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CABINET APPROVES PLAN TO REDEPLOY ISRAELI TROOPS IN SOUTH LEBANON

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, July 20 (JTA) -- The Cabinet today unanimously approved a plan to redeploy Israeli troops in south Lebanon. The announcement, after a closed session of the Ministerial Defense Committee, contained no specifics but empowered Premier Menachem Begin, Defense Minister Moshe Arens and Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shafir to "determine the details."

Redeployment to shorter lines in Lebanon was approved in principle by the Cabinet several weeks ago. But no date was ever set and it was generally believed that there would be no move until Begin's meeting with President Reagan in Washington, which had been scheduled for July 27. Yesterday, the Prime Minister unexpectedly cancelled his trip for unexplained "personal reasons."

Today's official communique stated: "As proposed by the Prime Minister, the Cabinet has unanimously approved the plan for redeployment of the Israel Defense Force in Lebanon as prepared and submitted by the IDF General Staff."

There was no indication where the new lines in Lebanon will be. But Chief of Staff Gen. Moshe Levy said on a television interview last week that the line would follow the Awali River which enters the sea just north of Sidon in south Lebanon. It was not immediately known whether that city of 300,000 will be incorporated within the new IDF lines. The redeployment is expected to be completed by autumn.

U.S. CAUTIONS ISRAEL THAT ITS REDEPLOYMENT DECISION COULD 'COMPLICATE' PROBLEMS FOR LEBANON

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, July 20 (JTA) -- The Reagan Administration appeared to warn Israel today that its decision to redeploy its troops in Lebanon could "complicate" the already "very difficult tasks" of the government of President Amin Gemayel. State Department spokesman John Hughes stressed that the U.S. was still "consulting" with Israel in order to learn the details of its decision which have not yet been made public.

"Israel, of course, makes its own decisions," Hughes said. "But our position on partial withdrawal of all foreign forces has not changed. Our basic objective is the full withdrawal of all foreign forces from Lebanon. Any partial withdrawal, therefore, should be within the framework of that objective and should not complicate the very difficult tasks facing the government of President Gemayel," the State Department spokesman said.

The Administration has reportedly been opposed to any redeployment by Israel unless it is part of a timetable for full withdrawal. Israel has held a decision in abeyance pending the visit of Premier Menachem Begin to Washington. However, Begin telephoned President Reagan yesterday to postpone that visit for "personal reasons." Hughes appeared today to see no link between the postponement and the Israeli Cabinet's redeployment decision.

Meanwhile, Hughes underscored the warning against complicating Gemayel's problems by making a strong statement today about the heavy shelling of Beirut from the Shouf mountains area, the very area Israel is believed ready to vacate.

"This brutal and indiscriminate shelling of populated areas is especially distressing at the very moment the Lebanese President is engaged in talks here in Washington aimed at the withdrawal of all external forces leading to national reconciliation and the extension of the Lebanese central government's authority throughout the country," Hughes said. "This latest incident poignantly underscores the necessity for the speedy withdrawal of all foreign forces which remains the key and paramount objective of our efforts with all the parties."

That effort is underway now with Gemayel who arrived in Washington yesterday and will have a working lunch with Secretary of State George Shultz at the State Department tomorrow. He meets with Reagan on Friday.

LEBANESE PREMIER SAYS ISRAEL'S REDEPLOYMENT DECISION WAS A 'STARTLING AND SERIOUS' MOVE

By Edwin Eytan

PARIS, July 20 (JTA) -- Prime Minister Shafik Wazzan of Lebanon said today that his government was "caught by surprise" by Israel's decision to redeploy its forces in south Lebanon. Beirut Radio, monitored in Paris, said Wazzan termed the Israeli decision "startling and serious" in view of the fact that President Amin Gemayel and he himself are in Washington negotiating for "the withdrawal of all foreign troops from Lebanon."

A Beirut radio reporter in Washington said Wazzan believes the Israeli decision might force Lebanon "into exploring new possibilities" in its quest for the withdrawal of both Israeli and Syrian forces.

(In Washington, Lebanon's Foreign Minister Elie Salem also criticized the Israeli Cabinet decision. He said, "After eight years of war and destruction, Lebanon is in no mood to talk about an army withdrawal of one or two kilometers (because) we are talking about the life of the nation and the survival of democracy."

(He said the Lebanese army was ready to move into any evacuated areas and could keep order there. "The support of the Lebanese people for the army is more than enough to maintain peace and stability," Salem said.)

Lebanon is adamantly opposed to a partial and unilateral Israeli withdrawal to new lines in the south unless this is part of a definite timetable for a general withdrawal. The Lebanese fear that a partial Israeli withdrawal might create a permanent partition and spell a permanent Israeli and Syrian occupation of Lebanese territory.

Lebanon signed a security agreement with Israel and the United States on May 17 providing for the withdrawal of all foreign troops. Syria has said, however, that it will withdraw its forces only after a previous unconditional Israeli pull-back and Israel has clearly stated that it will withdraw only if Syria complies as well.

BACKGROUND REPORT SPECULATION AND CONCERN FOLLOWS BEGIN'S CANCELLATION OF U.S. VISIT

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, July 20 (JTA) -- Premier Menachem Begin's cancellation of his visit to Washington yesterday, a week before it was to begin, has raised a storm of speculation and concern over the state of the Prime Minister's physical and emotional health, his political plans and the possibility that he might relinquish his office soon.

In his brief telephone conversation with President Reagan yesterday informing him that he would not be keeping their July 27th appointment at the White House, Begin cited "personal reasons." The President did not ask him to elucidate and Begin's closest aides refused to provide any explanation, though they vehemently denied that the Premier's physical condition was a factor.

Political pundits suggested that Begin wanted to avoid a confrontation with Reagan over plans to redeploy the Israel Defense Force in Lebanon to shorter, more defensible lines, a move Washington is known to oppose and about which Lebanese President Amin Gemayel has expressed serious misgivings.

That issue was virtually certain to have figured in the Begin-Reagan talks. Significantly, within hours after cancelling his visit to Washington, Begin ordered a secret session of the Ministerial Defense Committee which today unanimously approved a redeployment plan, although no details were announced.

Problems Burdening The Premier

Begin, who will be 70 next weekend, has had medical problems for years, including a heart attack shortly before he was first elected to office in 1977, and other ailments. He was badly shaken by the long illness and death of his wife, Aliza, last November which left him in a deep depression which, his close associates say, has still not lifted.

There are other severe problems burdening the Prime Minister. The war in Lebanon which began in June, 1982, with overwhelming Israeli victories over the Palestine Liberation Organization and the Soviet-armed Syrians, held out high hopes that the Begin government's war aims would be achieved: that the PLO would be eradicated as a military and political force, and that Lebanon, under a friendly Christian government, would become the second Arab state to sign a peace treaty with Israel.

But none of this has materialized. The PLO, though in internal disarray, remains capable of terrorists activity, now apparently under Syrian control. Syria, its war losses fully replenished by the Soviet Union, adamantly refuses to pull its forces out of Lebanon.

It is thus able to block implementation of the Israel-Lebanon withdrawal agreement signed May 17 after four months of exhausting negotiations, with the United States acting as mediator. The agreement itself falls far short of the peace treaty Israel had expected.

The Most Serious Problem

Most serious, from the standpoint of Israelis, the IDF, more than a year after the war began, remains in occupation of large areas of Lebanon, forced to perform arduous, dangerous and unwanted policing duties to maintain its own security and to try to keep peace between incessantly warring

Christian, Moslem and Druze factions obviously beyond the control of the Beirut government. As a result, the IDF is suffering casualties.

The death toll since the invasion of Lebanon began 13 months ago stands at over 500 and more than 2,000 Israeli soldiers have been wounded. According to Begin's intimates, each IDF death causes him visible physical pain. He is deeply perturbed by his personal responsibility and by his personal need to bring the Lebanese episode to a speedy and secure conclusion.

Changes In Begin's Personal Style

All of this helps explain his doleful mood, his seeming lethargy and self-imposed near-seclusion. The changes in Begin's personal style have been evident to the public for some time and widely reported by the media. Although Begin has had periods of depression before, he always bounced back to confound political opponents all too ready to write him off.

But his present slough of despondency is the deepest and longest. He has limited his public appearances to the bare minimum in recent months. When he does deliver a brief speech or an address to the Knesset, the old fire and fight is missing. He has flatly refused interviews even to the most eminent foreign journalists. He was never generous with interviews to the Israeli press which he considers endemically hostile to him and his policies.

Supporters Worried, Public Perplexed

The Premier's failure to go on television last night to explain his decision to cancel his Washington trip has worried his supporters and perplexed the Israeli public. The opposition Labor Party is still wary of raising the issue of Begin's health -- it has backed off on them before given the Premier's still enormous popularity with wide sections of the electorate.

But Labor leaders believe there is no alternative this time. Labor Party chairman Shimon Peres, brushing aside the official explanations of Begin's decision not to go to Washington, declared yesterday that it "raises serious questions about his (ability to) function."

Begin may still pull out of his despondent mood. He and his senior ministers hope that the partial pull-back of Israeli forces in Lebanon will reduce casualties and costs and will ease the burden of prolonged service on army reservists. If this is achieved, it would certainly improve the government's standing at home and might give Begin the needed lift to recapture his lost energy and joy in political combat.

But much can go wrong. There is no guarantee that the redeployment will substantially reduce IDF casualties. Most of the recent casualties in Lebanon have been the result of terrorist ambushes and hit-and-run attacks within the designated security zone of south Lebanon to which the Israeli troops will withdraw.

The IDF, moreover, will still control a population of some 600,000 Lebanese and Palestinians if the city of Sidon is included within its lines. That matter apparently has not been decided.

Lebanon Wracked By Intemecine Warfare

Intemecine warfare is breaking out all over Lebanon in anticipation of an Israeli pull-back. There is no way of predicting whether or not the fighting will escalate after Israeli troops leave the Shouf mountains and the Beirut area. It is not clear either at this stage whether the multinational force, now in a peacekeeping role in and around Beirut, will be redeployed to cover the areas evacuated by the IDF.

SPECIAL INTERVIEW ROSENNE BELIEVES REPORTS OF U.S. PRESSURE ON ISRAEL ARE EXAGGERATED

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, July 20 (JTA) — Meir Rosenne, Israel's new Ambassador to the United States, believes that relations between Israel and the U.S. have always been good because the two countries share the common principles of democracy and freedom and that the reports of U.S. pressure on Israel have been exaggerated.

"I don't think that the talk about American pressure on Israel is true," he said yesterday in an interview with the Jewish Telegraphic Agency in his spacious office in the Israel Embassy here. "It is utterly false."

Instead, Rosenne argues that the U.S. has used its "good offices" to help Israel negotiate the Camp David agreements, the Israeli-Egyptian peace treaty and the recent agreement with Lebanon.

The 52-year-old Rosenne has the credentials to make this point. As legal advisor to the Israel Foreign Ministry from 1971 to 1979, he participated in the negotiations with Egypt and Syria following the 1973 Yom Kippur War and in all the negotiations leading to the peace treaty with Egypt. He headed the Israeli team for the autonomy negotiations until he was named Ambassador to France in 1979, a post he held until coming to Washington June 5.

Rosenne appeared to arrive at a time of almost euphoric relations between Israel and the U.S. following the Israeli-Lebanese agreement that had been signed May 17. But he stressed yesterday that the reports of a "terrible relationship between our two countries" that had existed since Israel went into Lebanon were exaggerated. He said there were "differences of opinion" but "this does not mean there is a major crisis in the relationship between the two countries."

Reason For The Problems

In Rosenne's opinion, the problems have developed because for the past 35 years Mideast peace has been negotiated between Jews and Jews or with friends because with the exception of Egypt, "the Arab countries don't want to sit down with us at the negotiating table."

But, "in order to reach peace in the Middle East there should be negotiations between the Arab states and the State of Israel," Rosenne said. "But this has been rejected by the Arab states because they hope that peace can be imposed from the outside They hope that others will do the job for them either by imposing sanctions" as the European Economic Community did last year "or by giving the impression that Israel is intransigent."

But Rosenne said that Israel has shown in its negotiations with Egypt that it was "ready to give up a lot ... in order to sign a peace treaty with the first Arab state that was ready to negotiate with us."

As for Syria, Rosenne noted that since 1948 it was always the last Arab state willing to sign an agreement with Israel. He pointed out that Syria now controls 50 percent of Lebanon and has never accepted the idea of an independent Lebanon nor ever had an Ambassador in Beirut. "We hope there will be an Israeli Ambassador in Beirut," he added.

Rosenne is still hopeful that Syria would agree to withdraw. "We hope that the Syrians will reach the conclusion that in 1983 you just can't dominate a sovereign state and agree to respect the sovereign rights of Lebanon and the territorial integrity of this country," he said.

Until then, Israeli troops will remain in Lebanon but there will be a redeployment which will be done in a way as not to endanger the lives of civilians or Israeli troops, Rosenne stressed. He said Lebanese troops will take over the positions vacated by Israel and he believes that the Lebanese army is now "numerically and qualitatively" capable of preventing the Syrians from moving into these areas.

Role Of Israeli Representative

Rosenne was born in Iasi, Rumania and as a child he saw 10,000 Jews taken and killed from his town by Nazi troops and their Rumanian supporters. His family fled to Palestine and he went to school in Tel Aviv before receiving a Masters Degree in political science and a Doctorate in international law at the Sorbonne. He is also a graduate of the Institute for Advanced International Studies in Paris. He was Israeli Consul General in New York from 1961 to 1967 and represented Israel on various international bodies.

It is this background that accounts for the way he sees his job. "Every Israeli representative knows he is a Jew and an Israeli," he said. "You represent not only the Jews that live in Israel today, but you also represent all those that didn't have this privilege of seeing the Israeli flag, those that died in the ghettos, the concentration camps and all those that fought in the War of Independence."

Beyond this Rosenne sees his "task" as presenting Israel's position both to the U.S. government and to the general public. He noted that billions of dollars are spent in "campaigns of vilification of the State of Israel." He specifically mentioned efforts to rewrite history by denying the Holocaust happened and the "selective memory" which forgets that the Jews who left the Arab countries were expelled, leaving behind their property.

Rosenne also sees as his task to "strengthen the ties" with American Jews. He noted that Israel was established by world Jewry and every Jew is a "shareholder" in Israel.

He said it cannot be explained by "logic" why, when a Jew in Moscow is "hit" a Jew in New York is ready to respond with protests, or why even the most assimilated Jew, when he reads a newspaper, looks first for the items on Israel. He noted that when a terrorist incident occurs in Israel the telephone lines to Jerusalem are busy; and when a synagogue is bombed in Europe, Israelis telephone the place where the incident occurred.

"Everything that happens in Israel is the concern of every Jew," he pointed out. But like his predecessors at the Embassy here, Rosenne does not believe this concern should include public criticism of Israel.

Quotes The Late Alain de Rothschild

He quoted from a speech by the late French Jewish leader Alain de Rothschild in May 1982 who said that "if you do not agree with something that Israel does and if you love Israel and if you are a Jew committed to Zionism, then you should go either to Jerusalem to express your opinion or criticism or tell it to the Israeli representative.

"But if you come out publicly and criticize Israel, objectively you become the ally of the enemies of Israel because our enemies and the Arab countries that want to destroy the State of Israel, as they have

reiterated time and again, will of course use the criticism that is done in good faith in order to vilify and in order to create more hatred against the State of Israel. So criticism is accepted if it is not public and it cannot be used as an additional instrument against the State of Israel."

Rosenne added that "even those that criticize Israel know perfectly well if there is no peace in the Middle East yet it is not the fault of Israel. It is the fault of the Arab states." He stressed that "all Israel governments, since 1948 until 1983, have asked for only one thing -- and that is peace."

KOREY: EMIGRATION OF SOVIET JEWS IS PART OF THE ATMOSPHERE OF DETENTE By Arnold Ages

GROSSINGER'S, N. Y., July 20 (JTA) -- William Korey, director of international policy research of the International Council of B'nai B'rith, and author of "The Soviet Cage," believes that the emigration of Soviet Jews is part of the atmosphere of detente.

In an interview with the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, he indicated that the picture, however, is very complex. The Jackson-Vanik amendment, which was originally designed to encourage the Soviets to open their doors to permit Jewish emigration, has had only limited utility.

"For one thing, the Russians neither asked for, nor recognize the legitimacy of the amendment," Korey said. "Secondly, the United States, in a little known amendment to another bill, effectively neutralized the Jackson-Vanik amendment by limiting the number of credits available to favored nations."

While recognizing the limitations of the Jackson-Vanik legislation, Korey does not subscribe to the thesis espoused by a number of world Jewish leaders that the amendment is counterproductive and that it has worked against Soviet Jewish emigration.

"The drop in emigration is unrelated to the passage of the amendment; there was a sharp decrease in the number of Soviet Jews months before the legislation. On the other hand the Jackson-Vanik bill helped convince the Soviets to drop their education tax on emigres."

Need For Proper Perspective

Korey believes that the Soviet-Jewish emigration should be seen in the proper perspective. "You know, the German Federal Republic believes in quiet diplomacy in trying to effect the emigration of the Volga Germans and the other Germans who have been trying to leave Russia," he said. "Yet the West German government has only effected the emigration of a tiny number of Germans in contrast to the large number of Soviet Jews who have been permitted to leave."

With regard to the general question of emigration, Korey recognizes the paradox which sees detente as a factor in Soviet policy towards Jews. "For the Soviets the Mideast situation is relevant; they are ardent supporters of the Syrians and the PLO. Jews cannot become critics of Israel in order to satisfy the demands of detente."

In pressing for Soviet Jewish emigration, Korey feels that moral suasion is still an important factor.

"During the Stalin years this approach would have been useless but under the current regime it is possible."

Korey believes that protests against Soviet performers, providing they are done without alienating audiences, are effective means in keeping the issue of Soviet Jewry in the public eye. "Spreading mice on the floor during concerts is not what I would call an effective technique because you lose the people you want to persuade."

WEST GALILEE SHELLED FROM LEBANON

TEL AVIV, July 20 (JTA) -- Two Katyusha rockets were fired from Lebanese territory towards western Galilee this evening. They caused slight damage but not casualties. It was the first time in many months that shells have fallen in western Galilee, from inside Lebanon.

Meanwhile, in the Beirut area heavy shelling was reported in sharp exchanges between Druze militia and Christian Phalangists. Three residents of the Christian quarters of east Beirut were reported killed and some 24 injured, according to radio reports from the Lebanese capital.

PRAYER PROTEST AGAINST DIGS By David Landau

JERUSALEM, July 20 (JTA) -- An estimated 1,000 ultra-Orthodox Jews assembled in "Shabbos Square" before dawn this morning for two hours of prayers and psalm-singing to protest archaeological diggings at the City of David, just outside the Old City Walls.

The prayers lasted from 4-6 a.m. and the crowd dispersed peacefully. There was no repetition of the rioting which broke out in the same place, over the same issue a week ago, due apparently to a massive display of force by Jerusalem police. Police units in riot gear, backed by water cannon and tear-gas guns, surrounded the square.

A delegation of rabbis met later with senior police officers to protest the continued detention of 18 ultra-Orthodox Jews arrested in the earlier riots. They have been remanded in custody for 10 days pending trial.

Speakers at this morning's demonstration demanded that the digging site be separated by a stone wall from the alleged site of an ancient Jewish cemetery to prevent its desecration. The Education Ministry, which licensed the dig, erected a wooden fence. A ministry spokesman said a stone fence was preferable but funds are lacking for one at this time.

ANTI-ISRAEL CARTOON WINS PRIZE By Michael Solomon

MONTREAL, July 20 (JTA) -- A cartoon depicting Israeli soldiers tormenting Lebanese women and children was awarded the \$5,000 Grand Prize at the 20th International Salon of Cartoons here yesterday. The drawing by Antonio Antunes Moreira of Portugal was chosen by five judges from 900 entries from more than 60 countries for its "immediate comment and visually arresting style."

Robert Lapalm, director of the salon, noted that "it is a very controversial cartoon, to say the least." Contest judge Terry Mosher, the Montreal Gazette's editorial cartoonist, acknowledged the cartoon's controversial content, but added that it was the most appropriate in light of the impact Israel's invasion of Lebanon had on the world. Another judge, Roy Peterson, editorial cartoonist of the Vancouver Sun, said the judges had no better choice than Antunes Moreira's entry.

TEL AVIV (JTA) -- El Al's new Boeing 767 aircraft, the first of four to be delivered by next year, arrived here on its first commercial flight from London Monday.