

Israeli Air Force Bombs Terrorist Targets

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positions in south Lebanon. He said the responsibility for the recent attacks on the SLA by the extremist Shiite Moslem Hezbollah rested more with Iran than with Syria.

Meanwhile, military sources in Tel Aviv said that south Lebanon remained tense but relatively quiet. The sources said there was no large-scale movement by the Israel Defense Force in the border security zone. Reports in the overseas media earlier said Israel was massing troops and equipment there.

The sources said that whatever movement there was, was of a tactical nature and involved small quantities of equipment. Nevertheless, Israel is bolstering the South Lebanon Army which operates in the security zone. Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin vowed that Israel would protect the SLA and thwart any attacks on it in the security zone. "We will increase our backing of the SLA whenever terrorist activities increase and we will reduce our activities when the activities of the terrorist groups are reduced," Rabin said. "If its (SLA) positions are attacked again, we shall do the utmost to bring about the total and painful failure of those who attack them or to anyone who tries to carry out any attack on the security zone or targets in Israel," the Defense Minister added.

The SLA is a largely Christian Lebanon force commanded by Gen. Antoine Lahad which Israel has supported since the withdrawal of IDF troops from south Lebanon a year ago. It has been the target of attack at different times by the Shiite Moslem mainstream militia, Amal, by Shiite extremist groups and Palestinian terrorists.

Rabin said on a television interview that Israel would like to see a strong viable SLA capable of fulfilling its assigned role in the security zone as part of Israel's comprehensive security strategy. He said it must be made clear that any attacks on the SLA would result in severe punishment for the attackers.

Meanwhile, it is the French contingent of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon which has borne the brunt of attacks in south Lebanon. It has suffered four killed and 33 wounded over the past six weeks. Recently, four Katyusha rockets hit French headquarters at Ma'areke, near Tyre. There were no casualties.

Asked to comment on charges that Israel's refusal to allow UNIFIL to extend its area of operations southward to the international border was responsible for the attacks on the French, Rabin replied that there is neither proof nor any basis for that claim.

At the United Nations, Benjamin Netanyahu, Israel's Ambassador to the UN, strongly defended the south Lebanon security zone at a meeting of the Security Council. He said if it did not exist, "south Lebanon and northern Israel would again face an intolerable situation. A terrible violence would once again be unleashed."

The Security Council convened at the request of France to debate the future of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) of which the French contingent is the largest -- 1391 men of a total of 5827. Netanyahu in his speech rejected vigorously the contention that UNIFIL was made vulnerable because Israel refuses to allow it to deploy southwards to the international border -- meaning in essence,

abandonment of the security zone. The allegation was contained in a report to the Security Council on UNIFIL's problems, issued recently. Netanyahu said the report was misguided in blaming Israel for those problems. He maintained in his speech that the attacks on UNIFIL originate "overwhelmingly" from "the Shiite terror organization known as Hezbollah -- (the) so-called 'Party of God.'" He charged that Hezbollah is equipped, financed, inspired and motivated by the Iranian regime of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, and by Syria.

Netanyahu declared that Israel "will continue to do what is necessary to protect the lives and safety of our citizens. That is our goal, our only goal, vis-a-vis Lebanon. And we shall continue to work with any party in Lebanon genuinely interested in securing peace in this area. He added: "UNIFIL has tried to assist in this objective. It has suffered painful casualties in the process. Although we did not request UNIFIL's establishment, everyone in Israel shares the grief of the bereaved families and their governments. We cannot and must not, however, expect UNIFIL to defend Israel. This was never and cannot be UNIFIL's purpose."

Meanwhile, France asked the Security Council to adopt a resolution calling on Israel to withdraw from the security zone within 15 days after the resolution is passed.

A resolution, which condemns recent attacks against United Nations peacekeeping forces and calls for an end to any military presence in south Lebanon not accepted by Lebanese authorities, was approved by a vote of 14-0. The United States abstained.

JERUSALEM (WNS) — The trial of John Demjanjuk, the alleged Treblinka death camp guard known to inmates as "Ivan the Terrible," is expected to begin early in 1987, Justice Ministry sources announced. Demjanjuk allegedly operated the gas chambers at Treblinka where 900,000 Jews died in 1942 and 1943. He insists he is a victim of mistaken identity.

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