

ISRAEL MIGHT NOT BE ADVERSE TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A UN PEACEKEEPING FORCE AROUND BEIRUT TO REPLACE THE MULTINATIONAL FORCE

By David Landau, Gil Sedan and Hugh Orge

JERUSALEM, Feb. 15 (JTA) -- Premier Yitzhak Shamir indicated in the Knesset today that Israel favors -- or at least would not oppose -- French efforts toward the establishment of a United Nations peacekeeping force in and around Beirut to replace the multinational force presently composed of American, French and Italian troops. Britain withdrew its small contingent last week.

Shamir noted, in reply to questions, that the Soviet Union could play a positive role in the French initiative, inasmuch as the dispatch of a UN force to Beirut would require Soviet approval as a member of the Security Council.

Shamir also said, in response to questions, that Israel is willing to consider a dialogue with the USSR on relations between the two countries and on the Middle East situation in general. His gesture toward Moscow was apparently prompted by the death of Yuri Andropov and his replacement by Konstantin Chernenko as General Secretary of the Communist Party.

But Shamir made it clear that up to now there have been no signs of any improvement in relations between Israel and the Soviet Union. Israel is constant on the look-out for possibilities of an improvement, he said.

Draft Resolution On Peacekeeping Forces In The UN

France has been circulating a draft resolution among the 15 members of the Security Council calling for a UN peacekeeping force in and around Beirut. It has done so as the Lebanese army appeared to have collapsed under a new onslaught by Druze and Shiite militias, backed by Syria, and as the U.S. prepared to withdraw its 1,600 marines from Beirut airport to ships of the Sixth Fleet off the Lebanese coast.

The anti-government forces seized West Beirut last week. The Druze and Shiite fighters were reported to have linked up yesterday on the coast road south of the city and the situation of the Lebanese army supporting President Amin Gemayel is now considered untenable.

France has asked for close consultation among Security Council members on the text of their resolution with a view to opening debate immediately. But a major obstacle emerged in the form of conditions set by the USSR. The Soviet Ambassador to the UN, Richard Ovinnikov, reportedly told Security Council President Sardar Shah Nawaz of Pakistan that Moscow would agree to a strong UN peacekeeping role in Beirut if some conditions were met.

One was the prior pullback of U.S. naval forces off the Lebanese coast, a pledge that they would not return to within firing range of Lebanon and a guarantee of non-interference in Lebanon's internal affairs. American and British officials object vehemently to the Soviet pre-conditions which they see as "total capitulation."

Israeli policymakers are watching developments in Lebanon with mounting concern. A redeployment of

the Israel Defense Force in south Lebanon has been under discussion at the top levels of government for the past week. It was the subject of Sunday's Cabinet meeting but no decisions have been taken as yet.

At issue is the nature and extent of the redeployment. Some ministers want the IDF to withdraw to the Zaharani River which lies south of its present lines along the Awali River. Such a move would end the difficult task of policing the Lebanese coastal towns of Sidon and Tyre where the risk of casualties is great.

Leaders of the Labor Alignment opposition demand the total withdrawal of the IDF from Lebanon while rightwing members of the coalition and other hard-liners insist that Israeli forces remain permanently in south Lebanon.

The overriding consideration is the protection of Galilee from renewed bombardment by terrorist forces. It was reported today that Druze commanders have promised their IDF contacts that the Palestine Liberation Organization would not be allowed to operate freely in Druze-controlled areas.

The Druze were said to have acknowledged the presence of a few PLO fighters in their ranks but promised they would be sent back to the Syrian-controlled Bahamdoun-Aley area well to the north of the Israeli border and would not be permitted to establish themselves any further south.

Rabin Favors Total Pullback

Former Premier Yitzhak Rabin, a leader of the Labor Party, said today that he favored a total pullback of Israeli forces from Lebanon, leaving local units and a re-inforced United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) to stand guard in the south. He said Israel should strive for working arrangements with local Shiite Moslems, Christians and the UN.

Rabin, a former Chief of Staff, maintained that President Reagan's decision to withdraw the marines from Beirut was a "positive change" that marked an end to the period of delusions with which both the American and Israeli governments had regarded Lebanon. That country, according to Rabin, has no strategic importance in the Middle East. But as long as warfare continued there, the overall Mideast peace process was blocked.

Rabin's view seemed to coincide in part with that expressed by King Hussein of Jordan in Washington this week. Hussein reportedly told President Reagan at a White House meeting Monday that Lebanon is not the main problem in the Middle East. He insisted that the Palestinian problem deserved priority.

According to Rabin, the government had the options of pulling the IDF back to more southerly lines in Lebanon or pulling it out altogether once local security arrangements are made. He maintained that a partial pullback would be a grave mistake because the IDF would then remain in Lebanon indefinitely.

A completely opposite view was expressed today by former Chief of Staff Gen. Rafael Eitan at a meeting of his newly formed political movement, Tsomet, in Tel Aviv. Eitan insisted that the IDF must remain permanently in occupation of south Lebanon if the towns and cities of Galilee are to be protected.

"It's not just a matter of Kiryat Shmona, Nahariya and Misgav Am," he said, referring to towns close to

to the Lebanese border. "If the IDF leaves Lebanon, Carmiel and Safad (towns further south) will also be threatened by Katyushas." According to Eitan, "The IDF has no one in south Lebanon it can depend upon if we are not there physically." He compared the presence in Lebanon to Israel's occupation of the Golan Heights to protect civilian settlements in the valley.

MUBARAK RAPPED FOR HIS REMARKS

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Feb. 15 (JTA) -- Officials here are watching the rapidly deteriorating situation in Lebanon with concern. They are also seriously disturbed by the remarks of President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt, after a luncheon meeting with President Reagan and King Hussein of Jordan at the White House yesterday.

Mubarak urged the U.S. to open a dialogue with the Palestine Liberation Organization, through Yasir Arafat and blamed the troubles in Lebanon on Israel's invasion of that country in June, 1982.

His remarks drew a sharp response today from Eliahu Ben-Elissar, chairman of the Knesset's Foreign Affairs and Security Committee, who was Israel's first Ambassador to Cairo after the Israel-Egypt peace treaty was signed in 1979.

Ben-Elissar said Mubarak knows very well that Israel did not launch its Lebanese operation in order to annex Lebanon and that without the Israeli invasion, Lebanon would have been "doomed and given away to the Syrians." He suggested that Mubarak is also aware that the interests of Egypt and those of Israel, the United States and Lebanon itself are virtually identical.

With respect to Arafat, the former envoy said he is "no more a moderate today than he was yesterday" and "If President Mubarak thinks that Arafat should be made a partner of the peace process, then there will be no peace process at all."

SOME 8,000 LEBANESE CHRISTIANS FLEE FROM BEIRUT TO SAFETY OF IDF-CONTROLLED AREA IN SOUTH LEBANON

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Feb. 15 (JTA) -- Some 8,000 Lebanese Christians fled across the Awali River and passed through Israel Defense Force checkpoints at the northern approaches to Sidon overnight, an Israeli army spokesman said today. The refugees, fleeing from the fighting in and around Beirut, included a number of Lebanese soldiers who had abandoned their weapons and fled from the fighting.

Bridges over the Awali River, normally closed after dark, were kept open all night to allow the refugees from villages around Damour and the western slopes of the Shouf mountains to cross. Some of the refugees told Israel Radio that Druze and Palestinian units had cut off Beirut from the south.

The IDF sent an armored patrol north of the Awali River yesterday as far as Damour, a few miles short of the Beirut airport. The patrol, composed of tanks and armored personnel carriers, was intended to demonstrate the IDF presence in the area and as a signal to the Druze and Shiites not to press their attack along the coastal road. But the Druze and Shiites took no heed of the patrol.

According to reports, Druze and Shiites, together with units of anti-Yasir Arafat PLO factions, managed to reach the main coastal road near Kholde, cutting off the Christian Phalangist forces in Beirut from the south.

Druze leaders have reportedly assured Israel that they will abide by their verbal promise not to allow the PLO into the Shouf area they held. Nevertheless, the Druze have acknowledged that "some" PLO units were fighting alongside them, but said their number was small and they would withdraw when the present clashes end.

DULZIN SEEKING RADICAL CHANGES IN THE STRUCTURE OF THE WZO

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Feb. 15 (JTA) -- Leon Dulzin, chairman of the Jewish Agency and World Zionist Organization Executives, is pushing for radical changes in the structure of the WZO, providing for less politicization and a greater role for Zionists who are actually intent on making aliya.

Dulzin told reporters here this week that the changes, if realized, would be his "greatest achievement" as chairman of the organization.

He said there were think tanks in Israel, Europe, North America and South America, all considering the central problems of the Zionist structure and all working towards solutions that would revamp the movement as it approaches its centenary. Dulzin himself is serving as chairman of all four of these think tanks -- to give cohesion and continuity to their deliberations. He said he hoped there could be practical results within a year-and-a-half or two years -- well in time for the next Zionist congress.

Outlines Four Key Issues

He outlined four key issues:

*Membership of the WZO: It was widely agreed, he said, even by the political parties themselves, that membership ought not to be on the basis of party allegiance but on a personal basis. Anyone signing the Jerusalem Program ought to be able to become a member of his or her Zionist federation and of the World Zionist Organization.

*Realization movement: Since the Zionist idea had by now won the support of most of organized Jewry, it was necessary to establish a realization movement as an autonomous entity within the broader WZO. This would comprise people who were realistically planning their aliya. This movement would have a set percentage of the power and influence hitherto divided up between the Zionist political parties within the WZO.

That percentage, Dulzin said, would doubtless be a matter for negotiation. But he believed the principle of a realization movement with its own right to a place in the WZO sun was widely accepted.

*Democratization: In recent years, Dulzin said elections were often dispensed with in favor of coalitions and backroom arrangements. But this brought the WZO into disrepute and he sought greater popular democratization.

*Minimal Mitzvot: That is, practical commitments for those who were not contemplating aliya but nevertheless were members of the broader WZO and ought to be obliged to translate this membership into meaningful actions. Dulzin spoke of learning Hebrew and giving one's children a Jewish education as two prime examples of such minimal mitzvot.

Dulzin explained that these various reforms were hard to implement because at present the Zionist parties held all power in the WZO -- and the reforms basically called for a diminution of their power.

Similar ideas had been floated in the past, before Zionist Congresses, he noted, but they had always failed. This time the process had gotten under way in

the wake of the last Congress, and with plenty of time before pressures began building up prior to the next Congress. Dulzin was hopeful, therefore, that this time the process would indeed lead to major changes.

SHULTZ: 'SYRIAN-SPONSORED VIOLENCE' IS CAUSE OF WORSENING LEBANON CRISIS

By Helen Silver

WASHINGTON, Feb. 15 (JTA) -- Secretary of State George Shultz blamed "Syrian-sponsored violence" for the worsening crisis in Lebanon today, affirmed U.S. support for the May 17, 1983 Israel-Lebanon withdrawal and security agreement, and pledged continued U.S. "material support for the Lebanese armed forces as circumstances permit."

Shultz made his remarks at an unscheduled press conference at the State Department as reports from Lebanon indicated a worsening of the Lebanese army's position against Syrian-backed Druze and Shiite Moslem forces and the possibility that President Amin Gemayel may soon announce the abrogation of the May 17 accord as the price of Syrian cooperation toward national reconciliation in Lebanon.

"We continue to support the May 17 agreement," the Secretary of State stressed. "Those who would dispense with this agreement must bear the responsibility to find alternative formulas for Israel's withdrawal" from Lebanon, he said.

Reagan Plan Remains Most Hopeful Solution

With respect to the Middle East conflict as a whole, Shultz reiterated that President Reagan's September 1, 1982 peace formula based on Security Council Resolution 242 and the Camp David agreements "was and remains the most hopeful, workable and feasible approach to a solution to the Palestinian problem. There is no other approach that will get anywhere," Shultz said.

He added, "There is no military option. No other mediator has recovered one inch of Arab land," an apparent allusion to U.S. mediation of the 1979 peace treaty between Israel and Egypt and its mediation, through his own personal intervention in May, 1982 of the Israel-Lebanon withdrawal accord.

Policies Of Rejection, Violence Have Failed

Shultz also made it clear that there is no chance for Middle East peace without Arab acceptance of Israel. "The policies of rejection and violence have utterly failed," he said. "There is no possibility that groups refusing to accept the existence of Israel will ever achieve anything. Those who refuse to face this reality are helping perpetuate the explosive flow of current events. The absence of negotiations perpetuates injustice and anger. We believe it is time to move forward. President Reagan's commitment remains solid and the American people will wholeheartedly support progress toward peace."

Rejects U.S. Dialogue With PLO

Shultz was equally vehement in rejecting the idea of a U.S. dialogue with the Palestine Liberation Organization, urged yesterday by President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt in remarks following a luncheon meeting with President Reagan and King Hussein of Jordan at the White House.

"Conditions for any dialogue between the PLO and the United States have been very clearly stated many times," Shultz said. "The PLO should recognize Resolution 242 and should state its recognition of the

right of the State of Israel to exist and under those circumstances the U.S. will conduct discussions with the PLO."

Cites New Situation In Lebanon

Shultz acknowledged that the situation in Lebanon has deteriorated. "In Lebanon we face a new situation, brought about by military pressures against the legitimate government," he said. "This Syrian-sponsored violence against the government has presented us with difficult choices in view of the legislation and other constraints under which our forces are operating."

"We are, nonetheless, proceeding to provide material support for the Lebanese armed forces as circumstances permit to respond to those who attack or threaten the safety of our personnel and to redeploy our marine detachment on the ships. The longer term problems in Lebanon can only be solved by political means."

Shultz appeared lukewarm toward current French efforts to persuade the Security Council to send a United Nations force to Beirut to replace the multinational force presently consisting of American, French and Italian troops. (See Story, P.1.) "There is activity at the UN to agree on a UN role in Lebanon," Shultz said. "A UN presence would be useful throughout Lebanon, particularly for such purposes as protecting the Palestinian refugee camps. Beyond this, a significant UN role pre-supposes a return of stability, a balance of forces and some measure of political accord."

SHAMIR TO CONFER WITH EEC OFFICIALS IN BRUSSELS NEXT WEEK

By Edwin Eytan

PARIS, Feb. 15 (JTA) -- Premier Yitzhak Shamir of Israel is scheduled to arrive in Brussels on Sunday for a four-day visit, during which he will meet with the Foreign Ministers of the European Economic Community (EEC) and members of the EEC's governing council, according to Israeli diplomatic sources in Brussels.

They also said that Shamir plans to review with the 10 EEC member-states the measures they plan to take to protect Israeli exports to Western Europe after Spain and Portugal become full members of the EEC. The meeting between Shamir and the EEC officials is to take place within the framework of the joint EEC-Israel Commission which has not met since the summer of 1982.

The entry of Spain and Portugal into the European market would seriously hurt Israeli agricultural exports to Europe since it does not have the free tax status which Spain and Portugal will have with their entry into the EEC.

Shamir is also scheduled to discuss the situation in Lebanon with French Foreign Minister Claude Cheysson who is also the current president of the EEC's Council. He will be Cheysson's dinner guest at a banquet next Monday night.

On Wednesday, Shamir is scheduled to leave for Holland where he will first chair a conference of Israeli Ambassadors to Western Europe and later confer in the Hague with Dutch Premier Rudolph Lubbers. According to unconfirmed reports in both Belgium and Holland, Shamir might meet with King Baudouin and Queen Beatrix of Belgium.

REMINDER: There will be no Bulletin dated February 20, Washington's Birthday, a postal holiday.

SPECIAL ANALYSIS
THE KREMLIN TRANSITION:
WILL IT AFFECT SOVIET JEWRY?

By Dr. William Korey

(Part Two Of A Two Part Series)

(Editor's note: Dr. William Korey is the director of policy research of the B'nai B'rith International Council and an expert on Soviet policy and the situation of Soviet Jews.)

NEW YORK, Feb. 15 (JTA) — Another member of the top Soviet leadership merits special attention with respect to the Jewish question. He is Grigory Romanov, the Leningrad Communist Party boss, who catapulted into international attention by being asked to deliver the principal address on the anniversary of the Bolshevik Revolution last November.

Relatively young (60 years of age) as compared with the "Old Guard," he has amassed years of experience in the Party apparatus and is among the very few holding a position in both the Secretariat and Politburo. In addition, he is said to have close links with the military.

Romanov's views on ideological and cultural issues, as illustrated by his published speeches and articles, can be characterized as rigid conservatism with a strong nationalist tinge. This ideological outlook is often perfectly consonant with positions and actions he has taken on Soviet Jewry.

According to a prominent Soviet Jewish refusenik, Dr. Mikhail Agursky, Romanov, as the Leningrad Party boss, was instrumental in organizing the infamous "Leningrad trials" of 1970-71 which had severely sentenced Jews who had sought to emigrate. Agursky further notes that Romanov is the only Soviet leader to have publicly used the phrase, "international Zionism" which, in a Soviet context, carries a provocative character.

Leningrad Media Leading Fight Against Zionism

The Leningrad media, no doubt under Romanov's direction, has been in the forefront of the fight against "Zionism," in the assault upon Hebrew culture as allegedly subversive, and in the advocacy of the severance of relations between Soviet Jewry and Western Jewry. A two-part series in Leningradskaya Pravda, on April 20-21, 1983, written by B. Kravtsov, set the tone for a national Soviet effort which carried threatening implications for Soviet Jewry.

Strikingly — as noted by Agursky — Iosif Begun, the leader of the Jewish cultural movement, was arrested last year by the Leningrad KGB while visiting Leningrad, even though he lived near Moscow and, therefore, under ordinary circumstance, could not come under Leningrad's jurisdiction.

Equally disturbing, a principal monthly cultural journal of Leningrad, Neva, has become a major organ of vulgar anti-Semitic outpourings, often carrying the diatribes of the most notorious of official anti-Semites, Lev Korneyev. Typical is a long essay by Korneyev in Neva May, 1982 — "To Whom Is This Profitable?" — which echoes the major themes of the Protocols of the Elders of Zion:

Jews are charged with seeking or obtaining domination of the world, both in the past and the present through monopolistic control of banking. The Biblical "chosen people" concept, appropriately distorted, is seen as the driving force for Jewish economic and political aggression.

Last January, Neva carried an extraordinary Jew-baiting article, in the form of a letter, entitled "It Must Not be Kept Quiet." It demanded that the Soviet press and Soviet writers devote more time to a "drastic exposure concerning the counter-revolutionary role played by the Jewish bourgeoisie and its agents, the Zionists, in the years of the Civil War and World War II; their criminal connection with the Nazis and the Neo-Nazis, the Mafia and the Masons."

Especially criticized is the notion that "the Jews of the Russian Empire were oppressed more than any other ethnic group." In the author's view, this is a "stereotype" deliberately spread by "Zionist propaganda." The reality was declared to be quite different with one-fourth of Russian Jewry living outside the ghettos of the Jewish Pale of Settlement.

More significantly, among Russian Jewry of the Czarist Empire, "there was the biggest number of rich Jews" with the percentage of rich bourgeoisie among Jews exceeding the percentage of rich bourgeoisie Russians among Russians. The deliberate and distorted play with percentages was designed to evoke a negative anti-Jewish attitude.

The Jewish bourgeoisie were said to have held "the leading part" in sea transportation, oil, sugar, wholesale bread production, and banking. The author concluded his Orwellian version of history with the assertion that "talk about the poor, wretched Jews and of their misery at all times and in all lands" is only "Zionist propaganda."

Author Of Article Identified

The grotesque article was attributed to one "Solomon Verbitsky, Historian." The name is unknown to Western specialists on Soviet history. According to reported letters of some refuseniks, "Verbitsky" is none other than Korneyev. This is not unlikely. Some five years ago, the Soviet hateronger wrote a vitriolic anti-Semitic booklet, "The Sword of David," under the Jewish pseudonym, "Leo Karn."

The pamphlet, translated into English, was widely distributed at a Soviet space exhibit held at the Ontario Science Fair in Toronto. Only after Canadian authorities complained about the distribution of hate literature, did the Soviet embassy withdraw the offensive booklet.

The support and encouragement of Korneyev is clearly the responsibility of Grigory Romanov. It would be ironic and tragic were this Romanov, after the present transition period, to inherit the power and authority of earlier Czarist Romanovs, infamous protectors and abettors of anti-Semitism. For the present, Romanov remains a powerful force within the highest and tiny Soviet political elite. Close observation of his current and future role is indeed warranted.

TELAVIV (JTA) — The cost-of-living index rose by 14.9 percent in January, the highest increase ever for that month and several points above what the Treasury had expected. The announcement by the Central Bureau of Statistics Wednesday drew an immediate response from Histadrut Secretary General Yeruham Meshel, who predicted that if the index continues to rise at its present rate, inflation in 1984 will reach 429 percent. The c.o.l. index has risen by 208 percent over the past 12 months.