

GEMAYEL CALLS FOR 'IMMEDIATE AND UNCONDITIONAL' WITHDRAWAL OF ALL NON-LEBANESE FORCES FROM LEBANON

By Yitzhak Rabi

UNITED NATIONS, Oct. 18 (JTA) — President Amin Gemayel of Lebanon declared here today that the Palestinians in his country should leave Lebanon "in peace and freedom and self-determination in their land, Palestine." At the same time, he called "for the immediate and unconditional withdrawal of all non-Lebanese forces from Lebanon" and stressed that peace in Lebanon is a precondition to peace in the Middle East.

In a relatively short speech to the United Nations General Assembly, Gemayel, who arrived in New York yesterday and is scheduled to meet President Reagan in Washington tomorrow, declared that Lebanon is now on "the verge of a new era." His speech was conspicuous for its lack of reference to future relations between Lebanon and Israel.

He mentioned Israel but in a different context when he said, "As we cherish our independence, we also cherish the hope that the Palestinians and Israelis, with the support of the world community, will reach a settlement that will allow them both to enjoy the fullness of rights."

As for relations between Lebanon and Syria, Gemayel declared, "They have always been close in the past. It is natural therefore that Syria and Lebanon should develop strong relations in the future in the context of independence, sovereignty and mutual respect."

He added: "With this position in mind, I call for the immediate and unconditional withdrawal of all non-Lebanese forces from Lebanon. I call upon the world community to help Lebanon regain its real independence and rebuild its economy."

Will Respect Sovereignty Of Others

Gemayel said his country will respect "the liberty and sovereignty of others, fully conscious of the responsibilities that this attitude entails." He said Lebanon needs the support of the international community to rebuild peace.

He declared: "We applaud all positive steps taken by our friends in the international community in behalf of a united and sovereign Lebanon, steps such as the U.S. initiative in Lebanon which we shall explore to the fullest. We look to our Arab brethren for political and economic support in building a country which can be a source of pride, peace and progress for us and for them."

Gemayel cautioned that while he speaks optimistically about the future of Lebanon, the situation there and in all of the Middle East remains "fragile." He said: "Only concerted efforts on your part will strengthen the forces of peace in our part of the world. We now have an opportunity to arrest the cycle of war and chaos. Let us seize it. Peace in Lebanon is obviously a pre-condition to peace in the Middle East. Lebanon is a key to the region. If it is stable, so will this region be stable. If it is in chaos, so will be the volatile East."

Gemayel is scheduled to appear before the UN Security Council later today to give his views

on the extension of the mandate of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) which expires shortly.

STATE DEPT. REITERATES PLO OFFICIAL WILL NOT BE RECEIVED WHEN ARAB LEAGUE MEMBERS MEET WITH ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, Oct. 18 (JTA) — The State Department reiterated today that it did not expect the delegation from the Arab League to include a member of the Palestine Liberation Organization when it comes here Friday to discuss the Fez summit conference decisions with the Reagan Administration.

"We have made it clear we will not receive a PLO official and we have no reason to expect that the Fez committee would disregard our wishes on this matter," Department spokesman John Hughes said. Reports from Morocco over the weekend said the delegation, headed by King Hassan of Morocco who is chairman of the Arab League, would be expanded to include a PLO representative.

The report said that while the Arab group knew the Administration would not receive a PLO official, he would be lodged at a hotel while the group met with the Administration. But Hughes said today that the U.S. has had no discussion with the Arab League on whether it would allow a PLO member to enter the country. "We don't expect it to happen," he said. "We made our views plain and we expect our views to be respected."

Hughes noted that the U.S. position on the PLO remains unchanged. "We will not recognize nor negotiate with that organization until it has accepted United Nations Security Council resolutions 242 and 338 and recognized Israel's right to exist," Hughes said.

INTERVENTION OF ISRAELI ARMY HELPS EASE TENSIONS BETWEEN DRUZE AND CHRISTIAN PHALANGISTS IN LEBANON

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Oct. 18 (JTA) — Tensions between Druze villagers and Christian Phalangists in Lebanon have been eased by the intervention of the Israeli army, the Cabinet was told by Defense Minister Ariel Sharon at its weekly session yesterday.

Cabinet Secretary Dan Meridor said later Israeli troops were stationed in the Druze settlements of Matta and Alei in the Lebanese mountains over the weekend and no new clashes between Druze and Phalangists have occurred. There had been sporadic fighting between them for the past few weeks.

According to Meridor, neither side was solely responsible for the violence inasmuch as both had initiated it at one time or another. Five Israeli Druze religious leaders went to Lebanon yesterday to investigate the plight of their fellow Druze there. They were sent by the spiritual leader of Israeli Druze, Sheikh Amin Tarif of Julis village in Galilee.

A delegation of Druze leaders, headed by Tarif was received yesterday by Arye Shmulevitz, director general of the Prime Minister's Office. He promised them that Israel would do whatever it can to restore calm to the Druze villages in Lebanon.

PIERRE MENDES-FRANCE DEAD AT 75

By Edwin Eytan

PARIS, Oct. 18 (JTA) — Pierre Mendes-France, a former Prime Minister of France and a man who made a deep imprint on France's post-war era before Gen. Charles de Gaulle's rise to power, died today in his home in Paris at the age of 75.

Born into an old French Jewish family of Portuguese origin, Mendes-France always took an avid interest in Jewish affairs. Two months before his death, in the middle of Israel's siege of Beirut, he, together with the late Dr. Nahum Goldmann and Philip Klutznick, signed an appeal calling for Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization to mutually recognize each other.

Mendes-France, who was in power for only seven months — June 1954 to January 1955 — is remembered in France as the man who ended this country's war in Indochina and granted Tunisia its independence. France's decolonization process, which he began, was completed later by President de Gaulle.

Mendes-France was considered this nation's last "wise old man." Last May he was hailed by President François Mitterrand as the man who inspired and paved the way for the Socialist electoral victory.

Active In Politics At An Early Age

He entered politics in his twenties and became France's youngest pre-war member of Parliament at the age of 29. He volunteered as a combat pilot in the French Air Force at the outbreak of World War II but was nonetheless arrested and charged with "desertion" by the Vichy government of Marshal Henri Petain for having refused to obey orders to surrender to the German army by fleeing to North Africa. He escaped from jail and joined de Gaulle's Free French fighting forces in London, flying dozens of missions over Nazi-occupied Europe.

After the war, Mendes-France became Finance Minister in de Gaulle's government but resigned when he felt that the Administration chose a policy of expediency by refusing to implement his austerity program. De Gaulle later wrote in his memoirs: "I respected this man for having been true and loyal to his principles." Later he admitted that Mendes-France's policy would have been an economic salvation for France.

Ends Indochina War; Signs Accord With Tunis

A chain-smoking teetotaler, Mendes-France won international prominence when he told the French Parliament in June 1954, after France's defeat at Dien Bien Phu, "Give me 30 days and I will end the war in Indochina."

He was authorized to do so and, 31 days later, returned from the Geneva Conference after having signed a peace treaty with Indochina. Ten days later he secretly flew to Tunis and negotiated a peace treaty with rebel leader Habib Bourguiba, who remained his life-long friend and still serves as Tunisia's President.

Mendes-France never had a large constituency. After his fall in early 1955, he never returned to power. Both friends and enemies said he was far too outspoken and frank to win a large following.

In Jewish affairs, he also often drew fire from Israeli leaders and leaders of the Jewish establishment. He always preached Arab-Israeli understanding and was a warm supporter of the Camp David agreements.

He also advocated mutual Israeli-PLO recognition and the creation of an independent Palestinian state on the West Bank and Gaza. But he refused to be drawn into inter-party Zionist squabbles or to play an active role in Jewish affairs.

DECISION ON EL AL'S FUTURE PENDING

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Oct. 18 (JTA) — The future of El Al, Israel's national air carrier, is expected to be settled tonight. The board of directors will meet to consider recommending to the government, the company's principal stockholder, whether to terminate it, resume service under conditions of extreme economic austerity, or try to sell it to private investors.

The board meeting was called after day-long talks between the directors, management, Histadrut and representatives of the various El Al workers committees. Though labor reportedly agreed to important concessions, including dismissal of 1,000 of the airline's 5,000 employees as a cost-cutting measure — no progress was made, according to Nachman Perl, chairman of the board.

Perl accused the union of "hair-splitting" and set the crucial board meeting for tonight. Premier Menachem Begin has rejected an appeal to intervene personally to save the jobs of El Al employees. He told Histadrut Secretary General Yerulam Meshel that the matter was out of his hands.

ARIDOR URGES LABOR, MANAGEMENT TO HELP STRAIGHTEN OUT ECONOMY

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Oct. 18 (JTA) — Finance Minister Yoram Aridor called on labor and management today to help put the nation's troubled economy in order. He said that without the cooperation of Histadrut and the employers, his new economic program could not succeed and increased unemployment would not be avoidable.

Aridor's program is aimed at reducing inflation by slowing down the rate of price increases in areas within the government's control. At its present rate, inflation is expected to soar to 135 percent by the end of the current fiscal year. The government had predicted earlier an inflation rate of no more than 90 percent.

Aridor blamed Israel's declining exports on the continuing economic depression in the West. Leaders of the Israel Manufacturers Association complained bitterly to the Knesset Finance Committee about the shrinkage of exports. The areas most affected are textiles, fertilizers, pesticides, plastics and food. On the other hand, the exports of electronics and metal products are holding up.

Aridor claimed impressive achievements for his economic program, notably the low rate of unemployment which is not more than five percent of the working population.

SHARON'S BATTLE WITH MEDIA, RESERVISTS ERUPTS AGAIN

By Hugh Orgel and Gil Sedan

TEL AVIV, Oct. 18 (JTA) — Defense Minister Ariel Sharon's running battle with the media and with groups of army reservists erupted anew today. The issues involved, though unrelated, have brought demands that he apologize to soldiers who say they were maligned by Sharon or his spokesmen.

The Defense Minister, accompanied by Chief of Staff Gen. Rafael Eitan, met with editors of leading newspapers yesterday to "set the record straight" about a crack reserve paratroop brigade which Sharon claimed was not called to action in Lebanon last summer because of low morale. The brigade was, in fact, called up twice for combat duties, as Eitan himself confirmed. Sharon acknowledged yesterday that it had performed with "courage and efficiency."

But he insisted that misgivings as to its fighting capabilities were justified at the time because of "unbridled" media criticism of the war in Lebanon that may have affected morale. Press reaction to Sharon's attempted reconciliation was summed up in a Maariv headline today which said "Hard Feelings Continue."

The other issue stemmed from the announcement by Army Advocate General Dov Shefi last week that eight soldiers, including officers, will go on trial before a regional military court on charges of mistreating the Arab population on the West Bank and that two other officers would be relieved of their duties in the Hebron area.

The charges that the soldiers used violence against local Arabs were made by reserve officers who are members of the Peace Now movement at a press conference in Jerusalem last May.

A Defense Ministry spokesman accused Peace Now of political motives. But the charges were investigated nevertheless in what the army insists was routine procedure. The Peace Now reservists claim the court martial vindicates them and are demanding an apology from Sharon. The paratroopers are demanding the same.

INQUIRY COMMISSION MEMBERS VISIT SITE OF THE MASSACRE

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Oct. 18 (JTA) -- The three members of the judicial commission established to determine whether Israel had any culpability in the massacre of Palestinians in west Beirut last month, visited the scene of the killings today. The commission, headed by Chief Justice Yitzhak Kahan of the Supreme Court, consists of Supreme Court Justice Aharon Barak and Gen. (ret.) Yonah Efrat.

Escorted to Beirut by Deputy Chief of Staff Gen. Mashe Levy and other senior officers, they viewed the Sabra and Shatila refugee camps where the massacres occurred September 16-18 from the points where the Israeli army had observation posts at the time. The army has since evacuated Beirut.

The commission is expected to begin its formal hearings before the end of this week in a building provided for the purpose on the Hebrew University campus in west Jerusalem. A permanent staff of lawyers and investigators assigned to the panel by the Justice Ministry and the police, is already at work sifting through material made available from the army, government agencies and individuals.

Last week the commission called for all pertinent documents and on individuals with knowledge of the events to come forward. The panel has judicial powers to subpoena witnesses and documents. It is not yet known whether any of its sessions will be open to the press.

WEINBERGER: ISRAEL HAS INVITED U.S. TO INSPECT SOVIET ARMS CAPTURED IN LEBANESE WAR

NEW YORK, Oct. 18 (JTA) -- Israel has invited the United States to inspect Soviet weapons captured during the Lebanese fighting, according to an interview with Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger in the current issue of the Long Island Jewish World.

Weinberger, in what is believed to be the first exclusive interview he has granted a Jewish newspaper, also made these points: PLO leader Yasir Arafat's meetings with world leaders do not have "much effect one way or the

other."; the United States has an "unshakeable commitment" to maintain not only Israel's security but also "its military edge."; the Pentagon is "very pleased" with the performance of American equipment in Israeli hands in the Lebanese operation.

"It is very important to separate the Palestine problem from the PLO and Arafat," and while the PLO chieftain "is attempting to act as spokesman for that whole group, I don't know to what extent he has a valid claim to that," Weinberger said. He was interviewed in the Pentagon by Naomi Lippman, editor of the Jewish World, and Stewart Ain, contributing editor.

The Defense Secretary also told his interviewers that it was a "totally wrong perception" that he is the Administration leader least sympathetic to Israel, adding: "Any perception that I am opposed to Israel is totally false."

Weinberger was asked if he had "been able to learn from the Israelis all the information they have learned about the Soviet weapons" captured in Lebanon. He replied: "We haven't in the sense that we have in the Falklands because that conflict is over and we are getting a total exchange of information there. We hope to have very much the same thing."

He said Defense Minister Ariel Sharon "has indicated to me very, very recently that we would be welcome to send teams over and examine some of the equipment under terms to be worked out over there. We think that would be a useful thing to do and we think it would be helpful to all of us because after each of these conflicts or battle tests of this equipment, it is very important to analyze pretty clearly what worked and what didn't work and how effective the tactics as well as the weapons are and things like that. So we hope to have that opportunity and so far we've had some encouraging first signs."

Says PLO's Military Strength Is Broken

Weinberger, who recently visited the Middle East, including Israel, described the destruction in Beirut as "unbelievable" but added that "the surprising thing is that there is a great deal of damage that's never been fixed-up or cleaned up from the 1973-74 war."

He said the PLO's military strength "has been broken" because "they don't have their weapons with them" and "they have been dispersed." He added that he did not see the PLO and Egypt moving closer together and that "I don't think there's any deep personal friendship between King Hussein and Arafat."

Asked about Jordanian King Hussein's statement that he would never negotiate with Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin, Weinberger replied:

"I think that we have to look at the final results rather than statements. The Syrians said they would never take in the PLO, for example, yet there are a very large number of them up there now But there is a tremendously strong feeling, even among such basically moderate people such as King Hussein, that they have to express publicly their opposition."

Weinberger also told his interviewers that "We have an unshakeable commitment to Israel, to maintain Israel's security, its military edge, and we have more than fulfilled that. And I have no slight suggestion of any change in that."

Asked about the 75 F-16 jet fighter-bombers that are being held up by the U.S. for shipment to Israel, the Secretary of Defense replied: "That is a matter that is simply pending at the moment." In response to a question on whether they would be held up much longer, he said: "I don't know. It's not a matter that the Administration has considered in recent days and it is sitting there."

CJF ANNOUNCES 1982 SMOLAR AWARD WINNERS AND FINALISTS

NEW YORK, Oct. 18 (JTA) -- Michael Masch of the Philadelphia Jewish Exponent, the staff of the Cleveland Jewish News and Martin Peretz, Editor of New Republic are the winners of the 1982 Smolar Awards for Excellence in North American Jewish Journalism, conferred by the Council of Jewish Federations.

The CJF Smolar Award Committee, chaired by Marvin Holland of Rhode Island, chose the winners from a group of 13 finalists among over 100 entries.

Michael Masch received the Smolar Award in the Human Interest Category, where other finalists were: Joseph Aaron, Baltimore Jewish Times; Staff, Baltimore Jewish Times; Cynthia Dettelbach, Cleveland Jewish News; Joyce Eisenberg, Philadelphia Jewish Exponent; Sam Kaplan, Jewish Western Bulletin of Vancouver; Susan Ronay, Jewish Community News of Clifton-Passaic; Ruth Rovner, Philadelphia Jewish Exponent; Evelyn Sucher, Jewish Student Press Servicé.

The Award-Winning Articles

"Their Mission: Converting Jews," Masch's award-winning article on cults, was judged by the Committee as outstanding in its original analysis and interpretation.

Finalists in the Public Affairs Category, where the Cleveland Jewish News took top honors, were: Staff, Baltimore Jewish Times; Adam Simms, Long Island Jewish World; and Gary Rosenblatt/William Novak, Baltimore Jewish Times.

The Cleveland Jewish News won the Award for its Special Issue, "A Moment in History: the Demjanjuk Trial." The use of special issues reporting on critical events and issues in the Jewish community was judged by the Committee to be extremely valuable.

The Smolar Award Special Citation was conferred on Martin Peretz, whose New Republic article "Lebanon Eyewitness" was reprinted in Jewish newspapers and magazines across North America. The New Republic's exemplary reportage on issues of critical concern to the Jewish community was cited.

No awards were conferred in the Opinion or Magazine categories.

The Smolar Awards are named after Boris Smolar, journalist, author and Editor-in-Chief Emeritus of the Jewish Telegraphic Agency. Through the Awards, CJF and its member Federations honor outstanding achievement in Jewish newspapers and magazines in the U.S. and Canada.

2,000 DEMONSTRATE FOR SHCHARANSKY

SAN FRANCISCO, Oct. 18 (JTA) -- An estimated 2,000 staged a march and rally outside the Soviet Consulate here yesterday in support of imprisoned Soviet Jewish activist Anatoly Shcharansky who was in the 21st day of his hunger strike in the notorious Chistopol Prison. The rally was the largest Soviet Jewry event in northern California in years, according to Morey Schapiro, president of the Bay Area Council on Soviet Jewry, a member of the Union of Councils for Soviet Jews.

The participants carried signs, banners and photographs of Shcharansky who began his indefinite hunger strike because he has not been allowed to send or receive mail from his family or have family members visit him since early this year.

His mother, Ida Milgrom, said in Moscow that a long hunger strike would kill her son.

Addressing the rally here, U.S. Representative Phillip Burton (D. Calif.) recalled meeting with Shcharansky in Moscow in 1977. "We shall not rest until Anatoly Shcharansky and other Soviet Jewish Prisoners of Conscience are released," Burton declared. Shcharansky was arrested in 1977 on charges of "treason" and anti-Soviet agitation and propaganda. He was sentenced to three years in prison and 10 years in a strict labor camp.

His wife Avital was allowed to emigrate to Israel eight years ago and has received only four letters from her husband since then. She is now in the United States meeting with federal, state and local officials and Jewish community leaders in an effort to help save her husband's life.

The rally here was sponsored by the Bay Area Council on Soviet Jewry along with the Jewish Community Relations Council of San Francisco, Temple Isaiah of Lafayette, and the Northern California Board of Rabbis.

Solidarity Hunger Strikes

In related actions, hunger strikes in solidarity with Shcharansky took place in a number of cities across the country. Hunger strikers included leading political officials, community leaders, rabbis and representatives of Jewish communities.

The National Conference on Soviet Jewry in New York City reported that it has received an appeal on behalf of Shcharansky from 17 former Soviet refuseniks now living in Israel, the appeal said, in part:

"The life of our beloved friend and great hero is now in mortal danger. We urge you to mobilize world opinion, to mobilize all those to whom freedom and justice are dear. We urge you to explain to the Soviet government that they cannot crush Anatoly's life in this way. We ask you to react immediately before it is too late."

Avital Shcharansky, speaking several days ago at a press conference in New York sponsored by the Greater New York Conference on Soviet Jewry, said:

"The responsibility for Anatoly's life rests not only on the Soviets, but on the U.S. government, and on all of us. I believe that only the direct intervention of the American government and of concerned Americans will save my husband's life. The Soviets respect America's authority, and they are still very concerned about their relationship with the United States, despite the decline of detente."

ALAIN DE ROTHSCHILD DEAD AT 72

PARIS, Oct. 18 (JTA) -- The death of Baron Alain de Rothschild, president of the Representative Council of French Major Jewish Organizations and former president of the French Jewish Consistory was announced here today by his family. Rothschild reportedly died of a heart attack yesterday in the United States at the age of 72.

A member of the famous banking firm, he served from 1954 till six months ago as president of the Paris Jewish Consistory and since 1967 as head of the French Consistory. He also headed the political representative organization of France's Jews, the CRIF since 1976.

He was an officer in the French Legion of Honor and had been awarded other military medals for his wartime service in the French Army.

NEW YORK (JTA) -- Premier Menachem Begin will address an International Israel Bond dinner in honor of William Belzberg, 1982 recipient of the Golda Meir Award, November 4, at the Century Plaza Hotel in Los Angeles.