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5 U.S. MARINES AND 9 ITALIAN SOLDIERS IN THE MNF WOUNDED IN TWO SEPARATE ATTACKS IN LEBANON

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, March 16 (JTA) -- The multinational force came under attack in Beirut last night and this morning. Five U.S. marines sustained slight wounds from a grenade tossed at their patrol from a second-story window on a street near Beirut airport today. Nine Italian soldiers were wounded, two of them seriously, in two separate attacks on their patrols along the airport road last night.

Lebanon radio said this morning that four suspects were arrested near Khalde, the site of the Israel-Lebanon-U.S. negotiations. Lebanese army units cordoned off the areas of the attacks, acknowledged to be the worst on the MNF since it was stationed in Beirut after the refugee camps massacres last September. It consists of U.S., Italian, French and British contingents.

Col. James Mead, commander of the 1,200 man U.S. marine force, said today that the wounded marines were evacuated by helicopter to the U.S. Guadalcanal, a unit of the Sixth Fleet in the Eastern Mediterranean, for treatment. He said their wounds were minor.

Two of the wounded Italian soldiers underwent surgery at the Italian field hospital in Beirut. The Italian troops were travelling in a jeep when they were attacked by rifle-launched grenades. Another Italian unit summoned to help search for the attackers also came under fire.

U.S. ENVOY SAYS U.S.-ISRAEL RELATIONS HAVE SOURED BUT HOPES THEY WILL IMPROVE THIS SPRING

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, March 16 (JTA) -- U.S. Ambassador Samuel Lewis acknowledged that relations between Israel and the U.S. "have soured in the past year" and expressed hope that they will improve this spring. He said the talks between Secretary of State George Shultz and Israeli Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir in Washington this week augured well for improvement and a return to normal relations.

Lewis addressed the American delegation to the third World Conference on Soviet Jewry which opened here yesterday. He said the distrust and estrangement that developed during the year between the leaders of the U.S. and Israel were "tragic to the special relationship that existed between them." He said the U.S. was particularly disappointed with Israel's "inflexibility" over the West Bank.

But Lewis thought the war in Lebanon last summer was necessary and observed that few countries understood its importance. He noted, however, that it triggered a bitter internal debate in Israel and was the first war that generated so much antagonism, not only among civilians but within the Israeli army. "History will judge whether the sacrifices made by Israel in that war were worth it," he said.

But the American envoy cautioned that the reality of the situation in Lebanon does not justify the hopes the Israelis pinned on the war. He said that although relations between Israel and Lebanon will

not be full peace relations, south Lebanon will no longer be a threat to Israel's security.

ADMINISTRATION SAYS THERE WAS NO BREAKTHROUGH IN TALKS WITH ISRAELI, LEBANESE F.M.s, BUT REPORTS PROGRESS ON FOREIGN TROOPS WITHDRAWAL

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, March 16 (JTA) -- The Reagan Administration, after five days of intensive but separate talks with the Foreign Ministers of Israel and Lebanon, said today that, as predicted, there had been no breakthrough but there was progress made in the effort to gain the withdrawal of all foreign forces from Lebanon.

This assessment was given by an Administration official who said that when special envoys Philip Habib and Morris Draper return to the Middle East this weekend, they will "go back to a negotiating environment that is ... positively altered" as a result of the talks here.

The official refused to give any details but conceded that "lots of ideas" were talked about by the Americans with the Lebanese and Israelis. This is essentially what Israeli Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir said as he concluded 12 hours of talks over three days with Secretary of State George Shultz yesterday.

Just before departing Washington, Shamir said "some new ideas have emerged" which he was taking back to Jerusalem "with the conviction that we are nearer to a solution. I am convinced that there is a large identity of views and goals between the United States government and the Israeli government about the settlement of the problem of the withdrawal of all foreign forces from Lebanon and the prevention of terrorist activities on the Lebanese territory against Israel."

Indication Of Israeli Concession

If Shamir is correct, his remarks may be an indication that Israel may be willing to give up its demand that it must maintain some type of military presence in Lebanon in order to ensure the security of northern Israel. Former Lebanese Prime Minister Saeb Salam, after he and Foreign Minister Elie Salem met with President Reagan today, told reporters that "We can do anything possible" to meet Israel's security needs but cannot allow foreign troops to remain in Lebanon because that would "infringe on our sovereignty."

Salam said he was "moved very deeply" when Reagan told him that he has "no reverse gears" when it came to meeting his commitment to work to ensure that all foreign troops leave Lebanon and that Lebanon regain its sovereignty over all its territory.

Salam who came here as a special representative of Lebanese President Amin Gemayel, brought Reagan a letter from the Lebanese President expressing gratification for what the U.S. has done for Lebanon and urging Reagan to continue these efforts.

The two Lebanese officials met with Reagan for a half hour and then had another half hour meeting with Vice President George Bush. Shamir, accompanied by the entire Israeli delegation, met with Reagan for a half hour on Monday. The Lebanese, who will probably leave tomorrow night, were scheduled to have another meeting with Habib and Draper this afternoon.

Salam stressed to reporters that when he talked about the withdrawal of foreign forces from Lebanon he did not mean only Israel, but the withdrawal of all foreign forces. The Administration official said that the Lebanese want the Syrians and the Palestine Liberation Organization to leave too, but believe they will not do so until an agreement for Israel's withdrawal is reached. The official said he agrees with this assessment.

He said that PLO leader Yasir Arafat met Gemayel at the non-aligned conference in New Delhi last week and assured him the PLO would leave. He also noted that the Voice of Palestine, the PLO radio station, and a Syrian information minister, have recently expressed similar sentiments.

The Administration official noted that Salam and Salem also have discussed Reagan's peace initiative with the President and noted that the Lebanese said there was a greater willingness in the Arab world to make peace with Israel but they said that the success of the peace initiative may depend on whether there is success in Lebanon.

The official said that there is cynicism in the Arab world about Israel's willingness to leave Lebanon. He said he did not share this feeling and noted that the same cynicism was expressed before Israel withdrew from Sinai.

Little Indication On Nature Of Accord

Meanwhile, there was little indication on what kind of agreement will be worked out when negotiations continue in the Mideast next week. Israel has been insisting that the security of south Lebanon must be maintained by Israel in cooperation with Lebanon. Shamir repeatedly stressed here that Lebanon will not be able in the coming months to maintain security in south Lebanon on its own.

This was vigorously denied by the Lebanese Foreign Minister in his public statements here this week. The Administration official said today that he agreed with the Lebanese. He said that Lebanon wants northern Israel to be secure from attacks from southern Lebanon because if southern Lebanon is secure, so is Lebanon. He said what is not needed in south Lebanon are "panzer" troops but what the Lebanese army now has: motivated, trained, sufficiently armed small units who can interdict and patrol and who want to do it."

Proposals By The U.S.

The official reiterated the U.S. position that the expansion of the U.S. marines to southern Lebanon in conjunction with other troops of the multinational force (MNF) would only be decided upon after the shape of the security arrangement is worked out.

The reports of the proposals being made by the U.S. include giving the Lebanese army the responsibility for patrolling the areas near the Israeli border with Maj. Saad Haddad's Christian militia being absorbed into the regular Lebanese army. The MNF would expand outside of the Beirut area to prevent infiltration, principally from Syria, into south Lebanon.

The U.S. official said today that the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) might be stationed near Palestinian refugee camps to give the residents there a feeling of security while the Lebanese army would have the actual responsibility for security.

In stressing that the Lebanese army could handle security in south Lebanon, the Administration official pointed out that whatever else can be said about Israel's invasion of Lebanon, it has "eliminated" the major terrorist threat from south Lebanon.

He maintained that the incidents that have been occurring are mainly due to terrorist infiltrating from behind the Syrian lines where he said there were all kinds of groups, including "1,000 Iranian crazies." He said if all foreign troops were withdrawn, this problem would no longer exist.

ISRAELI SOLDIERS QUELL STONE-THROWING DEMONSTRATION IN SIDON By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, March 16 (JTA) -- Israeli soldiers used tear gas and opened fire to quell a stone-throwing demonstration by women and youths in Sidon, south Lebanon today. A 20-year old woman was reported wounded in the leg and hospitalized and three other women were reported injured. Four persons were detained on charges of inciting to riot.

The demonstrators, about a dozen women, were demanding the release of some 5,000 Palestinians held by Israel in the Ansar detention camp in south Lebanon. The Israelis have been releasing selected prisoners and today's violence was triggered when a bus carrying ten freed prisoners arrived in the town.

The women, joined by a large crowd of youths, began stoning soldiers guarding the mayor's office. The soldiers fired tear-gas to disperse them and when that failed, they fired their weapons into the air, according to the Israeli account.

An Israeli spokesman confirmed that one woman was wounded and would be hospitalized for several days. He said the other injured women were hurt when one fell, another was cut by wire and a third inhaled tear gas.

CHURBA PREDICTS ISRAEL-SYRIA WAR 'THIS SPRING OR THIS SUMMER'

NEW YORK, March 16 (JTA) -- Israel and Syria will be at war "this spring or this summer" according to Joseph Churba, a former senior advisor to the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency and an advisor to Ronald Reagan when he was a Presidential candidate.

Churba, who presently heads the Center for International Security, made that prediction in an address to 350 delegates attending the national conference of Americans for a Safe Israel here last Sunday. He said the Syrians would be forced into war with Israel by the Soviet Union in order to test the newly installed Soviet weapons systems in Syria, such as the SAM-5 missiles.

According to Churba, "The Soviet Union controls the deployment of the SAMs; they and not the Syrians decide when the button is to be pushed." Israel's enemy is Moscow, he said.

Churba contended that since Israel's Defense Force destroyed Arab military power, Israel is preventing Soviet hegemony in the Middle East and "the United States is having a free ride on Israel in terms of national security and defense." Churba accused Reagan of saving the PLO in Lebanon and claimed Secretary of State Alexander Haig was fired because he allowed the Israelis to destroy the PLO.

Reagan Administration Middle East policy was denounced by other speakers at the conference. Ehud Olmert, a Herut Knesset member, condemned the introduction of U.S. marines into Beirut, "which to a large degree encouraged the Russians to send the SAM missiles into Syria." He blamed the U.S. for frustrating Israel's desire for peace with Lebanon by trying to link the Lebanese negotiations with the negotiations on the West Bank.

Olmert also warned that Israel "may not wait too long" to annex the West Bank, as it did the Golan Heights in 1981 if the Arabs "are not ready to accept us."

At The World Conference On Soviet Jewry: REAGAN PLEDGES THAT THE U.S. WILL LEAD EFFORTS TO REVERSE TREND OF DECLINE IN EMIGRATION OF SOVIET JEWS
By Cindy Kaye

JERUSALEM, March 16 (JTA) -- President Reagan pledged, in a personal message to the third World Conference on Soviet Jewry, that the United States "will lead" efforts by the free world "to stem and reverse the trends of plummeting emigration and increasing harassment which plague Soviet Jews."

His message was delivered by Jeane Kirkpatrick, the U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations, at the opening of the conference here last night, attended by 3,000 Jewish and non-Jewish delegates from 31 countries. Kirkpatrick heads the American delegation as Reagan's personal emissary.

He stated in his message that "Durable progress in East-West relations cannot be achieved without concurrent progress in human rights." Addressing Jews in the Soviet Union, the President declared: "Know that we will not forget them. We will firmly support their just cause."

Statement By Simone Veil

The opening session last night was presided over by Simone Veil of France, former President of the Parliament of Europe and a former member of the French Cabinet. Veil said:

"I am moved by honor to attend a conference which points to our brothers and sisters still plagued by anti-Semitism which we hoped would end with the establishment of the State of Israel... We cannot agree that any state has the right to separate families or hold men and women against their will. The Soviet Jews are living under unbearable tyrannical rule."

Veil cited the sharp drop in Soviet Jewish emigration which is one of the main concerns of the conference. Only 206 Jews left the USSR in January and February, 1983, the lowest number ever recorded, she said. "Soviet Jews are caught in a trap," Veil stated. "They have no place in the Soviet Union but as a result of their desire to go to Israel they are labelled traitors."

Veil also referred to the "prisoners of Zion" who carry on in physical and psychological isolation from the rest of the world. "Some collapse under the constant strain of daily harassment and give in but some are not prepared to give in and since they do not, we cannot abandon them. No one can be deaf or silent to their pleas and hardships," she said.

She urged everyone, including international organizations, trade unions, Jews and non-Jews to show their solidarity to protect human dignity. "Everywhere in the world people of different races and religious beliefs are discriminated against," Veil said. "Let us denounce this situation and ask that all Jews be able to circumscribe their sons, that all Christians be able to baptize their children without harassment. Let us denounce all infringements of human rights."

Pays Homage To Israel's Democratic Values

She concluded her address with praise for the democratic values Israel displayed during its inquiry into the Beirut refugee camps massacre. "The proof of these values is unprecedented in history. Israel raised herself high today. Let us pay homage to the spiritual and ethical values found in Israel today. Let us stand up against all that stands against this country. Let us strengthen the desire to unite voices and to continue in the struggle for freedom in the world," Veil said.

Mayor Teddy Kollek of Jerusalem said the gathering here of people from all over the world was an indication of Jewish unity. "There are few situations which can unite so many peoples -- the subject of human freedom is such a unifying topic," he said. "It is clear, after looking at this hall, the Jews still have many friends in the world."

Kollek also noted the importance and significance of holding the conference in Jerusalem. The two previous world conferences for Soviet Jews were held in Brussels. "It is appropriate that this conference is being held in Jerusalem, our united capital," he said.

Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher of Britain sent a message to the conference pledging that Britain, together with other Western governments will "continue resolutely to press the Russians for an improvement in their human rights record and to subject that record to the most demanding public scrutiny."

Symbolic Significance Of The Conference

Kirkpatrick observed the symbolic significance of the conference held "on the eve of Passover, the commemoration of the first exodus." She proclaimed that "the struggle of Soviet Jews to liberate themselves from bondage burns with special brightness that cannot be extinguished as long as there are people with courage and dignity and a desire for freedom that cannot be denied."

Kirkpatrick reviewed the clauses of the 1975 Helsinki Final Act which the Soviet Union signed, that stress that "the parties are to expedite and facilitate the reunion of families and that those applying for exit visas should not be deprived of their rights."

She expressed her sympathy and pride for the "prisoners of Zion" who "are among the heroes of the Soviet Jewry struggle. Their cause is our cause, their ideals our ideals. They shall not be forgotten. They are not alone," she said.

One former prisoner who has settled in Israel, Yosef Mendelovitch, said in an interview published in Haaretz today that conferences such as this on Soviet Jewry are worth their time and money because the Soviet authorities are very sensitive to them.

Mendelovitch recalled that when he was still in the USSR he heard about similar conferences and they encouraged him and his friends. According to Mendelovitch, the Soviet government has no interest in renewing diplomatic ties with Israel. He contended that "the new regime is especially brutal. Aliya activists from Moscow have written that they feel Stalin is back in power."

LATE NEWS BULLETIN

TEL AVIV, March 16 (JTA) -- A military spokesman reported that two Israeli army officers were killed in south Lebanon today when their vehicle struck a land mine on the Beirut-Damascus highway near the town of Kahle. Israeli forces were searching the area, the spokesman said. Reports from Beirut earlier today said an Israeli vehicle was destroyed in the same area by a rocket-propelled grenade but did not mention casualties.

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PARIS (JTA) -- Michel Blum, a 48-year-old Paris lawyer, has been elected president of the International Federation for the Rights of Man, replacing Daniel Mayer who was appointed last month president of France's Constitutional Court. Blum has been active with the Federation since 1970 when he became vice president of its French section. The International Federation for the Rights of Man was created in 1922 and has since placed an active role in fighting anti-Semitism and racism throughout the world. It enjoys consultative status with a number of international organizations, including the United Nations and UNESCO. It regularly sends study missions to countries where human rights might be jeopardized.

A LEADER OF THE WARSAW GHETTO UPRISING REFUSES TO JOIN OFFICIAL POLISH COMMEMORATION OF THE EVENT

NEW YORK, March 16 (JTA) -- Marek Edelman, the only surviving leader of ZOB (Żydowska Organizacja Bojowa -- Jewish Fighting Organization) and deputy commander of the Warsaw Ghetto uprising, has refused to join the Honorary Committee to commemorate the 40th Anniversary of the uprising next month in Warsaw because of its official Polish government sponsorship.

The Jewish Labor Committee and the Committee in Support of Solidarity simultaneously released here today a copy of an open letter that Edelman sent to the underground Solidarity newspaper, Informacja Solidarnosci Region Mazowsze (Solidarity Information, Warsaw Region), which was published February 22. A translation of that letter has just been made available.

Edelman, a noted physician, member of the Lodz Region Executive Commission of Solidarity and a delegate to the First National Congress of Solidarity in Gdansk in September 1981, was briefly interned by the Jaruzelski regime when martial law was imposed in Poland on December 13, 1981.

'... A Cynical Act of Contempt'

Following is the translation of the full text of Edelman's letter:

"I was invited to join the Honorary Committee to Commemorate the 40th Anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising. I wish to explain why I refused. Forty years ago we did not fight merely to survive -- we fought for life in dignity and freedom.

"To celebrate our anniversary here, where enslavement and humiliation is now the lot of the whole society, where words and gestures have become nothing but lies, would betray the spirit of our struggle. It would mean participating in something entirely to the contrary, it would be a cynical act of contempt.

"I shall not be a party to this, nor will I accept the participation of others, regardless of where they come from, whatever their credentials.

"The true memory of the victims and heroes, of the eternal human striving for truth and freedom, will be preserved in the silence of graves and of hearts -- afar from manipulative ceremonies."

SPECIAL TO THE JTA

MITCHUM SAYS HE IS 'SORRY' ABOUT THE 'MISUNDERSTANDING' CAUSED BY HIS INTERVIEW IN ESQUIRE MAGAZINE

LOS ANGELES, March 16 (JTA) -- Actor Robert Mitchum says he got himself into trouble as a result of an interview in last month's Esquire magazine because he was play-acting in "a prankish attempt" to "string along" his interviewer. Mitchum, in a lengthy interview, emerged as an anti-Semite, racist and sexist bigot.

In a letter to Herbert Luft, the Jewish Telegraphic Agency's Hollywood columnist, Mitchum said he is "sorry" about the "misunderstanding" especially "since it is so foreign to my principle."

Mitchum's statements caused a stir in the Jewish community and received rave reviews from bigots. In an effort to find out if the actor was quoted correctly, Luft wrote to Mitchum asking him to clarify the circumstances of the interview and to explain some of the statements attributed to him.

Mitchum, in his letter to Luft dated March 9, said that "under pressure" from "a young lady employed as a publicist by my employers" he "reluctantly agreed" to the interview. What followed, as presented in Esquire by the interviewer, Barry Rehfeld, amounted to a denial that the Holocaust had taken place, and a series of slurs and expletives regarding women, Blacks and the Irish.

When Mitchum was asked about the slaughter of six million Jews, the actor replied, "So the Jews say." He added, "I don't know. People dispute that." After a series of questions and answers, Mitchum was quoted as offering the following statement: "How do you say trust me in Jewish? F--- you."

Later in the interview, Mitchum spoke about how, growing up in Philadelphia, "I had to go over and light the sabbath candles. I was the only goddamned gentile... I'd go to Mel Blumberg's house. He had a rabbi uncle who'd read from the Old Testament about angels pissing on sinners who were climbing Jacob's ladder."

In his letter to Luft, Mitchum said that early in his meeting with Rehfeld he recited a racist speech delivered by Coach Delaney in Jason Miller's "That Championship Season," in which he appeared, which Rehfeld "mistakenly believed to be my own. From that point on, he approached me as the character in the script and in playing the devil's advocate in a prankish attempt to string him along we compounded a tragedy of errors."

Mitchum added that he is "truly sorry that this misunderstanding has upset so many people, especially since it is so foreign to my principle. The attendant misfortune is that it has brought me a spate of mail from people and organizations who are encouraged to believe that I share their bigotry and discrimination."

Ironically, the interview appeared at the same time he was starring in the ABC-TV series, "The Winds of War," in which he portrayed a U.S. official in Europe sympathetic to the plight of the Jewish people in fascist Italy and Nazi Germany. A month earlier, in January, Mitchum was an honored guest at a dinner of the American Friends of Technion at which Kirk Douglas was given an award.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO N.Y. UJA-FEDERATION CAMPAIGN EXCEEDS \$100 MILLION

NEW YORK, March 16 (JTA) -- For the first time in its history, the New York United Jewish Appeal-Federation of Jewish Philanthropies Campaign has reached the \$100 million level, according to Martin Komreich, general chairman.

When the books on the 1982 drive officially closed February 28, the bottom line showed \$100.9 million pledged to the Campaign, Komreich announced. This figure, which is \$5 million more than the 1981 total, does not include \$11 million raised for the special Israel Emergency Fund which started last July, he said.

"This record total," Komreich noted, "says that American Jews stand with the people of Israel and are continuing an ancient tradition of helping the needy members of their own community even when they themselves are financially hard pressed because of the current recession. But despite this achievement, the needs far exceed the contributions. We don't have to go beyond our own city to see how much more we must provide in the way of social welfare and emergency financial help."

In 1982, the New York UJA-Federation Campaign, the largest local philanthropic organization in the world, received 120,000 contributions which helped provide basic human welfare services to some four million needy people in Israel, 30 other countries and New York City.