

## BEGIN'S DECISION TO RESIGN IS FINAL, BUT POSTPONES SUBMITTING RESIGNATION LETTER TO THE PRESIDENT

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Aug. 30 (JTA) -- Premier Menachem Begin announced today that his decision to resign is final because "I simply cannot bear the responsibility any longer." He thus rejected intensive efforts by his Likud coalition partners to persuade him to change his mind. But his colleagues did convince him to postpone submitting a formal letter of resignation to President Chaim Herzog which would make his resignation legally binding.

There was no indication as to how long it would be before Begin submits the letter, but it was assumed he would do so as soon as all the coalition partners agree on his successor. Begin apparently wants to avert a situation in which the President would ask the Labor Alignment to try and form a new government. If all the coalition partners agree beforehand on the new candidate for Premiership, the President would have no choice but to ask that person to form the new government.

Begin's final decision today ended two days of intensive consultations and speculation about the Premier's intention to resign. The Premier first announced his move at the end of a routine Cabinet session Sunday, catching the ministers and the nation by surprise.

Until the last minute of the consultations this afternoon at the Premier's office it was not clear whether Begin would in the end give in to the pressure to remain in office. But as the three-hour consultations ended, Begin said he was determined to resign.

### Begin Explains Why He Is Resigning

Begin said he was moved by the statements and appeals of the Cabinet ministers and other key officials of the coalition parties to get him to reverse his decision. "I would like to stress that I do not blame anybody for my resignation," Begin said.

He then disclosed for the first time the reason for his decision: "I simply cannot bear the responsibility any longer. If I believed that there would be a chance to continue, I would have considered it differently. It was not a sudden decision. I am asking you to allow me to present my letter of resignation to the President today." He then asked those present to continue to serve as a unified coalition after his resignation.

### Moves To Get Begin To Reconsider

But Begin's desperate plea was rejected. Yaacov Meridor, Minister for Economic Coordination, a long time friend of Begin, said, "I turn down your request, Mr. Prime Minister." Begin responded, "Okay, I will do it then without your consent." He then began to write his letter, mumbling toward Meridor, "Yaacov, it will not help you."

As the letter was sent to an adjacent room to be typed, Justice Minister Moshe Nissim was the first to suggest that Begin postpone formally resigning. "This is much too serious a decision," he said. "Give us time out for several months."

Aguda Knesset member Menachem Porush suggested that perhaps the upcoming High Holy Days would give Begin a chance to rethink his decision. But former Defense Minister Ariel Sharon, Tehiya MK Geula Cohen, and Haim Druckman of the Matzad (Religious Zionist) Party said the time was ripe for new elections.

### An Acceptable Formula

Finally, Finance Minister Yoram Aridor proposed a formula that was accepted. He reminded Begin that even if he resigns he would still have to head the caretaker government until an alternative government is formed. Therefore, Aridor suggested, Begin should remain in office until a new coalition is formed which would allow "a smooth and comfortable transition." Begin accepted this suggestion, but he stressed that this could not be a prolonged process.

A suggestion to immediately sign a draft agreement by all the coalition partners to continue under the new Premier the Herut movement would designate was dropped when Cohen and Aguda MK Avraham Shapiro objected. It was decided therefore, that all Herut ministers would meet this evening to name their candidate for the Premiership.

Should the Herut Party fail to agree on a candidate and should the coalition partners decline to accept that person if a candidate is named, the likelihood is that there would have to be new elections. "No government, whether headed by Begin, another Likud person, or the Alignment, can continue to govern without new elections," Cohen said.

Shortly after the session with the coalition representatives ended, Begin left his office. He made no statement to reporters and entered his car and went home. When he arrived, a crowd of supporters cheered him. But again, Begin made no remarks and disappeared inside the house. Police kept demonstrators in support and in opposition to Begin separated and at a safe distance from the Premier's residence.

### The Task Of Finding A Successor

Meanwhile, senior Likud ministers continued a session at the Premier's office to try to find a successor. Avraham Shapiro, chairman of the coalition, said the political situation after Begin resigns would be "different." He said that all talk that the coalition has agreed to unite behind the candidacy of Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir was premature.

"Herut has a number of candidates," Shapiro said. He added that his party would refuse to sign a blank check for a Likud coalition candidate for the Premiership without knowing in advance who the candidate is before it decides to accept him for that post.

### JEWISH ORGANIZATION REPRESENTATIVES PRAISE BEGIN AS AN OUTSTANDING LEADER

By Kevin Freeman

NEW YORK, Aug. 30 (JTA) -- Representatives of leading American Jewish organizations, reacting to Menachem Begin's decision to resign as Israeli Premier, today praised Begin as an outstanding leader who will be remembered for his dedication and commitment to the Jewish people and the State of Israel.

Calling him "a great Jew," Julius Berman, chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, said Begin "will surely occupy an enduring place in Jewish history as a patriot and peacemaker, animated by a profound love of Judaism, Israel and the Jewish people. In many ways, his personal history reflects that of the Jewish people in the struggle he underwent for human dignity and security."

Rabbi Alexander Schindler, president of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, said he "deeply regrets" Begin's decision to step down. "I am confident that history will judge him to have been one of Israel's great statesmen, a strong leader who had the courage to take risks for peace. Jews everywhere will remember his staunch and constant defense of their rights and safety."

Kenneth Bialkin, national chairman of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, expressed "gratitude and respect" for Begin's "remarkable and courageous leadership of the State of Israel and the Jewish people." Begin will be remembered for "his determination that Israel be quick to seize real opportunities for peace, as evidenced by his government's sacrifice of land, oil, air bases and settlements to Egypt," Bialkin said in reference to the Israeli withdrawal from Sinai in compliance with the Camp David accords.

#### Sees No Change In Israel's Mideast Policy

Israel's Ambassador to the United States, Meir Rosenne, said in New York that he expects that the "excellent" relationship between Israel and the United States will continue into the future, despite Begin's resignation.

Rosenne, who addressed a meeting of the Synagogue Council of America at the Fifth Avenue Synagogue, also said in response to reporters' questions, that there will be no change in Israel's Mideast policy. "Israeli policy in the Mideast is to achieve peace. We have a unanimity on that in Israel," the Ambassador declared.

He refused, however, to discuss Begin's resignation, asserting that "nothing is official" as yet and that Begin decided to resign for "personal reasons."

Henry Kissinger, a former Secretary of State, described Begin in a television interview today as "a most remarkable man, the last of his generation that helped found Israel ... very legalistic, extremely stubborn, not a joy to negotiate with." He indicated that a change in leadership in Israel would not lead to any substantial policy changes.

Allcek Resnick, president of the Zionist Organization of America paid tribute to Begin, saying Israel "must continue to benefit from the strength, leadership and vision of Menachem Begin." Declaring that Begin "ranks with the greatest of Israeli statesmen," Resnick said "I profoundly hope and feel that his service to the State of Israel ... will not end when he leaves that office."

Howard Friedman, president of the American Jewish Committee, said Begin "stood ready to make sacrifices necessary for peace even when this conflicted with ideological habits of a lifetime. Like so many of Israel's founding fathers, he demonstrated that sturdy independence and strength of character that has helped the Jewish State weather so many perils."

Bernice Tannenbaum, chairman of the World Zionist Organization-American Section, said that with Begin's departure from office, Israel "loses the leadership of a determined, devoted and respected personality with many accomplishments to his credit. While the peace compact with Egypt crowned his career as the key to eventual normalization of Israel's relations with its neighbors, he also gained the respect of the Jewish people for his unwavering defense of Israel's position on the international scene."

Howard Squadron and Henry Siegan, president and executive director, respectively, of the American Jewish Congress, said in a statement that Begin's decision "is obviously personal rather than political" but nevertheless "consistent with the personal integrity that has characterized his entire life. The policies and ideology of Begin have been the subjects of controversy both inside and outside of Israel. But he has earned the respect and admiration of supporters and opponents alike for his outstanding leadership qualities and selfless dedication to the well-being of Israel and of the Jewish people everywhere."

#### Begin Tamed Israel's Greatest Peacemaker

Expressing "deep regrets and sympathetic understanding," Harold Jacobs, president of the National Council of Young Israel, said, "The Jewish people and the state of Israel can ill afford to lose such a gifted and dedicated leader." Begin maintains "the undisputed distinction of being Israel's greatest peacemaker" and "in the final analysis, Begin's policies and actions will be judged to be among the greatest achievements for world peace and human freedom in our generation," Jacobs asserted.

William Berkowitz, president of the American Jewish Heritage Committee, said Begin will "be remembered as a great statesman ... by boldly taking the giant steps necessary for bringing peace between Israel and its largest Arab neighbor, Egypt. A man of great courage and commitment, he was no stranger to struggle or controversy as he sought with devotion and perseverance, his people's and nation's goals of independence, peace and security."

#### A Leader Of Rare Principle

Eryk Spektor, national chairman of the Herut Zionists of America, praised Begin "as the outstanding Jewish figure of our generation" and noted his efforts toward the establishment of the Jewish State as commander of the Irgun and his role in achieving peace with Egypt. "History will judge him as one of the greatest Jewish heroes of all time," Spektor said.

Rabbi Gilbert Klapeman, president of the Rabbinical Council of America, said Begin's resignation removes "an experienced political leader of rare principle" from the Israeli and world Jewish scene. "He was one of the last of Israeli political leaders who carries the memory of European Jewish life and who projected its legacy into his ministry," Klapeman said.

#### ISRAEL YIELDS TO U.S. URGINGS THAT IT AGAIN DELAY REDEPLOYMENT OF IDF By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Aug. 30 (JTA) -- Israel yielded today to the urgings of the Reagan Administration and agreed to again postpone the start of troop redeployment to the Awali River in south Lebanon "for a short time."

The request from President Reagan was brought to Premier Menachem Begin in Jerusalem by Robert McFarlane, the President's special envoy, who came to Israel this morning from Beirut after talks with government officials in Paris, London and Rome on strengthening the multinational force (MNF) to enable the Lebanese army to take control of the Shouf moun-

tain area as Israeli forces withdrew. The length of time of the new delay was not disclosed but informed sources said it appeared to be not more than one or two days. The redeployment had been scheduled to begin this week and to be completed by Rosh Hashanah eve next Wednesday.

Most of the removal work has been completed and the planned redeployment completion date of September 7 could still be met, though this was not considered a certainty.

The decision for even a brief extension of the start of withdrawal was not an easy one for the Begin government, beset as it is with the problems stemming from Begin's final decision to resign.

Each day the IDF units remain in forward positions with reduced forces, living under extreme field conditions, lacking kitchen facilities or housing in the field, they are subject to increased dangers of terrorist attacks.

Begin's meeting with McFarlane took place only moments before his dramatic meeting with his coalition partners at which, after listening to renewed efforts to persuade him to cancel his resignation plan, Begin agreed only to postpone briefly the mandatory letter of resignation he must present to President Chaim Herzog.

The Begin-McFarlane meeting was attended by Defense Minister Moshe Arens, Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir and Chief of Staff Moshe Levy.

#### CONFERENCE ON PALESTINE BEGINS WITH TWO UNEXPECTED DEVELOPMENTS By Tamar Levy

GENEVA, Aug. 30 (JTA) — The United Nations-sponsored Conference on Palestine opened here yesterday with an unexpectedly strong speech by UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar calling for self-determination for the Palestinian people but stopping just short of calling for a Palestinian state.

Another unexpected development, one which caused fury among the Arabs at the conference, was the attendance by 300 international press correspondents at a press conference called by Israeli Ambassador Ovadia Soffer earlier in the day. His denunciation of the gathering was thus the first news item of the day.

In his speech, de Cuellar said the plight of the Palestinian people was highlighted by last year's massacre in the Sabra and Shatila refugee camps. He said the problem of the Palestinians was no closer to a solution than it was 36 years ago when the UN first addressed the problem. "The tragic events of Lebanon culminating in the massacre of unarmed men, women and children in Sabra and Shatila brought to our attention the need to find urgently a solution to the question of Palestine," de Cuellar said.

Solutions, he added, "must be based on the exercise by the Palestinian people of their inalienable rights which have been reaffirmed in a number of General Assembly resolutions." He also stated that all Israeli forces must be withdrawn from the territory Israel captured in the Six-Day War and said the question of Jerusalem remained crucial to settling the Palestinian issue.

Soffer, at his press conference, said Israel is not attending the gathering on Palestine. "This conference will not be a dialogue, because one single opinion will dominate: that of the extremist Arab States who are its initiators," he said. "For 35 years, these states have opposed any Jewish-Arab coexistence in the Middle East, and have denied the right of the Jewish people to self-determination."

This conference is a mirror image of their policy of intransigence and refusal, and will therefore in no way serve the cause of peace."

#### Denunciations Of Israel Highlight Session

Soffer's view of the conference was borne out when Chedli Klubi, the secretary-general of the Arab League, denounced Israel as a state founded on oppression and aggression. He told the conference that "Zionism is a form of racism hardly different in essence from the racism which Jews themselves have suffered."

External Affairs Minister Narasimha Rao of India read a message from India's Prime Minister Indira Gandhi on behalf of the Third World saying that peace and security would remain elusive as long as "the just and legitimate rights of the Palestinian people to the establishment of an independent national state were unrecognized."

Also during the opening session a message from Palestine Liberation Organization chief Yasir Arafat was read. It declared that the people of "Palestine will go on fighting in spite of the adversity and the problems it will have to face along the road" to victory over Israel and called on the international community not to be "paralyzed by the Zionist arrogance." The international press correspondents found this statement harsh and provocative.

#### Call For Armed Struggle Against Israel

The conclusions of the conference are already known. They are contained in the drafts of the final resolution which is certain to be adopted because there is no opposition. These drafts call for total war against Israel by "all possible means, including armed struggle"; reject Jerusalem as Israel's capital; call for a new Middle East conference with the full participation of the PLO; and urge that the right of Palestinians to an independent state be recognized.

The conference has been sharply criticized by the Swiss press. The consensus of the media was that "the drastic security measures, the barbed wire which encircles the United Nations building transforming it into a military garrison with trenches, tanks and troops only reflect the nature of the conference and the risks of holding it." Some Swiss papers have referred to the conference as "a useless show" and "a political non-event." One journalist wrote that the conference was like "a cow without milk."

The United States, Canada and Israel are boycotting the conference. Most of the other Western nations are keeping a low profile, represented, if at all, by observers and low-level diplomats. The Arabs have made clear their disappointment with this, especially as the heads of their delegations are ministers and vice ministers. The Swiss sent an unknown young diplomat to represent the country and the Arabs are taking this as a slap in the face.

The PLO is represented only by supporters of Arafat. All other factions presently at war with each other in Lebanon have expressed rancor at being left out and the internal PLO war may erupt in some form at the conference.

The only ones who will gain from this 10-day meeting will be the Arabs and Arafat's faction along with the Soviet Union which will exploit the gathering in order to bolster its flagging position in the Middle East by appearing to be the only non-Arab nation fully supporting the Arab cause against Israel. Thus, close to \$6 million will have been squandered by the time the conference ends to reaffirm what Soffer called a "policy of intransigence and refusal."

## FOCUS ON ISSUES

## MAJOR BREAKTHROUGH FOR WOMEN IN JEWISH JOURNALISM IN RECENT YEARS

By Ben Gallob

NEW YORK, Aug. 30 (JTA) -- One area in American Jewish communal service in which women appear to have achieved a major career breakthrough in recent years is Jewish journalism, according to the findings of an informal survey by the Jewish Telegraphic Agency of Jewish news publications in the United States and Canada.

An examination of the editorial staffing of 62 of the publications, representing all but a few of those media, showed that nine of the publications had women in the categories of editor-publisher, co-publisher, and publisher/executive editor. No fewer than 38 -- nearly 60 percent -- of the publications listed women as editors and managing editors.

In addition, 16 women serve as associate and assistant editors and six hold various sub-editor positions. The list of women staff members includes 13 editorial assistants. More than a dozen women were listed as editorial contributors. The findings showed that only six of the publications listed no women in any editorial capacity.

Basis For The Survey

The survey was based on an examination of editorial mastheads, the membership list of the American Jewish Press Association (AJPA), and listings in the current American Jewish Year Book.

The current membership list of the AJPA lists 51 full members and 13 associate members among news publications, for a total of 64 Jewish news publications. The 1983 American Jewish Year Book lists 71 such publications in the United States and five in Canada for a total of 76. By either yardstick, the publications studied by the JTA represent an overwhelming majority of such news publications.

The presence of women in key editorial positions appeared to be totally unrelated to such factors as geographical location, ownership by either Federations or private individuals, or size and circulation of publications.

Women serve as editor and publisher, or as editors and managing editors, on both privately-owned and Federation-sponsored news publications on weeklies with substantial numbers of pages and wide circulation, down to letter-head size private and Federation-sponsored publications ranging in size from four to 12 to 16 pages, published and circulated within a limited geographical area.

Role In Jewish Organizational Life

Women have been emerging in recent years in growing numbers as presidents of Federations, major power centers in Jewish organizational life, and of Jewish congregations. But this is considerably less true of appointments of women to key executive positions. Women remain a rarity in decision-making high echelon presidential and executive posts of major national organizations which are not women's organizations.

An examination of the 1983 Directory of the Council of Jewish Federations indicated that 32 of the presidents of the 225 Federations, Welfare Funds and Community Councils listed in the Directory -- about 15 percent -- are women.

Since these are volunteer elective posts, the number of women in Federation executive directorships, or their equivalent, was considered more meaningful. A total of 28 women, again slightly more than 10 percent, were found to be holding posts as paid executives. Sixteen are listed as executive directors, seven are listed as executive secretaries, two as secretary-treasurers and three in the categories of administrator, administrative secretary and treasurer.

Women also hold executive positions in affiliates of the national organizations and in local units of such organizations but precise data on their numbers and duties were beyond the scope of the survey.

But comparison of the percentages clearly demonstrate that the deepest penetration by women in formerly all-male preserves in American Jewish organizational professional areas has been made in Jewish journalism.

Comments By Publishers

Two publishers, one considered the dean of Jewish publishers, and one of the relatively young men coming into the field as publishers, commented on the survey at the request of the JTA.

Philip Slomovitz, veteran editor and publisher of the Jewish News of Detroit, and Jerome Lippman, publisher and editor-in-chief of the Long Island Jewish World, expressed gratification at the survey findings.

Slomovitz, a vice president of the Board of the JTA, commented that The Jewish News may have been one of the pioneers in opening its doors to women for key editorial positions. He declared that "one of our earliest city editors was a woman whose skills I would match with the best," establishing a tradition maintained to the present.

Lippman, president of the AJPA, commenting that the six publications without any women editorial representation were "six too many," said that the high proportion of women in key Jewish journalistic positions meant that opportunities in Jewish journalism are wide open for the competent journalist, male or female.

He said the findings indicated that any Jew, man or woman, who wants to work in the Jewish community can rise to the highest positions of responsibility in Jewish journalism and thus make valuable contributions to the community on a professional level.

IDF GUARD WOUNDED AT ANSAR PRISON CAMP

TEL AVIV, Aug. 30 (JTA) -- An Israel Defense Force guard at the Ansar prison camp in south Lebanon was wounded yesterday during a riot among the Arab prisoner-detainees. Four of the inmates were wounded by shots fired by the guards to quell the disturbance.

The army spokesman said that an inmate was caught while trying to escape yesterday evening, and fellow inmates stoned the guards, hitting one of them in the head. The guards were ordered to fire warning shots.

Relocation of the camp structures, with tents and huts being put on tamac and cement bases to prevent the digging of escape tunnels, is nearly completed, army sources said. During the relocation process, numerous tunnels were found, some of them near completion to areas outside the camp perimeter.

In other developments, a French soldier serving with the multinational peacekeeping force in Beirut was killed and two other French soldiers were wounded this morning when a French army truck was hit by gunfire in an ambush. Yesterday, two American marines were killed and eight wounded, and an Italian soldier was wounded during heavy shelling in the Beirut area by warring Shiite Moslems and Christian Phalangists.