

# Cabinet Approves Troop Withdrawal Plan From Lebanon

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to a line extending from the Lebanese coast south of Sidon to Nabatiya. In the second stage, the IDF will evacuate the northeast sector of south Lebanon, and the final stage will bring it to the international border and out of Lebanese territory.

No timetable has been set for the second and third stages of the withdrawal. The plans calls for a pause between each stage to allow the defense establishment to assess the situation before proceeding to the next one. Accordingly to unofficial estimates, the entire withdrawal operation will take 6-9 months.

## Radio Program Proposed To Broadcast To Jews In USSR

WASHINGTON (WNS) — In an effort to prevent the isolation of Soviet Jews from the West, legislation was introduced in Congress to establish a program called Radio Maccabee which would broadcast Russian-language programs to Jews in the Soviet Union.

Sen. Paula Hawkins (R., Fla.) and Rep. Matthew Rinaldo (R. NJ) introduced con-current bills in the Senate and House during the opening session of the 99th Congress to provide \$3 million for setting up Radio Mac-

cabee as a separate arm of Radio Liberty which broadcasts into the Soviet Union.

The special program would include items of general cultural, intellectual, political and religious interest to

The Cabinet voted for the plan generally along party lines. It was backed by the Labor, Yahad and Shinui ministers. Likud was split, Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir, leader of Likud, cast a negative vote as did five of his colleagues.

But Deputy Premier and Housing Minister David Levy, like Shamir a member of Likud's Herut bloc and one of the most powerful voices in the party, was among the strongest advocates of the withdrawal plan during the Cabinet debate.

Shamir said later that he opposed the plan, not for political reasons in the context of Likud versus Labor, but because he thought it was fraught with danger and contained no security guarantees. The issue, therefore, is not seen likely to disrupt the Labor-Likud unity Coalition government.

Israeli officials had been warning for some

time that Israel would consider unilateral options if the negotiations with Lebanon failed to produce an agreement guaranteeing security for Israel after the IDF leaves Lebanese soil.

The talks at Nakura, sponsored by the United Nations, have been dragging on for months. When the Lebanese failed to offer a positive response to Israeli proposals after a two-week Christmas-New Year recess, the Israelis decided they would have to act alone.

Mounting Israeli casualties in south Lebanon provided a strong incentive for the withdrawal plan. Even as the ministers were debating the matter, a military spokesman announced that two Israeli soldiers were killed and seven wounded that morning in two separate incidents in south Lebanon. Their deaths brought to 607 the number of fatalities sustained by the IDF since it invaded Lebanon in June, 1982.

In Washington, the Reagan Administration welcomed Israel's decision to withdraw its forces from Lebanon. State Department deputy spokesman Alan Romberg said that it was "consistent" with U.S. efforts to bring about the withdrawal of all foreign forces from Lebanon.

Soviet Jews as well as provide Hebrew education courses. It would particularly serve the needs of refuseniks and activists.

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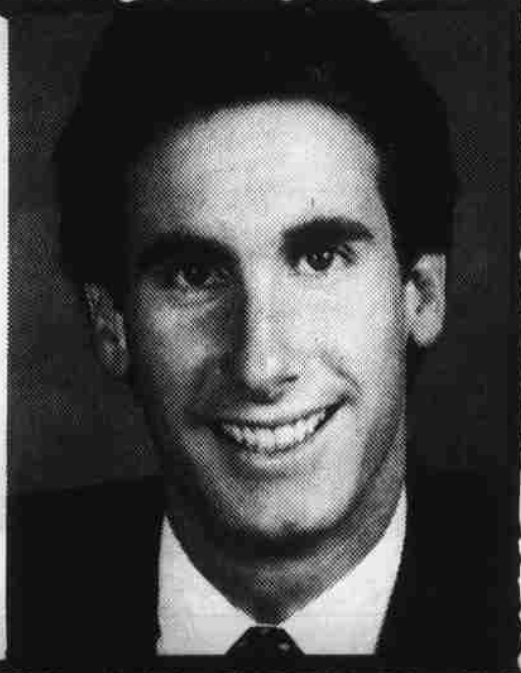


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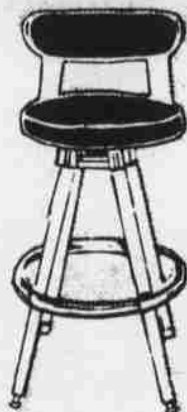
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