

# JTA daily news bulletin

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## SHAMIR, ARENS WASHINGTON-BOUND FOR TALKS WITH THE PRESIDENT

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, July 24 (JTA) — Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir and Defense Minister Moshe Arens will fly to Washington tomorrow for a meeting with President Reagan Tuesday on the rapidly deteriorating situation in Lebanon and Israel's plans to redeploy its forces there.

Premier Menachem Begin received an invitation from Reagan this morning to send his two senior ministers for talks at the White House. Begin had been scheduled to make the trip himself. But last week he unexpectedly cancelled his July 27 appointment with the President for unexplained "personal reasons." Shamir and Arens, going in his place, are expected to discuss bilateral matters as well as the escalating crisis in Lebanon.

Lebanon was the focus of discussion at today's weekly Cabinet session. The redeployment plans, approved by the government last week, are reported to be proceeding despite mounting pressure from the government of President Amin Gemayel for Israel to stand fast in its present positions for the time being.

Gemayel, who was in Washington this past week, urgently sought help from the U.S. to secure the withdrawal of all foreign troops from his country which now seems to be facing political as well as possible physical partition.

### United Front Fomed Against Beirut Government

A week of savage fighting between Gemayel's troops and pro-Syrian Lebanese forces opposed to his regime and to its withdrawal/security agreement with Israel culminated yesterday with the proclamation of a united front in opposition to the Beirut government. The announcement was made by Walid Jumblatt, leader of the Lebanese Druze community which has been at war with Gemayel's Christian Phalangists.

Jumblatt is one of three members of the newly formed National Salvation Front's command council. The others are former President Suleiman Franjeh, a Maronite Christian, and former Prime Minister Rashid Karami, a member of the dominant Sunni branch of Islam.

The National Salvation Front, backed by Syria, seems to have the trappings of a second Lebanese government with a provisional structure to handle military, financial, social and information affairs.

Its formation raised fears that Lebanon may be divided into a Syrian supported enclave in the northern and central parts of the country which, in view of Israel's presence in the south, would leave the Gemayel Administration in control only of Beirut and its immediate environs.

Jumblatt said his Druze forces were responsible for the heavy shelling of Beirut last week which caused serious casualties. The Druze have been intermittently battling the Christian Phalangists in the Shouf mountains of eastern Lebanon, a region the Israeli army plans to evacuate in accordance with its redeployment plans.

For that reason, apparently, Israel's Druze community appealed to the Israeli government today not to undertake a premature withdrawal which would leave their Lebanese brothers at the mercy of the Phalangists. The appeal was made by Sheikh Amin Tarif, head of the Israeli Druze, at a reception for his community given by President Chaim Herzog.

In the midst of these developments, the U.S. has replaced a key member of its Middle East negotiating team. President Reagan announced Friday that Robert McFarlane, a deputy assistant for national security affairs, will replace veteran diplomat Philip Habib as the President's special envoy to the Middle East. (See separate story.)

It is not considered likely that Israel will alter its plans to redeploy its army in Lebanon to shorter, more defensible lines in the hope of eliminating or reducing Israeli casualties in what has become a dangerous war of attrition in Lebanon. But the actual redeployment probably will not begin until after Shamir's and Arens' talks in Washington.

Gemayel has sharply criticized the Israeli plans and has reportedly asked American intervention with Jerusalem to have the move suspended until the Lebanese army is able to cope with the military situation in the Shouf mountains.

Sheikh Tarif, for his part, urged Israel to hold off its evacuation of the Shouf mountains until an agreement is reached between the local Druze and the Lebanese authorities. Israel must not leave the Shouf before it is clear of "foreign elements," he said. Herzog assured the Druze leader that Israel would do everything possible to protect the Druze community in Lebanon.

### Issues To Be Discussed

Shamir and Arens will probably take up with Reagan and other Administration officials matters that Begin would have discussed with them had he not cancelled his trip to Washington. These are said to include U.S. economic aid to Israel and the Lavie jet fighter project. Reagan recently authorized the transfer of American technology to Israel to enable it to produce its second generation war plane.

At today's Cabinet session, Arens demanded that 20 billion Shekels be allocated to finance the project as well as Israel's continued presence in Lebanon. Finance Minister Yoram Aridor said he would refuse to "print" new money for the purpose, so other means must be found to raise it that would not fuel inflation, now running at an annual rate of well over 100 percent.

One minister suggested that daylight saving time be instituted as an energy saving measure. Interior Minister Yosef Burg replied that it was too late for this year but he would name a commission to study the matter and come up with recommendations for next year. Meanwhile, the matter of the 20 billion Shekels will be referred to the Ministerial Economic Committee which is under severe pressure to institute sharp budget cuts.

## McFARLANE REPLACES HABIB AS REAGAN'S MIDEAST REPRESENTATIVE

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, July 24 (JTA) -- President Reagan has named Robert McFarlane, a deputy assistant for national security affairs, to replace Philip Habib as his personal representative in the Middle East. McFarlane, who, as Habib did, will carry the personal rank of ambassador, is expected to leave for the Middle East within a week.

The surprise announcement was made by Reagan last Friday as he concluded a 90-minute White House meeting with Lebanese President Amin Gemayel. Reagan said that Habib "must return to his business and academic duties."

But Administration officials later conceded that one of the reasons is to bring in a "new face" in the United States diplomatic process in the hope that this will aid the U.S. effort to convince Syria to remove its forces from Lebanon. Habib has not been welcome in Damascus and it is hoped that the Syrians will now receive his replacement.

But McFarlane said he has no advance commitment from the Syrians that he will be allowed to go to Damascus. "We have no reason to doubt the commitment of all countries in the area to see Lebanon able to restore its sovereignty," he said.

### Going In Good Will

"We go in good will (to the Middle East) and anticipate the same reciprocal good will from every country in the area," he said. Another Administration official said the United States "fully expects" that McFarlane "will be received by the Syrians."

The 46-year-old McFarlane is a former U.S. Marine Colonel who was military assistant to Secretary of State Henry Kissinger from 1973 to 1975, served on the National Security Council from 1975 to 1977, was a staff member on the Senate Armed Services Committee from 1979 to 1981, was State Department counselor in 1981, and has been on the National Security Council since January, 1982, a position he will maintain.

Administration officials denied that the McFarlane appointment was an indication that the White House was unhappy the way the State Department had handled the situation in Lebanon. Nicholas Veliotis, Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs, said that both he and Secretary of State George Shultz welcomed the McFarlane appointment.

McFarlane said he will retain Richard Fairbanks as a special Mideast envoy, but left open whether Morris Draper, a former Deputy Secretary for Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs, would also continue as a special Mideast envoy. But he stressed he will be meeting with Habib and Draper to get their ideas.

### Agreement On Next Steps

Reagan, in his remarks after meeting with Gemayel, said he and the Lebanese President "have agreed on the next steps" in their efforts to get all foreign troops to leave Lebanon. Administration officials, briefing reporters on the meeting, had no explanation of what these next steps would be, except that they would include a "new flexibility."

One official said a "strong consensus" had been reached on what the next steps should be, noting that the United States and Lebanon had up to now

had their emphasis on different priorities. McFarlane said that Reagan believed that it was "incumbent on the United States to bring peace to this troubled area, first in Lebanon and then through the broader peace process." Administration officials said the President felt that the situation in Lebanon must be solved first before the overall Mideast peace issue could be addressed.

"It is with a deep sense of conviction, commitment and hope that I undertake this assignment," McFarlane said. He said the main concern in the area was the "human anguish" which he noted "every day worsens."

He noted that since the war in Lebanon, there have been new perspectives in the Middle East, which is the reason he was optimistic about his efforts. He said the Palestinians have called into question the viability of relying on violence to achieve their goals while others in the area have had to question their strategy of the last 35 years.

In his farewell remarks to Gemayel, Reagan stressed that United States policy in Lebanon is based on the "full withdrawal of foreign forces from Lebanon, support for a strong central government capable of asserting its authority over all Lebanon, and security for Israel's northern border."

The President pledged that "the United States remains firmly committed to the earliest possible resolution of the conflict in Lebanon."

## 12 PEOPLE KILLED, OVER 40 WOUNDED IN WEEKEND VIOLENCE IN LEBANON

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, July 24 (JTA) -- Twelve people were killed and more than 40 were wounded in a weekend of violence in Lebanon. An American Christian-supported and operated television station was also bombed, but there were no casualties.

Eleven Israeli soldiers were wounded Friday when a remote-controlled explosive charge was detonated as their patrol passed through Aley village in the hills east of Beirut on the Beirut-Damascus highway. They were taken by helicopter to a hospital in Haifa.

Earlier in the day, one person was killed and 13 persons were wounded, including two Americans, when some 20 shells hit the Beirut International Airport and the surrounding region. The firing came from the mainly Druze areas in the mountains to the east of Beirut. The two Americans were attached to the multinational peace force. The others wounded were Lebanese civilians.

A powerful bomb wrecked the Voice of Hope television station yesterday. The station, which was founded and financed by fundamentalist and evangelical church groups mainly in California and states in the United States, was housed in a building just across the border opposite Metallah. It was damaged by a 50-kilo bomb in a car parked nearby. The building was empty at the time. Another car parked nearby was blown into the air and landed on the Israeli slide of the "good fence."

Maj. Saad Haddad, leader of the south Lebanon Christian militia, narrowly escaped death in the bombing incident. He left the studio minutes before the explosion, intending to return shortly afterwards to make a broadcast. A group of American tourists had also left the area minutes before the blast. Haddad said he thought the bomb had been intended to kill him. A similar car bomb attack on the TV station was made some months ago.

## THATCHER PRAISES ARGOV

By Maurice Samuelson

LONDON, July 24 (JTA) -- British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher praised Shlomo Argov, the former

Israeli Ambassador to London, as "a true citizen of the free world who cherishes freedom and justice and is utterly opposed to those who assault them."

She spoke at a special dinner last Thursday night in London's Grosvenor House Hotel, only 200 yards from the spot where, 13 months ago, Argov was shot by an Arab terrorist. His life was saved but he has since been almost totally paralyzed.

Hava Argov, his wife, told the guests, who also included former Prime Minister James Callaghan, that despite her husband's grave condition, there was "some light at the end of the tunnel." The Hadassah Hospital, where he is being treated, had begun allowing him home at weekends, and in a few months, she hoped he would come home permanently.

Until recently, Argov was remembered here chiefly for the high caliber of his advocacy of Israel's cause while serving as its Ambassador to Britain in difficult times. Thursday night, though, there was also a reference to his criticism of Israel's full-scale invasion of Lebanon, for which the attack on Argov had served as a pretext.

#### Reaction To Argov's Statement

In view of his physical condition, British Jewry has so far refrained from reacting to his comments, which were dictated from his hospital bed in Israel to a friend earlier this month and printed in Haaretz. Nevertheless, they have had a very profound impact, stirring the deep misgivings which many communal leaders have felt over some aspects of the Lebanese operation.

Commenting on them Thursday night, Chief Rabbi Immanuel Jakobovits declared: "We are happy that he was able to speak out recently, though we have sorely missed his superb spokespersonship this past year."

Argov was shot when leaving a diplomatic reception at the nearby Dorchester Hotel. Fear of a similar incident Thursday night was reflected in the large numbers of security men inside and outside the hotel.

Among the guests was Dr. Norman Grant, the British neurosurgeon, who saved Argov's life after Argov was rushed to the National Hospital for Nervous Diseases, two miles away, suffering from severe head wounds. After the operation the Ambassador remained unconscious for several weeks. Also present were the Ambassador's driver and his British police bodyguard, who shot one of his assailants.

Mrs. Thatcher, who was accompanied by her husband, devoted most of her speech to the condemnation of political terrorism and a call for "closer and closer cooperation between governments in combatting it."

#### Message From Begin

Premier Menachem Begin of Israel, in a written message to the dinner, said of Argov that "in all his dealings his point of reference was not the pragmatic immediate present, but always how the present relates to the future peace and security of Israel."

The dinner culminated in the creation, in Argov's name, of professorships in Israeli-diaspora relations at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and of Bar Ilan University.

#### RABBINICAL RESTRAINING ORDER FORCES JDL MEMBERS TO END TAKEOVER OF THE HERUT OFFICE

By Ben Gallob

NEW YORK, July 24 (JTA) — Rabbi Dov Fisch, executive director of Herut USA, has confirmed that he had obtained a restraining order from a rabbinical group which forced eight members of the Jewish Defense League to end their takeover of the Herut office in Manhattan.

Fisch said the JDL members entered the Herut office on July 14, ordered the Herut employes to leave and announced a takeover. A JDL spokesman said the JDL had taken over the office to bring about the release from jail of Israel Fuchs, 19, a member of Rabbi Meir Kahane's Kach Party in Israel. Kahane was a founder of the JDL in the U.S.

Fisch told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that Fuchs, who had been arrested four months ago on charges of having fired a gun at an Arab car near Hebron, was sentenced on July 12 to 39 months in prison. Fisch said he had not been in the Herut office when the takeover occurred. Called to the Herut office, Fisch said, he told the JDL members that he would not call the police but that he would also not negotiate with the JDL during the takeover.

#### Moves To Obtain A Restraining Order

Instead, Fisch called the Rabbinical Council of America, largest of the Orthodox rabbinical groups, but was informed that its Beth Din (rabbinical court) could not act quickly to give Rabbi Fisch a "Ktav Ikul," a restraining order which he wanted to serve on the JDL members holding his office.

Fisch, who also serves as rabbi for a small Haverah on weekends, said he then reached the Rabbinical Alliance, another Orthodox agency, and spoke to Rabbi Herschel Kurzrock, who is director of the agency's Beth Din and rabbi of the Young Israel of Kensington.

After some discussion, Kurzrock arranged for a temporary restraining order, to be in effect pending a hearing of the Beth Din, set for July 17. Fisch then went to his office and handed the document to Fern Rosenblatt, the JDL's new national director, one of the JDL members holding the Herut office, who was a leader of the takeover group.

Fisch, a former member of the JDL, said he was upset that the JDL members "did not even have the courtesy to ascertain that I was unsympathetic" to the sentencing of Fuchs, simply taking over his Herut office. "They immediately decided to intimidate me and talk to me under the gun."

After Ms. Rosenblatt led the other JDL members out of the Herut office, ending the occupation, she returned alone to talk to Fisch who agreed to send a telegram to Israel's Attorney General, Yitzhak Zamir describing the takeover of the Herut office and asking Zamir to look into the Fuchs case.

On July 17, Fisch and several JDL members met at the Young Israel of Kensington, where the Beth Din had been scheduled but, on being informed by telephone by Kurzrock that the Beth Din would not meet, Fisch and the JDL leaders reached an informal agreement to let matters stand, pending the convening of the Rabbinical Alliance Beth Din.

## LAWMAKER CITES ROLES OF U.S. GOVERNMENT AND AMERICAN JEWS IN HELPING JEWS IN THE USSR

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, July 24 (JTA) — Rep. Martin Frost (D. Texas), who has just returned from his first trip to the Soviet Union concludes that it is difficult to speculate on when conditions for Jews in the USSR will improve.

But he believes two things must continue to go on in the United States to help them. "First, it is absolutely imperative that our government should continue to raise the question of human rights in a forceful manner in all discussions with the Soviets and should make it clear that we expect progress in return for cooperation in other areas," he said.

"Second, it is important that the American Jews continue to maintain contact with Jews in the Soviet Union. We cannot perform miracles for them, but we can try to sustain their hope and let them know they are not alone."

Frost and his wife, Valerie, who were denied visas by the Soviet Union last fall, made the trip as part of a 20-member bipartisan House delegation which went to the USSR to conduct a series of meetings with the Supreme Soviet. The delegation led by Rep. Thomas Foley (D. Wash.), the House Majority Whip, visited Leningrad, Moscow and Yerevan in Soviet Armenia from July 1 through July 10.

In addition to Frost, three other members of the delegation were Jews: Reps. Henry Waxman and Anthony Beilenson, both Democrats of California, and Dan Glickman (D. Kan.).

### Raises A Host Of Issues

During the opening meeting with the Supreme Soviet, Waxman raised the issue of Soviet Jewry, listed the case of individual refuseniks, criticized the barriers to emigration and protested the new Soviet anti-Zionism committee. He also raised the question of discrimination against Baptists and other Christian believers.

Several Congressmen in the delegation have reported that while the Soviets were attentive to the Americans they were rude to Waxman when he brought up the issue of Jews, and several could be seen taking out their ear plugs in which they heard the translations from English.

The next day, when the delegation was broken up into working groups, Waxman and Frost pressed the issue of anti-Semitism and barriers to emigration at the human rights working group. The Soviets claimed that "virtually everyone" who wanted to emigrate had left and that "there is a difference between anti-Semitism and anti-Zionism," Frost said.

He said the Soviets had two Jews on the human rights committee, Lev Shapiro and Genrikas Zimanas. "I had a particularly poignant discussion with Zimanas, who came from Lithuania where part of my family and part of my wife's family originally lived," Frost said.

"I asked him how he could stand idly by while the Soviet government accused Jews of having collaborated with Hitler during World War II. Zimanas clearly had trouble with the question and could only respond that some Jews stayed in the ghetto and did not resist the Nazis during World War II. I responded that there is a big difference between not resisting and collaboration."

Almost all members of the delegation met with refuseniks in Moscow and Leningrad and the wives

of the Congressmen had a meeting with a group of refusenik scientists. Frost said these were "moving" experiences. "We met engineers who were forced to take jobs as boiler stokers or attendants in a public bath," he said. "We met a leading Soviet mathematician who had just lost his teaching position. And we met a leading concert pianist who was having great trouble finding work."

The refuseniks' greatest concern was for their children, Frost said. "While things had been tough for them personally, they had, for the most part, been able to get an education and pursue a particular profession," he explained. "Now, their children were being denied positions in most universities, and there was absolutely no future for them in the Soviet Union."

### A Rebirth Of Judaism

At the same time, according to Frost, "it was clear from our discussions that there is a rebirth of Judaism among many of the refuseniks. Many are studying Hebrew and are anxious to receive any religious materials. They proudly wore small Jewish stars or other symbols and had Jewish items on display in their small apartments."

Frost pointed out that the Congressmen were able to bring in books in Hebrew and religious articles while most American tourists cannot. "We were given the red-carpet treatment because the Soviets wanted dialogue on arms control and trade to continue," he said. But the Congressmen stressed to the Soviets that they should expect progress in these areas to be linked to progress on human rights.

### SCIENTISTS PROTEST TREATMENT OF SOVIET JEWISH COLLEAGUE

NEW YORK, July 24 (JTA) — Physicists from around the world who attended a major international scientific conference in Crete earlier this month protested to Soviet authorities against the refusal to allow Prof. Armen Khachatryan and his wife, Svetlana, to attend the conference and the continued denial to them of exit visas to emigrate, the World Jewish Congress reported. The professor and his wife, leading experts in the theory of phase transformation, first applied to emigrate to Israel in July, 1981.

According to the Central Board of Jewish Communities in Greece, the WJC affiliate in that country, the protest by the physicists at the conference took the form of a letter signed by some 100 participants. In addition, the scientists went on a partial fast in solidarity with the hunger strike that the Khachatryans and two other Soviet Jewish scientists staged for the duration of the four-day conference.

The other two Soviet scientists were Edward Nadgomyi, an authority in dislocation dynamics, and Leonid Ozemoy, a leading specialist in theoretical astrophysics. They, too, have applied for exit visas to Israel and have been persecuted as a result, according to the WJC.

The protest letter was directed to E. P. Velikov, vice president of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR. It stated that the refusal to allow the Khachatryans' participation in the conference was "a disservice to international science and reflects badly on your Academy." It also expressed distress "that this action is only the most recent step in a pattern of professional harassment of the Khachatryan family." The letter urged the Soviet government to allow the family to join their relatives abroad.