

urged all Knesset factions to unite -- just as they were united behind the "Peace for Galilee" operation a year ago -- so that "our boys can return home." He said it was undesirable to create the impression that there is a wide gap on this issue. The Israeli leader maintained that no one in Israel was hurt more by the casualties than he himself.

Begin's defense of government policy came amid the continuing diplomatic impasse in the U.S. efforts to seek a Syrian withdrawal of its forces from Lebanon in order for the Israel-Lebanon agreement calling for the simultaneous withdrawal of Israeli and Syrian forces, to become operational. Furthermore, there were continued attacks by the Syrian leaders on the U.S. mediated accord.

Syria's Ambassador to France, Yusuf Chakur warned in Paris that a new Middle East war was "imminent" and accused the U.S. and Israel of "plotting" an attack on Syria. According to Chakur, who echoed President Hafez Assad of Syria, the Israeli-Lebanese agreement jeopardized Syria's basic security and makes Lebanon a "puppet" of Israel and the U.S.

Special U.S. envoy Philip Habib returned to Washington apparently failing to make progress in convincing moderate Arab states friendly to the U.S. to persuade Syria to cooperate and withdraw from Lebanon. Habib met with leaders in Jerusalem and several Arab states. But he was not welcomed in Damascus where he was, in effect, declared persona non grata for alleged pro-Israel bias.

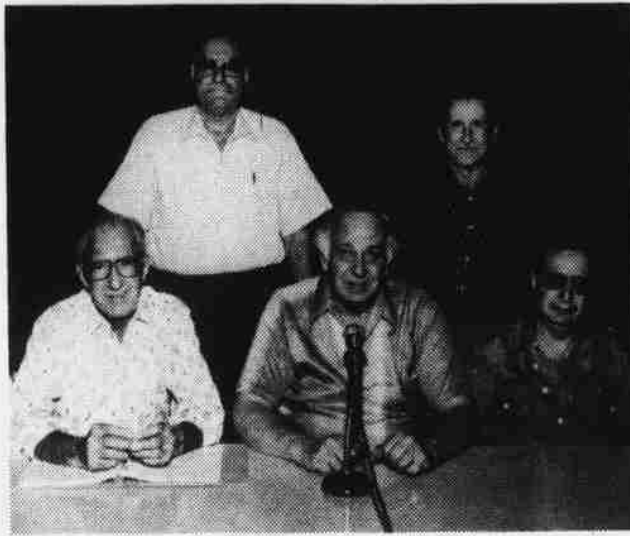
Begin, meanwhile, faced stiff opposition from the Labor Alignment. In its first major policy action since the war in Lebanon began on June 6, 1982, the central committee of the Labor Party and members of its Knesset faction voted unanimously to demand the withdrawal of Israeli forces from the Shouf mountains and the Beirut areas, and the withdrawal of all Israel forces from Lebanon "within two or three months."

Labor Party spokesmen stressed that Israel should take unilateral action to avoid further casualties, taking into consideration only its own security and defense needs and not the welfare of Lebanon itself or the immediate strategic interests of the U.S. in the Mideast. The Israeli moves should be undertaken even if the Syrians did not agree to withdraw from Lebanon.

The Labor resolution said that the multinational force should move into the Shouf and Beirut areas to replace the Israeli army in the first and immediate stage, and the Lebanese army and Maj. Saad Haddad's forces should replace Israeli troops in the second stage, with the multinational forces ensuring the safety of Palestinians in the camps near Tyre and Sidon.

At the same time, Israeli Defense Minister Moshe Arens warned that if Syria chooses to wage a war of attrition in Lebanon, "Israel will not reply in kind but will choose the time and the most appropriate manner in which to respond." Arens, in Paris, the guest of French Defense Minister Charles Henru to attend the Paris air show at Le Bourget, indicated however that Israel would wait only a matter of weeks before it takes the next step if Syria continues to reject the Israel-Lebanese accord. "No useful purpose can be served by giving time ultimatums" but "it is a question of weeks," Arens said.

He also made clear that before taking any steps in Lebanon, Israel would call for urgent consultations with the United States and Lebanon as provided in the accord. The "Agreement is a valid document and we want Syria to comply and start withdrawing its forces." According to Arens, Israel does not consider a new war in Lebanon "inevitable" and "will do its best to avoid a confrontation with Syria." But should war break out, "The Israeli army is ready for any eventuality," he said.



(L-R SEATED) DR. HARRY L. GOLDBERG, TREASURER, VERN MILLER, PRESIDENT AND ART BRAND, VICE PRESIDENT. (L-R STANDING) NORM EBENHOLTZ, SERGEANT AT ARMS AND ALEX SCHLESINGER, SECRETARY. TEMPLE BETH SHOLOM'S MENS CLUB RE-ESTABLISHED THE TRADITION OF GIVING A KIDDUSH CUP TO EVERY BAR MITZVAH BOY AND A PAIR OF CANDLE STICKS AS A GIFT TO EACH BAT MITZVAH GIRL AS THE FIRST ORDER OF BUSINESS AT THEIR LAST MEETING. KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK, GUYS!

MAIL INTERRUPTION BY SOVIETS

WASH. -- Congressman Benjamin A. Gilman (NY) is leading a Congressional effort to bring pressure on the Soviet Union to stop interfering with U.S. mail to residents of the Soviet Union.

Rep Gilman said that he was joined by 79 other Congressmen in asking U.S. Postmaster General William F. Bolger to intervene at an Executive Postal Union meeting now underway in Europe with

Soviets and delegations from 39 other countries on postal issues.

"The conditions under which Soviet Jews exist are getting worse instead of better," said Gilman. "Soviet propaganda is as virulently anti-Semitic as ever, and is reminiscent of depictions and accusations used against Jews by Fascist governments a generation ago."

THOUSANDS RALLY FOR SOVIET JEWRY

NEW YORK (WNS) -- With Jewish emigration from the Soviet Union having declined to the lowest level in three years and with a marked increase in Soviet government harassment and intimidation of Soviet Jews, ten of thousands of persons rallied in Dag Hammarskjold Plaza across from the United Nations to demonstrate support and solidarity with Soviet Jewry.

Under overcast skies, they gathered for the 12th annual Solidarity Sunday for Soviet Jewry rally and heard government officials and other local dignitaries stress the need for continued vigilance and action to secure the release of Soviet Jewish activists such as Anatoly Shcharansky and Yosif Begun. The rally, said to be the largest human rights demonstration in the world, drew an estimated crowd of 180,000 this year. As in past years, the rally across from the UN was preceded by a march down Fifth Avenue.

President Reagan, in a message to the gathering, said: "You have shown beyond any shadow of a doubt that Soviet Jews enjoy widespread grassroots support in this country....I promise you that this Administration will continue to work with you and use every means at its disposal to bring about our common goal: liberty and religious freedom for Soviet Jews."

Dr. Seymour Lachman, chairman of the Greater New York Conference on Soviet Jewry, organizers of the annual rally, said: During all of 1982, only 2,688 Jews were allowed to leave the Soviet Union. During the first five months of 1983, the numbers have been even more shocking; only 484 Jews have been permitted to leave. The enormity of the crisis facing Soviet Jewry becomes clear if you compare these recent figures with the emigration figures for 1979, when more than 50,000 Jews left the Soviet Union."

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