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U.S., ACCEPTS ISRAELI DECISION TO REDEPLOY ITS FORCES IN LEBANON AS 'INEVITABLE' AND AGREES WITH ISRAELI VIEW OF PHASED WITHDRAWAL

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, July 28 (JTA) -- The Reagan Administration ended 15 hours of talks over three days with Israeli Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir and Defense Minister Moshe Arens today having accepted the Israeli decision to redeploy its troops in Lebanon as "inevitable" and agreeing to Israel's contention that this would be the first phase of its withdrawal from Lebanon.

"One of the things that came forward very strongly was the attitude of Israel that this redeployment is the first phase toward total withdrawal in the context of the May 17 Israeli-Lebanese agreement," Secretary of State George Shultz said after a 30-minute meeting between the two Israeli ministers and President Reagan.

"I think that any notion that this redeployment is part of an attempt to stay in Lebanon is totally wrong and certainly to the contrary," Shultz said as the two Israelis stood at his side under the hot broiling sun in the driveway outside the White House west wing. "It is a step in the direction of total withdrawal and we at least hope it will make some impact in that regard by the Syrians and the others in the area."

While neither Arens nor Shamir mentioned redeployment in their brief remarks today, Shamir, after all-day talks at the State Department yesterday, stressed that "The redeployment is a decision of the Israeli government."

He said: "We've explained to our friends, the Secretary and his assistants all of our concepts of the redeployment as a first stage of the implementation of the agreement concluded between us and Lebanon. We also stressed the necessity of close cooperation in the implementation of the redeployment between us and the Lebanese government and the United States government."

No Public Comment On Timetable

There was no public comment today on whether there has been a timetable set for the start of the redeployment which would put the Israeli forces back to the Awali River. But a senior Administration official briefing reporters today on the talks with the Israelis noted that the Israelis would like to start the troop pullback "as soon as possible."

However, the official made it clear that the U.S. would first want to make sure that before Israel leaves, the Lebanese army can take over any area being vacated. He said the first step for this would be to get an agreement to end the fighting between the Christians and Druze in the Shouf mountains. He also noted that the multinational force would not consider going into that area until the fighting has ended.

The way to stop this fighting, which the official stressed is a Lebanese problem, is expected to be the first item on the agenda when Robert McFarlane, Reagan's new special envoy to the Mideast, and his assistant, Richard Fairbanks, go to the Middle East. They are expected to leave tomorrow.

The official said that the U.S. expects McFarlane to be received by the Syrians. One of the reasons for Philip Habib being replaced by McFarlane was that Syrian President Hafez Assad refused to allow Habib to come to Damascus after Israel and Lebanon signed the agreement for Israeli withdrawal. The Administration official stressed that full Israeli withdrawal is contingent on the simultaneous withdrawal of the Syrians and the Palestine Liberation Organization forces in Lebanon.

'Common Objectives' In Lebanon

Both Shultz and the Israeli ministers said today that the U.S. and Israel have "common objectives" in Lebanon. They listed them as the withdrawal of all foreign forces, the restoration of full sovereignty to the Lebanese government and the security of northern Israel. The only differences were that Shultz listed withdrawal as the first objective while Shamir started his list with Israeli security.

Shultz and Shamir also noted that during the talks at the State Department and with Reagan, the Israelis and Americans also discussed bilateral issues, the West Bank and the overall peace process. The Administration official who was briefing reporters noted that Reagan reiterated his commitment to his September 1 peace initiative. The official said that Reagan repeated his belief that the Israeli settlements on the West Bank hampered the peace process. Shamir said that the peace process should be continued as soon as possible but within the context of the Camp David agreements.

At the outset of his remarks, Shultz expressed his appreciation for the Israelis having "come over here so promptly" when they were invited by Reagan after Premier Menachem Begin cancelled his scheduled visit for this week for "personal reasons." He said it showed "the urgency we all feel" on the situation in Lebanon.

Shultz also noted that it had been like "old home week" since he had worked with Shamir and Arens in Jerusalem last May in arranging the Israeli-Lebanese agreement. He called that agreement "good" and stressed that "when it is implemented it will be good for Israel, it will be good for Lebanon and it will be good for the Middle East."

ARABS IN ISRAEL AND WEST BANK STAGE PROTESTS AGAINST ATTACK ON STUDENTS IN HEBRON

By Gil Sedran

JERUSALEM, July 28 (JTA) -- Arabs in both the West Bank and in Israel undertook acts of protest today against the murderous gunfire attack by unidentified masked gunmen who killed three students and wounded 33 others at the Islamic College in Hebron Tuesday but the protests were mild and only a few clashes with Israeli security forces were reported.

A number of Arab municipalities in Israel staged two-hour protest strikes, at the initiative of the National Committee of Mayors of such cities. A special prayer was scheduled at mosques throughout Israel on Friday which is the Moslem Sabbath. Sec-

urity forces were placed on special alert to prevent any disturbances after the prayers.

Authorities said a special alert was ordered in the Old City of Jerusalem, where Friday prayers at the Mosques on Temple Mount have repeatedly been the source of Arab nationalist reactions.

On the West Bank, the atmosphere was tense today. A partial strike was organized in various Arab towns. The curfew in Hebron, lifted this morning, was reimposed earlier than had been planned, after demonstrations broke out. Strikes by shops in East Jerusalem were described as almost total.

No Progress In Probe Of The Attack On Students

Meanwhile, no progress was reported in the investigation into the attack on the Islamic College. Officials said the special investigation team was hampered, partly because the assault was described as "very professional," carried out swiftly -- in no more than five to seven minutes -- and partly because the team has no eyewitness accounts. Such accounts as the team has found are partly contradictory.

Authorities cited, as an example, that testimonies differ on the license plates of the murder vehicle and the investigators concede they have no information that might lead them to the identity of the vehicle, or the killers.

Intelligence efforts in the Jewish settlements also presents problems, mainly because the Jews there constitute a highly homogeneous group whose members stick together. There have been no arrests in the assault. The municipal council of Kiryat Arba, a Jewish suburb of Hebron, issued a statement yesterday condemning the hit-and-run killers and urging the government to act strongly against "all acts of violence in Hebron."

ISRAELI ARMY DENIES TELLING PHALANGISTS TO VACATE SOME OF THEIR HEADQUARTERS IN SOUTH LEBANON

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, July 28 (JTA) -- The army today denied reports from Beirut that the Israel Defense Force had given an ultimatum to the Christian Phalangists to vacate a number of their headquarters in south Lebanon.

An army announcement said that one small Phalangist base in the village of Fukas east of Sidon had been ordered to close down because of what were termed "irregularities." These were understood to have been attacks against nearby Moslem and Druze villages.

But the Beirut report spoke of widespread closure orders, and villagers were reported to be pealed in protest at the reported Israeli moves.

Fierce Fighting In Lebanon

Meanwhile, fierce fighting raged elsewhere in Lebanon. In Tripoli, in the north, Lebanon's second largest city, heavy clashes were reported between pro-Syrian and anti-Syrian militia. Some 20 persons have been killed and 60 wounded in this area in recent days, according to reports.

Further south, in the Bekaa valley, pro- and anti-Yasir Arafat elements of the Palestine Liberation Organization continued their battles today, with heavy casualties reported on both sides.

REGULAR AIRLINE SERVICE BEGINS BETWEEN SPAIN AND ISRAEL

TEL AVIV, July 28 (JTA) -- Iberia, the

Spanish national airline, flew an inaugural flight yesterday from Madrid to Ben-Gurion Airport, starting a regular service between Spain and Israel for the first time.

El Al will begin regular flights to Madrid next week. Because official diplomatic relations between Spain and Israel do not exist, despite Israeli efforts to arrange them after the fall of the Franco regime, the air service agreement was discussed and signed by the two airlines, instead of via the customary diplomatic process between two countries.

Iberia will fly a DC-10 plane from Madrid to Israel on Wednesdays and a Boeing 727 from Madrid and Barcelona on Fridays. Starting August 15, El Al will fly a Boeing 707 to Madrid on Mondays and Thursdays.

HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS CONVINCED OF HOLOCAUST AFTER TRIP TO GERMANY

By Ben Kayfetz

TORONTO, July 28 (JTA) -- Two high school students from Eckville, Alberta, say that after a two-week trip to Germany for a first-hand look at the remnants of the Holocaust, they are convinced of the horrors Jews endured during World War II, despite efforts by a teacher in Eckville to convince one of the students that the Holocaust had never occurred.

Katrina Milane and Garry Tink, both 16 years old, returned to Calgary, Alberta, from the trip sponsored by Calgary businessman Jack Downey. He said he became alarmed when he learned that Eckville teacher James Keegstra was instructing students that the mass extermination of Jews during the war was a highly exaggerated story -- part of an international Jewish conspiracy. Keegstra is also the mayor of Eckville.

Tink admitted that he felt doubtful before his departure that millions of people had died at the hands of the Nazis. Now he says he feels these numbers are credible. He said that a tour of Dachau was a powerful experience. "It upset me. I had the shivers and shakes," Tink said. Nevertheless, he said that Keegstra is a good teacher. "I think he has his beliefs and everybody has theirs and that's the way it should be left," Tink observed.

Ms. Milane was not one of Keegstra's students and she felt all along that the Holocaust had happened. She said she broke down during a tour of Dachau. "I think I know the truth now. It was devastating," she said.

The two students won the trip to Germany on the basis of essays they wrote on Canadian culture. Tink said he would like to tell his classmates, but acknowledged that some of them might not listen. He said he had a new perspective and will not be as receptive to racist remarks about Jews as he once was.

WORLD JEWISH POPULATION DROPPING BELOW ZERO POPULATION GROWTH

NEW YORK, July 28 (JTA) -- The world Jewish population is dropping below the point of Zero Population Growth and is beginning a numerical decline that will accelerate in years to come, according to a study by the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee/Brookdale Institute of Gerontology and the Hebrew University Institute of Contemporary Jewry.

The study notes that despite the decrease in total Jewish population there will be an increase in number of Jewish elderly, particularly among the "old-old," people over age 75, and particularly in Israel, where the number in this category is expected to jump 150% in the quarter century between 1975 and the year 2000.

JDC president Henry Taub called the report "a significant study with implications that demand the immediate attention of those concerned with the viability of the Jewish community." JDC executive vice president Ralph Goldman described the report as offering "a major world-wide challenge which, in Israel, will reach crisis proportions."

While the study, "Elderly Jews in the World," which was written by Professor U. O. Schmeltz, predicts a drop in the number of Jews in the diaspora from 9.6 million to 8 million in less than 20 years—the study also predicts a sharp rise in the number of elderly, particularly among the "old-old" whose numbers will reach an estimated 910,000 by the year 2000. Nearly 190,000 of these are expected to be living in Israel.

One consequence of the shifting demographics noted in the study is the fact that by the end of the century one out of every five elderly will live in Israel, as compared with one out of eight today.

AGUDATH ISRAEL REPORTS BOOST IN JEWISH DAY SCHOOL ENROLLMENTS IN NEW YORK STATE

By Ben Gallob

NEW YORK, July 28 (JTA) — The number of children attending yeshivas in New York State, kindergarten through 12th grade, has risen dramatically during the past five years, according to an end-of-the-school year report by the Commission on Legislation and Civic Action of Agudath Israel of America.

Citing data from the New York State Education Department, the commission declared that the total number of children enrolled in Jewish day schools in New York in the 1978-79 school year was 48,879 and that enrollment for the current school year approached nearly 60,000. The commission estimated the national total at nearly 120,000.

The commission said that the growth over the past five years came when the state's total non-public school population was declining by about 13,000 pupils — from 583,873 in 1978-79 to 570,460 in 1982-83. The Education Department data indicated the number of Jewish day schools rose from 185 to 223 in the five-year period.

The commission reported it had directly assisted the day schools in their receiving more than \$1 million in New York State mandated services reimbursement, for testing and record-keeping. Several day schools received small grants for technical assistance and energy conservation measures under a federal emergency grant program administered by the state.

Describing such gains as small, the commission declared that government reimbursement did not even begin to offset cuts suffered by the day schools in such fields as school lunches. Staggered by inflation and higher operating costs, the overall financial condition of Jewish day schools in New York State has markedly deteriorated, the commission declared.

IT'S TOURISM TIME IN ISRAEL

By Cindy Kaye

JERUSALEM, July 28 (JTA) — Coming to Israel for the summer seems to be the thing to do this year. According to the statistics collected by the American Zionist Youth Foundation. Tourism has increased since last year by approximately 1,500 people, bringing the total of visitors to 7,000 from all over the world.

One of the men behind the scenes, Alec Meyer, director of short-term projects at the World Zionist Organization, said that he attributes the rise in numbers to the improved "reach-out" programs which the youth and hechalutz department of the WZO has implemented this year.

More high schools and college campuses are being contacted and visited. Slide shows have been

prepared and released. Introductory and informational programs have been carried out in the United States to inform potential tourists of the options available. In addition, at the close of the summer programs, a video of some of the activities is going to be prepared and disseminated around the world.

An evaluation booklet, to be filled out by each participant, has been prepared as well. In order to facilitate compilation of the results, the responses will be recorded and computerized.

A Variety Of Options

Meyer's office walls are covered with schedule boards and accounts of the arrival and departures of the 100 groups which are presently here and which will be here during the course of the summer. The charts reveal the variety of options open to the groups. Seminars, including a study of the Holocaust, Arab propaganda, Jewish identity at the Diaspora Museum in Tel Aviv, are among the programs offered.

The WZO's youth and hechalutz department also sponsors and prepares Bat and Bar Mitzvah ceremonies. Participants are trained by yeshiva students who have been hired to prepare them. The ceremonies are held at the Western Wall and a meal is held in honor of their accomplishment. In addition, as a token of remembrance, women are awarded a set of candlesticks, men are given tallit. Both receive a book about Judaism, as well.

Guides who are themselves prepared in seminars accompany the groups. This year's staff numbers 150 guides. Home-hospitality weekends are organized for the groups in Israeli homes. Attempts are usually made to match the visitor with their family—religiously.

Each program includes a Shabbat in Jerusalem, with praying at the Western Wall, singing Shabbat songs, and an organized meal Friday night and Saturday morning, in an effort to introduce the groups to what Shabbat can be like in Israel.

"We don't just want groups to come to tour Israel, though that is very important, we want their trip to be an educational experience as well," remarked Meyer. The programs seem to attempt to raise the consciousness of participants with respect to politics, religion, Judaism, history, and Israel.

According to groups of college students, touring with the AZYF college summer program, "the itinerary is fantastic, but the trips are often very disorganized. The incompetence of guides, drivers and inaccurate reservations tend to detract from the trip." The students all agreed that their experience would have been improved if their guide had been more of a leader.

The experiences which the college group encountered seemed to be the rule and not the exception. Tourists in high school groups walking the streets of Jerusalem also had similar sentiments. They were enthralled with the idea of being in Israel and were very excited to be touring, but they agreed that they spent too much time sitting on buses, waiting for events to start.

One student commented: "I am really interested in listening to the discussions and the speakers we are brought to meet, but after spending so much time on buses, and after waiting so long for people to show up, I'm too exhausted to really pay attention."

With all the good and bad involved in these trips, the tourists keep coming. They can be found walking the streets of Jerusalem, trying to talk to the soldiers in their broken Hebrew, and adding their own special touch to the atmosphere of the country.

SPECIAL TO THE JTA

THE LARGEST CONTINGENT OF NORTH AMERICAN OLIM EVER TO ARRIVE ON ONE FLIGHT ARE WELCOMED IN ISRAEL
By Aviva Cantor

(Editor's note: Aviva Cantor flew from New York to Israel with the North American olim to get a first-hand account of their departure and arrival. A second installment in the next News Bulletin will be based on interviews with the olim.)

TEL AVIV, July 28 (JTA) -- Israel rolled out the red carpet at Ben Gurion Airport yesterday afternoon for the 240 new North American olim who arrived on the special "Kadima Aliya" El Al flight from New York.

Wearing the blue T-shirts emblazoned with the words, "I made aliya on El Al" given them upon departure, the new Israelis descended from the 747 jet to the strains of "Hayvaynu Shalom Alei-chem," played by the youth aliya orchestra of Haifa.

In the official welcoming ceremony that followed, Deputy Premier David Levy urged the olim to "make your contribution like those who came before you," a sentiment also expressed by Elaine Kopp, chairman of the Association of Americans and Canadians in Israel (AACI). "The land," Levy continued, "is not only for those who are already here but for those who are coming now and in the future."

The Forerunner Of Mass Aliya

He later told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that he hopes this planeload -- the largest contingent of North American olim ever to arrive on one flight -- would be the forerunner of mass aliya. When asked what factors would bring this about, he replied, "Freedom, education and homes."

Rafael Kotlowitz, head of the Jewish Agency aliya department, told the olim that there had been a surge of aliya from the West since 1973. He called for a program of public rental housing to meet the immigrants housing problems.

Moshe Schechter, director of the Israel Aliya Center in New York which arranged the special flight to mark the 18 years since its inception, said the Center hopes for 4000 North American olim in 1983. Earlier he informed JTA that the July and August numbers are expected to total 600.

As the exhausted but exhilarated olim mounted buses for the airport buildings, they were each handed a rose, courtesy of the Council for Flowers in Israel. They proceeded to a large room where Na'amat/Pioneer Women served sandwiches and cold drinks as nine AACI volunteers began to "walk them through" the initial part of the absorption process.

New York Leads With 36 Families

Sixteen states and two Canadian provinces were represented among the olim on the flight. New York led with 36 families followed by California with 10. Also among them were 30 returning Israelis, the spouses and children of North American olim. Joining them on the plane were 80 participants in the "Miviza Elef" (Project 1000), a summer work program for people contemplating aliya.

The 117 olim children on the flight, who were remarkably well-behaved, included 20 infants, most of them in bassinets. The youngest ohl was a

five-and-a-half week-old boy, Shmuel Dov Feifer, the eight-pound dark haired son of Sharon and Avrum Feifer of Brooklyn.

Also on the flight -- and also very well-behaved -- were Fred and Renee Schiller's dog, Lucky ("We've changed the name to Mazal," said the olim from Spring Valley, N.Y.) who slept on their laps, and Annie, the cat, brought along from Flushing, N.Y. by William and Melanie Schoenfeld and their three children.

About 40 percent of the olim on the flight consisted of observant people, a percentage typical of current North American aliya, according to Schechter.

From Observers To Partners

Naftali Lavie, the Israel Consul General in New York, warmly congratulated the olim on graduating from "observers of Israel's development" to being "partners in the historic endeavor of building a homeland for the Jewish people."

Fred Schiller, a former president of the North American Aliya movement (Naam), also spoke as he did later, at the airport. In that second ceremony he told how, while in the process of packing, he and his wife came across something greatly treasured. "It was the blue and white Jewish National Fund box used for years by my parents and grandparents" to carry out their Zionist commitment. "We are following in that tradition," he said.

U.S. SOLDIERS IN GERMANY ARE SEEKING VACATIONS IN ISRAEL

By David Kantor

BONN, July 28 (JTA) -- American soldiers stationed in West Germany are increasingly interested in vacationing in Israel this year, according to the American Express Military Travel, which offers special travel tours for United States Army personnel.

According to the Bavaria-based company, the travelers seem to be interested in Israel as a holy land sacred to Jews, Christians and Moslems. For \$590, the soldiers are offered a round trip with a week-long excursion, including visits in Caesaria, Nazareth, Sea of Galilee, the Golan Heights, the Dead Sea, Massada and Jerusalem. The price is relatively low compared to similar tours offered from Germany.

Though the German press has lately been critical of tourist services in Israel because of an alleged 30 percent increase in hotel rates, general German tourism to Israel seems to be rising rapidly. Many of the 25 weekly flights to Israel are sold out and tour operators and travel agents have registered many more bookings than last year.

One of the reasons for the sharp increase in services in Israel in terms of the German Mark is the relative weakness of the Mark compared to the American dollar. Prices in Israel are fixed in dollars.

ISRAELI DANCE TROUPE GOING ON MONTH-LONG TOUR OF GREAT BRITAIN

JERUSALEM, July 28 (JTA) -- A group of 25 youths from the Hora-Ashkelon Dance Company will embark next week on a month-long tour of Britain. A highlight of the trip will be a series of performances at the Aberdeen International Youth Festival in Scotland. The company, whose repertoire includes a wide variety of Israeli folk dances, will also perform in major Jewish communities in London and Glasgow.

The dance group was formed two years ago in cooperation with the Joint Israel Appeal of Great Britain and Ireland, and performs close to 110 times a year. Its members, between the ages of 16 and 25, are recruited from neighborhoods throughout Ashkelon, including those linked with Britain through Project Renewal.