

PERES REAFFIRMS THE IDF WILL BE OUT OF MOST OF LEBANON WITHIN TWO MONTHS BY HUGH ORGEL

TEL AVIV, March 19 (JTA) -- Premier Shimon Peres repeated today that the Israel Defense Force would be out of "almost all of Lebanon" within two months. But Foreign Minister and Deputy Premier Yitzhak Shamir, just back from a 10-day visit to Belgium and Canada, said he knew nothing about any Cabinet decision to speed-up the withdrawal from Lebanon.

Peres told the CBS-TV "Face the Nation" interview program Sunday that the second stage of the IDF's withdrawal would be completed within 8-10 weeks. Today, he gave an audience of high school students in Ramle the same timetable.

Asked why the withdrawal was not being speeded-up, Peres said: "I know there is much talk about speeding up a debate on the withdrawal but a debate will not speed up the withdrawal ... I have already said that the IDF will be out of Lebanon within two months -- from eight to 10 weeks ... The speed of the withdrawal is due to purely operational considerations, not for any political reasons."

There has, in fact, been no Cabinet decision on the matter. Communications Minister Amnon Rubinstein of the Shinui faction said after Sunday's Cabinet meeting that he had formally submitted a proposal to combine the second and third stages of the withdrawal and he expected the Cabinet to debate it in two weeks, unless the ministers evolve a position on it sooner.

Shamir said he knew of no decision by the Cabinet or the Ministerial Defense Committee but that he would "look into it and make up my mind."

IDF Telescoping Withdrawal Stages

The IDF appears nevertheless to be telescoping the second and third stages of its withdrawal operation. According to some observers, by May or June there will be no IDF forces beyond the international border except for small groups of advisors and liaison officers with the Israel-backed South Lebanon Army (SLA).

Evidence that the withdrawal has been speeded up is the round-the-clock removal of IDF equipment from south Lebanon now underway. Army engineers are dismantling the expensive, sophisticated electronic and other systems along with conventional structures from mountain top listening and observation posts.

The operation is continuous, assisted during the night by powerful floodlights. The frigid cold and heavy snows that blanket the mountains have not turned out to be the obstacles they were expected to be.

Military sources confirmed this in the case of Mt. Barukh, the highest and most northerly IDF outpost in south Lebanon where, deep snow notwithstanding, equipment is being loaded on to heavy transport vehicles and removed down the winding, slippery roads.

The IDF, meanwhile, is continuing its almost daily searches of Shiite villages in the western sector of south Lebanon for weapons and suspected terrorists.

Many of these villages, east of Tyre, are believed to be bases for attacks on IDF and SLA units. Two Shiites were killed and a house was blown up in Maaroub village yesterday during a nine-hour IDF search. An army spokesman said the two villagers were shot while trying to evade the search. A spokesman for the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) said two bullet-riddled bodies were found near Maaroub and that the bodies of two other men, aged 21 and 70, were found on the outskirts of Dir Kanoun village. It was not known how they died.

IDF searches continued in Jibshit village where two Israeli soldiers were killed and five wounded in an ambush Sunday. UNIFIL spokesman Timor Goksell said IDF soldiers told French UNIFIL troops in Maaroub that they were looking for the local school director who they claimed is a known terrorist. They did not find him but they destroyed his father's house in the village, Goksell said.

Shamir, commenting on other matters, said he has heard nothing of proposals for a meeting in Washington between U.S. officials and a joint Jordanian-Palestine Liberation Organization delegation. He said he hoped such reports were untrue. "We are against any meetings between the U.S. and the PLO," he declared.

Asked about the meeting between Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and King Hussein of Jordan which began in Amman and shifted to Baghdad yesterday when the two Arab leaders flew there for talks with Iraqi officials, Shamir insisted that no meetings between Arab leaders will foster peace in the Middle East. "Only direct talks between Israel and Arab leaders can help bring about peace," he said.

REPORT EGYPT THREATENS URUGUAY OVER INTENTION TO MOVE EMBASSY TO JERUSALEM

NEW YORK, March 19 (JTA) -- Uruguay stands ready to move its Embassy in Israel to Jerusalem, the World Jewish Congress disclosed today, and American Jewish leaders told Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak during their meeting last week of their dissatisfaction with Egyptian efforts to block the move, the WJC further reported.

Uruguay, like the majority of nations having diplomatic relations with Israel, currently maintains its Embassy in Tel Aviv. Following the recent election of a democratic regime in Uruguay, the government privately indicated through diplomatic channels that it would soon transfer its Embassy to Jerusalem.

Last year, Costa Rica and El Salvador transferred their Embassies from Tel Aviv to the Israeli capital. At the time, the Egyptians responded sharply, first with warnings against the Embassy transfers and then with a break in diplomatic relations with each of the Central American countries.

According to a WJC spokesman, earlier this month the Uruguayan Ambassador in Cairo was summoned to the Egyptian Foreign Ministry where he was warned that the placement by Uruguay of its Embassy in Jerusalem would lead to a rupture of relations with Cairo. "During last week's meeting in Washington between President Mubarak and two dozen American Jewish leaders, the Egyptian President was asked to comment on this regrettable development," said Frieda Lewis, chairman of the WJC-American Section, who was at the meeting.

According to another participant, Mubarak sought to play down the incident and recalled the exchange of letters on the subject of Jerusalem between former Premier Menachem Begin and the late President Anwar Sadat. Mubarak said that the sensitivities of all parties regarding the Jerusalem issue had led the two former leaders to agree that the problem should be left for the end of the peace process. This, he said, accounted for the Egyptian response to any action which was seen as affecting the status of Jerusalem.

EXPLOSIVE CHARGE SAFELY DISMANTLED

TEL AVIV, March 19 (JTA) -- Police sappers safely dismantled an explosive charge found today on Levinsky Street, a commercial thoroughfare in the center of the city. A police patrol spotted the suspicious-looking parcel and summoned the bomb squad. A similar paper-wrapped parcel found nearby turned out to be a dud, intended as a decoy from the bomb.

10 ETHIOPIAN JEWS STUDYING AT TAU

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, March 19 (JTA) -- Ten Ethiopian Jews are now studying at Tel Aviv University after having attended special preparatory courses, and another 11 are now attending the pre-university "mehina" course to bring them up to the required standards.

The Ethiopian Jews began joining the special introductory courses for new immigrants and disadvantaged students three years ago and are reported to have picked up Hebrew and adjusted extremely well.

According to Roberta Goldstein, a vocational counselor in the Dean of Student's Office, they are highly motivated. "They have their hearts set on studying in Israel and show a great desire to succeed," Goldstein said.

"They learn Hebrew more quickly than most other immigrants and they study hard. And they are exceptionally motivated in what they do, despite the tragic background many come from, and the problem of integrating into a very different society."

ASSEMBLY OF YOUNG ISRAELIS AND AMERICAN JEWS DISCUSS ISSUE OF ISRAEL-DIASPORA JEWRY RELATIONS

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, March 19 (JTA) -- The perennial issue of relations between Israel and diaspora Jewry was one of the main themes of the second International Young Leadership Assembly convened at a tranquil retreat near Sdom on the Dead Sea.

The idea expressed by the young -- relatively -- spokespersons from Israel and the United States was to hold their dialogue in peaceful surroundings away from the clamor of everyday life and, symbolically, beyond the reach of the "Jewish establishments" of Israel and America.

But as Ehud Olmert, a young Likud Knesset member who delivered the opening speech to the Assembly, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, "One cannot avoid the Establishment altogether but the idea is to stay away from the political parties and that principle was observed."

The organizers of the assembly, most of whom could be described as the "social elite" of the Israeli and American Jewish communities, are by virtue of their own positions, representatives of the Establishment.

They received a \$35,000 grant from Jewish Agency chairman Leon Dulzin to cover the costs of the conference. They announced that next month they will hold the founding session of the "Israel Forum" that will consist of a 30-member council, an 11-member executive and a president—a model if there ever was one of an establishment organization.

The Israeli participants in the Assembly included prominent personalities such as singer Shlomo Artzi, poet Alma Elyagon, businessmen Yom Rosenfeld and David Kolitz and Iddo Disenchick, an editor of Maariv. Among the Americans were Steve Greenberg of New York, Carl Kaplan of Washington, Michael Adler of Miami, Brian Lurie of San Francisco and Marshal Breger, President Reagan's advisor on Jewish affairs.

Olmert spoke of the centrality of the State of Israel, of the need to end the imbalance in relations between Israel and the diaspora. The participants agreed there was a wide gap between the Israelis and Americans with respect to the future of the Jewish people.

'A New Generation Of Jews'

The Israelis see the ultimate solution for the Jewish people as immigration to Israel. The Americans insisted that the diaspora is a fact of life. Both groups agreed that on this crucial subject there is no agreement.

An Israeli speaker, Brig. Gen. (res.) Nehemya Dagan, a veteran Air Force pilot, recalled that visits to the Jewish communities in Australia and the United Kingdom convinced him that neither Israel nor the diaspora could exist without each other.

The Assembly originated when contacts were made by Israelis with a group of activists among the young leadership of the United Jewish Appeal. This led to the first Young Leadership Assembly in Israel. The participants in the second Assembly expressed hope that stronger ties will develop from personal contacts made, most important of all, the business contacts. Kolitz noted that several large-scale business transactions resulted from the first Assembly.

"It is a new generation of Jews," said Olmert describing the gathering. "The older generation on both sides of the ocean is gradually leaving the scene and these people will eventually lead the Jewish people."

GREEN PARTY FACTION DECIDES TO ENDORSE MEMORIAL TO HOLOCAUST VICTIMS

By David Kantor

BONN, March 19 (JTA) -- The Green Party faction in the City Council of Bonn, in a surprise reversal, has agreed to join a local association formed to resist anti-Semitism and anti-Zionism and to erect a memorial here to Bonn Jews who perished in the Holocaust.

But the national organization of the Green Party, an opposition party in the Bundestag, is standing by its original refusal to endorse the memorial. The reason, according to observers, is that the Greens are loath to align themselves with a group fighting anti-Zionism in the Federal Republic. Several influential party leaders have gone on record as being anti-Zionist although they insist they are not anti-Semitic.

The Bonn chapter of the Green Party took the same position. The Association, comprised mainly of Jews, has been in the forefront of the campaign to erect the memorial on the site of the former Bonn synagogue. There has been resistance on the part of local authorities who would prefer to use the site as a parking lot. The Jewish community told the Greens that only if they

join the association could the project be advanced. In the aftermath of the Green Party's decision to join, its representatives will meet with Jewish community leaders here later this week to discuss the Green's attitude toward Israel.

SHAMIR: CURING ISRAEL'S ECONOMY

IS THE GOVERNMENT'S CHIEF TASK

By Janice Arnold

MONTREAL, March 19 (JTA) — Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir told an audience of Canadian Jews here that curing Israel's economy is the "most important task on the agenda" of the national unity government in Jerusalem and that if diaspora Jews cannot help Israel by aliya, they should help it by trade and investment.

Shamir, who is also Israel's Deputy Premier, spoke to some 500 persons at a community rally sponsored by seven major Canadian Jewish organizations at Congregation Shaar Hashomayim. It was one of the major events of his six-day official visit to Canada.

Shamir stressed that Israel cannot be secure unless its economy is healthy. The trade deficit, he said, is especially dangerous, even more than galloping inflation. "We are asking our people to make sacrifices in their salaries and are cutting subsidies on many commodities but it is not yet enough. It is imperative that we increase our exports," Shamir said.

In that connection he urged all Jewish businessmen to do business with Israel wherever possible. "Today the most important mission of every Jewish businessman is to participate in this effort to increase Israeli exports to all international markets," Shamir said.

He also said that unemployment in Israel, which now stands at seven percent, is at "an intolerable level" by the standards of the Jewish State. "We cannot tolerate unemployment if we want to remain a country that can absorb immigrants."

Shamir observed that Israel is "still in the process of building a unified nation. There cannot be weaker and stronger categories of people" in Israeli society, he said. He emphasized the need for more immigrants, especially Jews from the Free World.

CHARLES OLSHANSKY DEAD AT 72

NEWPORT NEWS, Va., March 19 (JTA) — Charles Olshansky, a civic and Jewish community leader on the Peninsula, died last Friday in Medical College of Virginia Hospital in Richmond. He was 72 years old. Olshansky served as the first director of the Jewish Community Center and Federation (now the United Jewish Community of the Virginia Peninsula) for more than 35 years until his retirement in 1975. He was a member of Rodef Shalom Temple in Hampton.

He came to the Peninsula in 1941 to serve as director of the USO, developing programs for the thousands of soldiers and sailors who served at area military installations in World War II. He worked with the USO in Puerto Rico in 1944-45.

He served as president of the Virginia Association of Social Workers, vice president of the Middle Atlantic Section of the National Association Jewish Center, board member of Retired Seniors Volunteer Program (RSVP) for 11 years, board member of Beth Shalom Home of Eastern Virginia and a member of the board of directors of Newport News Girls Club. He served as program coordinator of the Peninsula Agency on Aging until his death.

Olshansky was involved in the civil rights movement on the Peninsula during the 1960's. Along with student leaders from Hampton Institute and the management of the former Nachman's department store in Newport News, Olshansky was instrumental in negotiating the integration of the lunch counter at Nachman's.

He was a recipient of the Brotherhood Citation of the National Conference of Christians of Jews in 1981, and was recently made Executive Director Emeritus of the United Jewish Community. The UJC named a Humanitarian Award in his honor.

PRESIDENT OF COSTA RICA GETS 1985 WJC HUMAN RIGHTS AWARD

SAN JOSE, Costa Rica, March 19 (JTA) — Luis Alberto Monge, the President of Costa Rica, was presented with the 1985 Human Rights Award of the World Jewish Congress' Latin American branch at the National Theater here last week. He was the 19th recipient of the award, presented annually since 1966 for distinguished service in the struggle for human rights.

Monge, in his acceptance speech to an audience of Cabinet ministers, members of Parliament and the Judiciary, the diplomatic corps, prominent intellectuals and Jewish leaders from Costa Rica and abroad, asserted that his defense of human rights was a duty, synonymous with his country's traditions and history.

Costa Rica, under Monge's administration, was the first Latin American country to move its Embassy in Israel from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. Referring to that move Monge said it was an act of sovereignty, not a sign of hostility toward the Arabs "whom we love as all people."

He said it was "evidence of our right to decide where our Embassies are situated. We never changed our way under pressure. Costa Rica well knows its destiny," the President said.

The award was presented to Monge by Manuel Tenenbaum, director of the WJC's Latin American branch, who flew here from Buenos Aires for the occasion. Tenenbaum said the selection of Monge to receive the award should be seen as homage paid by Latin American Jewry to Costa Rica and their recognition of Monge's stature.

The award ceremonies were presided over by Gustavo Pfiffer, president of the local Jewish community.

EGYPTIAN OFFICIAL SAYS ISRAELI KNOW-HOW AIDING JOINT PROJECT FOR THE STUDY OF ARID ZONES

TEL AVIV, March 19 (JTA) — An Egyptian official has credited Israel with helping his country develop a tomato that can be irrigated with brackish-saline water. "Egypt receives much Israeli know-how within the framework of our joint project for the study of arid zones," Mohammed Dasouki, First Undersecretary of the Egyptian Ministry of Agriculture, told a press conference in Beersheba.

Dasouki, an agronomist, heads a 12-member Egyptian delegation of scientists on their first official visit to Israel in connection with a joint research project on arid zones. About 90 percent of Egypt and 60 percent of Israel are arid.

The project began in 1982 with funds provided by the U.S. Agency for International Development (AID) and the San Diego-based Hansen Foundation for Peace. Ben Gurion University of the Negev in Beersheba is the major center for arid zone research. Originally intended to last five years, the joint project is expected to be extended for another three years.

**SPECIAL TO THE JTA
TAPUZ IS MORE THAN AN ORANGE**
By Daniella Niv

JERUSALEM, March 19 (JTA) — "Tapuz" means "orange" to Israelis, but for thousands of Latin American youngsters, it means an exciting way to experience Israel.

The program called Tapuz began during the 1973 Yom Kippur War, when the massive call-up created a manpower shortage. Brazilian teenagers came to help out and picked oranges on the mainly Brazilian kibbutz of Brur Hayil in the western Negev. That group has been followed by many more in what has become probably the most popular program for youngsters.

Today they no longer only pick oranges. The two-month program combines a few weeks of kibbutz life with trips around the country and informative seminars.

Ariel Wagner, a 26-year-old school teacher from Buenos Aires, came to Israel recently in charge of a Tapuz group from his home city. "I view Tapuz as a strengthening link between the Jewish communities in the diaspora and their history, the roots," he said in an interview with the Jewish Telegraphic Agency. "Coming to Israel, learning about the country's history and getting to know it as it is today strengthens our sense of belonging."

Getting To Know Israel

Some 1,600 young adults come annually from Argentina, Brazil and nine other countries to spend their summer vacation in Israel. Most of the Tapuz groups come from southern hemisphere countries and spend January and February in Israel. Groups from northern hemisphere countries — Mexico, Venezuela and Spain — come during July and August.

For many it is their first visit to Israel. They become acquainted with Israeli life-styles and with specific problems related to Israel's society, culture and political structure. They spend 40 days on a kibbutz, working in the mornings and attending educational programs in the afternoons. They learn about Israel's political parties, about the country's absorption problems and about the nation's history.

A weekend spent with a family on a moshav and another weekend hosted by an Israeli youth movement give the youngsters a taste of other Israeli life-styles — outside the kibbutz.

From A Visit To Aliya

Silvio Blau, 26, from Uruguay lives in Jerusalem and is about to complete his Israel Defense Force service. His first trip to Israel was on a Tapuz program at the age of 16. Three years later he made aliya.

"I decided to come to live in Israel when I was 18, but the idea was put in my mind during my first encounter with the kibbutz," said Blau. "That was the first time I worked in agriculture, and my decision to make aliya was bound with a desire to build a new agricultural settlement."

"That experience in the kibbutz changed my life," he added. "I took a B.Sc. degree in agriculture with that goal in mind before I joined the army. I suppose you could really call me one of Tapuz's success stories."

Wagner, currently in Kibbutz Lohamei Hageta'ot in the western Galilee with his group, said: "For most of my group, who attend non-Jewish

schools and do not belong to any other Jewish framework, this is the first contact with Zionism. We try to show them the real Israel, rather than present a rosy picture that doesn't stand up to the test of reality."

He described a typical educational session. "Everybody acted the role of a political figure or party. We discussed the way the coalition was formed and the interactions and the balance of power between the various parties. Then we tried to form our own coalition," said Wagner. "We ended up with a national unity government."

Strengthening Diaspora-Israeli Ties

Bemmy Richter, head of the Tapuz project at the Jewish Agency's settlement and absorption department, affirmed that strengthening ties between diaspora communities and Israel is one of the goals. "We have devised a special Tapuz program, called Tapuz Hadracha, for youngsters who plan to become active in their Jewish communities upon their return home," he said.

The program is similar to the regular Tapuz trip, with a shift in the emphasis from kibbutz life to educational seminars. The time spent on a kibbutz is halved, and instead the teenagers attend more intensive seminars. They also receive training in Jewish and Zionist education.

Pauline Benvenoti, 17, from Mar del Plata in Argentina, is on the special Tapuz program for young instructors. She said she planned to continue her work with young teenagers at her Temple community after returning to Argentina at the end of last month.

"Before I came I used to draw material out of books on Israel and magazines, in order to discuss the issues with my pupils. Now I will be able to draw from my own experiences. I hope I will be able to make the issues come more alive," she said.

Varied Tapuz Programs

Since 1973, Tapuz has grown rapidly. In addition to the regular program and Tapuz Hadracha, there are a few more variations on the theme.

The university Tapuz program is for those thinking of studying for an academic degree in Israel. In addition to a month of kibbutz life, the group is taken around the country's institutes of higher learning.

A three-week Tapuz program providing training for community center directors, and a month-long trip for dance troupes who perform and learn new folk dances in Israel, complete the repertoire.

Richter believes that they have a formula that cannot fail. "Just as they are at the peak of the excitement, we board them on the planes and send them back home," he said.

SHULTZ NAMES KOREY TO SPECIAL COMMITTEE

WASHINGTON, March 19 (JTA) — Secretary of State George Shultz has appointed B'nai B'rith International executive William Korey to a special committee to assess changes in policy by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). The United States withdrew from UNESCO last January after failing to persuade UNESCO's director general, Amado Mahtar M'Bow, to make major revisions in its policies. Korey, who is director of policy research for the International Council of B'nai B'rith, is the only representative of any Jewish organization on the 10-member committee.