

ISRAEL REVIEWING ITS
OPTIONS IN SOUTH LEBANON

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Jan. 4 (JTA) — Premier Yitzhak Shamir met with senior policy-makers and military officers today to discuss the Israel Defense Force situation in Lebanon. Informed sources said there was little prospect of an imminent, large-scale pull-back but that Israel is reviewing its options in the face of the situation in Beirut and the ongoing terrorist attacks on IDF soldiers in south Lebanon.

The consultation today took place hours after an Israeli Air Force raid against Iranian and Shiite terrorist bases in eastern Lebanon, near Baalbek. (See separate story.)

Israeli sources said the casualty figures broadcast by Lebanese media — 100 dead and several hundred injured — might be too high. An IDF spokesman said the Israeli pilots reported accurate hits.

Process Of Deliberation

The consultation at Shamir's office was attended by Defense Minister Moshe Arens; Chief of Staff Gen. Moshe Levy; the coordinator of policy in Lebanon, Uri Lubrani, and other senior officials. Informed sources described the meeting as "part of a process of deliberation" rather than presaging a dramatic change of policy or change of deployment.

There have been reports here in recent days that the army may pull out of Sidon and take up a more southerly line. Some noncombatants already have been withdrawn from Sidon. But a senior defense source told reporters Sunday that there were no plans to abandon Sidon or the Awali River line north of the town.

The defense source said Israel's sole condition for eventual withdrawal from Lebanon was security for Galilee. He said the army would pull out — possibly in stages — if the Lebanese army or local armed elements proved capable of taking responsibility for security in the south and prevent a return in force of the Palestine Liberation Organization.

The source spoke of efforts to encourage and help local Shiite militias to establish themselves. But relations between Israel and the Shites have been soured by the recent three-day closure of the Awali River bridges for security reasons.

Thinning Out of IDF Presence Predicted

Informed sources predicted that the current process of deliberation between the government and the army, at the highest levels, might result in a thinning out of the IDF presence in the south, and some transfer of authority to Lebanese national or local units.

The sources noted the hopes expressed in Beirut today that a security agreement was at hand that would ease tensions in the Lebanese capital. That agreement, if reached, would presumably enable Lebanese army units to move southwards towards the Awali River and eventually cross the river. (See related story from Washington.)

Such a development presumably would facilitate the gradual withdrawal of the U.S. marines and the other units of the multinational force. This is increasingly the desire of large sections of American public

and Congressional opinion. Israeli officials are aware that they must take account in their own policy planning, the likelihood that the marines will pull out of Lebanon in the coming months.

ISRAELI PLANES HIT TERRORIST TARGETS

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Jan. 4 (JTA) — Israeli Air Force jets struck at terrorist targets in Syrian-controlled areas of Lebanon today for the second successive day. A military spokesman said two bases were hit in the region of Baalbek in the northern Bekaa valley.

One was described as a former camp of the Lebanese police, taken over several months ago by pro-Iranian terrorists and Palestine Liberation Organization dissidents opposed to Yasir Arafat. The other was a former hotel which the Israelis said was used as a training center for both groups. They were said to have been the bases from which the terrorists launched the October 23 car-bomb attacks on U.S. and French military headquarters in Beirut and attacks on Israeli installations in Sidon.

Beirut Radio reported heavy casualties resulted from the raids. The terrorists were said to be Lebanese Shiite Moslem followers of the Ayatollah Khomeini and Iranian volunteers fighting with the PLO. Israeli planes struck yesterday at PLO dissidents in Behamdoun on the Beirut-Damascus highway.

U.S. WELCOMES REPORTS OF
A LEBANESE SECURITY PLAN

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, Jan. 4 (JTA) — The Reagan Administration welcomed reports today that the various factions in Lebanon are nearing agreement on a security plan that would allow the government of President Amin Gemayel to exercise more control over Lebanon.

State Department spokesman John Hughes said it would be a "welcome development" since the proposed plan would allow the "consolidation of government authority" over more areas than it now controls.

Donald Rumsfeld, President Reagan's special representative for the Middle East, arrived in Beirut today and presumably will be discussing the plan with Lebanese leaders. It was unclear whether the plan was worked out in conjunction with the Administration's study of a means of redeploying the U.S. marines now in Beirut in order to lessen the danger to them.

But if the Lebanese army is able to move out further than the Beirut area, it could mean that the marines and other members of the multinational force could change their positions and even leave Lebanon altogether.

Reagan Thanks Assad For Releasing Pilot

The Administration, in welcoming the release of Navy flyer Lt. Robert Goodman, made it clear that although it considered the act a "humanitarian" gesture, it hoped it was a sign that Syria will be more forthcoming in urging the Lebanese groups close to it to move toward national reconciliation as well as Syria itself being willing to withdraw its troops from Lebanon.

President Reagan sent a telegram thanking President Hafez Assad of Syria yesterday for Goodman's release.

In welcoming to the White House Goodman and Rev. Jesse Jackson, the Democratic Presidential aspirant whose trip to Damascus gained Goodman's release, Reagan told reporters, "Of course" he would be glad to meet with Assad.

More imminent, however, is whether Assad will meet with Rumsfeld during the Mideast representative's current trip to the area. Rumsfeld did not see Assad when he was in Damascus last month.

The First Of Its Kind: SHAMIR MEETS WITH DELEGATION OF ISRAELI ARAB LEADERS By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Jan. 4 (JTA) -- Premier Yitzhak Shamir received a delegation of Israeli Arab leaders today. He assured them that Israel's 600,000 Arabs are equal citizens of the state but acknowledged that they have special problems and promised to do his best to find solutions.

The meeting was the first of its kind ever held by the leader of a Likud government. The 27-member delegation included 15 mayors of Arab towns, religious, educational and social leaders. Three were members of the Democratic Front which is affiliated with the Rakah (Communist) Party.

Shamir's visitors raised the issue of Arab-Jewish coexistence and complained of feeling neglected and of unequal treatment by the government in the area of social services, particularly child care allowances, education and business incentives. "There is no incentive for industry to set up in our towns. That is what I told the Prime Minister," said Mayor Samir Darwish of Baka el-Garbia, a spokesman for the group.

The unequal treatment stems in part from Israel's practice of providing extra assistance and incentives for veterans of military service. Israel's Arab population, with few exceptions, is not permitted to serve in the armed forces. Shamir's visitors proposed today alternative forms of national service for Israeli Arabs on a voluntary basis.

Darwish expressed satisfaction that Shamir "is going to do something about our problems." He contrasted the Prime Minister's attitude with that of his predecessor, former Premier Menachem Begin, who, he said never visited an Arab village or held a dialogue with local Arab leaders during his six years in office.

Shamir, for his part, suggested that Arab leaders take a more vigorous stand against terrorism. He said the Israeli police were pursuing extremists on both sides -- Jewish as well as Arab.

16 FORMER ANSAR CAMP DETAINEES ARE RE-ARRESTED

JERUSALEM, Jan. 4 (JTA) -- Defense Minister Moshe Arens confirmed today that Israeli security authorities have re-arrested 16 former detainees of the Ansar camp in south Lebanon who had been released in the prisoner exchange with the Palestine Liberation Organization last month. He said all were suspected of terrorist acts against Israeli forces in Lebanon since they were freed.

Twelve of the prisoners were released after interrogation. Three are still being questioned and one confessed to wounding an Israeli soldier in an attack in south Lebanon recently. Arens spoke in the Knesset in reply to a question by Communist MK Toufik Taubi who said he had been informed that 160 former Ansar detainees have been re-arrested.

3 HELD IN SHOOTING OF ARAB GIRL

JERUSALEM, Jan. 4 (JTA) -- Yosef Hamo, 37, of Elon Moreh on the West Bank, was arrested last Friday on the orders of a Rehovot magistrate as the prime suspect in the murder last month of Aisha Al-Bakhsh, an 11-year-old Arab girl in Nablus.

The shooting occurred after Arab youths stoned a car belonging to Jewish settlers. An armed settler, chasing the youths, fired his machinegun into a bakery, killing the girl and wounding her nine-year-old sister.

In addition to Hamo, Pinhas Mahrabi, 30, was remanded in custody for six days as a suspected accessory after the fact. Police said that evidence necessary for indictments would be ready next week to present to the District Attorney.

A third suspect in the case, Ephraim Segal, 26, a recent immigrant from the U.S., was remanded for an additional nine days. Segal, who was the first suspect to be arrested, is believed by police to have driven the car in which the murderers escaped from the scene.

HAROLD HILL DEAD AT 57

NEW YORK, Jan. 4 (JTA) -- Harold Hill, executive vice president of the American Committee for the Weizmann Institute of Science (ACWIS), died last week following a heart attack. He was 57 years old. He had been associated for the past nine years with the ACWIS.

Born and bred in Baltimore, Hill devoted his entire career to the growth and development of Israel. He went on aliya as a young settler in the early 1950's shortly after graduating from Johns Hopkins University with a degree in economics.

Upon returning to the U.S. 14 years later, he utilized his economic expertise and first-hand knowledge of Israeli society to help upgrade Israel's exports and increase trade with the U.S. Hill served as vice president of ATID (American Trade and Industrial Development with Israel), an Israel government sponsored organization, before joining ACWIS.

Under his management, ACWIS expanded into a nationwide organization -- growing from one regional office to 14. He initiated extensive outreach programs, including the pioneering "Impact of Science" symposiums for corporate leaders worldwide, held biannually on the campus of the Weizmann Institute in Rehovot.

ARMY DRAFT EXEMPTION FOR GERMAN JEWISH YOUTH IS BEING QUESTIONED

BONN, Jan. 4 (JTA) -- West Germany's Jewish community is seeking an end to the long standing arrangement by which Jewish youths of military age are exempt from the draft. The arrangement is a tacit understanding derived from Germany's past rather than a legal waiver. Defense Ministry sources say that, except in individual cases, Jewish youth avoid recruitment on grounds that it is morally impossible for them to serve in a German army.

But this argument has been questioned in recent years because not all Jews who reach the age of 18 are from families who suffered under the Nazi regime. The Jewish communal leaders have emphasized repeatedly that the community cannot indefinitely enjoy full rights under German law without contributing to the country's defense. This is particularly important they say because the Bundeswehr is facing a manpower shortage.

MINISTRIES TOLD TO CUT BUDGETS TO ACHIEVE A 9% OVERALL REDUCTION OF GOVERNMENT EXPENDITURES

By David Landau and Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Jan. 4 (JTA) -- The Ministerial Economic Committee has set a Friday deadline for all ministries to submit proposed cuts in their budgets to achieve a nine percent overall reduction of government expenditures.

The nine percent figure, agreed to by the committee at a meeting late yesterday, will approximate -- and possibly slightly exceed -- the 60 billion Shekel cut in expenditures recommended by Finance Minister Yigal Cohen-Orgad. That is regarded as the absolute minimum necessary to meet the current economic crisis.

Political observers saw the committee's decision as something of a setback for the Finance Minister inasmuch as each ministry will decide where to retrench without direct involvement of the Treasury.

Although the Cabinet ostensibly is in full agreement that spending must be reduced by at least 60 billion Shekels and the nine percent slash was approved without dissent, some ministers were reported to be privately skeptical of Cohen-Orgad's chances to achieve his goal. Health Minister Eliezer Shostak and Deputy Minister of Welfare Benzion Rubin, have already stated publicly that their ministries cannot absorb the proposed reductions.

Toughest Battle Expected

The toughest battle is expected over the defense budget. Defense Minister Moshe Arens has been quoted as telling a Knesset committee Monday that he would reject any notion of cutting the development budget for the Lavie, Israel's second generation fighter-bomber. He noted that there are already some 1,500 persons working on the project.

The Ministerial Economic Committee met yesterday in an atmosphere of urgency. Foreign currency reserves stood at a dangerous low of \$2.8 billion and inflation continued to soar. The Treasury reported yesterday that it printed 28 billion Shekels in new money last month.

The looming economic crisis and ways to slash government expenditures were the subjects of Cabinet meetings last Friday and again on Sunday. Various ideas were floated but so far no agreements were reached. The Treasury proposed to reduce the deficit some 15 billion Shekels by taxing allowances for the elderly and abolishing child care allowances for the first and second child in large families. The same measures, suggested last year by former Finance Minister Yoram Aridor, were rejected by the Cabinet in October.

Salaries Of MKs To Be Cut

The Knesset House Committee, meanwhile, decided yesterday to cut the salaries of Knesset members by 10 percent and to ask MKs to take an additional 10 percent cut voluntarily. The money saved would be turned over to the Treasury. The MKs got a 57 percent raise in salary last October.

But Yossi Sarid of the Labor Alignment opposed the idea. He contended that the money raised would not find its way to the general budget but would be used for some cause dear to the Likud regime, such as building new settlements in the occupied territories.

According to an opinion poll published in The Jerusalem Post Monday, 72 percent of the public put settlement building on the West Bank at the top of the list of proposed budget cuts within the framework of a national austerity program. According to the poll, this view was shared by both Labor and Likud voters.

Other expendable items in order of priority were development projects such as the Lavie, and the Mediterranean-Dead Sea canal (52 percent); higher education (29 percent); and the absorption of new immigrants (27 percent).

In another development Bank of Israel Governor Moshe Mandelbaum urged the public yesterday not to withdraw cash from their bank accounts even though interest charges on overdrafts are slightly higher than inflation. Israelis are allowed to write checks in amounts in excess of their bank balance and are charged a high rate of interest for the privilege. It is deducted quarterly.

Customers at most banks had interest on their overdraft for the last quarter deducted from their accounts Monday. The banks warned that if the public continued to incur overdraft debts at the October-December level, they would have to pay double the amount of interest three months from now.

Meanwhile, Maariv has published an analysis of prices and average earnings over the past year which showed that Israelis had to work much harder at the end of 1983 than they did at the beginning of the year to buy the same articles. While a person had to work 6.5 minutes to earn a kilo of frozen stewing meat in January, he had to work 10.2 minutes for the same meat in December, 1983.

Other figures showed that a fifth of wine which required 48.5 minutes labor in January, demanded 52 minutes in December; The labor needed to purchase one kilo of sugar went from 6.5 to 10 minutes; a loaf of challah from 2.5 to 5.5 minutes; a locally manufactured refrigerator from 230 to 270 hours; an oven from 167-178 hours; a color television from 285-346 hours; airline tickets to London 86-129 hours; a small Fiat car 15 months-21 months; and a three room apartment in Tel Aviv, 129-170 months.

The longer hours were the result of inflation and the reduction of government subsidies which sent prices up faster than cost-of-living increments.

JERUSALEM (JTA) -- Nearly 15,000 dunams of forests, natural and man-made, were destroyed by fire in 1983, according to the Jewish National Fund. The JNF reported that 662 fires occurred during 1983. The biggest blazes were on the slopes of the Carmel range near Haifa. In 1982 there were more fires, but only 10,000 dunams of trees were affected, the JNF said.

JERUSALEM (JTA) -- Several hundred new immigrants have spent the last few weeks helping the army build and maintain fortifications in the Jordan Valley. The World Zionist Organization's aliya department called the project a great success. It is strictly voluntary and, according to the WZO, contributed toward the newcomers' speedy absorption and integration into Israeli life. It also changed the soldiers' stereotypical image of new olim in addition to reducing the time served by reservists and contributing to defense.

OFFICIAL VATICAN PAPER PUBLISHES ESSAY BY AN AMERICAN RABBI

VATICAN CITY, Jan. 4 (JTA) -- L'Osservatore Romano, the official newspaper of the Vatican, has just published a special supplement in Italian on "The Jubilee Year and the Bible," featuring as its lead essay "Holy Year and Its Origins in the Jewish Jubilee Year" by Rabbi Marc Tanenbaum of the American Jewish Committee.

Tanenbaum's scholarly essay was originally published in 1975 by the Vatican Commission for the Holy Year, and was translated into English, French, German, Italian, Spanish, and Portuguese. In its present Italian form in the Vatican publication, the article occupies four full pages and is illustrated with a series of medieval religious paintings.

Tanenbaum wrote the article at the request of Vatican authorities while he served as director of inter-religious affairs of the American Jewish Committee. He is now AJC director of international relations.

Believed To Be A First

This is believed to be the first time that the Vatican daily has featured such a full-length Jewish historical and theological essay by a Jewish author. When published in 1975 in a Vatican book on the Holy Year, the article was distributed by the National Conference of Catholic Bishops to all the American Catholic bishops and Catholic seminaries as a resource document.

In his essay, Tanenbaum traces the origins of the Jubilee Year in Biblical Judaism, and describes its practice and meaning as it was developed and experienced in about 3,000 years of Jewish history.

"The Bible sets forth," he writes, "four-fold obligations, all of which focus on realizing liberation in the actual life of the People of God as basic pre-conditions, or corollaries, to their spiritual liberation: Human -- liberation of slaves; Economic -- the moralization of the use of property and material goods; Ecological -- liberation of the land; Educational -- the creation of a spiritual democracy by devoting the Jubilee Year to intensive education of all men, women, children, and 'resident aliens' in the teachings of the Torah."

Copies of Tanenbaum's essay are available from the American Jewish Committee, 165 East 56th St., New York, NY 10022.

JEWISH LEADER, POPE MEET

NEW YORK, Jan. 4 (JTA) -- Rabbi Arthur Schneier, president of the World Jewish Congress-American section, said today he had been received in a private audience by Pope John Paul II in the Vatican late last month. Schneier, who is the rabbi of the Park East Synagogue in Manhattan, returned this week from a visit to Europe and Israel.

While Schneier declined to comment on the nature of his conversation with the Pope, Vatican sources in announcing the meeting said that the Jewish leader, like the Pontiff, "took a strong interest in international affairs and human rights."

ABBI, PIANIST GET LEGION OF HONOR

PARIS, Jan. 4 (JTA) -- Rabbi Josy Eisenberg, France's "TV rabbi," who directs a highly popular Jewish religious program on state-controlled television, was awarded the Legion of Honor medal for "improving relations between Jews and Christians." Eisenberg, 52, was one of several on the New Year's list to receive the coveted award.

His Sunday morning program, generally devoted to problems of contemporary Judaism or Biblical studies, is watched by millions of Jews and non-Jews and has one of the highest TV ratings.

Bulgarian-born Alexis Weissenberg was also awarded the Legion of Honor medal for his contribution to France's musical culture. He is a pianist.

JEWISH ACADEMICIAN KNIGHTED

By Yossi Lempinkowicz

BRUSSELS, Jan. 4 (JTA) -- King Baudouin of Belgium has knighted Prof. Chaim Perelman, a member of the Belgian Royal Academy and a distinguished author and academician who has lectured and taught at leading universities in the U.S., Canada, Europe and Israel.

Perelman, 72, was given the title of Baron in recognition of his contributions to philosophical thought in Belgium and abroad. He was born in Warsaw and has lived in Belgium since 1925. He received a Doctor in Law degree in 1934 and a Ph.D. from the University of Brussels in 1938. He was a member of the Belgian resistance movement during World War II.

Since 1944, Perelman has been a full professor of logic, ethics, history of philosophy and metaphysics at the Brussels University faculty of law and humanities. He was also a visiting professor at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, McGill University in Canada, Pennsylvania State University, the State University of New York, Queens College of City University in New York, and Temple University in Philadelphia.

He has lectured at the University of California, Berkeley, University of Chicago, Cornell, Harvard, Stanford and the University of California, Los Angeles. He holds the title of Doctor Honoris Causa from the University of Florence, Italy, the Hebrew University and McGill.

Perelman, who is currently vice president of the International Federation of Philosophical Societies is the author of more than 300 publications including 12 books and papers translated in 10 languages.

His works include "The Idea of Justice and the Problem of Argument" (1963); "An Historical Introduction to Philosophical Thinking" (1965); "Justice" (1967); "The New Rhetoric and the Humanities" (1979); "Justice Law and Argument" (1980); and "The Realm of Rhetoric" (1982).

Perelman's wife, Fela, heads the Belgian Friends of the Hebrew University.

8 LIFE SENTENCES DEMANDED FOR FORMER WAR CRIMINAL

BONN, Jan. 4 (JTA) -- The State Prosecutor of Hesse has demanded eight life sentences for Hermann Ebender, a 74-year-old resident of Fulda identified by witnesses as the murderer of eight Jewish inmates in the Dora Mittelbau concentration camp in Thuringen shortly before Germany's surrender in World War II.

Ebender, a gypsy and himself a camp inmate, turned collaborator. The prosecution charges that he murdered the Jewish inmates for no motive other than enjoyment of the crime. In two instances he acted alone and in six had accomplices. The killings occurred between January-March 1945.

Ebender has been living in obscurity in Fulda since the war. When he was arrested in November, 1982, he claimed mistaken identity. But he was identified by 49 witnesses who appeared at his trial.