

# **DEMANDS MOUNT FOR OFFICIAL PROBE INTO LEBANON WAR FOLLOWING DISCLOSURE OF SHARON'S PLANS TO INVADE LEBANON SIX MONTHS BEFORE INQUIRY OCCURRED**

By David Landau (Jerusalem)  
and Judith Kohn (Washington)

May 27 (JTA) — Demands for an official inquiry into the Lebanon war mounted over the weekend following U.S. Ambassador Samuel Lewis' assertion that Ariel Sharon disclosed plans for the Israel Defense Force to invade Lebanon to special U.S. Middle East envoy Philip Habib on December 4, 1981 when Sharon was Defense Minister. The invasion occurred six months later, at the beginning of June, 1982.

Sharon, now Minister of Commerce and Industry, denounced Lewis' version of the meeting with Habib as "a gross lie." But the State Department, after first refusing to comment, confirmed on Friday that the Lewis account was accurate.

The Department's deputy spokesman, Edward Djerejian, responding to a question, declared in a prepared statement, "We can confirm that Ambassador Lewis has described the United States' position on this matter with complete accuracy. We strongly object to any suggestion to the contrary."

Djerejian did not say whether the Administration at the time had voiced any objections to the Sharon plan or whether it had consulted with Israeli government officials other than Sharon about the possibility of the plan being implemented. But the spokesman's emphasis on Sharon's role at the time as Defense Minister, appeared to suggest that U.S. diplomatic exchanges on the matter did not initially extend beyond Sharon.

"I think we all have to remember that Mr. Sharon was at the time the Minister of Defense of the Israeli government; to wit, we were talking with the Israeli government, in the person of its Minister of Defense," Djerejian said. He added that Habib, then President Reagan's special emissary to the Middle East, "expressed the United States government's views fully to the government of Israel, and we continue to do so."

## **Lewis Offers His Version**

Lewis, who ends his eight year tour of duty as U.S. Ambassador to Israel this week, disclosed the Sharon-Habib conversation in an interview broadcast on Israel television last Thursday. He said:

"Minister Sharon described in some hypothetical detail the concept for what ultimately I guess was called 'Big Pines.' Habib was, as I was and others of us were, rather dumbfounded by the audacity and the political concept that this seemed to involve. And Habib reacted at that point very vehemently... He made it extraordinarily clear to Sharon that this was an unthinkable proposition as far as the U.S. government was concerned."

"Big Pines" was the code name for the IDF's invasion of Lebanon, its drive to Beirut and its goal of destroying the Palestine Liberation Organization in Lebanon, driving out or forcing the Syrian army

to pull out of Lebanon and setting up in Beirut a Lebanese Christian government friendly to Israel. This so-called "master plan" has long been attributed to Sharon and he has been accused in fact of withholding details of the operation and its ultimate objectives from other Cabinet ministers at the time. His conversation with Habib was reported in detail by Zeev Schiff, military editor of Haaretz, and Ehud Yaari, Arab affairs correspondent for Israel television in their book, "Israel's Lebanon War."

Ambassador Lewis was the first American diplomat to confirm that Sharon had in fact outlined his plans to Habib long before the invasion. According to the writers, Sharon maintained that the Americans would have to make peace with the idea that nothing could stop Israel from carrying out its aims in Lebanon and that the U.S. would become reconciled to it and reap its own benefits from the Israeli action.

## **Sharon Issues Denunciation**

Sharon's immediate reaction to Lewis' disclosure was an angry attack on the outgoing American envoy who he held responsible, along with Habib and Habib's aide, Morris Draper, for the ultimate failure of Israeli ambitions and American policy in Lebanon.

The newspaper Yedioth Achronot last Thursday quoted Sharon as saying: "It's too bad that in his final appearance the American Ambassador didn't feel the need to tell the truth and express remorse over the fact that he together with Philip Habib and Draper here and (former Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs Nicholas) Veliotes in Washington, were the cornerstones of the failure in Lebanon."

Sharon added, according to the newspaper, "High-ranking figures have already expressed themselves concerning the American failures in Lebanon, of which Ambassador Lewis was the main architect. It's too bad that Lewis didn't understand the damage he caused by his actions and his unreliable reports to Washington. If he had acted more responsibly, and had not misled President Reagan in his reports, it's possible that the situation in Lebanon today would be different."

## **'A War That Was Just Waiting To Happen'**

In his television interview, Lewis said that early in 1982 he and other officials at the U.S. Embassy in Tel Aviv saw Israel's intentions toward Lebanon as "a war that was just waiting to happen" and that he repeatedly informed the Administration of this. He said the possibility of an IDF drive to Beirut came up on one later occasion, in May 1982 during a meeting in Washington between Sharon and then Secretary of State Alexander Haig.

Lewis referred to the description of that conversation in Haig's book, "Caveat". Haig told the Israeli defense chief that while no country could dictate how another country should act, Israel should be certain before it moved that its actions were "commensurate in the eyes of the international community with the threat" posed to Israel from Lebanon.

The newspaper Davar, organ of the Labor Party, published a document Friday on Sharon's talk with Habib. According to Davar, Sharon discussed the dangers of

the situation in Lebanon and purported PLO violations of a cease-fire agreement reached in July, 1981

Then, according to Davar's document, Sharon discussed plans to invade Lebanon as far as Beirut -- an invasion carried out six months later -- and reportedly told Habib that the PLO and the Syrian army must be ousted from Lebanon if that country were to be free.

#### Possible Confirmation of Charges

The Davar report, if true, confirms the charges by many in Israel and the U.S. that Sharon was planning the large-scale invasion of Lebanon at a time the PLO was in fact abiding by the cease-fire.

It also suggests that the main target of the invasion was the Palestinian population on the West Bank which would have been rendered docile as an indirect result of the destruction of the PLO in Lebanon. Sharon's plans also called for handing over 100,000 Palestinian refugees in Lebanon to the Lebanese authorities, according to the Davar document.

The invasion of Lebanon, launched by the IDF on June 6, 1982, was officially called "Operation Peace for Galilee." The Likud-led government of Premier Menachem Begin insisted that its objectives were limited to driving the PLO beyond a 25-mile zone in south Lebanon, out of rocket and artillery range of Israeli border towns.

The Lebanon war cost Israel 650 dead and some 4,000 wounded from its outset until recent weeks. The IDF is now in the final stage of withdrawing entirely from Lebanese soil and is expected to be back behind the international border early next month. As the withdrawal progressed, demands rose from many quarters for an inquiry into the planning and conduct of the war and these centered on Sharon who played the key role.

But Premier Shimon Peres had publicly opposed an inquiry which would almost certainly bring down the shaky Labor-Likud government, a partnership of convenience established last September to deal with the nation's ongoing economic crisis.

#### CAMPAIGN UNDER WAY TO INTRODUCE DEATH PENALTY FOR TERRORISTS

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, May 27 (JTA) -- Demands for the death penalty for terrorists by Jewish settlers in the West Bank got strong backing from a Likud Cabinet minister over the weekend as controversy continued to rage over last week's prisoner exchange.

Minister of Tourism Avraham Shari' has begun canvassing his colleagues in a campaign to introduce the death penalty for terrorists. Israel law does not provide the death penalty and terrorists convicted of murder, including many of those released in the exchange, are given life sentences.

Jewish militants in the West Bank, meanwhile, succeeded in forcing at least two of the terrorists released in the exchange to abandon their homes in the territory and take refuge in Jordan. Of the 1,150 Palestinians freed last Monday in return for three Israeli soldiers captured in Lebanon, 600 were permitted to return to their homes in the West Bank, Gaza and in Israel. The settlers are demanding that every one of them be expelled.

Two of the latter, convicted of murdering David Rosenfeld at an archaeological site at Herodion three years ago, were literally driven from their homes in the Bedouin village of Faradis. They decided to leave after several nights of harassment by Jew-

ish settlers which involved smashing windows, smearing red paint on the doorstep of one home and threats. Residents of Tekoa, where the murder victim had lived, expressed satisfaction that the two decided to leave. A third person involved in Rosenfeld's murder could not be found at his home. But it is not certain he has left the territory.

#### New Terrorist Unit Broken Up

Some of the cells made vacant by the prisoner exchange have been filled again. An army spokesman announced Friday that security forces broke up a new terrorist cell operating in the Ramallah area. Its members are suspected of, among other things, the murder of an Israeli soldier, Aharon Avidar, while he stood guard outside a government building in the West Bank town of El Bireh last February 4.

One member of the Ramallah cell reportedly confessed to shooting Avidar with a 22 mm. pistol which has been recovered. About 30 members of the cell were arrested for questioning. Israeli forces destroyed five houses belonging to gang members, four in Saffa village and one in Beit-Chor A-Tachta. Both villages were placed under curfew.

Military sources were quoted as saying they regarded recent terrorist activities in the territories as "very grave" and promised to "react quickly and harshly." They were referring to the spate of attacks on Jewish buses on the Jerusalem-Hebron road and the murder of a Jewish settler, Zalman Obolnik, in the Ramallah vegetable market in April which may have been committed by Avidar's killers.

Tensions in the West Bank continued high. Yeshiva students at Joseph's Tomb in Nablus blocked the road last Thursday after complaining of stone-throwing. Police ordered the students to disperse.

#### Controversy Over Amnesty

Controversy is also continuing over demands by settlers and rightwing and religious elements for an amnesty for the 26 alleged members of a Jewish terrorist underground now on trial or serving sentences for acts of violence against Arab civilians in the West Bank. Justice Minister Moshe Nissim said Friday that he didn't think these demands constituted political interference in the judicial system. (Related story, P.3.)

#### FIRST WOMAN RABBI IN ISRAEL IS PERFORMING CONGREGATIONAL DUTIES

TEL AVIV, May 27 (JTA) -- The first woman rabbi in Israel -- Kinneret Shirion -- is performing congregational duties for the Reform movement's Community Synagogue in Ramat Aviv, a Tel Aviv suburb, but she is doing so without recognition from the Orthodox rabbinical establishment, which is a government agency.

The Israel Movement for Progressive Judaism said that Shirion, 30, was ordained by the New York branch of the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institution of Religion in 1981 and served as a pulpit rabbi in Adelaide, Australia and in Wilton, Conn. before coming to Israel in 1983.

Shirion is married to an Israeli scriptwriter. The couple has a two-year-old daughter.

The Israeli state rabbinate does not recognize any non-Orthodox movement or its rabbis. Those rabbis do not have authority to perform marriages or officiate at burials which are owned or controlled by the Orthodox Hевра Kadisha Burial Societies.

Both the Conservative and Reform movements have established offices in Jerusalem, building synagogues, schools and kibbutzim. Backed by their world movements, the non-Orthodox groups in Israel are fighting with mounting persistence for full recognition.

## KNESSET TACKLES VOLATILE ISSUES

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, May 27 (JTA) — A Knesset debate over last week's controversial prisoner exchange was suspended after two hours today as MKs of the Labor-Likud unity coalition opened discussion of two crucial agenda items — release of alleged Jewish terrorists on trial or convicted for acts of violence against Arab civilians and demands for an official inquiry into the Lebanon war.

As those volatile issues were taken up, several thousand persons demonstrated outside the Knesset in favor of a pardon for the Jewish defendants. They heckled Likud speakers who support their cause, noting that the Jewish suspects were arrested when Israel was still governed by the Likud-led coalition headed by Premier Yitzhak Shamir.

A short distance away, Labor Zionist youth movements conducted a counter-demonstration demanding no amnesty for the alleged Jewish terrorists. But the opposite view was expressed today by Ashkenazic Chief Rabbi Avraham Shapiro who maintained that the prisoner exchange established new norms of justice and law in the country which had to be corrected by the release of the Jewish detainees.

On May 20, Israel released 1,150 Palestinian terrorists, many of them serving life sentences for murder, in exchange for three Israeli soldiers held captive for nearly three years in Damascus by a terrorist group, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command, headed by Ahmed Jabril.

The lopsided nature of the exchange and the fact that 600 of the freed terrorists were allowed to return to their homes in the West Bank, Gaza and Israel, raised storms of protest among Jewish settlers in the territories along with demands for the immediate release of the Jews facing trial or serving sentences for alleged terrorist acts.

The prisoner exchange was also criticized by many moderates, far removed politically and ideologically from the Jewish militants in the West Bank.

### Rabin Defends Prisoner Exchange

Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin has borne the brunt of this criticism which centers around the fact that Israel, after prolonged negotiations through third parties, acquiesced to the terms of Jabril, a terrorist leader considered more extreme and radical than Palestine Liberation Organization chief Yasir Arafat.

Rabin defended the prisoner exchange in the Knesset today. He stressed that the government—the Labor-Likud coalition — had acted in accordance with principles and norms adopted by previous governments. It was the Likud government of Premier Menachem Begin which released some 3,000 prisoners from the Ansar detention camp in south Lebanon in November, 1983, in exchange for six Israeli soldiers held by the PLO.

Rabin said the absence of military options to rescue the three soldiers gave the government no choice but to take the hard decision it took. There may have been differences in the ratio of Palestinians to Israelis in the exchange, Rabin said, but the government could not escape from its responsibility toward its citizens, especially its soldiers who were sent into combat by the State.

Rabin was frequently interrupted by Likud MKs who asked, "Is any price the right price to pay?" Labor MKs retorted, "And you are not partners in the government?"

In the debate that followed Rabin's statement, Mapam MK Elazar Granot accused Deputy Premier Yitzhak Shamir, the Likud leader, of blackmail for backing demands for release of the alleged Jewish terrorists. Shamir threw the first rock at the democratic system in Israel, Granot charged. He urged Labor to quit the unity government.

Yoram Aridor of Likud, a former Finance Minister, sharply criticized the prisoner exchange. Hard decisions must be taken, he said, but they must be taken wisely. Addressing Rabin, he declared, "You were wrong when you accepted Jabril's conditions." He proposed that the released Palestinians who posed a threat to security be deported.

Labor MK Ora Namir said it was obvious that the Knesset debate was called to prepare the ground for the release of Jewish terrorist defendants. Yuval Neeman of Tehiya said the State was in the process of deterioration and it was time to stop it by limiting the powers of the government.

### Warns Against Jewish Vigilantism

During the coalition caucus which followed the debate, Premier Shimon Peres said he too was troubled when he saw Arabs rejoicing over the release of murderers. But, he warned, this does not justify Jewish vigilantism. "No one in Judaea and Samaria will take the law into his own hands," he said with reference to the Jews accused of violence against Arabs.

He said it was agreed that legal proceedings were solely in the hands of the Attorney General and the granting of amnesty was the prerogative of the President in consultation with the Justice Minister.

Peres continued to oppose an inquiry into the Lebanon war. He said that in the present circumstances this was not a crucial issue. Likud has made it clear that such an inquiry would bring down the unity coalition. But Raffi Eder, chairman of the Labor Knesset faction, warned that the coalition could not dictate a decision to the faction on this matter.

### GENEALOGY CENTER AT GOLDMANN MUSEUM

TEL AVIV, May 27 (JTA) — Starting next month, Jews from anywhere in the world may press a button and their family tree will materialize on a video screen along with biographical data on their ancestors. This will be possible when the new Genealogy Center opens at Beth Hatefutsoth, the Nahum Goldmann Museum of the Jewish Diaspora, on the Tel Aviv University campus. For a small fee, Jewish families will be able to record or trace their family histories stored in computers.

According to the museum, any family tree going back at least five generations and with 50 members may be entered into the computer. The computer terminals are capable of displaying colored graphics in two formats: a biographical summary of each family member; and three-generation charts centered on one family member, showing his or her relationship to immediate relatives.

The Genealogy Center owes its existence largely to the efforts of Dr. Douglas Goldman of San Francisco in whose honor it is named. Douglas, in tracing his own family tree, found it included such persons as Levi Strauss who created and sold blue jeans, known as levis, in the American Old West; and Katharine Meyer Graham, publisher of The Washington Post.

## BEHIND THE HEADLINES CHILD ABUSE IN ISRAEL

By Aviva Cantor

NEW YORK, May 27 (JTA) -- The physical abuse of children in Israel claims thousands of victims each year, according to a professor of social work at Tel Aviv University. This has only been recognized as a social problem in the past five years. Awareness of the phenomenon of sexual abuse of children has only begun as recently as six months ago, and the number of victims are difficult to obtain, Prof. Hanita Zimrin said.

The creation of consciousness of the problem of child abuse is the goal of ELI, the Israeli Association of Child Protection, founded in 1979 by Zimrin. Interviewed while on sabbatical in the U.S., Zimrin told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that child abuse in Israel derives mainly from the Jewish State's having become a "normal" society, with all its attendant problems, and not, as many suppose, from tensions arising out of the ongoing war situation.

"Normal," in this context, means multi-generational, as contrasted with the pre-state Yishuv (Jewish community), which was composed largely of childless young adults. It also means nuclear families with a division of labor assigning one parent the sole responsibility for socializing the child. Another key factor is isolation: "an abusive family is an isolated family," Zimrin said.

Zimrin's research, conducted over the past 15 years, has revealed that the parent who is burdened with the sole responsibility for socializing the child, is usually the abuser. "Among the Jewish population in Israel, it is the mothers who are usually the physical abusers," said Zimrin. Fifty percent of the victims of such physical abuse -- beating, burning, gross neglect -- are under six months of age.

In the Arab population, it is the father who is the abuser in these cases, with abuse occurring after a child is over seven. That age is when the father assumes responsibility for the child's socialization.

### Less Physical Abuse Among the Orthodox

There is much less physical abuse reported among the Orthodox population, said Zimrin. The reasons are that Orthodox Jews are still living "as extended families with good family ties." While the mother is still responsible for the child's socialization, she is not isolated and she has a good support system.

This pattern also ensures a control system -- making it easy for abuse to be recognized should it occur -- and stopped. A similar "control" system exists on the kibbutz -- where, in addition, the mother is not assigned sole responsibility for the child's discipline and education.

The only situation where abuse is more frequent in Orthodox families, Zimrin said, is the case of mentally handicapped children, who are often seen as reducing their siblings' chances of a good match.

### Abuse Not Confined To Lower Classes

Child abuse is not confined to the lower classes -- "this is a myth," said Zimrin. Part of the reason for the large number of cases in the lower classes is that they are exposed to social services, and more cases get reported. Upper class families are also "more sophisticated" and know how to "tell the right stories."

It is because many Sephardic Jews are in the lower classes that there seem to be more cases of child

abuse among them, "but this perception is wrong," said Zimrin. While there exists more corporal punishment among the Sephardim, this is not the same as physical abuse.

### Existence Of Sexual Abuse

Awareness of the existence of sexual abuse of children is only beginning in Israel, she said. "People say it doesn't exist, just like they said about physical abuse five, ten fifteen years ago." The Ministry of Welfare could not even give her a figure on the number of such cases.

The youngest victim she knows of was two-and-a-half years old. "It is one child, usually a daughter, who is the victim," Zimrin said. "When she grows up, her sister replaces her." Often the mother colludes in this family pathology.

In cases of sexual abuse, there are more reports coming directly from children of upper classes. Zimrin believes this is because they feel more able to take control of their lives than do poor children.

After a case gets reported, welfare officers from the Department of Welfare can apply the "Youth Care and Protection Act" and even take the parents to court. The officer can act as the child's guardian within the family or have the child removed from the home for up to three years. In the case of sexual abuse the perpetrators can be imprisoned.

Children are not required to testify in court, a unique and humane Israeli innovation. The juvenile interrogator who takes down their testimony can act as surrogate for the child and be cross-examined in her or his place. "The child is not abused by the court system," said Zimrin.

What is missing is a shelter/crisis intervention center where a child can be taken to by a welfare officer in case of emergency. ELI hopes to create such a shelter. There is also no program of psychological treatment for abused children -- it is a hit-or-miss affair depending on individual case workers. Zimrin is working on a comprehensive community plan to ensure such treatment for the children.

### The Role Of ELI

ELI, which Zimrin chairs, follows up on reports of welfare officers; assists social work professionals in their work, and does intensive outreach to various groups in society: parents, children, youth movements, the government, professionals in schools and hospitals, and the general public. Its aim is to enable people to identify child abuse and know what to do about it.

The organization, which is non-profit, is also putting in its first hot-line, and has publicized the slogan, "Lift the phone before you lift your hand."

ELI receives no government funding and is an almost entirely volunteer operation. Zimrin is a volunteer as are social workers, psychologists and other professionals. Only two part-time social workers and a secretary get paid. ELI's street address is, appropriately, Hamagimim (the protectors) 60, in Herzliya. (Phone: 052-70974).

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TEL AVIV (JTA) -- The final count in the voting in the Histadrut elections on May 13 gave the Labor Alignment 69.3%, Likud 23.5%, Hadash (Communist) Party 4.5%, and the Citizens Rights Party 2.3%. Earlier partial counts gave the Alignment 66.7%, Likud 21.4%, Hadash 4.1%, and Citizens Rights Party 2.7%. Slightly more than 56% of the eligible voters cast their ballots.