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EVACUATION OF IDF FROM WEST BEIRUT EXPECTED TO BE COMPLETED JUST HOURS BEFORE YOM KIPPUR BEGINS

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Sept. 22 (JTA) -- The evacuation of Israeli armed forces from west Beirut is expected to be completed by next Sunday, just hours before the start of the Yom Kippur holiday, army sources said today.

The army has divided west Beirut into five zones and the Israeli forces will evacuate one zone each day for the next five days, the sources said. Israeli soldiers are continuing to search for weapons and ammunition left behind by the Palestine Liberation Organization when it withdrew from west Beirut last month. Arms not transported to Israel by Sunday will be marked for later pickup. The material found so far was said to be in "astounding quantities."

Media Continues Probe Of Massacre

Meanwhile, Israeli newspapers continuing their investigation of last Friday's massacre of Palestinian civilians in the Shatila and Sabra refugee camps in west Beirut, have reported information at variance with the official version of events given to the Knesset today by Defense Minister Ariel Sharon. (See separate story).

According to the press reports, Israeli soldiers on the spot were aware of the bloodbath in the refugee camps long before the time Sharon claimed they first learned of the carnage.

Eye-Witness Accounts

Israeli paratroopers who had been stationed outside the Sabra camp told reporters they fired hundreds of flares over the camp last Thursday night to light the area for armed Christian Phalangists who were allowed inside by the Israelis for what they believed was a search for PLO terrorists still hiding there.

By Friday morning, Israeli officers were told of the slaughter in the camp by fleeing survivors, the press reported. In addition, Israeli officers on rooftop observation posts were able to view the inside of the camp through binoculars, although their field of vision was partially blocked by tall buildings and narrow streets.

A local Israeli commander tried to get Phalangist officers to halt the action but was told that they could not control their men. Israeli soldiers were quoted by the press as saying that the Phalangists came through Israeli lines. One paratroop sergeant was quoted by the Jerusalem Post today as berating government attempts to deny knowledge. "It's really infuriating to hear them, how they are trying to shake off responsibility," he said.

The sergeant was quoted further as saying: "The Christians operated in full coordination with us and with our full support. We were alerted by radio that they were coming and told to let them through. No one thought of a massacre, of course, but of clearing out terrorists. Our people in observation posts could make out the progress of their movements inside the camp."

Another Israeli soldier was quoted as saying the Phalangists, before entering the camp, boasted that "we are going to kill terrorists." Another soldier said he was told by Phalangists that they regarded any Palestinian male over the age of 12 as a terrorist. According to Israeli soldiers at the scene, the slaughter was known by early Friday morning and was passed on immediately to higher authorities.

KNESSET, BY VOTE OF 48-42, REJECTS MOTION BY LABOR TO SET UP A COMMISSION OF INQUIRY INTO MASSACRE OF PALESTINIANS

By David Landau and Hugh Orgel

JERUSALEM, Sept. 22 (JTA) -- The Knesset voted 48-42 today to defeat a motion by the opposition Labor Alignment for creation of a state commission to investigate the nature, if any, of Israeli involvement in the massacre of Palestinian civilians in two west Beirut refugee camps last Friday by Lebanese Christian Phalangists armed and supported by Israel.

The vote represented a substantial political victory for Premier Menachem Begin who strongly opposed an official inquiry on grounds that it would be an admission of Israeli guilt for the blood bath.

But it was achieved against the background of a nation divided as never before over its government's policies and actions in Beirut, mounting demands by opposition supporters and the press for the resignations of Begin and his Defense Minister, Ariel Sharon, and deep concern among some of Begin's coalition partners that refusal to conduct an inquiry would further damage Israel's already tarnished image abroad.

Berman, Milson Resign

While Begin managed to keep his restive coalition intact, the decision not to investigate the circumstances of the Beirut tragedy resulted in the resignations today of Energy Minister Yitzhak Berman of Likud's Liberal Party faction, and of Prof. Menachem Milson, head of the civil administration on the West Bank, an appointee of Sharon.

Sharon mounted the podium today to defend the government and the military. But he faced prolonged heckling from the opposition benches before he could speak. He admitted that the army had allowed the Phalangists into the Shatila and Sabra refugee camps in west Beirut for the purpose of cleaning out Palestine Liberation Organization terrorists believed hiding there after the main body of the PLO left Beirut last month.

But Sharon strenuously denied Israeli knowledge of the massacre while it was going on last Thursday night and Friday. "We did not know what was happening ... We were not there ... No Israeli soldiers were implicated," Sharon said. "We sent Phalangists into the camps to seek out terrorists and save Israeli lives."

Sharon claimed it was difficult to explain what had happened because "Such horrors belong to another world. I hope that those responsible will be punished, but that is not in our hands," he said. He stressed that the Phalangists were not part of the Israeli army and did not have to report to Israel. They were sent into the camps, he said, only because the Lebanese army refused to act and the only purpose was to save Israeli lives.

Sharon admitted that the Israeli army fired flares throughout the night to illuminate the camp while the Phalangists were in action. But the Israelis thought they were helping only in the search for terrorists, he said. Sharon also insisted that "the Israeli officers and soldiers did not know what was happening" and it was only on Friday evening and Saturday that the fact of a massacre became known.

Opposition Challenges Sharon's Version

But opposition MKs shouted that Sharon's version was in utter contradiction of accounts given the Israeli press by soldiers on the scene. The soldiers said knowledge of the massacre was learned early Friday morning and reported immediately to higher authorities, but no attempt was made to stop the Phalangists until Friday night and Saturday.

Sharon accused the opposition of demanding an investigation "only because you want to get us (Likud) out, just as I understand the Americans do." He said: "You want us out because you want our (Knesset) seats. The Americans want us out because they want not only Beirut but also Hebron, Beth El and Ariel (Jewish settlements on the West Bank) and Jerusalem." He was apparently referring to President Reagan's proposals for Palestinian autonomy and the future of the West Bank which Israel has categorically rejected.

Labor Party chairman, Shimon Peres, tried to reply but Sharon refused to yield the floor. Later, Peres mounted the podium to denounce Sharon's charge as a "baseless lie ... a total lie ... Sharon is again lying."

Begin's coalition was reported to have been in serious trouble when the Knesset debate began. The National Religious Party, whose six Knesset seats make it the second largest coalition partner, reportedly threatened to defect unless an official investigation of the Beirut massacre was authorized. A similar threat was made by the two-member Tami faction. But during a one-hour recess, Begin succeeded in mollifying the NRP by promising Interior Minister Yosef Burg that a different "suitable manner to examine the facts" would be proposed within three weeks.

Impact Of Berman's Resignation

The resignation of Berman, a former Speaker of the Knesset and a Likud moderate, will not affect coalition strength. But it had a certain moral impact. A lawyer by profession, Berman said he was quitting because only a judicial commission set up under the Commissions of Inquiry Law of 1968 could adequately and credibly bring the facts to light and put Israeli and foreign criticism of the government to rest. He explained that only such a statutory body, headed by a Supreme Court Justice, had the power to subpoena witnesses.

Sharon Accepts Milson's Resignation

Milson quit his post today in protest against the government's refusal to set up a commission of inquiry. His resignation was accepted immediately by Sharon. It was believed in some quarters that he was motivated at least in part by long-standing policy differences with Sharon over the administration of the West Bank and that he had wanted to resign last June but postponed his departure when Israel invaded Lebanon.

Milson, a Hebrew University professor on leave, was a controversial figure. His appointment

to head the new civil regime set up in the territory by Sharon touched off widespread protest demonstrations by Palestinian Arabs who saw the move as intended to tighten Israel's grip on the territory leading to eventual annexation. Milson took a hard line with protestors.

During his administration, nine West Bank mayors were summarily removed from office for alleged ties with the PLO and a number of Arab town councils were ousted, in effect negating the 1976 elections in the territories. The deposed mayors were replaced either by Israeli officials or Palestinians amenable to the Israeli regime.

Meanwhile, the pressure inside Israel for a judicial inquiry increased significantly when Dr. Amnon Goldenberg, president of the Israel Bar Association, publicly came out in favor of such an inquiry. In a TV interview, Goldenberg -- who is a Likud liberal and was once Begin's candidate for Justice Minister -- said the issue was not political; it touched upon the essence of Israel's character as a state.

SPECIAL INTERVIEW SCHINDLER CALLS FOR INQUIRY PANEL By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Sept. 22 (JTA) -- Rabbi Alexander Schindler, president of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations and a former chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, has added his voice to the calls for the creation of a "credible, judicial" commission of inquiry into the Beirut massacre.

Interviewed here last night by the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, Schindler said that since the Watergate scandal refusal to set up an inquiry commission when accusations are levelled is regarded in the U.S. as tantamount to guilt, and therefore the Israel government's negative position on the issue of an inquiry was having a negative effect on U.S. public and Jewish opinion.

Schindler said that Premier Menachem Begin's view was the exact reverse; that if the government agreed to set up an inquiry commission it would be signalling an admission of guilt on Israel's part which was entirely unfounded.

Begin reportedly had told a meeting of the Cabinet earlier in the day that he objected to a commission of inquiry because "neither Israel nor any Israelis were involved in the tragedy." According to Cabinet sources, he charged that the opposition demands for an inquiry were "part of a campaign to unseat the government." But Begin did not rule "some sort of investigation of the facts," it was reported.

Notes Consensus Of American Jews

Schindler arrived here yesterday on a brief visit and met with the Prime Minister. The two men drew close when, as chairman of the Presidents Conference in 1977, Schindler proved a key factor in combating Begin's negative image in American public opinion after his election as Premier of Israel.

He is here now, however, "in a personal capacity." He told JTA that his work takes him across the length and breadth of America and he felt his view regarding the urgent need for an inquiry commission in Israel reflected "the preponderant consensus of American Jewry."

He added that the Israel government accusations of "blood libel" levelled against foreign media and governments in the wake of the Beirut massacre struck a wrong and "ineffective" chord "not only among the broad American public but even among the Jewish community."

Schindler, who attended the Knesset debate today, told the JTA afterwards that "the refusal to set up a judicial inquiry is inexplicable from the moral point of

view." He said: "I came here with many questions that trouble American Jews but I scarcely found answers to them at the Knesset."

Schindler also said he was "literally sickened" by Sharon's speech which he found "appalling." He urged Begin to act toward Sharon as President Truman acted toward Gen. Douglas MacArthur during the Korean War, meaning, fire him.

STATE DEPT. BELIEVES IDF WILL EVACUATE WEST BEIRUT BY SUNDAY

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, Sept. 22 (JTA) -- The State Department indicated today that it believes Israeli troops will withdraw from west Beirut Sunday, the day after U.S. marines are expected to land in the Lebanese capital.

Department spokesman John Hughes said that the U.S. has not received a formal reply from Israel on President Reagan's plan Monday night that the Israeli army withdraw from all of Beirut. The U.S. has also not received a formal communication on the Israeli Cabinet decision agreeing to allow into Beirut the multinational force made up of the marines, and Italian and French troops, Hughes said.

But he said that Israel, in talks with the Lebanese army, has indicated its troops will leave by Sunday. He said there already seems to have been a "drawing down" of Israeli forces with their positions being taken over by the Lebanese army. He added that the U.S. position is still that it wants an "immediate withdrawal" by Israel from all of Beirut.

Israel Finding Caches Of Arms

Hughes also reported that Israel is picking up large caches of arms, mostly ammunition, and is taking it back to Israel. He drew back from saying this was a violation of the agreement for the withdrawal of the Palestine Liberation Organization from Beirut although he noted the agreement called for the arms to be turned over to the Lebanese army.

However, he said the fact that the arms were found stored in the city in large quantities indicated that the PLO had violated the agreement by not turning over the arms to the Lebanese government. But he stressed that any dispute over the arms would now have to be worked out by the Lebanese and the Israelis.

At the same time, Hughes maintained that Israel had "violated assurances" as part of the agreement by going into west Beirut last week. But a State Department official said the U.S. did not accept the PLO violation of the agreement in hiding the arms as justification of Israel violating the agreement and going into west Beirut.

The official said that while many of the agreements worked out by special U.S. envoy Philip Habib seem to have been overtaken by events, the main purpose of the agreement still exists, the effort to restore Lebanon's sovereignty.

In a related matter, Hughes said the U.S. had no corroboration for Israel's charge that some 2,000 PLO terrorists were left in Beirut after the evacuation of the PLO to various countries.

Hughes had no comment on the Israel government's refusal to hold an inquiry on the massacre last week at two Palestinian refugee camps in west Beirut, saying this was a question for Israel alone to decide. While saying that the U.S. is

collecting information on what happened, he backed away from using the word "inquiry."

Lawmakers Upset By Israel

However in Congress, many of Israel's strongest supporters are upset over the Israeli government's refusal to create a commission of inquiry. Reps. Benjamin Rosenthal and Stephen Solarz, both Democrats from New York, were quoted as saying this was a mistake. Sen. Henry Jackson (D. Wash.) urged Israel "to submit the matter to an international investigation."

Hughes stressed today that Secretary of State George Shultz has ruled out any cuts in economic or military aid to Israel. However, on Capitol Hill, observers believe that while Israel is expected to get the same \$2.2 billion in economic and military aid it received this year, there is little chance of getting the increase it has requested.

Meanwhile, on the comments made by King Hussein of Jordan in various interviews yesterday, Hughes said the U.S. believes Hussein is "considering seriously" President Reagan's peace initiative.

However, Hussein said that he would never negotiate with the government of Premier Menachem Begin. But Hughes stressed, "We deal with the legitimate government of Israel whoever that might be." The King also said he would not negotiate within the Camp David framework. Hughes stressed the President's proposals are within this framework. Hughes said that the diplomatic efforts promoting the President's initiative are continuing. "We are very hopeful that the thrusts for negotiations within the Camp David framework will be successful," he said.

SCORES INJURED IN WIDESPREAD RIOTS

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Sept. 22 (JTA) -- Scores of police and civilians were injured today in widespread riots and demonstrations throughout the Arab-populated regions of Israel protesting the massacre of Palestinian civilians in Israel-occupied west Beirut last Friday. Disturbances were also reported on the West Bank and Gaza Strip where a general strike by local merchants shut down virtually all business.

Many Israeli drivers were reported injured when their vehicles were stoned by Arab demonstrators in Israel. A strong police squad rescued other police when the police station in Shafir Amr village was set afire by rioters. A police officer was injured when some 5,000 demonstrators hurled rocks at police vehicles on the Wadi Ara road. A constable was hurt when the local police station was attacked in the Israeli Arab village of Taibe.

Serious rioting also broke out in Nazareth, the largest Arab city in Israel. Police fired into the air but several Arabs were reported wounded. In Jaffa, police arrested 15 demonstrators after some 400 persons gathered at an Arab youth center raised black mourning flags, burned tires and threw stones at passers-by.

JERUSALEM (JTA) -- A Jewish population of some 100,000 will dominate the West Bank in three years if the present birth rate continues, according to a study nearing completion by Dr. Meron Benvenisti, former Deputy Mayor of Jerusalem. He found that contrary to popular belief, the natural rate of increase among Palestinian Arabs in the territory is lower than the birth rate of Jews inside Israel proper. Benvenisti's study, financed by small grants from City University of New York's Institute for Middle East Peace and Development, is titled West Bank Data Base Project.

BRITISH ZIONISTS CAN'T AGREE ON STATEMENT ABOUT BEIRUT MASSACRE

By Maurice Samuelson

LONDON, Sept. 22 (JTA)— Leaders of the British Zionist Federation have failed to agree on a statement concerning the massacre of Palestinians in refugee camps near Beirut last weekend. A meeting Monday night of the Federation's honorary officers, representing eight different Zionist groupings in the United Kingdom, broke up after three hours because, a Federation official said, "there was no consensus."

Eric Graus, president of British Herut, yesterday accused some honorary officers of "playing politics" by insisting on calling for an independent Israeli inquiry. He said he was "disgusted" at what had happened in the refugee camps and that the perpetrators should be brought to trial. While he did not know whether Israel could have done more to prevent the carnage, it was "obvious" that Israel was not involved in the massacre itself, Graus said.

In the absence of an agreed statement, Geoffrey Gelberg, the Federation chairman, issued a personal statement saying "all members of the Federation are deeply shocked at the massacre and totally condemn all those responsible, and trust that they will be brought to justice." He also endorsed Israeli president Yitzhak Navon's call for an inquiry.

British Herut accused British politicians, the media and some Jews of rushing to condemn Israel "while the true perpetrators of these crimes seem to be forgotten." Herut said that "some politicians, while rightly asking for the perpetrators to be brought to justice, are at the same time freely consorting with the PLO whose massacre of tens of thousands of Christians in Lebanon started this horrible chain of murder."

Further Signs Of Division

Further signs of division within Anglo-Jewry are expected at an emergency session of the Board of Deputies of British Jews to be held next Sunday, a few hours before the eve of Yom Kippur. It will hear about the local repercussions of the massacre, as well as those affecting Israel directly.

Meanwhile, Sir Immanuel Jakobovitz, Chief Rabbi of Britain and the Commonwealth, said yesterday he was "shattered" by the massacre. "No condemnation can be strong enough of those who perpetrated or connived in this outrage," he declared. "It is hard to believe that any Israeli authority bore responsibility for the crime, but Israel can only be completely exonerated if it is openly shown that its personnel took every step to prevent the carnage."

Greville Janner, MP, president of the Board of Deputies of British Jews, said he was "appalled and anguished" but "not yet convinced by suggestions that Israel's ally, Maj. Saad Haddad, had been involved in the massacre."

Rabbi David Goldberg, chairman of the Conference of Liberal and Progressive Rabbis, said that while no one had yet established the extent to which Israel permitted the Phalangists to move into the Palestinian camps, it was surely a provocation given the volatile situation in Beirut.

The massacres have already given rise to some anti-Jewish incidents. The London head office of El Al was yesterday sprayed with paint. There were also daubings at a synagogue at Dollis Hill, northwest London. In Edinburgh, a home made incendiary device was thrown at a synagogue, but is said to have caused no damage.

ITALIAN JEWISH COMMUNITY SHAKEN BY THE CARNAGE IN REFUGEE CAMPS

By Lisa Palmieri-Billig

ROME, Sept. 22 (JTA) — The solid front of support for Israel by the Italian Jewish community and its non-Jewish friends has been severely shaken during the past few days by the massacre of Palestinians in west Beirut.

Throughout the summer, Italian Jews strongly defended Israel's invasion of Lebanon against what they saw as an anti-Israel blitz by the local media with overtones of anti-Semitism. But the fact that the west Beirut slaughter was carried out by Lebanese Christian forces closely allied with Israel in a city controlled by the Israeli army, created shock waves and doubts about the wisdom and morality of the Israel government's policies.

While there has been no diminution of solidarity with Israel, the government of Premier Menachem Begin has been the target of unprecedented criticism by Jews. The Union of Italian Jewish Communities, the representative organization of Italian Jewry, sent cables to Begin and to the Knesset in Jerusalem declaring that the tragic events in Lebanon "repel the Jewish conscience." The messages expressed hope "that those directly or indirectly responsible for the massacre, of whatever side or nationality, be identified and punished."

If they fell short of calling for Begin's resignation, that was only because of the unwritten rule that diaspora Jews have no right to interfere in the internal affairs of Israel. But the message stressed that "only negotiations" can lead to a solution of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

The position of the opposition Labor Alignment that Israel should negotiate on the basis of President Reagan's September 1 initiative on Palestinian autonomy and the future of the West Bank, was endorsed in a message from the Federation of Italian Jewish Youth.

Other groups of Italian Jews and friends of Israel who are aligned with the Labor Party demanded outright the resignation of what they called the "Begin-Sharon-Eitan" leadership of Israel and the incrimination of those "directly and indirectly responsible for the massacres."

The implication was that Begin, Defense Minister Ariel Sharon and Chief of Staff Gen. Rafael Eitan were the triumvirate making Israeli policy not necessarily in harmony with the duly elected government. These groups included the youth federation and the Italy-Israel Friendship Association.

Anti-Semitic Manifestations In The Media

But the condemnations of the Begin government were paralleled by warnings of anti-Semitism manifest in some sections of the Italian press. Italy's Chief Rabbi, Elio Toaff, appealed on the major television newscast Monday night. Introducing him, the program director took pains to point out that while Jews and Christians were involved in the Beirut massacre, that had nothing to do with either Judaism or Christianity.

The Chief Rabbi called for the punishment of those responsible. He also warned that "A people cannot be considered responsible in its entirety. Only those who are guilty must bear the consequences."

Guido Fubini, a member of the executive board of the Union of Italian Jewish Communities, sent a cable to Israel Monday expressing Italian Jewry's condemnation of those responsible. In a newspaper interview published yesterday, he noted that while he has received hoards of telegrams from individual Jews dissociating themselves from Israel's actions, he has not seen one telegram or letter from Italian Christians dissociating themselves from the Lebanese Christians who committed the atrocities.

REMINDER: There will be no Bulletin dated September 27 and 28, Yom Kippur.