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PLO SAYS IT IS HOLDING 8 ISRAELI SOLDIERS AS PRISONERS OF WAR By Edwin Eytan

PARIS, Sept. 7 (JTA) -- The Palestine Liberation Organization said in Damascus today that it holds eight Israeli soldiers missing from a forward observation outpost in Central Lebanon since Saturday. The PLO announcement said the soldiers were prisoners of war, were "well treated" and would be visited by a representative of the International Red Cross at some unspecified date.

Israeli Defense Minister Ariel Sharon warned Syria over the weekend that it would be held responsible for the disappearance of the soldiers and would suffer the consequences if they are harmed. The soldiers apparently were captured by PLO elements operating from behind Syrian lines in Lebanon. Their tracks and those of their captors were found leading toward Syrian-held territory.

In Israel today, the commanding general of the northern front confirmed that the Israeli soldiers had been taken into an area controlled by Syria but said it was not certain who captured them. He said the Syrians would be held responsible for the incident. He said the army was drawing certain conclusions from the capture but did not elaborate. An officer from the Israeli unit involved has been removed. The general said this was not "directly or solely due" to the incident.)

Captured By Previously Unknown Group

The PLO announcement said the Israelis were captured by a Palestinian group calling itself "The August 23rd Organization," a previously unknown group. The date appears to refer to the election of Bashir Gemayel as President of Lebanon.

The PLO claimed the soldiers were captured without violence, implying that none of them were wounded. Israeli sources have expressed surprise that there was no evidence that the soldiers put up a fight. The sources suggested that the men may have relaxed their vigilance because of the relative calm in the area and were taken by surprise.

The Committee of the International Red Cross (IRC) in Geneva told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that it has not yet been informed of the capture nor has it been invited to visit the prisoners. Sources close to the IRC said the PLO moved slowly and it might take several days before arrangements are made for a Red Cross delegate to see the men.

SHARON: ISRAEL WILL CONTROL SOUTH LEBANON IF BEIRUT GOVERNMENT FAILS TO SIGN PEACE TREATY WITH ISRAEL By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Sept. 7 (JTA) -- Repeated statements by Defense Minister Ariel Sharon implying that Israel would occupy or otherwise control southern Lebanon indefinitely if the Beirut government failed to sign a peace treaty with Israel have not been clarified by officials here. There is speculation as to whether Sharon is speaking for himself or is enunciating a policy shared by Premier Menachem Begin if not the entire Cabinet.

Sharon warned in Kiryat Shmona last night that in the absence of a peace treaty with Lebanon, Israel would insist on controlling a security

belt of up to 50 kilometers of Lebanese territory north of its borders. According to Sharon, Israel has made it clear to the Lebanese authorities -- apparently including President-elect Bashir Gemayel -- that if a peace treaty was signed, Lebanon's territorial unity would be guaranteed. If there is no treaty, Israel would control a 40-50 kilometer zone "whose status would vary from the rest of Lebanon," Sharon said.

He added that Israel did not view a peace treaty with Lebanon as merely a gesture but as a "security necessity of prime importance." He insisted however, that Israel had no territorial aspirations in Lebanon and was vitally interested in a unified Lebanon under a central government.

Official sources here said today that it was too early to spell out the kind of security belt envisaged by the Defense Minister. Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir told the Ambassadors of the European Economic Community (EEC) countries that security arrangements on Israel's northern border would best be worked out by the Lebanese and Israeli armies, assuming there was a peace treaty between the two countries. A key question is whether the kind of security Sharon seeks would be feasible without the presence of Israeli troops in Lebanon.

Gemayel Under Intense Pressure

From the outset of the Lebanese campaign, Begin predicted that an Israeli victory would result in Lebanon becoming the second Arab country to conclude a peace treaty with Israel. But Gemayel is reportedly under heavy pressure not to sign a pact with Israel. The pressure comes mainly from Lebanese Muslim leaders. But a Christian leader, former President Camille Chamoun, has been quoted as saying a treaty with Israel at this time would be "premature."

Begin, who met with Gemayel last week, reportedly was disappointed that the President-elect failed to come out openly in favor of a peace treaty. The Lebanese leader also declared that his government would try Maj. Saad Haddad as a "deserter."

Haddad, who commands the Christian militia in south Lebanon, has been supported for years by Israel and recently expanded the area he controls from a narrow strip along the Israeli border to a point just south of Sidon. Israel is said to regard his presence as an important security element.

Begin also was reported to have been "insulted" by Gemayel's cool attitude inasmuch as the leader of the rightwing Christian Phalangists owed his election in large measure to Israel's army in Lebanon.

Political pundits here assume that Sharon's remarks on Israel's security plans in Lebanon had Begin's personal approval. Although the Cabinet has not yet discussed future relations with Lebanon, Begin, Sharon and Shamir consult frequently together. It is assumed here that the three senior Cabinet ministers are in agreement and that Sharon's statements reflect this.

Israel Not In A Hurry To Get Out Of Lebanon

Whatever agreements are reached with respect to a long range relationship with Lebanon, Israel has indicated it is in no hurry to withdraw its forces from Lebanon, including the northernmost points to which Israeli troops advanced.

In that connection, Sharon reportedly told Morris Draper, the senior U.S. diplomat in Lebanon, that Israel would not withdraw from the environs of Beirut until Sharon and his family "could spend a weekend at the Commodore Hotel in west Beirut," the Moslem quarter of the Lebanese capital. Draper is Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Near East and South Asian Affairs and was special Ambassador Philip Habib's deputy in the negotiations which led to the evacuation of the Palestine Liberation Organization from west Beirut.

Israel is insisting furthermore that no anti-Israel elements must be allowed to remain in Beirut which could facilitate the return of the PLO. But sources here have denied a report that Israel issued an ultimatum for the evacuation of 2,000 leftist militiamen from west Beirut. Israel continues to regard this as the responsibility of the Lebanese army, the sources said.

ADMINISTRATION TO PUT 'PROPER PRESSURE' ON ISRAEL IN SUPPORT OF REAGAN'S PEACE PLAN By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, Sept. 7 (JTA) -- The State Department said today that the Reagan Administration would put "proper pressure" on Israel to support President Reagan's peace initiative but has ruled out sanctions. Department spokesman John Hughes defined "proper pressure" as "persuasion" and "drawing attention to the great benefits that will ensue for Israel making peace with its neighbors."

He said the U.S. hopes Israel will eventually agree when it realizes that "the end result is so rewarding" for its security.

The Administration indicated that it does not consider what it called Israel's "initial" rejection of Reagan's proposals as Israel's final word. "No one expected this would be an easy road to travel," Hughes said. There will be "a lot of hard negotiations."

Rules Out Sanctions

Hughes stressed that Secretary of State George Shultz has ruled out "sanctions" against Israel such as withholding military and economic aid. A State Department official said later that the U.S. also ruled out sanctions against Israel for continuing to build Jewish settlements on the West Bank, despite Reagan's statement that they were not helpful to the peace process. The official said that in both cases, sanctions would do no good because they would not achieve the desired results.

Hughes said the U.S. wants the autonomy negotiations to resume as quickly as possible. He said at the same time the Administration felt it needed the "injection of new elements," one of which was the President's peace initiative.

But he emphasized that there should be no direct link between the autonomy talks and events in Lebanon. He also called for a speedy Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon regardless of whether the two countries agree to sign a peace treaty.

"We support the return to civilian government in Lebanon and the withdrawal of Israeli, Syrian and Palestine Liberation Organization forces as speedily as possible," the State Department spokesman said. He said the U.S. also favored a peace treaty between Israel and Lebanon, "a real peace treaty negotiated by governments that are happy with the negotiations", but this should not be related to the withdrawal of Israeli forces.

At the same time, Hughes said, the U.S. believes that there is "room for discussion" about the security arrangements for Israel in southern Lebanon.

He said that whether this would involve Maj. Saad Haddad's militia would have to be worked out with the Lebanese government.

Hughes said the U.S. "deplores" the kidnapping of eight Israeli soldiers in Lebanon, reportedly by the PLO. He said it was not "conducive to the peace process" and "underlines" the need for "reconciliation" in Lebanon and the return to a strong central government there. Hughes repeated Shultz's statement in a television appearance Sunday that the PLO forces still in Lebanon must either turn in their arms and accept the authority of the Lebanese government or leave that country.

THIRD WORLD CONFERENCE ON SOVIET JEWRY TO CONVENE IN VERSAILLES OCTOBER 24-26 By Edwin Eytan

PARIS, Sept. 7 (JTA) -- The World Conference on Soviet Jewry, the third since 1971, will convene at Versailles October 24-26 with the participation of 1,000 representatives of world-wide Jewish communities, ranking Israeli leaders, U.S. Congressmen, and members of Britain's Parliament, the French National Assembly and of a dozen other national legislative bodies.

The Conference Steering Committee announced after a two-day meeting here that Prime Minister Pierre Mauroy of France will formally open the proceedings and Premier Menachem Begin of Israel will deliver the closing address. Shimon Peres, chairman of Israel's Labor Party, will also speak. The Conference will be chaired by Leon Dulzin, chairman of the World Zionist Organization and Jewish Agency Executives.

A spokesman noted that the Conference will convene at a time of mounting pressure against Jews in the USSR and sharply declining emigration figures. Only 1,723 Jews were permitted to leave the Soviet Union during the first seven months of 1982 compared to 7,386 during the same period last year.

But Conference organizers pointed out that the first two world gatherings for Soviet Jews in 1971 and 1976, had had a positive effect on the rate of Jewish emigration and that the first meeting in 1971 marked the start of the Jewish activist movement inside the USSR.

Begin Scheduled To Meet With Mitterrand

Begin is scheduled to meet with President Francois Mitterrand while in Paris and with other members of the French government. The meetings are significant because Franco-Israeli relations reached a new low after the terrorist attack on a Jewish restaurant on the Rue des Rosiers in Paris last month. Israel charged that France's Middle East policy had created the climate "which enabled the terrorists to operate." Mitterrand strongly denied the charges.

Franco-Israeli relations were further aggravated by the participation of a French unit in supervising the evacuation of the Palestine Liberation Organization from West Beirut and the insistence by the French government that their departure should be carried out under "honorable" and "dignified" conditions.

French relations with Jerusalem have sunk so low that several members of the Conference Steering Committee suggested that the gathering be postponed or moved to another country. Some committee members feared that France could not ensure the safety of the participant. These objections were overcome after the French authorities gave assurances concerning security arrangements and after Israeli representatives indicated that Begin wanted the meeting to be held in Paris.

NEW YORK (JTA) -- Jewish emigration from the Soviet Union continues at a trickle as only 238 Jews arrived in Vienna in August. It was reported by Charlotte Jacobson, chairman of the Soviet Jewry Research Bureau of the National Conference on Soviet Jewry.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR 5742

By Kevin Freeman

(Part One Of A Four-Part Series)

NEW YORK, Sept. 7 (JTA) -- Peace between Israel and its Arab neighbors, except for Egypt, seemed as elusive as ever as the year 5742 concluded. Tension which had been mounting during the year between Israel and the United States crested early September when President Reagan unwrapped his plan for peace in the Middle East.

What he termed a "fresh start" was flatly rejected by Israel as a deviation from the Camp David accords. Reagan's demand that Israel freeze plans for expanding existing settlements or establishing new ones on the West Bank, along with his call for Palestinian self-government in the occupied areas in a federation with Jordan, was viewed by Israel as a threat to its security.

Israel's leaders noted that the very accords which were being derailed by Reagan's plan were the basis for the only peace agreement Israel had ever achieved with its largest Arab neighbor, Egypt. Israel's return of the Sinai peninsula in strict compliance with the Camp David agreements provided a ray of hope in a year otherwise marked by stress and uncertainty.

The year's highlight was marked by Israel's "Peace for Galilee" operation which destroyed the PLO militarily and politically. The operation, which was launched June 6 and ended 10 weeks later, laid the basis for the evacuation of some 15,000 PLO and Syrian forces from Beirut. The operation was hailed as a major success by Israel's leaders but its very success further isolated Israel in world public opinion because of the heavy bombardment of Beirut by the Israel Defense Force.

Anti-Israel and anti-Jewish sentiments were fanned in Western Europe and in the United States by an irresponsible news media which depicted Israel's military actions in Lebanon as almost Nazi-like in its "blitzkrieg" tactics. But many Jews, inside and outside Israel, also questioned the severity of Israel's bombardments and its drive beyond the original objective outlined by the government to establish a 25-mile terrorist-free zone.

One of the great tragedies of the year was the assassination of Egyptian President Anwar Sadat who broke the historic mold, first by visiting Jerusalem, and then by signing the Camp David accords together with Premier Menachem Begin of Israel and President Carter. One of the major elements of the accords was a framework for autonomy for the Palestinians on the West Bank and Gaza. By year's end, however, the negotiations had not moved beyond the point where they were deadlocked three years ago, and Egypt, under President Hosni Mubarak, was balking at resuming the autonomy talks.

THE MIDDLE EAST: SEPTEMBER 1981 --

Begin meets with Reagan for the first time and reaches agreement on a new strategic relationship between Israel and the U.S. -- Begin proclaims a "new era" in U.S.-Israeli relations.

Normalization talks between Egypt and Israel conclude with noted progress, including overland postal deliveries on a daily basis and direct phone and telex links between the two countries.

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) condemns Israel for its continuation of archaeological excavations in the Old City of Jerusalem.

UNESCO votes to place East Jerusalem on

UNESCO's World Heritage List thus giving Jordan the right to take part in the international supervision of cultural and historical sites in that area.

OCTOBER --

Egyptian President Anwar Sadat is assassinated by a group of Egyptian soldiers as he watches a military parade in Nasser city. Sadat's successor, Hosni Mubarak, announces that Egypt will adhere to its treaties and carry on working for peace in the Middle East.

"If it is not the business of other nations to make American foreign policy," declares Reagan, obliquely sending a strong rebuke to Israel for its vociferous objections to the AWACS sale.

Reagan wins approval of the \$8.5 million arms package sale to Saudi Arabia, after a 52-48 vote in the Senate in favor of the arms deal.

NOVEMBER --

Sharon warns that unless the Syrian SAM-6 missile batteries are removed by diplomatic means from the Bekaa valley in Lebanon, Israel would be forced to "take other action" to remove them.

The U.S. and Israel sign a memorandum of understanding on strategic cooperation establishing a "framework for continued consultation and cooperation" between the two states.

Britain, France, Italy and Holland announce they will participate in the Multinational Force and Observers (MFO) which will patrol Sinai following Israel's withdrawal from the peninsula in April.

Reagan says he found a "hopeful sign" in the plan for a Mideast peace proposed by King Fahd of Saudi Arabia for its "implicit" recognition of Israel, causing considerable concern in Israel as to the U.S. commitment to the Camp David peace process.

King Hussein of Jordan, visiting the U.S., predicts that "Israeli intransigence" would result in a "reassessment" by the Reagan Administration of its Middle East policy.

Khazem Al Khatib, 23, is murdered and his father, Yussuf Al Khatib, 60 is seriously wounded in an assassination attempt by the PLO of the two Palestinian moderates from the West Bank. Yussuf Al Khatib died later from his wounds.

DECEMBER --

French Foreign Minister Claude Cheysson, after a 24-hour visit to Israel and meetings with Israeli officials, says there will be no more European peace initiatives in the region, indicating that as far as France is concerned, the European Economic Community's (EEC) Venice declaration of June 1980 was dead.

Zaire President Mobutu Sese Seko, in Paris, says all obstacles for the resumption of diplomatic relations with Israel have been lifted.

The Knesset adopts a bill applying Israeli law to the Golan Heights, amounting to annexation of the Syrian-held territory captured in the 1967 Six-Day War. The U.S. supports a UN call on Israel to rescind its Golan Law.

Washington announces the suspension of the recently signed memorandum of understanding with Israel because of the Golan Law.

Begin, in one of the most bitter attacks ever delivered against the U.S. by an Israeli leader, accuses the Reagan Administration of trying to "punish" Israel by suspending the memorandum of understanding and of treating Israel like a "vassal state."

Saudi Arabia's acting delegate to the UN, Gaafar Allagany, says the Fahd plan recognizes Israel by affirming in point seven of the plan "the right of all countries of the region to live in peace." Two days later, this view is officially disavowed by "an official Saudi source."

JANUARY 1982 --

Secretary of State Alexander Haig, ending his second trip to Israel and Egypt in two weeks, admits there are "still more differences than there are agreements" over the issue of autonomy for the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Foreign Minister and Deputy Premier Kamal Hassan Ali calls on Israel and the PLO to mutually recognize one another, and affirms that Egypt is in contact with the PLO through its representatives in Cairo.

Mayor Elias Freij of Bethlehem and Mayor Rashad Shawa of Gaza call on the PLO to recognize Israel. Other Mayors reject the urgings.

The U.S. vetoes a Jordanian-sponsored Security Council resolution which calls for "considering effective measures" against Israel for its annexation of the Golan Heights.

Official Saudi state Riyadh Radio broadcasts a statement by a spokesman for the Foreign Ministry saying there is no truth to the statement by Prince Saudi el Faisal, the Saudi Foreign Minister, that his government was prepared to accept Israel on the condition that it recognizes Palestinian rights and returns all the occupied territories.

In the first high level contact of its kind since 1978, Pope John Paul II meets with Shamir and calls on Israel to work harder for "a just and stable peace" in the Mideast and to "adhere to international conventions."

FEBRUARY --

Mubarak, meeting in Washington with Reagan for the first time, says the key to peace and stability in the Middle East "is to solve the Palestinian problem" and that both Israel and the Palestinians "have an inherent right to exist and function as a national entity, free from domination and fears."

Israel's Cabinet formally approves the participation of four European countries in the Sinai peacekeeping force.

Begin serves notice on the PLO that if any Israeli citizen is killed as a result of a PLO attack anywhere, Israel would take "immediate action" against the PLO terrorist bases in Lebanon.

Special Presidential envoy Philip Habib goes on his fourth mission to the Mideast to preserve the fragile cease-fire across the Israel-Lebanon border which he negotiated last summer.

Reports of U.S. intentions to sell advanced weaponry to Jordan causes a storm of protest both in Washington and Jerusalem resulting in a Reagan to Begin letter reassuring the Israeli Premier that "Israel remains America's friend and ally."

MARCH --

Israeli authorities oust the elected Mayor of El Bireh, Ibrahim Tawil, and the town council, triggering the largest demonstrations on the West Bank since Israel occupied the territory 15 years ago.

In a continuing purge of pro-PLO officials on the West Bank, Israeli authorities oust the West Bank Mayors Bassam Shaka of Nablus and Karim Khalaf of Ramallah on the grounds that they were agents for the PLO.

For only the second time since Israel captured the Golan Heights, a Druze town is placed under curfew because of a continuing strike by Druze residents protesting Israel's annexation of the Golan Heights.

With violence escalating in the occupied territories, the Cabinet affirms that the government would "continue undaunted" its policies on the West Bank which are aimed at destroying the PLO influence there while giving all possible aid to Arab residents who are prepared to "observe the law and keep the peace."

Sharon announced the banning of the National Guidance Committee, the pro-PLO organization working on the West Bank.

Members of the U.S. 82 Airborne Division arrive in Ophira at the southern tip of Sinai marking the first arrival of troops who will act as a peace-keeping force in Sinai.

Former President Ford offers to meet with PLO chief Yasir Arafat as a "private citizen" to further PLO participation in the Middle East peace process.

Israel Cabinet announces it would forego the scheduled visit of Mubarak as a result of the Egyptian leader's refusal to include Jerusalem on his itinerary.

APRIL --

Just days before the withdrawal from Sinai is to be completed, Israel's Air Force hits Palestinian bases over a wide area of Lebanon in what is officially described as a "counter-attack" in retaliation for "bloody attacks and murderous acts" by terrorists against Israeli citizens in Israel and Europe.

Israel completes its evacuation of Sinai, returning the peninsula to full Egyptian control in strict compliance with the timetable established by the Camp David accords and the Israel-Egyptian peace treaty signed three years ago.

MAY --

"Another elected Arab official, Mayor Wahid Hamdallah of Anabta village, is removed from office after an Israeli court finds him guilty of alleged security violations.

The Knesset endorses a policy statement by Begin affirming that Jewish settlements will never again be removed even in the context of peace agreements with Arab countries, and that Israel will lay formal claim to the West Bank and Gaza Strip at the end of the five year autonomy transition period.

Talks between Egypt and Israel over Palestinian autonomy become snagged on the issue of venue. Israel insists that Jerusalem be a site for the talks while Egypt refuses to send its delegation to the Israeli capital.

Ashraf Ghorbal, Egypt's Ambassador to the U.S., suggests that the Reagan Administration conduct a "dialogue" with the PLO as a means to induce the organization "to take steps" toward recognition of Israel.

Costa Rica moves its Embassy back to Jerusalem after transferring it to Tel Aviv in accordance with UN resolutions after the Jerusalem law is adopted in 1971 declaring Jerusalem the undivided capital of Israel.

Israel formally re-opens its Embassy in Kinshasa, Zaire, after re-establishing diplomatic relations with the Black African country.

Begin accuses Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger of paying "lip service" to Israel's security while advocating the sale of modern U.S. weaponry to Israel's enemies -- Iraq and Jordan.

Strains develop between Jerusalem and Cairo and Washington over Israel's support of Iran in its war with Iraq. Sharon earlier had confirmed reports that Israel was supplying Iran with "small quantities" of arms.

Israel launches its "Peace for Galilee" operation in Lebanon which Begin assures Reagan is solely designed to push the PLO out of rocket and artillery range of Israel's northern border settlements. In two days, Israeli forces cover twice the intended distance of 25 miles and sit on the outskirts of Beirut.

Haig resigns over split with other Administration officials on foreign policy matters. George Shultz, a conservative economist and industrialist, is named as his successor.

The Syrian SAM-6 missile battery installations in the Bekaa valley are destroyed by the Israel Air Force. The missiles were the focus of tension in the region and the subject of several diplomatic shuttle efforts in the region by Philip Habib.

While Israel's war in Lebanon rages, Begin arrives at the White House in Washington and claims that the U.S. has provided implicit support for Israel's goals in Lebanon.

Begin meets with the Senate Foreign Relations Committee in closed session in what observers describe as one of the toughest exchanges ever between American lawmakers and a visiting head of state.

(Continued Tomorrow)