

CLASH WITH UNIFIL

TEL AVIV (WNS) -- A clash between Maj. Saad Haddad's Christian militia and the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon in which two soldiers of UNIFIL's Nigerian contingent were killed and 11 other Nigerians, nine local civilians and several Lebanese army regulars were wounded, has resulted in a bitter argument between UNIFIL and Israel.

The shelling by Haddad of Kantara village in the UNIFIL zone of south Lebanon after units of the Beirut-controlled Lebanese army occupied positions there brought swift condemnation from the U.S. State Department which

called the shelling an "outrageous action." UN Secretary General Kurt Waldheim has called for an urgent meeting of the Security Council to take up the matter.

The U.S., while condemning Haddad has refused to condemn Israel which allegedly supplies Haddad with weapons. "The position in the Middle East is very complicated," State Department spokesman William Dyess told reporters. "Israel has been subject to many, many terrorist attacks and we try to look at the Israeli situation with that very much in mind."

Haddad, who is supported by Israel as a buffer against

terrorist infiltration of its borders remains defiant. He threatened to resume the shelling unless the Lebanese army pulled out, apparently viewing the extension of Beirut's control as a threat to his authority in south Lebanon.

Israel backed Haddad insofar as the Lebanese troops are concerned claiming that the Moslem units were creating "friction" and harassing Christian villagers. But Premier Menachem Begin, who expressed "deep sorrow" over the casualties inflicted by Haddad, offered to meet with representatives of the Lebanese government to discuss the situation and seek ways to relieve the tension in the region. Begin reportedly sent Chief of Staff Gen. Raphael Eitan to talk to Haddad and impress upon him the need to exercise maximum restraint and avoid new clashes with UNIFIL. Although Israel has had frequent disputes with UNIFIL, charging that the UN troops do not effectively prevent terrorist movements through its zone, Begin stressed that Israel wanted no incidents with UNIFIL. He credited some UNIFIL units with doing a good job to prevent terrorist infiltration.

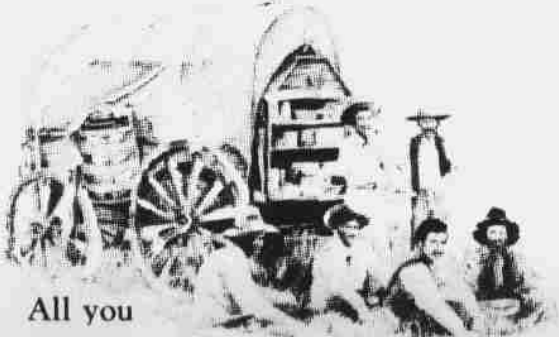
EX-NAZI DEFEATED IN ELECTION

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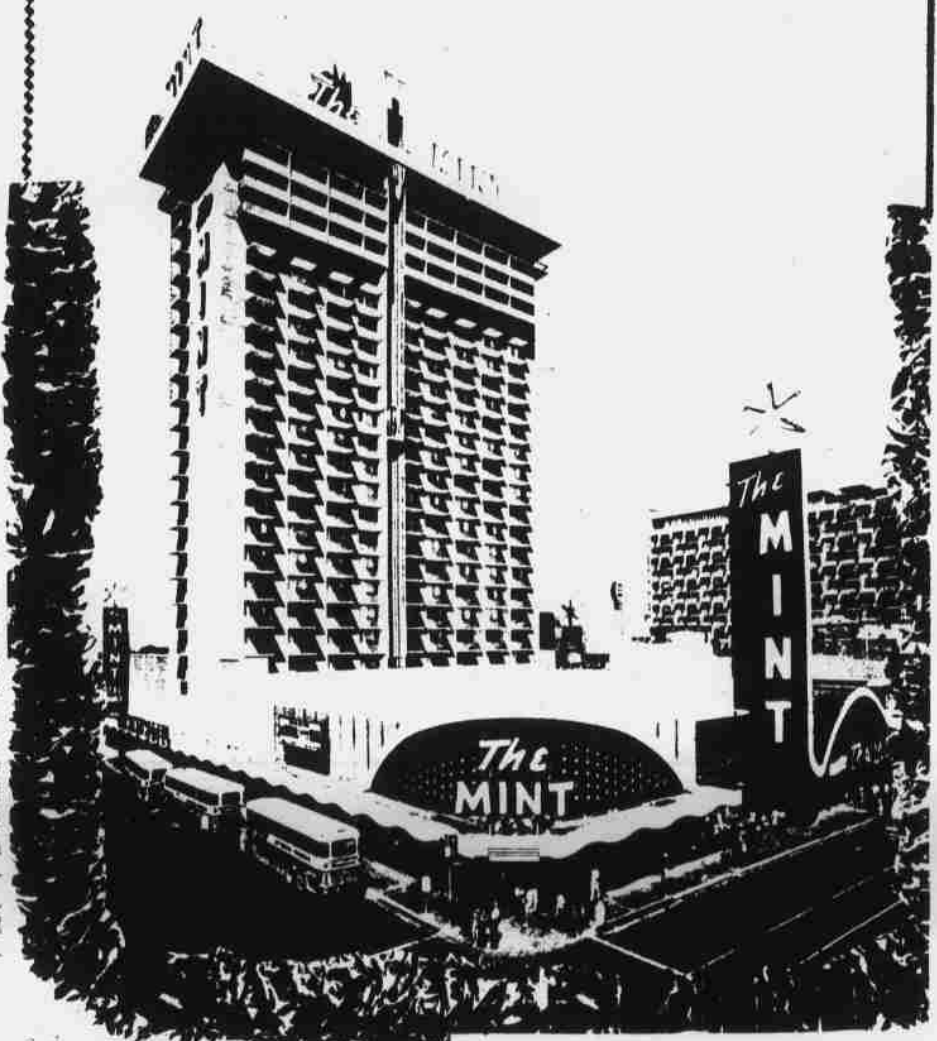
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