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ISRAELI TROOPS ENTER WEST BEIRUT FOLLOWING GEMAYEL'S ASSASSINATION

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Sept. 15 (JTA) -- Israeli troops and armor entered west Beirut in force last night after the death of President-elect Bashir Gemayel in a bomb blast yesterday was confirmed. A military spokesman said the Israeli forces moved in "to prevent any possible serious incidents and to ensure quiet."

The spokesman added, "The IDF forces' entry was accomplished without incident." But by mid-morning, reports from Beirut said leftwing forces and Palestine Liberation Organization remnants left behind when the PLO evacuated west Beirut last month had opened fire on Israeli troops. The reports spoke of stiff fighting involving tanks, bazooka, mortar and machinegun fire.

Gemayel succumbed to injuries sustained when a massive bomb explosion destroyed the headquarters of his Christian Phalangist Party in east Beirut where he was attending a meeting. Eight other persons were reported dead and at least 50 injured. Initial reports quoted Gemayel's associates as saying that the 34-year-old Phalangist leader was alive when extricated from the rubble. Apparently, he died in a hospital but this was not confirmed for many hours.

Strongly Supported By Israel

Gemayel's rightwing Phalangists were strongly supported by Israel which considered them an ally in the drive to oust PLO and Syrian forces from Lebanon. His election last month to the Presidency, an office he was to have assumed September 23, was hailed in Jerusalem as the forerunner of a strong central government in Beirut. Israeli leaders openly acknowledged that the presence of Israeli forces in Lebanon was in large measure responsible for Gemayel's election by the Lebanese parliament. There were no rival candidates.

But Premier Menachem Begin was reportedly disappointed when Gemayel appeared to hedge on the matter of an early peace treaty with Israel and said he planned to arrest Maj. Saad Haddad, commander of the Israel-supported Christian militia in south Lebanon, and put him on trial as a deserter.

With Gemayel's death, it appeared that incumbent President Elias Sarkis will remain in office temporarily. Lebanese government sources said Sarkis could call for new elections before September 23 or could appoint a Presidential Council to exercise executive power until elections are held.

New Turmoil Foreshadowed

The assassination of Gemayel foreshadowed new turmoil between Lebanon's Christian minority and Lebanese Moslems. The Moslems themselves are divided. Some were bitterly opposed to Gemayel while others offered him qualified support in the interests of a united Lebanon.

The immediate development was the entry of Israeli troops into the Lebanese capital. They had been withdrawn from the immediate area of Beirut

recently after Syrian and PLO forces left west Beirut under the supervision of a multinational force that included some 800 marines. They and the French and Italian forces which comprised the multinational force have since left.

According to reports from Beirut today, some Israeli troops were landed from large transport aircraft at Beirut International Airport last night and others pushed into the city by road from three directions. Israeli troops were said to have occupied areas of the city they had previously kept away from, including the main hotels and the sections housing foreign embassies. They also took over buildings occupied until a month ago by El Fatah and other PLO branches.

While their ground forces advanced, Israeli warplanes made low passes over the city but did not drop bombs or open fire. At the same time, recently removed barricades were re-erected separating the Christian eastern sector from Moslem west Beirut.

The decision to send Israeli troops into west Beirut was taken by Begin and Defense Minister Ariel Sharon after midnight last night, shortly after news of Gemayel's death was known.

Sharon himself was in Beirut shortly after dawn, as Israeli soldiers began landing at the international airport south of the city and fanning out through the western sector of the city, advancing slowly but carefully along the main streets and taking up positions at important road crossings.

Sharon later called at the residence of the Gemayel family in a village outside Beirut, to express his condolences and those of the Israel government. According to a press report, Sharon also attended the funeral of Bashir Gemayel, but no confirmation of his presence at that ceremony was available here.

Begin sent cables of condolence to Pierre Gemayel, founder of the Phalangist party, and to the slain leader's widow. He denounced the assassination as "This dastardly crime" and spoke of the "depth of my shock." He praised Gemayel as "a brave fighter and true Lebanese patriot."

Foreign Minister Shamir noted, in a brief statement, that the murder of Gemayel was "a heavy blow to the efforts to rehabilitate and re-unite Lebanon... a criminal act perpetrated by those elements which seek to prevent the independence of Lebanon."

Tensions And Controversies

Meanwhile, all of Lebanon was gripped by tension and new controversies arose in Israel in the aftermath of developments in Beirut. Israeli and Syrian forces stepped up their alerts in the central and eastern sectors of the country, particularly in the Bekaa Valley where Israeli and Syrian forces have clashed recently.

In south Lebanon, curfews were imposed in the coastal town of Sidon and in villages throughout the area. Road traffic was halted in the south and on the main Beirut-Damascus highway. Haddad's militiamen were assisting in enforcement of the curfews.

In Israel, Minister of Science and Development Yuval Neeman, head of the ultra-nationalist Tehiya party, claimed that Gemayel's murder confirmed the need for permanent Israeli control of south Lebanon. But Shimon Peres, chairman of the opposition Labor Party, said Israeli troops should be withdrawn immediately from west Beirut. He suggested that an international

force be sent in if necessary to prevent a renewal of civil war in Lebanon.

Peres also maintained that the Likud government erred by putting too much trust in Gemayel to restore peace and tranquility in Lebanon. The left-wing Shinui party and the Peace Now movement issued separate calls for an Israeli withdrawal from the Beirut area and from all of Lebanon as soon as possible.

BEGIN; WITHDRAWAL OF FOREIGN TROOPS FROM LEBANON COULD BE ACCOMPLISHED WITHIN A FEW WEEKS

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Sept. 15 (JTA) -- Premier Menachem Begin told American diplomats today that in his view a withdrawal of all foreign troops from Lebanon could be accomplished "within a time span not exceeding a few weeks." He made this remark following a meeting with U.S. special envoy Morris Draper, who flew to the region yesterday to embark on the next stage of U.S. mediation in Lebanon to secure the withdrawal of remaining PLO, Syrian and Israeli forces from that country.

Begin's hopeful estimate contrasted sharply with the general mood of shock, uncertainty and distress that descended on Jerusalem with the news that President-elect Bashir Gemayel was killed in a bomb blast.

Israeli officials said the assassination "changed the situation, but it is too early for an informed assessment of the present situation in Lebanon, or of what the future is likely to bring." Draper, for his part, told the Israelis that he had been instructed to press ahead with redoubled vigor to help work out a negotiated withdrawal of foreign forces from Lebanon.

As Draper was meeting first with Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir and then with Begin in Jerusalem, Israeli troops occupied new key positions in Beirut. The American diplomat was reportedly told by the Israeli leaders that these military movements were to "ensure quiet" and to "avoid any untoward movements."

Ongoing U.S.-Israel Cooperation

Israeli officials said after the meetings that there would be ongoing close cooperation between the U.S. and Israel in the wake of this latest tragic turn of events in Lebanon.

Draper flew to Beirut for talks with political leaders there and to attend Gemayel's funeral this afternoon. He was scheduled to proceed to Damascus, before returning to Beirut where he will set up his headquarters for the negotiations he proposes to conduct.

Israeli officials said they hoped to receive from Draper in the next day or so, either in person or through channels, his own reports and impressions on the situation in Lebanon following the assassination. The officials said Begin had also urged Draper to press the Syrians for information on Israeli prisoners of war they are holding.

ISRAEL'S CONSUL GENERAL SHOCKED AT ASSASSINATION OF GEMAYEL

By Yitzhak Rabi

NEW YORK, Sept. 15 (JTA) -- Expressing "shock" at the assassination of Bashir Gemayel, Lebanon's President-elect, Israel's Consul General in New York, Naphtali Lavie, said today that "it is very disturbing" that whenever an Arab leader expresses his willingness to establish peaceful relations with Israel, as Gemayel did, he is assassinated.

Describing Gemayel as "a young promising leader" with whom Israel hoped to establish "neighborly, normal relations," Lavie said that Lebanon, which seemed to be heading for stability, is going to be "torn again by hostile factions." He said that the Palestine Liberation Organization is directly responsible for Lebanon's present tragic situation which is "a direct result of the brutal takeover of Lebanon some 12 years ago by PLO terrorists who destroyed the delicate social and cultural structure of Lebanon."

"As good neighbors," Lavie stated, "Israelis wish the Lebanese to recover from their tragic state of affairs and to reconcile with each other so they could get back to normal life without any further disasters."

BACKGROUND REPORT SPECULATION THAT GEMAYEL'S LINKS TO ISRAEL AND LEANINGS TOWARD A PEACE TREATY LED TO HIS DEATH

By Kevin Freeman

NEW YORK, Sept. 15 (JTA) -- President Reagan last night condemned the "cowardly assassination" of President-elect Bashir Gemayel of Lebanon, saying it is a "shock to the American people and to civilized men and women everywhere."

"We condemn the perpetrators of this heinous crime against Lebanon and against their cause of peace in the Middle East," Reagan said in a strongly worded White House statement. "The tragedy will be even greater if men in countries friendly to Lebanon permit disorder to continue in this war-torn country."

According to observers in Washington, Gemayel, the 34-year-old Christian Phalangist leader who was elected August 23 to succeed Elias Sarkis and was to be sworn into office next week, may have been assassinated for his close economic and military links to Israel and his leanings toward eventually signing a peace treaty with the Jewish State.

The son of Pierre Gemayel, founder of the Christian Phalangist Party in Lebanon, Bashir Gemayel rose to prominence when his forces fought a bloody civil war against armed Palestinians and their Lebanese Moslem and leftist supporters in 1975-1976. During this time, Gemayel received military and economic support from Israel for his forces which grew to nearly 25,000 troops at the time the Israeli military operation began in June.

Gemayel's image as a ruthless military warrior seemed to tone down in recent months to a position of moderation and reconciliation. This was indicated by his meeting last Sunday with Moslem leaders in an attempt to reverse the years of bitterness between Moslems and Christians and to reunite the country under a central ruling government. Many Moslem leaders had boycotted the parliamentary vote, terming Gemayel as an Israeli "collaborator." He was the only announced candidate in the elections.

Ambassador Moshe Arens of Israel said last night in an interview on ABC-TV's "Nightline" program that he could not place specific blame for the assassination on a specific organization in Lebanon's factional political structure. However, he said a possible motive behind the assassination might have been Gemayel's eventual goal of signing a peace treaty with Israel.

No group has as yet claimed responsibility for planting the high explosive device which ripped through the Phalangist Party headquarters in east Beirut and buried the President-elect amid rubble for some six hours before his body was recovered.

Responding to a suggestion that Israel might seek to assume some role in Lebanon to fill a "vacuum" left by Gemayel's assassination, Arens told the TV interviewer that Israel has no intention to fill the void. He said, that Israel's objective in Lebanon, as has been stated previously, was to see a united and

democratic Lebanon! He said Israel would do what it can to help Lebanon achieve this goal.

Gemayel remained initially hesitant in his views about relations with Israel and his view of a Lebanese-Israeli peace treaty. The Lebanese leader feared such a move would isolate Lebanon from the rest of the Arab world and would create difficulties domestically between Moslems and Christians.

Gemayel, according to reports, wanted time to rebuild a central Lebanese government which could maintain rule over all of Lebanon before entering into a peace agreement with Israel. He indicated just last week that he was being pressured by Israel to conclude a peace treaty with the Jewish state.

Complained Of Being Pressured

Gemayel reportedly complained last Saturday in a meeting with Sen. Arlen Specter (R. Pa.) that "I'm being pressured" by the Israel government to conclude a peace treaty. He made this point, according to a report from Jerusalem, with the clear intention that the Senator convey his concern to Israeli leaders.

It was the late President-elect's feelings that he was being pressured which led to a caustic meeting between Gemayel and Premier Menachem Begin, Defense Minister Ariel Sharon, and Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir two weeks ago. Begin at that meeting, according to reports, urged Gemayel to commit himself to sign a formal peace treaty with Israel once he had assumed office.

Specter, in a meeting with Deputy Foreign Minister Yehuda Ben Meir, was told that Israel was not pressing and "not interfering in Lebanon's internal affairs."

According to a report in Maariv in August, Gemayel met with an Israeli personality and urged the Israelis not to rush things and push him into an early peace treaty. Gemayel reportedly expected the personality, who was not identified and was said to have met with Gemayel several days before his election to understand the difficulties he was facing with rival factions and communities in Lebanon and with the neighboring Syria which opposed his candidacy and election.

Just last Thursday, Secretary of State George Shultz said the United States would support a treaty arrangement between Lebanon and Israel only if it was achieved freely and not through military pressure.

Speaking before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Shultz said that if a peace treaty is in the interests of Lebanon's ruling government and does negotiate it, "that's a real peace treaty and that is highly desirable." But he added, "a peace treaty that is signed at the point of a gun is not, in the end, a long lasting peace treaty."

In an interview with Israel Radio after his election, Gemayel said: "It is a big achievement for our democracy, it's a great day. I hope that what we achieved until now -- to reunite the country and to free the country will continue -- and sovereignty would be reinstated." On relations with Israel, Gemayel would not be specific at that time, but said: "We will have a new government, and this government will decide about all steps to be taken concerning the outside world."

Gemayel's view toward Lebanon's future was firm. He said in interviews with western news media and Israel Radio that all foreign forces should leave Lebanon and the time has come

for the Lebanese government to "take on the responsibility for security on Lebanese soil and ensure that never again will our neighbors be in danger from actions launched from Lebanon."

Gemayel said in an interview with Time magazine this week that "we have no more room for little private armies ... only (the) Lebanese army ... This is the only guarantee for our defense, so that the Israelis or the U.S. marines or United Nations forces won't have to be coming in all the time."

In a recent article published in the Washington Post, Gemayel issued several guidelines that should be followed if Lebanon was to pursue a new "destiny." He said that any solution to the Lebanese crisis must include the recovery of Lebanese sovereignty over its entire territory and the restoration of the Lebanese state of its full authority; that Israel and Syrian forces must depart from Lebanon and a Lebanese army must emerge strong enough to preserve the territorial integrity of Lebanon; and that all Palestinians continuing to reside in Lebanon must submit to and respect the authority of the Lebanese government in Lebanon.

STATE DEPARTMENT SAYS GEMAYEL'S DEATH WILL NOT AFFECT REAGAN'S MIDDLE EAST PEACE INITIATIVE

By Helen Silver

WASHINGTON, Sept. 15 (JTA) -- The State Department said today that President Reagan's Middle East peace initiative remains the same even though yesterday's assassination of Lebanon's President-elect Bashir Gemayel "complicates that mission." Department spokesman John Hughes also said that the U.S. does "not acquiesce" with the movement of Israeli troops into west Beirut today.

Hughes said that the death of Gemayel "was indeed a tragedy, made even more so because it came at a time of renewed hope that violence in Lebanon can be brought to an end." He added that "this latest violent tragedy re-emphasizes the need for urgency in the search for peace in the Middle East."

U.S. Objectives In Lebanon

Noting that U.S. special Ambassador Morris Draper is presently in Beirut, the State Department spokesman said he would "continue to work closely with the government of Lebanon in pursuit of its objectives." He said those objectives, which were the goal of the slain President-elect and which the U.S. shares, are the restoration of authority of the central government and the withdrawal of all foreign military forces from the country.

Other American aims, Hughes said, were "the creation of conditions which assure that Lebanon will never again be a launching pad for attacks against Israel, the promotion of national unity and reconciliation" and "the strengthening of all national institutions including the army" of Lebanon.

Hughes said the U.S. would be consulting with President Elias Sarkis, Prime Minister-Shafiq Wazzan and other Lebanese officials "to explore ways to assist their efforts to maintain stability." He added: "We have also contacted Israeli officials in Beirut, Washington and in Israel. We have urged they do nothing to increase tensions and we again call upon all parties to exercise restraint."

Asked if the U.S. shared Israel's justification for its military actions to restore stability in Beirut, Hughes replied, "It is not a question of sharing their view. We do not acquiesce with the movement of those troops -- we were not consulted."

TEL AVIV (JTA) -- The cost of living index rose by 7.9 percent during August, as against 3.9 percent in August 1981.

POPE, ARAFAT IN PRIVATE MEETING; PONTIFF APPEALS FOR THE INTERNATIONALIZATION OF JERUSALEM

ROME, Sept. 15 (JTA) -- Palestine Liberation Organization chief Yasir Arafat had a 20-minute private audience with Pope John Paul II at the Vatican today. There was no immediate statement issued but a Vatican source was reported to have said later that the encounter changes the political status of the PLO.

Shortly after the meeting, the Pope issued a strong appeal for the internationalization of Jerusalem, a position long held by the Vatican. "Jerusalem is the city of God. Jerusalem can also become the city of man in which the believers of the three great monotheistic religions, Christianity, Judaism and Islam live in full liberty and equality with the followers of other religious communities," the Pope declared.

The highly controversial meeting was conducted under maximum security conditions. Arafat entered and left the Vatican by a seldom used side door. The Pope flew to Rome from his summer retreat at Castel Gandolfo.

Earlier today, Arafat addressed the 69th Inter-parliamentary Union meeting's opening session here, urging it to create a commission to investigate Israel's "war crimes" in Lebanon. He claimed that some 70,000 people were killed, wounded or missing since Israel invaded Lebanon June 6.

According to the PLO leader, Israel embarked on the Lebanese operation to create a new strategic map of the Middle East favorable to its interests and in the process, to wipe out the Palestinian people.

At a later press conference, Arafat claimed the assassination of Lebanese President-elect Bashir Gemayel in Beirut yesterday was "a provocation by the Americans and Israel so that the Israelis could enter Beirut."

The Pope's decision to receive Arafat raised a storm of protest from Israel and from Jewish organizations and leaders around the world when it was first announced last week. It also put a severe strain on Vatican-Israel relations.

Vatican's Rationale For Meeting

The Vatican reacted with unprecedented anger Monday to remarks by an un-named senior Israeli official in Jerusalem accusing the then Pope and the Catholic Church of silence while the Nazis massacred European Jewry during World War II. The official observed that now the Pope has agreed to meet Arafat "who wants to destroy Israel and thus complete the work of the Nazis."

The Vatican denounced the charge as "an outrage against truth" and an insult to the person of the Pope.

Observers here noted today that the Pope believes in dialogue, even with so-called "enemies"; that he received leaders of totalitarian regimes as well as of democracies, and even representatives of countries not formally recognized by the Vatican -- a case in point being Israel. Among Israeli leaders received by the Pope in the past have been the late Premier Golda Meir, the late Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan and former Foreign Minister Abba Eban, now a leading Labor Alignment Knesset member.

The observers stressed that receiving a PLO leader does not mean the Vatican is ready to recognize the PLO. Arafat was not the first PLO man to meet with the Pope. Farouk Kaddumi, the PLO's foreign affairs spokesman, was received at the Vatican some time ago.

(In New York City, more than 500 students from Yeshiva University and the Stern College for Women, which is affiliated with the university, demonstrated for some 90 minutes to protest the Pope-Arafat meeting. The demonstration, across the street from St. Patrick's Cathedral, was sponsored by the Student Association of Stern College, according to Rabbi Avraham Weiss, a teacher at the college who also participated in the rally.)

HAIG RAPS REAGAN'S MIDEAST PLAN

NEW YORK, Sept. 15 (JTA) -- Former Secretary of State Alexander Haig, in his first address to a Jewish organization since he resigned from the Reagan Administration last June, denounced President Reagan's "fresh start" plan for the Middle East.

Speaking without a text to 300 United Jewish Appeal leaders at the UJA's "Hineni!" leadership meeting, Haig said last night the Reagan proposal for a freeze on Jewish settlements in the West Bank was "a very serious mistake." He asserted that he had examined the record of the Camp David negotiations carefully and had concluded that "Israel never committed itself to terminate permanent settlements on the West Bank."

Haig, in making his first criticism of the Reagan Administration, did not refer directly to Reagan's September 1 nationwide television address, in which the President spelled out his proposals for further steps in the Mideast peace process, following the evacuation of PLO and Syrian forces from west Beirut.

The UJA has not taken a formal stance on Reagan's proposals but frequent applause for Haig indicated strong agreement with his criticisms. He received a standing ovation when he concluded with the comment "when we are true to Israel, we are true to ourselves."

Criticizes Proposal To Revive Autonomy Talks

Haig also was sharply critical of the Reagan proposal to revive the stalled autonomy talks for the Palestinians of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip in association with Jordan. He said the President's idea posed the threat of a "gutting session" between Israel and the United States.

"When, by our policies, we cannot deal effectively with our friends in Israel, we are undercutting our effectiveness throughout the Arab world," Haig said. Israel has formally rejected all elements of the Reagan proposals. He proposed that Israel keep responsibility for security on the West Bank, with governing authority for both the Arabs and the Israelis there. He said the future of the West Bank was a matter "for the local nations to decide, not for the United States to dictate."

In rejecting the Arab League proposal for a Palestinian state controlled by the PLO, Haig said it was not in either United States or Israel's interest "to have an enclave established on the West Bank which is susceptible to manipulation by foreign powers."

PARIS (JTA) -- President Francois Mitterrand Tuesday invited a dozen prominent French intellectuals, most of them Jews, to the Elysee Palace for a "frank and honest explanation" of his Administration's policy in the Mideast. Among those present at the almost two-hour meeting were philosopher Simone de Beauvoir, economist Pierre Nora, editor Jean Daniel and writers Claude Lanzmann, Pierre Vidal Naquet and Alain Finkelraut.