

ISRAEL REJECTS WEST BANK PROPOSAL

JERUSALEM (WNS) -- Responding to suggestions that the Reagan Administration is supportive of a demilitarized independent Palestinian state on the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, the Cabinet flatly rejected any such suggestion. The Cabinet acted after hearing a report on the talks held by Defense Minister Ariel Sharon with Administration officials in Washington. According to the report, one of the ideas suggested to Sharon was the proposal for such a Palestinian state. According to observers here, the reports confirmed growing Israeli fears that the Reagan Administration was considering new ways to break the impasse over the autonomy talks called for in Camp David. While they have yet to formalize any new plans, Israeli officials feel that the Administration is leaning "not in accordance with the Camp David accords." Sharon reportedly was informed that the Administration hoped to use the Israeli success in Lebanon as a reason to convince Premier Menachem Begin that Israel was militarily powerful enough to deal with any problems a Palestinian state might pose. But the consensus at the Cabinet session was that not even a demilitarized Palestinian state was a subject for negotiations. As one minister put it "How long would that state remain demilitarized?"

Sharon reported that Secretary of State George Shultz reiterated the United States commitment to Israel's security but reportedly gave "wide ranging interpretations" to the Camp David accords. When Sharon reportedly replied that the United States, too, opposed the creation of "an armed and dangerous state." That comment by Shultz was understood here as a hint that the Reagan Administration was moving toward acceptance of an independent demilitarized Palestinian state.

Shultz reportedly spoke of the need to make an effort to

induce Jordan to join in the Mideast peace talks, as an Arab country "which should have a vital role in the Camp David process." Shultz was understood to have said he felt bringing Jordan into the talks was still possible. This remark, too, was interpreted in Jerusalem as a hint of a possible United States effort to bring new partners into the peace process, presumably on Israel's behalf.

Premier Menachem Begin said that if the Americans, or Egypt, for that matter, sought to introduce basic changes in the Camp David accords, Israel would consider itself free of its obligations under those accords. This was considered by observers as a hint that Israel would no longer regard itself as limited in acting to annex the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

ARMLESS CHILD PHOTO IS PHONEY

TEL AVIV (WNS) -- An Allegedly armless child, whose picture is reportedly displayed on President Reagan's desk as a symbol of suffering in Lebanon, turns out to be a boy, not a girl as alleged, with both arms intact. The child, identified as four-month-old Eli Massou, whose mother is 16 years old, was discharged from the hospital a few days after the picture was taken.

According to the caption accompanying the United Press International photo distributed throughout the world, it was a picture of a baby girl swathed in bandages after both arms had been blown off by a misdirected Israeli bomb. The child was seen held in the arms of a nurse.

After a news report that Reagan had publicized the picture as a symbol of suffering in the Lebanon war, the Israel medical corps started to

track down the infant and the nurse holding him. The nurse and the doctor who treated the baby were found, and sworn depositions were taken from them. The child was tracked down along with his mother in a Lebanese village where they had taken refuge after they were both released from the hospital.

According to the medical report, one of the infant's arms was broken in a bombing raid. The arm and his face were also slightly burned. His mother was also slightly injured in the raid

and his father was killed. Doctors said the child was completely swathed, as shown in the UPI photo, because that is the

standard procedure of dealing with an infant whose arm has been broken to prevent unnecessary movement during medical treatment. Photographs of the

apparently now healthy baby were published in Israeli papers.

Copies have been sent to the Israel Embassy in Washington, which presumably sent a copy to the White House to replace

the incorrectly captioned picture on the President's desk.

BONN (WNS) -- The 50th anniversary of the burning of banned books by the Nazis in May, 1933, will be marked next year by a commemorative week and a conference on emigre literature in the city of Osnabrueck.

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