

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية تصدر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الاردنية "الراي"

Holland opposes U.N. policing role

TEL AVIV (R) — The Netherlands opposes giving United Nations forces a policing role in Lebanon areas evacuated by Israel, Dutch Foreign Minister Hans van Den Broek said Wednesday. Mr. Van Den Broek, on an official visit to Israel, told a press conference the U.S. Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) should play a peacekeeping, not a peace enforcing role. "Where they (U.N. troops) are being called in for police or security functions for internal national affairs of a certain country, then we get into certain difficulties with our conception of what a peacekeeping function should be," he said. Mr. Van Den Broek met Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin Wednesday. Mr. Van Den Broek told Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir his government would pull its soldiers out of UNIFIL on Oct. 19 unless the Lebanese situation changed significantly by then.

Hijacked Iranian jet in Kuwait

KUWAIT (R) — Hijackers commandeered an Iranian Jumbo jet Wednesday and ordered it to fly to Kuwait airport where they offered to release 60 of its passengers in return for fuel and food, official Kuwaiti sources said. But Kuwaiti authorities rejected the hijackers' demand and asked for the release of all hostages aboard the Boeing 747 on humanitarian grounds, the sources said. Iran's national news agency IRNA said earlier the plane had 371 people aboard when it was hijacked on an internal flight from Shiraz to Tehran, 700 kilometres to the north. The official sources said the hijackers, identified by the Kuwaiti news agency KUNA as Iranians, had asked to land at the airport for refuelling before flying on to Dubai in the United Arab Emirates (UAE). Airport authorities initially blocked the runway to prevent the plane from touching down. But it was later allowed to land to save the hostages' lives, the sources said.

King congratulates Venezuelan leader

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Wednesday sent a cable of good wishes to the president of Venezuela on his country's Independence Day anniversary. In his cable King Hussein wished the president success in the leadership of his people and for further progress and prosperity for his country.

Envoy to Britain presents credentials

LONDON (Petra) — Jordan's Ambassador to the United Kingdom Taher Al Masri Wednesday presented his credentials to Queen Elizabeth at Buckingham Palace. The ambassador conveyed to the queen King Hussein's greetings and his wishes for further progress and prosperity for the British people. Queen Elizabeth requested the ambassador to convey her greetings to King Hussein and the Jordanian people.

Papandreou begins visit to Spain

MADRID (R) — Greek Prime Minister Andreas Papandreou arrived in Spain Wednesday for three days of talks on European Community and defence affairs. Mr. Papandreou and the Spanish prime minister, fellow-socialist Felipe Gonzalez, will discuss Spain's six-year-old bid to join the European Community and the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation. Greece assumed the community presidency for a six-month term on July 1.

Gromyko, Chinese envoy hold talks

MOSCOW (R) — Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko held talks Wednesday with the Chinese Ambassador to Moscow Yang Shouzheng, the official TASS news agency reported. Western diplomats said the two men could have discussed dates for an expected third round of talks on normalising relations between Moscow and Peking.

Swiss prepare for Palestinian meeting

BERNE (R) — The government said Wednesday the Swiss army will be used to help ensure security during a United Nations conference on Palestinian rights in Geneva this summer. The government also asked other Swiss cantons to provide extra police troops to help Geneva authorities.

Dublin appeals against IRA rally site

DUBLIN (R) — The Irish government Wednesday condemned as "grossly offensive" a plan to stage a rally for a dead Irish Republican Army (IRA) hunger-striker at the spot where the IRA assassinated Britain's Lord Mountbatten in 1979. Justice Minister Michael Noonan said he had taken legal advice on whether to ban Sunday's rally in memory of Bobby Sands, one of 10 nationalist prisoners who starved themselves to death in 1981.

Shultz starts Israeli talks after abortive mission in Damascus

DAMASCUS (R) — U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz ended five hours of talks with Syrian President Hafez Al Assad Wednesday with the two sides apparently still wide apart on how to secure a withdrawal of foreign forces from Lebanon.

Mr. Shultz told reporters at Damascus airport before leaving for Israel that he discussed a U.S.-sponsored Israel-Lebanon troop withdrawal accord with the Syrians at great length. But he added: "We did not have very much to agree about in our analysis of the agreement."

He said the United States and Syria had agreed on the need for Lebanon to be a sovereign, free and independent country with a strong central government. Mr. Shultz, who arrived in Damascus from Beirut on Tuesday, said the United States and Syria would set up a working group "to help sort out what we may be able to do to help in that regard" (establishing Lebanon's sovereignty).

Syria has denounced the May 17 agreement, saying it infringes Lebanese sovereignty and endangers Syria's own security. A Syrian presidential spokesman quoted Mr. Assad as telling Mr. Shultz the agreement was "more unjust" than the Camp David accord which led to the 1979 Israeli-Egyptian treaty.

Israel says redeployment will strengthen occupation

TEL AVIV (R) — Israeli Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir said Wednesday an army redeployment would enable Israel to occupy South Lebanon for a long period if needed.

He was quoted by an official as telling visiting French External Relations Minister Claude Cheysson, redeployment would put Israel in a much stronger position, enabling troops to remain in Lebanon "for a longer period than we had originally intended."

Israeli ministers and generals met earlier to plan the withdrawal of Israeli forces from the Beirut area and Shouf mountains to more secure lines in South Lebanon.

The official said that after hearing Mr. Cheysson's account of his talks Tuesday with Syrian President Hafez Al Assad Israeli remained convinced Damascus would not pull its forces out of Lebanon. Israel has ruled out a total withdrawal.

PLO regrets French refusal to participate in conference

GENEVA (R) — A Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) spokesman Wednesday expressed regret that France has refused to participate in a European preparatory meeting for a U.N. conference on Palestinian rights to be held here later this summer.

The five-day preparatory meeting opened here last Monday amid confusion over its membership. Four European Community countries—Britain, West Germany, Belgium and the Netherlands—declined to attend and Greece was the only community country to be represented at the opening session.

On Wednesday, the PLO's Lebanon representative, Shafiq Al Hout, said France had pledged in writing to participate but on Tuesday French representatives changed their status from participants to observers. "I am very disappointed. I understand that high representatives of the French government promised full participation in this conference. We were really surprised to see this shift in French position without any explanation," said Mr. Hout, who is heading the PLO delegation here.

In Paris, a spokesman for the French Ministry of External Relations told Reuters the French decision not to participate in the Geneva meeting was in line with statements by government officials, including External Relations Minister Claude Cheysson, that now was not a good time for a conference on the Palestinian problem.

France and Austria both refused to host the conference, to be held from Aug. 29 to Sept. 7, amid security fears but Switzerland could not refuse because of agreements with the United Nations.

Shultz expected in Amman

AMMAN (Agencies) — U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz is expected in Jordan Thursday for talks with His Majesty King Hussein and senior officials, the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, reported.

Mr. Shultz's visit is in the framework of his current tour of Middle East countries, the announcement said.

Mr. Shultz last visited Amman in May during a shuttle when he cemented the Lebanon-Israel troop withdrawal agreement.

Petra gave no details of Thursday's visit. But Reuter quoted well-informed sources as saying Mr. Shultz was likely to brief King Hussein on his talks in Saudi Arabia, Lebanon, Syria and Israel.

Cairo expects Shultz

Meanwhile, an Egyptian Foreign Ministry spokesman said Mr. Shultz will arrive in Cairo Thursday for talks with President Hosni Mubarak.

Mr. Shultz came to the region to discuss the withdrawal of all foreign troops from Lebanon. Cairo was not included in his original programme.

Mediators to brief Arafat

DAMASCUS (R) — A Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) peace team left for Tunis Wednesday to brief PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat after four days of talks in Damascus which apparently did little to heal a rift between guerrillas for and against him.

The mediators announced in a statement before leaving that both sides had agreed to abide by a ceasefire worked out this week after bloody clashes in Lebanon's eastern Bekaa Valley.

The peace team was formed by the PLO to sort out differences within Mr. Arafat's own guerrilla

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Israelis exchange fire with PLO men

BEIRUT (R) — Israeli troops exchanged fire with Palestinian guerrillas along a confrontation line with the Syrian army in Lebanon early Wednesday, an Israeli military spokesman said.

Israeli positions came under rocket-propelled grenade and small arms fire from Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) positions in the eastern Bekaa Valley, he said.

"Israeli troops silenced the sources of fire with small arms and artillery," the spokesman said. He added there were no Israeli casualties in the clash, about five kilometres north of the village of Amiq in the central Bekaa.

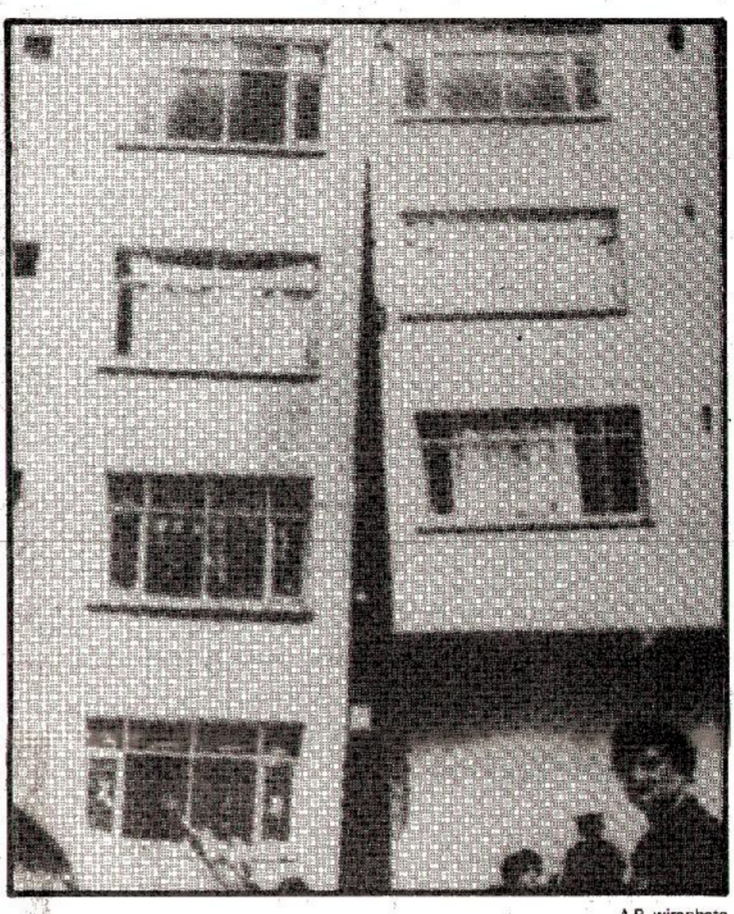
Israeli soldiers face Syrian regular troops along their front lines stretching through the valley. Several thousand PLO guerrillas are billeted among the Syrians and operate from bases behind their lines.

Although there have been sporadic clashes between rival Palestinian guerrillas in the Bekaa recently, the front line between the two armies has been reported generally quiet.

Lebanese security sources Wednesday reported a 15-minute exchange of artillery fire behind Syrian lines between the villages of Idita and Buarej in the Bekaa.

The sources said it was not known who was involved. But rival Palestinian factions for and against PLO leader Yasser Arafat are positioned in the area.

The Israeli spokesman said later the fire directed against the Israeli troops had come from terraced positions inside Syrian-held territory.



AFTERMATH OF A QUAKE: A multistoreyed building in the Istanbul suburb of Esenler leans on another after the region was hit by a quake Tuesday (story on page 2)

PLO calls for involving Soviets in peace efforts

By Lamis K. Andoni in Tripoli

The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) on Wednesday strongly attacked U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz's visit to Beirut and Damascus and called for the participation of the Soviet Union in Middle East peace efforts to reach a comprehensive settlement in the area.

The PLO official spokesman, Ahmad Abdul Rahman, said in an interview here that the PLO "which has previously rejected the Israeli-Lebanese withdrawal agreement (of May 17), the Reagan plan (of September 1982) and the Camp David accords

(Continued on page 5)

Five French, four Lebanese trapped in building rubble

BEIRUT (R) — Five French soldiers and four Lebanese civilians were still missing in the rubble of a west Beirut apartment block Wednesday, over eight hours after it collapsed killing one soldier and injuring two.

A statement from the French unit attached to the four-nation multinational force, whose men were involved in the incident, gave the figures after a day of conflicting reports.

It said one of those injured was

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Britain insists on veto over missile launching

LONDON (R) — Britain Wednesday renewed its commitment to deploy U.S. cruise nuclear missiles but spelled out they would not be launched without the agreement of Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher.

The government also made clear in a defence policy paper that it still intended to update its own independent nuclear deterrent by replacing the ageing Polaris missiles with a £7.5 billion (\$11.25 billion) Trident system.

The paper issued by Defence Secretary Michael Heseltine said arrangements governing the use by the United States of military

bases and nuclear weapons in Britain had been reviewed because of the approaching deployment of 160 cruise missiles as part of North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) defences against the Soviet Union.

It said the effect of the arrangements was "that no nuclear weapons would be fired or launched from British territory without the agreement of the British prime minister."

Officials said it was the first time the arrangements had been publicly opposed to the idea of a greater German state being recreated in Central Europe.

King Hussein warns against polarisation in Middle East area

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Wednesday warned against "any polarisation of the Middle East" because "this would adversely affect the region's identity, dignity and the fate of its future generations."

King Hussein, who was speaking at a meeting held at the Royal Hashemite Court with a visiting delegation representing the Council of Europe, outlined the current Middle East situation and the challenges the region is now facing.

He said that "the Palestinian problem remains the central issue of the region and failure to achieve a just, durable and comprehensive solution to that problem will keep the Middle East in an unstable and insecure state."

During the meeting, King Hussein explained the Jordanian position to Middle East peace efforts and stressed the "inadmissibility of occupying land by force as is stated in U.N. Security Council resolution 242."

"That resolution clearly calls for a total Israeli withdrawal from all occupied Arab territories, and guarantees the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, including their right to self-determination in their own soil," he said.

King Hussein reviewed various peace initiatives that were aimed at achieving Middle East peace, which included the Arab plan endorsed at the Fez Arab summit and based on U.N. Security Council resolutions, the Reagan plan (of September 1982) and "other peace initiatives which were all based on the return of Arab lands to their lawful owners in exchange of peace."

Israel, the King said, "continues to lay obstacles in the path of peace and refuses all peace plans; continues to occupy Palestinian and Lebanese territory and escalates its settlement plans in the occupied Arab region."

Referring to the Palestinians, the King said Jordan is keen on preserving the unity of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), "its independence and right to take its own decisions."

"Jordan also opposes any interference in the PLO's internal affairs and warns of the dangers inherent in the organisation's division," the King added.

He stressed that the Jordanian-Palestinian dialogue is aimed at liberating the Palestinian land and people and establishing a just and durable peace in the region.

The King emphasised the need for European countries to play a more positive and effective role in the peace process. "Europe and the Arab World, he said, "are closely linked geographically and have common interests."

During the meeting the King also reviewed the Lebanese question stressing the need for a total Israeli withdrawal from all Lebanese territories, supporting Lebanon to enable it to preserve its unity, sovereignty and territorial integrity.

He also spoke about the Iraq war and condemned Iran's "expansionist aims in the neighbouring Arab region and its constant interference in Arab affairs."

The delegation, which arrived in Amman Tuesday at the start of a fact-finding tour of the region also met with National Consultative Council (NCC) Deputy Speaker Kamal Dajani, who also spoke about the Palestinian problem and Jordan's policies. The meeting was attended by several NCC members.

After their Middle Eastern tour, the delegation members will submit a report to the Council of Europe.

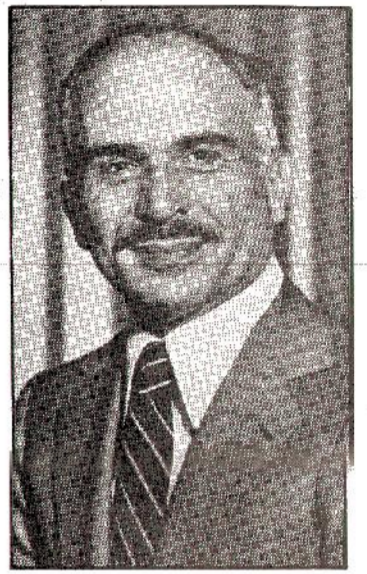
Earlier, the delegation met with Minister of Information Adnan Abu Odeh who stressed that the Palestinian question remains the major problem in the region. "All peace efforts in the region have faltered so far because they ignored the Palestinian problem, the basic issue in the Middle East conflict," the minister pointed out.

He said Jordan "strives to preserve for the Palestinian people their independence in taking decisions on their own future and seeks to prevent the PLO from being a tool, in the hands of any Arab regime helping to implement its domestic and international policies."

Mr. Abu Odeh also stressed the important role of European parliamentarians in contributing towards a Middle East settlement. He called on them to form a "peace front" to support the call for an implementation of U.N. Security Council Resolution 242 which recognises the rights of the Palestinian people in their own land.

"Israel is a state without any borders and continues to expand illegally at the expense of Arab countries, therefore Resolution 242 serves the best basis for establishing a balanced peace," the minister said.

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The meeting was attended by Royal Court Chief Ahmad Al Lawzi, Court Minister Amer Khamash and Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ibn Zaid.

Abu Odeh calls for "peace front"

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"Israel is a state without any borders and continues to expand illegally at the expense of Arab countries, therefore Resolution 242 serves the best basis for establishing a balanced peace," the minister said.

He added that "Europe cannot exempt itself from the responsibility of contributing to a durable peace on the pretext that Israel is more under U.S. influence than Europe's, something repeated by representatives of European governments."

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defence of West German refugee organisations for people driven out of the eastern lands in the 1940's.

He said it should not be forgotten that these groups, which are a favourite target for Soviet bloc propaganda attacks, had renounced all use of force in their efforts to regain their former homelands.

Soviet reporters, used to politicians from both German states adopting a penitent attitude while on trips to the Soviet Union, were visibly shocked by some of Mr. Kohl's comments.

He caused gasps by rejecting one question prefaced with the statement that Germany had already attacked Russia twice this century, and by declaring that Germany could not be held solely responsible for World War II.

The chancellor later left for Kiev, capital of the Ukraine, from where he was due to return Thursday to Bonn.

Facing sharp questions from Soviet reporters on the same subject, Mr. Kohl also came to the