

LEBANON CRISIS
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crisis was to be resolved by the Arab states and called on all other powers to keep their hands off. The U. S. was reported to have indicated its agreement with this view privately to the Russians.

The French Government, which had pledged its support to Lebanon when Paris feared that Israel may take strong military action against terrorist groups in the Arab nation, said it planned no action in the current crisis. The British Government also took the same position.

Reports from Arab capitals indicated that Egyptian President Nasser was attempting to mediate the crisis and that the ultimate aim of these efforts was to enlarge the territory in which the terrorist organizations could operate freely for training purposes yet not directly attack Israel so that Lebanon would not be subject to retaliatory raids.

The end result of such an effort would be to give El Fatah guerrillas greater freedom within more Lebanese territory but would stop short of the situation in Jordan where the commando groups are a state within the Jordanian state.

Past Egyptian mediation of a previous crisis had resulted in Beirut allowing the guerrillas to operate freely in the area around Mt. Hermon while the terrorist agreed not to attack Israel from Lebanon on the border between Lebanon, Syria and Israel. The current crisis began when the Lebanese Army started to crack down on commandos who were operating in more than the agreed territory and were

launching direct raids into northern Israel. Israeli forces hit back with air and limited ground strikes into southern Lebanon.

Within Lebanon, reports indicated that fighting between the Lebanese Army and Terrorist groups have slacked off after a number of major encounters which resulted in about two dozen deaths. The commando groups are reported to control the northern border with Syria and to hold many parts of Tripoli, the second largest city. Occasional fighting was reported in Southern Lebanon where military units are attempting to control terrorists along the border with Israel.

While President Nasser attempts to mediate the crisis, all Arab governments have issued statements in support of the guerrillas and declared that no Arab state would in any way hamper terrorist activities.

But observers noted that Egypt, Syria and Iraq tightly control the commando organizations within their borders and only in Jordan and now Lebanon are the guerrillas acting independently of the established regimes. In both cases, the governments are Western-orientated with ties to European nations such as Britain and France, while the three other Arab states are "revolutionary" with military and economic ties to the Soviet Union.

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ISRAEL MAY NIX SECURITY COUNCIL

UNITED NATIONS (WNS) — Israel has warned the United Nations that it may not participate in Security Council deliberations on the Mideast crisis if Syria takes a Council seat while continuing to hold two Israeli civilians captive.

Syria was one of five nations elected by the General Assembly to two-year terms on the 15-member Council beginning Jan. 1. It was the unopposed candidate of the Asian bloc for its regional seat on the Council and received the lowest vote of the five nations, 101 out of 126 cast in the secret ballot.

Israeli UN Ambassador Yosef Tekoah said after the voting that the election "does create the question of whether there is any justification for us to participate in the Security Council under such circumstances."

Israel and the Arab states invariably participate in Council debates on the Middle East but do not have the right to vote. Jerusalem has often criticized the Council for its pro-Arab bias and has ignored a number of one-sided resolutions. But boycotting the Council would be a major move in Israel's alienation from the UN, observers noted.

Israel's effort to have other nations abstain on the Syrian candidacy seemed to observers to have had some effect. The other elected countries and their vote was Poland, 121; Burundi, 118; Sierra Leone, 117; and Nicaragua, 103. The Council's pro-Arab balance was reduced by one as Sierra Leone replaced Algeria under the "geographic representation" system which allocates seats. Five Council members now do not have diplomatic relations with Israel; Russia, Poland, Spain, China and Syria. The other members are the United States, Britain and France, permanent members together with Russia and China, and Finland, Columbia, Nepal and Zambia, whose terms expire in 1971 together with Spain.

At the very time the election results were being made known in the Assembly chamber, the wives of the two detained Israelis were meeting with the press after official visits with Secretary

General U Thant and Assembly President Angie Brooks of Liberia.

Mrs. Naomi Samueloff and Mrs. Tilda Moualem appealed for worldwide pressure on Syria to gain release of their husbands who were passengers on an American airliner hijacked to Damascus by Arab terrorists. Am- and UN efforts to gain their freedom have so far failed.

Mrs. Samueloff fought back tears as she told reporters "I don't feel any movement that their release is coming nearer." When

asked if she favored Israeli acceptance of a Damascus offer to exchange the two men for two captured Syrian pilots. Mrs. Samueloff said "we want our husbands back...but you cannot buy off a thief."

Israel has rejected the offer on the grounds it would set a bad precedent to trade two illegally held civilians for military prisoners legitimately detained under international law.

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U. S. DENOUNCES ARAB PROPAGANDA AS FALSE

WASHINGTON (WNS) --- The United States has denounced a new Arab anti-American propaganda drive which is based on a deliberate distortion of the nation's citizenship requirements to imply that the Government is encouraging Americans to serve with the Israeli armed forces.

The State Department has labeled as a "gross distortion" of Government policy an Arab charge that an "official statement" by the U.S. Embassy in Tel Aviv confirms that Americans are encouraged to serve in Israel's army without losing their U.S. citizenship.

The State Department also declared that Arab allegations that Americans are flying U. S. jets recently sold to Israel "are absolutely without foundation and we totally reject them."

(In Jerusalem, a Foreign Ministry spokesman asserted that Americans holding dual citizenship were serving with the Lebanon, Jordan and Saudi Arabia military. He also said that there were 1,500 American citizens living on the West Bank.)

(Israeli officials called the Arab charge a "smoke-screen alibi" to cover Russian military advisors directing Egyptian military activities on the front lines. Defense Minister Moshe Dayan had reported that Soviet advisors were directing Egyptian military forces

from the planning stage of attacks to operational activities short of actually flying planes or taking part in commando raids.

Diplomats in Jerusalem were surprised that the U. S. was apologizing to the

Arabs rather than attacking their motives and strongly denouncing the false charges which carried on the pattern of the Six-Day War when Egypt and Jordan asserted that American aircraft helped the Israeli Air Force.

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