

# Behind The Scenes

At The United Nations  
By David Horowitz  
A World—Union Press Feature

(Continued from page 4)

some protection from the seemingly impotent units of UNIFIL which mandate was recently renewed here for another fleeting six months.

In entering Lebanon, Israel not only destroyed the PLO military infrastructure. They also rescued the beleaguered Christians in that war-torn country which has previously undergone a long, bloody civil war. At the same time, the Israelis sought to befriend the Druze and other moderate Moslems.

In return for this IDF aid, Israel was betrayed not only by the Gemayal Christians but also by all the other factions including the Shiites who, during the commencement of the campaign welcomed the Israelis with flowers and hailed them as liberators from the murderous grip of the PLO terrorists.

As to the fate that may befall the Lebanese Christians, Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin stated in an interview that it was now up to the Christian world to prevent the destruction of Lebanon's Christians. "Let the Christians enter

now and save the Christians," he said on the Government radio station in Jerusalem. "I hope the local Christian forces will persist," he added. "After all, they are not being attacked by an army. If the Christians show fighting capacity to protect their homes, they will survive."

On the Israeli home front one hears both praise and harsh criticism -- a lot of criticism -- of Likud's "Peace for Galilee Operation" and now that the IDF is withdrawing the debate is intensifying.

This writer has stated on several occasions and will now reemphasize the fact that the operation had proved a Big Plus for Israel and for the world as a whole. It had to take place. Israel had no alternative. The PLO infrastructure had to be destroyed once and for all, not partially but totally as it was. Despite some rumblings here and there, the PLO is a broken reed today, thanks to Menachem Begin and Arik Sharon. Your correspondent was in Lebanon at the close of the 1982 war and he can testify to the dire fate that befell the murderous PLO machine in Lebanon.

Jon Kimche, the noted author and military analyst had held similar views. In an article entitled "Lebanon: If There Had Been No War" (Midstream, February 1985), concluded his penetrating exposition thus:

"It may be hard for many politicians and critics, whether Israelis, Palestinian, Arabs, Egyptians or Lebanese, to admit that had there been no war in Lebanon we would now be faced by a much graver regional situation and with far more serious local problems. The conduct of the war in Lebanon remains to be seriously assessed in both its political and military aspects, but the objectives of the war, had they been fully

achieved, would have greatly improved the chances of a peace settlement. The destruction of the PLO was vital, not only for the peace of Galilee, but also for the well-being of the Palestinian Arabs themselves.

"The real test now, Kimche asserts, "is whether the Israelis will learn to understand the enormous difference the defeat in Lebanon of the PLO and of its power to veto all attempts at Arab-Israeli co-existence has made to the prospect of peace...It was not appeasement of the PLO that brought about the change. It was Israel's recognition of the threat the PLO's progressive take-over of Lebanon posed to the security of Israel and to the future peace of the region. It was Israel's willingness to do something about it in June, 1982, come what may, that brought about the revolutionary change. And history may well show that it was necessary and worthwhile. For, if there had been no war in Lebanon..."

**NEWARK (WNS)** — Beth Flom, the 13-year-old Jewish girl from New Jersey whose letter to President Reagan was quoted by him during his speech at the Bitburg cemetery in Germany as supporting his visit to the war cemetery, said on May 7 that in her letter she expressed her opposition to the visit by the President.

**TEL AVIV (WNS)** — Aulcie Perry, Israel's first Black basketball star, a native of New Jersey who twice led the Tel Aviv Maccabi team to victory in the European Cup championships, was fined \$600 and given a three-month suspended sentence after pleading guilty to heroin possession. Perry, 34, is a convert to Judaism. He came to Israel in 1977 and has served in the Israeli army.

## Lewis Honored As His Ambassadorial Term Ends

**JERUSALEM (WNS)** — "Trees are to Sally and me the right way to remember Israel and to be remembered in Israel," U.S. Ambassador

Samuel Lewis told a group of high-ranking friends assembled on a mountainside outside Jerusalem to honor him as his eight-year tour of duty in Israel nears its end. Lewis, who returns to the U.S. at the end of this month, spoke in response to the dedication of a forest and picnic area in the names of himself and his wife, Sally Lewis.

The site is the Jewish National Fund's American Independence Park at Nes Harim. He said the trees would be one more reason for him to come back to Israel on visits. Another reason, he said, would be to celebrate with the Israelis the "next peace treaty" Israel signs with its neighbors.

Premier Shimon Peres, one of the leaders attending its ceremony, hailed Lewis as a "brilliant Ambassador and a warm friend" who served both America and Israel in "difficult and complicated times," always with utmost tact and understanding.

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