

BEGIN DEFENDS ISRAELI ACTIONS IN LETTER TO CRANSTON

**PROTEST RALLY
DRAWS 400,000**

WASH. (WNS) -- Replying to a letter from Sen. Alan Cranston (D. Cal.) in which the solon was highly critical of Israel's recent actions in Lebanon, Premier Menachem Begin has replied that the campaign to blame Israel for the massacre of Palestinian civilians in the refugee camps in west Beirut was "unbelievable, fantastic, and totally despicable."

The Israeli Premier replied in the form of a letter to Cranston. The text of the letter was released here by the Israel Embassy. Cranston, the deputy Democratic leader in the Senate and an ardent supporter of Israel, wrote to Begin September 22. Cranston, at that time said that while he had initially supported Israel's efforts in Lebanon, it now appeared to both

perpetrate a massacre." He noted that it would have been "Morally untenable and sinful" to make friends and critics of Israel that Begin and Defense Minister Ariel Sharon "have substituted naked military force for a balanced foreign policy which should reflect a decent respect for the opinion of mankind."

At the outset of his letter to Cranston, Begin noted that the Senator has "a perfect right, even from afar, to criticize Israel's actions or proffer advice because you are a real friend of our people and country." Explaining why Israel went into west Beirut, Begin wrote that after Lebanese President-elect Bashir Gemayel was assassinated, he told the Israel cabinet there was a need to prevent "a revenge

on the Moslem population by the Christians." Begin added: "It never occurred to anyone dealing with the Lebanese military units, which subsequently entered the Shatila and Sabra camps, that they would the "assumption that a disciplined military unit will behave like beasts."

Begin also wrote that "the first horrific truth is that Arabs murdered Arabs. The second simple truth is that Israeli soldiers stopped the carnage. The third simple truth is that if the current campaign should go on, without a reaction of outrage -- indeed outrage -- by decent men, then, within a matter of a few weeks or months, everyone everywhere will have gotten the impression and will begin to believe that it was an Israeli military unit

which perpetrated the horrible killings."

Begin stressed that Israel has now decided to hold a commission of inquiry, adding that the delay in establishing such an inquiry was due to "several factors which could not possibly be known even to our best friends living thousands of miles away from the scene of the tragedy." But Begin stressed that, now that an inquiry will take place, "nothing will be hidden. Everything will be clarified."

dramatically in recent weeks. Egypt has officially blamed Israel for the massacre and has recalled its Ambassador from Israel.

The Israeli policy has done a lot of harm to the cause of peace and stability in the area," he declared to the legislators. Referring to what he called Israel's illusion of military might that he said was shattered by Egypt in 1973, Mubarak declared that "once again it is beating the drums of war." This was a reference to the Yom Kippur War.

"It is imperative for the Israeli government to understand that this policy that they are adopting will have the grave repercussions and that they will definitely backfire on them, and that this policy will never annihilate the people of Palestine or eliminate the right of the Palestinians to have their own homeland, just like the other people in the world," the President warned.

Referring to the Palestinian killings, Mubarak added: "These constant and successive campaigns of mutilation and massacre by the Israelis will never destroy the will of the Palestinian people to drive them to frustration in any way. On the contrary, this will enhance the determination of the people to stand firm and to survive and retain their identity."

TEL AVIV (WNS) -- The largest rally ever to have taken place in Israel, either in support of or opposition to government policies took place here to protest the massacre of Palestinians in two refugee camps in west Beirut and the government's refusal (at that point) to launch a full independent investigation of the carnage allegedly perpetrated by elements of the Christian Phalangist forces which are armed and supplied by Israel.

The rally's organizers -- the Labor Alignment, the Shinui Party and the Peace Now Movement -- claimed that "over 400,000" people participated from all over the country and that the participants crossed party lines. Police declined to provide an estimate of the crowd size, but said it was "one of the largest" rallies to have been held. According to observers, the rally also saw a

number of firsts. The rally, according to these observers, marked the first time young members of the National Religious Party participated in such a demonstration. The rally also called for the resignation of Defense Minister Ariel Sharon and Prime Minister Menachem Begin. Also present at the rally were members of the Sephardis segment of the population which university sociologists and political researchers claim to be the largest single component on Begin's "constituency."

Speakers at the demonstration included Labor Party leaders Shimon Peres and Yitzhak Rabin, Shinui Party leader Amnon Rubinstein, Civil Rights Party leader Shulamit Aloni, Peace Now spokesman Tzali Reshef, Mapam leader Victor Shemtov, and Avraham Burg, a reserve combat officer and son of Interior Minister Yosef Burg.

**100,000TH VISITOR TO
IMPERIAL PALACE**

**EGYPT TO ASSESS
RELATIONS**



Roger W. Skutt of Marshall, Michigan, (near Battle Creek) was happily surprised when he paid his admission to the Imperial Palace Auto Collection.

Skutt looked around in disbelief. "Are you sure you mean me? I've never won anything in my life." He gladly accepted a ceramic decanter of a Packard containing bourbon and a decorative mirror commemorating the grand opening of the Collection November 30, 1981. He will have dinner in the Kobe Steak House and attend Lovelace Watkins show.

It was not Skutt's first visit to the Collection. "I came when I was here last winter, too." Skutt is retired from Eaton Mfg. Corp.

The Collection of antique vintage and special interest autos

is owned by Ralph Engelstad, owner and President of the Imperial Palace Hotel/Casino. Over 200 autos are on display at any time in the plush gallery - setting on the fifth floor of the hotel's parking facility. Engelstad keeps a staff of car restorers busy at 3 locations around town where he stores his new purchases before rotating them into his collection.

The Collection is open daily from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 p.m. Admission is \$3.75 for adults, \$2.00 for senior citizens and children under 12. Children 5 and under are free with an adult.

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CAIRO (WNS) -- Egypt's Foreign Minister Kammal Hassan Ali has ordered the formation of a committee to assess relations between Egypt and Israel. According to a report in Egypt's semi-official news daily Al-Ahram, Ali will review in the next few days a detailed report prepared by Middle East and Israeli affairs experts on all aspects of Egyptian - Israeli relations and the massacre of Palestinians in west Beirut.

At the same time, President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt, in an address marking the inauguration of this year's Parliamentary session issued a sharply worded denunciation of Israeli policy in Lebanon and warned Israel that its actions would have "grave repercussions." The Egyptian leader however reiterated Egypt's commitment to "every convention and every agreement" to which his country was part.

Although the President announced no specific measures against Israel, in the wake of the massacre, the stinging tone of his address underscored the strain in relations between the two countries which has increased

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