## GAMAYEL ELECTED PRESIDENT OF LEBANON

JERUSALEM (WNS) -- Bashir Gemayel, the 34 - year - old Maronite Christian leader and the only candi-Presidential date to emerge from the many religious factions in Lebanon, received the necessary votes from the Deputies in the Lebanese Parliament in Beirut to become the next President of Lebanon. Gemayel will succeed Elias Sarkis on September 23 for six - year term as President.

Premier Menachem immediately Begin, following the vote, sent "warmest Gemayel from my wishes heart" his elec-Referring to Lebanon's new leader as "my dearfriend," Begin stated in telegram "May God be with you...in the fulfillment of your brave historic mission for the liberty and independence of Lebanon.' The Foreign Ministry, in a released statement "We wish here said, Gemayel the success in fulfilling his mission and hope that under his leadership Lebanon will become once again united, and free." independent

Gemayel received 58 of th 62 votes in the parliament Lebanese election which was boycotted by Moslem and Lebanese leftist leaders because they consider Gemayel a "collaborator" with Israel because his Phalangist Party's military force received aid from Israel prior to "Peace for Galilee" launched operation last June 6. Three Deputies of the 62 voted against Gemayel while one Deputy abstained. The 62 Deputies who participated. formed the bare minimum necessary for a quorum.

Immediately after the vote's results were announced, east Beirut, controlled by the Phalangist militia, burst into a wave of burst into a wave of with gun firing throughout the city, cars blasttheir horns and people shouting and weeping with joy. Several hours after Gemayel was elected, the homes of three Deputies who had participated in the election were blown

At the same time, Lebanese army forces closed the crossing points between east and west Beirut

at the Galeria Sema and the National Museum. No official reason was given for the action. However, some observers said crossings between the two sectors of the city may have been halted because

of the tension between the two areas following the election of Gemayel.

In an interview with the Voice of Israel Radio, Gemayel said "It is a big achievement for our democracy, it's a great day. I hope that we achieved until now -to reunite the country and to free the Country will continue -- and sovereignty would be reinstated." Gemayel would not be specific on future relations with Israel but said, "We will have a new government, and this

government will decide about all the steps to be taken concerning the outside world."

With Gemayel's election, Israel would like him to sign a peace treaty but so far no Israeli leader has said so publicly. Gemayel reportedly told an Israeli per-

sonality several days before the election that he intends to sign "a peace treaty with Israel within six or seven months." According to reports however, Gemayel told this same personality that things should not he rushed as he will Continued on Page 34



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