

New Tensions Between Israel And The U.S.
REAGAN, IN LETTER TO BEGIN, CALLS
FOR FREEZE ON SETTLEMENTS AND FOR
LINKAGE BETWEEN JORDAN, WEST BANK
By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Sept. 1 (JTA) -- New tensions in the relations between Israel and the United States developed today as President Reagan, in a letter to Premier Menachem Begin yesterday, demanded a freeze on Jewish settlements on the West Bank and Gaza Strip, a halt to the expansion of existing settlements, and full linkage between Jordan and the West Bank. A special Cabinet session has been scheduled for tomorrow to discuss Reagan's demands.

Israeli leaders, caught by surprise at this development, expressed anger not only at the demands but also at the timing, just as the last group of PLO and Syrian forces left west Beirut and as Begin was scheduled to meet with U.S. Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger later today.

Israeli officials viewed Reagan's message as constituting a new American policy toward the autonomy negotiations and the Palestinian problem, and as challenging the basic principles of Israeli policy on those issues. Israeli officials also viewed the timing of Reagan's letter in the context of the upcoming summit conference of Arab nations, noting that the U.S. seemed to want to make it clear that it does not intend to waste any time to solve the Palestinian issue which was pushed to the top of the international agenda by the war in Lebanon.

Deviation From Camp David Detected

The understanding of senior political sources in Jerusalem was that Reagan issued his demands as a precondition for the resumption of the autonomy talks. If true, the sources said, Israel would not agree to resume the autonomy talks on the basis of Reagan's demands. The sources also pointed out that Israel would have to seriously study Reagan's letter to determine if the message constitutes a deviation from the Camp David accords.

It was recalled that U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz told a television interviewer a week ago that the Camp David process can be interpreted in many ways and that the Palestinians should have a role in determining the conditions under which they live. This was seen as a reference to some form of Palestinian participation in the peace negotiating process.

Shultz, at a press conference in Washington last month, also stated that the Camp David accords had a "lot of room for ideas" and that the Reagan Administration was forming its own views. He said the Administration expected to be moving on the issue of Palestinian rights, but did not elaborate at the time.

Begin told a Cabinet meeting a week ago, in response to Egyptian officials who were saying that Israel was maintaining a narrow and restricted interpretation of the provisions of the Camp David agreements, that Israel would not feel bound to adhere to the accords if Egypt tried to change its dimensions.

However, at least one Israeli official was quoted as saying today: "As far as we are concerned, we stick and we shall stick to the Camp David accords." According to this concept, only the autonomy issue should be discussed at this stage. Any other ideas, such as Jordanian linkage to the West Bank, should be discussed only after the mechanisms for autonomy have been settled and autonomy is in effect for five years, according to the Israeli view.

A Key Question

A key question at this stage is whether Reagan's points are academic or operational. If the Reagan Administration insists that the demands raised by Reagan be implemented, Israel will undoubtedly reject them, and a confrontation will be unavoidable, Israeli political sources said.

The issue of Reagan's letter is expected to figure prominently in the talks Begin will hold today with Weinberger. It was not immediately clear whether Begin would interrupt his vacation in Nahariya to attend tomorrow's special Cabinet session. One report said Begin would attend the session.

According to political analysts, the outcome of the session is a foregone conclusion: it will decide to expand existing settlements and establish new ones. In fact, the new town of Maale Adumim, located on the road linking Jerusalem with the Jordan valley town of Jericho, was dedicated today in a festive ceremony.

Responses To Reagan's Letter

Deputy Prime Minister David Levy, addressing a crowd of several thousand people at the dedication of Maale Adumim, sharply criticized any attempt to halt Israeli settlement activities, saying: "Israel will not allow the establishment of a Palestinian state on the West Bank."

He said not even a message from Reagan would deter Israel from building the Land of Israel. This issue is not negotiable because it is a problem of survival on which Israel's future and that of its children and their children depend.

Addressing himself to Reagan, from afar, Levy said: "From time to time we hear things which contradict this (the demands in Reagan's letter), and we would prefer to work in concert with you. But if you do not want cooperation and wish to act freely, you cannot impose your will on us if it involves our security and survival." Levy added that there would be "settlements in all parts of the Land of Israel because it is essential for our security."

Beyond reactions attributed to political sources, there were reactions from political parties. Yuval Neeman, leader of the Tehiya Party and Minister of Science and Development, whose party recently joined the government coalition, said his party would demand that the government make the settlements in the occupied territories a priority issue in response to Reagan's demands.

Likud Knesset member Ehud Olmert said Israel would not tolerate any "deviation" from the Camp David accords. He added, however, that he was not certain the U.S. has yet shaped an overall comprehensive Middle East policy. "In the past there were messages, cables, letter from the President, and

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eventually the practical policy was not identical to some of the demands and threats," Olmert said.

Labor Alignment dove Yossi Sarid welcomed Reagan's message as positive. He said the American initiative could rescue the Mideast from a dangerous situation and felt that the Labor Party would not object to a strong Jordan-West Bank linkage. Party chairman Shimon Peres had no immediate comment. A party spokesman said Peres was seeking "more precise" information about Reagan's message before issuing a statement.

Arens Sees More U.S. Pressure

Israel's Ambassador to Washington, Moshe Arens, who is in Israel to participate in the talks Weinberger will have with Israeli leaders, said, he knew nothing of the Reagan message before it was sent.

He told the Knesset Security and Foreign Affairs Committee that he was not surprised by the message because he had been under the impression for some time that the U.S. would now focus its Mideast policy on promoting the prompt resumption of the autonomy talks which have made no significant progress since they began in 1979.

However, Arens said he was surprised that the message was sent at this time. If he had been asked, he said, he would have advised Washington to consult first with Jerusalem before the letter was sent. He cautioned the Knesset committee that Israel should be prepared to face pressure from the American Administration.

Mubarak To Visit Washington

Meanwhile, in related developments, President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt announced today in Cairo that he would visit Washington in December at the invitation of Reagan. He also said that Begin was welcome in Cairo, an indication that he had no plans to visit Israel at this time. A projected visit by Mubarak to Israel earlier this year was cancelled when he refused to include Jerusalem in his trip despite Israeli insistence. The Egyptian leader reiterated today that "Israel must realize that real peace lies in the solution of the Palestinian problem. The Camp David accords are clear and flexible enough to reach a settlement in the area."

At the same time, Defense Minister Abdel-Halim Abu Ghazala said he would discuss with Weinberger, who is due in Cairo Friday, a long-term strategic relationship between Egypt and the U.S. Weinberger and Egyptian officials are also expected to discuss the two countries' joint program to update and replace Egypt's military equipment, for which Washington provides billions of dollars. Egyptian and American combat units have engaged in joint exercises in Egypt as part of the military cooperation between the two countries.

STATE DEPARTMENT DENIES THE U.S. IS CHANGING ITS MIDEAST POLICY By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, Sept. 1 (JTA) -- The State Department denied today charges in Israel that the Reagan Administration is changing its Middle East policy by going beyond the parameters of the Camp David process.

"We have reiterated on numerous occasions the President's continuing dedication to Camp David and the autonomy process," Deputy State Department spokesman Alan Romberg said. Asked specifically about the West Bank and Gaza, he said that situation "is to be addressed within the framework of Camp David."

But Romberg noted that Secretary of State George Shultz has said publicly that within the Camp David framework, the Administration is considering a "variety of new ideas, what we ought to do, how we can best approach this very difficult problem of the Middle East peace process."

Romberg refused to say whether any of these new ideas were contained in a letter from President Reagan to Israeli Premier Menachem Begin which was received by Begin yesterday. The Israeli Cabinet has called a special meeting for tomorrow to discuss the letter.

While Administration spokesmen have acknowledged the letter was sent, Romberg refused to comment on its content. Asked about the settlements, he noted the Administration has said that regardless of their legality, they are "an obstacle to the (peace) process."

See Letter Reassuring Hussein

Some observers here see the Reagan letter as an attempt by the Administration to reassure King Hussein of Jordan following Israeli Defense Minister Ariel Sharon's repeated assertion while in Washington last week that there is no need for a Palestinian state since Jordan is the Palestinian state. Both the White House and State Department yesterday said they disagreed with this position.

But Romberg refused to say today whether the letter to Begin was really aimed at reassuring Hussein. He said it was part of the "continuing exchanges of messages" between Reagan and Begin.

The Administration's main position may become clearer when Reagan goes on television tonight to discuss his Mideast policy. Television network sources said they were approached for the possibility of clearing time for the speech which would come from California where the President is vacationing.

EVACUATION OF PLO, SYRIAN SOLDIERS FROM WEST BEIRUT IS COMPLETED

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Sept. 1 (JTA) -- The evacuation of the PLO and Syrian soldiers from west Beirut ended today with the departure by sea this morning of the last group of 800 PLO members. They were accompanied by a number of women and children.

The departure of the PLO group was marked by festive firing of guns and rifles into the air, a daily feature since the evacuation began 10 days ago. But the firing today was more intense and there were also explosions. Observers in east Beirut said the PLO rearguard appeared to be trying to expend its ammunition and blow up weapons and munitions stores.

Israeli officials have expressed concern that the PLO has handed over much of its heavy equipment to their associated leftwing Lebanese Moslem groups which have vowed to continue fighting Israel.

In addition, according to a summary of an interview released in advance of publication Thursday in the west German weekly, Stern, President Hafez Assad of Syria was quoted as saying he would give free reign to PLO fighters arriving in his country from Beirut. He said the personal weapons PLO members bring with them to Syria "are their property and will remain so. And if they need weapons, we will supply them." Assad added: "It is only natural that they will fight on for the rights of the Palestinian people."

According to an official count, just under 14,000 PLO fighters and Syrian soldiers (excluding women and children) have evacuated west Beirut during the past 10 days. They included 7,728 PLO terrorists; 2,651 members of the pro-Syrian Palestine Liberation Army (PLA); and 3,598 Syrian soldiers.

Meanwhile, Israeli papers reported today that leftwing terrorists in west Beirut are still holding two employees of Israel Radio who drove by mistake into the area earlier this week.

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Meanwhile, Israeli papers reported today that leftwing terrorists in west Beirut are still holding two employees of Israel Radio who drove by mistake into the area earlier this week.

Sarah Barkai, a reporter for the Israel Radio's French-language service, was freed yesterday since she was holding a French passport. But the driver and a sound technician are still being held; Israel is making efforts through the international force to have them released. The incident had not been publicized until today's press reports.

WEINBERGER ARRIVES IN ISRAEL

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Sept. 1 (JTA) -- United States Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger arrived in Israel this evening from a brief visit to Beirut, during which he met with Lebanese leaders and lunched with U.S. marines who form part of the international force which supervised the PLO evacuation.

He was reported to have told the U.S. troops that they had accomplished their mission and should be out of the city "in a few days." Asked whether the French and Italian troops in the international force would stay longer than the Americans, Weinberger said it was up to those two governments to make a decision.

The Defense Secretary and his party flew from Beirut to Ben Gurion Airport aboard three Israel army helicopters. Weinberger was guest of honor at a reception given him by Defense Minister Ariel Sharon, his host during this two-day visit. Weinberger refused to discuss in public any aspects of the letter President Reagan sent Premier Menachem Begin.

Tomorrow, in addition to a meeting with Begin, Weinberger is due to visit the Merkava tank and Kfir jet plane production lines and other military installations. He is due to fly over the West Bank and Gaza and observe from the air tank maneuvers on the Golan Heights.

HABIB TO RETURN TO WASHINGTON NEXT WEEK TO RECEIVE MEDAL OF HONOR FROM PRESIDENT REAGAN

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, Sept. 1 (JTA) -- Special Presidential envoy Philip Habib will return to Washington next week to receive the Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian award, from President Reagan at the White House.

Habib, who helped negotiate the removal of the Palestine Liberation Organization terrorists from west Beirut, will also discuss the situation in Lebanon with the President and Secretary of State George Shultz.

At the State Department today, deputy spokesman Alan Romberg said it was not known whether Habib, who was brought out of retirement by Reagan to deal with the situation in Lebanon, would return to the Middle East. White House deputy spokesman Larry Speakes said yesterday that Habib would be at the President's "disposal."

Meanwhile, Romberg announced that with the departure of nearly 700 PLO terrorists by ship to Tartus, Syria, today, the evacuation of the terrorists, which began August 21, has ended.

He said that during this 12-day period, approximately 8,300 PLO members left Beirut. This included 3,850 who went to Syria, 1,100 to South Yemen, 1,000 to Tunisia, 850 to North Yemen, 600 to Algeria, 500 to the Sedan, 260 to Jordan and 130 to Iraq.

The PLO terrorists were transported aboard eight Greek and Cypriot merchant ships which made a total of 15 trips from Beirut, Romberg said. In addition to the 8,300 listed, the International Red Cross took approximately 175 sick and wounded terrorists to Cyprus and Greece aboard the hos-

pital ship Flora. Also, 2,600 members of the Palestine Liberation Army and 3,600 Syrian troops left Beirut for Syria by land.

ORTHODOX LEADERS MEET WITH PRO-ISRAEL EVANGELICAL CHRISTIANS

NEW YORK, Sept. 1 (JTA) -- In early August, representatives of the Young Israel and religious Zionist movements met here with a delegation of leaders from a West Coast-based group of evangelical Christians, Tav (the Hebrew word for "good"), which has expressed strong support for Israel, it was reported here today by Young Israel.

The group has organized support within the fundamentalist Christian community for Israel's actions in Lebanon, and, last year, the group sponsored a major campaign on the West Coast in opposition to the sale of AWACS planes to Saudi Arabia, according to Young Israel.

The meeting with the religious Jewish groups was arranged at the request of the evangelicals, who expressed many shared attitudes with Orthodox Jews. These include a belief that the Jews remain the "Chosen People of God," that "the Holy Land is the inalienable possession of the Jewish people" as a result of "the promises made to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob," and that "Jerusalem is the eternal and indivisible capital of the Jewish state."

These and other statements in support of Israel and the Jewish people were published by the group in June of this year as the "Evangelical Christian Declaration of Support for Israel and the Jewish American Community." The evangelical declaration also claims to "abhor anti-Semitism; mourn the Holocaust; and repent of the Church's silence."

Views Of The Evangelical Group

One of Tav's earliest projects was to expose a PLO-sponsored trip by five Christian clergymen from the Seattle area to Lebanon to meet with Yasser Arafat early this year. Tav immediately set out to counteract the anti-Israel propaganda arising from the trip.

In their position papers, the Tav evangelicals assert that they are not intent upon missionizing Jews; that they respect the legitimacy of the Jewish religion, recognize the need for a Jewish state of Israel, and share many religious principles in common with Orthodox Jews, especially the "authority of scripture."

At the same time, the evangelicals claim that the "Liberal-Rationalism" to which they object in non-fundamentalist churches is also a threat to Israel, and a cause of anti-Semitism. They therefore urge religious Jews to join with them against what they perceive as a common enemy in the secular humanism which is dominant in both the non-fundamentalist Christian and non-Orthodox Jewish communities.

Representing the Tav group were Doug Krieger, its West Coast representative, Doug Shearer, its president and Randi Saeger, its pastor. Orthodox groups represented at the meeting included the National Council of Young Israel, Emanah Women of America and Mizrahi-Religious Zionists of America.

Dr. Harold Jacobs, president of the National Council of Young Israel, said more meetings with Tav and other pro-Israel fundamentalist Christian groups were expected to take place in the near future, solely to coordinate activities in support of Israel.

COPENHAGEN (JTA) -- The European Economic Community is considering the possibility of demanding compensation from Israel for damage to European diplomatic property during Israel's shelling of Beirut. A note to that effect has reportedly been sent to Jerusalem.

SORRY, WRONG CAPTION

NEW YORK, Sept. 1 (JTA) -- The United Press International said, in a statement issued here yesterday that it had concluded, after an investigation touched off by severe criticism, that a war-injured Lebanese child had not lost his arms, as had been claimed in a caption and photographs circulated internationally on August 1 by UPI International Newspictures. Photographs of the allegedly armless child with the same caption, were also circulated by Associated Press.

The picture of the allegedly armless child was reportedly displayed on President Reagan's desk as a symbol of suffering in Lebanon. The photo portrayed a nurse holding a baby girl swathed in bandages after both her arms had been blown off by an allegedly misdirected Israeli bomb.

The Israel medical corps tracked down the infant and the nurse. It was learned that the child was a boy, Eli Massau, four months old, and not a girl, who was discharged from the hospital a few days after the picture was taken. The Israeli government sent Reagan a picture of the boy with a letter saying that the child had suffered a fractured arm, and that Israeli doctors who located the infant found he had recovered from his burns and that his fracture was healing well.

H. L. Stevenson, UPI editor-in-chief, in admitting the error, attributed it to "the confusion at the time, at the hospital and in the city." He said the UPI correspondent in Beirut, after an investigation, stood by UPI's report that the child had been injured in an air attack.

Fadi Mitri of UPI and two other news photographers took pictures of the child and the nurse at the French-run Hospital Dieu. Mitri, who wrote the caption, said his information came from neighborhood residents and hospital officials who had talked to the patients hurt in the attack on the apartment in which the Massau family lived.

Israel Temed Pix A Distortion

On August 8, Israel issued a formal statement denouncing the photograph as "a gross distortion of facts and violation of basic ethics of journalism which caused Israel great damage in wide circles of public opinion."

The "before" and "after" photographs were published today by The New York Times and The Washington Post. The Post accompanied the two pictures with a substantial report on the UPI statement, admitting the error, and describing the incident in detail. The Times merely carried a caption which included a reference to the fact that the UPI confirmed that its original caption was inaccurate and that "UPI regrets the error."

DUTCH AUTHORITIES TO CRACK DOWN ON SALE OF HITLER'S MEIN KAMPF
By Henriette Boas

AMSTERDAM, Sept. 1 (JTA) -- Dutch legal authorities will take steps if the Dutch translation of Hitler's *Mein Kampf*, which was recently published in Belgium and is now on sale there, is offered for sale in Holland.

The Dutch authorities intend to base the ban on sale of the book and prosecution of anyone who violates the ban on an anti-discrimination law which makes all publications inciting to racial or religious discrimination a criminal offense. Violation of the law is punishable by a maximum

six-month prison sentence and an optional fine. *Mein Kampf* is actually not prohibited reading matter in Holland. Second-hand copies can be purchased and the book can be inspected in all the larger public libraries but it cannot be borrowed.

The Association of Dutch Publishers has protested against the ban of the Dutch translation of the book as a violation of freedom of the press. An association spokesman claimed that the publication of the book does not represent a public danger. Some are arguing that the publication of the book can be an effective way to combat fascism.

JAPANESE TERRORIST EXPRESSES
REGRET FOR 1972 AIRPORT MASSACRE

TEL AVIV, Sept. 1 (JTA) -- For the first time since his arrest 10 years ago, Kozo Okamoto, the Japanese Red Army terrorist serving a life sentence for the 1972 Ben Gurion Airport massacre, has expressed regret for killing. But at a meeting yesterday in prison with Kyoto University law professor Idio Oyeshi, Okamoto reaffirmed his allegiance to the terrorist organization.

On May 30, 1972 three Japanese gunmen sprayed machinegun fire and tossed grenades into a crowded passenger terminal at the arrivals terminal at the airport. Among the 30 who were killed were 16 Christian pilgrims from Puerto Rico, 12 Israelis and two of the gunmen. In addition, 73 people were wounded.

The Japanese professor held a two-hour meeting with the prisoner in the office of Ramle prison warden David Peri. During the meeting Oyeshi sang nursery songs to Okamoto, who joined in and slowly began to shed his usual reticence, until now maintained even with other Japanese visitors.

The prisoner told his visitor he had joined the terrorist organization after two unhappy love affairs. Prison spokesman later quoted Okamoto as saying he had broken his customary silence "because the professor simply spoke to me with songs from my childhood." Okamoto does not mix with other prisoners and has a cell to himself.

LABOR COURT WARNS HISTADRUT
NOT TO SUPPORT EL AL STRIKE

TEL AVIV, Sept. 1 (JTA) -- The Histadrut has been warned by the labor court to withdraw its support for a strike by El Al and the Ben Gurion Airport workers scheduled for Saturday, on the grounds that the labor federation cannot sanction a "political strike" without the customary two week's warning period.

The airfield workers have said they will close down the international airport in sympathy with El Al workers whose incomes will be affected by the Cabinet's decision to end all El Al Sabbath and Jewish holiday flights beginning this weekend.

Other unions which have promised to hold sympathy strikes on Saturday, saying they feel their own futures threatened by religious demands to halt Sabbath work (which is paid overtime at 100 and 200 percent extra wages) include the Electric Corporation, Haifa port, communications workers including telephone engineers, and seamen.

Meanwhile, all Tel Aviv courts, including the district and magistrates courts, were closed today by striking workers who barred entry to the public and officials and refused to handle telephones and files or do any paperwork. The workers are supporting a demand by administrative employees for equal extra payments to those recently granted to other court workers. The strike prevented the issue of remand and release orders.