berman of Valley Stream, N.Y. was named solo rabbi at Port Jewish Center in Port Washington, N.Y., bringing to eight the number of women Reform rabbis holding solo rabbinic posts, describing pulpits of congregations too small to need more than one rabbi.

The New Assistant Rabbis

The new ordainees who have accepted posts as assistant rabbis are: Amy Perlin of Washington, D.C. at Beth El Hebrew Congregation in Alexandria, Va.; Miriam Blatch of Studio City, Calif. at Congregation Rodef Shalom in San Raphael, Calif.; Deborah Zecher of Monroeville, Pa., at Westchester Reform Temple in Scarsdale, N.Y.

Also, Lenore Bohm of Atlanta, Ga., at Temple Beth Israel in San Diego; Dena Feingold of Janesville, Wisc. at Congregation Shalom in Milwaukee; and Deborah Hirsch of Chicago, at Temple Beth El in Great Neck, N.Y. Rabbi Bohm is the first woman rabbi in San Diego and the first Atlanta woman to become a rabbi.

Deborah Jacobson of Surfside, Fla., has been named associate director at the Hillel Foundation of Washington University in Clayton, Mo. Patricia Karlin of Plantation, Fla., has been named associate director of the Hillel Foundation at the University of California at Los Angeles. Sally Finestone of Clifton Forge, Va., has been named to the staff of the Hillel Foundation at Cincinnati University.

Rabbi Ruth Sohn of Teaneck, N.J. has been appointed director of the Jewish Association of College Youth at Columbia University in New York City. Rabbi Julie Wolkoff of St. Louis Park, Minn. has not been placed yet, according

to Rabbi Stanley Dreyfus, placement director at the Central Conference of American Rabbis, the Reform rabbinical organization.

In June, 1981, Rabbi Debra Hachen, who holds a part-time solo pulpit at Congregation B'nai Shalom in Westbrook, Maine, became the first woman rabbi in the United States to give birth while holding a pulpit, according to the current issue of "Reform Judaism," the official publication of American Reform Judaism. As a mother, according to that report, Rabbi Hachen has met her rabbinical duties without much difficulty, saying her congregation "has been terrific" about her son.

SIX-WEEK BUCHAREST HUNGER STRIKERS WIN VISAS FOR ISRAEL

NEW YORK, Aug. 17 (JTA) -- After six weeks of a desperate hunger strike for freedom, Sergiu and Ruxanda Ratescu of Bucharest, Rumania, yesterday finally received exit visas for Israel for which they have waited for 12 years, according to the Center for Russian and East European Jewry and the Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry.

Reached by telephone by the Center and the SSSJ, the Ratescus said "there are still many formalities to be worked out," but they hoped they would leave in two or three weeks. In 1977 the couple was given exit visas and sold all their possessions, but permission to emigrate was suddenly cancelled, the Center and SSSJ said.

The two Soviet Jewry groups, with the help of many members of the Senate and House, spearheaded a campaign for the Ratescus' release. The couple told the Center and SSSJ that "we will never forget" what the American lawmakers and the two groups did for them "in all our desperate days. Only yesterday we felt helpless, half dead -- and now we have come back to life." Sergiu Ratescu is Jewish, but Ruxanda is not.

OIL DISCOVERED NEAR ARAD

JERUSALEM, Aug. 17 (JTA) -- Oil has been discovered near the Negev town of Arad and checks are now going on to determine the quality of the find and the size of the potential oil field. Since the discovery at the beginning of the week, several hundred barrels a day have been collected. Workers at the site had to halt the flow yesterday because all the available storage places were filled.

Experts checking the site have expressed optimism that the quantity of the oil will increase and the quality will improve. They said the find, even if it did not prove commercially worthwhile, would have a positive effect on the continued search for oil in the Negev. Energy Ministry officials, however, were more reserved in their reactions to the find. They said that it would take about two months before it could determine whether the find has commercial value.

ARIDOR BOUND FOR THE U.S.

JERUSALEM, Aug. 17 (JTA) -- Finance Minister Yoram Aridor was scheduled to leave for the United States and a number of South American countries. In the U.S., he will meet with Jewish community leaders to discuss ways to help defray the cost of Israel's "Peace in Galilee" operation. In South America, he will also meet with leaders of large Jewish communities.

Before leaving, Aridor presented the Cabinet with proposals to cut state expenditures by 2.5 billion Shekels this year. The proposals called for reductions in the budgets of all the ministries, amounting to three percent, and an equivalent sum of cuts in subsidies for consumer goods.

The Knesset Finance Committee was expected to approve a 25 percent hike in postal and telephone rates, a 15 percent hike in electricity, and an increase of 10 to 15 percent in compulsory vehicle insurance.