

ISRAEL NOT YET READY TO GIVE UP SECURITY ZONE IN SOUTHERN LEBANON

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, July 7 (JTA) -- Israel says it has no intention of giving up the security zone it established in southern Lebanon in 1985, despite the Lebanese regular army's apparent success in disarming guerrilla groups threatening the security of Israel's northern border.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir stated flatly Sunday that Israel would remain in southern Lebanon as long as the region continues to serve as "a base for anti-Israel terrorists."

Foreign Minister David Levy said it is too early for Israel to make any changes in its security arrangements in southern Lebanon.

Defense Minister Moshe Arens dismissed press reports that Israel would consider withdrawal from all of southern Lebanon if Syria, which influences the Beirut government, put an end to attacks on Israel from Lebanese soil.

Lebanese government troops have now taken over the last positions held by the Palestine Liberation Organization in Sidon, a port in southern Lebanon that has not been under Beirut's control since civil war erupted 16 years ago.

After heavy fighting last week, the Lebanese army established positions controlling access to and from the two big Palestinian refugee camps that were the PLO strongholds in the region.

The Palestinians removed their weapons from the area and, according to reports quoting PLO chief Yasir Arafat in Tunis, are cooperating fully with the Lebanese government.

As far as Beirut is concerned, the altered conditions in the south make it unnecessary for Israel to maintain the 6-mile-wide, 50-mile long buffer zone on Lebanese soil, which it has claimed is essential to the security of its settlements in Upper Galilee.

The security zone is patrolled by the South Lebanon Army, a largely Lebanese Christian militia trained, equipped and financed by the Israel Defense Force. The IDF exercises freedom of movement within the zone and north of it.

Syrian Withdrawal A Condition

Danny Naveh, Arens' personal spokesman, said Israel has paid in blood for the security of its northern region and would make no move that could jeopardize its citizens' safety.

But Foreign Minister Levy implied that Israel might withdraw if certain conditions are met. According to Levy, those conditions would include direct peace talks with Lebanon and the withdrawal of all foreign forces from that country.

Apart from Israel, the only foreign force established on Lebanese territory is Syria, which protects the government of Lebanese President Elias Hrawi.

"As long as there are foreign forces and a foreign presence in Lebanon, Israel must do everything to defend its citizens and communities," Levy told reporters after the weekly Cabinet meeting Sunday.

Levy met Sunday with Edouard Brunner, a Swiss diplomat who was appointed in March as United Nations special envoy to the Middle East.

Brunner assured the Israeli foreign minister

that he only came to talk about the status of the Middle East peace process sponsored by the United States, not to interfere in it.

"I didn't come here to give any advice to anybody," Brunner insisted. "You know your interests better, you know your region better, you know your country better, you don't need to take advice from abroad," he said.

One problem holding up the peace process is Israel's refusal of even a passive U.N. role in a peace conference. It has rejected an American proposal for a U.N. observer.

Beirut, for its part, is convinced that only U.S. pressure can dislodge Israel from southern Lebanon. It believes pressure will depend on the state of U.S.-Israeli relations, which will reflect the extent of progress in the peace process.

Shamir, addressing a B'nai B'rith convention in Jerusalem on Sunday, warned that "anyone who tries to turn the peace effort into a siege of Israel, to squeeze surrender out of her and do away with her security assets, will fail."

Not 'Just Another Attack'

Israel was badly shaken on July 3, when Palestinian fighters staged a successful hit-and-run attack on a well-defended IDF outpost on the slopes of Mount Hermon, at the eastern end of the security zone.

An IDF reservist on guard was killed in the ambush. The Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, a Syrian-backed faction of the PLO, claimed credit.

The guerrillas apparently had to pass through Syrian lines to reach the Israeli position and to escape. The region, where the Israeli, Syrian and Lebanese borders converge, has been quiet in recent years.

The incident was the subject of lengthy commentary in virtually every major Israeli newspaper over the weekend. The big question was whether the attack was mounted with the knowledge or complicity of the Syrians.

Yediot Achronot observed that it was not "just another attack." It was what the Palestinians call "quality attacks," meaning attacks on IDF soldiers instead of civilian targets.

Until now, the organization involved had aimed only against civilians, and the newspaper wondered if a new trend is in the making.

Ma'ariv noted the attack was the first since 1974 against an IDF post in that area. It was carried out against a clearly military target, took advantage of the terrain and had to pass through Syrian territory.

Al Hamishmar said the attack was a significant operational success for the terrorists. "From the standpoint of the IDF, it cannot -- despite objective limitations and difficult field conditions -- allow itself to accept this sort of result on any level," the newspaper said.

Hatzofeh said that as long as the identity of the terrorists and their departure point are uncertain, the attack should not be connected to the situation in southern Lebanon.

"But if it is proven that the terrorists came from Lebanon and that they want to open a new route, this is a dangerous development," it said.

(JTA correspondent Hugh Orgel in Tel Aviv contributed to this report.)

ARAFAT LISTS SERIES OF CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH HE WOULD TALK TO ISRAEL
By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, July 7 (JTA) -- Palestine Liberation Organization chief Yasir Arafat says he is ready for direct talks with Israel on the basis of trading territory for peace -- but only under certain conditions.

He would insist on recognition of the Palestinian people's right to statehood guaranteed by the United States, the Soviet Union and international agencies.

Arafat staked out his position in reply to 12 questions submitted to him by Israeli peace activist Abie Nathan, who attended a news conference with the PLO leader in Tunis last week.

The answers were faxed to Israeli newspapers from Tunis over the weekend on sheets imprinted with the letterhead "President's Office, Palestine Liberation Organization, State of Palestine."

While Nathan was upbeat about the replies, Israeli Arab affairs experts saw little new in them.

The PLO leader stated he was ready for talks without preconditions and then proceeded to list seven conditions.

He said he is willing to talk peace with Israel if it agrees to relinquish territory, recognize the right of Palestinians to independence, release all prisoners, reopen all universities in the administered territories, adopt a more liberal policy of family reunification, annul laws forbidding private meetings between Israelis and Palestinians, and stop building Jewish settlements in the "occupied territories."

Arafat implied he would agree to a demilitarized Palestinian state in the context of regional demilitarization. He did not rule out the possibility of "Israelis living in the Palestinian state."

Nathan, in Paris on Sunday, told interviewers by telephone that he would return to Israel "within a day or so," predicting that he would face a "witch hunt" for his meetings with Arafat.

He could be required to serve a three-month suspended sentence he received for one of his earlier meetings with the PLO leader, and he faces trial in September for another meeting with Arafat.

Nathan served four months in prison last year for violating the law banning Israelis from contacts with the PLO.

Israeli police officials said he would be questioned about his latest meeting when he gets home. Before that, Nathan says he will visit "one or more Arab countries."

ISRAELI EMPLOYER SHOT IN GAZA STRIP
By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, July 7 (JTA) -- An Israeli contractor from Ashdod suffered serious wounds Sunday morning in a shooting attack in the Gaza Strip.

Moshe Buchris was reported to be in critical condition at Soroka Hospital in Beersheba, where he was taken by helicopter.

Buchris was shot by two assailants at close range while standing by his truck, waiting to pick up workers.

Although wounded in the head and hand, he managed to drive his car more than 18 miles to Gaza City, where a local resident alerted an army patrol.

ISRAELI SCIENTISTS RESCUED AT SEA AFTER RELEASE FROM CUSTODY IN EGYPT
By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, July 7 (JTA) -- A group of Israeli and U.S. marine biologists detained by Egyptian authorities in southern Sinai on July 2 had a further ordeal in store after their release Friday.

Their motor yacht, Sue Ellen, serving as a research vessel, was swamped by heavy seas. The party had to be rescued by the Israeli navy, which towed the half-sunken craft back to Eilat.

No injuries were reported. But the 12 scientists and five crew members was each \$600 poorer after posting the bond demanded by an Egyptian court, which was not refunded.

The Eilat-registered vessel was seized by the Egyptian coast guard for allegedly entering restricted waters near Sharm el-Sheikh, the southernmost point on the Sinai peninsula.

The scientists, researching marine organisms that might have medical uses, were accused of diving without a permit and theft of specimens.

They said they had been doing research in the same waters for the past six to seven years with no objections from the Egyptians.

They were given a hearing by a court in A-Tor, the administrative capital of southern Sinai. The Egyptians apparently were embarrassed to learn that several members of the party were U.S. citizens.

One was identified as Professor Ilan Spector of the State University of New York at Stony Brook. Others were from Tel Aviv University.

Sailing for home, the Sue Ellen ran into heavy weather. Its engine room was flooded, and an SOS was sent out. Israeli air force helicopters rescued all on board except for three members of the crew, who stayed with the vessel while it was towed to Eilat by a naval craft.

ISRAELIS CAPTURED IN KASHMIR RETURN TO A JOYOUS WELCOME
By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, July 7 (JTA) -- Four Israeli tourists who had been kidnapped by Kashmiri rebels in northern India on June 26 returned home Friday to a joyous welcome here.

Three are still recovering from wounds sustained in the shootout, which resulted in the death of one Israeli and the capture of another, 22-year-old Yair Yitzhaki.

Yitzhaki was held hostage for a week by the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front, an extremist Moslem group seeking the separation of Kashmir province from India.

He was released to a U.N. representative July 3, following an appeal by U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar. But he waited for his compatriots to be discharged from a Bombay hospital before flying home.

Yitzhaki's parents, 11 brothers and sisters, who are Orthodox Jews from the Jewish Quarter of Jerusalem's Old City, came to Ben-Gurion Airport with hundreds of neighbors and well-wishers.

They insist his safe return was a divine act in response to their prayers at the Western Wall and the prayerful intervention of prominent rabbinical authorities.

The four men belonged to a party of seven Israelis and a Dutch woman vacationing in Kashmir when they were kidnapped off a houseboat on Lake Dal near Srinagar, the provincial capital.

JEWES COME TO BUDAPEST FROM AFAR TO MARK END TO THE DEPORTATIONS

By Agnes Bohm

BUDAPEST, July 7 (JTA) -- Several hundred people, mostly Holocaust survivors, gathered Sunday at the Budapest Holocaust Memorial to mark the 47th anniversary of the day Hungary officially called off the deportations of Jews.

The event, attended by Israeli Ambassador Shlomo Marom and the deputy mayor of Budapest, Gabor Szekely, marked the memorial day for the 600,000 Hungarian Jews who perished in Nazi death camps between 1940 and 1944.

Hungary's president solemnly promised it would be an annual observance when he, the prime minister and virtually the entire government attended the memorial's unveiling a year ago.

But this year, the government was represented by a relatively junior Cabinet member, Tourism Minister Kazmer Kardos.

That did not escape the eye of at least one Hungarian daily, which criticized the government for not making a more meaningful gesture toward the remaining Jews on this sorrowful occasion.

Szekely, who happens to be Jewish, represented the newly elected mayor, Gabor Demszky, a young politician who opposed the Communist regime before it was ousted in 1989.

The Holocaust memorial, which stands behind the Dohany Street Synagogue, on the site where the Jewish ghetto once stood, is a unique granite and steel structure in the shape of a huge weeping willow tree, designed by Hungarian sculptor Imre Varga. Each silvery frond has the name of a Hungarian Jewish Holocaust victim inscribed on it.

Thousands of Jews paid \$125 for each inscription.

Teddy Kollek Attends Ceremony

Hungary was an ally of Nazi Germany during World War II. On July 7, 1944, its pro-Nazi dictator, Admiral Miklos Horthy, beset by demands from the king of Sweden, the pope and the International Red Cross, as well as from Britain and the United States, agreed to call off the deportations of Hungary's Jews.

The following day, the deportations were stopped.

By that time, some 437,000 Hungarian Jews had been deported, according to Martin Gilbert's "Holocaust."

An estimated 80,000 Jews now live in Hungary, comprising the second-largest Jewish community in Eastern Europe after the Soviet Union.

The annual memorial ceremony was actually begun three years ago at the groundbreaking for the monument, which was commissioned by the Emanuel Foundation for Hungarian Culture.

The U.S.-based foundation, named for Emanuel Schwartz, the Hungarian-born father of actor Tony Curtis, helps Hungarian Jews and is affiliated with the World Jewish Congress.

At this year's commemoration, the foundation was represented by its president, Leslie Keller, and Andor Weiss, its executive vice president. Both men lost their families in the Holocaust.

Also present was Mayor Teddy Kollek of Jerusalem, who told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency he was on a private visit. Kollek was born in Vienna in what was at the time the Austro-Hungarian Empire. He had not been back here since 1933, he said.

Kollek was scheduled to meet Monday with Mayor Demszky.

SCHWAMMBERGER ADMITS WITNESSING GESTAPO'S MASS SHOOTING OF JEWS

By David Kantor

BONN, July 7 (JTA) -- Accused Nazi war criminal Josef Schwammburger testified Friday that he witnessed the mass shootings of Jews by the Gestapo when he was a concentration camp commandant in Nazi-occupied Poland, but denied he had been personally involved.

The 79-year-old former Waffen SS officer said at his war crimes trial in Stuttgart that it had not been his job to kill individuals.

"I had nothing to do with those killings, therefore I cannot tell how many had been shot," Schwammburger told the court, which began hearing the case June 26.

The Austrian-born Nazi has been charged with at least 45 counts of murder and with complicity in the murders of 3,377 people, most of them Jewish inmates of the Przemysl, Mielec and Rozwadow slave labor camps in Poland.

Arrested by French authorities in 1945 in Austria, he said he had been forced to sign a confession that he had killed scores of Jews. "This was false," Schwammburger told the court.

The statement he signed in 1945 said he had killed 35 Jews.

Schwammburger is claiming he killed only one individual in his lifetime in what he says was an act of self-defense.

Schwammburger escaped to Argentina in 1948 and lived there for 42 years. He was tracked down in 1987 and finally extradited to West Germany last year.

The court ruled Friday that he is fit to continue standing trial despite acute medical problems. A geriatric psychiatrist was called in last week to examine him following a request by his lawyers.

The proceedings have been without incident since they opened June 26, when neo-Nazi supporters created disturbances. The protests subsided when the judge threatened to throw the agitators into jail.

COURT RULES SIEMENS NOT OBLIGATED TO PAY DAMAGES TO SLAVE LABORER

By David Kantor

BONN, July 7 (JTA) -- A Munich court has ruled that the Siemens Co., a German electronics giant, is not obligated to pay reparations to a former slave laborer who worked in one of its plants during the Nazi era.

The court cited the statute of limitations in finding against the 70-year-old claimant, who was an inmate of the Ravensbruck camp, where Jews and others were used as slave labor.

The woman, whose religious background is not known, had asked for more than \$40,000 in unpaid wages and damages, including \$5,000 in lost contributions to a pension program.

Her lawyer, Norbert Muller, said last year that the lawsuit was a test case that could serve as precedent for demands from others for slave labor reparations.

Despite the setback, an organization of anti-Nazi activists announced it would encourage residents of former East Germany to file reparations claims against Siemens and other companies that employed slave labor.

The group says the statute of limitations cannot apply to people in former East Germany, for whom it was impossible to file claims.

**BEHIND THE HEADLINES:
REDISTRICTING COULD DIMINISH SIZE
OF JEWISH REPRESENTATION IN HOUSE**
By Howard Rosenberg

WASHINGTON (JTA) -- Pro-Israel members of Congress could be among those adversely affected when states redraw congressional districts to reflect the 1990 census.

The census is taken once a decade to meet the constitutional requirement that states be represented in Congress in close relation to their percentage of the national population.

The 1990 census of 249,632,692, unveiled last December, would have 19 seats in the House of Representatives change states, many of which would move from the Northeast and Midwest to the South and Southwest.

The December figures require seven new House districts in California, four in Florida, three in Texas, and one each in Arizona, Georgia, North Carolina, Virginia and Washington.

To create those districts, the census mandates cuts of three districts from New York; two each from Illinois, Michigan, Ohio and Pennsylvania; and one each from Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Montana, New Jersey and West Virginia.

The Census Bureau plans to issue revised figures by July 15. If Commerce Secretary Robert Mosbacher accepts proposed changes, California and Arizona would each gain another seat, Wisconsin would lose one and Pennsylvania would lose one more.

Even in states retaining the same number of House seats, districts must be redrawn in a way that equally distributes the state's population.

Democrats and Republicans generally try to redraw the districts in such a way as to help members of their party get elected. This practice, known as gerrymandering, is often devious, but in most cases legal.

Racial Gerrymandering A Factor

Jewish activists hoping to see pro-Israel members of Congress get re-elected tend to be advocates of "sweetheart gerrymandering," in which districts are redrawn to best ensure that incumbents will be returned to office.

The one illegal form of gerrymandering is "racial gerrymandering," which was outlawed by the Voting Rights Act of 1965. A 1982 amendment that strengthened the act is expected to disproportionately hurt the 33 Jewish incumbents this redistricting cycle.

That is because many Jewish incumbents in the House represent districts that either have or border on large pockets of minority voters.

The amendment changed the criteria for proving in court that a state's remapping of House seats constituted racial gerrymandering. Previously, plaintiffs had to prove that a state had the "intent" of diluting the clout of a minority voting bloc; now they only need to prove such a dilution is the result of the remapping.

Two states expecting to gain districts, California and Texas, have significant minority blocs spread among districts represented by whites.

This configuration was chosen by Democratic-controlled legislatures in both states. The aim was to enhance the Democratic base in as many districts as possible, since minorities overwhelmingly vote for Democrats.

The 1982 amendment makes natural allies out of minorities, eager to increase their representa-

tion in Congress, and Republicans, eager to create "super-Democratic" districts that dilute Democratic strength in surrounding districts.

The Jewish House member whose district appears especially vulnerable at becoming absorbed into a district heavily populated by minorities is the one held by Rep. Sander Levin (D-Mich.).

New York Jewish Reps. Vulnerable

Another Jewish incumbent, Rep. Martin Frost (D-Texas), could be pitted against Rep. John Bryant (D-Texas) to create a Hispanic-majority district in Dallas.

A third, Rep. Mel Levine (D-Calif.), is looking closely at a run for the Senate, in part because he is severely short white voters in his Los Angeles district. Levine could be pitted against another Jewish Democrat, Rep. Anthony Beilenson, in order to create a Hispanic-majority district in Los Angeles.

Another Jewish member of the House, Rep. John Miller (R-Wash.), may run for the Senate against Democratic incumbent Brock Adams, if his House district is shifted to include heavily Democratic voters in Seattle.

In New York, population attrition will likely eliminate a Jewish incumbent, by pitting one against another. The most-mentioned names are Reps. Eliot Engel and Nita Lowey, both two-term Democrats, and two more senior congressmen: Republican Bill Green and Democrat Ted Weiss.

Attempts to create minority districts in New York may also make Jewish Democratic Reps. Gary Ackerman and James Scheuer vulnerable.

In New Jersey, freshman Rep. Richard Zimmer, a Republican, is vulnerable to having his seat combined with a neighboring one.

In Ohio, a non-Jewish but staunchly pro-Israel member, Democratic Rep. Edward Feighan, is considered highly vulnerable to redistricting.

An option for the pro-Israel community less interested in protecting Jewish incumbents than in increasing overall support for Israel would be to support a carving of their districts in ways that bolster the Jewish population in several districts.

In Michigan, the Jews in Levin's district could be parceled out among neighboring Reps. John Dingell, William Ford and William Broomfield.

'Who Will Be In' And 'Who Will Not'

David Gad-Harf, executive director of the Jewish Community Council of Metropolitan Detroit, said it would be "almost disloyal" to Levin to assess whether the Jewish community could be better served by dissolving his district.

More adamant opposition to elimination of a Jewish member's seat came from Robert Asher, former chairman of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee, who is trying to preserve the Illinois seat held for 42 years by Democratic Rep. Sidney Yates.

Yates' district is 30 percent Jewish, with relatively few Jews in neighboring districts. It is regarded as one of the House's foremost gerrymandered seats for Jewish candidates.

"It's important to preserve the district as a Jewish district" because otherwise, Illinois would "lose the one Jewish congressman that it has," Asher said.

Asher said the Jewish community nationwide has not been turning enough attention to redistricting. It is "the crucial issue," he said, because it is "the matrix over which everything is laid. This determines who will be in office and who will not."