

ISRAEL'S OVERRIDING GOAL IN LEBANON DESCRIBED AS ENSURING PERMANENT SECURITY OF GALILEE

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Jan. 2 (JTA) -- A senior defense source stated yesterday that Israel's overriding goal in Lebanon is to ensure the permanent security of Galilee. All other objectives, including the withdrawal of all foreign forces from Lebanon, shoring up the government of President Amin Gemayel, and even the May 17, 1983 agreement between Israel and Lebanon are subordinate to that objective and are means to achieve it, not ends in themselves.

The source made those points repeatedly in conversation with reporters here during which he discussed Israel's position should the Reagan Administration decide to withdraw the U.S. marines from Beirut or if the entire multinational force was pulled out.

He suggested that this was more than a remote possibility and disclosed that Israel has been urging the Lebanese government to deploy its army in areas of Beirut not presently under its control. If the government does not soon utilize its army more energetically, the Americans will not stay in Beirut much longer and the outlook for the Gemayel regime will be bleak, he said.

On the other hand, successful control of Beirut by the Lebanese army would enable the U.S. Administration to justify and defend the continued presence of the marines, the source said. Failure by the Lebanese army or further serious casualties to the marines, would result in President Reagan calling them home, he warned.

Three Targets Cited

The source said the Lebanese army had three other targets: control of the Shouf mountains which Israel evacuated last September and are now held by Druze hostile to the Beirut government; control of the road from Beirut to the Israeli lines at Sidon; and control of south Lebanon which is presently in the hands of the Israel Defense Force.

The source could "not be too optimistic" about the Lebanese army's prospects of achieving those targets. And while Washington was gratified by the U.S. Navy's key role in stopping Syrian-backed forces at Suk el-Gharb, and blocking their advance toward Beirut, there was mounting pressure in the U.S. -- even in quarters not opposed in principle to the American military role in Lebanon -- to end the marine presence in their vulnerable positions, the source said.

Asked how Israel would react to being "left alone" in Lebanon, the source recalled that the multinational force was not introduced at Israel's request. On the contrary, there was much initial friction between the IDF and the marines, he said. It was only more recently that "a change" occurred in Washington where the interests of the IDF and the MNF were perceived to overlap.

Israel's "main and sole" criterion for bringing the IDF home is the security of Galilee, the source said. Its demand for the withdrawal of all foreign forces and to shore up the central government were intended to facilitate that primary goal and

were not ends in themselves as far as Israel is concerned, he said.

Similarly, the May 17 agreement was "a political instrument" aimed at furthering the primary goal. It served the Lebanese government well to withstand pressure from the Syrians, the source noted. But he implied that Israel would not insist on implementation of "every jot and tittle" of the agreement if it could ensure security arrangements in south Lebanon, thereby facilitating the withdrawal of Israeli troops.

The source said Israel was "working on" building a local force based on Shiite militiamen to take over security tasks in south Lebanon. There are problems, he indicated, and no wide-ranging agreements have been reached yet. Some of the south Lebanese Druze are interested in Israel's offer which, basically, was to equip their militias and aid them in return for their keeping the Palestine Liberation Organization out of the area. But others among the Druze are influenced by their more radical and religiously extremist brethren living in the Baalbek area under Syrian domination, he said.

RABIN: 'NEW ERA' IN U.S.-ISRAELI RELATIONSHIPS IS TEMPORARY

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Jan. 2 (JTA) -- Former Premier Yitzhak Rabin believes the present commonality of needs and interests between Israel and the United States in the Middle East is temporary and urged Israel to utilize it to achieve maximum aid and other advantages from Washington.

Rabin, a leader of the opposition Labor Alignment, cited increasing pressure on the Reagan Administration to pull U.S. forces out of Lebanon. To do this while "saving face," the U.S. needs the Israeli army to stand fast in south Lebanon. That need underlay the warm welcome and friendly atmosphere which greeted Premier Yitzhak Shamir on his visit to Washington in November, Rabin said.

He maintained that Shamir deluded himself and the nation when he spoke of a "new era" in U.S.-Israeli relationships. The sharp divergence last month over the meeting between Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and Palestine Liberation Organization chief Yasir Arafat in Cairo showed that basic differences remain between the U.S. and Israel, Rabin said. The U.S. saw the meeting as a positive development while Israel regarded it as a blow to peace prospects in the region.

Predicts U.S. Troops' Removal Next June

According to Rabin, once the U.S. moves to extricate itself from Lebanon, the transient coalescence of interests with Israel there will dissipate. He predicted that U.S. troops will be removed from Lebanon by next June at the latest.

Rabin therefore urged Israel to utilize the time to implement security arrangements in south Lebanon. He called for "partial, unilateral" implementation of the May 17 agreement with the Beirut government, to be closely coordinated with the Americans and with their determination to disengage from Lebanon.

In that connection, Rabin proposed that Israel set up security arrangements similar to those spelled out in the agreement. These would involve local combat units based on the Shiite Moslem militias, but hopefully

including the Lebanese army. Rabin was confident that Israel's relations with the Shiites would improve once they realized that the Israeli occupation would soon end.

Rabin, however, would divert from the May 17 agreement by assigning a key security role to the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) between the Awali and Zaharani rivers. The May 17 accord assigned UNIFIL the peripheral role of patrolling the refugee camps.

Rabin thought the Soviet Union would support an arrangement that would replace Western forces with a UN peacekeeping presence. From Israel's standpoint, it would end the image of Israel requiring American troops for fight for it or at least, for a cause connected with Israel in Lebanon. This is how the marine role is now perceived in the U.S. and is doing Israel much damage, he said.

ECONOMIC WOES CONTINUE

By David Landau, Gil Sedan and Hugh Orgel

JERUSALEM, Jan. 2 (JTA) -- The Cabinet devoted its second session in two days to the worsening economic crisis as labor unrest spread to government departments, including the Foreign Ministry, and a year-end survey of prices exposed the ravages of triple-digit inflation on workers.

The Cabinet convened in regular weekly session yesterday after meeting in special session last Friday to discuss the economic program proposed by Finance Minister Yigal Cohen-Orgad. Drastic budget cuts topped the agenda. But while all ministers agreed they are urgently needed, each ministry seems determined to limit the extent of its own sacrifice.

Concern was expressed that Cohen-Orgad would not be able to implement his program to its fullest extent. Some economists argued that the Finance Minister's own "declaration of economic principles" which he presented to the Cabinet Friday would, in fact, lead to an even larger budget because the government must honor its index-linked bonds.

Cohen-Orgad himself agreed to lower his sights. He proposed a \$600 million budget cut instead of the originally planned \$1 billion slash. Bank of Israel Governor Moshe Mandelbaum, who attended Friday's emergency session, warned that \$600 million was indeed the absolute minimum. The state of the economy needed much more drastic cuts in government expenditures, he said.

Cabinet Shows Little Flexibility

But so far the Cabinet has demonstrated little flexibility. It is stymied by the conflicting demands of the various coalition partners which give the Likud government its narrow parliamentary majority.

It is also faced with the need to make some dents in the hitherto sacrosanct defense budget. Defense Minister Moshe Arens argued vigorously at both Cabinet meetings that the proposed cuts would create an unacceptable security hazard by limiting the purchase of modern tanks and combat aircraft.

Deputy Premier David Levy, who is also Minister of Housing and Construction, insisted that the budget must provide special assistance to the low income sections of the populace.

Similar pressures were exerted by Tami which represents the generally impoverished Sephardic community; the National Religious Party which holds the Education portfolio and refuses to accept the proposed abolition of free high school education; the Aguda Israel whose yeshivas are heavily subsidized by the government; and the ultra-nationalist

Tehiya which has threatened to quit the coalition if there is any freeze on settlement building in the occupied territories, regardless of the economic drain they represent.

Cohen-Orgad warned his colleagues that if the proposed cuts are not swiftly implemented, a foreign currency crisis will be unavoidable in the coming year.

Work Stoppages And Sanctions

Meanwhile, employees of the Foreign Ministry, served notice that they will institute sanctions beginning today and, unless staff demands are met, will escalate them to the point where the ministry and embassies and diplomatic missions abroad will be forced to close down by the middle of this month. (See related story.)

The Foreign Ministry staff consists of civil service employees. They have long-standing demands for equalization of their salaries to the levels prevailing at defense-related departments which do similar work, including Mossad, the intelligence organization.

They want official recognition by the Treasury and the Civil Service Commission of the "special status" of Foreign Ministry work which includes long, irregular hours, hazards involved in overseas service and the special skills, such as knowledge of a foreign language, required of many Foreign Ministry employees.

Staff Committee chairman Yoav Behiri said Premier Yitzhak Shamir and David Kimche, Director General of the Foreign Ministry, "sympathize in principle" with staff demands. But they have failed to gain sympathetic understanding and recognition from the Treasury and Civil Service Commission.

Behiri said the ministry staff is fully aware of the economic crisis and does not demand wage increases immediately, only recognition of their "special status" and a timetable to implement that recognition in practical terms -- meaning raises -- within one year.

The wave of civil service sanctions has already resulted in work slowdowns and stoppages at the Communications Ministry, Interior Ministry, Welfare Ministry, the Treasury and the income tax department. The Energy Ministry is contending with demands by Electric corporation workers for prerequisites which Energy Minister Yitzhak Moda'i considers "overly generous." Last week he fired the chairman of the corporation's board, David Hagoel. Electric power has not been affected as yet.

WORK SLOW-DOWNS SERIOUSLY DISRUPT GOVERNMENT MINISTRIES

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Jan. 2 (JTA) -- Government ministries were seriously disrupted by work slow-downs today as civil service employees continued to press for higher pay and other emoluments. At the Foreign Ministry, where the staff has threatened to shut down the entire foreign affairs establishment, foreign diplomats were refused entry by workers manning the gates.

Striking Welfare Ministry employees demonstrated outside the Treasury today, jeering at Finance Minister Yigal Cohen-Orgad. He refused to come out to speak to them and condemned their strike as an act of cruelty toward needy welfare recipients.

A slow-down is in effect at the Interior Ministry where clerks refused to issue passports, identity cards and other official documents. At the Defense Ministry in Tel Aviv, officials refused to issue checks to suppliers.

The work slow-downs and stoppages at the government offices are a manifestation of widespread labor unrest owing mainly to the erosion of salaries by triple-digit

inflation. The Foreign Ministry employes say they are not seeking raises but only a commitment by the Treasury to equalize their pay with that of employes of Mossad, the intelligence agency.

They say they do the same type of work and have threatened to shut down the Foreign Ministry and all Israeli diplomatic missions overseas if their demands are not met by the middle of this month.

Year-End Report:

THE SITUATION OF SOVIET JEWS

NEW YORK, Jan. 2 (JTA) -- Stepped-up harassment of Jews and an "onslaught" of anti-Semitic propaganda using Czarist and neo-Nazi themes marked the year 1983 for Jews in the Soviet Union, it was reported today by the National Conference on Soviet Jewry. Morris Abram, Conference chairman, said in releasing a year-end report that 1983--which coincided with the first year in power of Soviet President Yuri Andropov -- was marked by:

* "The denial of exit visas to all but a handful of Jews and strong efforts to discourage and inhibit Jews from applying to emigrate."

* "Harsh measures against Jews seeking to express their cultural and religious heritage."

* "An alarming hate campaign against Jews using Zionism as the ostensible target and portraying Jews as potential traitors to the Soviet motherland."

* "Intensified efforts to reduce and eliminate contacts between Soviet Jews and Jews living abroad."

Through December 22, Jewish emigration from the USSR totalled only 1,284 -- the lowest annual figure since records have been kept on the Soviet Jewry emigration movement.

Crackdown On Jewish Culture

For the first time in 1983, according to the report, the Soviet press described as "subversive" and anti-theoretical to Soviet law the private and unofficial teaching of Jewish history and Hebrew. The USSR drive against the teaching of Hebrew culminated in the trial of Isosif Begun, a former mathematician who became a self-taught but unlicensed Hebrew teacher in Moscow. Begun, who first applied to emigrate to Israel in 1971, was sentenced to a maximum prison term of seven years in a labor camp and five years of internal exile for "anti-Soviet agitation."

Massive Propaganda Campaign

"The most disturbing aspect of Andropov's Jewish policy," the report said, "concerns the call in an 'appeal' issued by the Anti-Zionist Committee for a massive propaganda effort for the 'political unmasking of Zionism.'" The report added:

"Judaism is seen as the source of 'Zionist evil,' the Torah and Talmud are presented as works preaching racism, hatred and violence. The Committee's June 6 press conference signaled a heightened onslaught of the media offensive. In a particularly vicious attack, (Committee) Chairman Dragunsky labeled Zionism a 'man-hating ideology' based on 'the ideas and methods of Hitler.'" The report continued:

"Much of the propaganda campaign is drawn from a newly-published book by Lev Korneyev entitled 'The Class Essence of Zionism,' which was favorably reviewed in the Soviet press. Korneyev acknowledged, for the first time, an ideological debt to a Czarist anti-Semite who claimed that Zionist agents provoked pogroms in order to increase Jewish emigration to what was then called Palestine, the implication being that today's 'Zionist agents' are conducting themselves in a similar manner."

Korneyev's writings, according to the report, are frequently published in military indoctrination pamphlets.

Recently the Soviet propagandist introduced "another hate-filled theme," the report said, adding: "In declaring the Holocaust a 'myth of Zionist propaganda,' he borrowed from current neo-Nazi and neo-fascist revisionist doctrine, which argues the same theme -- that the figure of 6,000,000 Jews killed is a gross exaggeration."

Contacts Cut

The report quoted statements by the Anti-Zionist Committee last March that "Soviet Jews reject with contempt attempts by Zionist propagandists to interfere in their life" and that "citizens of the USSR who are Jews are an inseparable part of the Soviet people."

Commenting, the National Conference on Soviet Jewry report said: "Soviet Jews were thus warned against having contacts with their 'Zionist' brethren in the West. This policy has been implemented by the interception of mail, protests against the presence of American diplomats at Moscow's Central Synagogue, and periodic newspaper stories accusing Western Jewish tourists of 'Zionist provocations.'"

The report concludes: "Although the past year made life increasingly difficult for Soviet Jews ... the arrival of Vilnius activist Eitan Finkelstein and his family in Israel in December, after 12 years of refusal, indicated that the doors have not been irrevocably closed."

SHIITE GROUP SUSPECTED IN BOMBING

PARIS, Jan. 2 (JTA) -- French authorities suspect a Lebanese Shiite organization was responsible for Saturday night's bombing of a passenger train and the Marseilles railway station in which four people were killed and scores were seriously wounded. A Lebanese Shiite group reportedly warned France last December 21 that it had 10 days to withdraw its troops from Beirut. The Shiites warned that if their threat was not heeded they would "seek revenge for Baalbek" and "hit France where it expects it least."

The Shiite warning, which was kept secret until a private French radio station broadcast its contents yesterday, referred to the French air attacks against Shiite and Syrian-backed militias near the city of Baalbek last October in retaliation for the suicide attacks against French and U.S. army bases in Beirut. Close to 300 U.S. and French servicemen died in the car bomb attacks.

The French government and Interior Minister Gaston Defferre, who is also the Mayor of Marseilles, has refused to pinpoint responsibility for the Saturday night tragedy. The government said it is waiting for the police to come up with substantial leads before making any accusation.

Two powerful bombs exploded simultaneously while President Francois Mitterrand was delivering his New Year's message. One bomb exploded in a train in the south of France killing two people and wounding seven. The other, which exploded in the locker room of the Marseilles station, killed two and wounded 47, most of whom are in critical condition.

Since the French air raid, the Shiite and several other Moslem organizations have demanded the withdrawal from Beirut of the multinational force, especially the American and French contingents. France, which had previously been highly popular with all the warring factions in Lebanon, has since then been considered a hostile force by the Shiites and other Moslems.

THINK-TANK OF LEADING ACADEMICS AND ZIONISTS ENLISTED TO HELP IN RESTRUCTURING WORLD ZIONIST MOVEMENT

NEW YORK, Jan. 2 (JTA) -- The establishment of a "brains-corps for Zionism" to "thoroughly think through and analyze the Zionist movement and structure within the context of world Jewry today and in the predictable future and the problems, challenges and changes it will confront," was announced here by Leon Dulzin, chairman of the Jewish Agency and World Zionist Organization Executives.

The Zionist "brains-corps" or think-tank will be composed of foremost university academics and Zionist elder statesmen and leaders who will give counsel to the Jewish Agency and the WZO "in determining the program and action priorities and future direction of the Zionist movement," Dulzin said at the conclusion of a three-day Zionist leadership conference. Dulzin was chairman of the think-tank session which took place in Herzlia.

The think-tank will include one representative of each of the 14 world unions and international organizations that comprise the WZO and a group of noted university professors. The academics were identified as Dr. S. Z. Abramov, Daniel Elazar, Shlomo Ekstein, Haim Ben Shachar, Yoseph Gomi, Moshe David, Yosef Nedava and Anita Shapira.

The conclusions and recommendations based on the three-day conference will be presented and discussed at a special session of the World Zionist General Council in Jerusalem which will be held January 8-12. The special session will be devoted exclusively to reorganization.

Beginning Of 'A Serious And Determined Process'

"This is the beginning of a serious and determined process to analyze and think through our problems with the benefit of some of our ablest minds," Dulzin stressed. "There will be no attempt to reach conclusions and make decisions at this World Zionist General Council. Rather, we will begin a process of profound deliberation and discussion within the individual national Zionist federations throughout the world. Our ideas will benefit tremendously from the fact that they will be sparked by the think-tank which will follow our deliberations. It is our hope to reach conclusions and to make recommendations within a year's time."

Dulzin reported that the present structure of the Zionist movement, which gives exclusive controlling power to the political parties, has been rendered obsolete by the realities and needs of today's world. Noting that the think-tank members are unanimous about this, Dulzin said:

"They are as one in declaring that changing conditions demand essential changes in the Zionist structure to permit a broader foundation to be laid as a base for building a democratic and ideological Zionist movement that will encompass the entire spectrum of Zionist thought. The new structure should give emphasis to educational and ideological causes instead of politics and parties."

Dulzin said the think tank members alluded to the analogy of the Caesarea Process in which the Jewish Agency leadership accepted the Jerusalem Program. "They see the acceptance of the Jerusalem Program as the lowest common denominator for someone to be acknowledged as a Zionist," he said. "As a maximalist Zionist criterion they contemplate affiliation with a 'Movement for Zionist Fulfillment' through aliya at the apex of a broad-based Zionist

movement." Noting that this innovative deliberative process is just beginning, Dulzin expressed the hope that far-reaching, beneficial changes could be effected, "if possible by consensus or by a broad majority. For, on a crucial topic such as this, more than a simple majority is needed for the decision to be meaningful and to carry weight. We Zionists are faced with the critical issue and fundamental fact that our movement has been accepted by the majority of the organized world Jewish community. But at the same time, the World Zionist Organization lacks the influence it should have and must have to fulfill its proper role in world Jewry today."

It is "obvious that only if the WZO makes the necessary changes in its structure will it be able to be the central force in Jewish life it must be in behalf of positive Jewish life, survival and the upbuilding of the Jewish homeland," Dulzin declared.

PARIS (JTA) -- Listeners of a French radio station voted former Israeli Premier Menachem Begin "Man of the Year" for 1983. Several thousand listeners took part in the poll conducted by Radio Community, which is operated by the French Jewish Welfare Fund in Paris. The poll showed that more than two-thirds of the participants supported Begin. Others in the running were President Francois Mitterrand and Simone Veil, the former President of the European Parliament.

NEW YORK (JTA) -- A story in the December 30 Bulletin citing a U.S. military expert expecting expanded strategic military cooperation between the U.S. and Israel should have indicated that he was a member of a mission of 13 retired American generals and admirals to Israel that was sponsored by the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith. The mission last month was led by Daniel Mariaschin, assistant to the ADL's national director, and Harry Wall, director of the ADL's Jerusalem office.

TEL AVIV (JTA) -- An Israel army truck was destroyed by fire in the south Lebanon town of Jezzine Monday where it had stopped for repairs. The truck was surrounded and burned by a mob but none of its occupants was hurt. Meanwhile, the Awali River bridges were reopened to pedestrian and vehicular traffic Monday after a three-day closure to avoid possible incidents on the occasion of the anniversary of the establishment of the Palestine Liberation Organization.

JERUSALEM (JTA) -- A government official warned Sunday that as many as 50,000 Israelis may leave the country permanently during the coming year unless drastic steps are taken immediately to stop yerida (emigration). According to Dov Shilansky, a deputy cabinet minister charged with preventing yerida, that would be a record number of departures in any single year. But, he warned in a Voice of Israel Radio interview, as many as 100,000 Israelis could become yordim if the trend is not halted.

JERUSALEM (JTA) -- Eight Jewish religious zealots convicted of rioting in the Mea Shearim quarter of Jerusalem last summer were given prison sentences by a Jerusalem magistrate court Sunday of from 1 1/2-6 months and fines of up to 100,000 Shekels.