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CABINET REJECTS ALL ACCUSATIONS THAT ISRAEL WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR MASSACRE OF PALESTINIANS IN BEIRUT

By Gil Sedan and Hugh Orgel

JERUSALEM, Sept. 20 (JTA) -- The Cabinet has angrily rejected "all direct or implicit accusations" that Israel was in any way responsible for the massacre of civilians in the Shatila and Sabra refugee camps in west Beirut Friday, reportedly by elements of the Christian Phalangists and Maj. Saad Haddad's Christian militia, private military forces armed and supported by Israel.

A communique bristling with anger was issued after a three-hour emergency meeting of the Cabinet late last night denouncing such accusations as a "blood libel" against Israel, its government and its army.

The communique was in response to a flood of criticism abroad alleging that Israel had acquiesced in and may even have facilitated the slaughter of at least 300 Palestinian men, women and children by allowing the armed Christian forces into the camps and doing nothing to halt the carnage.

The Cabinet communique also reacted to mounting criticism at home of Israel's deepening involvement in strife-torn Lebanon by calling on all Israelis to "rally round their democratically elected government."

Anti-government criticism boiled over at home. Demonstrators outside Begin's Jerusalem residence and elsewhere in Israel demanded that Israel pull out of west Beirut and out of Lebanon. Labor Party leaders called for the prompt resignation of Begin and Defense Minister Ariel Sharon. Begin declared today that he would not resign. At the Cabinet session last night he accused the Laborites of "degenerate galutism" and of "kneeling before the goy."

Related Events Cited

Other developments, related to the events which began with Israel's occupation of west Beirut last Wednesday and climaxed by the discovery of hundreds of murdered civilians in the refugee camps Friday included:

Acknowledgement by Cabinet ministers that Israel was in grave crisis with the U.S.; the Cabinet's agreement to increase the number of United Nations observers in Beirut but its flat rejection of the dispatch of an international force to the Lebanese capital or the transfer there of elements of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), now confined to south Lebanon; Egypt's recall this morning of its Ambassador to Israel, Saad Mortada, conflicting reports of events in west Beirut by Israeli military sources which seemed to cast doubt on the government's version of what transpired.

Foreign Ministry sources in Cairo said today that Ambassador Mortada was instructed to take the first available plane to Cairo for consultations arising from events in Beirut which have been strongly condemned by the Egyptian government. But this fell far short of a rupture of diplomatic relations with Israel.

Foreign Minister Kamal Hassan Ali dispatched a note to UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar calling Israel solely to blame for the massacre

of civilians in the Palestinian refugee camps in west Beirut "because of its occupation of the Lebanese capital." The note referred to "the bestial acts of Israel in Lebanon."

8 Israeli Soldiers Killed, 100 Wounded

The army, meanwhile, acknowledged that eight Israeli soldiers have been killed and about 100 wounded — a dozen seriously — since Israeli forces occupied west Beirut last Wednesday following the assassination Tuesday of President-elect Bashir Gemayel, leader of the Phalangist party. Three of the dead were killed when their tank was blown up, apparently by a rocket launched grenade.

Statement By The Cabinet

The escalating crisis caused Begin to summon his Cabinet into extraordinary session immediately after the conclusion of the Rosh Hashanah holiday. The government communique, read to reporters by Cabinet Secretary Dan Meridor, referred to only one of the refugee camps, Shatila, which is adjacent to the Sabra camp. It said:

"In a place where there was no position of the Israeli army, a Lebanese unit entered a refugee center where terrorists were hiding in order to apprehend them. This unit caused many casualties to innocent civilians. We state this fact with deep grief and regret.

"The IDF (Israel Defense Force), as soon as it learned of the tragic events in the Shatila camp, put an end to the slaughter of the innocent civilian population and forced the Lebanese units to evacuate the camp. The civilian population itself gave clear expression to its gratitude to the act of salvation by the IDF.

"All the direct or the implicit accusations that the IDF bears any blame whatsoever for this human tragedy in the Shatila camp are entirely baseless and without any foundation. The Government of Israel rejects them with the contempt they deserve. The fact remains that without the intervention of the IDF, there would have been much greater loss of life.

"Despite the internal incitement, we call upon the people of Israel to unite around its democratically elected government in its struggle for security and peace for Israel and all her citizens. No one would preach to us ethics and respect for human lives, values on which we have dedicated — and we will continue to dedicate — generations of Israeli fighters."

Israel's Explanation Of The Events

Israeli officials said today that the Phalangists entered the refugee camps to search for terrorists and arms supplies. They encountered resistance in the camps and that was when the killings started, the officials said. They claimed that Israeli forces in the vicinity heard the shooting but believed it was an encounter with the terrorists.

No one could think or know that the Phalangists would carry out a massacre inasmuch as Israel believed tempers had cooled in the days following Gemayel's assassination officials said.

Ironically, Israel had justified its occupation of west Beirut, in face of strong remonstrations from Washington, in part on grounds that it sought to prevent Phalangists from wreaking bloody revenge for the assassination of their leader. Israel also claimed it had been hoodwinked by the Palestine Liberation Organization and that

at least 2,000 armed PLO terrorists remained in west Beirut after their main body evacuated the city last month.

Although the Cabinet accepted the UN Security Council's call to station UN observers in west Beirut, it rejected an American demand that two or three UNIFIL battalions from south Lebanon be transferred there. Israel is insisting that the Lebanese army take over the positions presently held by Israeli forces.

Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir was expected to send U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz a cable today expressing Israel's readiness to allow some 40 UN observers into west Beirut, in accordance with the Security Council resolution. Shamir reportedly received a strongly worded message from Shultz Saturday night demanding Israel's immediate withdrawal from west Beirut.

Contradictory Reports Cited

Meanwhile, an analysis of army and other official statements and pronouncements over the holiday weekend revealed many contradictions and inconsistencies. Defense Minister Sharon claimed that Israeli forces "surrounded the (refugee) camps." Chief of Staff Gen. Rafael Eitan said Israeli forces were positioned only at the western periphery of the camps, leaving their eastern approaches open for the Phalangist forces.

While some Israeli reports said Phalangist elements who entered the camp did so on their own authority, other official reports stated that they were sent in by the Israeli army on orders of higher civilian authorities, to help, or to carry out alone, the search for PLO terrorists believed hiding in the camps.

Galei Zahal, the Israel armed forces radio, reported from Beirut at midnight last Thursday, that the IDF had "decided to leave the cleansing of the Sabra and Shatila refugee camps to the Phalangist force." The broadcast was repeated during the night but discontinued early Friday morning.

Zeev Schiff, the respected military correspondent of the independent daily Haaretz, reported that he had learned early Friday morning that a slaughter had occurred in the refugee camps during the night.

Schiff is understood to have passed his information on to Communications Minister Mordechai Zipori who, in turn, conveyed it to Shamir Friday morning. But Shamir told the Cabinet last night that he had first learned of the massacre Friday night.

When reminded by Zipori that he had given him the information Friday morning, Shamir reportedly told aides that he "treated Zipori's statement like he treated many other reports by him -- with suspicion." He added that he had checked with the army which told him it knew nothing of a massacre. But this apparently was hours after the massacre occurred and hours after the army had intervened to get the Phalangists out of the camp area.

Long History Of Blood Feuds

Hirsh Goodman, military correspondent of the Jerusalem Post, reported today that Israeli intelligence services had warned Begin and Sharon of the danger of a blood feud between the unarmed Palestinians in the camps and the armed Phalangist groups. Observers here noted that the Middle East in general and Lebanon in particular, have a long history of blood feuds, something Israeli leaders could not have been unaware of.

Christians and Druze clashed in Lebanon some months ago until Israeli soldiers intervened. Maj.

Haddad's forces have been accused of murdering many women and children in south Lebanon after Israel invaded that region in the Litani River campaign of 1978.

While refugee camp survivors were claiming today that Haddad's men took part in the massacre, this was denied by Haddad and by Israeli officers. Haddad claimed that the Israeli forces had prevented his men from advancing beyond the Awali River, just north of Sidon in south Lebanon. But Israeli officers reported that "at least one" of Haddad's militiamen was shot when Israeli troops acted to oust the Phalangists from the area.

Reports from Beirut today said surviving refugees were fleeing the camps in panic when rumors spread that Haddad's men were returning. The refugees tried to rush past an Israeli army roadblock but were turned back when Israeli troops fired into the air. Israeli sources said the panic ended when Lebanese security forces persuaded the refugees that the reports of Haddad's return were baseless.

Begin Links Crisis With Reagan's Plan

During last night's Cabinet session, Begin reportedly linked the west Beirut crisis with President Reagan's plan for the West Bank and Palestinian autonomy, announced by the President September 1 and immediately and categorically rejected by the Begin government. He reportedly accused the Reagan Administration of using the west Beirut crisis to force Israel to accept the Reagan plan.

One senior political source was quoted today as saying, "west Beirut is the turning point in relations between the two countries" (Israel and the U.S.). Although there was criticism in the Cabinet against the decision to occupy west Beirut -- taken by Begin and Sharon without consulting their fellow ministers -- objections, if any, by the ministers attending last night's meeting were kept off the record.

Begin rejected all criticism of Israel. He said the Cabinet ministers knew of the plan to allow the Phalangists to enter the Palestinian camps to get rid of the remaining terrorists. Nobody could have surmised the results, Begin said. He dismissed criticism around the Cabinet table as "wisdom after the event."

Criticizes The Labor Party

He lashed out against the Labor Party. "That party suffers from degenerate galutism," he said, meaning a diaspora mentality. "This is their way of shaking off responsibility, of kneeling before the goy, even if it's li-bel." He charged that it always had been the practice of Labor to say: "It is not us; it is the separatists, (Herut). That's the way they escaped responsibility in the bombing of the King David Hotel."

He was referring to the bombing of the Jerusalem hotel in 1947 where the British Mandate authorities maintained offices. The underground Irgun Zvai Leumi, then headed by Begin, claimed responsibility. About 90 lives were lost.

Peres: Begin, Sharon Should Resign

The Labor Alignment did not respond directly to Begin's remarks but demanded today that he and Sharon "resign because of their responsibility in ordering the IDF to enter west Beirut and thus indirectly created the conditions for the massacre."

Labor Party chairman Shimon Peres stressed that the Premier's and the Defense Minister's responsibility, though "indirect," was sufficient to justify their resignation because they ignored the Labor Alignments repeated warnings to stay out of west Beirut.

Labor also demanded the immediate creation of a state commission of inquiry -- similar to the one established to investigate Israel's lack of preparedness when the Yom Kippur War broke out in October, 1973 -- to study the massacre. Peres insisted today that Israel leave west Beirut immediately "even if it means leaving behind stocks of weapons."

NAVON CALLS FOR INDEPENDENT INQUIRY INTO BEIRUT MASSACRE

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Sept. 20 (JTA) -- President Yitzhak Navon called tonight for an independent inquiry by a "credible" body into the massacre of Palestinian civilians in two refugee camps in west Beirut Friday. He said, in a prepared statement, which he read personally to the media that Israel owed an inquiry to itself, to its self-image and to its image "among those civilized countries of which we see ourselves a part."

The President's call echoed in effect the Labor Alignment's demand earlier for a judicial commission of inquiry into events in west Beirut. It also marked one of the rare occasions when the President of Israel has personally intervened in a matter with far-reaching domestic political ramifications. By constitutional convention, the Presidential office generally remains outside of politics.

Navon's statement called for an "early and thorough investigation by credible and independent people into what happened in this awful affair; and if necessary, as a result of the inquiry, to draw conclusions -- then those conclusions must be drawn to the full."

In Hebrew, the idiom "to draw conclusions" is often used as a synonym for "to resign" or "to dismiss" someone. Labor has demanded that Premier Menachem Begin and Defense Minister Ariel Sharon resign for having ordered Israeli forces into west Beirut last Wednesday without prior consultation with the Cabinet.

Navon's remarks raised speculation as to his future plans. Political observers immediately recalled that he announced on television only last week that he would consider returning to politics when his Presidential term expires. His sudden and unexpected intervention in the west Beirut crisis was expected tonight to create a political stir, if not a storm.

Navon observed in his statement that Israel has a long heritage of morality and justice and he was sure that if it stuck to its age-old principles it could emerge from this episode "strengthened sevenfold."

"We cannot simply ignore what has happened and move on to other things," he declared. He said it was difficult for him to express the "horror and revulsion" at the massacre of "helpless men, women and children" and was sure that all Israelis felt the same.

He added that Israel also condemned the attempts by Arab and some other states to lay guilt for the massacre at the door of the Israeli army. "These attempts will fail," Navon said.

SECURITY COUNCIL MEETINGS DEAL WITH THE CRISIS IN LEBANON

By Yitzhak Rabi

UNITED NATIONS, Sept. 20 (JTA) -- The Security Council held two urgent meetings here during the weekend to deal with the escalating crisis in Lebanon. The first meeting Friday was on the issue of the entry of Israeli troops into west Beirut last Wednesday. The second meeting was yesterday to deal with the massacre of Palestinian civilians in two refugee camps in Beirut by Christian militiamen.

Both sessions concluded with the 15-member Council, including the United States, unanimously adopting resolutions on both issues.

On Friday evening, after a lengthy behind-the-scenes consultation, the Council adopted a

resolution condemning the Israeli incursion into Beirut "in violation of the cease-fire agreement" and demanding "an immediate return to the positions occupied by Israel before September 15, 1982 as a first step toward the full implementation of Security Council resolutions."

Israeli troops moved into west Beirut following the murder of Bashir Gemayel, Lebanon's President-elect. The resolution adopted Friday night also condemned the murder of Gemayel "and every effort to disrupt by violence the restoration of a strong, stable government in Lebanon."

Yehuda Blum, Israel's Ambassador to the United Nations, left the Council Chamber before the vote on the resolution was taken because, he explained, he had to observe the Rosh Hashanah holiday. But before leaving, Blum told the Council that Israel does not intend to evacuate west Beirut immediately, as the resolution requested.

Blum said that Israel's forces will "relinquish their positions in west Beirut when the Lebanese army forces are ready to assume control over those positions in coordination with the Israel Defense Forces in order to insure public order and security."

The Israeli envoy also stated that by entering west Beirut, Israel did not breach the agreement worked out by U.S. special envoy Philip Habib because 2,000 PLO terrorists had remained in Beirut and retained large amounts of weapons in contravention of the agreement that called for all PLO troops to evacuate Beirut.

Resolution On Beirut Massacre

Yesterday, the Security Council convened again for an urgent meeting following the massacre of hundreds of Palestinians in west Beirut refugee camps by Christian militiamen.

After an acrimonious debate the Council adopted a resolution at 4 a.m. calling on the Secretary General "as an immediate step, to increase the number of United Nations observers in and around Beirut from 10 to 50 and insist that there shall be no interference with the deployment of the observers and that they shall have full freedom of movement." The resolution condemned "the criminal massacre of Palestinian civilians in Beirut," but did not assign responsibility to anyone for the massacre.

The Western-sponsored resolution was a far cry from the Arabs' demand that the UN should send at least 1,000 troops to supervise the peace in Beirut.

The resolution also requested the Secretary General "in consultation with the government of Lebanon to ensure the rapid deployment of those observers in order that they may contribute in every way possible within their mandate, to the effort to ensure full protection for the civilian population."

In an oblique reference to Israel's past objections to the increase of UN observers in Lebanon, the resolution stated that the Security Council "insists that all concerned must permit the United Nations observers and forces established by the Security Council in Lebanon to be deployed and to discharge their mandates."

Meanwhile, Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar met here today with various representatives, including American Ambassador Jeane Kirkpatrick, to discuss ways to protect the civilian population in Lebanon. Although no official Security Council meeting was scheduled for today, members of the Council were told to be available for a meeting in case of an emergency.

NEW YORK (JTA) -- Jewish leaders in the United States and European government officials reacted with shock and horror at the massacre of Palestinians in Beirut. Full reports on the reactions from this country and Europe will be presented in Wednesday's Bulletin.

TERROR IN EUROPE; EXPLOSION IN PARIS, MACHINE GUN ATTACK IN BRUSSELS MAR ROSH HASHANAH

By Edwin Eytan

PARIS, Sept. 20 (JTA) -- Jews in west European countries prayed this year behind police cordons with army snipers ready to protect them after two terrorist attacks, one in Paris and the other in Brussels, marred Rosh Hashanah observances.

In Paris, close to 50 people, including 45 non-Jewish school students, were wounded by an explosion which blew up the car of an Israeli diplomat on New Year's eve.

In Brussels, a man fired a submachinegun at worshippers leaving the city's main synagogue on the first day of Rosh Hashanah, Saturday morning, seriously wounding four. In both cities several of the injured are still in critical condition.

In most West European capitals, police took stringent security precautions. Police barriers were set up near places of worship and people entering the areas were searched by police officers and local community volunteers for possible hidden weapons and explosives. In spite of the Paris and Brussels attacks, synagogues were crowded in most large European cities.

At Paris' liberal synagogue on the Rue Copernic, where four people were killed by a bomb blast on Simhat Torah in 1980, hundreds of families filled the hall and hundreds more stood outside for lack of space. The same happened in most synagogues in Paris, Brussels, Zurich, Rome and Amsterdam.

In several West European synagogues special services will be held for the wounded today. In France, Chief Rabbi Rene Sirat said Jews will fast in solidarity with the wounded and to protest the Pope's meeting with PLO chief Yasir Arafat at the Vatican last Wednesday.

The Explosion In Paris

The Paris explosion occurred Friday afternoon, at 3:30, as an official of the purchasing mission of the Israeli Defense Ministry, Amos Man-El, 61, turned the ignition key in his car. A powerful blast shook the entire street in a central residential area, shattering windows for several hundred yards and wounding people a block away. The two other passengers in the Israeli diplomat's car, his Venezuelan cousin, Zoltan Mandel, and his wife, Veronica, were seriously injured.

Flying glass wounded 45 children in a nearby school and several passers-by. The purchasing mission had closed earlier than usual to allow 100 staff members to return home to prepare for the Rosh Hashanah celebration. An Israeli Embassy spokesman said that had the staff left on time, as usual, dozens would have been wounded.

Angry crowds rapidly gathered on the site and people started demonstrating, calling for stricter police protection and for the closure of the PLO bureau in Paris.

Israeli Ambassador Meir Rosenne blamed the attack on the Palestine Liberation Organization, quoting one of its leaders, Farouk Kaddumi, as having said that the Palestinians "will make life unlivable for any Israeli wherever he is." Rosenne later met with Prime Minister Pierre Mauroy to protest against the attack.

Israeli sources said Rosenne hinted that France's Mideast policy has been conducive to anti-Israeli and anti-Jewish murderous attacks.

President Francois Mitterrand chaired a special anti-terror crisis group at the Elysee Palace and later government spokesmen said that security precautions will be further tightened up.

Hours after the attack, all Jewish community centers, synagogues and schools as well as many office buildings were cordoned off by police forces, with sharpshooters at the ready.

In phone calls to news agencies in Paris, a group calling itself "The Lebanese Armed Revolutionary Faction" claimed responsibility for the attack. Police said, however, that the calls were not being taken seriously since the calls occurred long after the news was broadcast. The underground group had claimed in the past that it was responsible for the assassination attempt against U.S. Embassy economic counselor Roderick Grant.

Police also detained 14 people suspected of links with the extreme leftwing "Action Directe" organization but later said that none of those arrested seemed to have been involved in the blast.

The Attack In Brussels

The following day, Saturday morning, a man, described by eyewitnesses as a pedestrian, opened fire with a submachinegun on a group of worshippers entering Brussels Regency synagogue in the center of the city, wounding four. A plain clothes detective on guard outside the synagogue returned fire and uniformed officers took up a chase but the man fled down the winding alleys and got lost in the Saturday morning crowd of shoppers and tourists.

The Israeli Embassy in Brussels issued a statement blaming, in part, the attack on what it said were biased, anti-Israeli press reports on the Beirut fighting which created an atmosphere propitious for PLO attacks.

Several Belgian ministers came to the site and Foreign Minister Leo Tindemans told the angry crowds that the government will do everything it can to ensure the Jewish community's protection. The Jewish demonstrators were not appeased. Many called for the government's resignation or at least a change in its Mideast policy. Others assaulted Belgian and foreign television crews and reporters on the spot.

Several terrorist attacks have taken place in recent years in Belgium. In July 1980 a 15-year-old boy was killed and 14 people injured in Antwerp when terrorists attacked a small group of children waiting for a bus to take them to summer camp.

SOVIET JEWISH ACTIVIST ARRESTED

NEW YORK, Sept. 20 (JTA) -- Feliks Kochubievsky, of Novosibirsk, a veteran emigration activist, was arrested September 12 and charged with "circulation of fabrications known to be false which defame the Soviet state and social system," it was reported here. Under Soviet law, he faces a maximum penalty of three years imprisonment or "internal exile."

The 52-year-old engineer, a recipient of the Soviet Order of Merit for Patriotic Work, and his wife, Valentina, have been the constant target of KGB harassment since they applied for emigration to Israel in May 1978. Kochubievsky has been accused of "counter-revolutionary activities" for his writings which Soviet authorities claim contain material which slanders the Soviet Union. He was first warned about these writings last March and told that if he continued it could provoke a harsh reaction in the future.

There will be no Daily News Bulletins dated September 27 and 28, Yom Kippur.