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CABINET TO DISCUSS DEPLOYMENT OF ISRAELI TROOPS IN LEBANON, BUT NO UNILATERAL PULLOUT PLANNED By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, June 12 (JTA) -- Premier Menachem Begin announced at today's Cabinet meeting that the Ministerial Defense Committee will convene shortly to discuss the deployment of the Israeli army in Lebanon and means to reduce its vulnerability to attack.

Begin made the announcement at the close of the session which was devoted largely to the worsening situation in Lebanon. But Cabinet Secretary Dan Meridor told reporters afterwards that Israel would not initiate a unilateral withdrawal from Lebanon despite the "large and painful number of casualties." Israeli fatalities in Lebanon reached the 500 mark over the weekend. (See separate story.)

The Cabinet was briefed by Defense Minister Moshe Arens on the situation in Lebanon. Five ministers demanded that Arens submit a plan for the redeployment of Israeli troops to make them less vulnerable to ambush and hit-and-run attacks which have caused mounting casualties in recent weeks.

Arens' First Confrontation

The demand was seen as Arens' first confrontation with his Cabinet colleagues since he became Defense Minister little more than three months ago. It was noted that he could no longer claim that he had not familiarized himself with events or that he could not discuss delicate security matters for fear of "leaks."

Arens was asked bluntly how long Israel must wait for the Syrians to pull out of Lebanon in order to implement the Israel-Lebanon withdrawal agreement, signed May 17; what new deployment was planned by the military establishment; and what will be the status of Israel's ally in south Lebanon, Maj. Saad Haddad, if the agreement with the Beirut government cannot be implemented.

Arens rejected complaints that the U.S. was putting pressure on Israel to hold its present lines in Lebanon. "We must ensure that no hostile elements take over areas evacuated by the Israel Defense Force," he said. He urged unity in the government and patience.

Meanwhile, a brewing crisis over former Defense Minister Ariel Sharon's demand for an official inquiry into the Lebanon war in order to clear his name, seemed to be defused. The Knesset will vote tomorrow on motions by the Labor Alignment and Shinui for an investigation into the government's conduct of the war. Sharon assured the Cabinet that he had no intention to vote with the opposition or do anything that could cause the government to fall.

Sharon Wants Inquiry

But he wanted an inquiry into allegations that as defense chief, he had misled the Cabinet on military moves in Lebanon and confronted it with faits accomplis. Sharon seemed mollified however, by a statement by Begin at today's session that the entire Cabinet shares responsibility for its decisions and that applies to the conduct of the war in Lebanon.

Sharon nevertheless attacked his most outspoken Cabinet critic, Deputy Premier Simcha Ehrlich who he accused of charging "deliberate provocations" by the

Israel army "against the Syrians during the war." Ehrlich, supported by Communications Minister Mordechai Zipori, accused Sharon of being the first to attack his colleagues. Justice Minister Moshe Nissim defended the conduct of the war and urged the ministers to support it publicly.

Health Minister Eliezer Shostak and Minister of Transport Haim Caru demanded curbs against anti-war demonstrators outside the Prime Ministers residence. But Interior Minister Yosef Burg noted that the demonstrations were held with police permission and that despite the inconvenience caused the Prime Minister, freedom of expression should be preserved.

SALEM, DRAPER MAINTAIN SYRIA CAN WITHDRAW WITHOUT ACCEPTING AGREEMENT BETWEEN ISRAEL, LEBANON By Kevin Freeman

NEW YORK, June 12 (JTA) -- Lebanon's Foreign Minister Elie Salem and special U.S. Mideast envoy Morris Draper expressed optimism today that Syria will eventually withdraw its troops from Lebanon but stressed that Syria does not have to accept the Lebanese-Israeli agreement.

Both Salem and Draper, in separate interviews on the ABC-TV "This Week with David Brinkley" program, felt that Syria would eventually withdraw because of Arab consensus for an Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon which is contingent on a Syrian withdrawal and also support for the Lebanese-Israeli agreement by the U.S. and Lebanese Parliament. The Lebanese Parliament is expected to ratify the agreement next week.

"I believe that Syria cannot approve of the agreement, but I think a time will come in the near future when Syria will be willing to discuss with the Lebanese the withdrawal of its forces from Lebanon," Salem said in an interview taped yesterday. "It can do so without approving the agreement" between Israel and Lebanon, he added.

No Formal Lebanese Letter Needed

Salem added that he believes it will not be necessary for Lebanese President Amin Gemayel to request in a formal letter to Syrian President Hafez Assad that he withdraw his troops from Lebanon. He noted that Lebanon had asked the Arab League to end the Syrian mandate which it gave in 1976 to Syria to act as an Arab deterrent force during the 1975-76 Lebanese civil war. Salem said the Arab League, at its summit conference in Fez, Morocco last September, "took note" of this request.

Salem said that because of the "international dimensions" of the Middle East conflict, particularly the Lebanese situation, that Secretary of State George Shultz or a representative of his would have to return to the Mideast to resolve outstanding issues between the U.S. and Syria, including the issue of the Golan Heights and also Syrian security concerns. Draper did not rule out Shultz returning to the Mideast.

After meeting with Shultz yesterday, Salem said he believed that the U.S. and Syria would soon meet to discuss the troop withdrawal issue. He told reporters that "we should be seeing soon a discourse taking place between the Lebanese and Syrians, the Americans and the Syrians, and I don't believe there are many basic problems in this regard."

In the television interview broadcast today, Salem predicted that once the withdrawal of foreign troops was completed, the multinational force composed of U.S., marines and French and Italian troops, would be needed in Lebanon for about three months to a maximum of one year.

Draper also said the MNF could conceivably remain in Lebanon for several months following a withdrawal of all foreign forces from Lebanon. But he noted that the Lebanese army has shown significant progress and would be able to take care of its own nation shortly after a withdrawal process is completed.

While Draper pointed out that the Syrians "do not have to accept the" Lebanese-Israeli accord, he said the Syrians do have "to face the facts on the ground." He said that one of those "facts" is that there are now a substantial number of Israeli forces within artillery range of Damascus. "The Israeli forces in Lebanon are poised, militarily speaking, in a very advantageous position," Draper said.

Questioned about reports of a Soviet-U.S. dialogue for a Syrian withdrawal, Draper remained evasive of what these discussions entailed. While he said the U.S. had made clear to the Soviets the U.S. "concerns in a frank way" regarding the Soviet military build-up in the region, he said the U.S. "was not working with the Soviets actively" for a withdrawal agreement.

WEINBERGER SEES MARGINAL IMPROVEMENT, BUT WARNS OF DANGER IN LEBANON

By Helen Silver

WASHINGTON, June 12 (JTA) -- Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger said today that the situation in Lebanon "has improved, at least marginally," because of the Israel-Lebanon agreement. But he appeared to pin his hope for Syria's withdrawal from Lebanon on Damascus recognizing that such a move would serve its own best interests.

Weinberger, appearing on the CBS-TV "Face the Nation" program, conceded that "the danger is very strong" in Lebanon as long as the armies of Israel and Syria "continue to face each other in a very close position."

Weinberger praised the "very skillful work" by Secretary of State George Shultz "and others" which led to Israeli-Lebanese agreement "on a plan of withdrawal necessarily contingent on the withdrawal of the Syrians too." He said, "We are concentrating all of our efforts in urging other nations that are able to do so to be persuasive with the Syrians, to point out that this is the best, the only road to peace."

Weinberger added: "We are very hopeful that that will succeed. It's not going to be very rapid. It's going to take a long time; it already has taken a long time. I would think that the fact that the Israelis and Lebanese have agreed to withdrawal arrangements should make it increasingly clear to the Syrians that withdrawal is to their very best advantage."

Soviet Buildup Cited

The Defense Secretary cited the Soviet military buildup in Syria. "I would think that with the continued and increasing presence of the Soviets in Syria, the Syrians themselves would want to work out arrangements that could diminish the Soviet presence there. Most countries that have been subjected to Soviet presence militarily are very anxious to get rid of it and I would think the Syrians would not be an exception," he said.

But Weinberger did not see "any indication of any change in the situation" soon. "It seems to me that ultimately, the logic of the situation, the obvious benefits to Syria to pull back and be able to devote their resources to other things and remove some of the dangers of the Soviet presence -- all these things would ultimately lead to the Syrians concluding that it is in their interests to withdraw and sign an agreement," he said.

In an unrelated development, Weinberger cited Israel as an example in his response to charges by Sen. Alfonse D'Amato (R.N.Y.) that he is "inflexible" about defense spending. In a letter published in the Long Island Jewish World last week, Weinberger said Americans "could and should learn from the Israelis who have always understood that they best preserve peace and freedom by remaining vigilant -- even when others call them 'inflexible.'"

THATCHER'S FIRING OF PYM MAY CURB PRO-ARAB LEANINGS

By Maurice Samuelson

LONDON, June 12 (JTA) -- Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher has fired Foreign Secretary Francis Pym and promoted two young Jewish ministers in a Cabinet reshuffle following her landslide election victory last Thursday.

Pym, who succeeded Lord Carrington only 14 months ago, has been replaced by Sir Geoffrey Howe, the former Chancellor of the Exchequer, who is especially close to Thatcher. According to observers, the change consolidates the Prime Minister's personal control over foreign policy and might curb the Foreign Office's pro-Arab tendencies that have caused Thatcher some embarrassment in recent months.

Howe was replaced at the Treasury by Nigel Lawson, 51, a Jewish former journalist. Another Jewish minister, Leon Brittan, 43, was elevated to the office of Home Secretary. Brittan, the son of a Lithuanian-born doctor whose grandparents died in the Holocaust, is the youngest Home Secretary since Winston Churchill held that post early in the century.

Howe and Brittan are considered rightwing in their economic views but liberal on social issues. Neither has been as vocal in their expressions of friendship for Israel however as Cecil Parker, promoted to the office of Secretary for Trade and Industry. Parker, a guest speaker at last month's dinner of the British-Israel Chamber of Commerce, delivered one of the most effusively pro-Israel speeches heard in London since the 1967 Six-Day War.

Janter Re-Elected

His many Israeli friends will be watching to see whether he will favor a tougher stand against the Arab boycott. That could also be a test for the new Foreign Secretary, Howe. Generally, the new Parliament is potentially more sympathetic toward Israel, largely because of the devastating defeat suffered by the Labor Party which at its last annual conference supported the Palestine Liberation Organization's call for a "secular democratic state of Palestine."

At the same time, Greville Janner, president of the Board of Deputies of British Jews, is the only Labor member of Parliament in the city of Leicester to retain his seat.

On the eve of the elections, Thatcher affirmed her "strong, personal support and admiration for the State of Israel." But she also defended her government's contacts with the PLO, ruled out moving the British Embassy to Jerusalem and denied that Jews had "an unconditional right" to settle on the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

She made those remarks in response to a questionnaire submitted by the National Zionist Council. She also said that some form of Palestinian self-determination is "an essential part of an eventual peace settlement" in the Middle East. She described President Reagan's September 1 Mideast peace initiative as "the only practical starting point" for wider negotiations in the region.

Zionist Council Disappointed

The Zionist Council, comprised of the British Herut, Mizrahi and the General Zionists -- affiliates of the major components of Premier Menachem Begin's coalition -- expressed disappointment at Thatcher's reply. "While we appreciate her expression of personal support and admiration for Israel, unfortunately her answers to our points do not bear out her sentiments," a Zionist Council statement said.

Meanwhile, Thatcher has recommended for Knighthood 63 year-old Alfred Sheman, the Jewish director of the Conservative Party's Center for Policy Studies. Sheman, who is married to an Israeli and once worked in Israel as a journalist and later as London correspondent of Haaretz, served with the International Brigade in the Spanish Civil War. But his politics have since veered sharply and he is now one of the Conservative Party's most controversial rightwing theoreticians.

ISRAELI DEAD IN LEBANON TOTAL 500 AS 3 MORE SOLDIERS KILLED By Hugh Orgel and Gil Sedan

TEL AVIV, June 12 (JTA) -- The Israel army's fatalities in Lebanon reached the 500 mark Friday when three more soldiers were killed in a roadside ambush northeast of Tyre. Two soldiers had been killed two days earlier in a car bomb explosion in Beirut.

Two soldiers were injured at noon today when an explosion damaged a military truck in a convoy near Aley in the Shouf mountains. Army sources said the explosives were detonated by remote control. Another roadside blast south of Sidon today caused no casualties.

Military sources said that of the 500 dead, 379 were killed by enemy action, 45 in highway and training accidents and 76 in the explosion that leveled the local army headquarters building in Tyre last October. The latter was also officially listed as an accident.

In addition, 2,717 Israeli soldiers have been wounded since the invasion of Lebanon one year ago. More than 500 bear permanent injuries including the loss of one or more limbs, loss of eyesight or other serious disabilities. Army sources said the past week was particularly bad, with five soldiers killed and three wounded in 20 separate attacks and another three soldiers killed in accidents in Lebanon.

Arens Visits Scene

The ambush near Tyre was aimed at two Israel patrol vehicles. The lead vehicle was hit, causing the casualties. Soldiers from the second vehicle opened fire on the attackers and searched the area. A curfew was imposed on nearby villages and house-to-house searches were made. Defense Minister Moshe Arens visited the scene of the attack later in the day, accompanied by Chief of Staff Gen. Moshe Levy and the commander of the northern region, Maj. Gen. Amir Drori.

Arens also visited the Galerie Semaan, the intersection between east and west Beirut where two Israeli soldiers were killed Wednesday when a booby-

trapped car exploded only a few yards from their armored personnel carrier.

(The U.S. State Department, commenting on the latest casualties in Lebanon, said, "Any loss of life is tragic and underscores the need for the resolution of the problem" in Lebanon. But the Department's deputy spokesman Alan Romberg said there were no immediate plans to send either Presidential envoy Philip Habib or Deputy Secretary of State Kenneth Dam to the Middle East.)

Rabin Blames Lebanese

Former Premier Yitzhak Rabin, speaking in the border town of Kiryat Shmona over the weekend, said the majority of attacks on Israeli troops in Lebanon were carried out by anti-Israel Lebanese, not the Palestine Liberation Organization. The Lebanese are believed to be members of Walid Jumblat's Druze forces or of pro-Syrian leftwing Moslem groups, including the Shi'ite Amal organization.

Rabin also said there have been a number of unpublicized attempts to attack Israeli towns in northern Galilee in recent months in addition to reported rocket attacks that were made public.

Civilian Funerals Held

Civilian funerals were held Thursday for Sgt. Moshe Edelstein, 31 and Yosef Ben-Or, 33, killed in the Galerie Semaan car explosion. Edelstein was buried at his home, Kibbutz Ramat David. The commander of his battalion, speaking at the open grave, observed, "We remain fewer and fewer soldiers on more and more land. This is not the place and time to express all that the heart feels." Edelstein is survived by his wife and 14-month-old child. His family rejected military honors, including the firing of salvoes over the grave because they wanted no reminder of how their loved one was killed.

Ben-Or, whose home was Kibbutz Givat Haim, was also buried without military ceremonies. He left a Canadian-born wife and two children, aged eight and two. A friend, who spoke at the graveside, said: "We have no grievances against the Israel Defense Force. We are convinced that without a strong IDF our very existence would be at stake. But by this grave we raise an outcry to the ears of a deaf government. Let it take the army out of this valley of tears that is Lebanon."

Meanwhile, Israeli officials strenuously denied reports that Palestinian and left-wing Lebanese interned in the Ansar prison camp in south Lebanon have been mistreated and that three were shot to death by their guards recently. The PLO has used those allegations as an excuse to place the six Israeli prisoners it holds in solitary confinement.

Prisoners at the Ansar camp rioted on the first anniversary of the start of the Lebanese war June 6, and burned down tents. But Israeli army officers stress that the International Red Cross has a permanent office in the camp and has reported no ill treatment of the prisoners. They denied allegations made to the media by released detainees that three camp inmates committed suicide as a result of brutal treatment.

(State Department spokesman Romberg said Friday, with respect to the disturbances at the Ansar camp, "We remain concerned about prisoners held by both sides. We are hopeful that their release can be successfully negotiated at an early date." He added, "We have made that concern known a number of times before and made it clear that we are active on that issue from time to time whenever it is appropriate.")

(Romberg said the U.S. is continuing to take "an active role" on the possibility of a prisoner exchange.)

REAGAN PROMISES U.S. TO REMAIN 'ROCK OF SUPPORT' FOR ISRAEL

By Helen Silver

WASHINGTON, June 12 (JTA) -- "As long as I am President, the United States will be a rock of support. We will not waiver in our commitment to protect Israel's security," President Reagan declared Friday in a speech via telephone from Camp David to delegates attending the 70th anniversary meeting here of the National Commission of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith.

"We are committed to maintaining Israel's qualitative edge in the military balance of power," Reagan asserted. Both he and Samuel Lewis, the U.S. Ambassador to Israel who addressed the meeting in person, expressed optimism over the continuing improved relations between the U.S. and Israel. Reagan hailed the Israel-Lebanon agreement, signed May 17, as "one more step toward a more stable Middle East."

Ambassador Lewis was more cautious about chances for a Syrian withdrawal from Lebanon on which implementation of the agreement depends. "The chances of implementing it remain in the air," he said.

Reagan said, "We are very pleased with the recent efforts of Secretary of State (George) Shultz in working out the Israeli-Lebanese withdrawal agreement." He stressed however that "only through peace can Israel achieve real security." But Israel cannot make peace alone, "the President said.

"Other Arab states must formally recognize that Israel does exist and that she has a right to exist. We'll continue our diplomatic efforts to seek a withdrawal from Lebanon of all foreign forces, Syrian, PLO, as well as Israeli. But we are very concerned about Soviet build-ups in Syria," Reagan said.

'Disturbed' By Soviet Statement

He also said that he is "very disturbed" that a Soviet official said last week that the majority of Jews who wanted to leave the USSR to reunite with their families have left. Noting that the Soviets signed the Helsinki Final Act in 1975 and pledged to be "positive and humanitarian" toward applications for family reunion, Reagan said, "Let us stand together, speak the truth and tell the Soviets to stop persecuting innocent people. Let Israel's children go or face the world's condemnation for making a mockery of this historic agreement which was signed by 35 nations."

Lewis described U.S.-Israel relations today as "better, an awful lot better ... and it's going to get better in the weeks and months ahead. But he had some cautionary words. "Israel today is far too dependent on the U.S. for Israel's own good and also for the good of the U.S.," he said.

"Some of Israel's own leaders have been saying this more and more often, saying how crucial it is that Israel regain its own economic independence so that it will not be subject to American pressure or to the vagaries of American policy-makers. I couldn't agree more with those Israeli leaders."

The envoy proposed that Israel try to work its way out of "the onus of the balance of payments gap which makes Israel too dependent on the U.S. appropriations process for either side to be comfortable ... Israel has not been able to achieve national independence in the total sense so long as its budget and its military acquisitions depend on the good will of anybody else, even a

country as well intentioned as the United States." This over-all dependence "produces a sense of frustration" in Israel and also in the U.S., Lewis said.

At another session of the meeting, ADL national director Nathan Perlmutter described U.S.-Israel relations this past year as "alternating showers of warm and cold water" for the American Jewish community. Discussing what he called the "roller coaster" of U.S. Mideast policy, Perlmutter said the high point was reached when the Secretary of State Alexander Haig demonstrated a "clear comprehension of America's interests in a secure Israel."

The low point came earlier this year, according to Perlmutter, when the Defense Department showed "seemingly blurred vision of the same American interest." He was referring to the Department's handling of an incident involving an Israeli patrol and an officer of the U.S. marine contingent at a Beirut checkpoint.

A study of how the ADL helped write American civil rights laws in its 35 year legal battle to end religious and racial discrimination, was issued. The study, "Friend of the Court--To Secure Justice and Fair Treatment for All", describes more than 100 amicus curiae briefs filed by the ADL since the end of World War II. It was presented by Kenneth Bialkin, the ADL's national chairman.

SHCHARANSKY ILL AFTER RECEIVING DRUGS

NEW YORK, June 12 (JTA) -- Imprisoned Jewish activist Anatoly Shcharansky has become seriously ill from drugs administered to him by Soviet doctors to treat a heart ailment, his wife, Avital, told the Greater New York Conference on Soviet Jewry (GNYCSJ). She said she had that alarming news from Shcharansky's mother, Ida Milgram, in a telephone call from Moscow last week.

Mrs. Milgram told her daughter-in-law that she received a short letter from her son on June 9, dated May 22, in which he explained that he was unable to write for more than a few minutes because of his physical condition. According to Mrs. Milgram, Shcharansky wrote that the authorities at Chistopol Prison where he is confined gave him new medication early in May after he complained of severe chest pains.

He developed an allergic reaction to the drug which caused sores and swellings on his hands and entire body. The drug made him groggy and he was unable to move from his bed for two weeks, Avital Shcharansky reported. She said Mrs. Milgram feared for her son's life and planned to travel to Kazan, the city closest to the prison to ensure that he is hospitalized and receives proper treatment. Mrs. Milgram, 76, vowed to stay in Kazan until she is permitted to see her son.

Shcharansky's wife told the GNYCSJ that no one has seen Anatoly since January, 1982. She urged concerned people all over the world to write to Yuri Andropov, First Secretary of the Soviet Communist Party and Chairman of the Supreme Soviet on behalf of her husband.

NEW YORK (JTA) -- Yehuda Ben-Meir, Deputy Foreign Minister of Israel, was awarded an honorary Doctor of Human Letters degree by Yeshiva University Thursday at the University's 52nd commencement. Ben-Meir's certificate read "Yeshiva University affirms its pride in your manifold achievements and reaffirms its bonds to an Israel inspired by the dreams and destiny of the Jewish tradition." Ben-Meir is also a rabbi, psychologist and alumnus of Yeshiva University.