

**LEBANON PEACE**  
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longer able to execute their murderous plots," the Premier declared.  
Begin's proposal for a peace treaty with Israel was rejected by Lebanese Premier Selim al-Hoss. He said the Israeli attacks on Lebanese territory were blackmail. "It is out of the question that terror and intimidation will force Lebanon to break its ties with the common Arab destiny," he said in a statement carried by Radio Beirut. Hoss also rejected Begin's proposals for removing Syrian troops and resettling the Palestinians.

In Cairo, Boutros Ghali, the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, officially asked the U.S. to persuade Israel to stop the air attacks on the terrorist bases in Lebanon. The Carter Administration has voiced concern about the violence in Lebanon. The State Department said that while the air attacks are coming against "a backdrop of terrorist activities aimed at Israel" it said the air attacks "are contributing to an already dangerous situation."

Meanwhile, a new dispute has arisen with Israel accusing an Irish unit of UNIFIL with blocking Israeli troops from chasing terrorists. Israel also accused UNIFIL of aiding and abetting the band of four terrorists who opened fire on Kibbutz Manera early May 9. An Israeli patrol exchanged fire with the terrorists, wounding one who was captured. The terrorists fled back into Lebanon and the Israeli troops pursued, centering the search near the village of Shagra and the border. However, the Irish contingent blocked Israel from continuing the pursuit. Israel has lodged a formal complaint charging that UNIFIL prevented it from capturing the terrorists.

**JERUSALEM (WNS)**  
-- Israeli officials and Jewish leaders in the United States and elsewhere have expressed shock over the execution May 9 of Habib Elkanian, the former president of the Iranian Jewish community and a prominent businessman by a firing squad in Teheran.

The 61-year-old industrialist was charged with "spreading corruption" and "treason through his connections with Israel and Zionism." Elkanian, the first prominent Jew to be executed by the new government, was shot along with six other "enemies" of the regime. Rahim Ali Khorram, another businessman described as a millionaire, was also shot. Elkanian and Khorram were, respectively, the only non-Moslem and non-political persons among the estimated

200 people executed since the takeover of Iran by the Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini. Jewish sources in Teheran said the death warrant for Elkanian was personally approved by Khomeini as "a warning to American and Zionist agents in Iran." Until now, both the Ayatollah and the government of Premier Mehdi Bazargan had claimed the policy of the Islamic regime was directed against Israel and Zionism, not the Jewish community whose rights they promised would be protected. There is expected to be further efforts to emigrate by many of the remaining 50,000 Jews in Iran.

Elkanian was arrested in March along with Ruhollah Ray, another Iranian Jewish businessman, who was also the Jewish representative in the lower house of Parliament under the Shah. Ray's two sons were also arrested at the same time. Elkanian and the other six men were tried by an Islamic court May 8 and executed in the prison courtyard an hour after the trial ended.

Premier Menachem Begin on hearing of the news condemned the execution of Elkanian and urged world opinion not to be silent over the murderous acts of the "blood-thirsty regime of Khomeini." In New York, Rabbi Ovadia Yosef, Israel's Chief Sephardic Rabbi, branded as

"fabrications" the charges against Elkanian. He said they were made up as an "excuse for murderous acts." Philip Kluznick, president of the World Jewish Congress, in denouncing the execution noted that Elkanian had not been given any opportunity to defend himself. Leon Dulzin, chairman of the World Zionist Organization and the Jewish Agency Executives, called

"on world public opinion to alert Khomeini's men to the serious consequences of their deterioration into a path of anti-Semitism." American Jewish leaders also voiced condemnation of the act and the Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry and some 200 high school and college students protested in front of the Iranian Mission to the United Nations in New York. In Washington, State Department spokesman Hodding Carter specifically mentioned Elkanian when he noted that "We have repeatedly made clear our strong disapproval of the summary executions in Iran." He said it was "disturbing" that Elkanian was a member of a minority community since the government of Iran had promised that minorities would be protected.

In Israel, Moshe Katzav, an Iranian-born member of the Knesset, said the execution of Elkanian signaled new dangers for Iranian Jews and declared it was "not too late" for Israel "to take both orthodox and unorthodox

actions" to get Jews out of that country. But two former Iranian Jews now in Israel said that Elkanian was executed as a symbol of the old regime and a former confidant of the Shah and they did not believe his death foreshadowed any anti-Jewish policies by the Khomeini regime.

**KNESSET BACKS GOVT. FREEING TERRORISTS**

**JERUSALEM (WNS)**  
-- A motion of no confidence in the government for its exchange of 76 imprisoned terrorists for one captured Israeli soldier last March was defeated in the Knesset May 9.

The motion was submitted by former Foreign Minister Yigal Allon of the Labor Party and Shmuel Toledano of the Shai faction. Defense Minister Ezer Weizman, defending the government, said the exchange was agreed to because no military action was feasible to free the soldier, Reserve Pvt. Abraham Amram. The government came under severe criticism when a list of the freed terrorists was published for the first time by Yediot Achronot which showed that at least 33 of them were serving life sentences for terrorist acts that resulted in the deaths or wounding of Israeli soldiers and civilians.

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