

**Weekend Developments In Lebanon:
ISRAELI CABINET ISSUES WARNING AS
FIERCE FIGHTING CONTINUES IN THE
SHOUF AREA BETWEEN DRUZE, CHRISTIANS**
By David Landau (Jerusalem), Hugh Orgel
(Tel Aviv) and Edwin Eytan (Paris)

Sept. 11 (JTA) — Fierce fighting over the weekend between Druze and Christians in the Shouf mountains of central Lebanon drew a sharp warning from the Israeli Cabinet today to "all forces in Lebanon to refrain from collaborating with the terrorist organizations (which are) the enemies of both Israel and Lebanon."

Israel acknowledged at the same time that its armored patrols are once again active north of the Awali River, the line to which the Israel Defense Force withdrew barely a week ago. The Israelis made it clear that their actions were aimed against Palestine Liberation Organization units which they say have penetrated "certain areas" in the fighting zone.

The worsening crisis in Lebanon also involves the U.S., France, Italy and Britain whose troops in the 5,400-man multinational force on a peace-keeping mission in and around Beirut have been sustaining casualties from shell and mortar fire believed to come from Druze or Moslem leftists entrenched in the mountains east of the Lebanese capital.

U.S. Says No To Beefed Up Forces

But President Reagan and Secretary of State George Shultz stated flatly over the weekend that the U.S. and its allies will not accede to the urgent request by Lebanese President Amin Gemayel that they beef up their forces and move into the Shouf area vacated by Israel.

"We are not planning on expanding the forces that are there," Reagan said Friday in a telephone question-and-answer session with the Republican Western Regional Conference in Scottsdale, Arizona. The President, for the first time, characterized the fighting in Lebanon as a "civil war" and acknowledged that the U.S. had not anticipated this when he first ordered the marines to Beirut nearly a year ago.

Shultz, returning from a conference in Madrid late Friday, said that "under the present circumstances there isn't any disposition to change our mission in Lebanon." The State Department defined the mission of the U.S. and its allies as a demonstration of political support for the Lebanese government and to contribute to that government's stability, but not to settle differences among Lebanese factions.

Syria Seen As The Main Obstacle

U.S. special envoy Robert McFarlane is in the region trying to engineer a cease-fire among the warring factions. According to one State Department source, McFarlane's reports have convinced Shultz and others in the Administration that Syria is the main obstacle to his efforts. The Department believes that if Syria withdrew its support for the Druze and Moslem leftists, a cease-fire could be arranged without difficulty.

A major part of President Reagan's meeting with his National Security Council at the White House over the weekend reportedly focused on how to blunt Syria's role, but also how to deal with pressure to pull out the marines which is expected to develop when Congress returns from its summer recess this week.

Israel Appalled By Camage

The Israelis, meanwhile, are seriously disturbed by the camage that broke out after the IDF was redeployed to the Awali River security zone, a move taken in large measure to end or reduce Israeli casualties. They are also appalled by claims by the Druze and Lebanese Christians that each side has massacred scores of civilians of the other.

The Cabinet's call today mentioned neither side but was clearly directed at the Druze and their Moslem leftist and PLO allies who appear to hold the upper hand in the Shouf area fighting. Israel is particularly worried by the PLO role but Cabinet sources said Israel "has grounds to hope and believe" that there would not be a large-scale return of the terrorists to these areas or to Beirut proper.

The sources were reluctant to say what if any direct action Israel might take should that hope prove unfounded. "In the worst-cases eventualy, we will have the same confrontation line as previously, only further south," one source said. The IDF is now deployed some 40 kilometers (28 miles) north of the Israeli border.

Questions About IDF Units

The disclosure that IDF armored units are once more operating north of this line raised questions at today's Cabinet session. Defense Minister Moshe Arens said the patrols were ad hoc actions, not intended to be regular operations.

He said Israel would not intervene directly in the fighting in central Lebanon but would continue to strike at the PLO when and where it sees fit. Army circles said the Israeli patrols consisted of "armed reconnaissance" by two or three tanks supported by armored personnel carriers.

The Cabinet rejected a proposal by Finance Minister Yoram Aridor that ministerial approval should be obtained before any IDF patrol was ordered north of the Awali River.

The Cabinet communique expressed "deep shock" at "acts of massacre of innocent civilians" and called on "all elements" to cease and desist. Neither Druze nor Christians were specifically mentioned. Government sources denied that the official "even-handedness" was dictated by intense pressure from Israel's Druze community on behalf of their brethren in Lebanon.

Both Sides Claim Massacres

The Lebanese government claimed over the weekend that 53 civilians were killed in the village of Bira. The Christian Phalange-controlled radio said 118 Christians were slaughtered "by a mixed force of Druze, their Palestinian and Lebanese allies." The rightwing Christian radio broadcast the names of 14 people it claimed had their throats cut by Druze in a raid on the village church. A week ago, Druze claimed massacres by Christians.

Radio Beirut said today that the Lebanese government has appealed to the UN Security Council to save the thousands of Christian civilians trapped in the Shouf Mountain village of Deir el Kamar by a strong Druze force.

Walid Jumblatt, leader of the Lebanese Druze, said in an interview with the French leftist daily Liberation that he was not sure he could control his own men. "I run a militia, not an army," he said and warned that his men might act on their own if the Christians committed atrocities.

In the same interview Jumblatt laid down his conditions for a cease-fire, foremost of which was abrogation of the Israel-Lebanese agreement on foreign troop withdrawals and security signed last May 15 after months of negotiations in which the U.S. played a major role.

The other conditions, he said, were the withdrawal of Christian forces and Lebanese army units from the Shouf mountains and redeployment of the Lebanese army outside of Beirut. Jumblatt accused the Christians in Beirut of "planning a new Sabra and Shatila massacre" against the local Moslem population.

Jumblatt also warned that if the multinational force continued to take what he claimed was a biased, pro-Christian attitude, he would ask for its departure. But he denied that his forces had shelled the U.S. marines or French forces in Beirut. He attributed those attacks to "trouble-makers" whom he did not identify. "They want to ham our relations with France and the United States," he said.

Lebanese Christians Cross Into Israel

Meanwhile, several hundred Lebanese Christians from Sidon in south Lebanon and the Shouf region crossed the border into Israel at Ras Hanikra today. They were allowed to enter on a presentation of identity cards. Some are seeking refuge among family and friends in Israel. Several purchased airline tickets to Europe at special El Al ticket offices set up at Ras Hanikra and Metullah.

The fighting between Druze and Christians appeared for a time to have spilled over into Israel. Shots were fired and a hand grenade thrown at a Christian house in Usafiya, a village on the Camel range populated by Druze but with a Christian minority.

Police reinforcements were dispatched. But Druze and Christian leaders in the village and in the two communities in Israel stressed that the incident was part of a feud between families and was not related to the fighting in Lebanon.

BEGIN CONTINUES TO DELAY SUBMITTING HIS FORMAL RESIGNATION TO HERZOG

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Sept. 11 (JTA) -- Premier Menachem Begin is continuing to delay submitting his formal letter of resignation to President Chaim Herzog, despite the fact that he announced his resignation two weeks ago and that his Herut Party elected Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir to succeed Begin as party leader. Begin had been expected to hand in his formal resignation letter last weekend but then postponed doing so until after Rosh Hashanah.

An aid to the Premier could not say today whether the continuing delay was due to Begin's poor health or whether he was deferring his meeting with Herzog in order to give Shamir more time to reconstitute the Likud coalition so that Herzog could ask it to form the new government.

Herzog himself, in a radio interview, refused to comment on the ongoing dispute between legal experts as to whether Begin's delay in formally resigning is a violation of constitutional propriety. Herzog said he did not regard the office of the President as slighted or insulted by the fact that coalition negotiations were proceeding between the constituent elements of the Likud before Begin had formally submitted his resignation.

Begin Absent From Synagogue, Cabinet

Meanwhile, Begin did not attend today's weekly Cabinet session "because he did not feel well," according to an official communique. The statement added that Begin had asked Deputy Premier David Levy to chair the meeting in his place. In addition, Begin did not attend Rosh Hashanah services at the Great Synagogue near his home, unlike previous years. Instead, the synagogue sent a shofar-blower to the Premier's home so that Begin could hear the traditional blowing of the ram's horn.

Israel Radio reported that Hadassah Hospital staffers who have treated Begin in the past said he had not suffered any particular medical setback over the weekend -- which he spent quietly at his residence.

SCHINDLER URGES SHAMIR TO RESIST AGUDA PRESSURE ON LAW OF RETURN

NEW YORK, Sept. 11 (JTA) -- Rabbi Alexander Schindler, president of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations (UAHC), has called on Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir of Israel "not to yield to the demand of the Aguda Party" for a change in Israel's Law of Return that would hold invalid all conversions made by Conservative and Reform rabbis.

Schindler said in a letter to the newly-elected leader of the Herut Party, who is now seeking to form a new government to succeed Premier Menachem Begin's, that non-Orthodox Jews "constitute the overwhelming majority of American and world Jewry. The proposed change would in effect rule us all out of the Jewish fold and would shatter that unity which is essential to our survival."

The American Reform Jewish leader recalled that Begin, "while personally sympathetic to a more traditional point of view, nevertheless always understood that the passage of such a law would plunge the Jewish world into a kulturkampf whose only result would be national suicide."

For this reason, Schindler continued, "as Prime Minister, Mr. Begin always insisted that this matter never be subject to party discipline. As a consequence, the effort always proved abortive. When Knesset members were permitted to vote as their conscience dictated, they rejected any change in the Law of Return. I beg you not to make Jewish unity a bargaining chip on the table of political power."

GERMANY'S TRADE WITH ARABS IS DOWN

BONN, Sept. 11 (JTA) -- West Germany's trade with Arab countries declined substantially during the first six months of this year, with some political ramifications. The Ministry for Economics reported that imports from Arab countries amounted to 9.3 billion Marks in the six-month period, down by 34.2 percent while exports amounted to 14.3 billion Marks, a 17.7 percent drop. According to the Ministry, this trend is likely to continue.

Politically, it has been reflected in a less one-sided attitude in Bonn toward the Arab-Israeli conflict. That was apparent when West Germany took the initiative to lift the sanctions imposed on Israel by the European Economic Community (EEC) after its invasion of Lebanon in June, 1982.

UN SPONSORED CONFERENCE ON PALESTINE CONSIDERED A FLOP

By Tamar Levy

GENEVA, Sept. 11 (JTA) — The controversial United Nations sponsored conference on Palestine ended here last week with what must have been a collective sigh of relief from many of the participants that an international embarrassment was over.

Both as a productive debate and as a media event, the 10-day conclave of Arab states, their Third World and Communist bloc allies and a handful of Western nations was, in the unashamed words of the Kuwaiti Ambassador, "a flop." Since it was not expected to generate much more than the usual anti-Israel rhetoric, it received little media coverage from the start.

At midpoint, it was upstaged by Premier Menachem Begin's announcement in Jerusalem that he would resign. Its closing hours were overshadowed by the downing of a Korean airliner by Soviet fighter planes.

The deliberations began with a quarrel. Victor Gauci, Malta's Ambassador to the UN who had been elected rapporteur, stunned the delegates by announcing that his government, a strong supporter of the Palestinians, had instructed him to withdraw from the conference until a row over an Arab boycott of a Maltese firm doing business with Israel is resolved.

The conference proceeded without a rapporteur. It ended on an equally sour note when Mustafe Niase, the Foreign Minister of Senegal who served as conference president refused to hold a closing press conference because he "did not want to be politically engaged."

First Resolution Was Predictable

What little of substance the conference produced was predictable. The final resolution upheld "the right of the Palestine Liberation Organization, the representative of the Palestinian people, to establish its own independent state in Palestine." It called for an international peace conference on the Middle East, under UN auspices with the participation of the PLO, the U.S. and the USSR — a revival of the Geneva Conference format of 1967 which has been gathering dust for 16 years.

Finland and Sweden, two of the Western states participating, urged some mention of "the right of Israel to exist." But the Arabs refused and would agree only to affirm "the right of all states in the region to exist within secure borders."

They rejected outright a paragraph in the original draft resolution which condemned all acts of terrorism in the Middle East. There was no reference in the final resolution to UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338.

The Result Of The Conference

Israel's Ambassador to the UN in Geneva, Ovadia Soffer, stated in a press communique that "the conference, which cost the UN \$7 million, achieved only one result: it enabled the extremist Arabs and their allies to repeat once again their anti-Israel declarations." He expressed hope that the 21 Arab states which refuse to acknowledge Israel's existence will finally agree to dialogue and direct negotiations with Israel in the manner of Camp David.

The Israelis, in any event, may have benefited more from the conference than the Palestinians. If so, it was due to the clumsy performance of

PLO chief Yasir Arafat who outraged and alienated millions of Catholics around the world by stating at a press conference that Jesus was the first militant Palestinian terrorist. He used the word "fedayee."

RIO'S LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY REPEALS LAW THAT ESTABLISHED A DAY OF SOLIDARITY WITH THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE

By David Markus

RIO DE JANEIRO, Sept. 11 (JTA) — The Legislative Assembly of the State of Rio de Janeiro met in special session a week ago and voted by a large majority to repeal a law that established a "Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People." The same legislature had met last May to establish September 12 as the "Day of Solidarity," the anniversary of the massacre of Palestinian civilians at the Sabra and Shatila refugee camps in Beirut. The solidarity day was inspired by pro-PLO Deputies.

The Jewish community protested, pointing out that the real reason for the "Day of Solidarity" was not to mourn the victims of the massacre but to use the day to issue anti-Semitic, anti-Zionist and anti-Israel declarations.

The Socialist Governor of Rio, Leonel Brizola, reportedly conceded in private that he agreed to the law establishing the "Day of Solidarity" without realizing its real objective. He then urged the Assembly to repeal the law.

In another development, Brizola declined the request of Farid Sawan, the PLO representative in Brazil, to address the conference of the Latin American section of the Socialist International a week ago. Sawan's effort to present a resolution on the Middle East was also turned down.

SOVIET BOOK CHARGES 'ZIONIST' CONTROL OF AMERICAN MEDIA

LONDON, Sept. 11 (JTA) — A claim of "Zionist" control of the media in the United States is made in a book published in Moscow, it was reported by the World Jewish Congress whose Institute of Jewish Affairs here has obtained a copy of the 355-page publication.

The book, "The Truth Against Demagoguery and Lies," is published in Russian and is a collection of articles condemning "imperialism and its ideological sabotage." Dr. Howard Spier, research officer at the Institute, said that Zionism comes under vicious attack in an article by V. Gan entitled "How the Tail Wags the Dog."

Spier quotes Gan as stating that "It has been authentically established that The New York Times, Washington Post and St. Louis Dispatch, the newspaper chain of Samuel Newhouse, the magazines Newsweek, Time, Vogue and Glamour, and the TV companies CBS, NBC and ABC are in one degree or another under the direct control, or at least influence, of the Zionists."

Gan then turns his attention to local U.S. newspapers, magazines and radio and TV stations and claims that "hundreds" of them "have got entangled in the nets of the Zionists," Spier reports. Gan also writes that "Zionist control" of the U.S. media has created "a false chauvenistic conception of Israel as 'a bulwark of Western civilization and the free world and a small oasis of progress in the Middle East...'"

Spier points out that this allegation is firmly in line with Soviet policy, which frequently exaggerates the influence of the "Jewish lobby" in the U.S.

BEHIND THE HEADLINES SOVIET AND AMERICAN MILITARY MIGHT; THE JEWISH FACTOR

By Arnold Ages

(Part One Of A Two-Part Series)

TORONTO, Sept. 11 (JTA) -- There is a great debate sweeping the academic, military and political community these days over the relative strength of American and Soviet arms.

The debate which is being engendered has wide ramifications both for military planners and industry because of the multi-million dollar contracts which are let out each year to defense contractors. Although it may appear somewhat strange, there is a Jewish factor in the contesting claims about the relative superiority of Russian versus American military power.

One of the most vociferous critics today of American defense strategies is Andrew Cockburn, a British journalist residing in New York City. He is the author of a highly controversial study of Soviet military power, "The Threat: Inside the Soviet Military Machine" (Random House). This book is a meticulous audit of every aspect of Soviet strength from the morale of the Soviet soldier to the oiling procedure for heavy Russian tanks.

In his analysis of Soviet weaponry, Cockburn records that much of his information about Russian training techniques, billeting practices, officer promotion and a host of other aspects of military life -- come from conversations he conducted with recent Soviet-Jewish emigres now living in the United States.

The Soviet Jews with whom he conversed did not, of course, reveal any military secrets; they did not have access to any of them. Rather, they told Cockburn what they knew about the day-to-day life of the Soviet soldier, his fears, frustrations, anxieties, strengths and weaknesses.

Low Morale in Soviet Armed Forces

The composite portrait of the Soviet soldier which Cockburn has reconstructed from these interviews is a fascinating one. Cockburn claims, for example, that drunkenness is pandemic in the Soviet armed forces.

Despite strict prohibitions about the consumption of liquor, Soviet military personnel obtain their alcohol even if they have to siphon off the cooling alcohol used in jet aircraft. This kind of potent brew has resulted, says Cockburn, in numerous cases of blindness in the Soviet armed forces.

Information culled from interviews permitted Cockburn to suggest that the morale in the Soviet armed forces is at the lowest ebb. Recruits from Asian-Moslem parts of the Soviet Union are subjected to grotesque discrimination by the majority Russians in the army population.

Cockburn claims that in the initial stages of the Afghanistan invasion the Soviets found that Moslem troops sent to the country (in the hope that they would be able to deal more effectively with Afghanistan guerrillas) defected in large numbers.

Among the most interesting revelations Cockburn provides about the Russian army is the disinclination of the officer corps to report any kind of discipline problems with army draftees.

Their hesitancy in this regard stems from the fact that reports about problems with draftees inevitably result in the officer's dossier being filled with comments about his inability to handle recruits--which reflects on his capacity for leadership.

As a consequence of this, reports Cockburn, grave incidents of indiscipline, sometimes approaching mutiny, are ignored by commanding officers, fearing their own reputation will suffer.

Questions Invincibility Of Soviet Arms

With regard to the weaponry factor, Cockburn has little that is positive to say about this issue. He uses the examples of Arab-Israel confrontations in recent years to question the alleged invincibility of Soviet arms.

Cockburn claims that the various Mikoyan-Gurevitch airplanes (the MIG 25s and others) have been vastly overrated and he cites Israeli kill figures during the Six-Day War, the Yom Kippur War and the war in Lebanon to prove his contentions about the superiority of American fighter planes. While acknowledging the role played by Israel's superb pilots, Cockburn makes the point that their planes function with greater flexibility than the Russian aircraft flown by Arab pilots.

Cockburn has the same critical posture with regard to the fearsome Soviet tanks. Reputed to be virtually impregnable, these tanks are referred to by Cockburn as "mobile coffins," that were easily pierced by Israeli projectiles in the 1973 and 1982 encounters between the belligerents.

As for the highly sophisticated Soviet missile batteries that proved so dangerous to Israeli fighters in the first days of the Yom Kippur War, Cockburn observes that after the initial shock, Israeli planners worked out defense measures which easily neutralized the Soviet missile network.

Given the fact that the Soviet armed forces are so demonstrably weak, Cockburn asks why Americans are inclined to exaggerate the strength of their adversary. Why are so many gloomy scenarios presented showing the superiority of Russian weaponry over American technology?

Cockburn's answer is quite simple: American defense contractors, American generals and their allies have everything to gain from offering the most pessimistic views on American capabilities. Billions of dollars of potential contracts are at stake in the arguments over defense spending. But one of the most astute defense analysts, Edward Luttwack, disagrees with Cockburn.

(Tomorrow: Part Two)

NEW YORK (JTA) -- President Reagan has invited the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations to send a delegation to meet with Secretary of State George Shultz, it was reported Sunday by a Conference spokesman. The meeting will take place Monday afternoon at the State Department.

JERUSALEM (JTA) -- The Jewish National Fund Board of Directors has approved the JNF's annual 1983-84 budget of \$66.7 million. The new budget is 75 percent larger than last year's.