

**ISRAELI GOVERNMENT HAS NOT YET DECIDED ON POSSIBLE REDEPLOYMENT OF THE IDF IN SOUTH LEBANON**  
By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Feb. 13 (JTA) — The government has reached no decision on the possible redeployment of the Israel Defense Force in south Lebanon. It is under pressure from the Labor opposition to pull the IDF out of Lebanon altogether while rightwing members of the coalition demand a permanent Israeli presence there and harsh measures against the local population if it objects.

The issue has come to the fore in recent days because of the precarious position of President Amin Gemayel in Beirut and the growing possibility that he may be forced to abrogate his May 17, 1983 withdrawal and security agreement with Israel as the price for national reconciliation and the cooperation of Syria.

The government, supported by the military, is interested in pulling the IDF back from its present lines on the Awali River to positions closer to the Israeli border.

Such redeployment would eliminate the task of policing such heavily populated towns as Sidon and Tyre where hostility toward Israel is running high and the risk of casualties is greatest. Such a move would depend on security arrangements with local Shiite Moslems and the Druze who control the Shouf mountains.

Defense Minister Moshe Arens appeared before the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Security Committee today to reply to Labor Alignment demands for a total pull-out. Mapam MK Victor Shemtov said it was high time for the government to make up its mind. Labor MK Abba Eban quoted a Mideast expert, Yossi Olmert of Tel Aviv University's Shiloah Institute, who maintained that the idea of a strong central government in Beirut, which would make peace with Israel was an illusion nursed by Israel.

**Israel Won't Voluntarily Renounce May 17 Accord**

Arens replied that there was no reason why Israel should voluntarily renounce the May 17 accord and thereby hand a prize to its enemies.

He came under fire from MK Gula Cohen of the ultra-nationalist Tehiya party who said it was time to discard the illusion that Israel could rely on political arrangements to ensure its security. "We must make it clear that the Israel army is in south Lebanon for a long time," Cohen said. "All this talk by the Labor opposition about getting out as soon as possible is making it more difficult for the army to get the cooperation of the population in south Lebanon," she charged.

Cohen urged the "controlled closure of the Awali (river) bridges and the controlled opening of the Israel-Lebanon border." Arens replied that the Awali bridges cannot be sealed off because to cut the links between south Lebanon and Beirut would impose undue hardship on the population in the south.

**U.S., ISRAELI NEGOTIATORS HOLD SECOND ROUND OF TALKS ON FTA**  
By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Feb. 13 (JTA) — American and

Israeli negotiators met here today for the second round of discussions aimed at the establishment of a U.S.-Israel Free Trade Area (FTA). The first round of talks was held in Washington last month.

Officials expressed optimism that an FTA could be set up within six months, despite opposition by some American trade unions. The FTA is one of the projects arising from the agreements in principle for U.S.-Israel military and economic cooperation which were reached when Premier Yitzhak Shamir met with President Reagan and other Administration officials in Washington last November.

Economists here believe Israeli high technology enterprises stand to gain once an FTA is established. But smaller Israeli companies dealing in consumer goods and electrical appliances may be wiped out in competition with American corporate giants such as General Motors and General Foods. This may force Israel to concentrate on the development of only those industries that can compete on the American market.

**U.S. REAFFIRMS ITS COMMITMENT TO THE ISRAEL-LEBANON MAY 17 ACCORD**

WASHINGTON, Feb. 13 (JTA) — A senior Reagan Administration official reaffirmed yesterday the United States' continued commitment to the May 17, 1983 accord it helped negotiate between Israel and Lebanon.

"The United States position with regard to the May 17th agreement is clear: we helped arrive at this agreement; we support that agreement," Lawrence Eagleburger, the Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs, said in an interview on the ABC-TV "This Week With David Brinkley" program.

"As far as we're concerned, we have said it time and again, that May 17th agreement is something we are associated with and we're not going to walk away from it," Eagleburger added.

The May 17 security and withdrawal agreement has become a central point of contention between the Lebanese government of President Amin Gemayel and the Syrian backed anti-government forces, composed primarily of Moslem and Druze militias, which last week took control of west Beirut.

The accord has never been formally ratified by the Lebanese government and it has not been implemented because of the stipulation which requires a complete Israeli troop withdrawal from south Lebanon on condition of a simultaneous Syrian withdrawal, which the Syrians have refused.

Israel's position on the accord was emphasized over the weekend by the Cabinet. After a seven-hour debate Israel affirmed that Israeli troops would remain in south Lebanon to ensure the security of its northern borders in the event that the Lebanese government scraped the accord.

There has yet to be public statements from the U.S., Israel or Lebanon indicating that the accord would be scraped. Gemayel, however, appears hard pressed by opposition factions to make some conciliatory concessions to them if he is to survive politically and form a power sharing government representative of the diversity of the Lebanese populations.

Meanwhile, with the imminent withdrawal of the 1,400 marines from the Beirut Airport to ships of the Sixth Fleet off the Lebanese coast, there is new dis-

cussions here of the possibility of a United Nations peacekeeping force to move into areas evacuated by the multinational force.

Eagleburger confirmed yesterday that the idea has been discussed by the Administration "for months." But he expressed the view that few nations would agree to send its troops into an area as volatile as the current situation which exists in Beirut.

White House spokesman Larry Speakes told reporters yesterday that the possibility of a UN force "might be worth looking into" and that the Administration has had some consultations with the (UN) Secretary General on that. "But he admitted that the idea "is not that fleshed out yet."

Speakes spoke to reporters on board the plane carrying President Reagan back from California to Washington where he is holding talks today with King Hussein of Jordan and with President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt tomorrow. Mubarak and Hussein conferred last night in Washington and were joined by Secretary of State George Shultz. The Secretary of State would not comment to reporters as he left the meeting with the two Arab leaders.

The White House talks today and tomorrow will give Reagan an opportunity to hear first hand how the U.S. redeployment plan is seen by Arab moderates in the Mideast. Officials said no breakthroughs were expected at the talks.

#### JUDICIARY COMMITTEE ASKED TO INVESTIGATE VATICAN-NAZI CONNECTION

NEW YORK, Feb. 13 (JTA) -- Kalman Sultanik, vice president of the World Jewish Congress, said today that the House Judiciary Committee is scheduled to hold hearings this spring on American intelligence involvement with Nazi war criminals.

He said that he has, accordingly, asked that the committee conduct a formal inquiry into the charges contained in a 1947 State Department report which, until last year, had been labelled "top secret." The report, known in intelligence circles as the La Vista report, disclosed that the Vatican aided in the illegal emigration of Nazis following World War II.

The formal request for the inquiry was made in a letter by Sultanik to Rep. Peter Rodino (D. N.J.), chairman of the Judiciary Committee. Sultanik is the current chairman of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Council to which he was appointed by President Carter in 1980.

The WJCongress official noted that an inquiry has been made necessary as a result of the attempt by Vatican sources to discredit the La Vista report. "The refusal of the Vatican to institute a formal investigation into the serious charges made in the State Department report only makes more compelling the need for an independent and thorough investigation into the matter," Sultanik said.

#### U.S., Vatican Positions Contrasted

He pointed out that the 1947 State Department report, whose existence was first revealed by the Jewish Telegraphic Agency last February, called the Vatican "the largest single organization involved in the illegal movement of emigrants," including Nazis.

The report was written by Vincent La Vista, a member of the American Embassy in Rome, and obtained by Charles Allen, Jr., a writer on the Holocaust. La Vista, whose report detailed the so-called "Vatican escape route," was "a skilled intelligence/diplomatic State Department officer" and an international lawyer, according to Allen.

Sultanik, who recalled with satisfaction the Justice Department's thorough investigation last year of American intelligence involvement with Klaus Barbie, the head of the gestapo in Lyon during World War II, said an inquiry into alleged collaboration between U.S. intelligence agencies and the operation of the "Vatican escape route" "must necessarily be an important part of the upcoming Judiciary Committee hearings.

"The responsible attitude of present-day American officials looking into this sensitive issue is unfortunately in stark contrast to the position adopted by the Vatican," Sultanik said. "The position of the Holy See, coming as it does shortly after the establishment of diplomatic relations between the United States and the Vatican, is particularly troubling."

#### ATTORNEY GENERAL DEFENDS KARP REPORT By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Feb. 13 (JTA) -- Attorney General Yitzhak Zamir today flatly rejected charges that his deputy, Yehudit Karp, had distorted the facts in her report on law enforcement in the administered territories. He denied specifically that her references to Jewish vigilantism going unpunished was politically motivated.

Zamir appeared before a joint meeting of the Knesset's Legal Committee and its State Control Committee. The two panels convened to discuss the Karp report which aroused a fierce outcry from Jewish settlers on the West Bank when it was released by the government last week. The police, too, did not take kindly to Karp's findings that law enforcement in the territories was hampered by poor police work, although they agreed with the Deputy Attorney General that they were short of manpower.

Zamir told the MKs that former Premier Menachem Begin had recognized the need to establish a committee to investigate law enforcement in the territories and that Karp, who headed it, adhered strictly to the guidelines given her. At a press conference later, Zamir stressed that all of the findings in the report were well documented. He quoted police sources who termed the report "an objective document which reflected the real situation."

Zamir said that while most Jewish settlers in the territories are law-abiding, "there is an extremist minority responsible for serious violations of the law." He cited a pamphlet circulated by the town council of Kiryat Arba two years ago ordering residents not to cooperate with the Attorney General and the State prosecutor. Kiryat Arba, adjacent to Hebron, is a Gush Emonim stronghold.

Justice Minister Moshe Nissim said on a Voice of Israel Radio interview today that the Karp report was "helpful" insofar as it clarified the situation in the territories. He also rejected charges by Jewish settlers of distortion. Unlike Zamir, however, Nissim was lukewarm in defense of Karp's integrity.

Karp completed her report 18 months ago. She resigned last year to protest the government's failure to act on it. Portions of the report leaked to the press at the time reflected poorly on the conduct of Jewish settlers and implied that the police and civil authorities were less than vigorous in pressing charges against Jews accused of offenses against Arabs.

Karp withdrew her resignation after her report came under review at the highest level of government. The controversy surrounding it was renewed, however, when the report was belatedly released last Tuesday.

## CHERNENKO SEEN AS A RESTRAINING INFLUENCE ON SYRIA

By Edwin Eytan

PARIS, Feb. 13 (JTA) — French officials believe that Russia's new leader, Konstantin Chernenko, will exert a restraining influence on Syria and urge President Hafez Assad to avoid any possibility of a confrontation with either Israel or the United States.

Many French officials know Chernenko personally. He last visited France in the spring of 1982 when he met with Premier Pierre Mauroy and also welcomed several French delegations in Moscow.

The French analysts say Chernenko represents, both because of his age and his political past as a protégé of the late Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev, the most "cautious" fragment of the Soviet leadership.

They say that, at least for the foreseeable immediate future, Chernenko will most probably want to concentrate on internal economic matters and avoid a climate of crisis in international affairs, especially in the Middle East. He is reputed to have very little experience in foreign matters and to have shown practically no personal interest in the Middle East.

Chernenko is known as a conventional Marxist and as such he is expected to show a slight preference for PLO leader Yasir Arafat who is considered in Moscow as "a revolutionary leader." Arafat is scheduled to attend Yuri Andropov's funeral tomorrow and PLO sources in Tunis, where Arafat is residing, said he will meet Chernenko at the Kremlin.

## REAGAN AND HUSSEIN REAFFIRM THE BONDS OF FRIENDSHIP

BETWEEN THEIR TWO COUNTRIES

By Helen Silver

WASHINGTON, Feb. 13 (JTA) — President Reagan and King Hussein of Jordan emerged from a luncheon meeting at the White House today affirming the bonds of friendship between their countries and their mutual desire for a peaceful, stable Middle East. Hussein also met earlier in the day with Secretary of State George Shultz.

Reagan told reporters that he and the Jordanian ruler had discussed a number of bilateral concerns but that the focus of their talk was "on issues affecting regional peace."

The President reaffirmed the U.S. commitment to UN Security Council Resolution 242 which he said continues to be "the starting point for tangible Middle East efforts" for peace, including his own initiative of September 1, 1982. "While the challenges remain formidable, opportunities for a broader peace are still present," Reagan said. He added that he was convinced that "progress can be made toward the perplexing problem of peace."

Hussein agreed that "The challenges before us are indeed tremendous but the determination is to strive for a better tomorrow. This is a course to which we are dedicated in Jordan — the cause of a stable area, the cause of eventually establishing a just and lasting peace," the Jordanian monarch said.

### Thorough Discussion On Mideast Situation

A senior Administration official told reporters later that the Reagan-Hussein meeting had been "good." He said Hussein had a "very thorough discussion of the situation in Lebanon, both with Secretary of State Shultz and the President, and of Jordan's security needs in the context of the currently unsettled situation in the region."

The official added, "There was a very thorough exchange of views on the status of the broader peace process and the fact of involving Jordan's participation in the process." He said Reagan had assured

Hussein of the U.S. commitment not to abandon Lebanon and to the broader peace process. Hussein, the official said, emphasized that "the Palestinian problem and not the Lebanon problem is the main one to keep our eyes on." The King also discussed the uncertainties of the future of hundreds of thousands of Palestinians in Lebanon and the Persian Gulf states. The Syrian military threat to Jordan was also discussed by Reagan and Hussein, the official said.

Hussein will have a second meeting with Shultz tomorrow and will also meet with Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger. He will return to the White House for lunch tomorrow with Reagan and President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt. The official said the presence of both Hussein and Mubarak in Washington this week was a "coincidence."

## With The Presidents Conference In Israel: AMERICAN JEWS TOLD THAT U.S., ISRAEL EFFORTS TO HELP LEBANON ATTAIN SOVEREIGNTY IS NO LONGER ACHIEVABLE

By David Friedman

JERUSALEM, Feb. 13 (JTA) — Former Deputy Foreign Minister Yehuda Ben-Meir told visiting American Jewish leaders today that the effort by Israel and the United States to help Lebanon achieve full sovereignty was no longer achievable.

"The goal was a worthy one and we gave it a good try," he told the more than 70 persons participating in the four-day mission here by the Conference of Presidents Major American Jewish Organizations.

Thirty-One of the organization's 37 groups are represented, including 22 presidents of national Jewish organizations. They were welcomed here last night by Harry Hurwitz, an advisor to the Premier, and Moshe Gilboa, director for the Foreign Ministry's Division of World Jewish Affairs. The Jewish leaders began their mission today with private background meetings on foreign affairs, including a briefing at the Knesset with the Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee.

Speaking at a luncheon meeting at the Jerusalem Hilton, Ben-Meir, who is now a National Religious Party MK on the committee, said the Israel army in south Lebanon can no longer be used for the political purpose of helping Lebanon achieve sovereignty but must concentrate efforts on realigning to ensure Israel's major objective of ensuring the safety and security of northern Israel.

At the same time, Ben-Meir rejected the view that the goal of a free and sovereign Lebanon was never achievable. He said there were a number of moments when Lebanon was "on the verge" of achieving these objectives. But he said the Lebanese people "do not have the will" to come together for national unity but retain their separate identity as members of various groups. However, Ben-Meir said Israel should continue to support the Christians and Druze but not depend on them.

The American-born Ben-Meir repeated the warning by Premier Yitzhak Shamir against Lebanon abrogating its May 17 agreement with Israel. He said the agreement is "binding" and if Lebanon abandons it, Israel would no longer be bound by the commitments it made in south Lebanon.

Ben-Meir called on the American Jewish leaders to continue using their influence with the U.S. government to press Egypt to "keep her part of the bargain" in the peace treaty with Israel. He noted that he knew that the Presidents Conference has raised the issue repeatedly with U.S. government leaders and with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak in meetings with him in Washington.

**SPECIAL INTERVIEW  
ACCLAIMED ISRAELI WRITER SAYS  
A PALESTINIAN STATE IN THE  
WEST BANK IS AN 'HISTORICAL MUST'  
By Yitzhak Rabi**

NEW YORK, Feb. 13 (JTA) -- The establishment of a Palestinian state is an "historical must" and Israelis should reconcile themselves to this because it is the only way to solve the Middle East conflict.

This is the view of one of Israel's most acclaimed writers, A. B. Yehoshua, who is highly respected in political and intellectual Israeli circles. A member of the Labor Party, Yehoshua is the recipient of many awards for his short stories, novels and plays. He is currently in the United States on a short visit for the publication of the English translation of his latest novel, "A Late Divorce" (Doubleday, \$16.95).

In an interview with the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, Yehoshua, a sixth-generation sabra, said: "The only solution to the Palestinian problem is the establishment of a demilitarized Palestinian state in the West Bank. The solution of a Palestinian state is an historical must."

According to Yehoshua, it is preferable for Israel to deal directly with the Palestinians rather than with King Hussein of Jordan about the future of the West Bank. He pointed out that a Jordanian-Israeli pact on the West Bank which does not take into consideration the wishes of the Palestinians who live in the area will not solve the Palestinian problem.

**Direct Negotiations Are Preferable**

The Palestinians, he claimed, will not feel bound by any agreement reached between Israel and Jordan and a situation might develop in which PLO leader Yasir Arafat would return to the West Bank after the area is returned to Hussein, without being committed to a settlement with Israel.

"I therefore believe that direct negotiations with the Palestinians on the future of the West Bank is better, as far as Israel is concerned, than dealing with Hussein," he said.

Yehoshua, who is a professor in the Department of World Literature at Haifa University, said Israel should announce "a declaration of intentions" on the establishment of an independent Palestinian state. "This would bring the Palestinians to the negotiating table," he maintained. The Palestinians, he said, in fact have "no other choice" but to enter into negotiations with Israel.

"One must not forget that the Palestinians are now after the war in Lebanon, beaten and disappointed with the whole Arab world, and they have no alternative but to accept Israel's declaration of intentions with open arms," Yehoshua said.

**Sees PLO As A Negotiating Partner**

Developing this theme, he said he does not share the view that the PLO cannot be a partner in negotiations with Israel. He said that once the PLO recognizes Israel, Israel should negotiate with it. "I think that the argument that we should not negotiate with the PLO because they are the murderers of children is not a valid argument. Why? Because we are willing to negotiate with other Arabs, such as (President Hafez) Assad of Syria and the Iraqis whose records are not much better."

Yehoshua said Israel should negotiate with Arafat because the Palestinians view him as their representative. "Menachem Begin once invited Assad to come

to Jerusalem and negotiate," Yehoshua recalled, pointing out that the Syrian Constitution clearly states that Syria will never recognize Israel. "If Assad yes, why not Arafat?" he asked.

He stressed, however, that the establishment of a Palestinian state in the West Bank does not mean that Israel should dismantle the Jewish settlements there. The settlements "can stay there under Palestinian rule," Yehoshua said. "There is no need to repeat the story of Yamit in the Sinai (which was dismantled when the area was returned to Egypt). The way there are Arab villages in Israel there can be Jewish villages in the West Bank."

**A 'Catch-22' Situation**

A sharp critic of the war in Lebanon, Yehoshua said that both the Israelis and the Palestinians were defeated in Lebanon. He said Israel's losses in the war were "astounding." Apart from some 600 Israeli soldiers who were killed, Israel was also defeated morally in the war, he said.

But, he pointed out, without intending to, the war in Lebanon might in the end result in one blessing. "The Palestinians have reached a dead end as far as their military options are concerned and might now turn to the political option to solve their conflict with Israel," Yehoshua said.

He observed that Israel now finds itself in a "catch-22" situation in Lebanon. "Israel wants to leave Lebanon now but she can't because once Israel withdraws, the Katyushas will start falling again on Israel's northern villages," Yehoshua said. One solution might be for Israel to remain in Lebanon for a few years. Another solution would entail a general settlement of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict.

Asked if he is optimistic about the future, Yehoshua said: "I believe in continued struggle and in not giving up hope that peace can be achieved. We already have peace with Egypt, and this is a very encouraging cornerstone in the road to peace."

**A LAMB MAKES MEDICAL HISTORY**

TEL AVIV, Feb. 13 (JTA) -- A little lamb made history at Tel Aviv's Ichilov Hospital last week, when a 10-hour operation was carried out on it to insert a new prosthetic heart valve designed by an American team and manufactured in Israel. Parallel experiments are being carried out at the Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston, on calves.

The research teams from Israel and the U.S. hope to begin clinic testing of the new valve on humans in about six months, after the number of operations on animals determined by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration are completed and analyzed.

The new valve was designed by an American team led by Dr. David Lederman, with the support of the National Institutes of Health, and will be manufactured in Israel by Omikron Scientific, of Rehovot.

The valve, which has no moving parts, is made from a new material based on polyethyleneurethane, which has advantages over both the present steel and plastic valves used (which are long-lasting but can cause thromboembolism), and biological valves made from pig valves, which have a limited life when transplanted. A pulse duplicator test has shown the new valve should last for at least 10 years.

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TEL AVIV (JTA) -- Four Israeli soldiers were wounded in south Lebanon Monday when an explosive charge was detonated as their mobile patrol passed by in Nabatiya.