

**ISRAEL WILL NOT INTERVENE IN
LEBANON CRISIS NOR TAKE STEPS
TO SAVE THE GEMAYEL REGIME**

By Gil Sedan and Hugh Orgel

JERUSALEM, Feb. 6 (JTA) — Israel will in no way intervene in the crisis in Lebanon nor take any steps to try to save the regime of President Amin Gemayel. That was the consensus in government circles today following the resignation of Prime Minister Shafiq Wazzan and his Cabinet in Beirut yesterday and the renewed fighting there which has put Gemayel's survivability in doubt.

Premier Yitzhak Shamir appeared to confirm that Israel is rapidly distancing itself from Beirut and will concentrate from now on only on the security of its northern borders. Shamir was quoted in a Maariv interview published today as saying that there is no connection between events in and around Beirut and Israel's border security.

"If we can reach an understanding with the Lebanese government, well and good. If not, Israel can find its own way to security arrangements in southern Lebanon," Shamir told Maariv. He denied press reports that his Cabinet was "dismayed" by the latest developments in Beirut. The Cabinet heard a report on the subject yesterday but there was no debate, Shamir stressed.

A Reversal Of Israel's Policy

His remarks pointed to a total reversal of Israel's policy toward Lebanon when Ariel Sharon was Defense Minister in the government of former Premier Menachem Begin. That policy aimed at the establishment of a strong central government in Beirut friendly to Israel and bound to it by the May 17, 1983 withdrawal and security agreement, if not a formal peace treaty.

Israel exerted considerable political influence toward that end but has now apparently decided to steer clear of any involvement in Lebanon's internal affairs.

Voice of Israel Radio said today that Israel is not consulting with the U.S. on the latest Lebanese crisis. The Reagan Administration has not asked Israel to use its influence in Lebanon to save the Gemayel regime, the radio report said.

According to Shamir, Israel will continue its activities in south Lebanon. "The aim of the war (in Lebanon) was to ensure our northern border. That aim has been achieved. We are now working out how to ensure that border for a long time to come," Shamir told Maariv.

No Total Troop Withdrawal

It is understood here that a total withdrawal of Israeli forces from south Lebanon is out of the question. Were that to happen, the shelling of Israeli towns and villages in Galilee would be resumed within hours, according to the prevailing view here. The only workable solution therefore is to redeploy the Israel Defense Force in the south.

No plan has been announced. But according to one version, the IDF would cease to act as policemen in all of south Lebanon but would pull back to artillery range of the Israeli border. This would allow it to concentrate on control of the security

zone under the protection of artillery. Israeli troops would no longer patrol urban centers such as Sidon which would mean a much smaller Israeli military presence in south Lebanon, minimizing the danger of casualties.

To carry out such a plan would require cooperation with the local Druze and Shiite Moslems, the latter comprising the bulk of the population in the south. Israel has been working for some time to cultivate those groups and reach an agreement whereby they would bear responsibility for local security.

In effect, such an arrangement would annul the May 17 agreement with Beirut and lead to friction with the Reagan Administration which, at the moment, seems determined to save Gemayel, sources here said today.

**HERZOG WARMLY WELCOMED IN
LARGEST ARAB TOWN IN GALILEE**

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Feb. 6 (JTA) — President Chaim Herzog received a warm welcome today in Sakhnin, with a population of 15,000 the largest Arab village in Galilee and probably the strongest center of Arab nationalism within the borders of Israel proper.

Herzog was greeted by applause and marching school children beating drums and waving flags. But he also heard the town's grievances from its Mayor, Mohammad Ghana'im. His visit was the first by an Israeli President and it was made possible in part because Ghana'im defeated the pro-Communist incumbent in the last municipal elections.

The Mayor supports Israel's Labor Party, which was Herzog's party until he assumed the non-partisan office of chief of state. Ghana'im spoke frankly in his welcoming remarks. He said Sakhnin had three major problems: the expropriation of land for Jewish settlements; annexation of part of the village's land to a Jewish-run regional council; and slandering of the name of Sakhnin by the Israeli media.

Herzog replied, "We are all responsible for the development and security of Galilee. This development should benefit all of its inhabitants." He urged Arab teachers to explain to the younger generation the benefits of living together with Jews. "We should not look for differences, but rather to the things common to us," he said.

Herzog told the crowd that this was his first in a series of planned visits to Arab towns and villages. "I am President of everybody in Israel, including the Arab population," he said.

**FREE TRADE AREA BETWEEN U.S.
AND ISRAEL WOULD BENEFIT BOTH
COUNTRIES, SENATE PANEL IS TO LD**

By David Friedman and Helen Silver

WASHINGTON, Feb. 6 (JTA) — Friends of Israel testified before the Senate Finance Committee today as it began hearings on the proposed Free Trade Area (FTA) between the United States and Israel, an element of the joint military and economic cooperation agreements reached by the two countries last fall.

First to appear were Elmer Winter, chairman of the Committee for Economic Growth of Israel and a former president of the American Jewish Committee; and Thomas Dine, executive director of the American-Israel

Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC). Both stressed Israel's urgent economic needs and the benefits that would accrue to the U.S. and Israel.

The FTA was agreed on in principle when Israeli Premier Yitzhak Shamir met with President Reagan and other Administration officials in Washington last November. Details are being worked out at a series of meetings between American and Israeli representatives. The first of the meetings was held here last month and, according to Doral Cooper of the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative, it "pretty much set up the parameters of the agreement."

Many details are yet to be worked out. Another joint meeting will be held in Israel on February 13 and Ambassador William Brock, the U.S. Trade Representative, will meet with the Israeli Minister of Trade, Gideon Patt, on February 29. The FTA must be approved by both houses of Congress before it can be implemented.

Stresses New Opportunities

Winter, in his testimony today, said the proposed FTA would open new export opportunities for American manufacturers and new research and development opportunities for American companies in Israel. He stressed that increased exports of American-made products will be generated because of lower Israeli tariffs and "this will mean increased U.S. jobs and an increased share of the market in Israel for American-made products."

He also noted that because Israel already enjoys duty-free access to the European Economic Community (EEC), American companies with manufacturing facilities in Israel can sell their products competitively in Europe. Winter stressed that the FTA will provide Israel an opportunity to reduce its balance of payments deficit with the U.S. and assist Israel to become financially independent of the U.S. in the future.

"We believe it is in the best interests of the United States and Israel that Israel work to a point where it will be able to stand on her own two feet. This will gradually reduce the funds that the United States government commits annually to assist Israel to meet her economic needs," Winter said.

He also suggested that the FTA will be a first step toward the future development of a Middle East Common Market and "may well provide the incentive for some Arab countries and Israel to meet and resolve their political differences."

Outlines Benefits To The U.S.

Dine noted that Israel is "staggering under the burden of financing its defense as it tries to maintain a military balance with an enormous coalition of adversaries who have almost as many aircraft and tanks as NATO." Israel, he said, must devote one-third of its resources to defense, compared to six percent by the U.S.

An FTA would benefit the U.S. as well, Dine said. He observed that the U.S. is Israel's largest trading partner with 23 percent of Israeli exports going to the U.S. and 25 percent of its imports coming from the U.S. Israel imports more than \$1.7 billion in civilian goods from the U.S. which creates about 50,000 American jobs, Dine said.

He stressed that "the threat to American industry would be minimal" if an FTA is created. "Israel is unlikely to flood the American market because it is not a cheap labor enclave." He added that Israeli agricultural exports would not hurt American farmers because the U.S. exports nearly eight times as much as it imports from Israel in agricultural products.

Cooper, at a press conference here last week sponsored by the AJCommittee, called the U.S.-Israeli agreement in principle "a very major decision for both sides, and especially for the United States which has not done something like this before."

Cooper, who has been the U.S. negotiator in developing the proposed FTA with Israel, said the agreement is expected to be comprehensive in terms of product coverage and various non-tariff barriers. "We are hopeful that services and investment can be included to get the truest, broadest free trade areas between the two countries," she said.

She, like Winter, referred to Israel's relationship with the EEC and noted, "From an economic point of view, U.S. exporters are facing an increasing disadvantage vis-a-vis EEC exporters, and this was one very important incentive for moving forward with the agreement."

Cooper added: "We have been consulting with our private sector advisors telling them what we are doing and seeking their advice ... The reception has been very good ... We have a lot of work to do in terms of notifying the public and getting their input, but we are very excited about this new trend ... After thorough consultations on the Hill, we hope we can finalize the agreement as soon as possible."

POLL SHOWS MOST AMERICANS OPPOSED TO HAVING MARINES REMAIN IN LEBANON

NEW YORK, Feb. 6 (JTA) — American opinion is overwhelmingly opposed to the continued presence of U.S. marines in Lebanon. According to the latest Lou Harris poll, published today, 66 percent want the marines brought home.

The poll represented a cross-section of 1,251 adults nationwide, taken between January 12-15. Sixty-five percent of the respondents gave President Reagan negative marks for his insistence that the marines remain in Lebanon and 70 percent rejected the contention that their continued presence is "a matter of national honor."

According to the poll, 55 percent believe "it has been shameful and wrong that U.S. marines have had to defend themselves in the almost defenseless area of the Beirut airport and cannot shoot unless they are fired upon." The belief that the loss of American lives in Lebanon is not worth the gains there was held by 71 percent of the respondents.

ISRAELI SOLDIERS WOUNDED

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Feb. 6 (JTA) — Two Israeli soldiers were slightly wounded today when two grenades were hurled at their patrols south of the Zaharani River early this morning.

In two other incidents today, a rocket propelled grenade hit an Israel Defense Force patrol in the Nabatiya market area and another patrol in Sidon was similarly attacked. There were no casualties in either incident. Army sources said it was the third such incident in Sidon in the past 24 hours.

Yesterday, an Israeli soldier was wounded when the vehicle in which he was traveling overturned as it was speeding away from a roadside attack near Jezzine in the eastern sector. There were three other attacks yesterday and Saturday on IDF patrols in the same area, but there were no casualties. But four local residents of Nabatiya were wounded when an explosive device hidden under a car went off as they passed by.

Attacks against IDF patrols and positions have averaged 15 a week in recent weeks, with their incidence increasing in recent days, according to the army spokesman. A compilation of casualties shows

that since the start of the war in Lebanon in June, 1983, 567 soldiers were killed and 3,240 were wounded.

\$1 Million Is Waiting: SEARCH ON FOR OWNER OF A PARCEL OF LAND IN JERUSALEM

NEW YORK, Feb. 6 (JTA) -- In the radio days of yore, Mr. Kean worked miracles each week tracing missing persons. Now, an Israeli lawyer, Simha Ben Sira, is trying for a similar miracle. He is searching for one Agrippa Ooshahoff or any of his heirs to pay them \$1 million.

According to Ben Sira, an attorney from Jerusalem representing a real estate developer, Ooshahoff bought a parcel of land, some 7,000 square feet, in 1942 worth about \$300 at the time. The land is in the middle of one of Jerusalem's fashionable neighborhoods and the developer wants to build a condominium on it.

Ben Sira told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency today that this parcel of land, which is now a vacant lot, is worth the \$1 million so that construction can proceed. "If we can't locate Ooshahoff or any of his heirs we will have to go to court to acquire it, and that's going to take a great deal of time," he said.

Ben Sira, who said he has been practicing real estate law in Israel since 1974, said he has been looking for Ooshahoff for two-and-a-half years in various parts of the world. He said that several people with that name have contacted him, but in each case it turns out that it is the wrong Ooshahoff. Ben Sira said the man might have changed his name or, if still alive, might have forgotten that he bought the land.

Won't Give Up

But Ben Sira doesn't give up easily. He told the JTA that he's been successful in locating other persons who are owners of land in Israel, including two in Arab countries. "I had to go to London to call them and let them know," he said. "I couldn't call them from Jerusalem."

In another case he solved, Ben Sira said he located a 65-year-old man in Los Angeles and told him he owned a parcel of land in Jerusalem. "The man said he didn't have any land, that his father had died in 1933 and made no mention of it in his will. But I proved to him that he was the rightful owner and he was paid \$350,000 for it."

Ben Sira said that "a lot of people have land and just don't know about it because it was bought by their parents who for one reason or another just didn't mention it to their children. Now some developer digs up the deeds and finds that a given piece of land was bought in the 1920's or the 1930's, but the original owner can't be found. He's changed his name, or moved away or may be dead. It's my job to find the owner or the heirs." As for Ooshahoff, Ben Sira said he'll keep on looking, and when he finds him or his heirs, "Will they be surprised."

3 JEWISH GROUPS WELCOME OUTCOME OF A CASE TO PREVENT BEQUEST FROM GOING TO THE PLO

NEW YORK, Feb. 6 (JTA) -- Three Jewish organizations which had joined in a legal action to prevent a bequest of up to \$25,000 from going to the Palestine Liberation Organization today welcomed the outcome of the case -- the money will be turned

over to the International Red Cross for the sole use as a fund to improve living conditions for the Palestinian people. It had been willed to the PLO by the late Fred Sparks, an American journalist.

In a statement, the Jewish organizations -- the American Jewish Congress, the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith and the World Jewish Congress -- said they were gratified that "the bequest will be used only for humanitarian purposes and not to help finance the PLO's terrorist activities."

All three appeared as *amici curiae* (friends of the court) before the New York County Surrogate's Court. They filed papers opposing this bequest on the grounds that:

Aiding the PLO is contrary to public policy; and the PLO is an unincorporated association which has no legal existence in New York and thus is ineligible to accept a bequest under New York law.

The settlement, worked out with the approval of the Surrogate's Court, involved four parties; the executor of the Sparks estate, the PLO, the New York Attorney General, and another beneficiary named in Sparks' will.

Terms Of The Settlement

According to the terms of the settlement, the bequest will go to the Red Cross, which will set up a Fred Sparks Fund "with specific instructions to utilize the fund solely for the betterment of the living conditions of the Palestinian people."

The agreement specified that the funds should be limited to aid to civilian hospital facilities in the form of medicines, medical care, food and new or improved housing.

The Sparks bequest to the PLO was held up in April 1981 when Surrogate Marie Lambert ruled that a question has arisen in the court's mind whether such an organization has the capacity, under New York law, to receive such a bequest and whether such a bequest is violative of public policy.

Sparks, a columnist and reporter for various newspapers and news syndicates, who died in 1981 at the age of 65 in New York, stipulated in his will that 10 percent of his estate, then valued at between \$100,000 and \$250,000 should go the PLO.

TWO ISRAELI SERVICEMEN KILLED IN SEPARATE ACCIDENTS

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Feb. 6 (JTA) -- Two Israeli servicemen were killed in separate accidents in the past few days. An Israeli pilot was killed when his plane crashed while on a training flight over the Israeli-Egyptian border in the Negev yesterday, the army announced today.

The search for the wreckage was a combined operation by Israeli, Egyptian and multinational forces in Sinai. The wrecked plane and the body of the pilot were found by the Egyptians some six miles west of Nitznana, in Egyptian territory. The body was returned by the Egyptians to the Israel Defense Force in a full military ceremony today.

Last week, a reserve soldier was killed in a cable car accident on Mount Hermon when a cable being installed on a new lift broke away from its mounting and began to swing about wildly, the army said. The new cable car is not yet in operation but is being built for the army by an Austrian firm.

BEHIND THE HEADLINES RECENT TRENDS IN CANADIAN JEWRY

By Arnold Ages

(Part One Of A Three Part Series)

TORONTO, Feb. 6 (JTA) — Canadian Jewry is undergoing some startling political, demographic and religious trends. American Jews, accustomed to thinking of their northern neighbors as near clones, tend not to realize that there are some basic differences between the two communities.

The Jewish population of Canada has undergone some important shifts within the past 10 years. Montreal, which used to be the major Jewish center in Canada, is now second to Toronto in population. Accurate statistics are difficult to obtain but Toronto is now said to have about 125,000 Jews versus Montreal's 115,000.

The amazing reversal in demographics is directly attributable to the Parti Quebecois, a nationalist political movement in Quebec which, since its rise to power in 1976, has stressed the primacy of French language and culture in the province — to the exclusion, some would argue, of English.

While the Parti Quebecois has attempted in recent months to mitigate somewhat the harshness of its legislation bearing on the use of French in the province, the move has come somewhat late to prevent the hemorrhaging of a significant number of Montreal's Jewish population.

Growing Jewish Presence In Toronto

Not all of the Montreal Jewish "defectors" have ended up in Toronto but enough of them have and their presence in the Ontario capital is making a difference in the cultural and religious configuration of the city.

When one adds the new Montreal component to Toronto's burgeoning Russian, South African and North African Jewish immigrants, the city, which lies astride of Lake Ontario, takes on a new dynamism. To this new melange one must also add the solid block of Israelis (estimates range as high as 10,000) who have chosen Toronto as their home.

There are a number of signals which identify Toronto's growing Jewish presence. For years the city got along with one kosher restaurant under rabbinical supervision. Now Toronto boasts of half a dozen, including a Moroccan eatery. The city also claims a fast food restaurant modeled on McDonalds but under strict kashruth controls.

With the growth of the Jewish population the community's organizational structure also underwent changes. Demands on the part of the indigent, the troubled and the unemployed were channelled to the local offices of the Canadian Jewish Congress (an umbrella organization which exercises much greater monitoring activity than any counterpart in the United States).

The Congress offices were, for many years, located in an old if imposing structure on Spadina Avenue. Three decades ago the offices were in the heart of the Jewish neighborhoods. In recent years, as the Jewish population moved north, that formerly Jewish quadrant became an ethnic conclave inhabited primarily by Chinese and Portuguese immigrants.

In 1983 the Congress facilities were moved to a structure adjoining the spacious northern branch of the Jewish Community Center. There, in quarters befitting the Congress's multifold obligations, officials will, it is hoped, be able to cope more adequately with the problems found in a population soon to reach the 150,000 mark.

While Toronto and Montreal are Canada's two major Jewish centers they are not the only cities to have experienced demographic changes. The tiny Jewish community of Ottawa, the country's capital, has also experienced impressive growth. Ottawa's Jewish community is beginning to climb towards the 15,000 mark after years of demographic stagnation.

Ottawa's Jewish profile has been enhanced in the past decade by the arrival in the city of large numbers of professionally trained observant Jews who have participated in the synagogue life of the community. Last year, for the first time, a yeshiva began to operate in an environment which had never had an institution of higher Jewish learning.

Winnipeg's Dynamic Community

Winnipeggers cannot yet make a similar claim. This dynamic Jewish community (which has produced some of the ablest Jewish leaders, rabbis and entertainers on the North American continent) remains demographically stagnant at about 15,000 souls. Winnipeg is still a place to come from rather than go to — insofar as the Jewish community is concerned. This may be a function of the city's uncongenial climate where —30 degrees Fahrenheit are not uncommon in winter.

Despite the absence of vigorous growth, Winnipeg's Jewish community maintains a strong profile. Until recently, the city had three weekly Jewish newspapers, two in English and one in Yiddish. The latter folded two years ago but the surviving English weeklies provide ample column space for the "mamaloshen."

Drift Toward Vancouver

Perhaps the most underreported Jewish community in Canada resides in Vancouver, the pearl of British Columbia, Canada's western-most province. Affectionately termed Canada's "lotus land," Vancouver provides its one million-plus inhabitants unrivalled scenery and year round mild weather.

These two factors alone explain in part the western drift of Canada's Jewish population. Many of Vancouver's 20,000 Jews (an unofficial figure provided by local people who claim that the official number must be doubled to take into account the large number which has not yet identified itself as Jewish for various reasons) have come to the city from Toronto, Montreal, Winnipeg and Calgary seeking opportunity and more congenial temperatures.

Canada's eastern provinces, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland still have pockets of Jewish population but not of the same magnitude as the Jewish presence in Ontario, Quebec and the western provinces. Jewish mariners usually depart for points west once they have completed their university or professional training. In fact, there are so many mariners in Toronto and Montreal that they could almost form landsman-schaft organizations.

(Tomorrow: Part Two)

TEL AVIV — The two persons who were killed Sunday in the fire at the Moriah Hotel on the slopes of the Dead Sea were a soldier and a chambermaid, it was reported Monday. The soldier, 19, was returning to his base from a weekend furlough when he stopped by the hotel and volunteered to help rescue trapped tourists. He was badly burned and was overcome from smoke inhalation. The chambermaid, 49, was trapped in flames on the top floor.