

**ARENS: IDF MIGHT BE WITHDRAWN  
FROM AWALI RIVER LINE EVEN IF  
BEIRUT GOVERNMENT CAN'T ENFORCE  
ITS SOVEREIGNTY IN THE AREA**  
By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Jan. 10 (JTA) -- Defense Minister Moshe Arens said here last night that the Israel Defense Force might be withdrawn from the Awali River line in south Lebanon even if the Beirut government is unable to enforce its sovereignty in the vacated area.

Arens, addressing a Herut youth rally, did not indicate when such a pull back would take place or where the new IDF lines would be. But he made it clear that if and when a decision was taken, it would not depend on whether the government of President Amin Gemayel was able to implement the May 17, 1982 Israel-Lebanon agreement to guarantee against terrorist attacks.

He cited as an example Israel's unilateral withdrawal from the Shouf mountains region last fall where the Lebanese army is still unable to assert its authority.

There have been persistent reports in recent weeks of Israeli plans to pull back from the Awali River and possibly from all of south Lebanon regardless of whether the Syrians withdraw their army from Lebanon. But that was vigorously denied by Cabinet secretary Dan Meridor Sunday. He said there were no plans for redeployment of the IDF from its present lines in Lebanon.

**Israeli Soldier Wounded In Sidon**

In Sidon, meanwhile, an Israeli soldier was slightly wounded yesterday when his vehicle came under small arms fire on the outskirts of the town. A French paratrooper serving with the multinational force in Beirut was killed and two others were wounded today in an exchange of fire between the Lebanese army and Druze militia in the hills overlooking Beirut airport.

The IDF opened a fourth bridge across the Awali River to facilitate the flow of traffic between south Lebanon and the rest of the country. The bridge will be limited to northbound traffic. Another bridge, about a half mile to the west which crosses the river where it empties into the Mediterranean, handles southbound traffic. Security measures are much more stringent there to prevent the infiltration of terrorists and explosives into the Israel-occupied zone of Lebanon.

**EFFORTS TO RESCUE ISRAEL'S ECONOMY  
ARE STALEMATED ON ALL FRONTS**  
By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Jan. 10 (JTA) -- Stalemate was reported on all fronts today in the government's urgent efforts to rescue Israel's foundering economy from impending disaster.

Finance Minister Yigal-Cohen Orgad still sounded optimistic that his austerity program would be adopted and spoke of cooperation. But the economic summit he has been holding with leaders of Histadrut and the Manufacturers Association ended today without agreement. Its sole result was to establish a joint committee to study ways to encourage exports and economic growth and prevent unemployment.

The Ministerial Economic Committee was scheduled to meet later today to discuss implementing the decision taken last Friday to reduce government expenditures by nine percent. Each ministry has been asked to submit a list of budget cuts aimed at that goal.

But Aharon Uzan of Tami who is Minister of Labor and Welfare, served notice in advance that his ministry could not possibly absorb the required cutbacks. Defense Minister Moshe Arens is also expected to fight cuts in the defense establishment. Arens told Voice of Israel Radio today that the proposed cuts would limit the procurement of military equipment and reduce manpower in the armed services. But he said they would not limit policy options in Lebanon.

Despite these obstacles, Cohen-Orgad said, "I assume that cooperation between these three factors -- and this cooperation is a continuing process -- will contribute to the rehabilitation of the economy." The factors he referred to are labor, management and the government.

With inflation now running at an annual rate of nearly 200 percent, exports down and foreign currency reserves dangerously low, a leading business man has called on the entire public to demonstrate readiness for economic sacrifices.

Avner Ben-Yakar, president of the National Chambers of Commerce Association, warned that "The present economic and social situation necessitates a comprehensive agreement in the entire economy and unless this is achieved, the entire economy and society might enter a severe crisis." His warning, so far, seems to have gone unheeded.

**AN INSTITUTE FOR JEWISH-CHRISTIAN  
RELATIONS ESTABLISHED BY AJCONGRESS**  
By Ben Gallab

NEW YORK, Jan. 10 (JTA) -- The establishment of an Institute for Jewish-Christian Relations to promote broader interaction between Jewish and Christian scholars and clergymen on theological issues, an outgrowth of earlier efforts by the American Jewish Congress in that field, was announced today by Henry Siegman, AJCongress executive director.

Siegman also announced that the Institute's director is Dr. Michael Wyschogrod, professor and chairman of the philosophy department at Baruch College of the City University of New York. The new Institute will be affiliated with the AJCongress.

Siegman said the Institute's principal function will be to promote dialogues between Christians and Jews on theological, rather than on political, social and ethical issues. He added such dialogues will be encouraged between Jews and Protestants and between Jews and Catholics.

Siegman said the Institute's first activity is co-sponsorship of what he called an unprecedented meeting in Lucerne, Switzerland, on January 16-18 of leading Jewish and Roman Catholic theologians and scholars on the historic and organic ties between Judaism and Christianity. The conference is entitled "The Authority and Interpretation of Scripture in Judaism and Christianity."

The other co-sponsor is the Institute for Jewish-Christian Research of the Theological Faculty of the Lucerne, a Roman Catholic institution, in cooperation with the Vatican Secretariat for Religious Relations with the Jews.

#### Outgrowth Of An Earlier Project

The Institute is an outgrowth of an earlier AJCongress project, "The Rainbow Group," which periodically has brought together academic and theological specialists to discuss theological issues of mutual concern. The Institute will be located at the Stephen Wise Congress House in upper Manhattan, the AJCongress headquarters.

Participants in the Lucerne conference include Rabbi J. David Bleich, Tenzer Professor of Jewish Law and Ethics at the Cardozo Law School of Yeshiva University; Edward Synan, Professor of Philosophy at Toronto University and the Pontifical Institute of Toronto; Maurice Gilbert, Rector of the Pontifical Biblical Institute in Rome; and Nahum Sarna, Golding Professor of Biblical Studies at Brandeis University.

Asserting that the Lucerne conclave "constitutes a significant new development in the relations of the Catholic church with the Jewish people," Siegmund declared that the dialogue "represents an implementation of the Second Vatican Declaration 'Nostra aetate' which states that since the 'spiritual patrimony' common to Christians and Jews is so great, the Vatican desires to foster mutual understanding and respect that comes from biblical and theological studies."

Wyschograd is a former senior consultant on inter-religious affairs to the Synagogue Council of America, chairman of the Rainbow Group, and is a member of the Committee on Christian-Jewish Relations of the National Council of Churches.

#### LATIN AMERICAN JEWISH LEADERS ADOPT A POLITICAL DECLARATION

BUENOS AIRES, Jan. 10 (JTA) -- Leaders of all the principal Jewish communities of Latin America ended their recent two-day plenary conference here by adopting what was characterized as an unprecedented political document, the "Declaration of Buenos Aires," which proclaims open support for the democratic process, respect for human rights, and favors the peaceful resolution of international conflicts.

The 10-point declaration is of an unprecedented character, according to Manuel Tenenbaum, executive director of the World Jewish Congress Latin American Branch, because it places the Jewish communities of the region on record in explicit support of political, ethical, and humanitarian objectives. Under its terms, the Declaration of Buenos Aires commits the Jewish communities to:

- \* Support "the processes of political democratization which are taking place in the present institutional evolution of Latin America."

- \* Adhere to the "fundamental rights of man and idea of humanist pluralism."

- \* Fully agree "with the principle of peaceful solutions for international disputes."

- \* Express total solidarity with the State of Israel and denounce those who "libel Israel and the Zionist movement which gave it birth."

Describing terrorism as "a scourge which afflicts all mankind," the declaration also committed the Jewish communities to alert all public opinion against "extremist elements" who, "using the mass media, and in deeds have launched the most deplorable attacks against synagogues and headquarters of Jewish institutions."

In other provisions, the declaration praises efforts at Jewish-Christian rapprochement on the continent, denounces the treatment of Soviet Jewry and that of Jewish minorities in various countries of the Islamic world, and "calls upon its affiliated bodies to increase all mutual assistance and inter-community cooperation encouraging the spread of Jewish education and all means of enriching community life intellectually."

The Declaration emerged following discussions at the Plenary Assembly of the Latin American Branch of the WJC and issued in its name, as the representative organ of the Jewish communities in the continent. Participants included the leaders of Jewish communities of the nations on the continent as well as the representatives of the Zionist federations, Jewish Agency, Latin American Sephardi Federation, B'nai B'rith, Latin American WIZO, International Council of Jewish Women, HIAS, and the Joint Distribution Committee.

Gregorio Faigon of Buenos Aires is the chairman of the WJC Latin American Branch. The vice chairman are the leaders of the six largest Jewish communities in the region. They are: Sion Cohen Imach of Argentina, Jose Meiches of Brazil, Werner Apt of Chile, Bernardo Weitzner of Mexico, Nahum Bergstein of Uruguay, and Ruben Merinfeld of Venezuela.

#### 2 QUAKER REPRESENTATIVES IN THE MIDEAST SAY U.S. MUST SEEK AN ALTERNATIVE TO ISRAELI-LEBANON PACT AND OPEN A DIALOGUE WITH THE PLO

By Kevin Freeman

NEW YORK, Jan. 10 (JTA) -- Two Quaker International representatives in the Middle East asserted yesterday that the United States must seek an alternative to the May 17 Israeli-Lebanon security and withdrawal agreement, primarily because it has been deemed unacceptable to Syria.

The Mideast representatives, Carol Jensen and Ron Young, also called on the U.S. to open a dialogue with the Palestine Liberation Organization and emphasized that more pressure should be exerted by the U.S. on Israel in order to obtain a freeze on the construction of new settlements in the West Bank.

Speaking to a small group of reporters at the Quaker House, Jensen and Young said that after discussions with Syrian leaders, it became clear that Syria would never agree to the establishment of normalization of relations between Lebanon and Israel, a central element of the May 17 accord.

The accord, which also provided for a small Israeli military presence in south Lebanon after an Israeli troop withdrawal, was never implemented because of Syria's objections. Jensen and Young criticized the Administration for not seeking an alternative to the May 17 accord.

Young said that while the United States and Israel had pinned their hopes on the implementation of the May 17 accord for the withdrawal of forces from Lebanon, Israeli public opinion was less concerned with the accord.

"Ironically, at the time that that agreement was being worked out Israeli (public) opinion was shifting in the direction of encouraging and supporting Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon only on one condition: that the northern border of Israel be guaranteed," Young said.

Jensen and Young serve as Mideast representatives for the American Friends Service Committee. Based in Amman since April, 1982, they have traveled throughout the region and held extensive discussions with a wide variety of persons, including government

officials, peace activists, soldiers and community leaders in Israel, the West Bank and Gaza, Syria, Egypt and Lebanon.

On the issue of Israeli settlements, Jensen said she thought "it was pathetic" that the Administration did not discuss a settlement freeze when Israeli Premier Yitzhak Shamir and Defense Minister Moshe Arens were in Washington last November and instead reached agreement on a strategic cooperation accord.

In touring the U.S. for the past two months, speaking to groups in some 20 cities, Jensen and Young said many Americans support the withdrawal of the U.S. marine force from Lebanon.

But a withdrawal, the Quaker representatives said, should be coupled with its replacement by a neutral peacekeeping contingent. Jensen and Young said they did not believe that the continued U.S. presence provided any incentive for Lebanese President Amin Gemayel to seek a genuine agreement among all the warring factions for a more representative form of government.

"Our fear is that there is a tendency among supporters of the present government in Beirut ... to believe that as long as U.S. marines are there ... that when push comes to shove the United States marines will save the Beirut government," Young said. "We don't think that is necessarily true and, moreover, that it is a good idea."

The American Friends Service Committee says that "while wholeheartedly supporting Israel's right to live in peace within secure boundaries," it "believes that the United States should also support the right of Palestinians to self-determination in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip."

#### ISRAEL DISASSOCIATES ITSELF FROM A VISIT TO ISRAEL BY HADLINE NORTHERN IRELAND PROTESTANT LEADERS By Maurice Samuelson

LONDON, Jan. 10 (JTA) -- The Israeli government disassociated itself tonight from a visit to Israel by hardline Protestant leaders from Northern Ireland. A statement by the Israel Embassy said that the visit, by five members of the Rev. Ian Paisley's Democratic Unionist Party, including two Members of Parliament, was "completely private" and that none of the meetings they held in Israel were sanctioned or approved by the Israeli government.

The statement was made following claims in Belfast that the delegation had had "every cooperation" from the Israeli government.

The Democratic Unionist Party said the delegation paid a six-day visit during which it met members of the Israeli government and opposition and visited the West Bank. They also toured the Lebanese border and spoke to manufacturers of frontier security equipment which they thought might be suitable for preventing terrorists from infiltrating across the Irish border.

The Israel Embassy here, which also represents Israeli interests in the Irish Republic, is embarrassed by the visit for political as well as security reasons. It said tonight that Israel discusses security matters only with governments and not with private interests from foreign countries.

Unofficially, the Embassy is also worried that too close an association between Israel and Northern Ireland Protestants could provoke the IRA terrorists into actions against Israeli property or personnel. "I have enough on my mind without that," an Israeli official said here.

The Northern Irish group visited Israel at the invitation of Labor MK Michael Bar Zohar, who was in Belfast last month.

#### OF HORNETS AND ASTRONAUTS By Gil Sedan

TEL AVIV, Jan. 10 (JTA) -- What do hornets have in common with astronauts? Prof. Yaacov Yishai of Tel Aviv University, one of the world's leading experts on hornets, expects to find out this year.

He has arranged to place a nest of hornets on a U.S. space flight to see what effect weightlessness has on their ability to reproduce and grow. The purpose of the experiment is to find out why 50 percent of astronauts suffer from space sickness.

Back on earth, scientists of the Haifa Technion's agricultural facility and the Hebrew University's department of atmospheric sciences, plan to follow up studies which indicate that certain plants can provide an effective early warning system against atmospheric pollution.

Their experiments involve tobacco plants which, along with certain varieties of pinto beans and other common crops, have been shown to be reliable monitors of sulphur dioxide pollution. Conventional warning systems require expensive equipment monitored by skilled personnel. Technion researchers say there is evidence that plants can do the job simply by growing.

Meanwhile, at the Volcani Institute for Agricultural Research at the Weizmann Institute of Science in Rehovot, scientists say genetic engineering may save citrus trees from the ravages of the Tristeza virus which has killed an average of a million trees annually over the past 50 years.

The experimenters are introducing parts of the Tristeza genome into a bacterium which they hope will develop a mild form of the virus. This would be used to immunize the trees. According to Dr. Moshe Bar-Yosef of the Volcani Institute, if successful, the experiment will be a major agricultural breakthrough.

#### FIVE ARAB YOUTHS SENTENCED

JERUSALEM, Jan. 10 (JTA) -- A military court in Nablus imposed prison sentences of 2 1/2-4 1/2 years today on five Arab youths convicted of throwing Molotov cocktails at Israeli vehicles and at the home of a local Arab suspected of collaborating with the Israeli authorities. All are residents of Bidya, a village in the Samaria district of the West Bank.

Although no one was hurt by the gasoline bombs, the court said the relatively stiff sentences were pronounced in order to deter similar attacks in the future. The incidence of Molotov cocktail attacks on Israeli vehicles has increased in recent weeks.

Meanwhile, Israeli soldiers erected barricades at the entrance to Bethlehem University this morning after reports that outsiders planned to enter the campus to incite disorder among the students. The barricades were removed at noon.

\*\*\*

TEL AVIV (JTA) -- The Labor Alignment would defeat Likud by a 16 seat Knesset margin if elections were held now, according to the latest public opinion poll published in the Jerusalem Post and Maariv. The poll, conducted by the Modi'in Ezrachi Research Institute, gave Labor 57 mandates in the 120-member Knesset, 10 more than it won in the 1981 election while Likud would drop from its present 48, to 41 seats. According to the poll, the other parties would retain their present representation with only minor changes. The National Religious Party, which lost eleven in 1981, would drop from six to five seats.

## SPECIAL TO THE JTA THE JEWS OF SOUTH FLORIDA

By Arnold Ages

(Part One Of A Three Part Series)

MIAMI BEACH, Jan. 10 (JTA) — *Tourism*, as anyone will tell you is the life blood of South Florida. The newspapers in Miami, the media in general and the public seem to talk incessantly about the subject.

Despite some gloomy predictions about the current season most people in the tourist industry are buoyant about the prospects for 1984. Some of the optimism derives from Eastern Airline's recent announcement of the \$99 New York-Miami one way ticket.

Other signs that Miami Beach still has faith in its future may be seen in the construction of numerous high rises and in the recent building of the city's first giant luxury hotel in 30 years — the Alexander, a posh establishment a short walk from the legendary Fontainebleau Hotel.

One of the city's biggest boosters is Rabbi Irving Lehrman of Temple Emanu-el of Greater Miami (Conservative). The rabbi, who has occupied his present pulpit for 40 years, and who has been acclaimed as one of the most gifted preachers in American Judaism, concedes that in recent years there has been a drop in tourism.

Lehrman indicates that at one time it was standing room only on Friday evenings as worshippers tried to obtain tickets for Emanu-el's services. As much as 30 percent of the congregation was made up at any one time of tourists from all parts of the United States and Canada.

### Reason For Decline Of Tourism

The crowds are smaller these days and an occasional empty seat may be found by those wishing to attend services and listen to Lehrman's eloquent commentaries on the quandaries of Jewish life. How does Lehrman explain the diminution in tourism?

"The reason is quite simple. Ever since the Mariel exodus of Cubans, stories of violence in the Miami region have percolated up north and people are frightened by those accounts.

"What is really painful, however, is that what has caused the reduction in tourism is not the factuality of violence but the perception of it. In fact, every indicator shows that crime is way down statistically in this city."

The rabbi points to the growth of his own congregation as evidence of the stability of the area. There are more than 1,300 families affiliated with his Conservative congregation which is located across from the Miami Beach Center for the Performing Arts.

Lehrman indicates that despite the spacious facilities provided by the synagogue building it was not big enough to house all its members on the High Holidays.

"A number of years ago I determined to persuade my congregation to move to larger quarters for the holidays," he recalls. "By dint of stubbornness and persistence I persuaded them to utilize the much more adequate facilities of the Performing Arts Center.

### Hoffa Agreed To Do A Mitzvah

"It was not an easy task but I convinced my board of the need for the move and we conducted Rosh Hashanah services there. But what I did not tell my board was that on that first Yom Kippur service I had an unsurmountable problem.

"The teamsters had reserved the hall for that very day and it would have been impossible to prepare the hall for Kol Nidre. I put in a call to Jimmy Hoffa at his Chicago office and asked for an appointment. I met with Hoffa and explained our dilemma to him. Hoffa said it was impossible to change the teamsters meeting because an election was being held. I told him that by doing a mitzvah he would be rewarded sevenfold. Hoffa agreed to change the venue of the teamsters meeting to the Fontainebleau. He won the election and we had our services in spacious surroundings."

Since most Jewish tourists arrive in the Miami area with the onset of cold weather (and because of lateness of the High Holidays) Temple Emanu-el and the synagogues on the Beach plan their programming to begin in January. Lehrman's adult education department is an especially ambitious one with five different ongoing class-type series and a cultural offering which in 1984 will include Barbara Walters, former President Gerald Ford, Louis Rukeyser and Robert Merrill.

### Jewish Cultural, Intellectual Activity

About a mile from Emanu-el at Temple Shalom (a Reform congregation) Judy Drucker, Miami Beach's famous "impresaria" (so termed by the Miami Herald) has drawn up a 1984 series that features both artistic and literary participants.

Drucker has persuaded Luciano Pavarotti to come to Miami Beach this year. In addition the Toronto Symphony will be featured in the Temple Shalom events along with other celebrities such as Elie Wiesel and Yitzhak Yitzhaki, the latter, a preeminent Israeli Bible scholar.

How does one explain the lushness of Jewish cultural and intellectual activity in Miami Beach? Is this not at odds with the "playground" image of the area?

A recent issue of the Miami Herald addressed itself to this question. Many of the Jewish tourists who come for the whole season (November through April) are retired people with a great deal of leisure time. In Miami Beach they often have, for the first time, the opportunity to think seriously about matters religious.

As a result, synagogues are full of both worshippers and students eager to learn about their heritage. On an average morning it is not uncommon to see men carrying tallis and tephilin bags walking home from shaharit services over the 41st Street bridge.

For the Miami Beach resident or the casual Jewish tourist, news of the community's panoply of activities can be obtained through the "local news" section in both the Miami Herald and the Miami News or in the area's Jewish publications.

These are important sources of community news not always covered by the metropolitan dailies. They give, moreover, a feeling about the pulse of the community — its Israel-centeredness, its commitment to Jewish education and its concerns with that perennial Jewish anxiety — assimilation.

(Tomorrow: Part Two)

\*\*\*

JERUSALEM (JTA) — Israel spent 60 million Shekels last year on civilian projects in south Lebanon, including road improvement, building clinics, digging wells and erecting homes.