

800 U.S. MARINES AND SUPPORT TROOPS LAND IN BEIRUT SHORTLY AFTER EVACUATION PLANS ARE CHANGED

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Aug. 25 (JTA) -- Three companies of American marines together with support troops, totalling 800 men, landed in the port of Beirut at dawn today to help supervise the evacuation of the PLO from west Beirut. They replaced the French troops in the port area who had arrived earlier in the week and who were today moved southwards to other crossing points between east and west Beirut.

The Americans arrived shortly after a sudden change in the evacuation plans was announced. Shortly before midnight yesterday it was announced without explanation that an evacuation of some 3,000 PLO fighters and Syrian troops via the Beirut-Damascus highway to Damascus had been cancelled and that the evacuees would instead leave Lebanon by sea, as have all the departing PLO men till now.

Possible Reasons For Change In Plan

The decision to cancel the overland evacuation route was reportedly taken by the Syrian government in view of fears expressed by Syrian and PLO terrorists that they might be attacked by Christian Phalangist forces. Fighting had broken out yesterday in the highlands near Bhamdoun, about 12 miles east of Beirut. Lebanese security forces said the fighting was between Phalangist forces and leftists. Israel Radio reported that the fighting was between Christian and Syrian forces.

Another possible reason for the change of evacuation plans may have been the desire of the PLO to avoid television coverage of their expulsion under the watchful eyes of Israeli soldiers who still hold a section of the Beirut-Damascus highway.

The possibility of such a cancellation was clearly taken into prior consideration, as extra ships were suddenly available to take some 1,500 terrorists and Syrian troops away by sea -- some 500 of them to South Yemen and others to ports in northern Syria.

Observers at the Beirut port saw a number of women and children among the terrorists boarding the ships. Some of the women were wearing PLO camouflage uniforms, even though one was also holding a baby. A number of children were also dressed in uniforms and PLO head-dresses.

The last time U.S. marines landed in Lebanon was in 1958 when then Lebanese President Camille Chamoun appealed to the Eisenhower Administration for aid to help quell a rebellion against Chamoun's pro-Western policies. The U.S. troops were withdrawn after a new government was formed in Lebanon.

Today's arrivals carried M-16 rifles and grenade launchers, but their commander, Col. James Mead, stressed they had come to help maintain peace and did not intend to use their weapons except for dire necessity of self-defense.

(In Los Angeles, President Reagan said the U.S. marines who had landed in Beirut were there "on a mission of great importance to our nation and the free world." Reagan's statement, in a message sent to the marines and released by the White House in California, where he is on vacation, continued:

("The conditions under which you carry out your vital assignments are, I know, demanding and potentially dangerous. You are asked to be once again what marines have been for more than 200 years -- peacemakers. Your role in the multinational force, along with that of your French and Italian counterparts, is crucial to achieving the peace that is so desperately needed in this long-tortured city. I expect that you will perform with the traditional spirit and discipline for which the Marine Corps is renowned. Godspeed.")

As the marines came ashore, some eight American warships, including a helicopter carrier, were anchored in Beirut bay not far from the port entrance.

Syrians Reinforcing Positions In Bekaa Valley

Meanwhile, as the PLO evacuation continues, albeit slower than scheduled, the Syrians are reported to be reinforcing their positions in the Bekaa valley, digging new tank positions and heightening earthwork walls to conceal their gun positions.

PLO terrorists who have managed to slip out of west Beirut are reported to have joined other PLO groups active from behind the shield of Syrian positions on the eastern front.

In contrast to the Syrian buildup in Lebanon, observers report that the Syrian troops facing Israeli positions on the Golan Heights are demonstratively moving about in their underwear, in an evident sign of Syria's non-warlike intentions there.

Israel, meanwhile, has started releasing some of the PLO men taken prisoner and held in a camp in southern Lebanon. The prisoners there are not called prisoners of war, as Israel claims that this is a term used for fighters representing official countries at war, whereas the PLO are terrorists not representing a recognized country.

Israeli officials stress that it is "pure coincidence" that these "administrative detainees" are being released almost simultaneously with the release by the PLO of two Israelis held prisoner and the return of the bodies of nine fallen Israeli soldiers.

Knesset Finance Committee Makes It Final: EL AL SABBATH FLIGHTS ARE GROUNDED

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Aug. 25 (JTA) -- The last formal hurdle to the Cabinet's decision to ban Sabbath flights by El Al was removed today when the Knesset Finance Committee voted 11-10 to halt the flights. The ban goes into effect September 1. El Al planes will be grounded from dusk Friday to dusk Saturday and on other religious holidays.

Premier Menachem Begin agreed to the shutdown under intense pressure from Agudat Israel, a member of his coalition. Representatives of El Al had warned that the shutdown would cause the struggling airline to lose an estimated \$40 million annually, a loss that could mean the end of El Al.

As soon as the Committee's decision was made public, El Al workers shouted abuse at Transport Minister Haim Corfu. Hundreds of El Al employees assembled at Ben Gurion Airport, declaring they continue to campaign against the ban. Workers committees from industries promised solidarity with the El Al workers.

Corfu said after the Finance Committee's meeting that the airline might not suffer severe financial loss despite the shutdown on the Sabbath and religious holidays. He did not specify how this would be possible. Corfu said the airline workers are opposed to the decision because their income would be reduced since they would no longer work on Saturdays. "If they wish, they can still operate El Al on a profitable basis," he said, "and it will be one of the better work places also in the future."

But Labor Alignment Knesset member Gad Yaacobi, chairman of the Knesset Economic Committee, said the decision on the ban was the result of religious coercion. He added that the move to halt Sabbath flights was a bad mistake and that it will be regretted for a long time to come.

2 U.S. LAWMAKERS EXPRESS SUPPORT FOR ISRAEL'S ACTIONS IN LEBANON

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Aug. 25 (JTA) -- Two American Congressmen met today with Premier Menachem Begin, and afterwards expressed support for Israel's military operation in Lebanon.

Rep. Mario Biaggi (D, NY) expressed confidence that Israel's action would not reduce Congressional support for economic aid to Israel.

"Given the facts in a more accurate representation of what has occurred, such as we intend to provide to the members of Congress, we will reconstitute the kind of support Israel has traditionally enjoyed," Biaggi said.

Discussing the criticism of Israel in the U.S. news media, Rep. James Scheuer (D, NY) said: "This too shall pass." He said that the fruits of Israel's accomplishment in Lebanon and the enormity of what Israel achieved will very soon become clear. All these achievements, he noted, are consistent with American foreign policy.

"The Israelis have created conditions for the emergence of a unified Lebanon, a solid, sovereign Lebanese state."

A.I.D. AIRLIFTS 85,000 POUNDS OF MEDICAL SUPPLIES VALUED AT ALMOST \$1 MILLION TO AID LEBANESE VICTIMS

By Helen Silver

WASHINGTON, Aug. 25 (JTA) -- The United States Agency for International Development (AID) last Saturday airlifted 85,000 pounds of emergency medical supplies from JFK Airport in New York to aid the sick and wounded in Lebanon, the Jewish Telegraphic Agency was informed today.

AID administrator Peter McPherson said the supplies, valued at almost \$1 million, were collected by Operation California, an American private voluntary agency, based in Beverly Hills.

The supplies were airlifted from JFK Airport to Cyprus from which they were transported to Lebanon by ship. In Lebanon, the supplies will be distributed to medical centers through the Lebanese Red Cross, United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) and the Middle East Council of Churches.

McPherson, President Reagan's personal representative for all U.S. government assistance to Lebanon, said AID provided the \$95,000 to finance the airlift at the request of the Council of Churches. He noted that last month, AID provided \$660,000 for medical supplies airlifted from the United States to the medical center of the American University at Beirut.

McPherson completed a fact-finding tour of Lebanon in July. After his return, he sent a three-member AID team to Lebanon to conduct a three-week survey of rehabilitation needs in southern Lebanon. The team recently returned to Washington and its recommendations are under review.

To date, the United States government has committed or requested \$65 million for the relief and reconstruction effort in Lebanon. AID's office of United States Foreign Disaster Assistance is coordinating all U.S. government humanitarian assistance to Lebanon.

ARIDOR: DESPITE WAR, ISRAEL'S ECONOMY IS IN GOOD SHAPE

NEW YORK, Aug. 25 (JTA) -- Israel Finance Minister Yoram Aridor told a gathering of prominent Israel Bond leaders that, despite the problems caused by the Lebanese conflict, Israel is in good economic shape and can sustain itself.

"The economy of Israel is basically sound," he said. "Our moral is good, our defense is good and our potential for an even stronger economy is good. We are just the same as we were -- one people, one faith, one purpose and one heart that beats in the same place. There is no panic, no rationing."

"Although we have many problems due to the enormous cost of the war and the diversion of manpower from industry, and other work sectors to the military, Israel expects to overcome these obstacles in time."

Aridor spoke at a Greater New York leadership luncheon meeting which was held to mobilize Bond monies for Israel's emergency development needs. Thirty top Israel Bond leaders attended the gathering, which resulted in the sale of more than \$3.2 million in Bond subscriptions.

Cites Impact Of War On Israel's Economy

Calling on the American Jewish community to double its efforts on behalf of the ongoing Bond campaign to raise \$100 million in 10 weeks to offset the impact of the events in Lebanon on Israel's economy, Aridor said:

"A war has to be paid not only in blood but also in money. We had to levy taxes of nearly a billion dollars to cover the cost of the war. Some say that this adds to the sacrifices already being borne by our people. But when we in Israel speak about sacrifice we mean the human sacrifice. And we sacrificed more than 330 soldiers in this war. This loss has hurt us more than anything else."

"So when I ask you to help us, I am not requesting your aid in helping to pay for the cost of the war. Israel will do that. What I am requesting is that you help us strengthen our economy and take care of other vital needs so that we can continue our normal lives in Israel."

In response to a question on chances for peace now that the conflict in Lebanon is ending, Aridor said: "There is a new sun rising above the Middle East and, for the first time since Camp David, there is a hope for peace. But this will depend on a free Lebanon, without any foreign intervention -- no PLO, no Syrians and no Israelis. Without the PLO and its Soviet influence, a peace treaty is possible between Israel and Lebanon and perhaps with other Arab states."

SHAMIR TO ADDRESS THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY SEPTEMBER 30

By Yitzhak Rabi

UNITED NATIONS, Aug. 25 (JTA) -- Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir of Israel will arrive in New York at the end of next month to attend the 37th session of the UN General Assembly, the JTA has learned. Shamir is scheduled to address the Assembly on September 30, two days after his arrival here.

During his visit in New York, Shamir is expected to meet with various delegates and Foreign Ministers who will be here for the Assembly session, which officially opens September 21.

Diplomats at the UN predicted today that Israel is going to face a "very tough" campaign against it, even tougher than in previous years in view of the war in Lebanon and the continuing occupation of part of Lebanon by Israeli forces. In that context, diplomats said, the Arabs are probably going to demand the suspension of Israel's credentials to the Assembly and would press for Security Council meetings to seek sanctions against Israel.

According to some diplomats, the Arab anti-Israeli offensive at the UN this fall will be even more "ferocious" than in the past because the Arab countries will want to cover up for their failure to assist the PLO in its war with Israel in Lebanon. "It is not unlikely that even Iran and Iraq, which are currently at war, would join forces together to attack Israel at the UN," one diplomat noted.

REAGAN SENDS TO CONGRESS REPORT REQUIRED UNDER WAR POWERS ACT TO SEND U.S. MARINES TO BEIRUT

By Helen Silver

WASHINGTON, Aug. 25 (JTA) -- President Reagan sent to Congress today the report required under the War Powers Act for employing United States marines in Beirut in connection with the continuing evacuation of PLO forces from that city.

State Department spokesman John Hughes explained that "the War Powers Resolution calls for a report to Congress whenever United States forces equipped for combat enter foreign territory. It also requires a report when United States troops are introduced into hostilities or into a situation where imminent involvement in hostilities is clearly indicated by the circumstances ... A report is required when either or both of these situations occur."

He added: "The War Powers Resolution does not require that the report cite a specific subsection of the resolution; rather, it requires that the Congress be provided full information concerning the circumstances necessitating the introduction of United States forces, the authority under which such introductions are placed, the estimated scope and duration of the involvement, and other information relevant to Congressional responsibilities."

"The report which the President transmitted today fulfills the requirement of the law by providing the Congress full information concerning the circumstances of the deployment in Beirut."

Hughes stated that "the President's judgement as to the possibility of hostilities was based upon careful consideration of the facts and circumstances involved. As indicated in the report, the arrangements worked out by special Presidential envoy Philip Habib were designed to insure that the multinational force will be able to perform its functions without interference, and particularly the agreement between the United States and Lebanon expressly rules out combat responsibilities for our forces."

Hughes said that there had been a careful plan of safety arrangements for the multinational force and with the French advance contingent in Beirut for several days, the United States had had an opportunity to see the implementation of the safety assurances.

He stated "the departure plan" for the PLO forces "so far has been implemented successfully without interference, so, based on all these factors, the President concluded that while isolated acts of violence cannot be ruled out, there was no reason to expect that United States forces would become involved in hostilities."

Hughes said United States marines went into Lebanon on time today and took up their positions very quickly without incident. A group of 563 PLO terrorists left Beirut today by sea for Syria. He said the decision to send the PLO men by sea instead of land was not linked to reports of fighting in Lebanon yesterday. He said "it is simply that the parties themselves, for a variety of operational and technical reasons on the ground, elected to go by sea."

Helping In Reconstructing Lebanon

Asked whether the United States had received a request to assist in the rebuilding of Lebanon, Hughes stated that "the thinking here is to consider such a request. I do not think there has been a formal request, but there have been consultations. The United States has been very interested in this humanitarian endeavor. We do not have a final assessment of the amount that will need to be channeled into short-term and longer-term reconstruction in Lebanon."

Hughes said "much of the technical and financial resources for reconstruction will come from the Lebanese private sector but we do foresee a continued need for assistance from other countries, from various private sources and international agencies, as well as the United States."

Says Israel Is True And Valued Friend

Regarding a statement by former Undersecretary of State George Ball in today's New York Times, that Israel, "the aggressor," should pay the cost of rebuilding Lebanon and the U.S. "should deduct the cost of that help from our annual subsidy to Israel," Hughes said there would be no official response to that proposal.

Hughes said "it seems to me that both the President and the Secretary of State have made clear that Israel is a true and valued friend and that one would consider Israel's needs as Israel's needs and not link them to whatever else might be done to other countries in the area." Hughes added that "in its relations with each country, the needs of each country should be looked at as individual needs."

Role Of U.S. Naval Escort

Hughes was asked whether United States naval ships were accompanying PLO evacuation vessels to "protect them from attack from Israel." He replied that the evacuation plan indicated that U.S. ships would, if requested, escort the commercial vessels taking the PLO men out.

Hughes said "on the basis of our extensive discussions with the Israeli government concerning the evacuation from Beirut, we have every confidence that everything will go smoothly, as it has so far, but as a matter of common prudence, we have been asked to assure safe passage of the evacuees while en route to their destinations and provision of United States naval escort is part of that request by the parties involved." He said there were no objections from Israel to this procedure.

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NEW YORK (JTA) -- Continuing the upward trend of aliyah from North America, 173 new immigrants and returning Israelis are scheduled to leave New York for Israel this week. Moshe Shechter, director, Aliyah Center of North America, said the August total would exceed 600 olim -- the highest monthly total in over two years.

BOLIVIAN GOVERNMENT SETS STAGE FOR LEGAL MANEUVERS TO THWART WEST GERMAN EXTRADITION REQUEST FOR 'THE BUTCHER OF LYONS'

By Paul Hoffman

LA PAZ, Bolivia, Aug. 25 (JTA) -- Chancellor Augustin Saavedra has allowed a West German extradition request for the notorious Nazi war criminal Klaus Barbie, known as "The butcher of Lyons," to pass to the jurisdiction of the civilian judiciary, thus almost surely guaranteeing a series of legal maneuvers by Barbie's lawyers which will enable the former gestapo commander to avoid being prosecuted for his war-time activities.

By declining to intervene at a ministerial level, Saavedra has virtually assured the same fate for Germany's extradition request as that encountered by a French claim 10 years ago. In 1972, France pressed for the extradition of Barbie, whom it twice condemned to death in absentia for war crimes committed against French Jews and resistance members, through normal Bolivian judicial channels.

In a drawn out series of legal maneuvers instituted by Barbie's lawyers, France had to first prove that he was the same person as Klaus Altman, the assumed name by which the former Nazi was known and under which he had illegally acquired Bolivian citizenship.

Once this hurdle was cleared the case moved slowly through the lower courts until it finally reached the Bolivian Supreme Court in 1974. The Supreme Court denied the request, due to the lack of an extradition treaty between the two nations. Subsequent French appeals to then acting-President Gen. Hugo Banzer to reverse the ruling were turned down by the military strongman.

Basin For Extradition Requests

Germany has based its request for extradition on a detention order against Barbie by a criminal tribunal in the city of Augsburg that claims he was responsible for the death in 1944 of a French citizen named Kemmler.

The French Armed Forces Tribunal, a military war crimes judicial commission set up after World War II to prosecute Nazi war criminals, has determined that Barbie commanded a gestapo unit based in Lyons that murdered 14,000 members of the underground resistance movement and that he sent 10,000 French Jews to their deaths at Auschwitz.

Informed diplomatic sources here who have requested anonymity, maintain that the denial of the French request by the government, was directly linked to Barbie's close ties with highly placed Bolivian military figures. It is widely known in Bolivia that one of the most feared "advisors" in torture and interrogation technique attached to the Bolivian Ministry of the Interior, the internal security bureau during the 1950's and 1960's, was a German immigrant and ex-soldier named Klaus Altman.

Last July, Barbie met with Bolivian President General Guido Videla at the presidential palace for what Barbie was quoted as having described as a meeting to "discuss judicial and administrative matters."

EX-NAZI INSISTS ON REMAINING IN JAIL DESPITE LEGAL ACTIONS TO RELEASE HIM ON BAIL

TORONTO, Aug. 25 (JTA) -- A former SS corps commandant, Albert Helmut Rauca, remains

in jail on his own volition despite a decision of a three-judge Canadian Federal Court of Appeal which rejected an application for a reversal of a lower court decision which would have released him on \$150,000-bail for an extradition hearing here September 20.

Officials said Rauca refused to use the earlier decision, by Justice Wilson/Griffiths, which would have allowed Rauca to go free on bail, because he was afraid to leave jail. Rauca was arrested here June 17 for allegedly taking part in the wartime slaughter of 10,500 Jews in the Kovno ghetto in Lithuania. He was arrested at the request of the West German government, which wants him extradited to be tried on the mass murder charge.

On June 21, he was granted bail, which his attorney, William Parker, said he could afford, but he chose to remain in jail, rather than leave and stay with friends until the extradition hearing. He decided not to leave jail for fear of endangering both them and himself. No information has been made available as to why Rauca is so fearful for his safety that he prefers to remain in jail.

At the hearing sought by representatives of the West German government and the Canadian Jewish Congress, arguments were submitted that Rauca posed a threat to the safety of the community and that there was a risk he would jump bail and not appear at the extradition hearing.

Rulings Not Seen As Pointless Actions

Justices John Uris, Darrel Heald and G.S. Cowan, in upholding Justice Griffiths' decision to allow Rauca to be free on bail pending the deportation hearing, ruled there was "no evidence" that Rauca "poses a menace to the public" and that "sufficient safeguards may be built in to ensure his appearance" at the September 20 hearing.

Observers pointed out that the hearing by Griffiths and the appeal hearing which upheld freedom on bail for Rauca was not a pointless set of legal actions because, under Griffiths' initial ruling, Rauca could leave the jail whenever he chose to do so.

The appeals court concurred with Griffiths' ruling which held that the Canadian Bill of Rights recognizes specifically "the right to reasonable bail ... and provides that no one charged with a criminal offense should be deprived of the right to bail or interim release without just cause."

Griffiths ruled that Rauca was "a good Canadian citizen" and a hard working citizen since he arrived in Canada in 1950 and had no criminal record in Canada.

David Matas, a Winnipeg attorney active in the Canadian Jewish Congress, said Rauca's arrest marked the first time Canada had acted to help extradite an alleged war criminal.

REPORT ARGENTINA TO BUY ISRAELI JETS

BUENOS AIRES, Aug. 25 (JTA) -- Argentina is negotiating the purchase of 22 Mirage jets from Israel in order to rebuild its Air Force after losing the war with Britain over the Falkland Islands last June, it was reported by the English-language daily, the Buenos Aires Herald.

During the recently concluded war, the Air Force was the only branch of the Argentine military that performed effectively, albeit with great losses. As its toll of lost planes mounted, Argentina procured 10 Mirages from Peru which it incorporated into its air offensive along with the Israeli Kfir and the French Super-Entendard jets, outfitted with Exocet missiles.