

ISRAEL'S CHIEF OF STAFF; ISRAEL DIDN'T CONSIDER SUFFICIENTLY THE POSSIBILITY THAT SYRIA, PLO WOULD JOIN DRUZE AGAINST LEBANESE ARMY
By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Sept. 18 (JTA) — Chief of Staff Gen. Moshe Levy conceded today that Israel had "not taken into consideration ... sufficiently" the possibility that Syrian and Palestine Liberation Organization forces would join with Druze forces in the Shouf mountains to fight against the Lebanese army when it was decided to redeploy the Israel Defense Force to safer lines along the Awali River in south Lebanon.

Interviewed on Israel television at the end of Yom Kippur last night, Levy repeated that the IDF fully expected the warring Druze and Christians to resume fighting once the IDF left the Shouf area although "we had done everything in our power to coordinate the withdrawal and bring about a settlement before the predictable — and predictably cruel — war would break out."

Details And Nuances Were Not Appreciated

But, he added, the details of the process of renewed fighting and their nuances were not appreciated, nor was the influence of the Palestinians and the Syrians.

"To my regret," Levy said, "these factors were not taken into consideration, or not sufficiently absorbed before our redeployment when everybody was talking about redeployment and that it should be carried out, and perhaps it was not convenient to grasp that this redeployment would have a price in this respect."

He recalled, however that "Even in public, I had more than one occasion to say that the reinforcement and return of the terrorists and the increase of Syrian influence would be among the results of our redeployment."

Levy added again, "to my regret, time was wasted (before making adequate arrangements to prevent the return of the Palestinians) and no strong enough attempts were made and perhaps the illusion was also created that if we are, constantly, as it were, on the verge of a settlement, we will simply continue staying there, and maybe it was this situation of lack of decisiveness which led to a rather worse development."

Did Not Expect Massive Palestinian Intervention

A similar admission was made today by Uri Lubrani, coordinator of Israeli affairs in Lebanon. Addressing the Economic Club here, he said Israel had anticipated that if there was no agreement on the Lebanese army taking over the positions evacuated by the IDF, the Druze would have the upper hand.

He said Israel believed the Palestinians would take part in the fighting but had not reckoned that their intervention would be as massive as it was. He said he thought the IDF would remain in Lebanon for some months but their stay should not be reckoned in years.

Asked why Israel had maintained contact with the Druze even when it was clear the Palestinians would join them, Lubrani admitted there had been a dilemma. But Israel was determined that no Israeli soldiers should be harmed during the redeployment which was carried out smoothly, without casualties.

Levy for his part, stressed that Israel could and would deal with any Palestinians who tried to enter the security zone north of Israel's borders. He explained that the new line along the Awali River was an "open line," meaning that Lebanese refugees could move southwards and Israeli patrols would be active north of the line.

GEMAYEL ACCUSES ISRAEL AND SYRIA OF USING LOCAL 'QUISLINGS' TO TRY TO SPLIT UP LEBANON BETWEEN THEM

By Edwin Eytan

PARIS, Sept. 18 (JTA) — Lebanese President Amin Gemayel accused Israel and Syria today of "using local Quislings and mercenaries" to try to split up the country between them.

Speaking on French television, Gemayel, once believed to be pro-Israel, was as critical about Israel as he was about Syria. He said the two countries, "the two super-powers in the Middle East (Israel and Syria) want the same thing: to rule over part of Lebanon."

Gemayel, used the French name "Laval" for "Quisling," when describing the "men hired by Israel and Syria to do their work." Pierre Laval was Prime Minister of France between 1942 and 1944 and directed Marshal Pétain's policy of active collaboration with the Nazis. He was executed in 1945 after a French court found him guilty of high treason.

Mild Words For Jumblatt

Gemayel was careful in his interview not to put Druze leader Walid Jumblatt in this category. He said: "I know Walid well. He is not a blood-thirsty person nor a bad patriot. He is probably manipulated by a foreign power (Syria)."

Gemayel's words were mild enough to indicate that he has not given up hope of a reconciliation with the Druze leader now in control of practically all the Shouf mountains.

Gemayel admitted that the central government controls less than 20 percent of the national territory but said he hoped his forces might soon control all of Lebanon. In a second interview scheduled to be broadcast late tonight, Gemayel says he counts on the aid of the multinational force to reinforce his regime. (Gemayel was also interviewed on ABC-TV today. See separate story.)

Arafat Wants Multinational Force To Leave

Meanwhile, PLO leader Yasir Arafat, who last night returned to northern Lebanon, today called for "the immediate evacuation" of the force. In an interview with the Italian news agency, Ansa, he said: "The force was originally set up to protect the Palestinians but permitted their massacre at Sabra and Shatila. Now the force helps the central government of Gemayel to oppose Lebanese patriots fighting in the Shouf."

Arafat made it clear that the Palestinians want the withdrawal of the 5,400-member force and are supporting Syria's stand on this issue. He was speaking in the Syrian-controlled port of Tripoli which he reached by plane from Tunis.

The Syrians today also called for the withdrawal of the multinational force and warned the United States that Syria might "be forced to respond" should the U.S. troops in Beirut continue to fire on the Syrian-backed Druze militias. The warning was carried in the state controlled paper Al Thowra and was later repeated by a Syrian military spokesman quoted by Radio Damascus and monitored here.

CABINET MEETS IN CLOSED SESSION TO DISCUSS LEBANON SITUATION

By David Landau and Hugh Orgel

JERUSALEM, Sept. 18 (JTA) -- The Cabinet met in closed session today to discuss the worsening situation in Lebanon where fierce fighting continues in the Shouf mountains and near Beirut between Syrian-supported Druze militias and the Christian Phalangists, backed by the Lebanese army and its small air force.

Lebanese army aircraft again bombed what were described as Druze and Palestinian positions in the Shouf area and Beirut Radio claimed that five Syrian and Druze artillery batteries were destroyed. Syrian artillery was reported to have extended the fighting by shelling areas north of Beirut where the Lebanese air force has been operating from a temporary airfield.

The Cabinet convened as a ministerial defense committee, meaning that its deliberations are classified and the possibility of "leaks" to the media reduced. Deputy Premier David Levy presided at the request of Menachem Begin who remains confined to his home with a skin ailment and what was described as general weakness.

Begin formally resigned as Premier last Thursday but continues to serve as head of the care-taker government. Officials stressed today that Begin retains all of the powers of his office except chairing Cabinet sessions which he has delegated to Levy, apparently for as long as the care-taker regime continues.

Sharon Had Urged Closed Discussion

Today's meeting followed repeated urgings by former Defense Minister Ariel Sharon for a closed discussion of events in Lebanon. Defense Minister Moshe Arens is understood to have briefed the ministers in detail on the fighting in Lebanon and the unsuccessful efforts, largely by the U.S., to negotiate a cease-fire between the warring factions.

It was not known whether Sharon, a Minister-Without-Portfolio, repeated his criticism of the withdrawal of the Israel Defense Force from the Shouf mountains two weeks ago. The latest round of warfare in Lebanon broke out on the heels of the Israeli redeployment to safer lines.

Meanwhile, an Israeli Druze leader, Deide Atche, today accused "the propaganda machine of the Phalangists" of trying to draw Israel into the battle by claiming "that there are Palestinians fighting alongside the Druze in the Shouf mountains."

"I really do not believe that," Atche said on an Israel Radio interview. "However, if it were to be proven, I think our position in Israel as Druze would be reconsidered toward the Druze community in Lebanon," he added.

He disclosed that the Israeli Druze "recently asked an official Druze delegation to come to us from the Shouf mountains to prove to Israel that there are no Palestinians or Syrian fighters alongside the Druze community. Otherwise, we told them, our situation in Israel would be confused as loyal citizens of Israel and members of this society and inhabitants of this country, and it might contradict and conflict with our solidarity with you."

Dutch To Withdraw From UNIFIL

In another development, the 500-member Dutch contingent of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) will be withdrawn shortly and will not be replaced. The Netherlands government had announced several months ago that it intends to pull its troops out of UNIFIL because its role there is unclear.

Dutch troops had been part of UNIFIL ever since the UN force was sent to Lebanon following Israel's invasion of south Lebanon in 1978 in what was known as the Litani campaign. Their departure will leave UNIFIL's strength at about 5,000 men supplied by several countries. But the UNIFIL mandate, extended periodically by the UN Security Council, is itself unclear under the present circumstances.

GEMAYEL: FIGHTING BETWEEN THE LEBANESE, SYRIAN-BACKED MOSLEMS IS A 'SIDESHOW' DESIGNED TO PREVENT WITHDRAWAL OF SYRIAN TROOPS

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, Sept. 18 (JTA) -- President Amin Gemayel of Lebanon, in a television interview broadcast today, said the fighting between the Lebanese and Syrian-backed Moslem militias is a "sideshow" aimed at preventing the withdrawal of Syrian troops from Lebanon.

Gemayel, whose interview was taped yesterday for the ABC-TV "This Week With David Brinkley" program, said it is "clear" that the "Syrians are behind" the fighting now going on. He said the result is that "nobody is talking" about the withdrawal of foreign forces from Lebanon but instead are concentrating on the current fighting.

The Lebanese President said that if he were able to sit down face to face with Druze leader Walid Jumblatt, "we would be able to reach an agreement in five minutes."

Jumblatt, in an interview today on the CBS-TV "Face the Nation" program, while attacking Gemayel, also indicated he would be willing to discuss with the Lebanese President a political solution that would give more power to the various Moslem religious groups in Lebanon. But he indicated that there would have to be a cease-fire first and that the Lebanese army would have to withdraw from the Shouf mountains.

Abdallah Bouhabib, Lebanon's Ambassador to the U.S., appearing on the same CBS program, declared that the Lebanese army has more Druze in its ranks than Jumblatt's militia. He also claimed that more people from the various religious groups in Lebanon are in the army than in the various militias. Bouhabib denied that the government was controlled by the Christian

Phalangists, saying there were no members of that political party in the government. But former Vice President Walter Mondale, appearing on the Brinkley program, said the U.S. should be doing more to press Gemayel to bring non-Christian groups into the government which, Mondale said, he has not been doing.

Mondale, a candidate for the Democratic Presidential nomination in 1984, said the U.S. has to define its role in Lebanon and should do so in partnership with Congress. He said the marines were sent into Lebanon last year in the belief that Syria would withdraw but the Syrians, supported by the Soviet Union, do not want to leave Lebanon.

Mondale, who said the War Powers Act should be invoked, said the marines should be defended but that they should not take over the fighting for the Lebanese army. Gemayel had stressed earlier that Lebanon does not want the marines "to die for us" but they were in Lebanon to help with the process of national reconciliation.

Marine Corps Chief's Views Of The Fighting

Gen. Paul Kelly, Commandant of the Marine Corps, who also appeared on "Face the Nation," gave a different interpretation of the fighting now going on in Lebanon. He said the departure of the Israelis from the Shouf mountains left a "vacuum" which the various groups are now trying to fill and that they were "positioning" themselves to get into a better military posture to negotiate a cease-fire.

He said that Lebanon is now "on the verge of maintaining a stable government" and to suggest that the marines leave would be "close to criminal." Kelly stressed that the marines' position is defensive and he believes that they are being shelled because they hold strategic positions at the Beirut airport and the main east-west highway and not because they are a U.S. force.

He said the shelling by U.S. warships yesterday were against those in the Shouf mountains who had shelled the marine positions. He said if any Syrian troops were hit, as Damascus has charged, then that was because Syrian forces were in an area where they were not supposed to be. He refused to comment on what the U.S. would do if the Syrians attacked the U.S. forces as Damascus has threatened.

In outlining what he believed U.S. policy in Lebanon should be, Mondale also stressed that the U.S. should demonstrate to Israel "our commitment to her security, a joint, a security relationship that makes it clear that our support for Israel is unquestioned."

PROCESS OF TRYING TO FORM A NEW GOVERNMENT GETS OFF THE GROUND

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Sept. 18 (JTA) -- Labor Party Secretary-General Haim Barlev said today that he was "cautiously optimistic" that President Chaim Herzog would ask Labor leader Shimon Peres to try to form a new government following the formal resignation of Premier Menachem Begin last Thursday. Barlev expressed this view after a Labor delegation met with Herzog in his Jerusalem residence.

The meeting was the first in a round of constitutional talks the President must hold with the Knesset factions to consult with them before deciding which of them he is going to ask to form a new government.

This afternoon, Herzog met with a Likud delegation. He will meet with the smaller parties tomorrow and with the independent one-man Knesset factions -- Mordechai Ben-Porat and Yigael Hurwitz -- on Tuesday. The President intends to make his decision Tuesday night and to call in the preferred faction leader Wednesday morning, before the Succot holiday.

The widespread expectation is that Herzog will choose Likud's newly elected leader, Premier-designate Yitzhak Shamir. The Likud delegation presented Herzog their written undertaking from the present coalition partners-- totalling 64 Knesset members -- that they will back a Shamir-led government.

Labor Hopeful Of Getting First Crack

Labor, however, is still hopeful that Herzog, exercising the discretion vested in him by the law at such constitutional/political junctures, will disregard this agreement between the coalition parties and give Labor -- with 50 seats, the largest single faction -- the first opportunity to try and form a new government.

Labor faction whip Moshe Shahal pointed out today that the agreement between Likud and its present partners is "to negotiate" a new coalition agreement. In itself it is not an agreement actually to set up a new coalition.

Shahal argued -- and he is believed to have made the same argument to Herzog -- that had Labor been meeting with some of the small factions over the past two weeks or so since Begin first announced that he would resign, it might also have reached a similar understanding.

Minister-Without-Portfolio Sarah Doron (Likud-Liberals), one of the Likud delegation members meeting with the President, urged Herzog to ignore Labor's slight numerical advantage in the Knesset because that advantage was procured by the mid-term transfer of two Likud MKs -- Amnon Linn and Yitzhak Peretz -- over to Labor. The nation, she noted, in the 1981 election, had returned Likud as the largest Knesset faction.

SOME TWO MILLION ISRAELIS TO VOTE IN OCTOBER 25 MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS

TEL AVIV, Sept. 18 (JTA) -- Some two million Israelis and permanent residents will go to local government polls on October 25 to elect Mayors and local councils in 148 localities. By the deadline for registration of party lists and mayoral candidates at midnight last night, 836 separate lists and the names of 508 mayoral and chairman candidates had been registered with the central local government elections committee.

Candidates for city, town and village councilors are voted on according to party lists, but since the last elections four years ago Mayors and council chairmen have been elected on a direct, popular base.

Just before the midnight deadline, what the Likud coalition had feared would be the defection of three major mayoral candidates turned out to be only one -- that of Ramat Gan incumbent Mayor Israel Peled, known outside his own city for his activities in local and world Maccabi affairs.

The other two incumbent mayors who had earlier said they would run as independents, without party backing, because of dissatisfaction with some the names placed on their council lists by Likud headquarters, reached a compromise and will be backed by Likud. They were Yehzekel Hamelech, Mayor of Rehovot, and Eli Landau, Mayor of Herzlia.

ARSON DAMAGES HOME OF CONNECTICUT JEWISH LAWMAKER ON YOM KIPPUR

WEST HARTFORD, Conn., Sept. 18 (JTA) -- Police are investigating a pre-dawn fire which damaged the home of a Jewish state legislator on Yom Kippur in what authorities said was the fourth arson attack on the Jewish community here in less than six weeks.

The home of Rep. Joan Kemler and her husband, Dr. Leonard Kemler, was damaged by a fire reported shortly before 6 a.m. The Kemlers and their two children fled the house. Firefighters said the fire was confined to the outside walls of the first and second stories of the home.

"It definitely was a case of arson," said police Chief Francis Reynolds. "Accelerants were used." He said two empty soda pop bottles were found outside the home that were apparently filled with gasoline used to ignite the fire.

Three Earlier Incidents

Kemler had been outspoken at the three earlier incidents. On August 10, arsonists destroyed the sanctuary and study hall of the Young Israel Synagogue, an Orthodox congregation. Several days later, a fire damaged the building and several religious articles at the Emanuel Synagogue, a Conservative congregation of which the Kemlers are members. The following day, a firebomb was thrown into the study of the home of Rabbi Solomon Krupka, the spiritual leader of the Young Israel synagogue.

Despite the more than \$25,000 in reward money offered for information leading to the arrest of the persons responsible for the series of attacks, and the increased police protection and investigations, no arrests have been made. The Jewish Defense League announced recently that it would initiate armed patrols in the area.

"Obviously there is someone very close in the area who has targeted a few places and a few people in the area," Kemler said yesterday after attending Yom Kippur services. There are some 7,300 Jewish residents out of a population of more than 60,000 in this affluent suburban community.

NEW LUBAVITCHER SUCCAH FOR THE WALL STREET AREA

NEW YORK, Sept. 18 (JTA) -- For the first time in the history of New York City, Wall St. area will have its own Succah. It will be completely accessible to the public. The Succah, put up by the Lubavitch Youth Organization (LYO), will be located in historic Battery Park, at the intersection of State Street and Battery Place, across from the United States Customs House Building.

The new Succah is in addition to the International Succah, by the Isaiah Wall at the U.N.; the Garment Center Succah in Herald Square, opposite Macy's department store; and the Succah on the terrace of the ADL Building, also established by the LYO.

The stationary Succahs are supplemented by Succah-Mobiles that visit college campuses, shopping centers, hospitals and jails, to afford people the opportunity to fulfill the Mitzvah of benching Lulav and Esrog in the Succah.

"These Succahs will give the Jews who work in the vicinity a place to eat during the holiday, in addition to giving passers-by and visitors to the

area a chance to make the blessings over the Esrog and Lulav," said Rabbi Shmuel Butman, director of LYO.

Many Jewish diplomats from many different United Nations Missions will also make use of the International Succah at the Isaiah Wall across from the UN.

"We hope that the spirit of the Succah, known as the 'Succas Shalom' -- the Tabernacle of Peace -- will influence the proceedings across the Avenue in the spirit of Isaiah: 'One nation will not lift up its sword against another, and they will not learn of war again', leading to his other prophecy, 'and the world will be filled with the knowledge of God, speedily in our days,'" said Butman.

The stationary Succahs will be open during the intermediate days of Succos -- Sunday through Tuesday, September 25, 26, and 27, -- from 12 noon to 5:30 p.m.

JEWISH ATHLETES HAVE SECOND CHANCE TO TRY OUT FOR OLYMPIC BASEBALL TEAM

NEW YORK, Sept. 18 (JTA) -- Jewish athletes who could not participate in a preliminary tryout for the U.S. Olympic Baseball Team because it was scheduled on September 17, Yom Kippur, will still be given an opportunity to qualify for the team, according to the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith.

Leslie Shedlin, assistant director of ADL's Legal Affairs Department, said the agency protested the scheduling of the tryout on the holiest day in the Jewish religion with the U.S. Baseball Federation.

According to Ms. Shedlin, a spokesman for the Federation assured ADL that those who could not attend the tryout will not be disqualified. They are advised to contact Dick Case, executive director of the Federation, stating the reason for missing the tryout and providing statistics and background on their careers and the names of coaches, scouts or other persons familiar with their play.

The Federations will then evaluate the baseball players' records and make inquiries with those persons familiar with the applicants to determine their eligibility. The Federation's address is 4 Gregory Drive, Hamilton Square, NJ 08690. The phone number is 609-586-2381.

HIGHWAY SCULPTURE DEMANDS FREEDOM FOR SOVIET JEWS

SAN FRANCISCO, Sept. 18 (JTA) -- An enormous sculpture, demanding freedom for Soviet Jews, recently appeared off Highway 80 in the Emeryville mudflats outside of San Francisco. The anonymous sculpture, entitled "Let My People Go" in four-foot-high letters, is viewed daily by thousands of Bay Area commuters.

According to Morey Schapira, president of the Bay Area Council on Soviet Jewry, the sculpture represents a growing concern for the 2.5 million Soviet Jews "now being held as pawns by an increasingly anti-Semitic Soviet regime."

The Korean airline massacre, said Schapira, "gives us a pretty good indication as to how much the Soviets value the lives of foreigners. Realizing this, it's not difficult to imagine how harshly they're capable of treating their own helpless citizens, especially if they happen to be Jews."

According to the Bay Area Council, a member of the Union of Council for Soviet Jews, Soviet Jews have not experienced this level of oppression since the "Black Years" of Stalin's reign, "in which there was a calculated campaign to eradicate Jewish life in the Soviet Union."