

MORE TENSION BETWEEN MARINES AND ISRAELI TROOPS

TEL AVIV (WNS) -- The commander of the 1,200 U.S. marines in Lebanon, Col. James Mead, has accused Israel army units of endangering civilians and marines by what he charged was indiscriminate gunfire resulting from a "gross lack" of discipline on the part of the Israeli soldiers.

Mead made his charge in an interview with the Associated Press in Beirut. The Israeli military commander, asked to comment, said that "lately the marines are publishing data that have no basis."

He may have been referring to a letter sent by Marine Corps

Commandant Gen. Robert Barrow, to Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger, charging that the Israeli troops were deliberately endangering the lives of American personnel in Lebanon for "political reasons."

Mead's complaint referred to the Israeli practice of firing blindly into underbrush and other areas of concealment as a preventive measure against possible ambush of Israeli forces using the highways in the Beirut area. According to Mead, such measures are ineffective against ambushers but endanger military personnel and civilians.

Meanwhile, it was reported that five Israelis were wounded in Lebanon when they stepped on mines buried in a dirt road leading to an abandoned house in the Shouf mountains area. Officers on the spot said they did not think the mines had been laid by terrorists to hurt Israeli soldiers, but by the house owner trying to defend his property from pillage.

AMERICA-ISRAEL FRIENDSHIP AWARD



LAUNCHING ITS 75TH ANNIVERSARY, BNAI ZION -- AMERICA'S OLDEST AND LARGEST FRATERNAL ORGANIZATION -- PRESENTED ITS 1983 AWARD TO SENATOR ALAN CRANSTON (D-CA.) AT ITS AWARDS DINNER IN THE NEW YORK HILTON. SENATOR JOSEPH BIDEN (D. DEL.) ACCEPTED THE AWARD IN BEHALF OF SENATOR CRANSTON FROM BNAI ZION PAST PRESIDENT RAYMOND M. PATT (SECOND FROM LEFT). OTHER KEY PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS WERE ISRAEL'S DEFENSE MINISTER MOSHE ARENS (LEFT) AND JUDGE ARTHUR MARKEWICH (RIGHT) CHAIRMAN OF BNAI ZION'S DIAMOND JUBILEE CELEBRATION AND DINNER CHAIRMAN.



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