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ISRAELIS REMAIN ON ALERT IN LEBANON THOUGH TENSION EASES

By Gil Sedan and Hugh Orgel

JERUSALEM, May 30 (JTA) -- Israeli forces remained at a high state of alert in Lebanon today although the danger of a military confrontation subsided after Syria ended its three day large scale military exercises in the Bekaa valley over the weekend.

Israeli military officials said Damascus has "given the message" that Israel is ready for any contingency. They indicated that Israel will be watching to see whether the Syrian troop re-enforcements that were withdrawn from Lebanon after the military maneuvers, will be returned.

The consensus here is that Syria does not want all-out war with Israel at this time, nor does its arms supplier and mentor, the Soviet Union seek a test of strength. But the Soviets are said to be interested in maintaining a high state of tension in the region to justify their continued presence and growing involvement in Syria and to make it clear that any Middle East peace process cannot proceed without their participation.

U.S., Israel In Agreement

The Israeli view is shared by the United States. The Reagan Administration called for restraint from the Soviet Union and other nations "contributing to the tensions" in Lebanon so that "the risk of conflict can be reduced." That statement was made Saturday by deputy White House Press Secretary Larry Speakes at Williamsburg, Va., where President Reagan was attending the Western economic summit conference.

Secretary of State George Shultz, replying to questions after addressing the Foreign Policy Association in New York last Thursday, suggested that the Soviets could help bring stability to the Middle East if it "gets its arms out of the area."

The Israelis seem most concerned at this stage by Syria's apparent intention to wage a limited war of attrition aimed at sabotaging the agreement between Israel and Lebanon signed May 17. For the most part, the Syrian's are using Palestine Liberation Organization forces under their protection as surrogates. Hit-and-run attacks, ambushes and road mines are taking a steady toll of Israeli troops in Lebanon.

Israeli Casualties Mount

During this month alone, eight Israeli soldiers were killed and 71 were wounded in 33 separate incidents. The latest casualties occurred yesterday when two Israeli soldiers were killed and three were wounded when their vehicles were ambushed near Behamdoun village, just south of the Beirut-Damascus highway.

Another Israeli soldier was killed Friday and two were wounded in an ambush on their patrol near Mansura on the Litani River line facing Syrian positions. An Israeli soldier was killed last Thursday and 14 were wounded when their bus was ambushed near the Druze village of Hasbaya close to the Israeli border just north of Metullah.

Israeli military sources say most of these attacks are mounted from behind Syrian lines. The Syrians, some say, were trying to incite Israeli forces into "hot pursuit" in which case Damascus could lodge an official complaint against Israel for breaching the cease-fire agreement in Lebanon.

According to a military spokesman, yesterday's casualties occurred when two Israeli army vehicles were passed by a civilian car on a narrow road. The occupants of the car blocked the road ahead and set up an ambush of bazooka and automatic fire as soon as the Israeli vehicles came into view. Israeli military vehicles were damaged in three other incidents yesterday but no casualties were sustained.

RE-DISPOSITION OF IDF IN LEBANON WOULD HELP REDUCE ISRAELI CASUALTIES, SECURITY SOURCES SAY

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, May 30 (JTA) -- Security sources stressed today that the Israel Defense Force was making every effort to reduce casualties among Israeli troops in Lebanon, but the present disposition of Israeli forces makes it difficult. They occupy an area of Lebanon with about one million inhabitants.

The sources said the situation would be made easier if the IDF's disposition is changed under the terms of the withdrawal of forces agreement with Lebanon or after negotiations with the U.S. and Lebanon. But a decision must be made within a few weeks, the sources stressed.

They said there was no intention to fight the Syrians in order to get them to pull out of Lebanon, but neither was there any decision for a unilateral withdrawal by Israel to the Awali River line which defines the 28-mile security zone north of the Israeli border. To do so would create a vacuum into which hostile forces could move, the sources said.

They charged that Palestine Liberation Organization terrorists have breached the agreement they reached with U.S. special envoy Philip Habib last summer for their withdrawal from west Beirut. According to the Israeli sources, hundreds of PLO men have returned to Beirut and a PLO brigade has moved from Syria to the Beirut region. The sources also said that Syrian units withdrawn from Beirut have returned to the Bekaa valley from Syria.

PEACE NOW MEMBERS BEGIN PROTEST MARCH FROM LEBANON BORDER TO TEL AVIV

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, May 30 (JTA) -- The Peace Now movement began a week-long "war reckoning march" from Rosh Hanikra on the Lebanese border to Tel Aviv to protest the government's policies in Lebanon.

The march is timed to end next Saturday evening with a mass peace rally in Tel Aviv's municipal square. At each stage, speakers will call on the government to resign because of what the protestors say are the many errors it made during the protracted war in Lebanon.

Meanwhile, Abie Nathan's "Peace Ship" marked the 10th anniversary Saturday of the beginning of its daily peace broadcasts from an anchorage several miles off the Tel Aviv beach. The broadcasts consist mainly of popular music interspersed with peace slogans and calls for an end to the Israel-Arab conflict.

Nathan, a one-time pilot and restaurant owner in Tel Aviv, sold off his property 10 years ago to buy and operate the vessel which has become a floating radio station. It remains unlicensed by the Israel Broadcast Authority and to that extent it is technically a "pirate radio." But no measures have been taken to silence the broadcasts. They are apparently popular because the radio is now accepting paid commercial advertisements. According to Nathan, all profits are donated to worthy causes in Israel and elsewhere.

Recent donations include funds for war victims in Lebanon and a \$5,000 gift to people in the Houston, Texas area who lost their homes in the recent tornados.

ISRAEL'S IMAGE HAS IMPROVED IN EUROPE, SHAMIR TOLD BY ISRAELI ENVOYS

By Edwin Eytan

BRUSSELS, May 30 (JTA) -- Israeli Ambassadors in Western Europe told Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir yesterday that Israel's "image" has improved as a result of the troop withdrawal agreement signed with Lebanon May 17. But they warned that the situation could deteriorate again if Israeli forces were to remain indefinitely in Lebanon. The 16 envoys met Shamir here for their annual Ambassadorial conference.

Shamir, who arrived in Belgium last Friday will pay official visits to Luxembourg, Belgium and Italy in an attempt to improve Israel's relations with Western Europe and obtain the lifting of economic sanctions imposed on Israel last summer by the 10 member states of the European Economic Community (EEC).

None of the Israeli envoys at the meeting would say what the chances are for lifting the sanctions of the 10 EEC Foreign Ministers are to examine the matter next month.

The general impression was, however, that Israeli-European relations will continue to improve if the withdrawal agreement with Lebanon is followed by an actual troop withdrawal.

Some of the envoys said the EEC 10 might appeal to Syria to accept the terms of the agreement and withdraw its 40,000 men from the Bekaa valley in eastern Lebanon.

Shamir called on the envoys to represent Israel not only politically and diplomatically but "to become our commercial travellers" to help Israel export its services and goods and alleviate the economic crisis threatening the country. Shamir, who met with each of the envoys on an individual basis, as well as collectively, urged them "not to forget for one moment Israel's serious economic situation."

The Israeli Foreign Minister starts his official visit in Luxembourg today. He is due to meet Grand Duke Jean, Prime Minister Pierre Werner and Foreign Minister Camille Flesch. He will return to Brussels Wednesday for an audience with King Baudouin of Belgium and a meeting with Prime Minister Wilfried Martens and Foreign Minister Leo Tindemans. Before leaving for Rome on Friday, he will confer with the President of the EEC Commission, Gaston Thorn.

REAGAN TELLS AJPA CONVENTION HE WILL CONTINUE MIDEAST PEACE PROCESS

CORAL SPRINGS, Fla., May 30 (JTA) -- President Reagan re-affirmed his Administration's commitment to Israel and pledged that the U.S. would continue the peace process in the Middle East during a 10-minute telephone press conference with American Jewish journalists at the 41st annual convention of the American Jewish Press Association (AJPA) here last week.

The President, speaking from the White House, said he was optimistic that pressure from moderate Arab states would persuade Syria to withdraw its forces from Lebanon so that the recently signed Israel-Lebanon agreement can be implemented. But he said he was "very concerned" about the build-up of Soviet arms and advisors in Syria. "I am committed to maintaining the (Israel's) qualitative edge in the military balance of power" in the area, he said.

Reagan told the AJPA delegates from all over the U.S. that "We are going to continue (with the peace negotiations) because I think the most effective thing we can have is if Syria feels it will be isolated from its Arab neighbors if it doesn't withdraw from Lebanon. He said that "In addition to the Lebanon-Israel withdrawal agreement, we are continuing our efforts in the peace process by encouraging other Arab nations to negotiate with Israel."

The President, whose September 1 peace initiative in the Middle East called for a freeze on Israeli settlement activity on the West Bank, told the Jewish journalists that while he thought the continued development of settlements in the territory would not be "exactly tactful or ... cooperative" at this politically sensitive time, the settlements themselves present no real barrier to peace.

"In regard to the right of anyone to live anywhere they want to, yes, I think this would be part of ... peace," the President said. He reaffirmed his commitment to the Camp David peace process and noted that he has invited Premier Menachem Begin to visit Washington. No date was set for the visit.

MKS ACCUSED OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, May 30 (JTA) -- The involvement of some Knesset members in financial enterprises that pose a conflict of interest, particularly land transactions on the West Bank, was sharply attacked at yesterday's Cabinet meeting. Deputy Premier and Minister of Housing David Levy called for regulations to restrict the business activities of MKs, just as Ministers are barred from business deals that might impinge on their ministerial duties.

The issue arose in the Cabinet after media reports that MKs of both Likud and the Labor Alignment who happen to be lawyers, were providing their firms' legal services to land entrepreneurs on the West Bank. The media questioned the validity of some of these land sales after it was discovered that only a few entrepreneurs carefully verified the ownership of private land bought from local Arabs before they put it on the market for Israeli buyers.

In addition, Voice of Israel Radio reported yesterday that about 20 sites on the West Bank advertised in Israel for the construction of private villas, were never approved by the Ministerial Settlement Committee. The law requires approval by the committee as a precondition for any settlement or private building on the land.

Even after approval, however, problems concerning the legal ownership of plots could still arise and approval does in no way guarantee when a settlement would be ready for housing, the radio report noted. Deputy Minister of Agriculture Michael Dekel said yesterday that it was untrue that persons who bought land on the West Bank could lose their money. But he urged customers to make sure their transaction has met all legal requirements before laying down their money.

QUEBEC TEACHERS UNION DISTRIBUTES ANTI-ISRAEL POSTER

By Michael Solomon

MONTREAL, May 30 (JTA) -- An anti-Israel poster and pamphlets being distributed in provincial schools by the Quebec teachers union has created a furor here. Herbert Mark, a Liberal member of the Quebec National Assembly, denounced it as "pure political propaganda." The Canadian Jewish Congress, the Canada-Israel Committee and B'nai B'rith have called for a mass rally outside union headquarters Wednesday to protest the "hate campaign."

The poster and the pamphlets refer to "the genocidal war of the Israeli government against

Palestinians" and urge financial donations to Palestinian "victims of Israeli genocide." The man behind it is Yvon Charbonneau, head of the 70,000 member teachers union which is affiliated with the Confederation of National Trade Unions. According to Mark, "Charbonneau is an enemy of the Jewish people. It is not a union activity to distribute a political poster in the schools," he said.

Mark said that Charbonneau sponsored an anti-Israel organization called "Quebec Movement Fighting Racism" after he visited Libya several years ago. A Jewish group which tried to join Charbonneau's organization was told it would have to renounce Zionism as a condition of membership, Mark said.

"It is a strange movement which is against racism if racism itself is a membership requirement," the Quebec legislator said. Charbonneau has refused to disclose the cost of his anti-Israel campaign.

DUTCH PROSECUTOR SAYS CHANCES ARE SLIM THAT MANY MORE WAR CRIMINALS WILL BE TRIED IN HOLLAND

By Henriette Boas

AMSTERDAM, May 30 (JTA) -- Paul Brilman, the Public Prosecutor, believes chances are slim that many more Dutch war criminals will be tried and sentenced in Holland in the years ahead.

Brilman, who is in charge of the search for and prosecution of persons who committed war crimes in The Netherlands in collaboration with the Nazi occupiers during World War II, expressed his views in a television panel discussion yesterday. The discussion was prompted by the acquittal last Friday of Albert Talens who was a "kapo" (inmate leader) at the Kaufbeuren Riederloh forced labor camp near Dachau.

Talens, the only non-Jew in his section, was charged with crimes against humanity and especially cruel behavior toward his fellow Jewish inmates. But he was acquitted by a special tribunal sitting in a Maastricht District Court for lack of conclusive evidence. Several of the prosecution witnesses gave testimony in conflict with what they had given during a preliminary hearing.

Brilman pointed out that with the lapse of 40 years since the end of the war, memories are no longer fresh and there is an increasing chance that evidence presented by different eye-witnesses will not correspond. He noted further that many Dutch war criminals succeeded in fleeing Holland after the war and have been living abroad for many years and acquired citizenship in their countries of residence. Most countries do not extradite their own nationals, he said.

Nevertheless, Brilman felt that his office should continue its efforts to bring war criminals to justice, despite the acquittal of such a person as Talens. "Justice must have its way, even though the results may be very small," he said.

WASHINGTON (JTA) -- The American University will begin this fall an undergraduate program for training teachers for both public and Jewish schools and for work in Jewish institutions and organizations.

BRONFMAN URGES WORLD JEWRY TO ASSERT JEWISH VALUES, ABANDON ILLUSIONS

JOHANNESBURG, May 30 (JTA) -- Edgar Bronfman, president of the World Jewish Congress, urged Jewish communities throughout the world to assert their Jewishness and Jewish values, to abandon illusions and to "prove through our commitment to human betterment that existence as a minority does not mandate a marginal role in human affairs."

Bronfman, addressing the 32nd National Congress of the South African Board of Jewish Deputies here Saturday night, spoke at length of his "dreams" for world Jewry and for Israel. He recalled that at the WJC's Governing Board meeting in Washington last February, "I said -- among other things -- that one must take care to distinguish dreams from illusions. I quoted Herzl, who said that the right dream can come true if it is willed hard enough."

"I cautioned against such illusions as these: that our enemies will suddenly disappear; that peace can be achieved without sacrifice, or that three million Jews can forever prevail in hostile confrontation with 120 million Arabs," Bronfman said. "I would add that to expect a majority of the Jews of the diaspora to migrate to Israel is also an illusion. The majority of the world's Jews probably will always live outside the State of Israel, as islands linked to their homeland, and to each other, by common values and traditions and religious faith."

Urges Jewish Unity

Bronfman said, "When I say the Jewish people, I am talking about the Jews of Israel and the Jews of the diaspora as one. There can never be a wedge driven between the Jews of Israel and the Jews of the diaspora. I dream of an Israel where the terms Ashkenazi and Sephardi and Oriental have lost their current meaning -- where every Jew is a Jew and every Israeli is an Israeli."

Bronfman said he dreamed of an Israel at peace with its neighbors. But, he cautioned, "To expect this peace to prevail in some sort of geographic isolation, without regard for the tensions of broad-scale East-West confrontation, is surely an illusion. But I believe that an enlightened approach to negotiation -- with peace, not power as the objective, and with agreement on intelligent, practical arms control -- can move the dream of peace toward reality."

The WJC leader noted that he and his colleagues in the WJC "have pursued the quiet ways of diplomacy in seeking to sever the issue of Soviet Jewry from the complex diplomatic jostling of the superpowers. We are striving to convince the Soviet leaders that Jews should not be held hostage in this 'second cold war.' At the same time, we have welcomed the more vocal support of those who care about human rights," he said.

"I dream of a world in which Jews will be allowed to emigrate from the Soviet Union and will want to live in Israel. I dream of a Soviet Union that will allow those Jewish citizens who choose to remain to practice and teach their religion in dignity, without hindrance."

Hopes For 'More Jewish' Israel

With respect to Israel itself, Bronfman said his dream was that "Israelis will become more Jewish and more traditionally so. I dream of an Israel where Jews will keep dietary laws and adopt a consistent, modern form of Sabbath and Holy Day observance as a proud expression of their Jewishness, not as laws imposed by the Knesset."

Finally, Bronfman said, "I dream of a world where anti-Semitism, not only in its blatant brutality but in all its ugly nuances will have disappeared ... not just because bigotry is evil, but because the world at large will know and respect our tradition, our culture, our humanity and the full dimensions of our faith."

"It is true," he said, "that the menacing cloud of anti-Semitism still hangs over the globe, and Jewish communities in distress -- most recently in Syria and Ethiopia -- continue to tax our hope for a peaceful existence. But is not enough to fight anti-Semitism by damning bigotry. Nor is it enough to deny the stereotypes that evoke anti-Semitic laughter and derision ... While all good people should fight bigotry with all their strength, while Jews by deed should dispel the stereotype ... we must assert our Jewishness to ourselves and to the world," Bronfman said.

"Yet I suggest that if we are to expect the nations of the world to be guided by our light -- our Jewish values -- we must demonstrate to them by our words and actions that we are moved by their concerns." In that connection, Bronfman cited the famous lines of John Donne: "No man is an island entire to itself... Any man's death diminishes me."

Those words, he said, apply "to our Jewish values and what I will call the Jewish way. Any man's poverty makes me poorer. Any man's illness is an assault on my own health. Any nation that takes up arms against another takes up arms against me. Injustice against any man is a crime against me. If there is any place where men and women are regarded as less than their neighbors, I am lessened. The door that is closed to any man or woman is closed also to me."

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AMSTERDAM (JTA) -- Henk Glimmerveen, former chairman of the extreme rightwing Nederlandse Volksunie (NVU) party was sentenced Friday to six months' imprisonment for writing and distributing an anti-Semitic pamphlet. The public prosecutor had demanded a 10 month term. Glimmerveen told the court the prison sentence would not silence him.