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No. 166

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By Gil Sedan

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The Cabinet acted after hearing a report on the talks by Defense Minister Ariel Sharon with Administration officials in Washington. According to the report, one of the ideas suggested to Sharon was the proposal for such a Palestinian state.

Observers said the report seemed to confirm Israeli fears that the Reagan Administration was considering new ways to break the impasse over the autonomy talks called for in the Camp David accords. It appeared that the Reagan Administration apparently has not yet formalized specific ideas to get the stalled autonomy talks resumed but the understanding here is that the wind is blowing in a direction "not in accordance with the Camp David accords."

Sharon reportedly was informed that the Reagan Administration hoped to use the Israeli success in Israel's "Peace for Galilee" operation in Lebanon to convince Premier Menachem Begin's coalition that Israel was militarily powerful enough to deal with any problems a Palestinian state might pose.

But the consensus at the Cabinet session today was that not even a demilitarized Palestinian state was a subject for negotiations. As one minister put it, "How long would that state remain demilitarized?"

### See Hint By Reagan Administration

Sharon reported that Secretary of State George Shultz, with whom he met last Friday, reiterated the United States commitment to Israel's security but reportedly gave "wide ranging interpretations" to the Camp David accords.

When Sharon repeated to Shultz Israel's opposition to a Palestinian state, Shultz reportedly replied that the United States, too, opposed the creation of "an armed and dangerous state." That comment by Shultz was understood here as a hint that the Reagan Administration was moving toward acceptance of an independent demilitarized Palestinian state.

Shultz reportedly spoke of the need to make an effort to induce Jordan to join in the Mideast peace talks, as an Arab country "which should have a vital role in the Camp David process." Shultz was understood to have said he felt bringing Jordan into the talks was still possible. This remark, too, was interpreted in Jerusalem as a hint of a possible United States effort to bring new partners into the peace process, presumably on Israel's behalf.

Premier Menachem Begin said that if the Americans, or Egypt, for that matter, sought to introduce basic changes in the Camp David accords, Israel would consider itself free of its obligations under those accords. This was considered by observers as a hint that Israel would no longer regard itself as limited in acting to annex the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

Begin told the Cabinet meeting that the Egyptians were trying to bring into the autonomy negotiations a document which had been rejected by then Presi-

dent Carter at the talks at Camp David from which the Camp David accords emerged. It was generally agreed in Jerusalem that Israel would not lose out if the autonomy talks were adjourned indefinitely, as the Egyptians have threatened.

## EVACUATION CONTINUES

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Aug. 29 (JTA) -- The evacuation of PLO and Syrian-backed Palestine Liberation Army (PLA) terrorists from west Beirut continued today. Some 1,200 PLA men left via the Beirut-Damascus road for Damascus and about 500 PLO terrorists sailed from the port of Beirut to the town of Tartus in northern Syria. Among those leaving for Tartus were two PLO leaders, Abu Jihad and Abu Salah. Another group which left yesterday for Tartus included George Habash, leader of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, and Nayef Hawatmeh, leader of the Marxist-oriented pro-Soviet Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine. The only PLO leader remaining in Beirut was said to be Yasser Arafat. He is scheduled to leave the city tomorrow.

A senior Israeli army officer said today in Beirut that more than 13,000 PLO and Syrian forces had been evacuated since the withdrawal began last Saturday, including some 7,300 PLO fighters and about 6,000 Syrian soldiers and Syrian-backed forces of the 15,000 PLO and Syrian forces Israel said were in Lebanon that were to be evacuated under the plan worked out by U.S. special envoy Philip Habib.

### PLO Handing Over 'Scrap Metal'

The Israeli officer said that the PLO had so far handed over to the Lebanese army very little of their heavy military equipment, as required under the Habib plan. "So far, they only handed over scrap metal," he said.

Army Chief of Staff Gen. Rafael Eitan, who watched the evacuation today, told Israeli military correspondents that the PLO was surrendering its heavy equipment not to the Lebanese army but to a leftwing Lebanese group affiliated with the PLO called the Murabitun organization.

Eitan said all members of that organization, said to number about 1,500 men, would have to leave Lebanon together with the PLO and the Syrians "as they are terrorists by any definition." He forecast lengthy and complicated negotiations to get the Syrians to withdraw from the country.

### Haddad Concerned About His Future

Meanwhile, Maj. Saad Haddad, commander of the Christian militia, who helped Israel keep its border with southern Lebanon clear of PLO terrorists for the past seven years, expressed concern that he will now be abandoned by both Israel and Lebanese President-elect Bashir Gemayel.

In an interview with Israel Radio, Haddad said that since the war began in Lebanon June 6 he had met only once with Eitan and no Israeli political leader sought to meet or consult with him, unlike before the fighting started when he was always called upon by Israeli leaders.

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Haddad said he had wanted to assist Israel in its advance through southern Lebanon, and had even been allowed to move his tanks and armed soldiers

forward with the Israelis, but his forces were halted at Damour, south of Beirut, apparently at the request of Phalangist leader Gemayel.

Haddad seemed to feel that he might now be abandoned by Israel, which will seek to work only through Gemayel, who might in turn seek to reduce any apparent dependence on Israel for his own political purposes. "Bashir is my friend and we work together," Haddad told Israel Radio. "But I am a soldier, not a politician. He is a politician with ambitions."

#### Says He Did His Best

The Christian militia commander said "I am sure I have done my best and done my duty. I did not betray my friends or my country. But I am now somewhat worried that Israel may take the wrong steps. I care for Israel as well as my own country. You cannot forget the past seven years."

Haddad added that it appears to be the fate of many Lebanese leaders to live abroad when their duties to their own country are ended. "Maybe I should retire and go live in Israel," he said wistfully. "I have no political ambitions. I don't want to be a president. I know only soldiering."

#### SHARON: ISRAEL DID NOT WAGE WAR AGAINST PALESTINIAN PEOPLE BUT AGAINST THE PLO TERRORISTS By Helen Silver

WASHINGTON, Aug. 29 (JTA) — Defense Minister Ariel Sharon of Israel stressed here this weekend that the Middle East is on the verge of a new era of peace with the military and political defeat of the PLO and asserted that Israel has not been at war with the Palestinian people but with the PLO terrorist organization.

Addressing 600 delegates attending the North American Leadership Conference of the Israel Bond Organization last night at the Washington Hilton Hotel, Sharon also defended his strategy in Lebanon and asserted that it had been approved by the Cabinet every step of the way.

#### Assails Media Reports

He was particularly caustic in his remarks about the way the news media had inflated figures of civilian casualties in Lebanon during the "Peace for Galilee" operation which began June 6, while forgetting the number of casualties Israel suffered during the many years of PLO terrorist activities. He said there were some 2,000 civilian casualties in Lebanon and that 350 Israeli soldiers were killed and 2,000 wounded during the "Peace for Galilee" operation.

Sharon rejected media reports that 600,000 Lebanese civilians had been left homeless as a result of the Israeli action. He said this was baseless because the total population of southern Lebanon is 625,000, and many villages were not touched by Israel's military operation. Sharon said that between 1975 and 1982, the PLO killed 110,000 Lebanese civilians and wounded more than 300,000, mostly Christians. "No one said a word," Sharon declared, "and only one small nation, Israel, came to their rescue."

The Defense Minister compared that number of dead to the 55,000 U.S. soldiers killed in Vietnam which, he said, caused an "earthquake" in the United States. He added that Israel "made a tremendous effort to secure lives" in Lebanon, "but people must remember that the PLO used the civilian population as hostages... they kept women and children at the doors and the windows to make it harder for our troops to move in."

Sharon said Israel's largest casualties were not caused in the fighting against Syrian tanks, or against sophisticated Soviet SAM missiles, but in the fighting along the coastal plain where the terrorists held the civilian population hostage.

He told the Israel Bond leaders that "there was no collusion between the United States and Israel when we went into the war," as many have charged. However, now after the war, Israel and the U.S. share "common targets and goals: expulsion of the PLO, withdrawal of foreign forces — the terrorists, Syrians and Israeli troops. We would like to bring our troops home as early as possible." Another goal, Sharon said, would be "peace between Israel and Lebanon and the necessary security arrangements along our northern border."

#### Israel Learned Secret Of Soviet Missiles

Sharon said "one of the real contributions of the war was that the Israelis learned the secrets of the Soviet SAM missiles and we eliminated the main center of world terrorism in Beirut... We brought the situation to where it will enable us to build a strong central government." He added: "I believe we are facing peace with Lebanon. I believe we are going to start a renewed dialogue with the Palestinian Arabs."

Sharon reiterated many of these points today in interviews on CBS-TV's "Face the Nation" program and on ABC-TV's "This Week With David Brinkley" program.

There was tight security around the hotel where Sharon was speaking. Outside the hotel three demonstrations were held. Most of the protesters were members of the November 29 Coalition, representing nearly 100 groups, including some Jews, who opposed Israel's action in Lebanon. Placards protesting Israel's invasion of Lebanon were waved by about 50 members of American Jews Opposed to the Invasion of Lebanon. A counter-demonstration of about 30 members of the Zionist Organization of America and Americans for a Safe Israel gathered to support Israel and Sharon.

Police said one demonstrator was arrested for disorderly conduct and a second was cited for a minor traffic violation during the three-hours of the protest, marked mostly by shouting.

#### Meeting With Shultz, Weinberger

On Friday, Sharon met for 45 minutes with Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger, a meeting that was described later as "cordial" by the Pentagon. After meeting with Weinberger, Sharon met for almost two hours with Secretary of State George Shultz.

Emerging from his meeting with Shultz, Sharon told reporters "I had a good meeting" with the Secretary of State, "discussing the situation in the Mideast, after the expulsion of the PLO terrorists from Beirut which is taking place now. I believe that we are facing a new era now in the Mideast. We are much closer to overall peace."

Sharon added: "We believe that that expulsion, which is a result of the political and military defeat of the PLO terrorist organization, will enable us to start negotiations with the Palestinian Arabs. We have not been fighting with the Palestinian people. We have been fighting the PLO terrorist organization."

Looking to the future, Sharon said: "We hope to live in peaceful co-existence, and I believe the present situation will enable us to start negotiations on the autonomy plans of the Camp David accords... We hope to have a peace agreement with Lebanon."

Sharon, in response to a question, said that he started talks with Palestinian leaders two days earlier. He said he was proud to talk and negotiate with the Palestinian Arabs because for years they were

threatened by the PLO ... many of them were murdered, assassinated by the PLO only because they believed that the PLO was not the only and sole representative of the Palestinian Arabs."

#### Cites Three-Phased Israeli Withdrawal

Asked about Israel's withdrawal from Lebanon, Sharon said that "we are now in a phase of the expulsion of the terrorists from Beirut." The second phase, he suggested, would be the withdrawal of Syrian troops from Lebanon. He pointed out that Syria still occupies 40 percent of Lebanon. Then, Sharon said, would come the third phase, where "we hope we will be able to sign a peace agreement with Lebanon which will bring a complete change in the situation in the region and would give the needed security measures of Israel along its northern border." He said after Syria pulls out its forces from Lebanon Israel will withdraw its troops from Lebanon.

#### Weinberger To Visit Mideast This Week

Meanwhile, the White House announced that Weinberger will visit Lebanon, Israel and Egypt this week, the first Cabinet-level officer to visit the area since the outbreak of the war in Lebanon. His trip was decided last Thursday by President Reagan. Administration officials said it was Weinberger's idea to visit the 800 marines in Beirut who are there together with 800 French and 532 Italian troops to oversee the evacuation of PLO terrorist and Syrian forces from the city.

Officials added that while in the area to accept a long-standing invitation to visit Israel, he will also visit Egypt to balance the trip to Israel. Administration officials added that Weinberger was not charged with any particular diplomatic mission.

#### Egypt Puts Dampers On Autonomy Talks

In Egypt, Weinberger is expected to focus on the fate of the long-stalled Palestinian autonomy negotiations with Israel. But Egypt has ruled out further autonomy talks until Israeli troops leave Lebanon and Israel halts building settlements on the West Bank.

This declaration was made last Friday in a letter by Amre Moussa, acting head of Egypt's delegation to the United Nations, to UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar. The letter called on the U.S. "in particular" to urge Israel to adopt a new course and "prepare the ground for a fair and just settlement" in the Mideast. The U.S. has been seeking for some time to get the autonomy negotiations off dead center.

#### ISRAEL AGREES TO LET UNRWA HELP PALESTINIAN REFUGEES IN SOUTH LEBANON By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Aug. 29 (JTA) -- Some 8,000 tents will be shipped this week from Pakistan to Lebanon by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) to help solve the immediate housing problems of Palestinian refugees in southern Lebanon, Yaacov Meridor, minister in charge of the refugee problem in Lebanon, told reporters here.

Meridor, who is also Minister of Economics, said there are some 30,000 refugees without adequate housing in the area under Israel control. They are from refugee camps in Sidon, Rashidiye and Tyre. The refugee camps, which Israel said contained armed Palestinian terrorists as well as refugee families, were heavily damaged in the fighting.

Most of the families left as the fighting continued and the terrorists used the camps as sites from which to attack Israeli forces. Israel has always been critical of UNRWA, which was set up in 1949, accusing it of allowing terrorists to operate the camps as training bases.

Meridor said Israel had no choice but to ask for UNRWA's help to solve the immediate housing problem before winter sets in because the Lebanese government had refused Israel's request that it resettle the refugees in permanent housing, not in the old refugee camps. The Lebanese government insisted instead, Meridor said, that the refugees be transferred outside of Lebanon.

#### Estimated Cost Of Resettlement

Meridor emphasized that Israel had not wanted to ask for UNRWA's help because that agency provided aid that allowed the PLO to function in the refugee camps. Under the circumstances, he said, Israel had no choice. He estimated that it would cost \$100 million for the preliminary resettlement of the refugees. Most of this money would have to come from the U.S. and other countries and from charity organizations in Europe which have already agreed to participate in this venture. He said the U.S. will provide \$65 million of the total.

Peter McPherson, President Reagan's special coordinator of Lebanon relief and head of the Agency for International Development (AID), has been assigned to go to Lebanon to coordinate the effort. The Reagan Administration was reported last month to have provided a special allocation of \$15 million, and Congress was to have provided another \$50 million.

Meridor said Israel has allocated millions of Shekels to help relocate the refugees and for their medical treatment. In the long run, he said, the problem of the refugees must be solved by either settling them in Lebanese cities or by transferring them to other Arab countries.

He noted that Lebanon cannot host the 30,000 refugees, particularly after the bitter experience of the civil war. Meridor expressed confidence that the Arab countries would be willing to absorb the refugees because they have a shortage of workers.

#### JEWISH LEADERS MEET WITH SHULTZ

By Yitzhak Rabi

NEW YORK, Aug. 29 (JTA) -- A delegation of Jewish leaders who met with Secretary of State George Shultz and members of his staff for more than two hours in Washington last Thursday afternoon urged the United States to influence Jordan to join the Middle East peace process and to help "find Palestinians who represent their people" to negotiate with Israel.

Julius Berman, chairman of the Conference of President of Major American Jewish Organizations, who headed the 13-member delegation, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that Shultz was most interested in hearing the views of the Jewish leaders.

"We made it clear to him that the PLO had been destroyed not only militarily but politically as well," Berman said. "We stressed that it is important that the PLO will not be dealt with in any way."

The meeting with Shultz was part of the Secretary of State's on-going general consultation with members of Congress, community leaders and private sectors in the effort to develop a future U.S. Mideast policy in the aftermath of the war in Lebanon.

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There will be no Daily News Bulletin dated September 6, Labor Day, a postal holiday.

# WEST BANK, GAZA VILLAGE LEAGUES TERMED AS ISRAELI 'COLLABORATORS'

By Kevin Freeman

NEW YORK, Aug. 29 (JTA) -- Two leading Palestinian figures from the West Bank and Gaza Strip today accused the Israeli-backed Village Leagues of acting as Israeli "collaborators" and at the same time reiterated support for the PLO as the legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

"The PLO is the official representative and spokesman of all the Palestinian Arabs wherever they live in the world," said Elias Freij, Mayor of Bethlehem, in an appearance via satellite from Israel on the NBC-TV "Meet the Press" program. He said that the PLO is the accepted representative organization of the Palestinian people.

Rashid Shawa, former mayor of Gaza, who was ousted recently from his position by the Israeli authorities, said also that the PLO represented the Palestinian people. In response to a question that Israeli authorities differentiate between the PLO and the Palestinian people, Shawa said that since the PLO represents the Palestinians, "we are part and parcel" of the PLO.

The program featuring the two Palestinian personalities was scheduled for an earlier broadcast date but according to reports, Israeli authorities had refused Shawa permission to travel to the United States. Freij contended today that he, too, had been denied permission to travel to the U.S. Freij said that Freij's claim was false.

Both Freij and Shawa accused the members of the Israeli-backed Village Leagues of the West Bank as being "collaborators" and that these Palestinians who participate in the Leagues do not represent anyone.

## Rejects Sharon's Declarations

Shawa said Defense Minister Ariel Sharon's recent declarations that Israel will not allow a Palestinian state on the West Bank is "absolutely rejected by Palestinians." He said the Palestinian people are entitled to a home, to self-determination and a "state of our own."

Freij, a more moderate Palestinian official, reiterated his call for the reciprocal, mutual and simultaneous recognition of the Palestinians by the Israelis. He said there was a need for a political dialogue between the two peoples but that unfortunately, there have been only negative responses to his calls from both Palestinian leaders and Israeli officials.

Both Palestinian officials rejected the autonomy proposals under the Camp David accords unless, as Shawa said, "it contained full autonomy with an eventual goal of self-determination and statehood." The former Mayor of Gaza said Palestinians will not be a "party to sign a submission to give up everything to Israel."

Freij called for a Palestinian state on the West Bank and Gaza with East Jerusalem as the capital. Shawa, though not as clear, appeared to indicate that he accepted a similar proposal, with a state on Palestinian soil on the West Bank and Gaza.

Meanwhile, King Hussein of Jordan said today that he hoped progress can be made on a resolution to the Palestinian question in the aftermath of the Lebanon war. "I hope that the world and the United States in particular, concentrates on this issue with all those desirous of seeing progress towards the establishment of a just and durable peace for it to come about," Hussein said in an interview via satellite from Amman, Jordan

on the ABC-TV "This Week with David Brinkley" program.

Hussein reiterated his support for the Palestinian cause and rejected recent Israeli statements that Jordan already is the Palestinian homeland. "I believe Jordan has always associated with the Palestinian hopes and aspirations. . . . That does not mean in any way the issue is resolved." He said that Jordan has provided a home for Palestinians while the issue of the Palestinian homeland is being resolved.

Regarding the Jordanian ouster of Palestinians in 1970 in what has become known as "Black September" when thousands were killed in bloody fighting with the Jordanian armed forces, Hussein said the struggle at that time "was between law and order and chaos and anarchy. . . . This was an experience that was a very sad one for all concerned."

## SOCIALISTS PLAN INITIATIVE TO FIND SOLUTION TO THE PALESTINIAN PROBLEM

By Edwin Eytan

PARIS, Aug. 29 (JTA) -- Socialist International officials said they will try to launch a diplomatic initiative to find a global solution to the Palestinian problem. This comment was made Saturday night in Lisbon after a Socialist International delegation led by former Portuguese Premier Mario Suarez returned from a study trip to Beirut. The International includes Israel's Labor Party and Lebanon's Progressive Party headed by Druze leader Walid Jumblatt.

Suarez, who met in Beirut with PLO leader Yasser Arafat, said he "did not appear a beaten man. He still seems determined to lead his people to what he sees as their just aims." Suarez, who also met in Lebanon with most of the country's prominent political figures, stated that "conditions (now) exist for steps forward in the search for a solution to the Palestinian problem."

Another member of the Socialist delegation, French party national secretary in charge of international affairs, Jacques Huntzinger, caused a stir when he said that the destruction of Beirut "is horrible, worse than anything we imagined." He said "the films shown on French television were, if anything, less than the truth."

Huntzinger's statement has caused a furor in Jewish circles as he was previously known as the head of the party's pro-Israel wing. After a trip to Israel last month he distanced himself from the French party's official line and espoused Israel's cause.

## Arafat To Visit Athens

Meanwhile, it was reported in Athens today that Arafat will pay a two-day visit this week for talks with Prime Minister Andreas Papandreu. A government spokesman said the date of Arafat's arrival has not yet been fixed but he is expected to arrive either Tuesday or Wednesday aboard a Greek passenger ship, the Atlantis, which sailed from Piraeus to Beirut yesterday and is expected to return by mid-week.

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JERUSALEM (JTA) -- Premier Menachem Begin told the Cabinet Sunday that the Cabinet, at its session next Sunday, coming after the completion of the evacuation of the terrorists from Beirut, would hold a comprehensive "summation" debate on the war in Lebanon, its causes, its development and its security and political results. At the proposal of Finance Minister Yoram Aridor, the Cabinet approved a reduction of five billion Shekels in the budgets of various ministries to be transferred to the defense budget as part of the funding of the war effort.