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BEGIN DECIDES TO POSTPONE DECISION By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Aug. 29 (JTA) -- Under intense pressure from Likud ministers and party members, Premier Menachem Begin indicated today he would postpone temporarily a final decision on the resignation he announced to a stunned Cabinet yesterday. Such a decision remains unofficial until it is submitted to the President.

Delegations of Likud activists came to Begin's office, together with representatives of Begin's Likud-led coalition and begged Begin to stay in office to assure continued Jewish settlement of the West Bank. They also told the Premier that the majority of the people wanted him to stay in office.

Some of the delegations blamed the Cabinet ministers for placing obstacles in Begin's way and with having made life for him as Premier "unbearable." Begin indicated he was not convinced by these representations but agreed to postpone his answer to the appeals until later tonight or until tomorrow morning. But close associates kept asserting Begin intended to carry out his plan to resign.

Begin Listens To Appeals

Avraham Shapiro, chairman of the coalition, who attended the meeting with Begin, emerged to tell reporters that Begin had made no comments on the appeals but simply had listened. Shapiro said no mention had been made of a possible successor because the assumption of those making the appeals was that Begin should remain. An Aguda Knesset member, Menachem Porush, was more optimistic, declaring that Begin had "opened a gate of hope."

Shlomo Lorincz, another Aguda Knesset deputy, said the trouble was that no one knew why Begin had decided to resign. Lorincz said he had told the Premier that "rather than that we spoke for hours," Begin "should have told us what he thought." He said he also told Begin that an explanation would have made it easier to persuade him to withdraw his planned resignation.

But, Lorincz reported, "Begin laughed when I said that and would not disclose his reasons for resigning." The Premier told the Cabinet yesterday he intended to resign for "personal reasons."

Despite Begin's indication he was not going immediately to President Chaim Herzog to officially submit his resignation, political analysts here were reported to be convinced that he would do so. Widespread speculation has already started on what developments would follow.

Uri Porat, Begin's press advisor, said after the meeting this morning that Begin had been deeply impressed by the arguments for his staying and had simply asked for more time to think it over. Ehud Olmert, a Likud deputy, said after the meeting that he thought Begin intended to proceed with his resignation but that the insistence of his supporters that he remain Premier had created a heavy dilemma for him.

REDEPLOYMENT OF IDF WILL NOT BE AFFECTED BY BEGIN'S MOVE TO RESIGN By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Aug. 29 (JTA) -- Premier Menachem Begin's announcement of his intention to resign will

have no effect on the redeployment of the Israel Defense Force from the Shouf mountain to its new line along the Awali River, the Defense Ministry said here today.

The redeployment, delayed for a few days at the urging of the American and Lebanese governments, will be carried out in accordance with the defense needs of Israel, ministry sources said. The pullback was to have started yesterday and completed by the eve of Rosh Hashanah on September 7.

Uri Lubrani, the Israel government's coordinator of political affairs in Lebanon, was scheduled to meet this evening with Defense Minister Moshe Arens to report on the secret talks he held over the weekend in Paris with Druze leader Walid Jumblatt and representatives of the Lebanese government. President Reagan's special Mideast envoy, Robert McFarlane, was in Paris at the same time where he also met with Jumblatt and Lebanese government representatives.

Israeli government officials do not appear to share McFarlane's optimism that the Lebanese army is capable of taking control of the Shouf mountain area when the IDF withdraws. The area has been the scene in recent weeks of battles between the Druze and Christian Phalangists.

Two Marines Killed, 8 Wounded In Beirut Area

The pessimism of Israeli officials was underlined by the second day today of heavy shelling between Phalangists and Shiite Moslem members of the Amal movement in the Beirut area. Two U.S. marines were killed and eight others wounded, as well as some 14 Lebanese civilians, during the shelling in the Beirut airport area and the surrounding slum areas to the south of the capital. An Italian soldier with the multinational force was also wounded. It was not immediately clear if the marines were the victims of stray shelling or if they were intended targets.

The American contingent of the multinational force returned the fire after the shelling killed and wounded the ten marines, using Cobra helicopter gunboats for the first time and pouring mortar and artillery fire at the Shiite source of fire against the American forces. Observers said it was the heaviest operation by U.S. forces since the marines were sent into the Beirut area a year ago.

U.S. SAYS THE KILLING AND WOUNDING OF MARINES WILL NOT DIMINISH ITS DIPLOMATIC EFFORTS IN LEBANON By Helen Silver

WASHINGTON, Aug. 29 (JTA) -- State Department spokesman Alan Romberg said today that despite the killing of two U.S. marines and the wounding of eight others in the Beirut area, American diplomatic efforts will "continue to be intense."

A statement he read at a press conference said: "Two U.S. marines were killed and eight wounded when a U.S. marine position was shelled in the Beirut suburbs this morning at 3:49 a.m. Washington time."

"The attack on the marines followed a day and night of sporadic fighting between forces of the Lebanese army and Lebanese Shiite militia groups in south Beirut. There has also been firing from Druze militia positions."

"We are shocked and grieved by the deaths of the marines in Lebanon. They died serving the United States in its efforts to help the Lebanese central government restore order to the greater Beirut area.

"We condemn those who are responsible for the continuing violence which has claimed many victims, including our own marines. Our forces are there at the request of the government of Lebanon and helping to provide security for the Lebanese people. Once more, we call upon all armed elements to end this senseless violence and unite behind the Lebanese government to restore national harmony."

The question of how this incident is covered under the War Powers Resolution is "under intensive study at the present moment," Romberg said. "We are looking at the situation and the War Powers Resolution, and we will take whatever action is called for with respect to the resolution."

Concerning the killing of the marines, Romberg said that "other elements of the multinational force also came under fire." However, whether the Americans "were specifically being targeted and by whom is not now known."

No Changes Seen In U.S. MFN Contingent

Romberg said "no changes are being contemplated one way or the other" in the make-up of American contingents to the MFN as a result of today's killings. He also stated that Robert McFarlane, President Reagan's special Mideast envoy, returned today to Beirut and "he is continuing actively his efforts, as is Ambassador (Richard) Fairbanks to pursue the mission the President sent them on." McFarlane had been in Rome, Paris and London, discussing the multinational peacekeeping force and ways to achieve a permanent ceasefire in Lebanon.

No Further Comment On Begin

Romberg would not comment on Premier Menachem Begin's announcement that he planned to resign, except to say that the statement made yesterday by White House spokesman Larry Speakes covered the State Department's views. Speakes said that Begin's intention to resign was an internal affair of Israel's government. He also stated that the "close historic ties with Israel" will continue whether or not Begin resigned.

KOHL'S SCHEDULED VISIT TO ISRAEL UNCHANGED BY BEGIN'S ANNOUNCEMENT By David Kantor

BONN, Aug. 29 (JTA) -- The visit of West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl to Israel, set for Wednesday, will take place as scheduled, despite Premier Menachem Begin's announced plan to resign, a West German government spokesman said today.

The Israel Embassy here said nothing has been changed by Begin's announcement in regard to the visit by Kohl, his first as Chancellor to Israel, and that no new instructions had been received from Jerusalem about the visit.

The West German spokesman said that Israel had not informed his country about any changes. He refused to comment on the Begin announcement but warned against any speculations about the Begin statement and the Kohl visit.

The Chancellor has received a detailed briefing on the dramatic developments in Israel. The assumption here, it was reported, is that Begin will remain Premier for at least a few weeks.

LABOR PARTY CONTINUES LOW PROFILE IN AFTERMATH OF BEGIN'S ANNOUNCEMENT By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Aug. 29 (JTA) -- The Labor Party continued to maintain a low profile in the aftermath of Premier Menachem Begin's announcement of his intention to resign. The party's central bodies were to meet this evening, but satisfaction was expressed in Labor Party circles this morning that the party had decided to go slow in issuing an official reaction to Begin's move, in view of his statement today that he will only issue his final statement this evening or tomorrow morning.

But unofficially, Labor leaders feel that the Prime Minister is intent on resigning. Although all parties deny it officially, observers say that unofficial contacts are probably under way with Likud coalition partners such as the National Religious Party and Tami about the possibility of their supporting the Labor Party if Shimon Peres is asked by President Chaim Herzog if he can form an alternate government.

SAUDI ARABIA AND IRAN ATTACK 'ZIONIST CONNECTIONS' OF NEWLY APPOINTED HEAD OF THE BBC

LONDON, Aug. 29 (JTA) -- Saudi Arabia and Iran have sharply attacked the appointment of Stuart Young, former chairman of the policy planning group of the World Jewish Congress research institute, to head the British Broadcasting Company, it was reported here today by the WJCongress.

Riyadh Radio critically reported the decision of Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher appointing "a Jewish businessman and a supporter of the Israeli enemy as chairman of the Board of Governors of the BBC." Teheran Radio noted the appointment of the "49-year-old Zionist" was part of the BBC's "hostile attitude toward the Islamic Republic of Iran."

Young headed the policy planning group of the Institute of Jewish Affairs, the London-based WJCongress research arm, when he was tapped by Mrs. Thatcher for the sensitive BBC post. He resigned from the Institute in the wake of his appointment.

The Iranian media coupled its attack on Young with a general tirade against the "satanic and anti-Islamic character" of the BBC which along with other "lie-spinning propaganda media" are controlled by "international Zionism." It charged that "the new chairman of the Board of Governors of the lie-spreading BBC" had stated "he was a staunch supporter of Israel and in so saying he expressed his open and clear backing for the Zionist criminals ruling in Quds (Jerusalem)."

Teheran Radio added: "In light of these remarks, which indicate the depth of dependence of the BBC on international Zionism, we do not expect from them anything except hostility, rancor and prejudice toward the revolution and the Islamic Republic."

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TEL AVIV (JTA) -- Energy Minister Yitzhak Modai returned home from a three-day official visit to Egypt and expressed hopes that the current "cold peace relations" between Egypt and Israel would "warm up shortly." Modai was the first Israeli Cabinet minister to visit Egypt while serving in the Cabinet since the cooling off of relations between the two countries with the start of the war in Lebanon.

CORRECTION: The New Jewish Agenda held its special Friday night service at the George Washington University, not the American University as reported in the August 29 Bulletin.

FOCUS ON ISSUES AN IMPASSIONED NATIONAL DEBATE

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, Aug. 29 (JTA) -- President Reagan's firing of three members of the United States Commission on Civil Rights and naming three others to replace them has put four Jewish organizations, all of them with long established records in the civil rights movement, in the midst of an impassioned national debate.

The controversy has taken on an additional dimension for the Jewish groups since one of the nominees is Morris Abram, former president of the American Jewish Committee and of Brandeis University, and a New York lawyer who fought for civil rights in his native Georgia in the 1960's.

Reagan has argued that he has a right to replace three commission members, Mary Frances Berry, Rabbi Murray Saltzman and Blandina Cardenas Ramirez as he had two other members of the commission. He has charged that the opposition is due to the rejection by his three nominees of quotas as a remedy for discrimination against Blacks, women and other minority groups.

Civil rights groups, however, have charged that Reagan is seeking to undermine the independence of the commission which has frequently criticized his policies on civil rights.

Differences Between The Jewish Groups

All the Jewish groups oppose quotas. But they differ in the present controversy. The Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith has taken the strongest position in favor of the Reagan action, supporting all three Reagan nominees -- Abram; John Bunzel, a former president of San Jose State University; and Robert Destro, an assistant professor of law at Catholic University in Washington -- as well as the President's right to make the changes on the commission.

The ADL also supports Reagan's nomination of Linda Chavez, assistant to the president of the American Federation of Teachers, as the commission's staff director, a position now open. She was given a recess appointment by Reagan.

The American Jewish Committee and the American Jewish Congress have chiefly argued in favor of Abram, urging that the nominations be considered on their merits. The position of the three groups has put them in opposition to the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights, to which they belong, which has called for the Senate to reject the three nominations.

The Union of American Hebrew Congregations (UAHC) is the only Jewish organization also to support the rejection of all the nominees. Saltzman, one of the ousted commissioners, is a Reform rabbi in Baltimore.

The ADL has taken an aggressive position on the issue from the beginning. Nathan Perlmutter, the ADL's national director, spoke out frequently on the issue and charged that "behind the assaults on the President's nominations, racial quotas and mandatory busing are being presented as a litmus test, a latter-day loyalty oath to determine one's fealty to civil rights."

Cites A Narrow Focus

Testifying before the Senate Judiciary Committee hearing on the nominations in July, Kenneth Bialkin, ADL's national chairman, noted that "all three nominees have devoted much of their professional and personal efforts to securing basic rights and liberties for various disadvantaged minorities in this country."

But he said the critics have "narrowly focused on one highly controversial issue, characterizing the nominees' opposition to race-preferential quotas as wholesale abandonment of affirmative action and civil rights." Bialkin stressed that both the ADL and the nominees' opposition to quotas have in no way "diminished" their "support and struggle for equal opportunity for all individuals."

In testifying before the same Senate committee, Howard Friedman, the AJCommittee's president, also noted that opposition to Abram centered on his disapproval of quotas. "Is it not perfectly clear that his views on that subject are firmly rooted in his bedrock commitment to individual and civil rights?" Friedman asked.

While noting that he agrees with the Leadership Conference that the commission must retain its independence, Friedman stressed that "all three candidates have publicly stated their determination to be independent and that they have made no commitments to the President in any specific issues." He said since the President has acted, the candidates should be judged on their qualifications.

An Insensitivity Noted

Howard Squadron, president of the AJCongress, in a letter to the committee, endorsed Abram as "eminently qualified." But he noted that the President's "wholesale firing of members of the Commission indicates an insensitivity to the feelings of minority communities, which have already experienced deep disappointment at the failure of this Administration to assign a higher priority to the enforcement of civil rights."

In expressing the UAHC's opposition to the nominations, Albert Vorspan, the Reform group's vice president, stressed its respect for Abram and his efforts in the civil rights struggle.

"It is not the independence and integrity of the nominees which is at issue; rather it is the independence and integrity of the commission that is at stake," Vorspan said. "We firmly believe that the President's actions will retard the progress of civil rights in America." He said if the nominees are confirmed, "the impartiality and the independence of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights will be seriously impaired...."

This seemed to be the position of the Democrats on the committee even though the nominees are all Democrats. Sen. Joseph Biden (D. Del.), the committee's ranking Democrat, said that although the nominee had "impeccable" credentials he would vote against them because "at stake is the independence of the commission."

Sen. Howard Metzenbaum (D. Ohio) also said he had "no doubt" about the nominees' qualifications but that "regardless of the merits of the new appointees, the issue before us relates directly to the independence to the commission."

Suggestion For Legislation

Squadron suggested this could be assured by passing legislation "which would establish in law fixed and staggered terms for all members of the commission and which would preclude their dismissal except for neglect of duty or malfeasance in office." There is some expectation that this would be done while at the same time the Senate would approve the Reagan appointees.

But the House, before taking its summer recess, approved legislation that would renew the commission's charter, which expires September 30, but stipulated that a commissioner could only be fired for "neglect of duty" or "malfeasance." If the Senate were to approve this before it confirmed the Reagan nominations it would mean that Reagan would not be able to remove the three commissioners he wants replaced.

The controversy could have provided a real opportunity for discussing the issues of quotas and mandated bus-

ing and whether they can accomplish the goals of a more equal society, or if not, what should be done. But so far more heat than light has been shed, and with the Presidential election little more than a year away reasoned discussion cannot be expected. For the Jewish community this could mean further exacerbation of the tense situation that already exists between it and some parts of the Black community.

BEHIND THE HEADLINES THE MAKING OF FOREIGN POLICY

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, Aug. 29 (JTA) -- Now that Cyrus Vance has weighed in with his account of his tenure as President Carter's Secretary of State, "Hard Choices" (New York, Simon and Schuster, 541 pages, \$19.95), all three of the chief architects of the Carter Administration's foreign policy--Carter, Vance, and Zbigniew Brzezinski, who was National Security Advisor--have published books.

The Vance book, as did Carter's memoirs, "Keeping Faith," and Brzezinski's "Power and Principles," confirms that there were differences over foreign policy within the Administration, particularly due to the rivalry between Vance and Brzezinski. But the one area where there seemed to be cooperation and agreement was the Middle East.

Even before Carter took office, he and Vance agreed that the United States would have to play an active role in seeking a Middle East settlement. "Without question, the bedrock of the Carter Middle East policy would continue to be our commitment to Israel's security," Vance wrote. But he adds:

"We agreed, however, that the critical importance of stable, moderate, pro-Western regimes in the Middle East and access to Arab oil meant that a return to a passive U.S. posture was not realistic. The United States would have to be a fair and active mediator between the parties if there was to be any chance of a genuine peace. Playing this role would necessarily require serious attention on the part of the mediator to both sides of the dispute and a sincere effort to address the Palestinian problem.

"Because of the intimate American association with Israel in previous Middle East peace efforts, for Carter to adopt an activist, balanced policy carried a significant political risk. He could be seen both at home and in Israel as tilting toward the Arabs and pressuring Israel to make dangerous territorial concessions . . ."

Sought To Bring PLO Into Mideast Talks

Vance goes on to say that "The President and I were convinced that no lasting solution in the Middle East would be possible until, consistent with Israel's right to live in peace and security, a just answer to the Palestinian question could be found, one almost certainly leading to a Palestinian homeland and some form of self-determination."

To that end, Vance makes clear the Administration sought for a way to bring the Palestine Liberation Organization into the Mideast negotiations, only to be frustrated, as has the Reagan Administration, by the PLO's refusal to do even the minimum required of it by the U.S.

The position that Vance outlined as the Carter Administration prepared to take office was essentially the same one it followed for the entire four years. The Carter Administration remained wedded to seeking a comprehensive settlement, rather than a step-by-step approach, a position that the Reagan Administration also believes in principle.

The Carter Administration pushed the comprehensive approach after Egyptian President Anwar Sadat went to Jerusalem, when he realized an agreement could not be reached through a general settlement, and even after the Camp David agreements.

Yet, Vance learned on his first trip to the Mideast, that while Egypt and Israel were not far apart, "the real problem was disunity among the Arabs." However, it does not seem that Vance ever learned what an Israeli official tried to point out to reporters in Washington earlier this year, that there is no consensus among the Arabs except enmity toward Israel. On everything else they disagree, and so peace can only be made with each country separately.

Issue Of Jewish Settlements

Vance's book confirms that the major issue which strained U.S.-Israeli relations during the Carter Administration was the establishment of Jewish settlements in Judaea and Samaria. But Vance does not reveal in his book any of the deep anger over the issue that Brzezinski, in his memoirs, attributes to him.

Vance, who maintains that "Hard Choices" is not a diplomatic history or a memoir, does not go into the criticism of personalities that characterized the Brzezinski book. He has kind words to say for Premier Menachem Begin and for former Ambassador Simcha Dinitz who was savaged by Brzezinski.

But the Israeli who Vance admired most and for he seems to have a genuine affection was the late Moshe Dayan, with whom he dealt as Israeli Foreign Minister. The Israelis, including Begin, always liked Vance above all the Americans with whom they dealt with in the Carter Administration because they considered him to be a gentleman.

It was this characteristic that Brzezinski criticized in his memoirs. Yet one would wish that Vance was less gentlemanly in "Hard Choices," which was written in the style of a State Department press briefing. While there is no need to go into how U.S. officials really felt about foreign leaders, as Brzezinski did, Vance could have provided more details about the events he covered.

He also left some things out, such as Andrew Young's resignation as U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations after deceiving the State Department about his meeting with a PLO official, and the 1980 U.S. vote for a UN Security Council resolution condemning Israel which Carter subsequently reversed. Vance was directly involved in both controversies and it would have been useful to have his views on such important events.

The dryness of the Vance book has brought it less attention than the Brzezinski or Carter accounts. Yet all these books should be read, particularly by those with a special interest in the Middle East, because they tell not only how an official views the events in which he participated, but how foreign policy is made.

NEW YORK (JTA) -- Fulfilling the pledge they made last year at the conclusion of Yam Kippur services, 350 Israelis are scheduled to leave the United States and will bring in the New Year in Jerusalem. The Israelis, whose return has been coordinated through the Israel Aliya Center, will fly to Israel on September 5 on a special El Al flight chartered by Abie Nathan. Nathan, who arranged subsidies from both the Jewish Agency aliya department and the Ministry of Absorption, also convinced the flight crew to fly this mission without pay.

There will be no Bulletin dated September 6 due to Labor Day, a postal holiday.