

REAGAN TRIES

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experience in the Middle East before he retired from the State Department in 1978, is scheduled to visit Syria and Israel, in that order after Lebanon.

Fischer said the mission required "maximum flexibility" and that there is no set schedule. A military plane will be at Habib's disposal to carry him around the area. No one around the State Department gave specifics of Habib's mission as it is to get Syria to move the missiles from Lebanon or to ask Israel not to bomb the missile sites.

President Reagan sent Premier Menachem Begin a letter asking him to exercise restraint while diplomatic efforts were underway. There is reportedly no pressure on Israel and the letter was of "friendly nature."

Begin said in a radio message that there was complete understanding in Washington of Israel's demand that the status quo be restored in Lebanon, meaning the removal of the missiles, and that the U.S. was making no quid pro quo demands on Israel. However, besides the measures being taken, Begin said that "only a miracle can solve the missile crisis by diplomatic means" and warned that if the missiles are not withdrawn, Israel would do "what it has to do."

Israeli Ambassador to Washington Ephraim

Evron delivered a reply from Begin in which he reportedly agreed to Habib's mission but warned that Israel could not wait forever for the missiles to be removed. Begin at the same time continued to stress that Israel does not want war with Syria and claimed that the missiles were unacceptable to Israel. The missiles presence represents a serious challenge to the air supremacy Israel has enjoyed over Lebanon. According to Begin, the reconnaissance and photographic intelligence flights over Lebanon were essential as long as Syrian forces remained in

that country.

Almost daily, back in Washington, State Department officials emphasized the "urgency" and gravity of the situation. They said Habib's mission is "Presidential" and that he will listen to the views of all the leaders of the countries involved. The U.S. reportedly has no official course of action but only has "objectives" and "goals."

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NEW YORK (WNS) KGB closed the Ovrzhki woods near Modcow for "sanitary cleaning" and in turn prevented Moscow Jews from gathering for the annual mass memorial to victims of the Holocaust, it was reported here by the Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry (SSSJ) and the Union of Councils for Soviet Jews (UCSJ).

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