

Six Kidnapped Lebanese Jews Reported Alive

PARIS (WNS) — The six prominent Lebanese Jews kidnapped in recent months are alive and in the hands of the Hetzbollah, the extremist pro-Iranian Shiite faction, according to a senior Lebanese government official.

men kidnapped earlier this year in Beirut, one is a Jew: Jean Paul Kauffman, 43. A reporter, he was kidnapped while on his way from the airport to the air terminal in Central Beirut. He is believed to be in the hands of the Hetzbollah who have

promised to release him after Israel frees the last Shiite prisoners still held in Atlit prison. Israeli Premier Shimon Peres said last week that the last prisoners will be set free within a week or 10 days at the utmost. The fate of the six missing Lebanese Jews is not linked to the release of the Shiite prisoners in Israel.

Prospects Increase For Mubarak-Peres Summit

JERUSALEM (WNS) — Prospects seem to have improved for a summit meeting between Premier Shimon Peres and President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt, sources close to Peres indicated. The two leaders will be in New York at the same time later this month to attend the 40th anniversary session of the United Nations General Assembly.

The chances of a summit may have been enhanced, these sources hinted, by the discreet visit to Cairo recently of Gen. (Res.) Avraham Tamir, Director General of the Prime Minister's Office. They described it as "a great success" noting that Tamir met twice in 24

hours with Mubarak. Well placed sources said that Tamir's primary mission was to convey new Israeli proposals for a solution of the Taba dispute. Taba is a tiny strip of beach west of Eilat which is claimed by both Israel and Egypt.

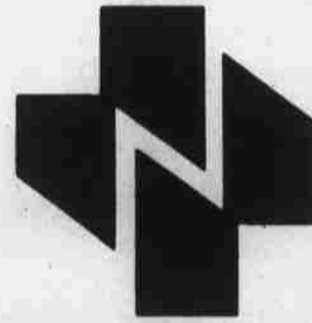
The sources said Peres informed Deputy and Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir of Tamir's mission but did not seek his approval. They said Shamir received a preliminary report of Tamir's talks in Cairo before he left on an official visit to Japan. The sources would not divulge the contents of a personal message from Peres which Tamir delivered to Mubarak.

President Amin Gemayel's Chief of Protocol, Marun Haimari, said in a cable to Paris that the six Jewish hostages were alive. Haimari advised the president of the Representative Council of French Jews (CRIF), Teho Klein, to intercede on their behalf through the Syrian and Libyan governments. Haimari also mentioned Lebanese Education Minister Selim Hosa and Hetzbollah leader Sheikh Mohammed Hussein Fadlallah as possible contacts.

Klein has repeatedly cabled and written Gemayel and other Lebanese leaders to try and obtain the freeing of the six, or at least to ascertain their fate.

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