

Date and Time: Saturday, May 4, 2024 1:48:00AM EEST

Job Number: 223497100

Documents (100)

1. [*Girl's shrieks tell of ambulance carnage*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2000

2. [*Grapes of Wrath unites Christians, Muslims*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2000

3. [*LEBANESE FORCE SENT TO SOUTH IS JUST SYMBOLIC ANALYSIS*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2000

4. [*Retreat at dawn; Gate slams on Israeli army and 22 years of strife*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2000

5. [*Exodus marks fourth day of Israeli raids Thousands abandon Tyre*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to
Dec 31, 2000

6. [Lebanon : End to fighting lies on the road to Damascus](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to
Dec 31, 2000

7. [Bombing children to win a poll](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to
Dec 31, 2000

8. [ISRAEL EXCHANGES PRISONERS, BODIES WITH MILITANT GROUP iA](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to
Dec 31, 2000

9. ['HORRIFIC' FIGHTING IN LEBANESE TOWNS](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to
Dec 31, 2000

10. [75 PERISH IN ATTACK BY ISRAELIS; MOST OF DEAD ARE WOMEN, CHILDREN AT REFUGEE CAMP
IN SOUTH LEBANON](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2000

11. [World](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2000

12. [Syria blocks Iran 's influence in Beirut](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2000

13. [Syria faces hard choice in Beirut](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2000

14. [RETREAT FROM LEBANON : THE TRIUMPHAL PROCESSION; Israelis Out of Lebanon After 22 Years](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2000

15. [AS LEBANESE HONOR THEIR DEAD, HOPES DIM FOR A RAPID TRUCE< THE NATION OBSERVED AN OFFICIAL DAY OF MOURNING FOR< ABOUT 150 CIVILIANS KILLED BY ISRAEL 'S BOMBARDMENT.](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2000

16. [Lebanon rejects US peace terms](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2000

17. [Dialogue on terror](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2000

18. [A macabre exchange: Israel , guerrillas from Lebanon to swap bodies](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2000

19. [Fearing terror attacks, Israel seals off territories](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2000

20. [ISRAEL 'S OCCUPATION OF S. LEBANON COLLAPSES; 6 DIE AS MUSLIM GUERRILLAS MOVE; INTO VILLAGES; ALLIED MILITIAMEN ABANDON POSTS; CHAOS ENDS BARAK'S PLAN FOR ORDERLY: WITHDRAWAL](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2000

21. [Israel releases tape of kidnapped cleric](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2000

22. [Christopher expects tough talks: Diplomats at work as gunners keep on firing](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2000

23. [Kafr Kila Journal; Ice Cream and Bottle Rockets At Lebanon 's Border Parade](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2000

24. [75 PERISH IN ATTACK BY ISRAELIS; MOST OF DEAD ARE WOMEN, CHILDREN AT REFUGEE CAMP IN SOUTH LEBANON](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2000

25. [Israeli artillery kills 100 Cease-fire sought after shells destroy U.N. camp](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type

News

Narrowed by

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2000

26. [*Israeli artillery kills 75 Cease-fire sought after shells destroy U.N. camp*](#)**Client/Matter:** -None-**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors**Narrowed by:****Content Type**

News

Narrowed by

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2000

27. [*ISRAEL ADMITS ATTACK AN 'UNFORTUNATE MISTAKE'*](#)**Client/Matter:** -None-**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors**Narrowed by:****Content Type**

News

Narrowed by

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2000

28. [*101 civilians die in Israeli carnage*](#)**Client/Matter:** -None-**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors**Narrowed by:****Content Type**

News

Narrowed by

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2000

29. [*War is a bore in Lebanon ; Hardship-hardened nation takes bombings in stride*](#)**Client/Matter:** -None-**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors**Narrowed by:****Content Type**

News

Narrowed by

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2000

30. [*ISRAELI LEADERS URGE STRIKES AGAINST LEBANON ; NETANYAHU WANTS SAFETY IN BORDER REGION BEFORE EVENTUAL TROOP PULLBACK; SYRIA GUARANTEES MAY BE SOUGHT*](#)**Client/Matter:** -None-**Search Terms:** "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors**Narrowed by:****Content Type**

News

Narrowed by

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to

Dec 31, 2000

31. [When Civilians Are Fair Game in War](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2000

32. [Israeli pullout leaves buffer zone in peril](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2000

33. [Bomb blast kills 1 after Shiite Moslems vow to avenge deaths](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2000

34. [THE ISRAEL - SYRIA TALKS: THE LEBANESE; Israeli -Backed Militia's Shells Wound 15 Pupils in Lebanon](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2000

35. [World](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2000

36. [*Journey to the heart of the Army of God*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2000

37. [*Journey to the heart of the Army of God*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2000

38. [*Six die in ambulance hit by Israelis: More targets in Lebanon struck today*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2000

39. [*Iran funds 'state within a state' for Beirut's poor*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2000

40. [*LEBANON : END OF HOSTAGE ERA MARKS LESS INFLUENCE FOR MUSLIM EXTREMISTS*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2000

41. [*Rockets hit Israel ; Shiite official killed*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2000

42. [Israel 's carnage in Lebanon : "Those who fire artillery are responsible for where the shells land."](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2000

43. [Israeli attack sparks fury: 75 refugees killed in UN shelter](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2000

44. [Israeli - Lebanese fighting heats up](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2000

45. [Guerrillas, Israel halt tit-for-tat fire](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2000

46. [Rockets hit Israel after assassination assassination assassination](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2000

47. [*NEW VICTIMS IN AN OLD WAR*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2000

48. [*Lebanese battles kill seven*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2000

49. [*Mothers' cries swell chorus of protest*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2000

50. [*Operation Grapes of Wrath*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2000

51. [*ISRAELI SHELLS KILL 75 LEBANESE < CLINTON CALLING FOR CEASE-FIRE*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2000

52. [*Peace in Lebanon : Tantalizing but Still Intangible*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2000

53. [*ISRAELI JETS BOMB GUERRILLAS IN LEBANON*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2000

54. [*LEBANON : Under the shadow of war; Tensions increase between Israel and Syria*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2000

55. [*Israel blocks ports; Two women and four children were killed when an Israeli helicopter rocketed an ambulance in Lebanon .*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2000

56. [*Peace seekers won't give up despite shelling*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to

Dec 31, 2000

57. [U.N. peacekeepers admit failure as they languish in Lebanon](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2000

58. [AS TRUCE BEGINS, LEBANESE RETURN TO THEIR HOMES](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2000

59. [Muslim extremists warn France](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2000

60. [ISRAEL SHELLS SOUTHERN LEBANON , BLOCKADES PORTS](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2000

61. [Ceasefire ends bloody battle in Lebanon : Deal protects civilians from future fighting](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2000

62. [*Mideast peace hopes on track despite shelling*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2000

63. [*The bloody road to peace*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2000

64. [*Middle East: Tragedy in Lebanon confuses Israelis*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2000

65. [*Civilians flee southern Lebanon amid fierce rocket battles*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2000

66. [*Papal visit, revival of festival signs of hope for weary Lebanon*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2000

67. [*Israel silent on fate of hostages; Khiam's prisoners are witnesses to a shameful part of Lebanon's war*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2000

68. [Lebanon unites in grief to bury slain refugees](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2000

69. [Essay: Arafat's 'War Process'](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2000

70. [PRESSURE MOUNTS IN ISRAEL TO PULL OUT OF LEBANON ; NETANYAHU, LABOR PARTY CHALLENGER VOW TO MAKE IT HAPPEN WITHIN A YEAR](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2000

71. [LEBANESE HEAD HOME, SURVEY WHAT SURVIVED](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2000

72. [ARAFAT'S 'WAR PROCESS'; MEANWHILE, BACK IN THE MIDDLE EAST, THE PALESTINIAN LEADER MAKES CHAOS](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2000

73. [PM vows Israel will remain in Lebanon](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2000

74. [WORLD HEADLINES](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2000

75. [LEBANESE CIVILIANS ARE TAKING HEAVY BLOWS](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2000

76. [U.N. FORCE AWAITS ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL AS ISRAEL PULLS OUT OF SOUTHERN LEBANON. PEACEKEEPERS FEAR THE WORST VIOLENCE IS YET TO COME.](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2000

77. [UNslams Lebanon 's retaliation strikes; CIVILIANS SCATTER: Shiites hit back after Israeli rocket raids](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to
Dec 31, 2000

78. [Bloodbath in Lebanon : UN calls for ceasefire after Israeli shells kill 101](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to
Dec 31, 2000

79. [TURKEY ORDERS READING OF ANTI-VIOLENCE SERMON IN MOSQUES AFTER TERRORIST;
KILLINGS](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to
Dec 31, 2000

80. [Serb-led Yugoslavs call for end to fighting](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to
Dec 31, 2000

81. [ISRAELI SOLDIERS, 1 GUERRILLA KILLED IN LEBANON CLASHES](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to
Dec 31, 2000

82. [Gloom overshadows truce talks](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2000

83. [*It's hard to be 'surgical' with 500-pound bombs*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2000

84. [*LEBANON FIGHTING DEFIES DIPLOMACY AFTER DEATH OF 75*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2000

85. [*Israeli attacks prompt protest at 'U' by Twin Cities Muslims*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2000

86. [*Guerillas win support of a shocked people*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2000

87. [*We'll Drown You In A Sea Of Blood; Terrorist threat to Israel*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type

Narrowed by

News

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2000

88. [Israelis emerge from shelters after night under rocket attack](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2000

89. [Eyewitness: Israel 's pursuit of an elusive enemy puts angry villagers in the firing line](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2000

90. [ISRAELI ATTACKS ARE 'OBSTACLES' TO PEACE: SYRIA](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2000

91. [ISRAELI JETS BOMB TARGETS IN LEBANON AFTER GUERRILLA ATTACKS](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2000

92. [FIGHTERS WHO AIM FOR MARTYRDOM](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2000

93. [SLAIN TURKISH FEMINIST SPARKS DEBATE ON RIGHTS 0000107064:](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to
Dec 31, 2000

94. [A message of peace; Pope John Paul II - welcomed to Lebanon by a crowd of 20,000 - talks of forgiveness to the nation's war-torn people. His visit to the Middle East, the first by a pope in three decades, was welcomed by most factions from hardline Christians to the militant Muslim Hezbollah](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to
Dec 31, 2000

95. [IN BRIEF STAND-OFF IN KOSOVO](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to
Dec 31, 2000

96. [AMID CHANTS OF GRIEF, LEBANON BURIES ITS VICTIMS](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to
Dec 31, 2000

97. [Gunmen kill 18 at Cairo tourist hotel](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to
Dec 31, 2000

98. [Guerillas on Israel 's doorstep Troop pullout triggers jubilation in southern Lebanon MIDDLE EAST](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to
Dec 31, 2000

99. [Guerillas on Israel 's doorstep Jubilation in South Lebanon as troops step up withdrawal MIDDLE EAST](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to
Dec 31, 2000

100. [ALONG ISRAEL - LEBANON BORDER, CHEERS, DEBATE AND UNCERTAINTY](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to
Dec 31, 2000

Girl's shrieks tell of ambulance carnage

THE AUSTRALIAN

April 15, 1996, Monday

Copyright 1996 Nationwide News Pty Limited

Length: 371 words

Byline: NAJLA ABU JAHJAH

Body

THE girl was about 11. She ran towards me shrieking and then collapsed on the ground: "I want my brothers," she wailed. "My sister's head blew apart. I want my sister. I want my sister." Somehow she had survived the rocket attack by an Israeli helicopter on an ambulance packed with refugees fleeing south Lebanon at the weekend.
The Sunday Times

Two women and four girls were killed in the attack, which marked the bloodiest episode of Israel's blitz against Islamic militants in Lebanon.

Some of the injured had limbs torn off by the force of the blast.

The ambulance was suddenly hit just after it drove past a United Nations checkpoint.

I saw it disappear in a huge cloud of smoke followed by a powerful blast, just 18m from where I stood at the checkpoint.

It was hurled off the road, through a garden and into the front of a house, which was destroyed in an avalanche of rubble.

Two small children were still alive inside the wrecked vehicle.

The women, aged about 50 and 35, leaned against each other dead.

A child of about three lay across one of the women - dead.

Three girls aged 11 or 12 were also dead.

Two men and two other girls in the vehicle were wounded.

Blood poured from the men's faces as one of them ran carrying a wounded girl and a baby in his arms.

The refugees had been travelling in a white Volvo station wagon with a siren and flashing lights on its roof.

It was clearly marked with the red logo of a scouts organisation, the Al-Risala (The Message) Islamic Scouts Association, which is run by the pro-Syrian Shi'ite movement Amal, a political rival of the pro-Iranian Hezbollah.

Officials in Jerusalem claimed the ambulance belonged to Hezbollah, whose retaliation rocket attacks on northern Israel provoked the Israeli onslaught.

Girl's shrieks tell of ambulance carnage

An Israeli army spokesman defended the attack, saying an Israeli air force helicopter gunship fired on "a vehicle belonging to a Hezbollah terrorist"

using civilians as cover.

Israeli government spokesman Mr Uri Dromi insisted that "as far as we can confirm, this was a civilian car used by a known Hezbollah activist". "If other individuals were hit during the attack, they had been used by the Hezbollah as a cover for the Hezbollah activities," the army spokesman added.

Load-Date: March 1, 2002

End of Document

Grapes of Wrath unites Christians, Muslims

THE AUSTRALIAN

April 22, 1996, Monday

Copyright 1996 Nationwide News Pty Limited

Length: 418 words

Byline: CHRISTOPHER HINES

Body

ISRAEL'S assault against Hezbollah guerillas may have achieved something that years of government efforts failed to do: it may have brought Lebanon's diverse Christian and Muslim factions together as a nation.

"They feel that the future of their country is at stake," said Professor Nawaf Salam, a Sunni Muslim and attorney and law professor at the American University of Beirut.

"I don't know if the support for Hezbollah has increased, but there is a rallying behind the country." Professor Mohammad Faur, a sociologist, said the Government had been trying since the 15-year civil war ended in 1990 to integrate the country's Christian and Muslim factions, which were also rife with internal divisions.

AFP

"The Government's efforts had been making slow progress," he said. "But since the Israeli attacks began, I have never before seen such a show of solidarity in this country."

The head of Lebanon's large Maronite Christian community, Patriarch Nasrallah Sfeir, condemned the "dirty operation of collective extermination", referring to the massacre caused by Israel's bombing of a United Nations compound in the southern Lebanese village of Cana.

The intense shelling on Thursday killed 101 refugees, mostly Muslim women and children.

"The current tragedy is unifying the Lebanese people," Patriarch Nasrallah said.

Around 160 people have been killed and more than 300 injured, mostly civilians, since Israel launched its Operation Grapes of Wrath 10 days ago after Hezbollah repeatedly fired rockets into the Jewish State.

The Shi'ite Muslim Hezbollah's spiritual leader, Sheikh Mohammad Hussein Fadlallah, praised the fact that Christians and Muslims were showing unity for the first time in this conflict.

"Lebanese Christians and Muslims are united in the face of Israeli aggression," he said.

Professor Salam said many Lebanese believed the Israeli attacks in Lebanon were not only directed against the Iranian-backed Hezbollah, but at efforts to rebuild the war-ravaged country and attract foreign investment.

The law professor cited Israel's bombing of two power plants outside Beirut, which plunged the country back into electricity rationing, and the round-the-clock bombing of south Lebanon, forcing more than 300,000 Lebanese to flee north.

Grapes of Wrath unites Christians, Muslims

"Israel has shown that it is not targeting a group or party, but the whole process of Lebanon's reconstruction," he said.

"If Israel's goal was to turn the Lebanese against Hezbollah, it has only succeeded in unifying the country against its occupation."

Load-Date: March 1, 2002

End of Document

LEBANESE FORCE SENT TO SOUTH IS JUST SYMBOLIC ANALYSIS

The Toronto Star

August 10, 2000, Thursday, Edition 1

Copyright 2000 Toronto Star Newspapers, Ltd.

Section: NEWS

Length: 443 words

Byline: Miral Fahmy

Body

still be able to

pressure Israel

BEIRUT - Lebanon has saved face by sending a token force to its recently liberated south, but it has deliberately left the volatile border with Israel unsecured to push its arch-foe into peace with its political master, Syria.

Lebanon finally deployed 1,000 police and soldiers to the two main southern towns yesterday but did not send troops to the frontier, controlled by Syrian-backed Hezbollah guerrillas since Israel ended 22 years of occupation May 24.

"This deployment is certainly not enough and it certainly is just a token effort," said Nikola Nassif, a veteran Lebanese political analyst and columnist for the leading An-Nahar daily.

"It skirts the border because Lebanon, and of course Syria, feel that as long as the Arab-Israeli conflict exists, Hezbollah is still a card that can be used to gain political leverage in negotiations on land."

In Marjayoun, church bells rang, drivers honked their horns and women offered sweets and kisses to soldiers as Lebanese security forces moved in for the first time in some 20 years.

The Lebanese commander said his men would not deploy in Fatma Gate, the closed crossing point that has been the scene of some clashes since Israel withdrew. On Monday, Israeli troops shot and wounded several civilians there, including Canadian journalist Katia Jarjoula, after a gasoline bomb was thrown across the border fence.

Israeli deputy defence minister Ephraim Sneh said yesterday the Lebanese forces weren't enough to contain the Muslim guerrillas who took over southern Lebanon after the pullout.

Hezbollah led the battle against Israeli occupation.

Its effectiveness was one of the main factors behind Prime Minister Ehud Barak's decision to pull his army out of the south Lebanon quagmire unilaterally following the failure of peace talks with Syria.

LEBANESE FORCE SENT TO SOUTH IS JUST SYMBOLIC ANALYSIS

Diplomats said Syria, which has kept a firm grip on Lebanese politics for more than a decade, used its influence on Hezbollah to pressure Israel during talks about the Golan Heights.

Hezbollah's role seen as bogeyman

The last round of Syrian-Israeli talks broke down in January over who should control the Sea of Galilee's northeastern shore. Syria warned Israel of the risk of quitting Lebanon without a simultaneous peace deal returning the Golan, raising the spectre of cross-border violence similar to that which prompted Israel to invade Lebanon in 1978.

An Arab diplomat said: "The role of Hezbollah as a form of resistance against the occupation is over, but now it has a new role: a bogeyman that Syria will use at the right time to send a message to Israel. A token army force makes this possible."

With files from AP

Load-Date: August 10, 2000

End of Document

**Retreat at dawn;
Gate slams on Israeli army and 22 years of strife**

The Evening Standard (London)

May 24, 2000

Copyright 2000 Associated Newspapers Ltd.

Section: Pg. 11

Length: 906 words

Byline: Keith Dovkants

Body

IN A WITHDRAWAL that bore all the signs of an inglorious retreat Israel pulled the last of its troops out of south Lebanon at dawn today.

Pursued by an advancing tide of triumphant **Hezbollah** guerrillas and sporadic fire from rocket launchers and automatic weapons, the last Israeli tank rolled through the Fatima Gate border crossing at 4.41am London time.

"We're going home," the tank's commander, 26-year-old Captain Sagi Bloomberg said as soldiers slammed the gate's metal barrier shut and secured it with a huge padlock.

It was a fitting symbol to end 22 years of occupation that had cost thousands of lives, 950 of them Israeli. The soldiers sang the Tikva, Israel's national anthem, gave the thumbs-up and waved their flag as, tired and dusty, they moved in columns from positions they had held so tenaciously for so long. A squadron of Merkava tanks and other armoured units formed a corridor from the town of Marjayoun as jets roared overhead to cover the withdrawal.

"They are on the run," said a jubilant **Hezbollah** fighter manning a newly erected checkpoint in Bint Jbeil. This former administrative centre was the scene of frantic celebration as the Israelis pulled out, signalling a rush by **Hezbollah** units and families who dashed from the north to be reunited with relatives.

Guerrillas seized at least two fully-armed tanks abandoned at Bint Jbeil by Israel's proxy force, the South Lebanon Army. Elsewhere, to their great delight, they picked up enormous quantities of weapons and ammunition as SLA soldiers fled for their lives.

Faced with the surprisingly swift disintegration of the SLA, which Israel had pampered and bankrolled generously, the Israelis had no choice but to get out as quickly as possible, reversing an earlier decision to make a phased exit over a number of days.

Although the young soldiers put a brave face on their retreat, there was no masking the sense of defeat and humiliation. The last units left under cover of darkness, blowing up anything they could not carry with them.

They levelled their position at Karkoum with explosives and shortly after 1am, helicopter gunships fired salvos of rockets into an emplacement at Beaufort Castle, an 11th century Crusader fortress.

Retreat at dawn; Gate slams on Israeli army and 22 years of strife

In the early hours, I talked to **Hezbollah** guerrillas as they moved up to fill the vacuum left by the retreating forces. "They will never come back," said a fighter in his midteens. He was wrapped in a blanket at the roadside with two comrades, guarding a position outside Bint Jbeil through which the Israelis had passed only hours earlier.

Overhead, Israeli jets sought out **Hezbollah** enclaves and there was occasional fire from heavy weapons from the north-east as armoured units moved through the corridor from Marjayoun. "They are killing **women** and children," a **Hezbollah** commander claimed angrily. "They don't care who they shell."

Seven civilians were killed on Monday as the retreat gathered pace but there was no immediate evidence to support claims that the Israelis targeted civilians during the last hours of the withdrawal. Although civilian cars were shelled, these seemed to be isolated incidents.

The guerrillas were in confident mood and showed off captured Israeli hardware; on the road outside Saff Al-Hawa an SLA tank flew a huge yellow and red **Hezbollah** banner. They were hailed as conquering heroes by the Shi'ite Muslims of Bint Jbeil who showered them with rose petals and rice.

The guerrillas turned local homes into command posts and were controlling key routes today amid reports that they were hunting down SLA soldiers who had stripped off their army uniforms and tried to escape. These men are held to be traitors and the Lebanese army was placing large numbers of them under arrest as the Israelis pulled out. Locals were also naming collaborators who had worked with the Israelis.

Hundreds of people were fleeing their homes to avoid reprisals from those who believed they had acted as informers. "They are responsible for causing great tragedies," Mohammed Zatar, a medical student, said. "If they are caught, they will be dealt with very severely." He emphasised the point by drawing his thumb across his throat.

Anger over informers and the SLA's intelligence network increased when a mob stormed the notorious Khiam prison where they found evidence of systematic torture.

MANY fled for their lives as all defences against **Hezbollah** fell. More than 1,500, mainly former SLA soldiers and their families, flocked to the Fatima Gate seeking permission to cross.

As Lebanese families were reunited, they accused the SLA of gross treachery and abuse of their position. They claimed SLA men forced them to give young teenage girls as brides and one mother said of them: "Don't even think of coming to us for forgiveness. There is nothing worse than a traitor and that's what they are."

The collapse of the SLA, which had a strength of 2,500 at its peak, was clearly a major factor in the accelerated withdrawal of Israel's forces - Prime Minister Ehud Barak had originally planned to pull his troops out on 7 July.

It also seems that the Israeli withdrawal will not bring immediate respite from **Hezbollah** attacks.

Israel intends to stay in an area near the Golan Heights called Shebaa Farms, territory it says belongs to Syria. But the Syrians say they ceded the land to Lebanon and now Hassan Nasrallah, the **Hezbollah** leader, has pledged to keep fighting until the Israelis quit Shebaa Farms.

Graphic

GOING HOME: ISRAELI SOLDIERS CELEBRATE AS THEY CROSS THE BORDER FROM LEBANON AT DAWN
LEFT: **HEZBOLLAH** LEADER HASSAN NASRALLAH IS EMBRACED BY A PRISONER FREED FROM THE NOTORIOUS KHIAM JAIL

Retreat at dawn; Gate slams on Israeli army and 22 years of strife

End of Document

Exodus marks fourth day of Israeli raids Thousands abandon Tyre

The Gazette (Montreal, Quebec)

April 15, 1996, Monday, FINAL EDITION

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Section: NEWS; Pg. A1 / FRONT

Length: 1145 words

Byline: JOHN DANISZEWSKI, MARJORIE MILLER AND NORMA GREENAWAY; LOS ANGELES TIMES; SOUTHAM NEWS; WASHINGTON POST

Dateline: TYRE, Lebanon

Body

Fear-stricken residents driven by the threat of Israeli bombings fled this city by the tens of thousands yesterday, swelling Lebanon's refugee population to more than 400,000 in the latest stage of an escalating Israeli campaign to force the Lebanese government to rein in Hezbollah guerrillas.

Tyre, a bustling port city that has cultural monuments dating back to Phoenician times 3,000 years before Christ, was turned into a desolate zone of abandoned buildings, closed shops and vacant streets after Israel issued an extraordinary overnight warning that the city of 250,000 had been added to the target list for attack jets and helicopters seen flying overhead.

The exodus came as an array of artillery, planes and helicopter gunships kept up Israel's pressure on Iranian-backed Hezbollah guerrillas - who have been rocketing northern Israel - and the rest of Lebanon for a fourth day. The guerrillas fought back with the largest number of Katyusha rockets since the current fighting broke out. Israeli officials said 45 rockets struck northern Israel yesterday, as many as fell in the past two days.

The conflict expanded with the first attack on a government power plant that was seen as symbolizing Lebanon's nascent efforts to rebuild after its long and devastating civil war. Damage to the power plant resulted in power being cut off to several neighborhoods in Beirut. Three civilians died and seven were wounded in Israeli raids and shelling yesterday in Beirut, the Bekaa Valley and southern Lebanon, security sources said. Since Thursday, at least 27 people have been killed and about 80 injured by Israeli forces in Lebanon. Hezbollah rocket attacks on northern Israel in the past week have killed one person and injured more than 40. Hezbollah's leader, Sheikh Hassan Nasrallah, pledged that his movement would respond to the campaign by turning Israel into a "fiery hell." He said 300 suicide bombers are on their way to southern Lebanon and that they will strike Israel abroad as well. Israeli military intelligence chief Moshe Yaalon confirmed that Israel is bracing for possible Hezbollah suicide bombs, car bombs or even explosives sent into Israel by hang gliders. Jewish or Israeli targets abroad might also be hit with the aid of Iran, he warned. In Tyre, most of the residents raced to abandon the city in cars, trucks, buses, ambulances, tractors, livestock wagons or anything else that moved immediately after hearing a midnight warning broadcast by Israel's proxy South Lebanon Army. Israel had told residents of about 90 surrounding towns and villages that they risked shells and bombings if they remained. Including Tyre itself, the area is home to 500,000 people, and officials estimate that up to 400,000 people, about one-10th of Lebanon's population, have fled the area. In their panicky northward trek that began well before dawn, vehicles jostled and honked in heavy traffic jams on Lebanon's coastal

Exodus marks fourth day of Israeli raids Thousands abandon Tyre

highway to get north quickly. "Our house has been demolished. We were already hiding on the road last night when it happened," said

Manifi Ataway, a 65-year-old refugee of the village of Sawaneh, clutching her 2-year-old granddaughter tightly. "Frustration, pain and torture," she said bitterly at the thought of leaving behind her farm for the second time; the family also fled an Israeli invasion in 1982. "We are being tortured." "We are not happy to see people abandoning the villages, but we had no choice," said Israeli chief of staff Lt.-Gen. Amnon Lipkin-Shahak, briefing reporters on the day's operations. "The Lebanese regime will have to decide who is in control, whether Hezbollah is in control. The Lebanese in general will have to decide how they want to live." The mass exodus is reminiscent of the last major Israeli strike against Hezbollah, a week-long offensive in July 1993 that killed 130 Lebanese, wounded about 500 and uprooted half a million people. Israeli Foreign Minister Ehud Barak, speaking on television yesterday, said the military campaign is justified by Hezbollah's recurring attacks on Israel with crudely inaccurate but highly mobile Katyusha missiles. In Israel, the military campaign, code-named "Operation Grapes of Wrath," is being regarded as a technical and political success for the government of Prime Minister Shimon Peres. "Nobody in Israel harbors illusions that the operations will bring about the liquidation of Hezbollah as a military organization," the Haaretz newspaper said. Rather, officials think that, by slowly putting a squeeze on Lebanon, they will force the government and its Syrian sponsors to seek negotiations. In those talks, Israel will demand "an absolute end" to the firing of Katyushas by Hezbollah. The operation is a political windfall for Peres, who faces a decisive national election May 29. Opposition Likud Party figures, such as faction leader Uzi Landau in an interview yesterday, have been reduced to applauding Peres for "at last adopting some important Likud-oriented principles" of fighting terror. Pollster Mina Tsemach said Peres's popularity will certainly rise in the short term. Most Israelis are well aware that the brunt of the pain is being borne by Lebanese civilians and the government in Beirut. But, political leaders and public opinion alike are unapologetic about what they see as the unavoidable costs: more than 400,000 Lebanese refugees and a rising death toll. The UN Security Council will convene today to discuss Lebanon's protests against Israeli attacks. In Ottawa, Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy expressed Canadians' sorrow at the loss of life.

Canada urges all parties to exercise restraint and reduce tensions through diplomatic channels," he said yesterday. "The Middle East peace process is the best way of resolving regional conflicts." So far, there are no signs a diplomatic solution is near despite attempts by Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Hariri to rally international support for a political settlement. During separate meetings yesterday with presidents Hosni Mubarak of Egypt and Jacques Chirac of France, he warned continued Israeli attacks will only strengthen Hezbollah. The United States has made clear, however, it backs Peres's stance that Hezbollah must first halt its rocket attacks. Peres's tough stance is widely seen as part of his effort to persuade Israelis before the May 29 national election that he puts their security ahead of making peace with Israel's enemies. Although Israeli forces and Hezbollah guerrillas have engaged in low-grade warfare for years, the latest confrontation is the most serious since 1993. Hezbollah is leading the campaign to force Israel to quit a narrow strip of land it occupies in south Lebanon. Israel held on to the territory after ending its invasion of Lebanon in 1985, declaring it needed a "security zone" to guard against attacks across its northern border.

Graphic

Color Photo: AP / A suspected Hezbollah guerrilla position in Nabatiyeh was blasted during an Israeli air raid.

Color Photo: AP / Shiite Muslim women and children fled to Beirut from their village near Tyre yesterday.

Load-Date: April 16, 1996

Exodus marks fourth day of Israeli raids Thousands abandon Tyre

End of Document

Lebanon: End to fighting lies on the road to Damascus

The Ottawa Citizen

April 21, 1996, Sunday, FINAL EDITION

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Section: NEWS; Pg. A1 / Front

Length: 779 words

Byline: NORMA GREENAWAY; SOUTHAM NEWS

Dateline: Beirut

Body

Next two days critical, says U.S. envoy

Diplomatic efforts to secure a speedy ceasefire between Israeli forces and Hezbollah guerrillas picked up steam Saturday against the backdrop of fighting.

U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher said he hoped a ceasefire could be arranged but didn't take it granted. "I expect difficult discussions over the next 24 to 48 hours," Christopher said as he flew into Damascus. He met Syrian President Hafez Assad before heading to Jerusalem for a follow-up session today with Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres.

With talk of ceasefire still just that, the conflict continued on both sides of the Israel-Lebanon border. Israeli gunboats shelled a highway north of Sidon for the second consecutive day, causing panic along the main coastal road to Beirut.

The route is used by Lebanese government, UN and other relief convoys carrying supplies to the embattled south. Several civilian vehicles were hit or forced off the road but no serious injuries were reported. Israeli forces also pounded suspected Hezbollah targets across the south and around the port city of Tyre.

Iranian-backed Hezbollah guerrillas fired more than 15 rockets into northern Israel, providing continuing evidence the 10-day-old Israeli military offensive has failed to put them out of business.

In central Beirut, students protested Israel's air, naval and artillery blitz on Lebanon which has cost more than 130 Lebanese lives and caused millions of dollars of damage. One Israeli soldier has died and more than 40 Israelis have been injured.

Damascus has become the main staging area for the diplomatic push because Assad is considered the pivotal player in the U.S.-led international quest to get Hezbollah to hold its fire if Israel ends its military offensive.

Syria is the major powerbroker in Lebanon where it has up to 40,000 troops, many controlling areas of the Bekaa Valley where Hezbollah operates.

Lebanon : End to fighting lies on the road to Damascus

Christopher joined top diplomats from Europe, Russia and Iran trooping through Damascus as part of the search for a ceasefire formula acceptable to Israel and the guerrillas. Christopher was armed with a resolution adopted by leaders of the seven major industrial countries meeting in Moscow calling for an immediate ceasefire.

The ceasefire drive intensified after Israel's deadly shelling attack Thursday on a UN post in south Lebanon raised fears the conflict could spiral out of control. The compound was sheltering hundreds of Lebanese civilians. At least 75 men, **women** and children were killed and more than 100 were wounded, according to the UN. Lebanese police put the toll at 101 dead and 120 wounded.

The Israeli government and **Hezbollah** officials say they are willing to stop fighting but neither side is willing to go first. The U.S. and France have floated ceasefire proposals, each of which contains provisions unacceptable to the other.

Israel and **Hezbollah**'s backers appear to agree on one thing: A ceasefire deal that includes provisions banning attacks on civilian targets. But there are differences over how the ceasefire should be guaranteed and policed. A major stumbling block revolves around Israel's demand, contained in the U.S. ceasefire proposal, that **Hezbollah** also refrain from attacking Israeli troops in its so-called security zone. This is a narrow strip of land Israel has occupied since ending its full-scale invasion of Lebanon in 1985.

Hezbollah, backed by Iran, Syria, Lebanon and other Arab countries, considers Israeli forces in the zone legitimate targets in the armed struggle to evict the Jewish state from occupied territory. Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Hariri says a ceasefire arrangement barring guerrilla attacks on Israel's "security zone" is a non-starter.

Israel insists its withdrawal from the "security zone" must be part of an overall peace settlement with Lebanon.

The latest fighting is the most serious since 1993. It has slowed somewhat since Thursday's shelling of the UN post, although Israel's steady pounding of the coastal highway since Friday is a new tactic. The bombardment from Israeli gunboats cruising about three kilometres off Lebanon's Mediterranean coast has centred on a 300-metre stretch north of Sidon between Syrian and Lebanese army checkpoints.

Lebanese army and police forces closed off the area to most traffic. Lebanese officials said the bombardment appeared aimed at discouraging civilians and journalists from travelling to the south, Israel's main target area. It also could be designed to prevent supplies from getting to civilians who remain scattered in isolated villages in the south but whom Israel wants to leave.

Graphic

Photo: CHARITY: Social worker distributes food parcels to Shiite Muslims whose area in Tyre came under Israeli fire

Load-Date: April 22, 1996

Bombing children to win a poll

THE WEEKEND AUSTRALIAN

April 20, 1996, Saturday

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Length: 916 words

Body

SO Mr Peres has doubled his popularity in the leadup to the Israeli election since he approved the bombing of Lebanon. This must be a great comfort to the grieving relatives of the children and women killed in Israeli raids.

Mr Peres' attribution of blame for the killings shows an interesting logic. Apparently it is the fault of the victims themselves for not fleeing the area.

It's a bit hard to flee with seven kids. And where indeed should they go, Mr Peres, to be safe from Israeli bombs? UN bases are not safe. Beirut is not safe.

Apparently the only safe place in Lebanon is a Hezbollah base!

But maybe Lebanese women and children don't know where they are and perhaps those bases don't have room for the thousands fleeing this terror.

How can the world stand by and let this totally abominable military action continue? Why is not the UN condemning this action in the strongest possible terms? Are the Lebanese expendable? Don't people care that they are being killed for apparently political purposes ensure the re-election of Peres?

Why has the world tolerated the occupation of southern Lebanon since 1985?

Is it the old story? Our friends can do whatever they like to our "enemies" no matter how illegal and inhumane. But are the Lebanese our enemies? ANN GUINANE St Lucia, Qld SO Israel justifies its invasion and occupation of southern Lebanon (the so-called security zone) on the basis of Hezbollah attacks into Israel. If this is so, then Israel is long overdue a more ruthless visit from Lebanon.

I spent three six-month tours of duty with the United Nations in southern Lebanon between 1982-90. In the last two tours I can't recall a day on which I did not witness or hear Israel or one of its de facto forces fire towards Lebanon.

Sometimes it was in retaliation for Hezbollah attacks but the vast majority was unprovoked, and it was anything from small-arms fire to tank fire coming from their overlooking hilltop positions.

Of the incidents I witnessed the vast majority were deliberately directed at civilian villages and UN positions, with some loss of life and a lot of close calls. No wonder anti-Israeli feeling is high in Lebanon, especially since the 1982 Israeli invasion of that country. This has acted as a great recruitment campaign for Hezbollah.

As long as America blindly supports Israel and controls the UN nothing will change. Lucky for Israel that it isn't called Serbia.

Bombing children to win a poll

DAVID FORDE Kallangur, Qld ONE must consider why the Hezbollah enjoys popular support among most Lebanese. Is it because of Israel's refusal to withdraw from its self-declared security zone in contravention of UN Resolution 425? The creation of this zone give Hezbollah legitimacy as they are respected by the Lebanese as a national force of resistance to this occupation.

So far we have seen electricity plants, hospitals, refugee camps, ambulances, United Nations peace-keepers deliberately bombed. Today we saw hundreds of people bombed while fleeing the Israeli onslaught by seeking shelter at a UN post. Yet these vile acts continue from a country which considers itself immune from international law.

The massacre at the UN post by Israel can only unite the Lebanese in their outrage and further radicalise people and ensure a steady recruitment of people to such groups as Hezbollah. The Israeli Government would be better off negotiating with the Lebanese government for a withdrawal from Lebanon in return for secure borders.

WISSAM ZEINEDDINE Endeavour Hills, Vic ACCORDING to the Israeli Ambassador no-one in the northern settlements of Israel has yet been killed or injured in the latest round of Hezbollah shelling. And as yet, the Israelis do not claim to have scored a single direct hit on a Hezbollah Katyusha.

Let us call things by their right name. According to the Israelis the military action against Lebanon is an attempt to isolate Hezbollah from its sources of support and to provoke the Lebanese and Syrian governments to restrain their activities. The tactic of putting pressure on governments by threatening and killing that government's nationals has a simple name. It is called terrorism. The press here and elsewhere has no trouble seeing that this is so when a suicide bomber blows up a busload of Israeli civilians - but when the Israeli air force blows up an ambulance-load of refugees or a UN refuge camp, then this is simply "a blitz on suspect Hezbollah positions". Justice demands that Israel immediately and unconditionally cease all military action against Lebanon and withdraw all of its forces from Lebanese land.

PAUL ESPOSITO Epping NSW REPEATED statements by the Israeli Ambassador Mr Shmuel Moyal regarding alleged danger by local Arab people to Israeli embassies and properties have outraged the Australian Arabic community.

In effect, his comments attempt to transform what is essentially an international Middle East issue into a domestic Australian issue with scaremongering about Australians of Arabic background "identifying themselves with the cause of their brothers" and the need for all Israeli embassies to "take precautions". A similar spate of hollow predictions about Arab terrorism in Australia also echoed throughout the Gulf War. None came to fruition.

His comments are susceptible to the charge of cheap pointscoring because it plays on the stereotype of terrorism out of context. His comments have the capacity to incite hatred and antagonism against Arab Australians.

ROLAND JABBOUR Chairman, Aust. Arabic Council Moreland, Vic

Load-Date: March 1, 2002

ISRAEL EXCHANGES PRISONERS, BODIES WITH MILITANT GROUP iA

Charleston Gazette (West Virginia)

July 22, 1996, Monday

Copyright 1996 Charleston Newspapers

Section: News; Pg. P7A

Length: 875 words

Body

NEW YORK TIMES SERVICE

JERUSALEM - Israel and the Iranian-backed guerrilla group Hezbollah

Sunday carried out the largest swap of prisoners and bodies since their conflict in southern Lebanon began 14 years ago.

The exchange followed three months of secret negotiations brokered by a German official, and it kindled hopes for better cooperation between Israel and the guerrillas, whose battles erupted into widespread fighting in April.

Neither Israel nor Hezbollah relinquished the prisoners most eagerly sought by the other side. But by day's end, the two sides were well on their way to completing a handover that is to grant freedom to 45 Shiite Muslims from a jail in Israeli-occupied southern Lebanon and the return of more than 100 Hezbollah bodies in exchange for the remains of two Israeli soldiers last seen in 1986.

Acceptance of the terms marked an important policy decision by Israel's new prime minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, who said he hoped it would lead to further flexibility from Hezbollah, also known as the Party of God, and its two major sponsors, Syria and Iran.

"The return of our dead is a step in the right direction," Netanyahu said Sunday afternoon. "I hope that we can anticipate additional steps

ISRAEL EXCHANGES PRISONERS, BODIES WITH MILITANT GROUP iA

in the near future."

The exchange, carried out via an aircraft, trucks and buses that shuttled freed prisoners and coffins across the Israeli-Lebanese frontier, was the first between the sides since 1991.

It reflected an easing of policy by Israel, which had insisted that any further swap include information about Capt. Ron Arad, a navigator in the Air Force who is the only Israeli missing in Lebanon known to have survived capture.

Israel has maintained for years that Arad is being held by Iranian elements in Lebanon, but officials conceded that the accord leading to the exchange Sunday provided them with no new information about him.

Hezbollah and Iran have denied having any information about Arad's whereabouts.

Among its Shiite prisoners, Israel still holds two top **Hezbollah** officials, Sheik Abdel Karim Obeid and Mustafa Dirani, kidnapped by its commandos as potential bargaining chips, and Netanyahu expressed hope that Sunday's agreement might lead to a further exchange.

A similar sentiment was voiced by the German intermediary, Bernd Schmidbauer, an aide to Chancellor Helmut Kohl. Schmidbauer, who traveled to Lebanon, Syria and Iran during what he described as "very difficult" negotiations, said he was determined to pursue efforts aimed at winning the return of all prisoners and of those still missing in action.

Netanyahu's government has also expressed interest in a limited deal to halt hostilities in southern Lebanon, the last active front in the Arab-Israeli wars.

But it is not clear that either side is willing to make the concessions needed to bring an end to the fighting in the self-declared security zone that Israel has occupied since its forces invaded Lebanon in 1982.

ISRAEL EXCHANGES PRISONERS, BODIES WITH MILITANT GROUP iA

Sunday's exchange underscored both the duration and the fury of the conflict that has followed.

Private Yosef Fink and Private Rahamim Alsheik, the two Israeli soldiers whose bodies were returned Sunday, were among six still missing from battles in Lebanon between 1982 and 1986 at the height of fighting there. The two, then 20, were ambushed in February 1986 while on a patrol in the Israeli-occupied zone, and later died in captivity.

Israel learned as a result of an earlier prisoner exchange in 1991 that both men were dead. But until this month, attempts to win the return of their bodies had repeatedly fallen way to new hostilities, including Israel's kidnapping of Dirani in 1994 and its new invasions of southern Lebanon that year and again in April in response to

Hezbollah rocket attacks on towns in northern Israel.

Among others handed over by **Hezbollah** Sunday were 17 members of the South Lebanon Army, which operates side by side with Israeli forces in southern Lebanon and some of whose soldiers had been held captive for years.

Some of the freed men kissed the forehead of **Hezbollah**'s leader, Sheik Hassan Nasrallah, before they were handed over to representatives of the International Committee for the Red Cross, who delivered them from a checkpoint in southern Lebanon that leads to the Israeli-occupied zone.

Of the 45 Shiite prisoners to be freed under the accord, only 20 had been released by late evening from a prison run by the South Lebanon Army in the village of Kham, which lies inside the Israeli-occupied zone. Those who were released, including three **women**, were bused northward to the village of Kafr Tibnit.

Israeli officials said the German-brokered negotiations that led to the release began on the eve of Israel's election in late May, after Shimon Peres, then the prime minister, gave his approval to Kohl, and

ISRAEL EXCHANGES PRISONERS, BODIES WITH MILITANT GROUP iA

that Netanyahu was briefed about the evolving accord shortly after his victory.

Since taking office, Netanyahu has taken a tough line toward **Hezbollah**, saying that his government would "take care" of the guerrilla force "in our own way."

In his meeting with reporters Sunday afternoon, the prime minister did not say why he had not demanded that the deal include information about Arad or the three other missing Israeli soldiers, who were in a tank crew battling Syrian armored forces in the Bekaa region in June 1982. Nothing has been heard of them since.

Load-Date: July 22, 1996

End of Document

'HORRIFIC' FIGHTING IN LEBANESE TOWNS

St. Louis Post-Dispatch (Missouri)

January 10, 1989, TUESDAY, FIVE STAR Edition

Copyright 1989 St. Louis Post-Dispatch, Inc.

Section: NEWS; Pg. 8A

Length: 502 words

Body

KFAR MELKI, Lebanon (AP) - Rival Shiite Moslem militiamen hacked one another to death in "horrific" fighting Monday, as Syrian-backed guerrillas recaptured strategic villages from fundamentalists, police said. At least 80 people have been killed and 200 wounded since daybreak Sunday as the embattled villages changed hands in house-to-house combat between the mainstream Amal militia and fundamentalist Hezbollah, police said. It was the highest 36-hour casualty total since the power struggle began in April to dominate Lebanon's 1 million Shiites, the largest sect in this nation of 4 million. Almost 500 people have been killed and 1,500 injured in the fighting. A police spokesman in Sidon, southern Lebanon's provincial capital, said fighters were committing "horrific atrocities." "They're knifing, hacking and gunning one another to death in Kfar Filla and Jbaa," he said. "Many victims have been hacked to death in Kfar Melki, Kfar Hatta and Kfar Beit. Others had their throats cut, and some were headless. Many were riddled with bullets." The spokesman cannot be identified under standing regulations. Amal and Hezbollah accused each other of "atrocities and summary executions." Amal, Arabic for "Hope," began a counterattack before dawn Monday and retook three of five villages Hezbollah had seized Sunday in a lightning onslaught in southern Lebanon's Iklim el-Tiffah, or Apple Province. Reporters said Amal had driven Hezbollah out of the battered villages of Kfar Hatta, Kfar Melki and Kfar Beit in hand-to-hand fighting. Reporters who drove into the battle area near Israel's self-designated "security zone" said fierce fighting also was raging for the two other villages.

The chain of hamlets lies along the main road from Sidon port, 25 miles south of Beirut, to the Israeli-held border enclave. An Amal commander in Kfar Melki said about 1,000 of his men had used Syrian-supplied T-54 tanks to attack Kfar Filla and Jbaa, where 500 Hezbollah members are holed up. "The battle for liberation will continue until the Hezbollah cancer is uprooted from the whole of south Lebanon," said the commander, Mohammed Ghossein. Amal said in a late-night communique in Beirut that its fighters had recaptured Kfar Filla and were mopping up the last pockets of resistance in Jbaa. The police spokesman in Sidon said he could not confirm this. The roar of multibarreled rocket launchers and tank fire boomed across hills and valleys from Kfar Filla and Jbaa as reporters watched from a distance. Cars hit by rocket-propelled grenades smoldered in the streets of Kfar Hatta and Kfar Melki, whose 8,000 inhabitants spent the night hiding in apple orchards and olive groves. Kfar Beit was almost deserted. Only two dozen of its 1,000 residents were seen; the rest apparently had fled. Iran and Syria have been trying to rein in their feuding Lebanese proxies despite differing interests in Lebanon. Syria has been Iran's main Arab ally in the eight-year Persian Gulf war against Iraq.

Graphic

'HORRIFIC' FIGHTING IN LEBANESE TOWNS

Photo; Reuters Photo - Shiite Moslem women mourning the death of relatives Monday in the village of Kfar Hiti, Lebanon. The woman at right is waving a dagger she said was used by members of the Hezbollah to kill her 18-year-old son, who was an Amal militiaman.

Load-Date: October 23, 1993

End of Document

**75 PERISH IN ATTACK BY ISRAELIS; MOST OF DEAD ARE WOMEN,
CHILDREN AT REFUGEE CAMP IN SOUTH LEBANON**

St. Louis Post-Dispatch (Missouri)

April 19, 1996, Friday, FIVE STAR LIFT Edition

Copyright 1996 St. Louis Post-Dispatch, Inc.

Section: NEWS; Pg. 1A

Length: 1071 words

Dateline: QANA, LEBANON

Body

Israeli artillery slammed into a U.N. peacekeepers' base in southern Lebanon where several hundred Lebanese refugees had sought sanctuary Thursday, killing at least 75 civilians and wounding dozens more. Israel called the casualties an "unfortunate mistake."

Most of the dead were **women** and children who had fled Israel's eight-day bombardment of villages in Lebanon, believing they would be safe among U.N. peacekeepers. Four U.N. troops from Fiji were wounded, three seriously, in the shelling of the base at Qana, about six miles southeast of Tyre.

"It's a massacre," said Timur Goksel, a spokesman for the U.N. force in southern Lebanon. "The numbers are frightening."

The United Nations has complained over the last week that Israeli artillery and aircraft have attacked their positions and their relief convoys trying to reach villages cut off by the offensive.

The Israeli armed forces said the barrage was in response to the firing of Katyusha rockets and mortars into northern Israel by **Hezbollah** guerrillas several hundred yards from the U.N. base. The U.N. confirmed the **Hezbollah** attack, saying it came 15 minutes before the fatal shelling.

Hezbollah denied that it launched any rockets from near the U.N. base.

The bloodbath prompted President Bill Clinton to call for an immediate cease-fire. He sent Secretary of State Warren Christopher to the Middle East to try to arrange a truce.

On Thursday night, Israel's army radio reported that Israel had agreed to a cease-fire on condition that Syria and Lebanon promise to restrain **Hezbollah**.

In its response early today, **Hezbollah** did not entirely reject the proposal. But the group said it first wanted the reinstatement of a 1993 pact, mediated by Christopher, which barred both parties from attacking civilians.

The Israeli army chief of staff, Lt. Gen. Amnon Shahak, said the Islamic fundamentalist guerrillas were using the refugees as human shields. "So far as I understand the data now, I don't see any mistake in judgment," Shahak said. "We fought **Hezbollah** there, and when they fire on us, we will fire at them to defend ourselves. . . . I don't know of any other rules of the game, either for the army or for civilians."

75 PERISH IN ATTACK BY ISRAELIS; MOST OF DEAD ARE WOMEN, CHILDREN AT REFUGEE CAMP IN SOUTH LEBANON

Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres justified the attack as a legitimate response to Hezbollah rocketing only 15 minutes earlier.

"I regret that civilians were killed. The sole guilty party, still on the ground, is Hezbollah, and if the Syrians and the Lebanese won't prevent it, they will bring disaster on Lebanon," Peres said.

"Usually, when Hezbollah started shooting from a U.N. position, we knew that U.N. people took shelter immediately. We did not know that several hundred people were concentrated in that camp. It came to us as a bitter surprise," Peres said.

Lebanese Prime Minister Rafiq Hariri responded angrily to Peres' comments.

"I thought Mr. Peres would have the courage to say they made a mistake, a terrible mistake, by killing children, women and innocent people," Hariri said. "I was really shocked and surprised by what he said."

The Israeli foreign minister, Ehud Barak, expressed regret, calling the deaths of civilians an "unfortunate mistake."

Before the attack on the U.N. base Thursday, four Israeli jets fired missiles at an apartment building near the south Lebanon village of Nabatiyeh Fawqah, killing a woman, six of her children and two other relatives. Israel said the air attack came shortly after guerrillas fired mortars at an Israeli army post from a nearby hill.

In Qana, some 500 refugees had gathered at the camp. About 3 p.m., at least five Israeli 155mm artillery shells smashed into a pair of thatched huts that the U.N. troops, assigned from Fiji, had built inside a courtyard to remind them of their South Pacific home. The shelters burst into flames.

Most of the Fiji troops were sheltered in underground bunkers, which they shared with some refugees. But there was not room for all, an officer said.

Survivors were overcome by the magnitude of the killing. Grown men staggered around the bloody compound, weeping uncontrollably. Wailing women threw themselves onto the burned and mangled corpses of relatives. As they weaved among rows of bodies shrouded with blankets, stepping over scattered body parts, even some battle-hardened U.N. soldiers were in tears.

"My white rubber shoes have turned red from the blood," said Hassan Siklawi, a Lebanese who works with the United Nations as a liaison officer. "I had to walk over bodies that covered the walkways at the base."

Relief workers and ordinary citizens rushed many victims to nearby hospitals. Scores of U.N. troops aided in the evacuation.

Doctors, operating on benches and tabletops, were unable to keep up with the flood of victims. Many of the injured, some missing arms and legs, were kept waiting as they bled in the corridors. The mission was further complicated by dwindling medical supplies, due in part to Israeli harassment and bombardment in recent days of ambulances and relief trucks operated by the U.N., Red Cross and other humanitarian agencies attempting to resupply hospitals.

Israel's campaign to uproot the Hezbollah guerrillas has killed about 160 people in the eight-day operation, most of them Lebanese civilians. Hundreds more have been wounded.

No Israeli has died, according to the latest reports. Several dozen Israeli citizens have been wounded by Hezbollah rocket attacks.

About 400,000 southern Lebanese have fled their homes in the last week. About 6,000 have sought shelter with the United Nations, including those taken in at Qana. In Israel, fewer than 20,000 residents have left their homes.

After the attack on the U.N. base, convoys of Israeli tanks rolled through the northern border town of Kiryat Shemona toward Lebanon. Israeli Foreign Minister Barak said "a lot of tanks were entering southern Lebanon now,"

75 PERISH IN ATTACK BY ISRAELIS; MOST OF DEAD ARE WOMEN, CHILDREN AT REFUGEE CAMP IN SOUTH LEBANON

but it was not immediately clear if any tanks actually crossed the border. Reporters at the scene said many of the tanks turned back to Israel.

It was not the first time the U.N. force - formally called the U.N. Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) - has been attacked by Israeli forces. More than 200 UNIFIL peacekeepers have been killed since 1978, some of them by Israeli fire during battles with Palestinian or Shiite Muslim guerrillas.

The attack will complicate Peres' political campaign. Israeli voters go to the polls May 29, and Peres will face the conservative opposition leader, Benjamin Netanyahu.

Graphic

PHOTO; Photos by AP (1) ABOVE: An Israeli gunner covers his ears Thursday as a self-propelled 155mm howitzer fires at **Hezbollah** targets across the border in Lebanon. (2) LEFT: Refugees react to the shelling of the U.N. camp at Qana, Lebanon, where 500 Lebanese had sought shelter.

Load-Date: April 19, 1996

World

Christian Science Monitor (Boston, MA)

February 2, 2000, Wednesday

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Section: NEWS IN BRIEF; Pg. 20

Length: 515 words

Byline: Compiled by Robert Kilborn and Judy Nichols

Body

Thousands of rebel defenders were trying to escape Chechnya's capital under heavy attack by Russian air and ground forces, reports said. But in Moscow, a Kremlin spokesman said fierce fighting continued in the battered city, and there were no signs its estimated 15,000 to 40,000 remaining civilian residents had come out of hiding. Some of the escaping rebels were reported regrouping in a Grozny suburb and heading for strategic bases in Chechnya's southern mountains.

The Irish Republican Army remains committed to peace and its guns continue to be silent, a statement delivered to a Dublin radio station said. It came as all sides awaited the public release of a report on the surrender of weapons by the North's independent disarmament commission. The British and Irish Republic governments were meeting in private to study the still-secret document.

"We have no interest in escalation," Prime Minister Ehud Barak said, despite mounting demands that he retaliate for Israel's latest losses in its south Lebanon protection zone. Three more soldiers were killed there Monday by Hizbullah guerrillas, following the assassination of the No. 2 commander of Israel's proxy South Lebanon Army. Barak visited troops along the tense border, but said he wouldn't lose sight of his main goal: peace with Syria and Lebanon. Hizbullah is trained and funded by Iran, but Syria is believed to serve as the conduit for its weapons shipments. One of Barak's campaign pledges in last year's election was to restore quiet to the border.

Despite earning the ire of its European neighbors, Austria was nearing completion of negotiations that would bring ultrarightist leader Joerg Haider and his Freedom Party into a new coalition government. Senior officials and ordinary Austrians alike reacted angrily to a threat by the European Union to isolate the country politically if Haider joined the government. He has been a controversial figure since expressing admiration a decade ago for some Nazi policies during World War II.

A confrontation was shaping up between Indonesia's president and the former armed forces chief he vowed to dismiss from a key Cabinet post. Gen. Wiranto told reporters he would not step down as minister of political and security affairs - at least until after President Abdurrahman Wahid returns from an overseas tour Feb. 13. An official report earlier this week accused Wiranto of crimes against humanity last year in the former province of East Timor. Tensions over the issue have stirred concern of a possible coup, although the capital, Jakarta, was calm.

World

Chartered buses brought hundreds of women to voter-registration centers across Kuwait, but elections officials turned them away, offering only "unofficial" sheets of paper on which they could sign their names. The move was the latest in a campaign to win political rights for females in the oil-rich state, whose National Assembly twice rejected such participation last fall. Feb. 1 was the first day new voters could register for the next parliamentary election.

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Load-Date: February 1, 2000

End of Document

Syria blocks Iran's influence in Beirut

The Guardian (London)

July 16, 1987

Copyright 1987 Guardian Newspapers Limited

Length: 586 words

Byline: From JULIE FLINT

Dateline: BEIRUT

Body

A month after the kidnapping of the American journalist Mr Charles Glass, Syria's activity on his behalf appears to have been redirected towards a matter of greater concern - the containment of Iranian expansion in Lebanon.

Mr Glass, says a source close to the Iranian-controlled Hezbollah Party blamed for the kidnapping, has probably become a number - the ninth American and the 19th Westerner missing, not reported killed, in West Beirut.

The third statistic the first Westerner kidnapped since the Syrian army deployed in West Beirut - is unlikely to have much relevance as Syria loses the political initiative in Lebanon and its strategic alliance with Iran in the Gulf steals the spotlight from their always difficult relationship in Lebanon.

When Mr Glass was kidnapped on June 17, Syria's initial reaction was strong, partly because the son of Lebanon's Defence Minister, Mr Ali Osseiran, was taken with him, and partly because their abduction symbolised the threat posed by Iran to Syria's control of Lebanon.

Syrian troops in Beirut threw up dozens of checkpoints around the Shi'ite southern suburbs, Hezbollah's stronghold. On one particularly nervous day, Syrian troops opened fire on the convoy escorting Sheikh Mohammed Hussein Fadlallah, the 'spiritual guide' of Hezbollah, as it approached a checkpoint at speed.

Gone was the laxity of only 10 days earlier when, according to Shi'ite sources, Mr Glass's kidnappers had got him across a Syrian checkpoint by pointing their guns out the windows, shouting 'VIP' and accelerating.

In the eastern Beka'a valley, Syria tightened its grip on Baalbeck, where Iranian revolutionary guards have been stationed since 1982, and began confiscating Hezbollah's arms permits. A military border crossing was closed and Iranians using the main crossing were redirected to military intelligence headquarters in Damascus.

On June 24, only one day after the Syrian squeeze began, Mr Osseiran was released - alone. The Syrian pressure continued.

That pressure is continuing in the Beka'a valley, the centre of the Iranian military presence which Syria insists must not conflict with its own control of Lebanon. But in Beirut there has been a palpable relaxation of tension: it is once again possible to leave the suburbs without entering a single Syrian checkpoint. Hezbollah is back on the streets of West Beirut.

Syria has fallen silent. It is the pro-Iranian Camp that is now on the offensive.

Syria blocks Iran 's influence in Beirut

In a videotaped statement clearly written for him, Mr Glass last week 'confessed' to being a spy. It was the first time a hostage had been put through this kind of performance and appeared designed to impede Syria's efforts on his behalf.

The next day, the kidnapping of two West Germans 25 weeks earlier was claimed for the first time and the screw was twisted still further, with praise of Syria that was clearly designed to have embarrassed Damascus.

Hezbollah's spokesman, Sheikh Ibrahim el Amin, defended kidnapping. Another **Hezbollah** leader, Sheikh Abbas Musawi, made the first personal attack on a hostage, calling Mr Glass a despicable man. '

Two car bombs exploded yesterday in Syrian-controlled areas of Lebanon, killing at least seven people and injuring 75. Most were **women** and children. The first bomb exploded outside a supermarket in the northern city of Tripoli, killing six and wounding 70 others.

Thirty-five minutes later, a car bomb in a vegetable market in the Beka'a valley town of Baalbeck killed one woman and wounded five, including a Syrian soldier.

Load-Date: June 13, 2000

End of Document

Syria faces hard choice in Beirut

The Guardian (London)

May 16, 1988

Copyright 1988 Guardian Newspapers Limited

Length: 447 words

Byline: By IAN BLACK

Dateline: DAMASCUS

Body

An anonymous resident of one of Beirut's southern suburbs wept last week as rival Shi'ite Muslim militiamen fought savagely for control of the sprawling slums where the latest act in the unending lebanest tragedy is unfolding.

'We are dying. Our children are dying and our women are dying,' he said.

With thousands of Syrian troops poised to advance into the 14 square mile area and impose a ceasefire between their mainstream Amal allies and the smaller, Iranian-backed Hezbollah organisation, it was unclear yesterday whether the agony of the Shi'ites of south Beirut is about to end.

The Syrian move comes after 10 days of vicious combat that has left 250 people dead and hundreds more wounded and that has underlined the deadly but familiar fact that the people of Lebanon - and specifically of what Beirutis call the Dahiya - are still the pawns of outside powers seeking to exercise control over their hapless and chaotic country.

Official Damascus was maintaining its traditional poker face yesterday, but it was clear that Syria faced a difficult choice. Its alliance with Amal, led by the suave Mr Nabih Berri, has forced President Assad into an unwanted confrontation with the fundamentalist gunmen of Hezbollah, who are backed and inspired by Syria's awkward ally in Tehran.

Going into the southern suburbs means going far beyond the security plan drawn up last year, when President Assad sent 7,000 soldiers into West Beirut and along the strategic road to the international airport but kept them out of the suburbs, described by Mr Berri as a 'nest of terror' where western hostages are being held.

For Amal, which aspires to increase the political clout of Lebanon's 1.5 million Shi'ites in the run-up to the country's presidential election, the fighting represents an attempt by Hezbollah to wipe out the delicate confessional balance of the Lebanese mosaic and replace it with an Islamic state. Hezbollah believes it is fighting a 'US-Zionist conspiracy' designed to crush the Islamic Resistance and halt its attacks on the hated Israelis and their largely Christian South Lebanon Army allies in the southern border 'security zone.'

Amal also wants the Israelis out, but has no pretensions to liberate Palestine.

Some experts believe that Hezbollah started the fighting in the Dahiya in a deliberate last-ditch attempt to make up for ground lost in the south, where Amal routed the fundamentalists last month. The recent Israeli attack on the Hezbollah base at maidoun has fuelled their sense of a conspiracy.

Syria faces hard choice in Beirut

Yet the Iranians and their Lebanese allies may have miscalculated. 'The southern suburbs are not the centre of the world,' a Syrian observer commented yesterday.

Load-Date: June 8, 2000

End of Document

**RETREAT FROM LEBANON: THE TRIUMPHAL PROCESSION;
Israelis Out of Lebanon After 22 Years**

The New York Times

May 24, 2000, Wednesday, Late Edition - Final

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Distribution: Foreign Desk

Section: Section A; ; Section A; Page 1; Column 6; Foreign Desk ; Column 6;

Length: 1464 words

Byline: By DEBORAH SONTAG

By DEBORAH SONTAG

Dateline: BINT JBAIL, Lebanon, May 23

Body

Draped with bandoleers, Shiite Muslim guerrillas reclaimed the Israeli-occupied zone in southern Lebanon today, and as they giddily rode abandoned Israeli tanks through village after village, they laid waste to Israel's plan for an orderly, scheduled withdrawal.

Six weeks before the Israelis planned to shut down the military buffer zone they controlled along the border, the Lebanese guerrillas accelerated their enemy's departure. By day's end, Israel held only Beaufort Castle, on a bluff in Lebanon overlooking northern Israel.

Before dawn Wednesday, the Israelis abandoned that and all of their outposts in Lebanon, and were bringing home their last troops, Israeli military officials said. Shortly after sunrise, the last tank rumbled across the frontier behind a column of armored vehicles, and the border fence was locked.

With the troops leaving, Israel's occupation of a swath of Lebanon, maintained since 1978, was ending in a far quicker and more improvisational way than anyone predicted.

"There is only one headline in Lebanon tonight," a broadly smiling anchorwoman said on the official state television channel. "The liberation of the land. The slinking, servile withdrawal by Israel."

The Israeli prime minister, Ehud Barak, has protested assertions by the *Hezbollah*, or Party of God, guerrillas that Israel was being chased out. He made a campaign pledge last year, he said repeatedly, to end Israel's "misguided" involvement in Lebanon, which has divided and troubled Israelis from the start.

Today in Jerusalem, Mr. Barak declared an end to the "18-year tragedy" dating from Israel's large-scale invasion of Lebanon in 1982, and his government declared that it has regained the initiative in the halting Middle East peace efforts.

Israel said that from now on it would hold the governments in Beirut and Damascus, Syria, responsible for any attacks on northern Israel from Lebanese territory, and said it would not rule out retaliatory strikes. Page A13.

RETREAT FROM LEBANON : THE TRIUMPHAL PROCESSION; Israelis Out of Lebanon After 22 Years

But Lebanon, flashing a nationwide victory sign, would have none of that sort of talk today.

All day long, traveling with Hezbollah into the land so long held by its Israeli enemies, a celebratory procession grew as it wound its way from west to east through the rugged countryside. By the road, elderly Lebanese women ululated and sprinkled the cars with rose petals and rice as if at a wedding.

Flashing V's and waving the yellow flags of their Iranian-backed Hezbollah movement, the guerrillas trailed a miles-long parade of supporters, including villagers returning to the south for the first time in two decades. "You know when birds fly out of a cage?" said Abu Jaffa, a 26-year-old Hezbollah officer. "That's how we feel." Like sports announcers, local radio reporters gave a village by village account of the "liberation" of the nine-mile-deep zone over the course of the day. "Yarun is now liberated," one said this morning, "and I'm looking over into occupied Palestine."

Israel accelerated the disintegration of its control over the zone by pulling out its troops and equipment in stages and turning over many posts to the Lebanese Christian militia it has armed and trained, the South Lebanon Army. But town by town, the militia soldiers caved in to local pressure. Those who did not seek to cross into Israel turned themselves over to Hezbollah leaders.

The tumble of events began last Thursday when the South Lebanon Army deserted a small village. It picked up steam on Sunday, when the militia left behind a more significant post. And then it snowballed, catching everyone by surprise, including Lebanese journalists, who scrambled to set up television links in the town of Bint Jbail so that they could record the event that most had been waiting a career to capture.

By tonight about 620 of the 2,000-member militia had defected, Lebanese officials said. Many face charges of treason. Although it was announced that the Lebanese Army was now detaining them, no mention was made of where or of what might become of them.

Presumably, the Israelis planned to blow up their posts before completing the withdrawal, as they had done in the village of Jezzín, abandoned last year. But the situation changed before they could carry out their plans. In at least one instance today, the militia soldiers disappeared so quickly that they left tanks with their motors running and stoves with rice cooking on them.

Hezbollah fighters quickly foraged through the deserted posts, stocking up on Israeli rocket launchers, ammunition and gear before Israel had a chance to stop them. In some cases, Hezbollah guerrillas squabbled with members of Amal, the other Lebanese Shiite resistance group, over the Hebrew-inscribed equipment.

At the Mediterranean port of Naqura this morning, Hezbollah worked quickly, fearful that the seaside post, which featured twin wall paintings of the Israeli Star of David and the cedars of Lebanon, was booby-trapped.

As a honking convoy of newly captured Israeli tanks headed to Bint Jbail, in the zone's center, Israeli helicopters began buzzing overhead. Soon they were bombarding some of their own abandoned posts. They also released heat bombs to deflect fire, and their aerial raids briefly detained the sweep through the countryside.

One man, Abed Taqoush, 50, died in the bombing. He was a veteran taxi driver for the foreign press who helped reporters cover the conflict in Lebanon for 23 years.

As it resumed, the convoy converted a narrow road into a traffic jam directed by gun-toting Hezbollah crossing guards. The Hezbollah fighters, who kept a low profile in Lebanon as they fought the Israelis, launching mortar attacks from citrus groves, surfaced spontaneously and talked relatively freely.

"They have run in the end," said a youth who gave his name as Jawad, speaking of the Israelis. "We always knew they would, but no one would have guessed it could happen so quickly."

Asked whether the battle was over, the young men said that decision was up to Hezbollah's leader, Sheik Hassan Nasrallah. "Our purpose is to be told what to do," one said. "If Nasrallah says the fight is on, it's on. And if it's off, it's off."

RETREAT FROM LEBANON : THE TRIUMPHAL PROCESSION; Israelis Out of Lebanon After 22 Years

His fellow fighter, though, said they had gotten as far as they had because "Jerusalem twinkles in our eyes" -- a comment that would chill many Israelis to the bone.

Until today the southern zone was off limits to most Lebanese. Starting at midmorning, Lebanese Army officers opened the tightly controlled checkpoints, and packed cars began rolling past the gates that have divided the country.

Many cars contained Hezbollah's fighters and its true believers, like Hala Smayel and a gaggle of young women -- friends of hers -- who alternated jumping up and down with yelling, "Nasrallah forever!" They dragged out his name into four syllables, so that it sounded like "Nasser-Allah," a play on the name's literal meaning, since nasser means victory and Allah is God.

"We are going village to village to give congratulations," Miss Smayel said. "Hezbollah was able to bring the most important military force in the Middle East to its knees. Every drop of blood from the martyrs will grow into a child, and this child will grow into an adult, and this adult will fight Israel and become another martyr."

By late afternoon villagers had stormed the Khiam prison, which was run by the Israeli-backed militia and notorious internationally for reports of human rights abuses. The militia guards had run away, turning the prisoners over to the International Committee of the Red Cross.

United Nations officials said they were surprised that the day had gone as peacefully as it had. They attributed that partly to the advance work of Hezbollah and Amal leaders. The guerrilla leaders had been spending time in Christian communities in the south, trying to convince them that all the people would stand together, the officials said.

Over the years the guerrilla leaders have become part of the political establishment here, and they spoke today of using the moment to unite Lebanon's divided population.

"Liberation is the gift of the resistance movement to the Lebanese people," said Nabih Berri, the speaker of Parliament and leader of Amal. "It is especially a message to our Christian population in what was the occupied zone. They are part of us, no different from anyone else."

Lebanese political leaders said the military battle would now become a diplomatic one. They said they would fight for an Israeli pullout from the Shebaa Farms area at the foot of the Golan Heights, even though the United Nations said this week that it would certify the withdrawal as complete without it.

"Whatever difficulties happen in life, after every one there is a catharsis, a joyous moment of release," Foda Ramadan, a returning villager, said today. "And then there are new difficulties."

<http://www.nytimes.com>

Graphic

Photos: Israeli soldiers guarded the border yesterday as hundreds of Lebanese waited to enter Israel at the Metulla crossing, top. Hezbollah guerrillas triumphantly rode a tank abandoned by Israeli-allied Lebanese militias. (Associated Press); (Agence France-Presse)(pg. A1); Israeli-allied Lebanese militias abandoned vehicles, equipment and weapons as the Israelis left South Lebanon. A Lebanese woman holding a Hezbollah flag scavenged antiaircraft ammunition near Bint Jbail yesterday. (Associated Press)(pg. A12)

RETREAT FROM LEBANON : THE TRIUMPHAL PROCESSION; Israelis Out of Lebanon After 22 Years

Map of Lebanon shows the location of Bint Jbail: Bint Jbail is in the center of Israel's former buffer zone in Lebanon.
(pg. A12)

Load-Date: May 24, 2000

End of Document

**AS LEBANESE HONOR THEIR DEAD, HOPES DIM FOR A RAPID TRUCE<
THE NATION OBSERVED AN OFFICIAL DAY OF MOURNING FOR< ABOUT
150 CIVILIANS KILLED BY ISRAEL'S BOMBARDMENT.**

The Philadelphia Inquirer

APRIL 23, 1996 Tuesday SF EDITION

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The Philadelphia Inquirer

Found on Philly.com

Section: NATIONAL; Pg. A02

Length: 777 words

Byline: Alan Sipress, INQUIRER STAFF WRITER

Dateline: BEIRUT

Body

As Lebanese paused from their typically frenetic pace of life yesterday to quietly honor their civilian dead, hopes of a rapid cease-fire seemed to diminish as the conflict in Lebanon dragged into its 12th day.

The official day of mourning, which united a country so often divided in the past among battling religions, sects and classes, was a mark of respect for about 150 Lebanese who have been killed by Israel's bombardment during an offensive called Operation Grapes of Wrath.

As diplomats in nearby Damascus, Syria, struggled to fashion both an immediate truce and a long-lasting written agreement between Israel and Hezbollah guerrillas, both sides continued to strike. Israeli warplanes, gunboats and artillery pounded Lebanon, and Hezbollah fired Katyusha rockets into northern Israel.

U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher returned yesterday to Damascus with a revised set of proposals for Syrian President Hafez al-Assad, who is the main power broker in Lebanon. Syria, with its 35,000 troops in Lebanon, effectively dictates Lebanese foreign policy and exercises direct influence over Hezbollah.

"I want to emphasize our determination and goal is to seek an early cease-fire and a set of enduring understandings," Christopher told reporters. U.S. officials said they hoped for a deal this week.

In Beirut, shutters were pulled down in front of shops and boutiques, and schools recessed. Church bells rang at noon and Lebanese television stations suspended their usually colorful programming for classical music, vistas of Lebanese landscapes, and documentaries on national history. A ghostly still descended on Beirut's downtown streets, usually choked with traffic and aggressive drivers.

It was less serene on the outskirts of Beirut, where Israeli warplanes widened their targets to strike the bases of radical Palestinian guerrillas in the Naameh hills to the south of the capital. The jets launched about 10 raids at the

AS LEBANESE HONOR THEIR DEAD, HOPES DIM FOR A RAPID TRUCE< THE NATION OBSERVED AN OFFICIAL DAY OF MOURNING FOR< ABOUT 150 CIVILIANS KILLED BY ISRAEL 'S BOMBARDM....

Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command (PFLP-GC) - the third strike on exclusively Palestinian targets in the operation against Hezbollah.

The raids were the first attacks near Beirut in several days.

Farther south, a pair of Israeli ships continued to shell the main coastal highway connecting Beirut with South Lebanon, menacing relief aid, journalists and other civilian traffic. The barrage also prevented a convoy of 30 cars, led by Lebanese parliamentarians, from paying a condolence call in the village of Qana, where Israeli shells killed at least 75 civilians - including women and children - Thursday when they struck a U.N. base.

Israel also continued to bombard southern Lebanon, lobbing at least 500 shells into an area near the coastal city of Tyre, while Hezbollah guerrillas fired at least 30 Katyusha rockets into northern Israel.

In Damascus, Christopher's visit was his second to the Syrian capital since he began this latest round of shuttle diplomacy over the weekend. The stop came after a visit to Jerusalem, where he is again due today to meet with Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres.

"We think we have a chance of putting a deal together this week," State Department spokesman Nicholas Burns said in Washington. "Success is not assured. We'll stay as long as it is useful."

Burns called the talks "important." That was a far cry from the announcement of an immediate truce, which many leading diplomats had expected when Christopher arrived in the region Saturday.

Apparently, Christopher's hope of nailing down a quick truce has been complicated by his additional aim of expanding on an 1993 understanding between Israel and Hezbollah under which they agreed not to attack the other side's civilians.

Since that agreement broke down, civilians have paid a heavy price. An overwhelming number of the 150 Lebanese killed during "Grapes of Wrath" have been civilians. Hundreds of Lebanese civilians have been wounded.

About 50 Israelis have been injured in northern Israel since the fighting began April 11. No Israeli civilian has been killed in the Hezbollah attacks.

Speaking before the Israeli parliament yesterday, Peres said that he had placed no time limit on the offensive. He said he was waiting for Christopher's return to Jerusalem today to see what new proposals Syria had to offer.

Peres, locked in a tight race for elections on May 29, is under considerable pressure to get tough with Arabs and to safeguard voters now under Hezbollah attack.

He repeated that the goal of Israel's punishing strikes is to prevent Hezbollah from firing rockets into northern Israel. His remarks at the Knesset provoked angry outbursts from Arab parliamentarians, who called him a "child-killer."

Load-Date: October 28, 2002

Lebanon rejects US peace terms

The Daily Telegraph (Sydney, Australia)

April 17, 1996, Wednesday

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Length: 481 words

Body

BEIRUT: Israeli aircraft launched waves of raids into Lebanon, including a Beirut suburb, today as a US proposal to end the conflict ran into opposition from the Lebanese government.

Israeli helicopter gunships fired rockets into Beirut's southern suburbs, a Hezbollah guerilla bastion, as its planes hit a village in southern Lebanon and blasted a Hezbollah building in the Syrian-policed Bekaa Valley.

Syrian President Hafez al-Assad met an envoy of French President Jacques Chirac as Damascus declared readiness to co-operate with Paris in trying to end fighting in Lebanon between Israel and Hezbollah, which has launched rocket attacks on northern Israel.

But US attempts to come up with a proposal to halt the six-day-old Israeli blitz against Hezbollah guerillas ran into trouble today when Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik alHariri said it was difficult for Beirut to accept some of its terms.

US Ambassador Richard Jones in Beirut had called for the revival of a 1993 understanding barring attacks against civilian targets on both sides of the Lebanese-Israeli border as a first step to end fighting there.

Mr Hariri, who visited Saudi Arabia today, gave no details of the proposal he received from American diplomats, but Foreign Minister Faris Bouez said in Beirut that the copy of the proposal he was given expanded on the 1993 understanding.

Lebanese officials in the past have rejected similar proposals that would add terms to halt guerilla attacks on Israeli soldiers in south Lebanon and disarm Hezbollah guerillas in return for an Israeli commitment to pull out from the region.

Israel's big guns briefly fell silent today when soldiers shelling Lebanon came to attention with the rest of Israel to honour the six million Jews exterminated by Nazi Germany half a century ago.

After the two minutes of silent attention, Israeli warplanes streaked over Kiryat Shmona, a border town just below the ridge where artillery is dug in, towards Lebanon.

Big guns on the ridge again began to boom.

The Israeli raids killed five civilians, including a two-year-old girl in a Beirut suburb where security sources said rockets hit three civilian apartments and wounded 17.

The sources said the number of Israeli aircraft sorties into Lebanon were more than 30, including an attack on the home of a radical Palestinian guerilla chief, which wounded his three-year-old son and two women.

Lebanon rejects US peace terms

At least 31 people, mostly civilians, have been killed and 141 wounded in the Israeli bombardment since April 11, while **Hezbollah** Katyusha rockets into northern Israel have wounded 46 people and caused thousands to flee.

South-east of the Lebanese coastal town of Tyre - where Israel said it was holding its fire to allow remaining residents to flee UN sources said that more than 700 shells and 30 air-to-surface missiles and bombs were fired at the area in one four-hour period, but caused no injuries.

Load-Date: March 4, 2002

End of Document

Dialogue on terror

Sydney Morning Herald (Australia)

April 19, 1996 Friday

Late Edition

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Section: NEWS AND FEATURES; LETTERS; Pg. 16

Length: 471 words

Body

The Australian Lebanese Association of NSW strongly condemns violence against all innocent people, whether they live in Lebanon, Israel or anywhere else in the world.

We also appreciate that each country must always try to protect its people from outside aggression.

However, on this occasion we particularly condemn the over-reaction of Israel against the innocent residents of Lebanon.

The reaction of Israel far outweighs any security risk it faces in the region. Death to innocent women and children and destruction of property do not bring peace to a country and its people.

Lebanon and the Lebanese have suffered enough for the past 20 years. For peace to exist in the Middle East all factions must now realise that force has not solved and never will solve the problems between the countries in the region.

We believe that only in dialogue would these problems be solved.

We call on our Australian Government to demand on behalf of all fair-minded Australians the immediate cessation of all hostilities against the innocents. We ask also that our Government should demand the withdrawal of all foreign forces from Lebanon under United Nations Resolution 425.

Innocent women and children have paid a heavy price just for being in their homes which happen to be in the areas of conflict.

J. P. Khoury,

President, Australian Lebanese Association,

April 17 Dulwich Hill.

The editorial "Peace by bombing" (Herald, April 16) is far too simplistic. Israel's response to extreme terrorism by the Iranian-backed Sh'ite militia group, the Hezbollah, does not occur in a vacuum.

The editorial fails to recognise the intolerable pressures that are placed upon the State of Israel by the terrorist group Hezbollah and does not acknowledge that a sovereign state must protect its citizens.

Dialogue on terror

Iran continues to deepen its ties to the Hezbollah and makes no attempt to disguise its implacable hatred of Israel. Iran remains firmly committed to the proposition that Israel has no right to exist and views the Hezbollah as its spearhead in the battle against Israel. Hezbollah terrorists continue to fire Katyusha rockets at Jewish communities along the northern border with Lebanon and are in almost constant combat against Israeli Defence Force troops. Furthermore, Iran continues to train Hezbollah terrorists and fund their operations at destroying the State of Israel.

Indeed, it is absolutely absurd to suggest that the Israeli Government's response to terrorism is "a calculated overreaction to what have been distractions to normal life in Israel". Operation Grapes of Wrath is not merely a political ploy by Israel's Prime Minister, Shimon Peres, to ensure his victory in the forthcoming Israeli elections. It is, rather, a response to a violent campaign of terror.

Sarah Nicolas,

Research Officer,

NSW Jewish Board of Deputies,

April 16 Darlinghurst.

Graphic

Cartoon: By Ron Tandberg

Load-Date: July 23, 2007

A macabre exchange: Israel, guerrillas from Lebanon to swap bodies

The Gazette (Montreal, Quebec)
July 20, 1996, Saturday, FINAL EDITION

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Section: WORLD REPORT; Pg. H10

Length: 516 words

Byline: THE GUARDIAN

Dateline: JERUSALEM

Body

Israel will reclaim two of its dead tomorrow in a macabre exchange of human remains with Islamist guerrillas in Lebanon.

Hezbollah will get the best of the grisly bargain with the expected release from prison of at least one hundred of its members and the handing over of the bodies of some 150 dead guerrillas.

In return, Israel will take back the remains of Yosef Fink and Rahamim Sheikh, captured in a guerrilla ambush in February 1986.

The exchange is the culmination of months of mediation by a six-man German team headed by the security official, Bernd Schmidbauer.

Last-minute disputes prevented the deal being completed yesterday, but the Lebanese interior minister, Michel al-Murr, said it would go ahead tomorrow.

"The German official said the atmosphere is positive from Israel's side. We as a government have undertaken contacts with the other side (**Hezbollah**) and the atmosphere is also positive," he said.

The four-way negotiation centred on which and how many prisoners would be released by Israel and its client militia in the occupation zone, the South Lebanon Army (SLA). **Hezbollah** had insisted to the last that the release should include all 15 **women** prisoners held by the SLA in the notorious Khiam compound.

They include Suha Becheria, a member of the Lebanese Communist Party, which in 1988 tried to assassinate the SLA commander and Lebanese army renegade, General Antoine Lahd.

Israeli sources cast doubt on earlier reports that up to 200 **Hezbollah** prisoners in south Lebanon would be released.

They also dismissed speculation that the exchange would include the **Hezbollah** spiritual leader, Sheikh Abdel Karim Obeid, and the Islamist faction leader, Mustapha Dirani, seized in Israeli commando raids in 1989 and 1994 respectively.

A macabre exchange: Israel , guerrillas from Lebanon to swap bodies

Israel has always insisted that Obeid and Dirani would be released only when it receives positive information about the airman, Ron Arad, shot down over Lebanon and captured in October 1986. Intelligence sources believe Arad is held in Iran, but the Iranians deny any knowledge of him.

Germany, which has closer contact with Tehran than other Western countries, has played a leading part in discreet diplomatic moves to locate Arad and three other Israeli servicemen captured in Lebanon in 1982.

The current negotiation has been going on since the end of April, when Israel called off its bombardment of Hezbollah targets in Lebanon.

Meanwhile, the Israeli president, Ezer Weizman, has announced that he intends to pardon two Palestinian women jailed for attacks on Israelis. Anam Jabari was imprisoned for 12 years in 1988, when she was a minor, for killing a Jewish religious student. Mai Aljesin was jailed for stabbing a student, and then given a life sentence for killing a prisoner.

Weizman refused the two pardons last autumn, when Israel had promised the Palestinians that all women prisoners would be released. Around 30 women refused to leave jail in solidarity.

Now the presidential volte-face could open the way for Israel to release all the women, and finally honor its pledge.

Load-Date: July 22, 1996

Fearing terror attacks, Israel seals off territories

The Gazette (Montreal, Quebec)

February 28, 1999, FINAL

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Section: News; A6

Length: 319 words

Dateline: JERUSALEM

Body

Israel has decided to seal off the Palestinian territories this week, citing warnings of attacks by Islamic militants, an army spokesman said yesterday.

The closure, scheduled to last for four days, will make it impossible for Palestinians with jobs in Israel to get to work.

The Defence Ministry's decision to impose a closure on the Palestinian areas falls during the week Israeli Jews celebrate the Purim holiday.

The holiday has been marred by attacks since 1994, when a Jewish settler gunned down 29 Palestinians worshippers before being bludgeoned to death by survivors.

The holiday festivities in 1996 were canceled after four suicide bombings in eight days killed 63 people in Jerusalem and Tel Aviv.

During the holiday in March 1997, a 28-year-old Palestinian suicide bomber blew himself up in a Tel Aviv cafe, killing himself and three Israeli women.

- Israeli warplanes raided suspected guerrilla bases in southern Lebanon yesterday.

There were no immediate reports of casualties.

The warplanes swooped over the Al-Rafih mountain, firing two missiles, Lebanese security officials said, speaking on customary condition of anonymity.

The mountain lies in an area that faces the Israeli-occupied zone of southern Lebanon and is a stronghold of Iranian-backed Hezbollah guerrillas.

In Jerusalem, an Israeli military statement said its planes had "hit terrorist targets" in southeast Lebanon and returned safely to base.

Earlier yesterday, Hezbollah said three of its fighters were killed by Israeli forces on Wednesday during a clash in Markaba, reversing its earlier denial of casualties. Markaba is 3 kilometres from the Israeli border.

The bodies of the three guerrillas were retrieved Friday, Hezbollah said in a statement.

Fearing terror attacks, Israel seals off territories

The Markaba shootout came a day after three Israeli elite commandos were killed and five wounded in a **Hezbollah** ambush in southern Lebanon.

Load-Date: March 1, 1999

End of Document

**ISRAEL'S OCCUPATION OF S. LEBANON COLLAPSES; 6 DIE AS MUSLIM
GUERRILLAS MOVE;
INTO VILLAGES;
ALLIED MILITIAMEN ABANDON POSTS; CHAOS ENDS BARAK'S PLAN FOR
ORDERLY;
WITHDRAWAL**

St. Louis Post-Dispatch (Missouri)

May 23, 2000, Tuesday, FIVE STAR LIFT EDITION

Copyright 2000 St. Louis Post-Dispatch, Inc.

Section: NEWS, Pg. A1

Length: 1004 words

Byline: Los Angeles Times

Dateline: JERUSALEM

Body

Israel's 22-year occupation of southern Lebanon crumbled Monday as Islamic guerrillas and their jubilant civilian supporters swept into village after village, laying claim to disputed Lebanese land and moving to within view of the Israeli border.

Scores of members of Israel's proxy militia, the South Lebanon Army, fled posts they had taken to replace withdrawing Israelis. The Lebanese militiamen were arrested as collaborators, surrendered to Lebanese authorities or were fleeing south toward Israel in search of asylum.

With dizzying speed, the Christian militia appeared to be disintegrating, and Israel moved to speed its forces' retreat from southern Lebanon after two decades of occupation.

Israel and its allies shelled roads and abandoned outposts in a frantic attempt to stop crowds from swarming positions as soon as militiamen deserted them, while Islamic fighters pressed their attacks on Israeli positions. Six Lebanese were reported killed.

The central third of the nine-mile-deep "security zone" that Israel maintained along its northern border with Lebanon fell to the Muslim Shiite **Hezbollah** guerrillas Monday, according to the Israeli army.

Hezbollah militants raided abandoned posts and sauntered through newly "liberated" towns, waving their new weapons, some with Hebrew inscriptions, and receiving the cheers of their supporters.

The chaos dashed Israeli hopes for an orderly withdrawal and threw the ambitious agenda of Prime Minister Ehud Barak into disarray. Barak had promised to end Israel's occupation of Lebanon by July 7. Some sources now suggest that it will be only a matter of days before the operation is completed.

ISRAEL 'S OCCUPATION OF S. LEBANON COLLAPSES; 6 DIE AS MUSLIM GUERRILLAS MOVE; INTO VILLAGES; ALLIED MILITIAMEN ABANDON POSTS; CHAOS ENDS BARAK'S PLAN FOR ORDER....

Terrified Israeli residents in the communities that dot Israel's northern region watched in disbelief as red and yellow Hezbollah flags waved just a few hundred yards from their homes, across a border marked by a wire fence.

Tens of thousands of Israelis headed for bomb shelters Monday afternoon, expecting Hezbollah shelling.

Caught off guard by the sudden turn of events, Barak came under renewed pressure to speed up the withdrawal. Publicly, he insisted that his government would decide the timing of the pullback based on its own criteria, and he warned that reprisals against Hezbollah attacks would not be limited to southern Lebanon.

"If someone initiates attacks on Israeli soldiers, not to mention (aga inst) the settlements of the north, as we withdraw . . . the response will be very painful," Barak said.

But the reality on the ground was shifting around Barak.

Ehud Yaari, a prominent Arab affairs commentator for Israeli television, put it this way: "It's very simple. The Israeli plan for an orderly pullout is over. Basically, we have lost control over what is happening there."

The desertions in the South Lebanon Army effectively severed the security zone, ceding the middle section to Hezbollah control. That left in Israeli hands the far eastern and western segments, sites of Lebanese Christian strongholds such as Marjayoun and the town of Bint Jbeil, which overlooks a key border crossing that will serve as the Israeli army's main path of retreat.

More than 12 villages, all Shiite, were retaken Monday by Hezbollah, and two of the South Lebanon Army's five battalions folded.

Lebanese officials said two people were killed during aerial and ground firing toward crowds between the villages of Houla and Meiss el-Jabal. Two more civilians were killed by an artillery shell that hit a former South Lebanon Army position in the village of Rshaf. A fifth civilian was killed by machine gun fire in the village Rob Thalatheen, and the sixth died in shelling on the village of Srobbine. Hospital officials in Tibnine near Beit Yahoun, about 15 miles from the sea, said 19 wounded were admitted from various villages.

Israel had begun its withdrawal, piece by piece, more than a week ago. But the domino-like events began Sunday when the militia abruptly withdrew from the Taibe outpost that it had received from the Israeli army a few days earlier.

Hezbollah guerrillas, as well as displaced residents from the area, seized on the news and began streaming back into the villages around the Taibe post. The movement snowballed as the returning throngs drove unimpeded through U.N. checkpoints - or got out and walked.

Roads were jammed with vehicles and with people chanting "Allahu akbar! (God is great!)" In villages, there were tearful reunions of family members who had been separated by the conflict. Women scattered rose petals and rice grains as they returned to homes.

The Israeli air force found itself in the odd position of having to bomb tanks and artillery that days before had been its own. The army beefed up defenses along the Israeli side of the northern border.

That was of little comfort to residents of northern Israel, some of whom grabbed binoculars and from their balconies watched the returning Lebanese. They fretted over a return to the '70s, before Israel's invasion of Lebanon, when northern communities were periodically attacked by Lebanese-based Palestinian guerrillas. The security zone was set up in 1985 as a buffer against those attacks.

"It's a very, very terrible situation," Bilha Gat, a resident of Israel's northernmost kibbutz, Misgav Am, said as her neighbors went to shelters. "I don't know what to do. I cannot sit in a situation like that, but I am very connected to this place. It's my home. We hope it will be finished, but I don't know when or how."

ISRAEL 'S OCCUPATION OF S. LEBANON COLLAPSES; 6 DIE AS MUSLIM GUERRILLAS MOVE; INTO VILLAGES; ALLIED MILITIAMEN ABANDON POSTS; CHAOS ENDS BARAK'S PLAN FOR ORDER....

Barak's domestic political opposition was eager Monday to accuse the prime minister of having bungled the withdrawal, especially noting Israel's failure to better provide for the South Lebanon Army. The Israeli government made tentative offers to provide refuge for a portion of the 2,500-man militia, but concrete plans never emerged. Several senior militia commanders have been sentenced to death in absentia by Lebanese courts.

"We are abandoning the SLA," former Defense Minister Moshe Arens complained bitterly Monday. "How can you call this by any other name but betrayal?"

Graphic

PHOTO, MAP (1) Color Photo by THE ASSOCIATED PRESS - Lebanese villagers take cover from Israeli shelling in the formerly occupied village of Beit Yahoun on Monday. Hospital officials in Tibnine near Beit Yahoun said 19 wounded were admitted from various villages.

(2) Color photo by AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE - Hezbollah guerrillas hold a gun on Hassan Nimr, 70, who they suspect was a member of the Israeli-backed South Lebanon Army. Hezbollah fighters have taken over several villages abandoned by Israeli and SLA troops.

(3) Color photo by AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE - A member of the militant group Hezbollah puts up his organization's flag on an abandoned South Lebanon Army position in the village of Houla on Monday.

(4) Color map - South Lebanon turmoil

Israeli Security Zone

U.N. forces in Lebanon

Villages abandoned by deserting Israeli-allied militiamen

Load-Date: May 23, 2000

Israel releases tape of kidnapped cleric

The Ottawa Citizen

December 10, 1991, Tuesday, FINAL EDITION

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Section: NEWS; Pg. D2

Length: 803 words

Byline: LOUIS SALOME; COX NEWS SERVICE

Dateline: JERUSALEM

Body

For the first time, Israel on Monday showed its ace-in-the-hole hostage, who revealed a failed attempt to win a comprehensive release for all missing Israelis, Lebanese held by Israel, and Westerners held in Lebanon.

In an interview videotaped two weeks ago and shown Monday night on state-operated Israel Television, Sheikh Abdul Karim Obeid complained to his Muslim Shiite colleagues in Lebanon that Western hostages were being released while he and missing Israeli soldiers held in Lebanon were not.

Led carefully by his Israeli questioner against a backdrop of palm trees, Sheikh Obeid demanded that his cohorts live up to their commitment "that no one would be released before I was," although by that time it was already too late for them to do so.

But at the time of the interview it wouldn't have been too late for the Shiites holding the last three American hostages to free them as part of a comprehensive release that could have included Sheikh Obeid and some 250 Lebanese held by Israel, and the missing Israeli soldiers or their remains.

Yet Sheikh Obeid's plea didn't work. The last three American hostages, Joseph Cicippio, Alann(cq) Steen and Terry Anderson, were released separately. Israel's six missing soldiers are still unaccounted for, although five are believed to be dead, and only navigator Ron Arad is believed to have any chance of being alive. And Israel still holds Sheikh Obeid and about 250 other Lebanese.

Shortly after the interview, Israel gave the videotape to the office of UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar, which then passed it to Hezbollah, the umbrella organization believed to have held the Western hostages.

The videotape was designed to influence Hezbollah to participate in a comprehensive hostage and prisoner release, but it apparently failed. Two German hostages remain in Hezbollah's hands.

In the interview, Sheikh Obeid protested that the Western hostage crisis was being dealt with separately from his plight and that of other hostages and prisoners.

"What are the reasons?" he asked. "Perhaps I am not aware of the reasons, but from what I do recognize, my situation is frozen. Work is not being done to solve it."

Israel releases tape of kidnapped cleric

From Israel's standpoint, Sheikh Obeid was also saying that nothing was being done to return the missing Israeli soldiers or their remains.

By showing the interview on Monday, and by having the army release a transcript, Israel revealed its deep concern that the United Nations has hit a wall in trying to negotiate the return of its soldiers. Israel is also trying to put pressure on Hezbollah to end the entire hostage crisis.

The interview was conducted after Hezbollah released Anglican Church envoy Terry Waite and American professor Tom Sutherland without any release of Lebanese prisoners by Israel. Sheikh Obeid then appealed for a comprehensive hostage release as it appeared Hezbollah was separating the release of the Western hostages from the Lebanese-Israeli part of the hostage crisis.

In the interview, Sheikh Obeid -- dressed in a black and gold robe, his scraggly beard showing under a white scarf that covered his head -- lamented that Israel was holding female Shiite prisoners and that Hezbollah was not attempting to have them released.

Shortly after the interview, and before the release of Joseph Cicippio, Israel released 25 Lebanese prisoners, including two women, in an attempt to stimulate a comprehensive hostage release. But Israel has not received any information about the fate of Ron Arad since then, and it has not released any additional prisoners.

Hezbollah says it has two Israeli soldiers, but no information about Arad. The two soldiers, Yosef Fink and Rahamim Alsheikh, have been confirmed dead.

In recent days, Hezbollah leaders have been saying that Arad is held in Syria, a claim the Israelis say is not true. Israeli officials, who say they have no solid information about Arad's fate, believe he is held by Iran or by Iranian-backed Shiites in Lebanon.

Sheikh Obeid repeatedly linked his freedom and that of other Lebanese prisoners held by Israel to the release of the Israeli soldiers or their remains. He said his health was good, that he was writing poetry in prison and that he missed his youngest child the most, a daughter who was 41/2 months old when he was kidnapped.

Israeli soldiers abducted Sheikh Obeid, 38, on July 28, 1989, from his village of Jibchit in South Lebanon. He was kidnapped because Israel feared the Western hostages would be released, but their missing soldiers would be forgotten. The idea was to link the release of Western hostages with the release of Sheikh Obeid and the return of the Israeli soldiers, a tactic that hasn't worked so far.

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Graphic

(Abdul Karim) Obeid: Makes plea

Load-Date: December 10, 1991

Christopher expects tough talks: Diplomats at work as gunners keep on firing

The Gazette (Montreal, Quebec)

April 21, 1996, Sunday, FINAL EDITION

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Section: WORLD REPORT; Pg. B1 / BREAK

Length: 798 words

Byline: NORMA GREENAWAY; SOUTHAM NEWSPAPERS

Dateline: BEIRUT

Body

Diplomatic efforts to secure a speedy ceasefire between Israeli forces and **Hezbollah** guerrillas picked up steam yesterday against the backdrop of continuing warmaking.

U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher said he hoped a ceasefire could be arranged but didn't take it for granted. "I expect difficult discussions over the next 24 to 48 hours," Christopher said as he flew into Damascus. He met Syrian President Hafez Assad before heading to Jerusalem for a follow-up session today with Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres.

With talk of ceasefire still just that, the conflict continued on both sides of the Israel-Lebanon border. Israeli navy gunboats shelled a stretch of highway north of Sidon for the second day, causing chaos and panic along the main coastal road to Beirut.

The route is used by Lebanese government, the UN and relief convoys carrying supplies to the embattled south. Several civilian vehicles were either hit or forced off the road, but no serious injuries were reported. Israeli forces also pounded suspected **Hezbollah** targets across the south and around the port city of Tyre.

Iranian-backed **Hezbollah** (Party of God) guerrillas fired more than 15 rockets into northern Israel, providing continuing evidence the 10-day-old Israeli military offensive has failed to put them out of business. In central Beirut, students protested Israel's air, naval and artillery blitz on Lebanon, which has cost more than 130 Lebanese lives and caused millions of dollars of damage. One Israeli soldier has died and more than 40 Israelis have been injured.

Damascus has become the main staging area for the diplomatic push because Assad is considered the pivotal player in the U.S.-led international quest to get **Hezbollah** to hold its fire if Israel ends its military offensive. Syria is the major powerbroker in Lebanon where it has up to 40,000 troops, many controlling areas of the Bekaa Valley where **Hezbollah** operates.

Christopher joined top diplomats from Europe, Russia and Iran trooping through Damascus as part of the search for a ceasefire formula acceptable to Israel and the guerrillas. Christopher was armed with a resolution adopted by leaders of the seven major industrial countries meeting in Moscow calling for an immediate ceasefire.

The ceasefire drive intensified after Israel's deadly shelling attack Thursday on a UN peacekeepers' post in south Lebanon raised fears the conflict could spiral out of control. The compound was sheltering hundreds of Lebanese

Christopher expects tough talks: Diplomats at work as gunners keep on firing

civilians. At least 75 men, women and children were killed and more than one hundred were wounded, according to the UN. Lebanese police put the toll at 101 dead and 120 wounded.

The Israeli government and Hezbollah officials say they are willing to stop the fighting but neither side is willing to go first. The U.S. and France have floated separate ceasefire proposals, each of which contains provisions unacceptable to the other.

Israel and Hezbollah's backers appear to agree on one thing: A ceasefire deal that includes provisions banning attacks on civilian targets. But there are differences over how the ceasefire should be guaranteed and policed. A major stumbling block revolves around Israel's demand, contained in the U.S. ceasefire proposal, that Hezbollah also refrain from attacking Israeli troops in its so-called security zone. This is a narrow strip of land Israel has occupied since ending its full-scale invasion of Lebanon in 1985.

Hezbollah, backed by Iran, Syria, Lebanon and other Arab countries, considers Israeli forces in the zone legitimate targets in the armed struggle to evict the Jewish state from occupied territory. Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Hariri says a ceasefire arrangement barring guerrilla attacks on Israel's "security zone" is a non-starter.

Israel insists its withdrawal from the zone must be part of an overall peace settlement with Lebanon, something to be resolved at the bargaining table and not on the battlefield.

The latest fighting is the most serious since 1993. It has slowed somewhat since Thursday's shelling of the UN post, although Israel's steady pounding of the coastal highway since last Friday is a new tactic. The bombardment from Israeli gunboats cruising about three kilometres off Lebanon's Mediterranean coast has centred on a 300-metre stretch north of Sidon between Syrian and Lebanese army checkpoints.

Lebanese army and police forces closed off the area to traffic. Lebanese officials said the bombardment appeared aimed at discouraging civilians and journalists from travelling to the south, Israel's main target area.

It also could be designed to prevent supplies from getting to civilians who remain scattered in isolated villages in the south but whom Israel wants to leave.

Load-Date: April 22, 1996

Kafr Kila Journal;
Ice Cream and Bottle Rockets At Lebanon's Border Parade

The New York Times

July 3, 2000, Monday, Late Edition - Final

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Distribution: Foreign Desk

Section: Section A;; Section A; Page 1; Column 5; Foreign Desk; Column 5;

Length: 1066 words

Byline: By JOHN KIFNER

By JOHN KIFNER

Dateline: KAFR KILA, Lebanon, July 2

Body

It was a fine, sunny Sunday today, and thousands of people flocked to Lebanon's newest tourist attraction -- the barbed-wire fence at the new official border with Israel -- for a stroll with the kids, a chance to pose for pictures and videos, or even to throw a stone or two in the general direction of the Israelis.

By late morning, festive, flag-bedecked cars and buses jammed the narrow roads, pockmarked by artillery, that wind through the steep, stony hills of the strip of southern Lebanon that Israel and its proxy militia had occupied for more than two decades. Lebanon, alone in the Arab world, has Sunday as its day of rest, a tradition of its Christian-led government.

Along the way from Beirut, many of the village squares were decorated with broken-down armored cars or old artillery pieces, now plastered with Hezbollah posters, that were left behind when the South Lebanon Army, the Israeli-sponsored militia, fled after Israel's abrupt pullout in May.

Bright yellow Hezbollah flags flew over all the old South Lebanon Army and Israeli strongholds and gun positions, but there was no sign in the streets of armed militiamen or the once-common checkpoints. In the last few days, new yellow roadside signs have sprouted, marking places where Israeli patrols were ambushed by Hezbollah, or where the Islamic militia lost some of the 1,200 resistance "martyrs," as it calls the fighters killed doing battle here.

A mock-up of a Katyusha multiple rocket launcher, made of plastic piping with Sohlat mineral water bottles painted red posing as missile tips, has been set up by the entrance to the walk along the border. The model was the subject of urgent phone calls between military officials on both sides of the border and United Nations peacekeepers before assurances were given that it was a fake.

In true Lebanese fashion, merchants have sprung up around it: an ice cream truck, a couple of makeshift restaurants, stands selling clothing, watches and tapes of resistance songs.

"Thank God, business is good," said Mahmoud, a hefty, bearded fighter-turned-merchant at what appeared to be the authorized Hezbollah souvenir stand, directly across from the fortified Israeli position at the Fatima Gate, where Israel used to let its South Lebanon Army allies enter the country. "Especially on Sunday. All the day is like this, crowded."

Hezbollah baseball caps in yellow, red or blue were selling for two American dollars, the preferred currency. There were small yellow Hezbollah flags for \$2, bigger ones for \$3, along with T-shirts, key chains, recordings and other knickknacks. But even this shop had no monopoly on framed pictures of the Hezbollah leader, Sheik Hassan Nasrallah; they were everywhere, showing the sheik looking thoughtful, waving a rifle or talking on a cell phone.

Near the gate, Jalal Hammoud -- who had grown up here, been jailed and expelled by the South Lebanon Army, and returned last month -- happily tended the gas-fired oven in a cargo container marked "Bakery of Liberation," which he had moved down from Beirut.

"It is my village; I was born and lived here," he said, making manoushee, a traditional thin, flat bread, topped with thyme, cheese or meat. "Now we are happy. And business is good, especially Sunday because thousands of people come from Beirut."

Stretched near the entrance was a banner reading, "Thanks to Hezbollah," and the Shiite Muslims here, the constituency of the Party of God, took particular pride in what the sheik and his men have trumpeted as the sole Arab victory over the Israelis.

For the most part, it is a kind of a promenade, a walk along the barbed-wire-lined fence looking into the Israeli positions. There were troops of Shiite Muslim boy and girl scouts, the girls with light blue smocks and darker head coverings. For women, the styles ranged from full black Iranian-style chadors to open-toed spike heels. People took pictures along the fence, videotaped everything in sight and climbed on buildings for a better view.

But someone -- apparently, members of Hezbollah -- had also thoughtfully dumped piles of rocks at convenient intervals along the walkway, and many people, particularly young men, hurled them over the fence. Except for a rare Humvee on a quick patrol of the dirt road next to the fence, there were no Israelis in sight. Still, the stone-throwers seemed to find it a satisfying exercise. One 7-year-old girl, Tamara Hajji, came from near Zahle with a slingshot in her back pocket, and her parents clustered around encouragingly as she took aim.

Among the crowd, there were also many Palestinians living in Lebanon, including one group of 234 from the Bekaa region. Beneath their stone-throwing bravado was a fear that they are being left out of the maneuvering toward some sort of Middle East peace, as well as a bitterness at the way they are treated here.

"Get out, get out," screamed an elderly Palestinian woman, awkwardly heaving a rock at the fence.

Fresh from Dearborn, Mich., Abed Hussein, a Ford Motor worker, took in the scene with his daughters, Nancy, 19, who wore a white head scarf with her red Tommy Hilfiger jersey, and Zinab, 17. The whole scene, Zinab said, made her feel proud.

Mr. Hussein had come with the girls to visit his 82-year-old father, Abed Hussein, who had fled his home in Israel in 1949. The elder Mr. Hussein still lives near Sidon, where he raised the next generation of his Palestinian family.

About a dozen members of the extended family piled into a green van, the girls trailing Hezbollah flags out the windows, and drove through back roads until they found an old border post left over from the days of the British and French Mandates, videotaping all the while. By the old wrecked gate was a Hezbollah outpost, manned by a couple of riflemen. Up the hill stood an Israeli watchtower. Here, the old man could point to the village where he grew up, Malkiya.

One man dug up some of the soil and put it in a plastic bag to take home. Another car pulled up to the lonely spot with another Palestinian family from Dearborn. Someone put one of the resistance cassettes they had just bought in the car's player, and soon they were all holding hands, dancing in a circle to the strong beat.

Kafr Kila Journal; Ice Cream and Bottle Rockets At Lebanon 's Border Parade

"That was my father's father's father's land," the old man said, pointing past the barbed wire. "The fig and olive trees are all the same. When I see it, it is like a knife cutting my stomach."

<http://www.nytimes.com>

Graphic

Photo: Vendors have set up shop along Lebanon's border with Israel, selling everything from T-shirts to key chains to **Hezbollah** baseball caps. (Courtney Kealy for The New York Times)(pg. A4)

Map of Lebanon highlighting Kafr Kila: Kafr Kila is drawing crowds since the Israeli pullout from Lebanon. (pg. A4)

Load-Date: July 3, 2000

End of Document

**75 PERISH IN ATTACK BY ISRAELIS; MOST OF DEAD ARE WOMEN,
CHILDREN AT REFUGEE CAMP IN SOUTH LEBANON**

St. Louis Post-Dispatch (Missouri)

April 19, 1996, Friday, FIVE STAR Edition

Copyright 1996 St. Louis Post-Dispatch, Inc.

Section: NEWS; Pg. 1A

Length: 1052 words

Dateline: QANA, LEBANON

Body

Israeli artillery shells slammed into a U.N. peacekeepers' compound in south Lebanon where several hundred Lebanese refugees had sought sanctuary Thursday, killing at least 75 civilians and wounding dozens more. Israel admitted an "unfortunate mistake" in the attack.

Most of the dead were women and children who had fled Israel's eight-day bombardment of villages in southern Lebanon, believing they would be safe among U.N. peacekeepers. Four U.N. troops from Fiji were wounded, three seriously, in the shelling of the base at Qana, about six miles southeast of Tyre.

"It's a massacre," said Timur Goksel, a spokesman for the U.N. force in southern Lebanon. "The numbers are frightening."

The United Nations has complained over the last week that Israeli artillery and aircraft have attacked their positions and their relief convoys trying to reach villages cut off by the offensive.

The Israeli armed forces said the barrage was in response to the firing of Katyusha rockets and mortars into northern Israel by Hezbollah guerrillas several hundred yards from the U.N. base. The U.N. confirmed the Hezbollah attack, saying it came 15 minutes before the Israeli artillery struck.

Hezbollah denied that it launched any rockets from near the U.N. base.

The bloodbath prompted President Bill Clinton, who has previously expressed sympathy for the Israeli offensive, to call for an immediate cease-fire. He dispatched Secretary of State Warren Christopher to the Middle East in an effort to arrange a truce.

On Thursday night, Israel's army radio reported that Israel had agreed to a cease-fire on condition that Syria and Lebanon promise to restrain Hezbollah.

In its response early today, Hezbollah did not entirely reject the proposal. But the group said it first wanted the reinstatement of a 1993 pact, mediated by Christopher, which barred both parties from attacking civilians.

The Israeli army chief of staff, Lt. Gen. Amnon Shahak, said Israel had not made a mistake of judgment by shelling the base. Speaking at the same Tel Aviv press conference, Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres justified the attack as a legitimate response to Hezbollah rocketing only 15 minutes earlier.

75 PERISH IN ATTACK BY ISRAELIS; MOST OF DEAD ARE WOMEN, CHILDREN AT REFUGEE CAMP IN SOUTH LEBANON

"I regret that civilians were killed. The sole guilty party, still on the ground, is Hezbollah, and if the Syrians and the Lebanese won't prevent it, they will bring disaster on Lebanon," Peres said.

"Usually, when Hezbollah started shooting from a U.N. position, we knew that U.N. people took shelter immediately," he said. "We did not know that several hundred people were concentrated in that camp. It came to us as a bitter surprise."

Lebanese Prime Minister Rafiq Hariri responded angrily to Peres' comments.

"I thought Mr. Peres would have the courage to say they made a mistake, a terrible mistake, by killing children, women and innocent people," Hariri said. "I was really shocked and surprised by what he said."

The Israeli foreign minister, Ehud Barak, expressed regret, calling the attack an "unfortunate mistake."

Before the attack on the U.N. base Thursday, four Israeli jets fired missiles at an apartment building near the south Lebanon village of Nabatiyeh Fawqah, killing a woman, six of her children and two other relatives. Israel said the air attack came shortly after guerrillas fired mortars at an Israeli army post from a nearby hill.

In Qana, some 500 refugees had gathered at the camp. About 3 p.m., at least five Israeli 155mm artillery shells smashed into a pair of thatched huts that the U.N. troops, assigned from Fiji, had built inside a courtyard to remind them of their South Pacific home. The shelters burst into flames.

Most of the Fiji troops were sheltered in underground bunkers, which they shared with some refugees. But there was not room for all, an officer said.

Survivors were overcome by the magnitude of the killing. Grown men staggered around the bloody compound, weeping uncontrollably. Wailing women threw themselves onto the burned and mangled corpses of relatives. As they weaved among rows of bodies shrouded with blankets, stepping over scattered body parts, even some battle-hardened U.N. soldiers were in tears.

"My white rubber shoes have turned red from the blood," said Hassan Siklawi, a Lebanese who works with the U.N. as a liaison officer. "I had to walk over bodies that covered the walkways at the base."

Relief workers and ordinary citizens rushed many of the victims to nearby hospitals. Scores of U.N. troops in their trademark blue helmets and vests helped with the evacuation.

Doctors, operating on benches and tabletops, were unable to keep up with the flood of victims. Many of the injured, some missing arms and legs, were kept waiting as they bled in the corridors. The mission was further complicated by dwindling medical supplies, due in part to Israeli harassment and bombardment in recent days of ambulances and relief trucks operated by the U.N., Red Cross and other humanitarian agencies attempting to resupply hospitals.

Israel's campaign to uproot the Hezbollah guerrillas has killed about 160 people in the eight-day operation, most of them Lebanese civilians. Hundreds more have been wounded.

No Israeli has died, according to the latest reports. Several dozen Israeli citizens have been wounded by Hezbollah rocket attacks.

About 400,000 southern Lebanese have fled their homes in the past week. An estimated 6,000 have sought shelter with the U.N., including those taken in at Qana. In Israel, fewer than 20,000 residents have left their homes.

After the attack on the U.N. base, convoys of Israeli tanks rolled through the northern border town of Kiryat Shemona toward Lebanon. Israeli Foreign Minister Barak said "a lot of tanks were entering southern Lebanon now," but it was not immediately clear if any tanks actually crossed the border. Reporters at the scene said many of the tanks turned back to Israel.

75 PERISH IN ATTACK BY ISRAELIS; MOST OF DEAD ARE WOMEN, CHILDREN AT REFUGEE CAMP IN SOUTH LEBANON

It was not the first time the U.N. force - formally called the U.N. Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) - has been attacked by Israeli forces. More than 200 UNIFIL peacekeepers have been killed since 1978, some of them by Israeli fire during battles with Palestinian or Shiite Muslim guerrillas.

The attack will complicate Peres' political campaign. Israeli voters go to the polls May 29, and Peres will face the conservative opposition leader, Benjamin Netanyahu.

Graphic

PHOTO; Photos by AP (1) ABOVE: An Israeli gunner covers his ears Thursday as a self-propelled 155mm howitzer fires at **Hezbollah** targets across the border in Lebanon. (2) LEFT: Refugees react to the shelling of the U.N. camp at Qana, Lebanon, where 500 Lebanese had sought shelter.

Load-Date: April 19, 1996

End of Document

Israeli artillery kills 100 Cease-fire sought after shells destroy U.N. camp

USA TODAY
April 19, 1996, Friday,
FIRST EDITION

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Section: NEWS;

Length: 282 words

Byline: Jack Kelley; Lee Michael Katz

Body

U.S. officials will try to mediate a cease-fire this weekend between Israel and Hezbollah guerrillas after as many as 100 Lebanese civilians were killed Thursday in an Israeli attack.

Israeli shells slammed into a crowded U.N. refugee camp in southern Lebanon, leaving it littered with maimed bodies and scraps of clothing.

Israel said the attack was an "unfortunate mistake."

Lebanon called it "the mother of all atrocities," which opened a new page in "the annals of terror."

President Clinton sent Secretary of State Warren Christopher and Mideast peace envoy Dennis Ross to the region.

The U.N. Security Council late Thursday called for a cease-fire without singling out either side for condemnation.

Before Thursday's attack, 59 had been killed in Israel's offensive against Hezbollah.

"We saw the children, we saw the women and we saw the old men" killed and wounded. This is crazy," Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Hariri.

A wounded student, Kamel Nayef, 16, described the scene. "I knocked on the door of doomsday," he said, surrounded by corpses.

The radical Muslim group Hamas said it would drown Israel "in

Israeli artillery kills 100 Cease-fire sought after shells destroy U.N. camp

a sea of blood" if the attacks continue.

Israel is trying to stop guerrillas from launching cross-border rocket attacks into northern Israel. U.N. officials said Hezbollah fired two Katyusha rockets and eight mortar rounds before the camp attack.

"I'm pained by every person . . . who has been killed," said Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres. But he said Israel had "to defend its citizens."

Peres, facing a May 29 election, accused the guerrillas of hiding behind civilians.

Late Thursday, Israeli radio said Israel would stop the attacks if Syria and Lebanon control Hezbollah. There was no immediate response.

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Israeli artillery kills 75 Cease-fire sought after shells destroy U.N. camp

USA TODAY
April 19, 1996, Friday,
FINAL EDITION

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Load-Date: April 19, 1996

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ISRAEL ADMITS ATTACK AN 'UNFORTUNATE MISTAKE'

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette (Pennsylvania)

April 19, 1996, Friday,

SOONER EDITION

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Section: WORLD,

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Byline: FADI BARDAN, THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dateline: QANA, Lebanon

Body

Israeli shells killed at least 75 Lebanese refugees yesterday, filling a U.N. camp with blood, horror and survivors' cries for revenge. Israel admitted an "unfortunate mistake" in the attack, which seemed certain to deepen further the hatreds of the Middle East.

The carnage, which left bodies torn apart, was the worst since Israel began its onslaught against Hezbollah guerrillas in south Lebanon eight days ago. While expressing regret for the civilians' deaths, Israel fiercely defended its Lebanon campaign and said the shells that hit the civilians had been aimed at Hezbollah rocket launchers.

President Clinton called for a cease-fire by all parties to the fighting and ordered Secretary of State Warren Christopher to the region to mediate. Israel said it would accept a cease-fire if others agreed to it, a move that would leave Israel short of its goal of shutting down the Hezbollah war machine.

The Israeli attack left the U.N. base littered with butchered and headless bodies, shredded clothing and scraps of building materials. Badly wounded people were rushed to a hospital, where angry civilians attacked three Hezbollah members, beating them with sticks and chairs and accusing them of being the source of Lebanon's misery.

Timor Goksel, spokesman for the 4,500-strong U.N. peacekeeping force in Lebanon, confirmed that 75 people perished in the Qana attack.

Lebanese leaders called the Israeli shelling "the mother of all atrocities" and a new page in "the annals of terror."

Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres said, "I'm pained by every person, every woman, every child who is being killed." But he said Israel had "no choice but to defend its citizens," and he accused the Iranian-backed guerrillas of Hezbollah of hiding behind civilians.

The United Nations said that shortly before the Israeli shells landed, Hezbollah guerrillas about 300 yards from the U.N. compound had fired two Katyusha rockets and eight mortar rounds at the Israelis. The Israeli shells apparently were in retaliation for that fire, but missed their target.

ISRAEL ADMITS ATTACK AN 'UNFORTUNATE MISTAKE'

Unlike the hundreds of thousands of Lebanese who fled north when Israel warned it would attack their villages, the 6,000 refugees at U.N. bases had elected to stay in the south, believing they were safe among the peacekeepers. About 500 refugees were at the U.N. base in Qana.

Refugee children were playing outside, watched by their parents from a grass hut - a traditional bouri that the 70 Fijian soldiers at the base had built to remind themselves of their Pacific island home - when the first of five 155-mm howitzer shells slammed into the U.N. base at 3 p.m. It was just after lunch.

As the smoke cleared from the compound, dozens of victims lay on the ground in pools of blood, their bodies cut to pieces by shrapnel. Peacekeepers broke down in tears as they covered the dead with blankets.

Women wailed and beat their chests as they stood over the bodies. Men slapped their palms to their foreheads in disbelief, and some shouted: "Death to Israel! Death to America!"

More than a hundred people were wounded, including four soldiers from the Fijian force at Qana, 8 miles southeast of the port city of Tyre, Goksel reported.

At Jebel Amel hospital in Tyre, Kamel Nayef, 16, a high school student, moaned from the pain of his bloodstained, plastered right leg.

"I knocked on the door of doomsday," he said. "I felt I was facing a firing squad."

An exact death toll was difficult to determine because casualties were spread around several hospitals and many of those killed in Qana had been blown apart.

"My white rubber shoes have turned red from the blood," said a shaken Hassan Seklawi, a Lebanese working as liaison officer for the U.N. peacekeeping force who arrived at the base shortly after the shells exploded.

"I had to walk over bodies that covered the walkways at the base," he said.

The Israeli foreign minister, Ehud Barak, called the shelling an "unfortunate mistake." Immediately after the attack, Peres blamed Lebanese guerrillas and said Israel had an obligation to defend itself against guerrilla strikes.

Later yesterday, however, Israel's Army radio reported that Israel had agreed to a cease-fire as called by the United States on condition that Syria and Lebanon commit to restrain **Hezbollah**.

The guerrillas have been fighting since 1985 to drive Israeli troops from the border enclave they occupy in south Lebanon. Syria, the main power broker in Lebanon, has stayed out of the latest conflict.

Israel began its air and artillery blitz eight days ago to silence **Hezbollah** rocket fire on northern Israel. It comes in the runup to parliamentary elections on May 29. While Israel has not sent ground troops, it has shelled targets in southern Lebanon, and Israeli warplanes and helicopter gunships have ranged as far north as Beirut to strike at **Hezbollah** strongholds.

Hezbollah has fired 250 Katyusha rockets at northern Israel during the offensive, Israel TV reported yesterday.

News of yesterday's shelling was first radioed from the base. "We're under fire. Shells are landing on headquarters. People are dying here," said a radio operator, his voice choking.

Three tin-roofed hangars housing the refugees took direct hits.

Hezbollah's press office in Beirut denied firing rockets from Qana. But the Shiite Muslim fundamentalists have been launching Katyushas for days from all over the region southeast of Tyre.

On Tuesday, a Fijian soldier was shot in the chest when he challenged guerrillas preparing to launch rockets near the Qana base and two were wounded Wednesday when guerrillas lobbed a hand grenade at another Fijian post.

ISRAEL ADMITS ATTACK AN 'UNFORTUNATE MISTAKE'

Earlier yesterday, 11 people, including a mother and seven children, were killed when Israeli warplanes flattened an apartment building in the village of Nabatiyeh Fawqah, 20 miles north of Qana.

Before the attack on Qana, 59 people had been killed and 199 wounded in Israel's offensive, most of them Lebanese civilians, according to Lebanese and Israeli authorities.

Graphic

PHOTO, INFORMATIONAL GRAPHIC, INFORMATIONAL GRAPHIC: Associated Press: (Caught in the cross-fire); PHOTO: Associated Press: Bodies of Shiite Muslim refugees are covered with blankets at the headquarters of the Fijian peacekeeping battalion in Qana, Lebanon, yesterday.

Load-Date: April 24, 1996

End of Document

101 civilians die in Israeli carnage

The Daily Telegraph (Sydney, Australia)

April 19, 1996, Friday

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Length: 392 words

Body

ISRAEL killed well over 100 civilians in Lebanon today in the bloodiest day of its Operation Grapes of Wrath blitz against Hezbollah guerillas.

The worst carnage was at a UN peacekeeping post in south Lebanon, where Israeli shells killed at least 101 refugees sheltering with a Fijian UN contingent, Lebanese security sources said.

The attack sparked world concern and has led to US President Bill Clinton calling for an immediate ceasefire.

Mr Clinton has also sent Secretary of State Warren Christopher to the region to negotiate for peace.

Many of today's dead were women and children. Two Fijian military officers were also reported killed.

Timur Goksel, spokesman for the UN Interim Force in South Lebanon (UNIFIL), said Israelis shelled the headquarters of its Fijian battalion at Qana, 12km south-east of Tyre, and set it on fire.

About 500 civilians had sought refuge in the base to escape an eight-day blitz on their towns and villages which has forced 400,000 Lebanese to leave the homes.

The attack on the base provoked a barrage of international condemnation of Israel, but Prime Minister Shimon Peres robustly defended the Israeli drive and put the blame for civilian casualties squarely on Hezbollah.

Mr Peres, facing a strong challenge from the right-wing Likud party in national elections on May 29, has much at stake on the outcome of the latest conflict.

"I regret that civilians were killed," Mr Peres said in Tel Aviv.

"The sole guilty party, still on the ground, is Hezbollah and if the Syrians and the Lebanese won't prevent it, they will bring disaster on Lebanon."

A UN spokeswoman said Hezbollah forces fired Katyusha rockets and mortar shells from a position about 300m from the UN position some 15 minutes before the post was hit. In Beirut, Hezbollah denied this.

The bloodshed at the UN base, which has given a new dimension of horror to Israel's latest war, brought a much greater sense of urgency to diplomatic efforts to end the fighting.

Mr Clinton said he had told Mr Christopher to go to the Middle East and called on all parties to end the cross-border attacks in Lebanon with an immediate cease-fire.

101 civilians die in Israeli carnage

"An end to the fighting is essential to allow our diplomatic efforts to go forward," Mr Clinton said on arrival at Russia's second city of St Petersburg, on his way to Moscow for a summit on nuclear safety tomorrow.

Load-Date: March 4, 2002

End of Document

War is a bore in Lebanon; Hardship-hardened nation takes bombings in stride

Hamilton Spectator (Ontario, Canada)

February 10, 2000 Thursday Final Edition

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Section: WORLD; Pg. C05; News

Length: 779 words

Byline: Robert Fisk

Dateline: BEIRUT

Body

The Independent bought a big, roaring generator to power my fridge, computer, television and lights before the end of the Lebanese civil war in 1991.

In the years of peace -- and let's forget about the Qana massacre with its 106 Lebanese civilians slaughtered by the Israelis, the killing of more than a hundred Israeli occupation soldiers inside Lebanon by Hezbollah guerrillas and more than 2,000 Israeli air raids on Lebanon -- I let the old Suzuki SE4000 generator rot.

The plugs have gone, the key has rusted, the carburetor is covered in soot.

A few hours after Israel bombed the Lebanese power stations on Tuesday, I turned the key. Click, it went. Click. Peace process off track.

The Independent; London

That's how we live in Lebanon.

Just when we thought we might be driving all the way from Beirut to Jerusalem for lunch, we are told by Israel's foreign minister, David Levy, that "the soil of Lebanon will burn" if rockets fly over the border into Israel.

Fat chance. The soil of Lebanon doesn't burn. It gets churned into dust by Beirut's billionaire developers who are still tearing down beautiful Ottoman villas to construct crude, ugly, expensive apartment blocks -- even now, as a new war seems destined to overwhelm them.

My landlord, addicted during the civil war to a diet of local news bulletins that predicted murder most foul on a daily basis, has been rejuvenated by events.

Peace is boring. He even opened an ice-cream parlour on the seafront to pass the time. Now he is back with his ear bent over his transistor.

The Israelis have pulled out of the 1996 ceasefire agreement? True. The Israelis -- after bombing the power stations -- are now happy to return to the ceasefire terms? Also true. Perhaps.

War is a bore in Lebanon ; Hardship-hardened nation takes bombings in stride

The Lebanese, of course, have grown used to hardship. A bomb or a few shells whiffing over their towns will scarcely disturb their sang-froid. The habit is catching.

When an Israeli Hetz-class gun-boat appeared at sea opposite my balcony a few years ago, I took a look at the little ship through my old French naval binoculars (circa 1918) and then ate lunch on the very same balcony.

After stumbling through the wreckage of an entire power station at Baalbek two days ago, I came back to Beirut to enjoy fried fish, broccoli and champagne with a friend. War is bad. Evil. Cruel. Fearful. But you can live with it.

And why shouldn't we all be a little phlegmatic about events?

Take the rhetoric. How many times have the Hezbollah announced that their revenge will be swift, that the soil will burn? How many times have the Israelis gone to war to "defend their civilians?"

Yet now the Hezbollah and the Israelis are playing each other's roles. It is the Israelis who are threatening that "the soil of Lebanon will burn" if the Hezbollah fire rockets into Israel. And since the latest conflict began more than two weeks ago, the Hezbollah -- killing six of Israel's occupation soldiers in southern Lebanon -- haven't fired a single rocket into Israel itself.

Lebanese radio stations gave prominence to a statement by Moshe Fogel, Israel's official spokesman, justifying the raids on the power stations because "Hezbollah terrorists are attacking our soldiers and civilians."

Leaving aside the usual 'terrorist' motif, there hasn't been a single Israeli civilian hurt in Israel since the latest battles began in southern Lebanon. The 17 wounded men, women and children victims are all Lebanese. The Israelis in their shelters south of the border were sent there on the orders of their government -- not by Hezbollah rockets.

So I called up an old military friend of mine -- a westerner -- for his thoughts. Well, he said, this is a rather odd war. The Israelis might have run out of targets.

"If bombing power stations doesn't persuade the Lebanese to stop the Hezbollah's resistance to occupation, what will?" he asked. "Are they going to bomb the international airport in Beirut? Are they going to bomb road bridges? Maybe the 'next' war just isn't going to happen."

It doesn't feel like it in my seafront home. The milk has gone off, the washing machine no longer works and I'm sourly remembering my unpleasant Kent school in a series of cold showers.

The soil of Lebanon isn't going to burn. But the motor of my fridge is going to do just that in the power surges that turn the lights into flashing U-boat alarm lamps whenever I'm lucky enough to get a few hours of real electricity.

As for war, the actual number of Israeli air raids on Lebanon over the past two years -- according to the daily statistics in the papers here -- is close to 2,650. We no longer report them, of course. Too routine. Too dull.

So when real war comes along, we haven't repaired the generator.

Load-Date: October 17, 2002

**ISRAELI LEADERS URGE STRIKES AGAINST LEBANON;
NETANYAHU WANTS SAFETY IN BORDER REGION BEFORE EVENTUAL
TROOP PULLBACK;
SYRIA GUARANTEES MAY BE SOUGHT**

St. Louis Post-Dispatch (Missouri)

November 30, 1998, Monday, FIVE STAR LIFT EDITION

Copyright 1998 St. Louis Post-Dispatch, Inc.

Section: NEWS, Pg. A8

Length: 473 words

Byline: The Associated Press

Dateline: JERUSALEM

Body

Israeli Cabinet ministers called Sunday for military strikes against Beirut's power and water supplies in retaliation for the killing of Israeli soldiers by guerrillas in south Lebanon.

Seven Israeli soldiers have been killed in the past two weeks by the Iranian-backed **Hezbollah** militia. The deaths occurred in the security zone that Israel occupies to protect its northern border.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu cut short a European trip to England and Spain to deal with a growing debate in Israel over the losses in Lebanon and calls for a unilateral Israeli withdrawal.

The 12-member Cabinet's security committee met Sunday in Jerusalem to hear military and security chiefs report on the Lebanon situation after Netanyahu returned from visiting soldiers wounded in the latest fighting.

"We are looking for an arrangement in which we can achieve that objective of protecting northern Israel without our presence in Lebanon," Netanyahu said Sunday. But he said Cabinet members would discuss minimizing Israeli troop casualties, not withdrawal.

"As long as we don't have a way of leaving Lebanon in an arrangement that will guarantee the safety of northern Israel, our main objective is to protect Israeli soldiers," he said.

Army and intelligence chiefs, who met Saturday night, were unanimous in saying withdrawal would be a dangerous gamble unless Syria - which has 40,000 troops in Lebanon - guarantees that **Hezbollah** will not attack towns in northern Israel, Israel radio said.

A one-sided pullback has the support of Foreign Minister Ariel Sharon, a former general who was the architect of the 1982 Lebanon invasion. He has called for a staged withdrawal from Lebanon but added that the Lebanese government would be held responsible for preventing **Hezbollah** attacks from the areas that Israel has evacuated.

Should Lebanon fail to prevent these attacks, Sharon has argued that the "rules of the game" would have to change and that Israel could target Lebanese power stations, water pumping facilities, bridges and roads.

ISRAELI LEADERS URGE STRIKES AGAINST LEBANON ; NETANYAHU WANTS SAFETY IN BORDER
REGION BEFORE EVENTUAL TROOP PULLBACK; SYRIA GUARANTEES MAY BE SOUGHT

"The way to make them want this is to let Beirut wake up in the morning without water and electricity and then, believe me, they (the Lebanese) will send forces (to restrain Hezbollah) and so will the Syrians," said Avigdor Kahalani, Israel's minister in charge of the national police force.

Hezbollah gets its arms from Iran through Damascus airport, Kahalani said. Israel believes that Syrian forces in Lebanon could stop the Hezbollah attacks, Kahalani said.

Left-wing opposition leaders argue that Syria would never agree to stop the bloodshed in south Lebanon until Israel agrees to return the Golan Heights, which it captured from Syria in the 1967 Mideast War.

There also was concern in the armed forces that Israeli air strikes against power stations and other facilities would escalate the conflict.

Graphic

PHOTO Photo by THE ASSOCIATED PRESS Israeli women protest in Jerusalem on Sunday for the withdrawal of Israeli troops from south Lebanon. Israeli Cabinet ministers favor military strikes against Beirut's power and water supplies in response to the killing of Israeli soldiers by Muslim guerrillas in south Lebanon.

Load-Date: July 4, 1999

When Civilians Are Fair Game in War

Christian Science Monitor (Boston, MA)

April 25, 1996, Thursday

Copyright 1996 The Christian Science Publishing Society

Section: OPINION/ESSAYS; Pg. 19

Length: 847 words

Byline: Iain Guest; Iain Guest is a senior fellow at the Refugee Policy Group in Washington.

Highlight: Noncombatants pay the price when the world ignores or refuses to enforce international humanitarian law

Body

ISRAELI shells slam into a United Nations compound in southern Lebanon, decapitating children, wounding UN peacekeepers, and killing scores of civilians who have sought refuge with the UN from Israeli bombardment.

Last week's tragedy is further proof that in today's warfare, there is no refuge for refugees unable to leave their own country. These so-called "internally displaced" are entirely dependent on the willingness and ability of combatants to respect the rules of war - rules that are being slowly shredded by actions like Israel's.

Who, after all, was to blame for the outrage? Certainly not the "smart" Firefinder shells that were supposed to strike Hizbullah guerrillas with surgical accuracy, but instead were dumb enough to find women and children. Nor even the Hizbullah guerrillas - however provocatively close to the UN compound they may have situated their Katyushas.

No, last week's tragedy was the inevitable consequence of Israel's current policy, which is to bomb the Lebanese people in the hope that the government (or the Syrians) will clamp down on Hizbullah. Israel has attacked civilian suburbs of Beirut, electric power stations, and even an ambulance. The casualties are said to include a four-day-old baby.

History suggests that attacking civilians is not an effective form of diplomacy or warfare, but the truly amazing thing is that Israelis, of all people, think otherwise.

Ironically, the attack on the UN compound occurred in the week that the world remembered the Holocaust, the ultimate attack on innocent civilians. And yet it was also Hitler's death camps that persuaded governments to update the Geneva Conventions in 1949, by extending protection to civilians in war.

This has been the bedrock of humanitarian law ever since, but 50 years later it is casually ignored. In today's confused wars (which tend to be fought inside national borders rather than between states) civilians have become fair game.

In Liberia, Sierra Leone, and Mozambique, children have been forcibly recruited, drugged, and even forced to mutilate their own relatives to make them tougher soldiers. In Bosnia, women and children were preferred sniper targets.

Targeting civilians

When Civilians Are Fair Game in War

Recently, during a visit to Rwanda, I went to the small church of Ntarama, where as many as 5,000 Tutsi civilians sought refuge during the massacres of 1994. There was to be no escape: Hutu militia closed the doors and tossed grenades into the church. The church has been left as it was found - littered with clothes and human bones. Skulls sit on the altar.

Such acts are not aberrations that happen in the heat of battle. They are indicative of how targeting civilians has become an accepted military tactic, aimed at spreading terror, "cleansing" enemy territory, or committing genocide.

This is happening, moreover, at a time when the safety net of international law looks increasingly frayed. Governments are currently meeting in Geneva to revise a 1980 agreement limiting land mines. Their solution: a new generation of "smart" mines which, by self-destructing and deactivating, they hope will reduce civilian casualties. The problem is that even "smart" weaponry does not distinguish between civilians and combatants, as the recent tragedy in Lebanon demonstrated.

War-crimes tribunals

Two international tribunals have been established to punish war criminals and the authors of genocide in Rwanda and the former Yugoslavia. This is an important step forward, but between them the tribunals have fewer than 10 suspects in custody. More serious, the tribunals' political and financial resources are still not assured.

The UN Commission on Human Rights has agreed that the "internally displaced" are uniquely vulnerable, and each year a special United Nations investigator, Francis Deng, monitors their plight.

But such monitoring only serves its purpose if it leads to action. In Burundi and Beirut, the displaced are given humanitarian aid and fall under the UN Development Programme. This is to misread the problem: These people need protection, not aid.

The same was true of Bosnia during the war, where the UN assumed that those uprooted by fighting could be protected by declaring "safe areas" and sending relief aid. Of the six "safe" areas, Bihac, Tuzla, Sarajevo, and Gorazde were mercilessly pounded, and another two - Srebrenica and Zepa - were overrun and thousands massacred.

Of course it is important to recognize the vulnerability of the internally displaced; but an even more important principle is that noncombatants are indeed hors de combat.

This applies to all governments, not just those like Israel who are on the front line. Why, for example, do so many Western governments still continue to use land mines, when their military value is at the very least questionable? Why do they try to deter asylum-seekers by splitting families and labeling them as "economic migrants"? Why do they draft children under the age of 18 into their armed forces?

All these policies violate the spirit of the Geneva Conventions. This has to change. Without humanitarian law, we have all lost the war.

Load-Date: April 25, 1996

Israeli pullout leaves buffer zone in peril

The Evening Standard (London)

May 23, 2000

Copyright 2000 Associated Newspapers Ltd.

Section: Pg. 17

Length: 679 words

Byline: Sue Masterman

Body

MORE than 170 cheering and clapping Israeli soldiers returned home from Lebanon today as part of an accelerated pullout which Prime Minister Ehud Barak said would be completed within days.

"We will redeploy in the next few days on the international border," Barak told Israeli Army Radio. "This 18-year tragedy is over."

Barak spoke after his security cabinet empowered him to speed up a withdrawal from the buffer zone separating Lebanon from Israel ahead of the 7 July deadline in the face of advances by pro-Iranian guerrillas in Israel's south Lebanon occupation zone.

Israel is now reported to have withdrawn three-quarters of its soldiers from the zone, including all of the western sector.

At the Egel border crossing into Israel, dozens of returning soldiers gave the thumbs-up sign after their night-time dash to the border ended without incident. Israeli soldiers who were arriving back in Israel embraced waiting friends and relatives, relieved to get out unscathed.

The border area was reported quiet, with lines of Israeli gun positions watching as Hezbollah paraded triumphantly on the other side of the border fence, yards from Israeli territory.

Back in the buffer zone eye witness reports from southern Lebanon say that thousands of civilians, together with Hezbollah and Ammal militia, are moving into the rest of the security zone outside the central section they took over yesterday.

With the capture of around 20 more villages in the region held by Israel or its allies, Hezbollah now controls more than half of Israel's self-proclaimed security zone.

Hezbollah has also moved into Ain Ibil village, the first Christian village to be taken by the Muslim guerrillas. The guerrillas later pulled out from the centre of the village and took up positions on its outskirts.

Residents of the village looked nervous and refused to talk to reporters.

Witnesses said hundreds of men, women and children, fearing the advance of Hezbollah guerrillas, left the villages of Alma ash-Shaab, Debel and Tair Harfa and headed south to Beranit crossing point into Israel.

Israeli pullout leaves buffer zone in peril

The chaos began when Israeli-backed South Lebanon Army units were evacuated, and residents saw columns of militiamen retreating to the Israeli border.

Security sources said around 100 militiamen also surrendered to the Lebanese army in the area.

Lebanese television showed long ribbons of cheering convoys waving Lebanese and militia flags snaking into both the west and the east of the zones.

Another string of convoys is heading into the more sensitive eastern sector, bordering on Syria and closer to the Hezbollah training camps.

Israel says it will not relinquish part of that area which it considers to be Syrian territory, but it is hard to see how Israel or the Israeli-backed South Lebanon Army could hold out there given that their supply lines to Israel have been cut off by the central incursion.

The Lebanese invasion also overran Naquora, the headquarters of UNIFIL, the UN peacekeeping force in south Lebanon.

The UN force retreated into its compound, blocking the entrance with armoured vehicles.

With Israel speeding up the withdrawal, the UN Security Council reached broad agreement in endorsing Secretary-General Kofi Annan's plans to verify the pullout.

President Barak, warning against retaliation if Israel comes under guerrilla attack after the pullback, has sought international backing for the withdrawal.

"I don't advise any element in Lebanon, directly or indirectly, to test us ... They will pay a very heavy price," Barak said in the radio interview.

He said yesterday that Israel would hold the governments of Lebanon and Syria responsible in making sure "it will be quiet".

Meanwhile along the shores of the Sea of Galilee five busloads of SLA men and their families arrived at the holiday village, where Israeli authorities planned to house them for the time being.

"We are granting them one-year tourist visas and work permits," an Israeli Interior Ministry official said. An SLA officer said: "It's the end of the road for us and the beginning of the road for Hezbollah."

Graphic

(1) MOVING OFF: A COLUMN OF TANKS HEADS FOR THE ISRAELI BORDER EARLIER TODAY (2) HAPPY TO GO: ISRAELI SOLDIERS CHEER AND SING BEFORE PULLING OUT FROM SOUTH LEBANON, ENDING 22YEARS OF OCCUPATION

Load-Date: May 24, 2000

Bomb blast kills 1 after Shiite Moslems vow to avenge deaths

St. Petersburg Times (Florida)

February 26, 1987, Thursday, City Edition

Times Publishing Company

Section: NATIONAL; Pg. 2A

Length: 279 words

Dateline: BEIRUT, Lebanon

Body

Compiled from Wire Reports

BEIRUT, Lebanon - A car bomb exploded Wednesday in southern Beirut, killing one person and injuring 21 just hours after Shiite Moslem extremists vowed vengeance against Syrian soldiers for an alleged massacre.

The bomb went off shortly after a funeral march to protest Syrian troops' killing of 23 Shiite fundamentalists.

About 10,000 mourners marched through the southern slums in a funeral procession. Bearded men shook their fists and shouted threats while women wept.

Police and hospital officials said the men died in close combat.

Shiites claim they were rounded up and hacked to death with axes and bayonets.

A telephone caller told a news agency the bomb was aimed at Syrian troops and planted by the Lebanese Liberation Organization.

Militiamen of the pro-Iranian Hezbollah (Party of God) were killed Tuesday in the bloodiest confrontation since thousands of Syrians moved into west Beirut on Sunday. Syria sent the soldiers to end a week-long factional war for control of the Moslem sector.

International media have cited Hezbollah militants as the possible captors of some of the 26 foreigners missing in Lebanon. The organization has denied any links with the abduction of foreigners.

NBC Nightly News reported Wednesday that Hezbollah never held three Americans and a U.S.-resident Indian kidnapped from the Beirut University College in Lebanon last month.

Bomb blast kills 1 after Shiite Moslems vow to avenge deaths

NBC, citing Middle East and Western intelligence sources in a report from Beirut, said it did not know who kidnapped the four, but that they are "now in the custody" of the Syrian army.

Graphic

BLACK AND WHITE PHOTO, United Press International; Shiite Moslem women mourn the deaths of Hezbollah militants.

Load-Date: November 18, 1992

End of Document

**THE ISRAEL-SYRIA TALKS: THE LEBANESE;
Israeli-Backed Militia's Shells Wound 15 Pupils in Lebanon**

The New York Times

December 17, 1999, Friday, Late Edition - Final

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Distribution: Foreign Desk

Section: Section A; ; Section A; Page 20; Column 1; Foreign Desk ; Column 1;

Length: 395 words

Byline: By WILLIAM A. ORME Jr.

By WILLIAM A. ORME Jr.

Dateline: JERUSALEM, Dec. 16

Body

At least 15 Lebanese schoolchildren were reported wounded today, some seriously, when Israeli-allied militia forces fired rockets at a village Israel says is a base for Hezbollah guerrillas.

In an indirect acknowledgement of responsibility, the Israel Army called the attack "a mistake" and said it "expresses regret at the injuries to civilians."

Some of the children were wounded while playing in the schoolyard in the village of Arab a-Selim, while others were hit inside the primary school, according to teachers and other residents.

"We were sitting in the classroom, and all of a sudden a shell landed," said one young girl interviewed in a television report from the southern Lebanese village tonight.

During today's talks with Syria in Washington, Israeli television reported, Israeli officials voiced distress at what they called the accidental shelling of the school by militia fighters of the South Lebanon Army. Though nominally autonomous, the Israeli-equipped militia fights in tandem with Israeli troops in the south Lebanese border zone that Israel has occupied since 1985.

David Levy, Israel's foreign minister, told an Israeli television interviewer in Washington that the Syrians were concerned about a worsening of the Lebanon conflict. "It is clear to them that if the fighting continues in Lebanon, it will damage everything that we are doing," he said.

Arab a-Selim is north of the Israeli-controlled border zone in an area partly controlled by Hezbollah, or Party of God, which has been backed in the past by Syria and Iran.

Ephraim Sneh, Israel's deputy defense minister, put the blame for today's incident on Hezbollah, which he said had been staging artillery attacks from residential areas. "When we react, something like this is likely to occur, sad though it may be," he said.

THE ISRAEL - SYRIA TALKS: THE LEBANESE; Israeli -Backed Militia's Shells Wound 15 Pupils in Lebanon

The Israeli Army said in its brief official statement that the South Lebanon Army had returned artillery fire "toward the source of terrorist fire" near the village of Arab a-Selim, and had unintentionally hit populated areas. "Firing from populated areas endangers residents, as it requires a response against the source of the fire," it said.

The army made no specific mention of casualties or of the schoolchildren, but did say three Lebanese women had been wounded recently by Hezbollah artillery fire.

Israel has said it plans to withdraw from southern Lebanon next year.

<http://www.nytimes.com>

Graphic

Map of Lebanon showing the location of Arab a-Selim: The Israelis say Arab a-Selim is a base for Hezbollah guerrillas.

Load-Date: December 17, 1999

End of Document

World

Christian Science Monitor (Boston, MA)

May 30, 2000, Tuesday

Copyright 2000 The Christian Science Publishing Society

Section: NEWS IN BRIEF; Pg. 24

Length: 580 words

Byline: Robert Kilborn, Judy Nichols, and Joshua S. Burek

Body

Rock-throwing Lebanese were returning to work after a weekend of violent protests at the border with Israel injured at least three people. Soldiers again were enforcing a policy requiring visitors to obtain special permits for travel to the area vacated last week by Israeli troops and their Lebanese proxy militia. And Hizbullah guerrillas set up roadblocks to keep the curious away. Meanwhile, to speed UN verification that it has fully withdrawn from the former protection zone, Israel blew up a border outpost. But a court in Tel Aviv put off until mid-July a decision on whether to free two Lebanese prisoners whose release Hizbullah has demanded as a condition for ending hostilities against Israel.

The self-rule coalition government of Northern Ireland is to resume operation again today after the province's largest Protestant movement OK'd the renewing of cooperation with Catholics. But as leaders from both sides held preparatory talks in Belfast, there were warnings that "this is our last chance" to make the power-sharing system work. The Ulster Unionist Party vote Saturday to resume participation was by a narrow 459-to-403 margin, and analysts said leader David Trimble needs early proof that the outlawed Irish Republican Army is delivering on a promise to put its weapons "beyond use." The Protestant-Catholic coalition ran Northern Ireland for only 72 days before it was suspended in February. (Story, page 7; editorial, page 10.)

A new five-year term for controversial Peruvian President Alberto Fujimori appeared virtually certain as ballot-counting from Sunday's runoff election passed the halfway point. He had 50.3 percent of the vote, to 16.2 percent for challenger Alejandro Toledo, who boycotted the election and called for his supporters to do the same. Reports said the remaining 33 percent of the ballots were spoiled or left blank, and an estimated 17 percent of voters did not go to the polls. Toledo dismissed the early returns as a "farce," and international monitors called the election undemocratic.

Saying he hopes to bring "peace and stability" to Fiji, its military chief declared martial law. Commodore Frank Bainimarama claimed power from President Ratu Sir Kamisese Mara after followers of rebel coup leader George Speight ransacked a TV station and allegedly killed a policeman. Negotiations to free hostages held by Speight broke down after he refused to drop his demands for constitutional changes that would favor indigenous Fijians over ethnic Indians.

Poland's prime minister tried to save a fragile majority coalition by rejecting resignations from key Cabinet ministers. Five Freedom Union (UF) members quit the Solidarity-led government, citing Jerzy Buzek's inability to win support

World

for economic reforms deemed crucial for Poland's planned entry into the European Union by 2003. Market-oriented UF leaders say they'll resume the tenuous alliance if Buzek resigns, a move he has considered.

Female activists literally jumped for joy in Kuwait, where an administrative judge ruled they could take their case for full political rights to the sheikhdom's highest court. The move is the farthest **women** have progressed in their 40-year campaign for the right to vote and seek elective office. Last May, Emir Sheikh Jaber al-Ahman al-Sabah granted them political equality, but parliament overturned his decree in November. Kuwaitis may not appeal directly to the high court.

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Load-Date: May 29, 2000

End of Document

Journey to the heart of the Army of God

The Scotsman

December 18, 1997, Thursday

Copyright 1997 The Scotsman Publications Ltd.

Section: Pg. 12

Length: 654 words

Byline: Matt Rees In Dahi Al-Jenoub

Body

THE crowded suburb of Dahi al-Jenoub, south of Beirut, is Hezbollah's stronghold. Where the graffiti artists had painted the name of the "Party of God" on the walls, one of the Arabic letters reaches up and turns into a fist holding a machine gun. "Don't take photos here," our translator, Firaz, tells the US photographer accompanying me. "They have their spies everywhere."

Deep inside Dahi, we stop our winding drive and cross the street. The scene is chaotic.

Women in long, embroidered robes are queuing to fill their water jugs from a tank on the corner. The government has not repaired the water mains to this poor neighbourhood since the end of the civil war in 1990. Its 5,000 homes get their water from these tanks, courtesy of Hezbollah.

Above us, there are security cameras hidden among fluttering pennants which celebrate the imminent arrival of the Ramadan festival. Up a dark staircase, we enter the Hezbollah office and are taken into a small room. Its walls are bare, except for photographs of Ayatollah Khomeini and Sheikh Muhammed Fadlallah, Hezbollah's spiritual leader. The curtains are drawn and it is surprisingly cold. Two men, Atta and Muhammed, photocopy our passports and sit quietly.

Their silence is nerve-wracking. They ask me about The Scotsman and where I am based. Atta takes Firaz outside.

When they come back, there are more questions and, eventually, they tell us to come back two days later for an interview with their deputy leader.

Later, Firaz tells us the Hezbollah man had taken him outside to ask him about my photographer, Will Yurman.

"He is a Jew, isn't he," Atta had said, guessing that a name ending in "man" would be Jewish.

Firaz confirmed this, but said that Will was certainly not Israeli. We hoped that was enough to convince them.

Inside the Hezbollah offices two days later, Muhammed and Atta greeted us. "Wait here," they said. We sat in the cold room behind the curtains.

After an hour, Atta returned with another man who had come for a meeting. They sat in the half-light and smoked and drank thick, cardomum-flavoured coffee, which they also offered to us. Atta gave us a booklet showing the corpses of children killed by Israeli bombing raids, then he was gone.

Journey to the heart of the Army of God

We sat in the room, waiting.

Bearded men opened the door occasionally, looked at us and left. Lunchtime came and there was the smell of kebab from outside. Then, when we had been suitably softened up by sitting in the half-darkness for almost five hours, Muhammed and Atta returned. "Let's go," Muhammed said.

At the back of the building, we got into an old, white Mercedes. Muhammed drove for ten minutes through Dahi, though we could have been going in circles. He turned into a small sidestreet, a dead end with only a few houses. There were three black Range Rovers parked, with their windows blacked out. Heavy men in black watched us from beside the cars as we went into a dilapidated house at the end of the street. A bearded bodyguard with the dimensions of a rugby hooker searched our bags. He did not take his hostile glare off us the entire time we stayed. His facial muscles were set like stone in a look of menace.

Preceded by two other guards, the sheikh came in. He moved smoothly in an Iranian-style turban and a long, brown gown. Though he is only 44, his grey beard added to the gravity of his quiet, controlled voice.

He sat before a yellow and green Hezbollah flag and a framed, gilded copy of the Koran, and he mostly kept his hands folded throughout our talk. He did not seem like the kind of man you would pick to lead a guerrilla war.

As I concluded the interview, we stood and shook hands. Atta and Muhammed stepped forward. "Do you want your photo taken with the sheikh?" they said. After all the tension, it felt like the relief and celebration which comes at the end of a big football game. I stood next to the sheikh as Will took our photo. It's my strange souvenir of Lebanon.

Load-Date: January 14, 1998

End of Document

Journey to the heart of the Army of God

The Scotsman

December 18, 1997, Thursday

Copyright 1997 The Scotsman Publications Ltd.

Section: Pg. 12

Length: 654 words

Byline: Matt Rees In Dahi Al-Jenoub

Body

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When they come back, there are more questions and, eventually, they tell us to come back two days later for an interview with their deputy leader.

Later, Firaz tells us the Hezbollah man had taken him outside to ask him about my photographer, Will Yurman.

"He is a Jew, isn't he," Atta had said, guessing that a name ending in "man" would be Jewish.

Firaz confirmed this, but said that Will was certainly not Israeli. We hoped that was enough to convince them.

Inside the Hezbollah offices two days later, Muhammed and Atta greeted us. "Wait here," they said. We sat in the cold room behind the curtains.

After an hour, Atta returned with another man who had come for a meeting. They sat in the half-light and smoked and drank thick, cardamom-flavoured coffee, which they also offered to us. Atta gave us a booklet showing the corpses of children killed by Israeli bombing raids, then he was gone.

Journey to the heart of the Army of God

We sat in the room, waiting.

Bearded men opened the door occasionally, looked at us and left. Lunchtime came and there was the smell of kebab from outside. Then, when we had been suitably softened up by sitting in the half-darkness for almost five hours, Muhammed and Atta returned. "Let's go," Muhammed said.

At the back of the building, we got into an old, white Mercedes. Muhammed drove for ten minutes through Dahi, though we could have been going in circles. He turned into a small sidestreet, a dead end with only a few houses. There were three black Range Rovers parked, with their windows blacked out. Heavy men in black watched us from beside the cars as we went into a dilapidated house at the end of the street. A bearded bodyguard with the dimensions of a rugby hooker searched our bags. He did not take his hostile glare off us the entire time we stayed. His facial muscles were set like stone in a look of menace.

Preceded by two other guards, the sheikh came in. He moved smoothly in an Iranian-style turban and a long, brown gown. Though he is only 44, his grey beard added to the gravity of his quiet, controlled voice.

He sat before a yellow and green Hezbollah flag and a framed, gilded copy of the Koran, and he mostly kept his hands folded throughout our talk. He did not seem like the kind of man you would pick to lead a guerrilla war.

As I concluded the interview, we stood and shook hands. Atta and Muhammed stepped forward. "Do you want your photo taken with the sheikh?" they said. After all the tension, it felt like the relief and celebration which comes at the end of a big football game. I stood next to the sheikh as Will took our photo. It's my strange souvenir of Lebanon.

Load-Date: January 16, 1998

End of Document

Six die in ambulance hit by Israelis: More targets in Lebanon struck today

The Ottawa Citizen

April 14, 1996, Sunday, FINAL EDITION

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Section: NEWS; Pg. A1 / Front

Length: 679 words

Byline: NORMA GREENAWAY; SOUTHAM NEWS

Dateline: Beirut

Body

Salem Suef hugged his three-year-old son and unleashed a vitriolic attack on Israel's latest military campaign against suspected Hezbollah targets in his native south Lebanon.

"They are the fathers of terrorism," said the 32-year-old father of six. "The Israelis bomb civilians, the innocent people."

Suef was speaking Saturday just hours after an Israeli helicopter gunship attacked an ambulance in south Lebanon killing two women and four girls, including three sisters.

The bloody incident seemed likely to worsen tensions along the Israel-Lebanon border after three days of intensive Israeli air and artillery attacks against the Iranian-backed Hezbollah (Party of God) guerrillas.

Israeli officials insisted the ambulance was hit because it was carrying a Hezbollah militant. They again warned Lebanese civilians to stay away from anti-Israeli Muslim militants and their stronghold or risk getting struck.

The guerrillas have responded with sporadic volleys of Katyusha rockets into northern Israel, where thousands of Israelis have fled to the south or taken refuge in bomb shelters.

And Israel kept up its barrage today, firing rockets near a south Lebanon town, security sources said.

The rockets hit a residential area. It was not immediately known if there were casualties in the attack.

The guerrillas have vowed to continue their rocket attacks until Israel vacates a narrow strip of land in south Lebanon that it occupies as a so-called security zone. Up to 12 new rocket attacks into northern Israel were reported late Saturday.

The four days of clashes have killed at least 25 and injured more than 80.

The latest Israeli operation began Thursday and has been code named "Grapes of Wrath."

Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres, fighting an uphill campaign for re-election on May 29, launched the operation to avenge a string of Hezbollah attacks that injured about 40 people earlier last week.

Six die in ambulance hit by Israelis: More targets in Lebanon struck today

The operation has included shelling attacks on suspected guerrilla strongholds in Beirut on Thursday and Friday, the first Israeli targeting of the city in 14 years. One Syrian soldier was killed Friday in an air assault near the airport.

Beirut was spared any fresh attacks Saturday. But the normally bustling city was quieter than usual as most people chose to stay in their homes.

Israel also imposed a naval blockade Saturday on the ports of Beirut, Tyre and Sidon. An estimated 150,000 residents have streamed to safer territory in northern Lebanon after Israel warned them to clear out of dozens of villages in south Lebanon where most of the assaults have taken place.

The strike on the ambulance was made by an Israeli helicopter. The ambulance was reportedly carrying people who were trying to get to Tyre from their village of Mansouri, one of those ordered vacated by the Israelis.

Israeli officials defended the attack, arguing civilians were not supposed to be in the area. "If there were children killed, I am sorry for it," Maj.-Gen. Amiram Levine, head of Israel's northern command, told the Associated Press. "But they were operating in a place from where the Hezbollah fired Katyushas and where we had warned residents to evacuate."

Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Hariri has stepped up diplomatic efforts aimed at rallying international opposition to the offensive, which Israeli officials say could last as long as two weeks. Hariri met Syrian President Hafez Assad in Damascus on Saturday and was to fly to Paris today to meet French President Jacques Chirac. Lebanon also has protested the Israeli "aggression" to the UN Security Council.

Syria, the main power broker in Lebanon, has been noticeably quiet on the latest round of tit-for-tat violence between Hezbollah and Israeli fighters. Syria has up to 40,000 troops in Lebanon, most stationed where the Hezbollah guerrillas are most active. The United States, anxious to keep the near-moribund Middle East peace process from complete collapse, has urged Syria to use its influence with the guerrillas in south Lebanon to halt their attacks.

Graphic

Colour Photo: Reuter Photo / BLITZ: Lebanese villagers race to find help for a child injured in Israeli helicopter raid Saturday

Load-Date: April 15, 1996

Iran funds 'state within a state' for Beirut's poor

The Sunday Times (London)

December 13 1987, Sunday

Copyright 1987 Times Newspapers Limited

Section: Issue 8523.

Length: 547 words

Byline: JIM MUIR

Guests: BEIRUT

Body

THE crushing economic crisis in Lebanon has given Iranian-backed Islamic radicals a chance to establish a virtual state-within-a-state in Shi'ite Muslim areas, providing a wide range of social and medical services funded by Iran.

In the teeming Shi'ite southern suburbs of Beirut, the fundamentalists **Hezbollah** 'Party of God' religious group, working closely with the Iranian embassy, has taken on many of the functions of the state.

The Lebanese government, fragmented and bankrupted by more than a dozen years of civil strife, has been totally unable to deal with the fallout from the dramatic economic collapse in recent months and is forced to look on helplessly as the Shi'ites move in.

The Iranian-backed radicals have set up a new maternity hospital, run by **women** medical staff and praised for its hygiene, efficiency and low fees. An 'Islamic faith' school offering free education has attracted hundreds of pupils. There is an 'Islamic co-operative' supermarket and a subsidised pharmacy.

In their efforts to win hearts and minds, **Hezbollah** militants go from house to house assessing cash for deserving cases. School fees are paid for those who cannot afford them, and exercise books - with Ayatollah Khomeini's picture on the front - are given out.

Hezbollah repair teams turn up to mend war-damaged houses free of charge. They have cleared away the rubbish heaps which rot on many street corners.

In rural areas where Shi'ites also predominate, notably the eastern Bekaa valley and the towns and villages of south Lebanon, Iranian-backed radicals have been offering similar services. In Baalbek, the provincial capital of the Bekaa, the Imam Khomeini hospital, run by Iranian doctors, has been functioning for several years. In the south, **Hezbollah** members have bought mobile drills and begun boring artesian wells for villagers.

Estimates of how much all this is costing Iran vary. One source said the Iranians are spending about Pounds 1m a month on social services alone, quite apart from the cost of financing **Hezbollah** and other radical Islamic groups.

The spread of **Hezbollah** influence has been at the expense of Amal, the mainstream Shi'ite movement allied to Syria. 'The Amal guys are browned off, but there's nothing they can do - they haven't got the money,' one Shi'ite source said.

Iran funds 'state within a state' for Beirut's poor

The Shi'ite community is the country's largest and poorest, and it was quick to feel the deepening economic crisis.

In the past few months, the value of the Lebanese pound has collapsed to around 500 against the US dollar. For the first 10 years of the Lebanese crisis, it held firm in single figures. Inflation is rampant, and prices of everything from shoes to cement are now set in dollars. The value of the minimum monthly wage has plummeted to about Dollars 17 - not enough to buy two small sandwiches a day.

'Many families have had to stop buying staples like oil, grain, sugar and milk,' said Marwan Sidani, acting director of Save the Children's Lebanon programme. 'They live on bread, which is subsidised, and even that takes 70% of their income.'

'We know of 100,000 families, with 200,000-300,000 children aged under six, in bad need of assistance. It's not starvation yet, but that is threatening. I can show you children who are on one meal a day - of bread with herbs.'

Load-Date: September 21, 2000

End of Document

LEBANON: END OF HOSTAGE ERA MARKS LESS INFLUENCE FOR MUSLIM EXTREMISTS

St. Louis Post-Dispatch (Missouri)

December 13, 1991, FRIDAY, FIVE STAR Edition

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Section: WAR PAGE; Pg. 1C

Length: 672 words

Byline: Farouk Nasser Of The Associated Press

Body

BEIRUT, Lebanon THE RELEASE of all American and British hostages marks an ebb in the influence of Shiite Muslim extremists over public life in Lebanon. But their unabating war against Israel may portend trouble. Hostage-taking cast a dark cloud over Lebanon's predominantly Western way of life, freewheeling economy and the quest for foreign aid to rebuild after 16 years of civil war. Economists have cited the instability caused by the 1983-87 kidnapping spree as a prime factor in the financial crash that sent the Lebanese pound plummeting from 2.5 to 880 to the dollar. Before civil war broke out in 1975, Beirut was commonly referred to as the Paris of the Middle East. The city had more than 100,000 Western residents, including businessmen, bankers, stockbrokers, engineers, educators, journalists and spies. The war between Muslims and Christians caused about two-thirds of the foreigners to leave Lebanon. Others left after the Israeli invasion in 1982. Many of the rest fled after kidnappings and the suicide bombings began in 1983. That year marked the birth of a fundamentalist Shiite movement - armed, trained and financed by a contingent of 2,000 Iranian Revolutionary Guards. Their main standard-bearer was **Hezbollah**, or Party of God, which is financed by Iran and has long been viewed as the umbrella group for the hostage-takers. The mid-1980s were marked by bombing attacks on pubs, hotel bars and restaurants serving liquor. Fundamentalist gunmen patrolled beaches and forced segregation of male and **female** sunbathers. But long before the release last week of Associated Press correspondent Terry Anderson after 6 1/2 years captivity, fundamentalist influence in the capital had been steadily decreasing. The change began in February 1987, when the Syrian army intervened to halt a war for dominance between Shiite Muslim and Druse militias in west Beirut. The Syrians, who had long sought to establish political dominance over Lebanon, curbed the fundamentalists. Pubs were reopened, liquor was served openly, and desegregated beaches were packed. Nightclubs pumped with Western music, and miniskirts far outnumbered Iranian-style chadors, the floor-length veils. In October 1989, the Arab League brokered a peace pact to end the civil war, disarm and disband all militias and bring Beirut and its environs under control of a restructured Lebanese army. That year also saw the pragmatic Hashemi Rafsanjani ascend to power as president of Iran. The shift in Tehran spelled a decline in support from Iran that Lebanon's extremists had got from Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, Iran's revolutionary leader. **Hezbollah** held back from challenging the liberal trend, apparently to try to avoid harming Iran's alliance with Syria. Rafsanjani has steadily sought to establish a moderate image in the West to lure investment to rebuild his nation, racked by eight years of war with Iraq. The Iranian leader was keen to rein in **Hezbollah** to prevent a showdown with the Syrian-backed Lebanese government of President Elias Hrawi. The Lebanese army deployed in southern Lebanon this spring near **Hezbollah** strongholds. The group's influence on public life has consequently shrunk to cover only the Shiite slums in southern Beirut and the ancient town of Baalbek and the Bekaa Valley. That comes to 10 percent of Lebanon's 4 million people, and about 20 percent of its territory. Yet **Hezbollah** remains a main force to reckon

LEBANON : END OF HOSTAGE ERA MARKS LESS INFLUENCE FOR MUSLIM EXTREMISTS

with in Lebanon's turbulent politics. The party has shifted the focus of its activity to guerrilla warfare against a border enclave Israel occupies in southern Lebanon. Ousting Israel from the so-called security zone also remains a rallying point for Lebanon's leftist and nationalist factions and is an official policy of Hrawi's government. The 3,000 **Hezbollah** guerrillas have been escalating bombing attacks on the enclave, occasionally provoking massive Israeli air, naval and artillery retaliation. Neither Syria nor the Lebanese army has moved to curb **Hezbollah**'s attacks.

Graphic

Photo; PHOTO....Reuters Photo...Former hostage Terry Anderson waving goodbye as he left the U.S. Army hospital in Wiesbaden, Germany, earlier this week.

Load-Date: October 13, 1993

End of Document

Rockets hit Israel; Shiite official killed

Telegraph Herald (Dubuque, IA)

November 28, 1995, Tuesday

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Section: News, Pg. b 9

Length: 201 words

Byline: Associated Press

Dateline: MARJAYOUN, Lebanon

Body

Lebanese guerrillas fired Katyusha rockets on northern Israeli towns today, wounding at least six people and forcing residents into bomb shelters. Raising fears of a wider flareup, Israel warned it would strike hard to stop the attacks.

The attack on the border towns of Kiryat Shmona and Metulla was the heaviest shelling of northern Israel since June. Israel responded with artillery fire and an air raid on suspected strongholds of Hezbollah, the Iranian-backed guerrilla group that claimed responsibility for the rocket barrage.

Six Hezbollah guerrillas in southern Lebanon have been killed in clashes with Israeli troops in recent days, and the group said the rocket attack was in retaliation for Israeli artillery attacks on southern Lebanese villages.

In other violence today, a local Hezbollah official died in the southern Lebanese town of Jibchit when a booby-trapped bomb destroyed his vehicle, local security sources said. The Shiite Muslim guerrilla group blamed Israel for the death of Saeed Harb and vowed revenge.

Ambulance drivers in northern Israel said two Israeli women were slightly wounded by shrapnel in the first Katyusha rocket salvo, beginning shortly before 8 a.m. and lasting two hours.

Load-Date: December 10, 1996

Israel's carnage in Lebanon: "Those who fire artillery are responsible for where the shells land."

The Gazette (Montreal, Quebec)

April 20, 1996, Saturday, FINAL EDITION

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Section: EDITORIAL / OP-ED; Pg. B4 / BREAK

Length: 413 words

Byline: THE GAZETTE

Body

Even before Thursday's slaughter at a United Nations base in southern Lebanon, Israeli forces had made far too many deadly mistakes in their quest to stop Hezbollah's Katyusha-rocket fire into northern Israel. Civilians, including children, had been killed in several incidents. But the Israeli army's shelling of a United Nations base near the town of Qana, where hundreds of civilians had taken refuge, was particularly sickening.

At the UN base, at least 75 men, women and children died and more than 100 were wounded when two shells landed on the compound. The ghastly scene drove Fijian peacekeepers to tears. Bodies were blown apart. Blood was everywhere. This was far, far from the surgical accuracy Israel prides itself on. It was carnage.

There is no reason to believe that Israel was targeting civilians. Its forces, several kilometres away, evidently were aiming at a site about 300 metres from the UN camp, from where Hezbollah had just fired rockets into Israel. But that explanation is no excuse. Those who fire artillery are responsible for where the shells land, and Israeli forces presumably knew - or should have known - that they were firing close to a UN camp, which has been there for many years.

Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres said he felt "sorrow in my heart" about the Qana tragedy, and that it was a "bitter surprise" that there were civilians in the camp. Sorrow. Surprise. But, it seems, not responsibility. Mr. Peres engaged in some unseemly finger-pointing when he blamed Hezbollah for the incident, on the grounds it had endangered civilians by firing at Israel from close by. And indeed, Iranian-backed, Syrian-supported Hezbollah did show a callous disregard for the safety of civilians when it did so.

But that in no way absolves Israeli forces of responsibility for what they did. It was chilling to hear Lt.-Gen. Amnon Lipkin-Shahak, the chief of staff, say that, on first impression, "there has been no mistake in judgment here. ... We will shoot toward whoever is endangering us. I do not know any other game rules."

So far, Israel's efforts to stop Hezbollah's rocket-fire have wreaked havoc and sown bitterness among civilians in Lebanon without winning any respite for northern Israelis, many of whom have fled south as rocket-fire has increased.

It's encouraging, at least, that diplomatic efforts are under way to put a stop to the shelling and rockets from both sides. A ceasefire cannot come too soon.

Israel 's carnage in Lebanon : "Those who fire artillery are responsible for where the shells land."

Load-Date: April 22, 1996

End of Document

Israeli attack sparks fury: 75 refugees killed in UN shelter

Hamilton Spectator (Ontario, Canada)

April 19, 1996 Friday Final Edition

Copyright 1996 Metroland Media Group Ltd

Section: NEWS; Pg. A1 / FRONT; News

Length: 1075 words

Byline: Norma Greenaway

Dateline: QANA, LEBANON

Body

Israeli shells slammed into a UN peacekeeping camp sheltering hundreds of Lebanese civilians yesterday, turning it into an inferno of burning flesh and limbs.

More than 75 civilians were killed and scores more were wounded in the bloody assault, which Israel defended as retaliation for rocket attacks into northern Israel from a nearby **Hezbollah** guerrilla post.

Screaming, crying men, **women** and children fled the scene in panic and anger. Many shouted their outrage at Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres. Others vented their rage at U.S. President Bill Clinton, who they blame for providing military aid and hardware to Israel.

SOUTHAM NEWSPAPERS

"Americans sent planes here to kill people," yelled one angry man.

"They are the real terrorists," screamed another.

UN soldiers and rescue workers struggled to pull the dead and wounded from two shelled buildings at the camp, home to 150 Fiji peacekeepers. Four UN soldiers were seriously wounded.

It was the bloodiest day yet in the nine-day mini-war between Israeli forces and Iranian-backed **Hezbollah** guerrillas.

Earlier yesterday, an Israeli attack on a house in the **Hezbollah** stronghold of Nabatiyeh in south Lebanon killed a mother, her five children and two other relatives.

In Tel Aviv, Mr. Peres said he regretted the death of Lebanese civilians. But he laid the blame squarely at the feet of **Hezbollah** guerrillas who he said had fired Katyusha rockets into northern Israel from a point only 300 metres from the UN camp.

"If our citizens and soldiers are fired on, we will return fire," he said, adding that Israel had warned civilians to clear out of south Lebanon for their own safety.

Mr. Peres said Israel was open to a negotiated settlement of the hostilities, but the country has no intention of halting its military offensive to crush **Hezbollah**'s ability to fire rockets into Israel.

Israeli attack sparks fury: 75 refugees killed in UN shelter

Hezbollah guerrillas are leading the fight to evict Israel from a narrow strip of land it occupies in southern Lebanon as a so-called security zone.

Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Hariri made no secret of his disgust with Mr. Peres' response to what many Lebanese are calling a massacre.

"I'm really surprised," Mr. Hariri told CNN. "I thought that Mr. Peres would have the courage to say they made a terrible mistake."

The horrific bloodshed seemed destined to up the pressure on the warring parties to reach a ceasefire. The deadly strike followed days of fruitless diplomatic manoeuvring involving the United States, France, Israel, Lebanon and Syria, the main powerbroker in Lebanon. U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher was expected to travel to the region to push the negotiations.

The UN camp on the outskirts of Qana, about 15 kilometres southeast of Tyre, was a temporary home to about 850 Lebanese from surrounding villages. They had sought refuge there, thinking they would be protected from the fallout of the brutal fighting.

"I believed Israel would not strike at the United Nations," said Ali Deeb, 28, as he arrived stunned and weeping at a nearby hospital with his injured sister.

"I thought I was safe," agreed 30-year-old Mohammed Ismaine Burger, who said most of his 25-member extended family had been killed or wounded. In another room, a young mother was weeping over her two toddlers, both bleeding and awaiting medical treatment.

"They were outside playing ball, only ball. What did they do to deserve this?" asked Fatima Ismail.

Their mother missed the attack because she had gone to the family home in Qana to pray.

Sheik Matib Sweidan, the Grand Mufti of south Lebanon, rushed to the hospital to comfort the victims and their families.

He defended **Hezbollah's** armed resistance to the Israeli occupation and denounced the strike on the UN camp as "a new massacre in a long series of massacres" that Israel has committed since its first invasion of Lebanon in 1978.

The shells started hitting about 2 p.m., about 30 minutes after **Hezbollah** guerrillas fired Katyusha rockets into northern Israel from a post about 600 metres away from the camp, UN officials said.

Lieutenant-Colonel Wame Waqanivalagi, commander of the 500-strong Fiji brigade in south Lebanon. said up to a dozen 155-millimetre Israeli artillery shells fell on the camp.

Lt.-Col. Waqanivalagi stopped short of saying the attack on the UN base was deliberate. But he noted Israel's forces are usually good at hitting their targets.

"They are accurate," he said, struggling to keep his composure. "It's a very difficult position to be in here -- watching civilians getting killed. You really have to dig deep into your character to keep yourself from getting outraged."

The civilians had been told to take cover because the UN soldiers expected Israel to respond to Katyusha rocket attacks. Most crowded into the two main buildings, made of aluminum and wood, because the camp's 10 small bomb shelters hold only about 150 people. Most of the 150 soldiers from Fiji based at the camp and several dozen civilians crowded into the bomb shelters. None of them was injured in the shelling.

Dozens of ambulances sped from the site to hospitals in Tyre and Sidon, many loaded with the shattered and bloodied bodies of the dead.

Israeli attack sparks fury: 75 refugees killed in UN shelter

At Nazam Hospital in nearby Tyre, medical workers and volunteers silently unloaded the bodies, wrapped them in clear plastic bags and piled them in a basement room. Many were toddlers, their clothes and faces caked in blood.

Less than three hours after the attack, all the dead and wounded had been evacuated from the camp, leaving solemn UN soldiers to sift through the smoldering wreckage.

Dozens of shoes and bits of clothing were scattered across the grounds. The basketball court was covered in blood. Some of the UN soldiers were as upset as the civilians.

"You just had to be here to believe it," said Major Joseph Savua, 42. "It was unbelievable. I want to go back home (to Fiji) now. There's no use risking lives here."

MIDEAST FACTS

The issue: The battle between Israeli forces and Hezbollah guerrillas.

What's new: Israel shells a UN camp in south Lebanon sheltering hundreds of civilians, killing more than 75 and wounding scores of others.

What's it mean: Israel defended the attack as a legitimate response to Katyusha rocket attacks into northern Israel from a Hezbollah post near the UN camp, although it said it regretted the death of the civilians. Angry Lebanese call it a massacre.

What's next: The United States has signalled it plans to step up the diplomatic drive to reach a ceasefire agreement.

Graphic

Photo: Associated Press; UN peacekeepers assess refugee shelter destroyed by Israeli shelling yesterday.

Load-Date: October 13, 2002

Israeli-Lebanese fighting heats up

Deseret News (Salt Lake City)

May 5, 2000, Friday

Copyright 2000 The Deseret News Publishing Co.

Section: WIRE;

Length: 655 words

Byline: Reuters News Service

Body

BEIRUT -- Israel-Lebanese fighting, already the worst in nearly a year, intensified today with Israeli jets striking across Lebanon and Hezbollah guerrillas launching a fresh barrage of missiles into northern Israel.

The United States and France appealed for a halt but both Israeli officials and Lebanese guerrillas vowed not to be intimidated and to do anything they considered necessary to protect their civilians.

After a night of Israeli air attacks in retaliation for some 40 Hezbollah rockets fired at Israel Thursday, Hezbollah guerrillas launched a fresh salvo at the Israeli town of Kiryat Shmona Friday morning.

The Israeli security Cabinet, which Thursday ordered the first air attacks, reconvened after the new missile barrage. Israeli President Ezer Weizman, pleased by the initial Israeli attack, told reporters: "We will plunge their world into darkness."

According to Israel Radio, one Israeli was wounded by shrapnel, raising the toll in the rocket attacks to one soldier killed and five other Israelis wounded. The population was ordered into bomb shelters.

Hezbollah said in a statement: "We are firm today to defend our people, our country and the infrastructure. So we fired barrages of Katyusha rockets at Kiryat Shmona and Shlomi settlements."

"We warn the Zionist enemy against continuing in the rape of Lebanon because we are going to respond and confront it."

Hezbollah launched its first barrage at Israel after attacks from Israel or its local militia Wednesday and Thursday had killed two Lebanese women and wounded another 12 civilians. One Lebanese civilian and an off-duty soldier were injured in the Israeli reprisals.

The worst cross-border clashes since June 1999, when Israel blasted Lebanese infrastructure, came as an envoy from the U.N. secretary-general was in Beirut to discuss Israel's promise to end its 22-year occupation of south Lebanon by July.

Terje Roed-Larsen wanted to secure Lebanese and Syrian cooperation in the withdrawal, but the complexity was reflected in a second unscheduled day of meetings with Lebanese President Emile Lahoud and Prime Minister Selim al-Hoss.

Israeli - Lebanese fighting heats up

"Any attacks against any civilians are unacceptable," said a statement from Larsen. "Such actions are particularly unhelpful at the present time."

Lahoud said Israeli attacks -- bombing two power stations and a guerrilla arms depot and blowing a crater to block the main highway between Beirut and Damascus -- showed it did not intend to withdraw from Lebanon.

However, the fighting appeared to underline warnings in recent months by Lebanon and Syria that a unilateral Israeli withdrawal would not bring peace for Israel--an implicit threat of cross-border attacks.

Syria, which backs Hezbollah and has 35,000 troops in Lebanon, wants withdrawal from Lebanon to be part of a broader peace agreement that will secure the return of its Golan Heights, seized by Israel in 1967.

In Cairo, the Arab League called an emergency meeting of country representatives for Saturday to discuss the violence.

The Israeli attacks were a blow to a Lebanese economy already struggling with recession and massive public debt. Foreign exchange dealers reported the central bank had to step up intervention because of pressure on the Lebanese pound.

One dealer said the central bank provided almost all the \$91 million in the market compared to \$53-\$57 million last week. Another dealer said the bank had spent \$40-\$50 million daily, bringing the total to about \$450 million since pressure began last month.

U.S. Ambassador David Satterfield twice delivered messages from Secretary of State Madeleine Albright to Hoss in an effort to halt the spiral in violence.

"This is a particularly sensitive, a particularly volatile situation," Satterfield said after seeing Hoss. "It is extremely important that all sides do everything possible to avoid actions that could lead to an escalation. Such an escalation will not be in the interests of any party."

Load-Date: May 5, 2000

End of Document

Guerrillas, Israel halt tit-for-tat fire

The Record (Kitchener-Waterloo, Ontario)

May 6, 2000 Saturday Final Edition

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Section: FRONT; Pg. A09; Caption

Length: 281 words

Dateline: BEIRUT

Body

BEIRUT -- After two days of tit-for-tat attacks, the worst in nearly a year, in which an Israeli soldier and two Lebanese civilians were killed, Lebanese guerrillas and Israel both said Friday they would hold their fire.

The separate announcements came after Israeli warplanes left a deep crater in the highway from Beirut to the Syrian capital of Damascus on Friday and knocked out power stations in the Beirut suburb of Bsaleem and in the northern port city of Tripoli.

Canadian Press

But each side warned they would not tolerate a repetition of attacks on civilians.

Soon after Israel announced it would not retaliate for the latest **Hezbollah** rocket attack on northern Israel, the guerrillas said a halt to attacks on Lebanon was the key to sparing Israeli settlements fresh violence.

"If it wants to spare its northern settlements the danger of the Katyusha rockets then it has to restrain its army from any aggression and also has to restrain its agent militia," **Hezbollah** said.

Israel's army allowed residents of northern Israel to leave bomb shelters, hours after the security cabinet decided not to retaliate.

Shouting for joy, residents dragged blankets and mattresses out of bomb shelters back to their homes to celebrate the Jewish Sabbath which began at sunset Friday.

The latest round of retaliatory strikes began Thursday when two Lebanese **women** were killed in shelling by Israel's allied militia in southern Lebanon.

Hezbollah responded with its fierce rocket attack on Israel's northern border, killing a soldier and wounding 26 other people.

A Canadian soldier stationed with the UN Disengagement Observer Force on the Lebanese border witnessed Thursday's attack, but was not injured.

Graphic

Guerrillas, Israel halt tit-for-tat fire

Associated Press; Roni (top), whose last name was not given, and Ozeri Sharon burst into tears during the funeral of their friend Shaked Uzari in Elyakhin, Israel, on Friday. Uzari was the Israeli soldier killed Thursday in the northern Israeli city of Kiryat Shemona in a **Hezbollah** rocket attack.

Load-Date: October 10, 2002

End of Document

Rockets hit Israel after assassination assassination assassination

\$%Charleston Gazette (West Virginia) virginia) virginia)

August 26, 1998, Wednesday wednesday wednesday

Copyright 1998 Charleston Newspapers newspapers newspapers

Section: News; Pg. P2C P2C P2C

Length: 462 words

Body

KIRYAT SHEMONA, Israel (AP) - Katyusha rockets slammed into northern Israeli towns Tuesday night, injuring at least 19 people, after a top Lebanese guerrilla leader was killed by an Israeli helicopter that ambushed his car in south Lebanon.

Along the northern border, Israeli residents dashed for shelters after the rockets took them by surprise.

"People are in panic, in panic and fear. There are the wails of women women women and children," resident Samir Sulidan told Israel radio.

The barrage fell only hours after an Israeli helicopter gunship fired a rocket of its own, killing guerrilla commander Hossam al-Amin, reportedly the second-in-command of the military faction of Shiite Muslim guerrilla group, Amal, as he was driving along a south Lebanese coastal road not far from the Israeli border.

A spokesman for Amal in Lebanon acknowledged the killing, but declined to give al-Amin's rank.

The larger, Iranian-backed Hezbollah guerrilla group issued a statement in Beirut claiming responsibility for the attack against Israel.

The statement, carried on guerrilla radio Al-Noor, said the attack was meant as a "deterrent to the enemy." The statement made no mention of

Rockets hit Israel after assassination assassination assassination

the dead Amal commander.

Guerrilla groups have been waging a long war against Israeli troops who have been stationed in south Lebanon since 1985 to prevent cross-border attacks on Israel's northern communities.

Both sides have suffered heavy casualties in the fighting but rocket attacks such as Tuesday's are rare and have the potential to escalate the conflict. After a series of rocket attacks in 1996, Israel launched a 17-day air strike against guerrilla targets in which over 100 Lebanese civilians were killed.

Five hours before the rockets fell Tuesday, Israeli Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai warned both Amal and Hezbollah not to take retaliatory action.

"We reserve the right and have legitimate cause to act as long as we need to against leaders of terrorism and terrorism itself wherever it is found," Mordechai told reporters.

Six years ago, in February 1992, Israel killed another guerrilla leader in much the same way. Then, an Israeli helicopter ambushed a car in south Lebanon and killed Hezbollah leader Sheik Abbas Musawi, his wife and 5-year-old son.

One month later, the group retaliated by bombing the Israeli Embassy in Buenos Aires, Argentina, killing 29 people and wounding dozens.

Israel went after Hezbollah again in 1994 with a major air strike, killing about 50 guerrillas in a base in eastern Lebanon. Hezbollah issued warnings it would strike in retribution, and one month later, the Jewish community center in Buenos Aires was bombed on July 18, killing 95 people.

Shmuel Abutboul, a spokesman for the Kiryat Shemona hospital said that 19 people were being treated for light injuries. injuries. injuries.

Load-Date: August 26, 1998

Rockets hit Israel after assassination assassination assassination

End of Document

NEW VICTIMS IN AN OLD WAR

Sydney Morning Herald (Australia)

April 20, 1996 Saturday

Late Edition

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Section: NEWS AND FEATURES; News Review; Pg. 23

Length: 2082 words

Byline: ROSS DUNN

Body

The Israeli Prime Minister, Mr Shimon Peres, was on a roll with his successful battle against Hezbollah until a terrible blunder left more than 100 refugees dead and the peace process shattered. ROSS DUNN reports from Jerusalem.

ABOUT seven minutes of shelling by Israeli military forces in south Lebanon on a United Nations camp - which left at least 75 refugees dead - may have been the decisive turning point in the Jewish State's military campaign against the Iranian-backed Hezbollah guerilla fighters.

Only five shells were fired in the exchange, but the impact was so strong that another 105 people, including some peacekeepers, were also injured at the headquarters of the Fijian unit.

The camp was packed with about 500 civilians fleeing the Israeli bombardment when it came under attack.

The incident has highlighted the high human cost of Israel's weeklong air, sea, and artillery bombardment of Lebanon.

At least 147 people have died in Lebanon, and another 300 have been wounded since Israel launched its operation - codenamed Grapes of Wrath. Almost all have been civilians.

Until the tragedy, the Israeli Prime Minister, Mr Shimon Peres, had been on a roll, easily brushing aside calls from the international community for an end to military strikes in Lebanon.

Following the killings, he was very much on the defensive, claiming: "Israel was only exercising its right to self-defence. Hezbollah is a criminal organisation and when it fires at us we have the right to reply."

He said Hezbollah was fully responsible for the incident, accusing the Muslim militants of using civilians as innocent shields. Mr Peres may have been right. Accounts by some UN peacekeepers seemed to suggest that Hezbollah was not blameless.

But even this evidence could not help remove the stigma of Israeli defence forces appearing to be criminally reckless for not checking that civilians were close to the target before firing back.

After all, had the Israeli army commanders not boasted they were now using such sophisticated high-tech weapons against Hezbollah, that they could mark their targets with pinpoint accuracy? The Israeli Foreign Minister, Mr Ehud

NEW VICTIMS IN AN OLD WAR

Barak, a former Israeli army chief of staff, appeared at a loss to explain what had happened without an official investigation.

He confirmed that it was Israel's policy to investigate - as far as possible - whether civilians were in the area before firing back.

At the same time, Mr Barak said, the campaign had to continue until Hezbollah stopped attacking Israeli communities in the north of the country.

But this increasingly appeared like wishful thinking, with the Israeli inner Cabinet giving Mr Peres the go-ahead to negotiate a ceasefire.

After the Cabinet meeting, Mr Peres said: "We can negotiate an agreement without shooting at each other."

The statement amounted to a recognition by Mr Peres that even if his country had a case, Israel was losing the argument because of the graphic television pictures being broadcast around the world, showing the extent of the horror and suffering.

Scenes of decapitated bodies, pieces of flesh and blood in the UN compound brought strong denunciations of Israel and looked like shattering Mr Peres's dream of a comprehensive peace in the Middle East.

His partner in the peace process, the Palestine Liberation Organisation chairman, Mr Yasser Arafat, said: "What is happening is really a disaster. We condemn these operations, and we do not forget that it is our brothers, Lebanese, and Palestinians, who are the victims.

"Nobody can accept what is happening."

Also placed at risk was the trust and friendship that Israel had built up with Jordan's King Hussein, who in the past two years has openly encouraged other Arab States to make peace with the Jewish State.

King Hussein condemned what he called "Israeli aggression and the criminal acts of the Israeli army against innocent civilians of Lebanon". He warned that the Israeli military campaign threatened to sink the Middle East process, and plunge the entire region back into conflict.

The damage to Israel's reputation caused by the incident was too much even for the country's strongest ally to ignore. Only days after backing the Israeli campaign, the US President, Mr Clinton, dropped his support for any extension of the military operation in Lebanon.

"I call upon all parties to agree to an immediate ceasefire," he said.

Such a ceasefire was essential to any diplomatic efforts to end the conflict, he added.

Mr Clinton expressed "deepest condolences" to Lebanon and its people for the Israeli shelling. With Israel having declared that the United States was the only country it regarded as an honest broker in the Middle East, Mr Clinton's words should have a powerful effect in the corridors of power in Jerusalem.

To back up his words, Mr Clinton sent the special US co-ordinator for the Middle East, Mr Dennis Ross, to the region, ahead of a mission this weekend by the Secretary of State, Mr Warren Christopher.

Israel will welcome any American initiative that could lead it out of trouble. The real bitter pill for Israel to swallow was the fact its defence forces gave Islamic militants in Lebanon their greatest publicity triumph, on the same day that their counterparts in Egypt massacred 18 innocent tourists at a Cairo hotel.

The two events may not be unconnected. The assailants targeted a hotel frequented by Israelis and may have mistaken the Greek tourists for Jews.

NEW VICTIMS IN AN OLD WAR

An Egyptian investigating officer, Brigadier Mahmud al-Fishawi, said: "We are examining all the possibilities. That the attack could have been aiming at Israeli tourists is very possible considering the latest events." He said up to 80 Israelis were staying in the hotel at the time of the attack and pointed out that the Greek group targeted by the terrorists had just arrived from Israel.

At least one Egyptian political commentator, Mohammad Sid Ahmed, said the images of the war in Lebanon may have contributed to the Cairo attack.

Neither Hezbollah nor Israel can escape the fact that modern conflicts are fought just as much on television screens as they are on the battlefields. And in the eye of the electronic media, few seemed to doubt that Israel suffered its biggest defeat in the international war of perceptions this week.

But Mr Peres, a veteran politician, may even have taken the possibility of such an incident into account when he took a calculated risk to launch the military campaign. In the first few days of the operation, the gamble paid off handsomely, with Mr Peres increasing his popularity at home.

A sign of the times was a poster proclaiming "Israel is strong with Peres", prominently displayed at the gateway to Kiryat Shmona, a town under siege close to the northern border with Lebanon.

The central position of this election banner in such a town, regarded as a hot-bed of right-wing sentiment, was a reflection of just how much the first days of the military campaign inside Lebanon had begun turning around public perceptions of Mr Peres.

Just one week ago, residents here demonstrated angrily against the Government's failure to respond immediately to a barrage on the town of Katyusha rockets fired by Iranian-backed Hezbollah guerilla fighters operating inside south Lebanon.

At least 30 people were wounded, but it was not until two days later, and only after another rocket attack, that the Government launched its operation, codenamed Grapes of Wrath, a heavy air and sea bombardment of suspected Hezbollah bases inside Lebanon.

Since then Hezbollah has responded by firing back more Katyusha rockets at communities in northern Israel than it has in the past two years, many of them falling on Kiryat Shmona.

But few have been hurt and most of the residents who have stayed behind, often huddling for hours inside bomb shelters, are pleased that the Government launched the military campaign, despite the increased risks.

Mr Guga Kogan, who has worked in northern Israel as a correspondent for the Israeli newspaper Davar for about 30 years, has been struck by the changes in attitude in the town towards Mr Peres as the military action gathered momentum.

Kiryat Shmona is considered a stronghold of the Opposition right-wing Likud Party, led by Mr Binyamin Netanyahu. Many residents felt Mr Peres lacked the toughness to carry out strikes against Israel's enemies. He was often seen as weak compared with his predecessor, the assassinated Mr Yitzhak Rabin, a former military commander and war hero.

"Now they speak differently about Peres," Kogan said. "One long-time Likud supporter told me Peres is a far bigger political figure than he had ever imagined." Israelis go to the polls on May 29, and for the first time ever will vote on a separate ballot for whom they want to be Prime Minister, as well as for ordinary members of the Knesset, the Parliament.

Mr Kogan said of the Likud supporter: "He is having second thoughts about the election. He said Netanyahu is not such a serious political figure and he could vote for Mr Peres for Prime Minister and vote Likud for the Parliament."

One Kiryat Shmona resident, Mr Oded Ovadia, who runs a business with his brother, making window frames, was unashamed in his praise of Mr Peres: "He is the greatest statesman who ever lived."

NEW VICTIMS IN AN OLD WAR

Recent opinion polls by Israeli television put Mr Peres as much as eight points ahead of Mr Netanyahu following the start of the military action in Lebanon. Since then, Mr Netanyahu and his supporters, who demanded that Israel retaliate against Hezbollah, have been forced to do little more than applaud the Government's actions.

Israel at first faced only limited international criticism, mainly from France, the US having used its influence to ensure that the United Nations did not condemn Israel despite urging from Arab leaders.

Britain also came out publicly in favour of Israel, maintaining that it had a right to defend itself against attacks from Hezbollah, and that it had little choice but to hit back at members of the fundamentalist Shi'ite militia.

Such support abroad as well as at home has made the task of Mr Peres easier until the shelling of the UN camp. But the glory was short-lived, and his international reputation, and his chances of being re-elected, depend more on how the campaign ends, not how it started. His popularity could plummet should Hezbollah hit back successfully against Israeli forces inside Lebanon or in terror attacks against its citizens at home and abroad.

In retrospect, he may have been too clever when he refused to use ground forces in the operation. The move minimised the risk to Israeli soldiers, but the reliance on high-tech weapons also led to the terrible blunder of firing on UN refugees.

International condemnation of the incident is not the only reason Mr Peres is interested in bringing the campaign to an end as quickly as possible. At the moment, he is under pressure because of the deaths of innocent Lebanese civilians. But the longer the attacks continue, the greater the possibility that Israeli soldiers and civilians will also die.

As one journalist put it: "The people of Kiryat Shmona are worried about rocket attacks; the people of Tel Aviv are worried that their sons might be killed in action."

NINE DAYS OF WRATH

Israeli Cobra gunships rocket Beirut's southern suburbs.

Israeli cobra gunships attack Ein el-Hilwih refugee camp gutting house of Palestinian guerilla leader Colonel Munir Makdah.

Hezbollah stronghold bombed by Israeli jets.

More than 100 refugees and two UN officers killed by Israeli shell at Fijian UN post (Main picture)

400,000 refugees flee southern Lebanon.

Israel's air force and artillery strike villages and guerilla bases on the edge of the Syrian-controlled Bekaa Valley.

Israeli planes rocket house, killing six children and three adults.

Hezbollah Katyusha rockets landing in northern Israel (many of Kiryat Shmona) have wounded 48 people.

Israeli artillery dug in on ridge above Kiryat Shmona. More than 11,000 shells fired.

Mobile Hezbollah guerillas fire Katyusha rockets from hideouts in the vallery of south Lebanon into northern Israel, up to 70 a day.

Thosands of people flee northern Israel.

Graphic: MICHAEL WRIGHT

ISRAEL'S WEAPONS

* Apache Cobra attack helicopters and F16 fighter planes.

NEW VICTIMS IN AN OLD WAR

- * 155mm mobile artillery (pictured)
- * American-made Fire-Finder tracking system, tracks Katyushas back to their source.

HEZBOLLAH WEAPONS

- * Katyusha rockets, "obsolete and often inaccurate". They use timers to fire them so that targets have escaped before Israeli shells hit launcher.

Graphic

THREE ILLUS: More than 100 refugees died when Israeli forces shelled this shelter at the UN peace keeping force headquarters in the village of Cana. Running for their lives ... a man leads two injured children to safety after a missile hit an ambulance in Lebanon last Sunday. Four children and two **women** died. Under fire ... Smoke rises from the southern Lebanese town of Nabatiyeh after an Israeli attack. Map: Graphic: MICHAEL WRIGHT

Load-Date: July 23, 2007

Lebanese battles kill seven

The Times (London)

May 14, 1999, Friday

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Section: Overseas news

Length: 221 words

Byline: Nicholas Blanford in Beirut

Body

THE war in south Lebanon had its bloodiest day this year when seven Lebanese, at least four of them civilians, were killed yesterday in crossfire between **Hezbollah** guerrillas and the Israeli Army.

Four people died when a roadside bomb exploded next to a passing car near the town of Jezzine. The vehicle was torn apart, killing a member of the Israeli-backed South Lebanon Army militia and three **female** relatives, including a child. A fourth woman was reported to be seriously injured. **Hezbollah**'s southern commander, Sheik Nabil Qaouq, blamed Israel for the bomb blast.

The violence began late on Wednesday night when **Hezbollah** guerrillas fired mortar shells and rockets at Israeli outposts in the occupation zone. Some rounds struck civilian areas. A 33-year-old woman, Intisar Fuani, died instantly when a shell hit the bedroom of her house in the village of Houla, near the Israeli border. Four other civilians were hurt by flying glass.

Yesterday morning, Israeli warplanes flattened a house in the village of Majdal Silm, on the edge of the occupation zone, killing two Lebanese. Irish UN soldiers retrieved the bodies of the two men from the rubble.

Local people said the victims were civilians. Security sources said they were probably guerrillas. The upsurge in fighting came four days before Israel's general election.

Load-Date: May 14, 1999

Mothers' cries swell chorus of protest

THE AUSTRALIAN

March 5, 1999, Friday

Copyright 1999 Nationwide News Pty Limited

Section: WORLD; Pg. 12

Length: 735 words

Byline: ABRAHAM RABINOVICH

Body

Israel hears the concern for the sons in southern Lebanon, writes Abraham Rabinovich in Jerusalem

**

THEY were just mothers calling on the Government to pull the army, including their sons, out of Lebanon but, in a country with a heavyweight public agenda, they might as well have been mouthing their concerns through a soundproof window.

But almost overnight that window has been shattered and the mothers'

cry has displaced from the headlines, momentarily at least, even the heated rhetoric of a national election campaign.

Two traumatic events on the battlefield of south Lebanon in the past two weeks have given dramatic relevance to the mothers' plea to bring the boys back across the border.

In the first incident, three officers, including the company commander, of one of Israel's most elite fighting units -the reconnaissance company of the paratroop brigade -died in a night clash.

CONTRIBUTOR

The three **Hezbollah** guerillas, who killed them and wounded five others in the 25-man patrol, escaped.

A few days later, the senior Israeli general in south Lebanon, Erez Gerstein, a much-admired commander who had come through countless fire fights, was killed by a roadside mine together with two soldiers and an Israeli journalist.

These two incidents, coming so close together, underscored the frustrating position of a regular army, even one as sophisticated and flexible as Israel's, in trying to cope with a guerilla force on the latter's turf.

The Israeli military's reaction sending in warplanes to attack "**Hezbollah** command posts and infrastructure" - amounted, as most knew, to little more than a petulant kick at a blank wall.

Two guerillas happened to be killed in these air attacks -frequent such air raids rarely find the **Hezbollah** at home - but the assaults had no serious effect on a fighting force that blends into the countryside and keeps its weapons well hidden in caves.

Mothers' cries swell chorus of protest

In the stunned silence that followed the two setbacks, the mothers' chorus -"Let's get out of Lebanon" -began to be heard by many as if for the first time and was no longer dismissed.

What was for many Israelis an unspoken question -"What are we still doing in Lebanon?" -was transmuted, with a momentum provided by the women protesters, into a significant public debate.

The question became: "How do we get out of Lebanon?"

The self-declared security zone Israel had held on to in 1985, when it pulled out of the rest of the territory it had conquered in the Lebanese War, seemed a good idea at the time -an 8km-wide buffer to keep guerillas away from the Israeli border.

Today, it is viewed by virtually all Israelis as a terrible idea, one that is costing the lives of 20-30 young soldiers every year.

There is understanding, and even unspoken respect, for the local Lebanese fighting to rid themselves of an occupying army.

But while Israel is ready and eager to pull out, it wants assurances that the guerillas will not attempt to harass Israeli villages and towns on the border. This is an assurance neither Hezbollah nor the Lebanese Government is ready to give -keeping Israel trapped, as it were, unable to let go of the tiger's tail.

In the wake of the two recent incidents, and the wave of public unease that they revealed, Lebanon this week became the major item in the election campaign, which had been focused on the Palestinian and domestic issues.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu reiterated his desire to withdraw and called on the Lebanese Government to co-operate by sending troops to secure the border area.

Otherwise, he warned, Israel would react to further Hezbollah attacks with greatly escalated military activity.

Since Israel has tried virtually every military option already, Mr Netanyahu's threat is unlikely to have unduly shaken the Lebanese Government or Hezbollah.

Labor Party leader Ehud Barak, scenting the public mood, declared he would, if elected, negotiate a way out of Lebanon in a year.

It is understood by all Israelis, and admitted by most, that the only permanent solution lies in an agreement with Syria, which controls what happens in Lebanon and which can call Hezbollah to heel if it chooses.

It also is clear that the price Syria will demand is Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights.

That is the stark equation facing Israeli decision-makers -the Golan Heights or the deaths of 20-30 soldiers a year and an ever-growing chorus of mothers demonstrating at road intersections.

Load-Date: March 1, 2002

Operation Grapes of Wrath

Sydney Morning Herald (Australia)

April 23, 1996 Tuesday

Late Edition

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Section: NEWS AND FEATURES; LETTERS; Pg. 14

Length: 607 words

Body

I would like to take issue with Ms Sarah Nicolas's defence of recent Israeli actions in Southern Lebanon (Letters, April 19).

As a news photographer for an overseas wire service in the area for two years (1992 and 1993), I have seen both sides of the fence in the Lebanon security zone and do not argue that Israel has a right to respond to Hezbollah actions. But serious questions must be asked over the intensity of the latest Israeli response.

What are Israeli casualty figures in the zone over, say, the last two years? I would doubt that they reached the mid teens. In Israel proper, I would be surprised if the figure was as many as five.

The Katyusha rocket is notoriously inaccurate and is of World War II vintage. The threat it poses to Israeli territory is negligible. Suicide attacks, while brutal, do not impinge on Israeli territory at all - save the occupied security zone.

Now, in the second week of fighting, the Lebanese civilian death toll from seven days of Israeli assault has reached the 80s - an eye for an eye at the rate of eight to one. More if one counts back over other Israeli responses over the last two years.

Who is breeding terror here?

Operation Grapes of Wrath is an overreaction. It stems from Peres's poor standing prior to the election and his frustrations with Hamas bombings.

If that is the case and the Lebanese offer an easier target than Hamas then, as the Arabs say, Insha Allah (as God wills). But please, Ms Nicholas, don't play the martyr out of turn.

Rob Taylor,

April 19 Drummoyne.

All decent people throughout the world must be united by feelings of sadness and regret that so many lives have been lost in the current Lebanese conflict. Similarly, all decent people must be united in a feeling of sadness and sympathy for the innocent civilians having to live in underground bunkers inside northern Israel. They are unable to go to work, buy food and send children to school without being hit by Katyusha rockets being fired from within Lebanon.

Operation Grapes of Wrath

It is indeed tragic and cruel that Hezbollah terrorists would endanger the lives of women and children by launching their merciless attacks on civilian targets from sites metres away from refugee camps.

Surely, all decent people recognise the obligation of governments to protect their citizens. The reason there has not been more loss of life in northern Israel is because its Government is prepared to defend the right to live in safety.

The Hezbollah claim they are striking at Israeli men, women and children to get Israel out of the buffer zone in southern Lebanon. But why is Israel there? Because these very same civilians' lives were under constant threat from Hezbollah before the buffer zone existed.

From the outset of this latest conflict, Israel has repeatedly said that they would stop assaults on Hezbollah strongholds as soon as Israel can be reassured that its citizens will be safe from Katyusha rocket attacks.

The reply was a new round of rocket attacks.

Yes, we must grieve for all the innocent lives lost, maimed and under threat. We must demand that Hezbollah stop using their brethren as human shields in a cowardly attempt to protect themselves from a Government fulfilling its obligation to protect its own citizens.

Ron Wiseman,

President, State Zionist Council NSW,

April 21 Darlinghurst.

With reference to the letter from Sarah Nicolas (April 19) defending the indefensible actions by the Israelis in Lebanon. Would the bombing of Belfast by Britain be suitable retribution for an IRA bomb attack in London?

Colin Bolton,

April 19 Bondi Beach.

It appears the ratbag who shot Yitshak Rabin has achieved his aim. Pity.

Rod Denson,

April 21 Mona Vale.

Load-Date: July 23, 2007

ISRAELI SHELLS KILL 75 LEBANESE< CLINTON CALLING FOR CEASE-FIRE

Philadelphia Daily News

APRIL 19, 1996 Friday PM EDITION

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Section: NATIONAL; Pg. 07

Length: 606 words

Byline: Fadi Bardan, Associated Press

Dateline: QANA, Lebanon

Body

Israeli shells killed at least 75 Lebanese refugees yesterday, filling a U.N. camp with blood, horror and survivors' cries for revenge.

Israel admitted an "unfortunate mistake" in the attack, which seemed certain to further deepen hatred in the Middle East.

The carnage, which left bodies torn apart, was the worst since Israel began its onslaught against Hezbollah guerrillas in south Lebanon eight days ago. While expressing regret for the civilian deaths, Israel fiercely defended its Lebanon campaign and said the shells that hit the civilians had been aimed at Hezbollah rocket launchers.

President Clinton called for a cease-fire by all parties to the fighting and ordered Secretary of State Warren Christopher to the region to mediate. Israel said it would accept a cease-fire if others agreed to it, a move that would leave Israel short of its goal of shutting down the Hezbollah war machine. The U.N. Security Council late yesterday also called for a cease-fire.

The Israeli attack left the U.N. base littered with butchered and headless bodies, shredded clothing and scraps of building materials. Badly wounded people were rushed to a hospital, where angry civilians attacked three Hezbollah members, beating them with sticks and chairs and accusing them of being the source of Lebanon's misery.

Timur Goksel, spokesman for the 4,500-strong U.N. peacekeeping force in Lebanon, confirmed that 75 people perished in the Qana attack.

Lebanese leaders called the Israeli shelling "the mother of all atrocities" and a new page in "the annals of terror."

Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres said, "I'm pained by every person, every woman, every child, who is being killed," But he said Israel had "no choice but to defend its citizens," and he accused the Iranian-backed guerrillas of Hezbollah of hiding behind civilians.

ISRAELI SHELLS KILL 75 LEBANESE < CLINTON CALLING FOR CEASE-FIRE

The United Nations said that shortly before the Israeli shells landed, Hezbollah guerrillas about 300 yards from the U.N. compound had fired two Katyusha rockets and eight mortar rounds at the Israelis. The Israeli shells apparently were in retaliation for that fire, but missed their target.

Unlike the hundreds of thousands of Lebanese who fled north when Israel warned it would attack their villages, the 6,000 refugees at U.N. bases had elected to stay in the south, believing they were safe among the peacekeepers. About 500 refugees were at the U.N. base in Qana.

Refugee children were playing outside, watched by their parents from a grass hut - a traditional bouri that the 70 Fijian soldiers at the base had built to remind themselves of their Pacific Island home - when the first of five 155 mm howitzer shells slammed into the U.N. base at 3 p.m. It was just after lunch.

As the smoke cleared from the compound, dozens of victims lay on the ground in pools of blood, their bodies cut to pieces by shrapnel. Some bodies were headless. Peacekeepers broke down in tears as they covered the dead with blankets.

Women wailed and beat their chests as they stood over the bodies. Men slapped their palms to their foreheads in disbelief, and some shouted: "Death to Israel! Death to America!"

More than a hundred people were wounded, including four soldiers from the Fijian force at Qana, 8 miles southeast of the port city of Tyre, Goksel reported.

At Jebel Amel hospital in Tyre, Kamel Nayef, 16, a high school student, moaned from the pain of his bloodstained, plastered right leg.

"I knocked on the door of doomsday," he said. "I felt I was facing a firing squad."

An exact death toll was difficult to determine because casualties were spread around several hospitals and many of those killed in Qana had been blown apart.

Notes

MIDEAST TERROR

Graphic

PHOTO;

PHOTO (1)

1. Angry Muslim refugees in Qana react shortly after Israeli bombing (ASSOCIATED PRESS)

Load-Date: October 17, 2002

Peace in Lebanon: Tantalizing but Still Intangible - Correction Appended

The New York Times

Correction Appended

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Distribution: Foreign Desk

Section: Section A; ; Section A; Page 6; Column 3; Foreign Desk ; Column 3;

Length: 1800 words

Byline: By JOHN F. BURNS

By JOHN F. BURNS

Dateline: CAMP SHAMROCK, Lebanon,

Body

A signpost mounted by Irish troops at the heart of this United Nations military encampment just outside the Israeli occupation zone in southern Lebanon brings home one of the ineluctable facts that makes peace in this region so elusive. "Dublin 3,930 kilometers," one of the hand-lettered arrowheads reads, about 2,435 miles.

Opposing it, pointing due south, is another arrowhead. "Tel Aviv 135 kilometers," about 84 miles, it says.

The sign is a measure of the compact scale on which conflicts between Israel and its neighbors have played out.

From United Nations outposts near here, the Ramin kibbutz in northern Israel is visible on a thickly wooded hillside less than 10 miles east. With powerful field glasses, a visitor can see people in shorts moving about on the kibbutz. The pilots of the Israeli F-16 fighter-bombers that fly high overhead, dropping "smart bombs" with deadly accuracy, are only minutes away from bases in Israel.

It takes only a small leap of the imagination to believe that if relations between Lebanon and Israel were normalized, the wealthier among the Shiite Muslim population that predominates here could drive to Tel Aviv in midmorning to shop or have lunch, and be back for tea. Israel's largest city would then be only a little bit farther from this biblical landscape of rocky hillsides above groves of olive, orange and lemon trees than Beirut, Lebanon's capital, an hour's drive to the north.

For the moment, this remains a dream, albeit one that seems closer to realization. Prime Minister Ehud Barak of Israel promised during the election campaign that brought him to power last year that he would withdraw the Israeli troops that have held an occupation zone in southern Lebanon since 1985. The fulfillment of the promise would be a first, essential toward ending the enmity that Israel's occupation, and the guerrilla war it ignited, has sown between Israel and Lebanon, a country that is by tradition perhaps the most cosmopolitan of all Israel's Arab neighbors. On March 5, Israel's cabinet unanimously endorsed a commitment to a July withdrawal.

Peace in Lebanon : Tantalizing but Still Intangible

What a full and lasting peace might mean is already apparent in the routines of one man. Timur Goksel, 56, a Turkish citizen, has been a United Nations political adviser in Lebanon since 1978, when Israel's initial invasion prompted deployment of a United Nations force that now has 4,500 men.

Mr. Goksel recently met with a high-ranking Israeli military official in Tel Aviv in the morning, then drove to Tyre on Lebanon's coast for a lunch-time meeting with a local commander of Hezbollah, the Lebanese guerrilla force confronting the Israelis. He drove home to Haifa, the Israeli coastal city where he makes his home, in time to collect his children from school.

"Nothing to it," Mr. Goksel said on a stopover in Tyre one morning recently, before returning to Israel.

Visions of what peace might bring have begun to entrance people here since Mr. Barak made his pledge last year to withdraw Israel's troops.

Ahead of the deadline, United Nations officials say, Israel's 1,000-member force has become more wary in the occupation zone, and Israeli newspapers have quoted young conscripts as saying they pray not to be "the last Israeli soldier to die in Lebanon."

For the moment, though, the hills and gullies around Tibnin, the Lebanese village where Camp Shamrock is situated, echo almost every day to the boom and rattle of rocket, artillery and machine-gun fire. That is the currency of exchange between Israeli forces and their allies in a Christian-led militia force, the South Lebanon Army, and their antagonists in Hezbollah, or Party of God, the Lebanese force that draws its inspiration from the militantly Islamic ideals of the pro-Iranian Shiite clerics who lead it.

Over more than two decades of warfare, the fighting here has become such a fixture in the consciousness that people on both sides have built entire lives around it. In northern Israel, the populations of whole towns and kibbutzim disappear into bunkers within minutes of sirens signifying the risk of Hezbollah firing a volley of the Russian-made Katyusha rockets that have been the most terrifying, because they are the least accurate, of the weapons in the guerrillas' armory.

In Lebanon, where shelters are rare, people hunker down behind stone walls along the roads, or hasten into basements, when Israeli forces open up with 155-millimeter artillery or launch F-16 fighter jets.

Other local residents long since migrated north, to Beirut or other Lebanese cities -- or abroad, to Africa, Europe or the United States. Some made fortunes and returned to build huge, pretentious, pillared-and-towered mansions that are the most prominent feature along roads that wind through the hills. One of the few things about the war that local residents find even vaguely amusing is when Israeli aircraft flatten one of these monstrous houses, suspecting it of being a Hezbollah stronghold, as they did in January.

How the Israeli withdrawal will occur will depend on complex maneuvering between Israel, Syria and Lebanon. At the moment, with no formal negotiations, all manner of speculation is running. Will Syria and Israel resume their suspended talks, settle differences over the Golan Heights, and make a deal in which Syria, through its overlordship in Lebanon, guarantees that Israeli forces can withdraw in peace?

Or will it be a withdrawal under fire, raising the risk of harsh Israeli retaliation, possibly more bombing raids of the kind that destroyed three Lebanese power plants on Feb. 8?

While tacticians on all sides puzzle out the combinations, the result in the war zone has been heightened uncertainty. Israel's forces take the initiative less and less, but still respond fiercely when attacked.

United Nations officials say they have picked up signs that the 2,000-man South Lebanon Army, about to be orphaned by the Israeli pullout, is beginning to disintegrate. Many of its fighters are Shiite Muslims, apparently press-ganged into service with threats against their homes and families by the force's Maronite Christian commanders. There is concern that they might defect to Hezbollah.

Peace in Lebanon : Tantalizing but Still Intangible

A demoralizing final straw for the South Lebanon Army came on Jan. 30 when its field commander, Col. Akl Hashem, was assassinated by Hezbollah with a roadside bomb as he walked his dog outside his heavily guarded compound in a village just south of here. The attack was videotaped by Hezbollah for showing on its Beirut-based television channel, complete with a blinding flash and mushroom cloud of dust and smoke.

The attack touched off intensified fighting, which culminated in the deaths of seven Israeli soldiers and the Israeli raids on the Lebanese power plants.

Even the United Nations force -- formally the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon -- feels the uncertainty. Some men in the Irish battalion, one of nine national contingents in the force, have done as many as 14 six-month tours here since 1978. The United Nations Security Council resolution that demanded Israel's "unconditional" withdrawal from Lebanon, also in 1978, gave the force the task of "verifying" the pullout, but officers have little idea of how the task will be carried out.

In the meantime, the fighting goes on, and United Nations troops do what little they can to restrain it. How difficult that can be was demonstrated by a tour of the Irish battalion's outposts near Tibnin.

Above the the village of Baraachit, Lt. Enda McGuane, commander of an outpost with six officers and men, mounted a lookout tower buffeted by a chilly wind to show how close-quarters the fighting can be -- and how difficult, or impossible, it is to exact compliance with a 1996 agreement that declared a radius of about 550 yards around any civilian area a "no fire zone."

About 200 yards to one side of the post, close to the village, Lieutenant McGuane pointed to an intersection of low stone walls used as a mortar firing point by Hezbollah. About 500 yards in the other direction, he noted an unoccupied house, also close to the village, that he said was another Hezbollah firing point.

A stop at another United Nations outpost in the village of Haddata made the point more vividly. As the Irish troops prepared to drive visitors into the occupation zone, Hezbollah fighters began firing mortars from points near the village at another fort, like the one at Baraachit occupied by the South Lebanon Army. Almost immediately, the men in the fort responded. A dozen or more times, mortars impacted with a loud crump among the blossoming apple and cherry trees on the hillside, some not more than 500 yards from the United Nations post.

The United Nations lookouts waited for artillery fire on Hezbollah positions from an Israeli position about nine miles away, near the Ramin kibbutz, but none came.

The post commander, Commandant Peter Marron -- the rank is equivalent to major -- ushered his visitors into the shelter of the outpost, where soldiers served coffee. "It's just harassment," he said.

"Hezbollah reminds the Israelis that they're here, and a force to be reckoned with, and the S.L.A. fire back, just to let Hezbollah know they're ready for a fight," he said. The real risk to the Israeli troops and their allies, the Irish officers said, comes when they rotate men out of the forts, exposing their convoys to the roadside bombs and ambushes that have been one of Hezbollah's deadliest tactics.

On the way back to Beirut, the road passed through a village, Qana, that history may mark as the turning point in the Israeli occupation. It is the site of a United Nations compound. On April 18, 1996, Israeli artillery hit a building where local civilians were taking refuge from earlier Israeli barrages, killing 106 men, women and children. Israeli commanders said the strike resulted from targeting errors after Hezbollah fighters fired from a point close to the United Nations compound, but United Nations and Hezbollah representatives maintain that there was no fire from close by at the time.

The site is marked now by the embers of the burned shelter, and, nearby, a desolate cemetery where the victims are buried in crowded rows of gray marble tombs, each 60 to 70 feet long. Each tomb contains the remains of a single family -- 16 people, in one case, their crumpling photographs posted in a misted glass case above the tomb.

Apart from the visitors, there was nobody in the cemetery, just the whistling of the wind as the evening darkened, and the rustling of leaves on decomposing wreaths left atop the tombs. A sign nearby, in English and Arabic,

Peace in Lebanon : Tantalizing but Still Intangible

carried a single, angry message that suggested that it could be years after the Israeli withdrawal before some in the region accept Israel's explanations for the strike and reconcile to peace. "The New Holocaust," the sign said.

<http://www.nytimes.com>

Correction

A map on Wednesday with an article about prospects for peace in southern Lebanon, which may be affected by maneuvering between Israel and Syria, color-coded the Golan Heights incorrectly. The area was captured by Israel from Syria in the 1967 Middle East war and was annexed by Israel in 1981. It is not under Syrian control.

Correction-Date: March 11, 2000, Saturday

Graphic

Photo: At the United Nations outpost in the village of Haddata, Lebanon, schoolgirls walked to their homes past Irish soldiers. Shelling is intermittent on the nearby hillside, as the fighting with Israel continues. (Courtney Kealy for The New York Times)

Map of Israel shows location of Camp Shamrock: Camp Shamrock is a United Nations military post in Lebanon.

Load-Date: March 8, 2000

End of Document

ISRAELI JETS BOMB GUERRILLAS IN LEBANON

The Columbian (Vancouver, WA.)

February 8, 2000, Tuesday

Copyright 2000 The Columbian Publishing Co.

Section: World/Nation; Pg. a3

Length: 467 words

Byline: SAM F. GHATTAS, Associated Press writer

Body

BEIRUT, Lebanon -- Muslim guerrillas killed an Israeli soldier in a rocket attack in southern Lebanon today, Lebanese security officials said, shortly after intense Israeli airstrikes.

The Lebanese officials said the Israeli soldier the sixth to die in south Lebanon this year was killed when guerrillas fired rockets at the Israeli military outpost at Dabshe. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity.

There was no immediate comment from Israel.

Earlier today, orange flames and clouds of black smoke rose over Beirut and other parts of Lebanon as Israeli jets bombed a guerrilla base and destroyed power stations, wounding 15 civilians in a powerful strike they had warned was coming.

Fighter planes roared low over the capital for 30 minutes, and large areas across the country were plunged into darkness. The Jamhour substation outside Beirut lost 11 of its 12 transformers. One in the north was completely destroyed, as was the one in the town of Baalbek in the eastern Bekaa valley. Severe rationing was announced because of the drop in power supply.

Lebanese Prime Minister Salim Hoss said it could be at least a month before repairs would fix the power supply. Damage caused by a similar airstrike on Jamhour last June took four months to fix.

Witnesses said the air raids began with concentrated attacks on Baalbek, where jets unleashed five air-to-surface missiles three on a power station on the edge of the town and two on a Hezbollah guerrilla base in the town.

Hezbollah has been fighting to drive Israeli troops from a security zone Israel established in 1985 to protect its northern settlements from cross-border guerrilla attacks.

Six Israeli soldiers and a senior allied commander have been killed in the fighting in recent weeks. "Those who have harmed us will be harmed," Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak said Monday.

Baalbek's power station burned hours after the strike, witnesses said.

The 15 people wounded, including four women and four children, lived in houses near the station and were injured by flying glass and debris.

ISRAELI JETS BOMB GUERRILLAS IN LEBANON

In two separate strikes, jets fired on the Jamhour substation on a hill overlooking Beirut, triggering anti-aircraft fire and tracers that lit up the night sky.

Beyond that, Lebanon does not have the military capability to counter an Israeli attack, but strikes like the ones launched Tuesday usually invite guerrilla retaliation in the form of Katyusha rockets aimed at Israel's northern border towns.

Tens of thousands of Israelis living near the border fled south or went into bomb shelters, fearing an imminent counterattack by the Iranian-backed Hezbollah.

A Hezbollah statement said the guerrillas "reserve the right to retaliate at the appropriate time, which could come very soon."

Hezbollah did not give an account of any losses from the raid on its base.

Graphic

JOESEPH NAKHLEH/The Associated Press * Airstrikes: Firefighters extinguish a fire at a power station outside Beirut after it was hit by Israeli warplanes early today.

Load-Date: February 8, 2000

LEBANON; Under the shadow of war; Tensions increase between Israel and Syria

The Ottawa Citizen

May 29, 1992, Friday, FINAL EDITION

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Section: NEWS; Pg. A8

Length: 581 words

Byline: JULIE FLINT; LONDON OBSERVER

Body

South Lebanon, one of the the Middle East's most dangerous flashpoints, is once again on the point of eruption.

The last 10 days have seen eight Israeli air raids into Lebanon, one of them the deepest air strike in years. In recent days, the government of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir has warned of a 'limited war' with Syria unless it controls the activities of the pro-Iranian **Hezbollah** party along Israel's northern border.

Three weeks before the general election in Israel with Shamir facing a hawkish new opponent, Labor leader Yitzhak Rabin, the fear in Lebanon is that fresh attacks on Lebanon will win votes in Israel.

The present round of violence was set in motion last week by the Islamic Resistance, the Iranian-backed movement that the Beirut press claims is benefiting from sophisticated new training by Revolutionary Guards in the Syrian-controlled Bekaa Valley.

For the first time in years, resistance fighters succeeded in overrunning a post run by Israel's brutal proxy militia in occupied south Lebanon the so-called South Lebanon Army killing some members of the garrison and capturing others. At the time, the guerrillas ran up the black flag of **Hezbollah** and posted posters of Abbas Musawi, the party leader assassinated with his wife and young child by Israeli gunships three months ago.

Israel responded by striking a **Hezbollah** target in the Bekaa Valley, accompanying this message to Damascus with a verbal one: Syria, which succeeded in disarming the Palestinian Liberation Organisation in Lebanon, must now disarm **Hezbollah**.

Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Sharaa responded in kind: Syria did not seek war with Israel, but would 'meet the challenge' if Israel 'imposed' a war.

The growing tension in south Lebanon highlights the continuing tragedy of Israel's invasion of Lebanon on 6 June, 1982. For Israel, the problem posed 10 years ago by the PLO has been replaced by the far thornier problem of the Islamic Resistance a movement that has no bases, no offices, no weapons dumps, no separate existence from the Lebanese themselves.

For the gentle farming people of south Lebanon, under occupation since 1978, the invasion has meant 10 years of wider occupation and spluttering aggression sometimes boiling over into all-out war.

LEBANON ; Under the shadow of war; Tensions increase between Israel and Syria

In the last few days, according to Israeli figures, 14,000 Lebanese have fled their homes in the South as the SLA warned them to expel Hezbollah activists from their midst and, failing that, to leave their homes. The warning was underpinned by the first attack on the home of an alleged Hezbollah leader.

For the moment, both sides appear to be seeking to limit hostilities. The Islamic Resistance has confined its attacks to occupied south Lebanon, avoiding Katyusha rocket attacks on Galilee; Israel, according to Israeli military correspondents, is choosing its targets with care although not with enough care to avoid new civilian fatalities, including women and children.

But with only a handful of guerrillas killed, Shamir is going into the final election stretch with the assassination of Israel's security chief in Ankara and the bomb attack on its embassy in Argentina that killed 29 still high on the agenda.

The fear in Lebanon is that a mistake a rocket falling on Galilee or a Syrian missile fired at an Israeli plane could lead to the 'limited' Syrian-Israeli war, whose limits, as always, will be in Lebanon.

@Z-SKEY = EDITORIAL: Belligerence backfires again/A14

Graphic

Reuter photo/ Rally: Israelis chant 'Death to Arabs' at Thursday memorial for 15-year-old girl slain by Palestinian Sunday

Load-Date: May 29, 1992

End of Document

**Israel blocks ports;
Two women and four children were killed when an Israeli helicopter rocketed
an ambulance in Lebanon.**

The Tampa Tribune (Florida)

April 14, 1996, Sunday,

METRO EDITION

Copyright 1996 The Tribune Co. Publishes The Tampa Tribune

Section: NATION/WORLD,

Length: 697 words

Byline: A Tribune Wire Service Report

Body

BEIRUT, Lebanon - Israeli gunboats blockaded Lebanese ports Saturday and an Israeli helicopter rocketed an ambulance filled with refugees, killing two women and four children as they fled Israeli air attacks.

The destruction of the white ambulance, equipped with a siren and a blue roof light and marked with the name of a Lebanese charity, was the bloodiest single moment of a 3-day-old Israeli campaign to curb rocket attacks on northern Israel by Shiite Muslim guerrillas of Lebanon's Hezbollah political and military movement.

At least 25 people have been killed, mostly civilians, and more than 85 have been wounded, Lebanese media and police officials reported.

An estimated 200,000 people have fled their homes to escape the pounding by tanks and howitzers in southern Lebanon.

The ambulance attack, witnessed by journalists at a U.N. checkpoint five miles south of the port city of Tyre, enraged television viewers in Lebanon and undercut Israeli claims that its offensive is limited to strongholds of the guerrillas and is being carried out with surgical precision.

"Everyone has a bad taste in his mouth," said Beirut banker Anas Hibri, 48, who said Hezbollah fighters are waging "a legal and legitimate struggle" to end the 12-year Israeli occupation of a 9-mile-wide "security zone" in southern Lebanon.

But an Israeli army spokesman said the ambulance had been attacked because it was carrying a Hezbollah guerrilla from one position to another.

"If other individuals in the vehicle were hit during the attack, they had been used by the Hezbollah as a cover for Hezbollah activities," the spokesman said, adding that Israel had warned Lebanese citizens to keep clear of guerrillas.

Israeli commanders noted that the Iranian-backed guerrillas fired only a few random Katyusha rockets on Saturday, suggesting that they had lost the fixed positions from which to fire the large salvos of earlier days.

Israel blocks ports; Two women and four children were killed when an Israeli helicopter rocketed an ambulance in Lebanon .

"They've been able only to fire a very small number of Katyushas, about four since last evening," an Israeli officer said. Nonetheless, Israel's northernmost city, Kiryat Shemona, was virtually deserted as residents fled to the south for safety.

By contrast, the Israeli army said it had fired thousands of artillery rounds at villages in southern Lebanon where the Israelis said guerrillas had bases.

The blockade of Beirut was the first since 1982, although Israel has blocked other ports more recently. Thursday and Friday, Israeli helicopters struck targets inside Beirut, also for the first time since the 1982 invasion of Lebanon.

The Lebanese army issued a statement saying, "Israeli gunboats are intercepting commercial ships heading to and from Beirut port within Lebanese territorial waters." There were reports that the Israelis ordered commercial vessels to stay 12 miles from shore, and that the ports of Sidon and Tyre were also closed.

Israeli officials said their country's navy was checking ships for weapons bound for the guerrillas. The blockade also served to increase the pressures on the Lebanese and Syrian governments.

Marwan Iskander, an economic adviser to Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Hariri, said Lebanon gets 60 percent of its food through the ports.

The Israeli army said the blockade will last "as long as necessary" to keep any arms from reaching **Hezbollah** forces by sea.

"If the blockade is maintained for any length of time, the cost of food in Lebanon will increase dramatically," Iskander said. "They are trying to squeeze the government as much as they can."

The Lebanese government, powerless to block Israel, lodged a formal protest with the U.N. Security Council and asked for an emergency meeting of the 22-nation Arab League. Lebanese officials, including Hariri, also met in Damascus with Syrian President Hafez Assad.

Friday, an Israeli strike against a Syrian anti-aircraft position, in which a Syrian soldier was killed, raised fears that Syria would be drawn into the fray. But there was no indication Saturday of any Syrian action, and Western diplomats in Israel said Assad had long been careful not to provoke any armed confrontation with Israel.

Hezbollah and other Islamic militant groups joined in threatening new violence against Israel.

Graphic

PHOTO,

Nurses carry a wounded child in the hospital at Tyre, Lebanon, Saturday after Israeli helicopter fire hit an ambulance. Associated Press photo

Load-Date: April 16, 1996

Peace seekers won't give up despite shelling

USA TODAY

April 19, 1996, Friday,

FINAL EDITION

Copyright 1996 Gannett Company, Inc.

Section: NEWS;; Cover story

Length: 909 words

Byline: Lee Michael Katz

Body

The search for peace in the Middle East has survived bombings and massacres, assassinations and hostage takings. Now another tragedy puts the peacemakers in the Mideast and the United States to the test again.

As least 75 Lebanese civilians died yesterday when an Israeli artillery barrage missed its target -- **Hezbollah** guerrillas who were shelling Israel -- and slammed into a U.N. refugee center.

Bodies lay on the ground in a scene of civilian carnage that horrified television viewers around the world. U.N. peacekeepers were powerless to stop the destruction on either side.

Yet the peacemakers press on.

Amid the chaos in Lebanon, Israel's Prime Minister Shimon Peres met Thursday with Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat to reaffirm that final peace talks between Israel and the Palestinians will begin on schedule next month.

A Palestinian Council meets next week to remove a final obstruction to peace talks: part of the Palestine Liberation Organization's charter that calls for the destruction of the state of Israel.

The trend toward peace has lurched forward even as the violence seems to set it back:

-- A February 1994 massacre of Palestinians praying in a Hebron mosque by an Israel settler failed to derail peace efforts. Two

Peace seekers won't give up despite shelling

Israel-Palestinian peace agreements were signed after that incident.

-- A series of suicide bomb attacks in February and March inside Israel by Palestinian Hamas terrorists killed 59. The latest Israeli victim died last week.

Another potential suicide bomber blew up an East Jerusalem hotel room. Yet, Israel-Palestinian efforts to forge peace have continued.

-- The assassination of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin last November by an Israeli radical who was opposed to the peace process only stiffened Israeli public opinion to continue negotiations with Arab neighbors.

In fact, the quest for Middle East peace is likely to intensify as a result of Thursday's grim scenes.

Israel has achieved peace agreements with the Palestinians, Jordanian and Egyptians. And an accord with Lebanon and its powerful overseer Syria is the most gaping hole left in the intricate puzzle of an overall Middle East peace accord.

The U.S. has had a key role in keeping the peace movement going and immediately after the Lebanon bombing, President Clinton dispatched special Middle East peace envoy Dennis Ross to the region. Secretary of State Warren Christopher ripped up his European travel schedule to head for the Middle East this weekend.

Christopher was barely airborne when he began calling Lebanese, Syrian and Israeli officials to try and work out a deal as he flew from Russia to the Netherlands.

Thursday's carnage prompted the low-key Christopher to personally put U.S. prestige on the line to try and broker a quick cease-fire

between Israel and Hezbollah. "The objective will be to find a way to end the death and the fighting," said State Department spokesman Glyn Davies.

Clinton himself was forced to deal with the Lebanese tragedy upon arrival in St. Petersburg, Russia, instead of focusing on his summit meeting with Russian leader Boris Yeltsin.

Clinton offered a "somber moment" of condolence to Lebanese families killed and U.N. peacekeepers who also suffered casualties.

"Today's events make painfully clear the importance of bringing an end to the current violence in Lebanon," the president said.

Noting the latest "death and suffering," Davies added, "This tragedy might spur the parties to the conflict to agree to a cease-fire."

Peace seekers won't give up despite shelling

Thursday, Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Hariri said, "Look what has happened now. (Israel) started seven days ago, saying they want to eliminate Hezbollah. They end with eliminating civilians" and making "over 400,000 people homeless."

Even while Israel was shelling Lebanon, peace plans were in the works.

The U.S. had been promoting a plan that would have Syria and Lebanon guarantee an end to Hezbollah attacks on Israel. In turn, after about nine months, Israel would discuss withdrawing from the nine-mile buffer zone it occupies in Southern Lebanon.

Israeli and U.S. officials have said that Lebanon and Syria were doing nothing to curb Hezbollah attacks on Israel. Lebanon was allowing Hezbollah to use civilian areas as a shield for their raids. Syria, which has about 40,000 troops -- and great influence -- in the area was not using its influence.

The French government, which governed Lebanon in the period between the world wars, proposed a peace plan that would require less vigorous action by Syria and give a greater role to U.N. troops.

But for peacemakers, it is a long road.

In the Middle East -- holy land for Muslims, Jews and Christians -- "an eye for an eye" is not merely a biblical reference, but a way of life.

The bottom line remains unchanged.

For all the heartbreak of the Middle East, despite the civilian deaths and the brutal carnage, Hezbollah vows never to stop lobbing rockets at Israel unless Israel withdraws from Lebanon. And Israel vows never to leave unless Syria and Lebanon guarantee to silence Hezbollah.

In Lebanon, Prime Minister Hariri said in an interview, "I hope this bloodshed will stop." The military campaign "will continue to kill civilian women, children and men and not solve the problem.

Hezbollah will remain intact."

In Israel, Benjamin Netanyahu, leader of Israel's conservative Likud party, said, "Every one in Israel feels this pain. But it is Israel's "right and duty to self-defense to halt the terrorist

Peace seekers won't give up despite shelling

actions against us."

And the quest for peace goes on.

Contributing: Bill Nichols in St. Petersburg, Russia.

Graphic

PHOTO, Color, Ali Asy, Reuters; PHOTO, Color, Muhamed Zatari, AP; Aftermath: Fijian soldiers assigned to the U.N. peace-keeping mission carry a body out of a burned shelter at the U.N. refugee camp hit by Israeli artillery shells near Cana village in Lebanon. Homeless: Muslim refugees, who had sought sanctuary from an Israeli offensive, see their shelter destroyed.

Load-Date: April 19, 1996

End of Document

U.N. peacekeepers admit failure as they languish in Lebanon

Deseret News (Salt Lake City)

January 24, 1999, Sunday

Copyright 1999 The Deseret News Publishing Co.

Section: WIRE;

Length: 1280 words

Byline: Associated Press

Body

QANA, Lebanon -- Morning mist was still rising from the silvery leaves of a hillside olive grove when nine Shiite Muslim guerrillas set about their task: positioning a 106 mm recoilless cannon and preparing to fire a few quick rounds at an Israeli army outpost just across the ridge.

So the passing group of U.N. peacekeepers patrolling the rugged valleys of southern Lebanon did the only thing they could: They approached the guerrillas -- bearded, edgy, brandishing AK-47 rifles -- and very, very politely asked them to go away.

"I shook hands with each of them, and talked quietly and reasonably," recounted Maj. Jerry Tuikoro, gesturing toward the grove where he and his small contingent of peacekeepers from faraway Fiji had come across the guerrillas from the Iranian-backed Hezbollah a few days earlier.

The U.N. troopers, who are allowed to use their weapons only in self-defense, must rely under such circumstances on persuasiveness. This time, it worked.

"They were frustrated," Tuikoro recalled. "They're trigger-happy, some of them! But we just kept on talking, and finally they left."

Even though this particular encounter ended peacefully, the U.N. troops -- like most of the half-dozen parties to the muddled proxy war in southern Lebanon -- harbor few illusions about a real halt to hostilities any time soon. There's always another morning, another hillside, another weapon of choice.

Since its creation in 1978, the nine-nation U.N. force has had the same mission: to verify an Israeli troop withdrawal, help the Lebanese government reassert sovereignty, and establish a secure area. The peacekeepers are the first to admit none of the goals has been achieved.

"We've been fighting for our own survival, sandwiched between the warring parties," said Timur Goksel, a senior U.N. adviser. "Peacekeeping? You have to have peace to keep it."

In the 390-square-mile U.N.-patrolled zone, Israeli troops and their allied Lebanese militia do daily battle with the guerrillas of Hezbollah, along with fighters from other Islamic groups.

Also in the volatile mix is a dormant but potentially dangerous band of disaffected Palestinians who do not support Yasser Arafat's attempts to make peace with Israel.

U.N. peacekeepers admit failure as they languish in Lebanon

"It's a microcosm of the Middle East," Goksel said of the U.N. zone, which runs inland from the biblical port city of Tyre toward the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights. "The amount of ammunition flying around is quite something."

With this welter of combatants, the peacekeepers often find themselves in the line of fire. Over the years, 222 of them have died.

In Israel, there is growing impetus -- driven by steadily mounting casualties of their own -- to find a way out of what is widely seen as a military morass. Israel keeps about 1,500 combat soldiers in a swath of southern Lebanon to protect northern Israel from cross-border attacks.

But in spite of Israeli sentiment in favor of a negotiated pullback, the stage could be set for an escalation of hostilities.

After Hezbollah guerrillas rocketed northern Israeli towns in December, the government of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu threatened harsh retaliatory strikes, perhaps deep inside Lebanon. In one week in mid-January, Israel staged four straight days of air raids in the south.

The guerrillas say they will continue to exact revenge for the deaths of their own fighters as well as those of civilians. Their December rocket attacks came after a stray missile killed a Lebanese woman and six of her children.

Few know the war's toll on ordinary villagers better than the people of Qana, a shell-pocked market town 7 miles north of the Israeli border. The Fijian contingent of the U.N. peacekeeping force is based here -- a circumstance that had unintended and horrific consequences nearly three years ago.

On April 18, 1996, at the height of an Israeli bombing campaign against Hezbollah, about 800 villagers took refuge at the Fijian base, believing they would be safe there. Instead, the flimsy huts in which they were sheltering came under fire, and about 100 civilians died.

The exact number of dead remains unknown because the bodies of those killed, many of them women and children, were so badly mangled.

Near the site of the shelling, villagers have built a memorial of long marble tombs decorated with portraits of the dead. One of the shelled huts has been left as it was, except for a new roof. Blood-caked blankets and scraps of burned metal still litter the charred floor inside.

Nawal Bolgi, 48, who lost 20 relatives, wept as she recalled what happened that day. "Boom -- no more family," she said. "Everyone was dead."

Israel said the shelling was a mistake, and accused the guerrillas of causing the catastrophe by staging attacks from civilian areas in full knowledge they would trigger retaliation. But even if Hezbollah used villagers as a shield, support for the guerrillas has only grown stronger in Qana.

Posters of Hezbollah's leader, Sheik Hassan Nasrallah, are everywhere, and the town is dotted with arresting tributes to dead guerrillas: larger-than-life, colorfully painted metal cutouts of bearded young men in turbans and robes.

Villagers proudly describe the rituals undertaken by youths preparing to take part in Hezbollah operations: They perform ablutions, recite Koranic verses and write letters to their families telling them they are happy to sacrifice their lives.

"We have great respect for members of the (Islamic) resistance," said 70-year-old Kamel Foutouni, the town's mukhtar, or headman. "They're here in their own land, and it's their right to fight against Israeli occupation."

Although Hezbollah gets funds and weapons from outside, its homegrown brand of nationalism makes it all but impossible to eradicate the guerrillas.

U.N. peacekeepers admit failure as they languish in Lebanon

"They're local guys," said Goksel, the senior U.N. adviser, who has spent 20 years in southern Lebanon. "They're villagers."

Even Israel acknowledges Hezbollah's growing sophistication has added to the difficulties of fighting a guerrilla movement -- a process likened by former Prime Minister Shimon Peres to "eating soup with a fork."

Guerrillas who once waged war with crude human-wave attacks now carry out meticulous and technologically advanced attacks on Israeli troops. Hezbollah's level of reconnaissance and planning is described as extremely high.

Lebanese villagers, who closely follow developments in Israel, are now nervous over the current election campaign, in which Israeli security is the key issue. Some fear a repeat of the Qana disaster, which came in the course of a major Israeli offensive in southern Lebanon before Israel's 1996 election.

Even amid such fears, there are indicators of guarded optimism.

More and more villagers, who fled north during earlier outbreaks of fighting, have been returning to homes in the south. Sumptuous villas with dramatic vistas of banana fields and blue Mediterranean are springing up on the hilltops -- even if most still stand empty while their owners wait to see if heavy fighting will resume.

As for the peacekeepers, they say they have some small successes to point to. Even if not backed up by firepower, their network of observation posts and checkpoints discourages movement of weapons and fighters. Relations with the Israeli military, long tense, are warming.

And the U.N. troops, who provide services to villagers ranging from medical care to generator power, are reaping a goodwill dividend after long years of service.

Strong bonds were forged during the Qana shellings, when blue-helmeted Fijian soldiers wept in the ruins as they tended the wounded. In the town's streets, the "tawareh" -- the word for peacekeepers in the local Arabic dialect -- are often trailed by a crowd of children.

Load-Date: January 24, 1999

AS TRUCE BEGINS, LEBANESE RETURN TO THEIR HOMES

The New York Times

April 28, 1996, Sunday, Late Edition - Final

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Distribution: Foreign Desk

Section: Section 1; ; Section 1; Page 1; Column 6; Foreign Desk ; Column 6;

Length: 1154 words

Byline: By DOUGLAS JEHL

By DOUGLAS JEHL

Dateline: QSAIBI, Lebanon, April 27

Body

Tens of thousands of Lebanese piled their possessions into almost anything that could move and returned today to villages like this one to survey what they had fled when Israeli forces attacking Hezbollah guerrillas laid siege to southern Lebanon.

The lucky ones were able to simply fling open doors and shutters to bring their homes back to life, but others could only gape aghast at what 16 days had wrought.

Shattered roads, broken bridges and downed power cables snarled the homeward tide, at full surge within hours after an American-brokered limited cease-fire took effect, and for men like Abbas Wahbi the worst was yet to come.

"Thank you, Israel," Mr. Wahbi whispered in fury as he picked through the ruins of his furniture shop, crushed almost beyond recognition by an Israeli bombardment that made a shooting gallery of this village's main street. "I am not Hezbollah," he said. "I am not the resistance. I am Lebanese."

An all-day tour today of areas that were impassable as long as the Israeli offensive continued found a patchwork of destruction. Some villages were spared and others were reeling under the weight of a bombardment that Israel said was meant to halt rocket attacks on its own settlements by Hezbollah guerrillas.

In some places there was even a glint of celebration as bearded young men greeted returning residents with freshly cut roses to mark what many said had been a Hezbollah victory.

But mostly the mood was subdued as many of the 400,000 refugees began to patch together the homes and villages ripped apart in a military operation that took 160 Lebanese lives.

[In the northern Israeli town of Qiryat Shemona today, those people who had not fled the rocket attacks of Hezbollah guerrillas emerged from bomb shelters, relieved that the fighting had ended. But many were skeptical that the peace would hold, and criticized their Government for halting the fighting without stronger guarantees against further attacks. Page 8.]

AS TRUCE BEGINS, LEBANESE RETURN TO THEIR HOMES

In Harees, south of here, a clutch of women sobbed on a hillside as they gazed down upon the village cemetery, torn asunder by a rocket attack that had toppled tombstones and left raw craters in hallowed earth. Not far away in Kafra, it was an elderly man who sat in tears where his home had stood for more than 60 years.

"This was the fruit of my labors," said Sulman Hamdan, 87 years old, who lost not only the house he built but 150 olive trees in an attack by Israeli jets.

Over and over again, he asked: "Where are you, God?"

As quiet returned for now to a region that has not known peace since an Israeli incursion in 1978, some members of the 4,500-man force of United Nations peacekeepers that has been stationed here for all of those 18 years spoke with new frustration about what they called the near-impossibility of their task.

After an offensive in which Israeli guns fired into or close to United Nations positions 242 times, and in which peace was brokered by the United States and other powers without any United Nations role, they warned that a lasting cease-fire would be impossible as long as Israel continued its occupation of Lebanese land.

"In one month's time, everything will be back to the way it was three weeks ago," said one United Nations officer who spoke on condition of anonymity. "All that life will be lost for nothing."

That is an apprehension shared by many Lebanese, and some spoke today of their concern that the lull would be only temporary. But as the day dawned warm and brilliant not long after the cease-fire took hold at 4 A.M., southern Lebanon's coastal highway quickly grew clogged with cars, trucks and buses piled with the possessions of people eager to be refugees no more.

Along a route made perilous for the last 10 days by Israeli shelling, the southward flow of people raced through the same checkpoints they had passed when fleeing north. But even as the Lebanese Army began to clear up the mess, traffic clogged not far from the highway in the face of the bomb craters and rubble left behind by Israeli attacks that in the final days of the campaign concentrated on the region's roads, bridges and some water pipelines.

In some villages today, Lebanese soldiers shinnied up electric poles to help restring downed wires, while a team of engineers dispatched by Hezbollah, which maintains a broad social welfare organization, were among those touring the region as they began to assess the need for more full-scale reconstruction.

But in the places adjoining what Israel calls its security zone in southern Lebanon, the atmosphere remained tense, with squads of Lebanese soldiers in combat gear conducting patrols.

For the fortunate in a war that emptied southern Lebanon of 90 percent of its population, the return home today may not have been much more traumatic than any Saturday-morning drive in Lebanese traffic. Many flew national flags or black banners advertising their sympathy for Hezbollah as they sped south, and arrived in villages like Qsaibi, population 7,000, to find that much had remained untouched.

Ali Salman Mansur, 65 years old and one of the few who stayed behind during the fighting, locked in a cellar, emerged this morning to confess that his heart had pounded during the worst of the bombardment, some of it coming from Israeli guns at a post in the occupied zone that lies less than three miles away.

His daughter and 12 grandchildren, who had waited out the fighting in Beirut, returned to find their house in need only of a good cleaning.

But countless others discovered catastrophic damage to homes, cars and businesses, including Mr. Wahbi, the furniture dealer, whose finest upholstered pieces lay in fragments among piles of dust and glass from an attack that blew out the front wall from a row of buildings and shattered nearly every window on the street.

Still, across southern Lebanon today there was some sense of self-congratulation at a cease-fire that put an end to the Israeli assaults without eliminating the right of Hezbollah and other forces to attack Israeli soldiers on Lebanese

AS TRUCE BEGINS, LEBANESE RETURN TO THEIR HOMES

soil -- and it was expressed not just by the small group of young men who handed out candy and roses to those who entered their village near here.

In several places, refugees arriving by the truckload cheered the armed men who welcomed them home, and some greeted the men, who identified themselves as Hezbollah fighters, with repeated kisses on the cheek in the formal Arabic style.

The guerrillas themselves were in high spirits, hugging fellow fighters they had feared dead or wounded, and swapping battle stories to a backdrop of military music that in several villages blared from car radios and boom boxes.

"I wanted to congratulate our brave heroes," said Mustafa Atieh, who had just returned from Beirut to his village of Jibsheet with his wife and four young daughters and stopped to join in an impromptu celebration in the town square. "All of us know that Hezbollah has won a very big victory."

Graphic

Photos: Lebanese who had fled to Beirut started home to southern Lebanon yesterday after the shelling was halted. (Reuters) (pg. 1); In villages across southern Lebanon, the fortunes of war left the houses of some refugees untouched by the Israeli bombardment. Others were not so lucky. A woman wept yesterday by the ruins of her home. (Agence France-Presse) (pg. 8)

Map of Lebanon highlighting Qsaibi. (pg. 8)

Load-Date: April 28, 1996

Muslim extremists warn France

The Times (London)

July 22 1987, Wednesday

Copyright 1987 Times Newspapers Limited

Section: Issue 62827.

Length: 206 words

Byline: From A Correspondent

Dateline: WEST BEIRUT

Body

Thousands of Iranian-backed Muslim fundamentalist took to the streets of the Lebanese town of Baalbek yesterday to threaten France with terrorist attacks and vow to turn the waters of the Gulf into a grave for Americans, reminding Washington of the Beirut suicide attack in 1983 that killed more than 200 Marines.

More than 3,500 **Hezbollah** (Party of God) gunmen and Iranian Revolutionary Guards clergymen and **women** in black chadors shook their fists in anger and contempt for France over its decision to break diplomatic ties with Tehran and for the US for reflagging Kuwaiti tankers.

Mr Subhi Tfeili, a senior **Hezbollah** official, told the crowd: 'The Security Council decision is a devilish one and aims at declaring war on the Muslims. This rally is the first day of our battle against evil. We will turn the waters of the Gulf into graves for the bodies of the Americans and others.'

The angry demonstrators set French, American and Israeli flags on fire and walked over dummies representing President Reagan and President Mitterrand.

The threats against France by **Hezbollah** and two other Iranian-backed groups prompted the French Ambassador, M Paul Blanc, to declare a 'state of emergency' for his staff and French nationals in Lebanon.

Load-Date: September 21, 2000

ISRAEL SHELLS SOUTHERN LEBANON, BLOCKADES PORTS

St. Louis Post-Dispatch (Missouri)

April 14, 1996, Sunday, FIVE STAR LIFT Edition

Copyright 1996 St. Louis Post-Dispatch, Inc.

Section: NEWS; Pg. 3A

Length: 905 words

Dateline: JERUSALEM

Body

In retaliation for recent attacks on northern Israel by Muslim guerrillas, Israeli gunboats Saturday blockaded Beirut and other Lebanese ports, and Israeli forces rained shells on southern Lebanon.

An Israeli helicopter fired a rocket at a Lebanese ambulance packed with refugees, killing two women and four children.

The helicopter attack, witnessed by journalists at a U.N. checkpoint five miles south of the Lebanese port city of Tyre, enraged television viewers in Lebanon and undercut Israeli assertions that its offensive is limited to strongholds of the Shiite Muslim guerrillas and is being carried out with surgical precision.

The Israelis said the ambulance was being used as a shield by guerrillas of Hezbollah (Party of God), the militant Shiite group responsible for attacks on northern Israel.

Israel has warned Lebanese civilians to avoid the guerrillas, an Israeli spokesman said.

The ambulance belonged to a local civil defense unit affiliated with Shiite political groups, according to Lebanese security sources speaking on condition of anonymity. They said the vehicle was evacuating people from Mansouri, one of 48 villages the Israelis ordered vacated before the Israel bombardments.

"We picked up the people. Then, I heard a whooshing sound. I was sucked out of the vehicle," driver Abbas Mdeihli said from his bed at the Najm hospital in Tyre.

The head of the international Red Cross, Philippe Gaillard, said the ambulance attack violated international humanitarian law.

Israeli commanders noted that the guerrillas of Hezbollah fired only a few random Katyusha rockets into northern Israel on Saturday, suggesting that they had lost the fixed positions from which they had fired large salvos earlier.

Nonetheless, Israel's northernmost city, Qiryat Shemona, was virtually deserted, as residents fled to the south for safety.

By contrast, the Israeli army - now in the third day of its offensive to strike at Hezbollah and to force Syria and Lebanon to curb the guerrillas - said it had fired thousands of artillery rounds at villages in southern Lebanon where the Israelis said guerrillas had bases.

ISRAEL SHELLS SOUTHERN LEBANON , BLOCKADES PORTS

The Israelis said that more than 200,000 villagers had fled ahead of the strikes, clogging roads and creating a major refugee problem for the Lebanese government and for Syria, which keeps 35,000 soldiers stationed in Lebanon. Lebanese reports put the death toll at 24, including one Israeli soldier.

Although Israel has blocked other ports more recently, its blockade of Beirut is the first since 1982. Israeli helicopters struck targets inside Beirut Thursday and Friday, also for the first time since the 1982 invasion of Lebanon.

The Lebanese army issued a statement saying, "Israeli gunboats are intercepting commercial ships heading to and from Beirut port within Lebanese territorial waters." There were reports that the Israelis ordered commercial vessels to stay 12 miles from shore, and that the ports of Sidon and Tyre were also closed.

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The Lebanese government, powerless to break the blockade, lodged a formal protest with the U.N. Security Council and asked for an emergency meeting of the 22-nation Arab League. Lebanese officials, including Prime Minister Rafik Hariri, also met in Damascus with Syrian President Hafez Assad.

st

Friday, an Israeli strike against a Syrian anti-aircraft position, in which a Syrian soldier was killed, raised the possibility that Syria would be drawn into the fray. But there was no indication Saturday of any Syrian action, and Western diplomats in Israel said Assad had long been careful not to provoke any armed confrontation with Israel.

n

Sheik Hassan Nasrallah, the head of Hezbollah, called on suicide bombers to enter the fight. "Due to the developments, we call on the martyrs' brigade to join their predetermined posts, and we call for general mobilization in the ranks of Hezbollah," he said over the movement's television outlet.

Last month, a Hezbollah suicide attacker blew himself up near an Israeli patrol in southern Lebanon, killing an Israeli soldier and wounding five.

The two Palestinian resistance movements, Hamas and Islamic Jihad, also vowed to avenge the Israeli attack. A joint statement issued to a news agency in Beirut said, "Our heroic suicide attackers will strike deep in the Zionist territory."

Suicide attackers carrying bombs and acting in the name of Hamas and Islamic Jihad struck four times in late February and early March, killing more than 60 people. Their attacks led Israel to clamp severe restrictions on Palestinian areas and to suspend peace talks with Syria.

Israel opened its operation in Lebanon on Thursday, charging that two Hezbollah rocket attacks on northern Israel this month were the last straw in a steady escalation of guerrilla operations over the last year.

Hezbollah was formed in 1982 to fight the Israeli invasion of Lebanon, and its stated goal remains to oust the Israelis from the nine-mile-wide buffer zone they maintain in southern Lebanon.

In the summer of 1993, Israel staged a similar operation inside Lebanon, which lasted for seven days and took 130 lives. It ended with an unwritten agreement between Israel and the guerrillas not to strike at civilian targets.

But Israel charged that the guerrillas had used the pact to set up fixed positions in villages, and that it used any excuse to fire Katyusha rockets into northern Israel. The two attacks in early April followed incidents that Israel termed accidental.

Graphic

PHOTO; Photo from AP - Lebanese Muslims flee Mansouri, one of the 48 villages in southern Lebanon under bombardment by Israel in retaliation for recent rocket attacks on Israel by Shiite Muslim guerrillas.

Load-Date: April 14, 1996

End of Document

Ceasefire ends bloody battle in Lebanon: Deal protects civilians from future fighting

The Ottawa Citizen

April 27, 1996, Saturday, FINAL EDITION

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Section: NEWS; Pg. A1 / Front

Length: 956 words

Byline: NORMA GREENAWAY; SOUTHAM NEWS

Dateline: Beirut

Body

A ceasefire deal was reached Friday that will cool the brutal conflict between Israeli forces and **Hezbollah** guerrillas, and take civilians out of the line of fire.

Stitched together after seven days of intense haggling, the pact will not end the warfare in Israeli's disputed security zone in southern Lebanon. But it should pave the way for civilian life on both sides to return to some normalcy.

Israel launched its so-called Grapes of Wrath military offensive to crush the Iran-backed Islamic group's ability to fire Katyusha rockets into northern Israel. One Israeli soldier was killed, more than 80 Israelis were injured, and about 20,000 others were forced out of northern Israeli communities by the rocket attacks.

In Lebanon, more than 150 people died and 400 were wounded, most of them civilian **women** and children. Up to 400,000 residents of southern Lebanon fled further north to escape the fighting, camping out in makeshift shelters or moving in with relatives and friends. If the ceasefire holds, thousands were expected to start flooding back to the battle-scarred south as early as today.

Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres insisted the assault was a self-defence operation.

But it was widely seen in Lebanon as a bid by Peres to enhance his reputation as a tough protector of Israeli security before the May 29 national elections in Israel.

The confrontation reached its bloodiest point last week when Israeli shells slammed into a UN base sheltering hundreds of civilians, killing more than 100 and injuring at least 200 others. The horror of the strike spurred international efforts, led by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, to arrange the ceasefire.

The truce was finally announced in Beirut and Jerusalem late Friday afternoon after a week of shuttle diplomacy between Israel and Syria, the main powerbroker in Lebanon and **Hezbollah**'s representative in the negotiations.

Its key provision prohibits **Hezbollah** from firing rockets or any other weapon into northern Israel or launching attacks on Israel's so-called security zone from civilian areas in southern Lebanon.

The idea is to prevent **Hezbollah** fighters from hiding behind civilians or using civilian infrastructures such as bridges, schools and power plants to launch their attacks on Israeli forces in the occupied zone. It is a tactic they

Ceasefire ends bloody battle in Lebanon : Deal protects civilians from future fighting

have used repeatedly in the battle to force Israel to quit the zone it kept as a buffer after ending its invasion of Lebanon in 1985.

Israel, too, is banned from firing on civilians and civilian targets in Lebanon.

But nothing in the accord rules out military actions taken in self-defence, a point Peres stressed. "If our forces are attacked, they will return fire," he said at a joint news conference with Christopher in Jerusalem.

The parties have agreed to set up a five-member committee, made up of representatives from Israel, Lebanon, Syria, France and the United States, to monitor compliance with the accord. Syria's agreement to participate on the committee was considered vital for symbolic and practical reasons. Aside from having considerable influence with Hezbollah, Syria has up to 40,000 troops on the ground in Lebanon. The monitoring committee grew out of a proposal made by France for ending the conflict.

The accord also establishes an international consultative committee to help with the reconstruction effort in Lebanon, which has born the brunt of Israel's military onslaught. The committee will be made up of Russia, the European Union and anybody else who wants to provide money or expertise to restore houses, businesses, power and water facilities damaged or destroyed by Israeli firepower.

With the exception of the two international committees, the deal is a written version of an informal understanding that ended the last major flare-up between Israel and Hezbollah in July, 1993. In effect, it was a gentlemen's agreement brokered by Christopher under which Israel and Syria, acting for Hezbollah, agreed to refrain from hitting civilians. Though it has been violated by both sides, it held relatively well until the latest hostilities erupted.

Lebanese civilians paid the highest price for the new outbreak of violence as Israeli bombs, shells and artillery fire rained down over much of south Lebanon and on selected targets in Beirut. Still, the military offensive failed to stop the Katyusha rockets. UN officials estimate 1,000 rockets were fired towards northern Israel during the fighting.

Christopher acknowledged the agreement is not a permanent solution to the problems along the Israel-Lebanon border, something the U.S. hopes will be resolved in future peace negotiations involving Israel, Syria and Lebanon. But he insisted the latest deal has a better chance of enduring because the understandings are in writing.

Christopher, Peres and Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Hariri all lauded the agreement as a major step towards ending the suffering of civilians and cooling tensions. They said they were optimistic all parties will abide by its terms. "We will do our best to make sure that this is respected," Hariri told a news conference in Beirut. He indicated the 50,000-strong Lebanese forces would seek to ensure Hezbollah fighters are not allowed to operate from civilian areas.

But he said the deal is no substitute for a final peace settlement. "The permanent solution is to see Israel leave our territory and the peace take place all over the region," he said.

As usual, Syrian President Hafez Assad maintained a studied silence, preferring to stay out of the political limelight and fray despite the pivotal role he played in the ceasefire deal.

Load-Date: April 28, 1996

Mideast peace hopes on track despite shelling

USA TODAY
April 19, 1996, Friday,
FIRST EDITION

Copyright 1996 Gannett Company, Inc.

Section: NEWS;; Cover story

Length: 889 words

Byline: Lee Michael Katz

Body

The search for peace in the Middle East has survived bombings and massacres, assassinations and hostage takings. Now another tragedy puts the peacemakers in the Mideast and the United States to the test again.

As many as 100 Lebanese civilians died yesterday when an Israeli artillery barrage missed its target -- Hezbollah guerrillas who were shelling Israel -- and slammed into a U.N. refugee center.

Bodies lay on the ground in a scene of civilian carnage that horrified television viewers around the world. U.N. peacekeepers were powerless to stop the destruction on either side.

Yet the peacemakers press on.

Amid the chaos in Lebanon, Israel's Prime Minister Shimon Peres met Thursday with Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat to reaffirm that final peace talks between Israel and the Palestinians will begin on schedule next month.

A Palestinian Council meets next week to remove a final obstruction to peace talks: part of the Palestine Liberation Organization's charter that calls for the destruction of the state of Israel.

The trend toward peace has lurched forward even as the violence seems to set it back:

-- A February, 1994 massacre of Palestinians praying in a Hebron mosque by an Israel settler failed to derail peace efforts. Two

Mideast peace hopes on track despite shelling

Israel-Palestinian peace agreements were signed after that incident.

-- A series of suicide bomb attacks in February and March inside Israel by Palestinian Hamas terrorists killed 59. The latest Israeli victim died last week.

Another potential suicide bomber blew up an East Jerusalem hotel room. Yet, Israel-Palestinian efforts to forge peace have continued.

-- The assassination of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin by an Israeli radical who was opposed to the peace process only stiffened Israeli public opinion to continue negotiations with Arab neighbors.

In fact, the quest for Middle East peace is likely to intensify as a result of Thursday's grim scenes.

Israel has achieved peace agreements with the Palestinians, Jordanian and Egyptians. And an accord with Lebanon and its powerful overseer Syria is the most gaping hole left in the puzzle of an overall Middle East peace accord.

The U.S. has had a key role in keeping the peace movement going and immediately after the Lebanon bombing, President Clinton dispatched special Middle East peace envoy Dennis Ross to the region. Secretary of State Warren Christopher ripped up his European travel schedule to head for the Middle East this weekend.

Christopher was barely airborne when he began calling Lebanese, Syrian and Israeli officials to try and work out a deal as he flew from Russia to the Netherlands.

Thursday's carnage prompted the low-key Christopher to take personally put U.S. prestige on the line to try and broker a quick cease-fire

between Israel and Hezbollah. "The objective will be to find a way to end the death and the fighting," said State Department spokesman Glyn Davies.

Clinton himself was forced to deal with the Lebanese tragedy immediately upon arrival in St. Petersburg, Russia, instead of focusing on his summit meeting with Russian leader Boris Yeltsin.

Clinton offered a "somber moment" of condolence to Lebanese families killed and U.N. peacekeepers who also suffered casualties.

"Today's events make painfully clear the importance of bringing an end to the current violence in Lebanon," the President said.

Noting the latest "death and suffering," Davies added, "This tragedy might spur the parties to the conflict to agree to a cease-fire."

Mideast peace hopes on track despite shelling

Thursday, Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Hariri said, "Look what has happened now," (Israel) started seven days ago, saying they want to eliminate Hezbollah. They end with eliminating civilians" and making "over 400,000 people homeless."

Even while Israel was shelling Lebanon, peace plans were in the works.

The U.S. had been promoting a plan that would have Syria and Lebanon guarantee an end to Hezbollah attacks on Israel. In turn, after about nine months, Israel would discuss withdrawing from the nine-mile buffer zone it occupies in Southern Lebanon.

Israeli and U.S. officials have said that Lebanon and Syria were doing nothing to curb Hezbollah attacks on Israel. Lebanon was allowing Hezbollah to use civilian areas as a shield for their raids. Syria, which has about 40,000 troops -- and great influence -- in the area was not using its influence.

The French government, which governed Lebanon in the period between the world wars, proposed a peace plan that would require less vigorous action by Syria and give a greater role to U.N. troops.

Pushing the peace effort is the insanity of war, especially a war that seems to have no end.

"We are in the 21st century," Prime Minister Hariri said in an interview after the tragic site of the Lebanese dead had been broadcast around the world.

"We saw the children. We saw the women and we saw the old men" killed and wounded in the raid. "This is crazy."

But for peacemakers, it is a long road.

In the Middle East -- holy land for Muslims, Jews and Christians -- "an eye for an eye" is not merely a biblical reference, but a way of life.

The bottom line remains unchanged.

For all the heartbreak of the Middle East, despite the civilian deaths and the brutal carnage, Hezbollah vows never to stop lobbing rockets at Israel unless Israel withdraws from Lebanon. And Israel vows never to leave unless Syria and Lebanon guarantee to silence Hezbollah.

Mideast peace hopes on track despite shelling

Contributing: Bill Nichols in St. Petersburg, Russia.

Graphic

PHOTO, Color, Muhamed Zatari, AP; PHOTO, Color, Joseph Barrak, AFP; Homeless: Muslim refugees, who had sought sanctuary from an Israeli offensive at a U.N. camp in Cana in southern Lebanon, see their shelter destroyed by Israeli artillery shells. Aftermath: Fijian U.N. soldiers start to clean up the refugee camp where scores were killed in an Israeli artillery attack.

Load-Date: April 19, 1996

End of Document

The bloody road to peace

The Scotsman

April 15, 1996, Monday

Copyright 1996 The Scotsman Publications Ltd.

Section: Pg. 10

Length: 543 words

Byline: Leader

Body

ISRAEL'S raids on Lebanon in retaliation against rocket attacks on Israel by the militant Islamic organisation **Hezbollah** once again repeat the cycle of strike and counter-strike which has become depressingly familiar in the region.

There is nothing surprising, then, in the Israeli response to the **Hezbollah** provocation. Indeed, it appears that the dovish prime minister, Shimon Peres, initially held back in launching retaliatory raids.

The combination of public outrage and looming elections at the end of May clearly changed his mind, however. It is true, that a victory for Mr Peres and his Labour-led coalition is essential if there is to be any hope of bringing the Middle East peace process to a conclusion. There was little progress in this direction while the hardline opposition Likud party was in power. And now the prime minister's popularity appears to have risen remarkably again after Israel's massive response to **Hezbollah** over the last few days.

But the raids once again beg the question as to what they are intended to achieve. It is not the militant Islamic organisation which is suffering but innocent civilians. It is the latter - including **women** and children killed - who have been the prime victims of the actions by the Israeli forces, with hundreds of thousands of ordinary people driven from their homes. Lebanon is the last piece in the Middle East peace jigsaw where there is genuinely no solution in sight. A large part in that is played by the continued presence of Israeli forces in southern Lebanon to maintain Israel's so-called security corridor, which has certainly not brought any security in the real sense of the word. All it has done is create a breeding ground for **Hezbollah**.

Of course Syria should act, as it has the ability to do with its massive presence in Lebanon, to rein in the Islamic militants (little can be expected in this respect from the Shi'ite militants' real sponsor, Iran).

But equally Israel should withdraw from its occupation of Lebanon in order to pave the way for genuine moves towards peace with that country. That is the only long-term way to deprive **Hezbollah** of its freedom of manoeuvre in Lebanon - which bombing raids and rocket attacks on Beirut suburbs and Lebanese towns and villages will not do.

Israel's calculation that Syria will not be drawn into a conflict is likely to be correct. The two governments have been meeting to resolve differences over the Golan Heights and although there has been little public progress, both sides have adopted a moderate tone over the issue and it is hard to imagine that there have been no secret negotiations to try to reach a settlement. The likely course of events is that there will be no news at all about progress until a sudden announcement that a settlement has been achieved - rather as in the case of the peace

The bloody road to peace

agreement with the Palestinians. As long as Israel does not overstep certain limits, Damascus will not intervene, whatever its public pronouncements and condemnation.

President Asad realises perfectly well that his interest lies in peace with Israel.

That, as we said before, leaves Lebanon. Here it lies in Israel's power to remove the single biggest obstacle to peace with its neighbour: Israeli troops in Lebanon.

Load-Date: April 15, 1996

End of Document

Middle East: Tragedy in Lebanon confuses Israelis

The Ottawa Citizen

April 20, 1996, Saturday, FINAL EDITION

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Section: NEWS; Pg. A6

Length: 780 words

Byline: DEREK BROWN; THE GUARDIAN; THE OTTAWA CITIZEN

Dateline: Jerusalem

Body

Israeli reaction to Thursday's massacre in south Lebanon has been muted, with mingled traces of embarrassment, frustration and defiance.

Attempts by the government and army to shrug off the calamity as an "accident," were echoed in random soundings of Jerusalem residents Friday.

"I think we should finish it now," said a young woman who had been gazing intently into a shoe-shop window on one of the city's busiest streets. Did she mean stop the military onslaught on Lebanon? "No, no, no," she said impatiently. "Finish it. Do it properly. Deal with these people once and for all."

"I agree with her," chimed an older woman. "We can't stop it now. The Katyushas are still coming into Galilee; the people there are still in the shelters. Why should we stop? We're sorry for what happened. Of course we are sorry, we're human beings. But if they (Hezbollah) stopped attacking us, then these things would never happen again."

Friday mornings are Jerusalem's busiest, a frantic round of pre-sabbath shopping and socializing. This sabbath, perhaps, should have been more sober than usual, but it was not.

"I've no time, no time," an elderly man wearing his skullcap said. "I like what our army is doing, that's all I can tell you."

A woman selling cheap Indian-made jewelry in a public square in the tourist quarter was more forthcoming, but less logical.

"What is happening in Lebanon may not be nice, but it's the only way we have of protecting our soldiers. They've been getting killed all the time, and we have to hit back," she said.

Israel has occupied south Lebanon as a buffer zone for 11 years. The occupation principle, however, remains popular, and is rarely questioned. In Friday's Israeli papers there was little hint that the latest calamity might merit some radical rethink.

Commentators instead lamented that the "incident, the tragedy" could undermine Israel's demand that Hezbollah stop firing rockets across the border. Many pundits neatly turned the finger of blame on the Syrian president, Hafez al-Assad, pointing out that only he could bring Hezbollah to heel.

Middle East: Tragedy in Lebanon confuses Israelis

On Thursday night, there was a public protest in Jerusalem against the Lebanon massacre. Peace activists, many of them from Israel's million-strong Arab population, gathered in a square near the official residence of the prime minister, Shimon Peres.

"Peres, how many children did you kill today?" they chanted. But the words of the 100 protesters were drowned by passing traffic.

Lebanese Canadians march on embassy

More than 60 Lebanese Canadians picketed the Israeli Embassy in Ottawa Friday, demanding that Israel stop shelling southern Lebanon and withdraw its troops from the country.

The demonstrators said they are outraged at the deaths of more than 75 civilians in an artillery strike Thursday on a United Nations refugee camp in the village of Quana in southern Lebanon.

Many said they have lost friends in the shelling and don't know whether their families in nearby villages are dead or alive.

Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres says his soldiers shot back after Hezbollah guerrillas fired rockets into northern Israel from a point only 300 metres from the UN camp.

Ayad Tirani, 27, said Israeli shelling has destroyed 14 houses in the past nine days in the village of Nabatea where he was born. One shell landed on a three-storey house across the street from his parents' home, killing 12 people, he said.

Hussein Makki, 29, said he tried to call his grandparents in Nabatea Thursday night, but couldn't reach them.

"This situation is very painful because nobody knows who has died," Makki said. "The refugee camp in Quana where those people were killed is only a 20-minute drive away". Makki said the Israeli military is killing innocent women and children, rather than the Hezbollah terrorists they have been targeting.

Hassan Husseini, the demonstration organizer, said the Canadian government should demand an immediate ceasefire and urge Israel to obey a 1978 UN resolution to withdraw its troops from Lebanon.

Eli Yerushalmi, Israel's charge d'affaires in Ottawa, said Israel regrets the civilian deaths caused by the shelling in Quana. Yerushalmi said the deaths were the result of a mistake by Israeli gunners.

"Every Israeli citizen is sorry for what happened," Yerushalmi said. "But they (Hezbollah) are fighting to kill our citizens while hiding behind their own civilians. We made a mistake and our shell fell 300 metres from the target.

"But our enemies never make mistakes. They strike only at houses and innocent civilians. We are looking for a ceasefire so their civilians and our civilians will be safe."

Graphic

Photo: Reuter Photo / STOP THE KILLING: An Israeli woman holds a sign demanding a halt to the killing of children as she demonstrates in Jerusalem against the offensive in Lebanon. Most Israelis still support the campaign against Hezbollah, despite Thursday's massacre.

Load-Date: April 21, 1996

Middle East: Tragedy in Lebanon confuses Israelis

End of Document

Civilians flee southern Lebanon amid fierce rocket battles

The Gazette (Montreal, Quebec)

February 20, 1992, Thursday, FINAL EDITION

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Section: NEWS; Pg. A7

Length: 696 words

Byline: AP; REUTER

Dateline: KAFRA, Lebanon

Body

Thousands of civilians fled villages in southern Lebanon yesterday as Shiite Muslim guerrillas and Israeli soldiers rained rockets and artillery shells at each other for a third straight day.

There were no immediate reports of deaths or injuries on the Lebanese side. Thirteen people in the town of Kiryat Shemona in northern Israel were treated for shock and injuries after one rocket attack.

The fighting, which followed a deadly attack on an Israeli army camp and Israel's killing of Hezbollah leader Sheikh Abbas Musawi, fuelled tension in advance of new Arab-Israeli peace talks in Washington.

Each round of talks, which are to resume Monday, has been preceded by renewed violence in southern Lebanon. Arab countries, Israel and Palestinians have said they will attend the talks in Washington next week. Hezbollah opposes the peace talks.

In New York, the UN Security Council appealed to all parties to the violence to "exercise maximum restraint" and enhance the Arab-Israeli peace process.

Still, Shiite and Israeli gunners blasted at each other with rockets and howitzers from dawn to dusk yesterday.

Guerrillas of Hezbollah, or Party of God, used mobile launchers to fire salvos of rockets at Israel's Galilee panhandle and the Israeli-occupied "security zone" in southern Lebanon.

Israeli gunners used 155-mm howitzers to hammer Shiite villages bordering the northern edge of the security zone.

Lebanese police said two Israeli helicopters also fired two rockets at a villa near the village of Jibsheit used by Hezbollah guerrillas. There were no casualties.

Lebanese army units near Jibsheit fired at the helicopters but did not hit them, police said. There were no other reports of Lebanese troops joining in the fighting despite a government order to confront any attempted Israeli incursion.

It was Israel's fifth air strike in Lebanon since three Israeli soldiers were hacked to death in a training camp in Israel early Saturday. Israel blamed the killings on Palestinian guerrillas and sent its aircraft Sunday to attack two Palestinian refugee camps in Lebanon and Musawi's motorcade.

Civilians flee southern Lebanon amid fierce rocket battles

Lebanese police said about 10,000 people fled 14 Hezbollah- controlled villages taking the brunt of the artillery fire.

In the village of Yater, a brisk breeze swept away smoke from howitzer rounds that fell at the rate of about four a minute. When shelling eased, cars packed with women and children raced from town, bedsprings, mattresses and blankets stacked on top.

Children screamed and women wailed whenever a shell exploded nearby.

"Only God knows what would happen here. The Israelis could do anything," Mohammed Kawtharani, 57, said as he and his wife, Fatima, loaded belongings and household goods into their car and headed to a friend's house.

An Irish soldier at UN observer checkpoint outside the village of Tibnin advised reporters not to go into the town of Kabrikha because of the constant shelling.

As shells exploded among the houses of the tiny hamlet, a school bus drove up and the driver asked the soldier if he could drive a pupil to her home in Kabrikha.

"What home?" the soldier replied angrily. "You better get the hell out of here as fast as you can. It is getting nasty."

In Washington, the State Department yesterday warned of a heightened danger of terrorist attacks on U.S. civilians in Europe, Africa and the Middle East.

A spokesman, Richard Boucher, quoted statements by Hezbollah officials calling for revenge against the United States after the killing Musawi.

He said the situation in Lebanon is particularly dangerous for Americans and noted that U.S. passports are invalid for travel there.

Boucher said there was no information on specific threats but "terrorist events" could occur without warning.

The department also issued a separate advisory statement warning U.S. citizens to avoid travel to Iran, saying there's a generally antiAmerican atmosphere there.

The statement said holders of dual U.S.-Iranian citizenship are particularly at risk because they could have their U.S. passports seized and could be denied permission to leave the country.

ADDITIONAL REPORTING: REUTER

Graphic

AFP/ Israelis clean up after rocket attack on third day of shelling in northern Israel.

Load-Date: February 21, 1992

Papal visit, revival of festival signs of hope for weary Lebanon

The Ottawa Citizen

May 10, 1997, Saturday, FINAL EDITION

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Section: NEWS; Pg. A15

Length: 398 words

Byline: ANTON LA GUARDIA; THE DAILY TELEGRAPH

Dateline: BAALBEK

Body

Step by step, Lebanon is trying to forget the dark years of civil war and hostage-taking. Pope John Paul II's visit, starting today, will tell the world the country is safe, and this summer foreigners may have reason to do so when the Baalbek Festival is relaunched.

The performances in the ruins of the majestic temples of Jupiter and Bacchus, against the backdrop of Mount Lebanon, were once the prime cultural event of the Arab world. Rudolf Nureyev, Margot Fonteyn, Ella Fitzgerald and the Bolshoi Theatre were among the stars who came to Baalbek.

But the civil war that broke out in 1975 ended all that. Baalbek became the nerve centre of the Iranian Revolutionary Guards and their Lebanese offspring, Hezbollah. In the darkest years, virtually the only Westerners who came to Baalbek were hostages.

"When the festival goes on in Baalbek, it means that everything is well in Lebanon," said May Arida, the festival's former organizer, who has been called back to revive the event. "I have waited 22 years for this."

She produced an orange leaflet for the 1975 festival, a two-month schedule of dance, music and theatre. It never took place.

Ms. Arida has been given five months to set up an event that would normally require two years' preparation. But she managed to line up the cellist and conductor Mstislav Rostropovich to perform with the Philharmonic Orchestra of Radio France, and the Lebanese folk dance company of Abdel-Halim Caracalla.

Nevertheless, the attempt to restart the festival in July is an act of faith. Baalbek is still a garrison town. Unlike the rest of Lebanon, the Syrian army is visibly in charge, while Hezbollah has free rein. Its revolutionary posters and portraits of Ayatollah Khomeini still decorate the impoverished city. Israeli aircraft periodically bomb targets nearby.

Baalbek is also at the heart of the Bekaa Valley's hashish trade. It is a bit like trying to set up an arts festival in Medellin or Crossmaglen.

But the Lebanese government is desperate to re-establish the country's reputation as the fun-loving Monte Carlo of the Middle East. Hezbollah is seeking respectability, and Baalbek's inhabitants need the income of the stifled tourist trade.

Papal visit, revival of festival signs of hope for weary Lebanon

"We don't mind the festival," said one veteran Hezbollah fighter asked about the impending flood of polluted Western culture and women in low-cut evening wear.

Load-Date: May 11, 1997

End of Document

Israel silent on fate of hostages; Khiam's prisoners are witnesses to a shameful part of Lebanon's war

Hamilton Spectator (Ontario, Canada)

May 20, 2000 Saturday Final Edition

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Section: OBSERVER; Pg. D05; News

Length: 906 words

Byline: Robert Fisk

Dateline: ADAISSI; SOUTHERN LEBANON

Body

Khiam is an awful place. Electrical wires attached to the penis and feet, constant whipping, cold nights attached to a pole while pails of freezing water are thrown over near-naked bodies. Are the Israelis likely to leave this dreadful institution behind when they withdraw from Lebanon?

Will they leave the last 160 prisoners -- hostages of Israel for the return of missing Israeli soldiers -- as witnesses to this shameful episode in history? Or take them away?

The Independent; London

Officially run by Israel's collapsing South Lebanon Army (SLA) militia, the interrogators have been obsessive as well as cruel men.

The questions come from Israel tapped on e-mail from Metulla to a computer screen in the little torture room in Khiam. And, not so long ago, this question came over the computer screen: "When he came to your village, did Fisk talk about forged \$100 bills? Did he mention Lubrani's name?"

The man who received these two questions was stunned -- so was I when I heard about them. I had published an article in the Independent on the circulation of fake \$100 bills in Southern Lebanon, many of them among the salaries paid to SLA by their Israeli masters.

Lebanese banks think these dollar bills are forged in Israel. But I had never connected this with Uri Lubrani, Israel's so called adviser to Lebanon. So why did the Israeli interrogators ask this? And why did they also ask -- their computerized questions translated into Arabic by the torturers of Khiam -- if Fisk had been to the village of Jibchit in Southern Lebanon and what were his contacts with Hezbollah? Stupidity, of course, plays a part in all intelligence wars.

My own book on Lebanon's war is in the Khiam jail library -- sent there by the International Red Cross and the Israelis had only to glance through its pages to read that I spent three months in Jibchit during Israel's 1985 occupation, that as Middle East correspondent of the Independent I had met the Hezbollah leadership.

Indeed, I knew Abbas Moussawim, the Hezbollah chairman who was assassinated by an Israeli helicopter pilot who fired an air to ground missile into his car, killing him and his family as they drove back from Southern Lebanon after visiting the village of Jibchit. Hezbollah leadership? Jibchit?

Israel silent on fate of hostages; Khiam's prisoners are witnesses to a shameful part of Lebanon 's war

What did those computerized questions really mean?

I still don't know. Nor did the prisoner who was asked them. He was questioned about other things -- if there were spies in his village from the Lebanese Army, if the Hezbollah used cellphones to explode bombs. Then he was taken to a courtyard, stripped, tied to a stake and had freezing water thrown over him. All night. Then he was locked in one of three rooms -- the "black rooms," the inmates call them with just enough space to squat with his knees to his face for day after day. It is routine in Khiam.

I met one inmate just 10 days after his release, a man who had spent more than a year in Khiam. "When they interrogated me, they hit me on the head, then on the back with a Kalashnikov rifle. I fell down. The man put his boot in my face and broke part of my jaw. I have lost the hearing in part of my right ear. The ear-drum is broken.

"He said, 'You are working with Hezbollah.' I said no. I run a cafe that sells beer. How could I be Hezbollah? Now I have bad breathing problems and the doctor says there is no medicine for it. That this problem will stay with me all my life." It is all true. The Red Cross, Amnesty, Human Rights Watch have all concluded that these stories are true.

The case of Suleiman Ramadan, his arm amputated after beatings, still imprisoned after 16 years, is among the best known. What will these men -- and a few women -- receive by way of compensation? Nothing. \$200 US a month from the Lebanese government but nothing from Israel. American former hostage Terry Anderson has won millions of dollars in damages from Iran in the U.S. courts for his false imprisonment for seven years.

The prisoners of Khiam will, of course, get nothing.

Some of them are former Hezbollah guerrillas but many are held because their families refuse to join the SLA or work for Israeli intelligence or because brothers and sisters are believed to work for the guerrillas.

"They said to me I would be tortured in Khiam and held there for years if I did not renounce my brother," another ex-inmate told me. He refused to make the denunciation. He was beaten insensible and kept in Khiam for more than a year.

Needless to say, the world does not call these men hostages -- which they are in reality and also according to the Israeli courts. The world's press and television -- anxious, no doubt, not to offend the Israelis -- call them 'bargaining chips,' as if the tortured and the untried of Khiam are players in a large and amusing chess game. We never called the Western hostages in Lebanon 'bargaining chips.' Hostages is what they were. And hostages is what the last Khiam prisoners remain.

Will they come home when Israel ends its almost a quarter century of occupation? Or will they be taken off across the border into Israel for further incarceration? When will Ramadan at last be freed, he who has spent more than twice Anderson's time in captivity?

Khiam is an old French Mandate fort with its walls still scarred by the tank fire of the Australian Division in the Second World War.

It may have more shrapnel marks in the days to come. But at least there will be no more questions about Uri Lubrani. Or Robert Fisk.

Graphic

Photo: Haim Azoulay, Reuters; Israeli soldiers pack up at an outpost on the Israel-Lebanon border. Israel has promised to pull out of a part of south Lebanon it has occupied for 22 years.

Israel silent on fate of hostages; Khiam's prisoners are witnesses to a shameful part of Lebanon 's war

Load-Date: October 17, 2002

End of Document

Lebanon unites in grief to bury slain refugees

THE AUSTRALIAN

May 2, 1996, Thursday

Copyright 1996 Nationwide News Pty Limited

Length: 389 words

Byline: NICHOLAS BLANFORD

Body

LEBANON'S divided society was united in grief yesterday as thousands attended the mass funeral of the 109 civilians killed during the Israeli bombardment of a United Nations base in Cana 12 days ago.

Up to 10,000 Lebanese packed Cana's narrow streets in the early morning and stood for hours in the heat waiting for the funeral cortege to arrive from the port of Tyre, 10km away.

Amid scenes of overwhelming emotion, the victims were buried in their own cemetery freshly-dug by bulldozers.
The Times

"Oh Jews, the army of Mohammad will return," they shouted, in reference to a Muslim battle victory, as the men beat their breasts and the women wailed and pulled at their hair.

Earlier, the Lebanese Prime Minister, Mr Rafik Hariri, and the parliamentary Speaker, Mr Nabih Berri, were among the many dignitaries in Tyre who stood before the rows of coffins during a brief prayer session before they were placed in ambulances and transported to Cana.

The victims were refugees who fled from their villages in south Lebanon during Israel's 16-day offensive against Hezbollah guerillas and sought shelter with the Fijian UN battalion based in the village.

Since the ceasefire agreed between Israel and Hezbollah last Saturday, most of the 400,000 refugees have returned to their villages and many of them were in Cana to mourn the dead.

The mass grave for the victims is sited outside the Fijian base.

Garlands, banners and Hezbollah and Lebanese flags covered the walls of surrounding houses and the base's perimeter fencing.

Among the mourners were dozens of Hezbollah guerillas dressed in black who chanted and beat their chests and heads in unison.

As the coffins arrived, pandemonium broke out and the crowd roared: "Allah akbar (God is great)." The coffins, festooned with garlands and draped in the Lebanese flag, were passed overhead on a conveyor-belt of human hands towards the grave.

The corpses were wrapped in white shrouds and each was marked with the deceased's name written in ink.

Lebanon unites in grief to bury slain refugees

Many of them were simply inscribed "unknown". One man, tears streaming down his face, lifted the shroudwrapped corpse of a baby and held the pathetic bundle aloft.

The crowd roared in anger and grief. "I hope Israel sees this," said Hussein Hijazi, from the nearby village of Haris.

"I hope that they can see what they have done to our people."

Load-Date: March 1, 2002

End of Document

Essay:
Arafat's 'War Process'

The New York Times

November 20, 2000, Monday, Late Edition - Final

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Distribution: Editorial Desk

Section: Section A; ; Section A; Page 27; Column 5; Editorial Desk ; Column 5; ; Op-Ed

Length: 719 words

Byline: By WILLIAM SAFIRE

By WILLIAM SAFIRE

Dateline: WASHINGTON

Body

When the leader of the **Hezbollah** in Syrian-occupied Lebanon came up with a plan to kidnap three Israeli soldiers six weeks ago, his Iranian sponsors cautioned him to first get the approval of Bashar al-Assad, the new president of Syria.

That's because Israel was expected to retaliate against **Hezbollah** forces in areas controlled by Syrian troops. Ever since Israel pulled its troops out of its Lebanese buffer zone, **Hezbollah**'s terrorism has been closely coordinated with Bashar in Damascus.

Usually reliable intelligence sources note that the inexperienced Bashar, eager to establish credentials in the Arab world as a militant enemy of Israel, gave his approval to the kidnap plan. This despite the danger that the **Hezbollah**'s capture of Israeli soldiers could lead to armed confrontation in Lebanon between Syrian and Israeli forces.

On or about Oct. 8, Hassan Nasrallah, secretary general of **Hezbollah**, reported directly to President Bashar that the kidnapping had been carried out as planned. Bashar was heard to have congratulated him on its "smooth execution," goes the undercover account, and assured the terrorist leader full backing against anticipated mild U.N. reaction as well as a stronger response from Israel.

The risk accepted by Arab and Persian leaders in a daring provocation within what Israel considers its territory was evidence of what is emerging as Yasir Arafat's strategy.

From his turnabout that so surprised President Clinton at the Camp David fiasco, to his reluctance to speak out to restrain the rioting of Palestinians and sniping of his gunmen-police, his plan can be deduced:

First step is to transform the "peace process," which was in danger of succeeding in establishing a small Palestinian state, into a religious "war process" for control of Jerusalem and a state incorporating Jordan and Israel. What

Essay; Arafat's 'War Process'

keeps Arafat in power is not the dubious economic promise of a struggling dictatorship but his militant followers' dream of driving the Jews out of the Middle East.

Second step is to whip up support in world opinion by creating innocent victims of Israeli guns. Palestinian snipers draw fire into civilian crowds for the sole purpose of sacrificing innocents, creating anguished funeral demonstrations and spreading hatred. Every casualty is exploitable; every picture of a boy with a slingshot rather than a gun is a small victory; the gut-wrenching film of the boy dying in a crossfire was a propaganda triumph.

Though such a war process does not win military victory, it delivers results: in a much less well-armed form of intifada a few years ago, it led to Oslo and ultimately to Ehud Barak's stunning concessions. But to attain a goal of stimulating the defeat of Israel by Arab armies far stronger than his own, Arafat needs more than sustained low-level belligerency that wears down the Israeli will; he needs to provoke a new Middle East war.

That explains the campaign to sacrifice Palestinian women and children, opening the possibility for a stray Israeli shell to inflict horrific tragedy. Infuriated Muslims throughout the region then put pressure on shaky sheiks to support another such war.

That's why we see Arafat's allies in the Hezbollah enticing Syria's strongman into taking risks his dictator-father Hafez -- having learned a bloody lesson that cost him the Golan -- would have avoided. Arafat also knows that Iraq's Saddam Hussein, developing weaponry to counter Israel's nuclear deterrent, is spoiling to send his tanks and Scuds through Jordan into his enemy's homeland.

The possibility of such a Palestinian-sparked conflagration must be foremost in Barak's mind as he deals with the rioting and kidnapping. He must respond with seeming toughness, lest Israelis scorn him for being weak; yet he must not use too much firepower, lest he fall into Arafat's wider-war trap.

Barak's demonstrated dovishness may force him to err on the side of using ever-greater force and thereby be drawn into Arafat's war process. The paradox is that the Israeli opposition leader Arik Sharon's longtime reputation for fierceness would enable the Likud leader to enforce separation, control military escalation and stop that war process.

America's mind is fixed on its own affairs, but thanks to Arafat, whoever wins the White House is sure to have a stressful first 100 days.

<http://www.nytimes.com>

Load-Date: November 20, 2000

**PRESSURE MOUNTS IN ISRAEL TO PULL OUT OF LEBANON;
NETANYAHU, LABOR PARTY CHALLENGER VOW TO MAKE IT HAPPEN
WITHIN A YEAR**

St. Louis Post-Dispatch (Missouri)

March 3, 1999, Wednesday, FIVE STAR LIFT EDITION

Copyright 1999 St. Louis Post-Dispatch, Inc.

Section: NEWS, Pg. A5

Length: 341 words

Byline: From News Services

Dateline: PETAH TIKVA, ISRAEL

Body

When Baruch Axelrod thinks about his 21-year-old son, an Israeli army officer serving in south Lebanon, fear takes over and tears well in his eyes.

As the 901st Israeli soldier killed in Lebanon was laid to rest Tuesday, Axelrod made an emotional public plea to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to end 17 years of Israeli occupation there. "I don't want my son to be a hero. I want him home for the Sabbath," he said.

Sensing the growing public frustration with the government's Lebanon policy, both Netanyahu and his challenger, Labor party leader Ehud Barak, made campaign promises Tuesday to leave Lebanon within a year. Axelrod wants to see it.

In an ad Tuesday in the Israeli newspaper Haaretz, Axelrod, who is president of an Israeli high-tech firm, called on Netanyahu to "get out of Lebanon."

"The politicians should know there are people who want to live long lives and be with their children," he said in an interview.

In 1982, Israel invaded Lebanon to drive out Palestine Liberation Organization guerrillas attacking Jewish border communities. Three years later, the army pulled back to a strip it has patrolled ever since.

Since then, troops have been engaged in a costly battle with Iranian-backed Hezbollah guerrillas who aim to oust Israel from Lebanese soil.

Over 17 years, 901 Israelis have died inside Lebanon, including Brig. Gen. Erez Gerstein, killed Sunday along with two other soldiers and a journalist when Hezbollah detonated a roadside bomb.

Gerstein, the highest-ranking officer killed in Lebanon since the invasion, was buried Tuesday.

With casualties mounting, Barak, who faces Netanyahu in May 17 elections, promised Tuesday that he would get Israeli soldiers out of Lebanon by June 2000. As part of the plan, he said he would resume peace talks with Syria - the main power broker in Lebanon.

PRESSURE MOUNTS IN ISRAEL TO PULL OUT OF LEBANON ; NETANYAHU, LABOR PARTY
CHALLENGER VOW TO MAKE IT HAPPEN WITHIN A YEAR

Netanyahu said ex-army chief Barak had helped trap Israel's forces in Lebanon and promised that he, too, could have the troops out within a year. But he said setting a specific date would play into the hands of Hezbollah guerrillas.

Graphic

PHOTO AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE Photo - Women weep Tuesday at the funeral of Hezbollah fighter Hussein Moghnyah in Teir Debbah, Lebanon. Seventeen years of Israeli occupation have left many Lebanese and Israelis dead.

Load-Date: July 22, 1999

End of Document

LEBANESE HEAD HOME, SURVEY WHAT SURVIVED

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette (Pennsylvania)

April 28, 1996, Sunday,

TWO STAR EDITION

Copyright 1996 P.G. Publishing Co.

Section: WORLD,

Length: 982 words

Byline: DOUGLAS JEHL, THE NEW YORK TIMES

Dateline: QSAIBI, Lebanon

Body

Tens of thousands of Lebanese piled their possessions into almost anything that could move and returned yesterday to villages like Qsaibi to survey what they had fled when Israeli forces attacking Hezbollah guerrillas laid siege to southern Lebanon.

The lucky ones were able to simply fling open doors and shutters to bring their homes back to life, but others could only gape aghast at what 16 days had wrought.

Shattered roads, broken bridges and downed power cables snarled the homeward tide, at full surge within hours after a U.S.-brokered limited cease-fire took effect, and for men like Abbas Wahbi the worst was yet to come.

"Thank you, Israel," Wahbi whispered in fury as he picked through the ruins of his furniture shop, crushed almost beyond recognition by an Israeli bombardment that made a shooting gallery of this village's main street. "I am not Hezbollah," he said. "I am not the resistance. I am Lebanese."

An all-day tour yesterday of areas that were impassable as long as the Israeli offensive continued found a patchwork of destruction. Some villages were spared, and others were reeling under the weight of a bombardment that Israel said was meant to halt rocket attacks on its own settlements by Hezbollah guerrillas.

In some places there was even a glint of celebration, as bearded young men greeted returning residents with freshly cut roses to mark what many said had been a Hezbollah victory.

But mostly the mood was subdued, as many of the 400,000 refugees began to patch together the homes and villages ripped apart in a military operation that took 160 Lebanese lives.

(In the northern Israeli town of Qiryat Shemona yesterday, those people who had not fled the rocket attacks of Hezbollah guerrillas emerged from bomb shelters, relieved that the fighting had ended. But many were skeptical that the peace would hold, and criticized their government for halting the fighting without stronger guarantees against further attacks.)

LEBANESE HEAD HOME, SURVEY WHAT SURVIVED

In Harees, south of Qsaibi, a clutch of women sobbed on a hillside as they gazed down upon the village cemetery, torn asunder by a rocket attack that had toppled tombstones and left raw craters in hallowed earth. Not far away in Kafra, it was an elderly man who sat in tears where his home had stood for more than 60 years.

"This was the fruit of my labors," said Sulman Hamdan, 87, who lost not only the house he built but 150 olive trees in an attack by Israeli jets. Over and over again, he asked: "Where are you, God?"

As quiet returned for now to a region that has not known peace since an Israeli incursion in 1978, some members of the 4,500-man force of United Nations peacekeepers that has been stationed in the region for all of those 18 years spoke with new frustration about what they called the near-impossibility of their task.

After an offensive in which Israeli guns fired into or close to U.N. positions 242 times, and in which peace was brokered by the United States and other powers without any U.N. role, they warned that a lasting cease-fire would be impossible as long as Israel continued its occupation of Lebanese land.

"In one month's time, everything will be back to the way it was three weeks ago," said one U.N. officer. "All that life will be lost for nothing."

That is an apprehension shared by many Lebanese, and some spoke yesterday of their concern that the lull would be only temporary.

But as the day dawned warm and brilliant not long after the cease-fire took hold at 4 a.m., southern Lebanon's coastal highway quickly grew clogged with cars, trucks and buses piled with the possessions of people eager to be refugees no more.

Along a route made perilous for the past 10 days by Israeli shelling, the southward flow of people raced through the same checkpoints they had passed when fleeing north.

But even as the Lebanese army began to clear up the mess, traffic clogged not far from the highway in the face of the bomb craters and rubble left behind by Israeli attacks that in the final days of the campaign concentrated on the region's roads, bridges and some water pipelines.

In some villages yesterday, Lebanese soldiers shinnied up electric poles to help restring downed wires, while a team of engineers dispatched by Hezbollah, which maintains a broad social welfare organization, were among those touring the region as they began to assess the need for more full-scale reconstruction.

But in the places adjoining what Israel calls its security zone in southern Lebanon, the atmosphere remained tense, with squads of Lebanese soldiers in combat gear conducting patrols.

For the fortunate in a war that emptied southern Lebanon of 90 percent of its population, the return home yesterday may not have been much more traumatic than any Saturday-morning drive in Lebanese traffic. Many flew national flags or black banners advertising their sympathy for Hezbollah as they sped south, and arrived in villages like Qsaibi, population 7,000, to find that much had remained untouched.

Ali Salman Mansur, 65, one of the few who stayed behind during the fighting, locked in a cellar, emerged yesterday morning to confess that his heart had pounded during the worst of the bombardment, some of it coming from Israeli guns at a post in the occupied zone that lies less than three miles away.

Still, across southern Lebanon yesterday there was some sense of self-congratulation at a cease-fire that put an end to the Israeli assaults without eliminating the right of Hezbollah and other forces to attack Israeli soldiers on Lebanese soil - and it was expressed not just by the small group of young men who handed out candy and roses to those who entered their village near Qsaibi.

The guerrillas themselves were in high spirits, hugging fellow fighters whom they had feared dead or wounded, and swapping battle stories to a backdrop of military music that in several villages blared from car radios and boom boxes.

LEBANESE HEAD HOME, SURVEY WHAT SURVIVED

Load-Date: April 30, 1996

End of Document

**ARAFAT'S 'WAR PROCESS';
MEANWHILE, BACK IN THE MIDDLE EAST, THE PALESTINIAN LEADER
MAKES CHAOS**

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette (Pennsylvania)

November 21, 2000, Tuesday,

SOONER EDITION

Copyright 2000 P.G. Publishing Co.

Section: EDITORIAL,

Length: 727 words

Byline: WILLIAM SAFIRE

Dateline: WASHINGTON

Body

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That's because Israel was expected to retaliate against Hezbollah forces in areas controlled by Syrian troops. Ever since Israel's troops pulled out of its Lebanese buffer zone, Hezbollah's terrorism has been closely coordinated with Bashar in Damascus.

Usually reliable intelligence sources note that the inexperienced Bashar, eager to establish credentials in the Arab world as a militant enemy of Israel, gave his approval to the kidnap plan. This despite the danger that the Hezbollah's capture of Israeli soldiers could lead to armed confrontation in Lebanon between Syrian and Israeli forces.

On or about Oct. 8, Hassan Nasrallah, secretary general of Hezbollah, reported directly to Bashar that the kidnapping had been carried out as planned. Bashar was heard to have congratulated him on its "smooth execution," goes the undercover account, and assured the terrorist leader full backing against anticipated mild U.N. reaction as well as a stronger response from Israel.

The risk accepted by Arab and Persian leaders in a daring provocation within what Israel considers its territory was evidence of what is emerging as Yasser Arafat's strategy.

From his turnabout that so surprised President Clinton at the Camp David fiasco, to his reluctance to speak out to restrain the rioting of Palestinians and sniping of his gunmen-police, his plan can be deduced:

First step is to transform the "peace process," which was in danger of succeeding in establishing a small Palestinian state, into a religious "war process" for control of Jerusalem and a state incorporating Jordan and Israel. What keeps Arafat in power is not the dubious economic promise of a struggling dictatorship but his militant followers' dream of driving the Jews out of the Middle East.

ARAFAT'S 'WAR PROCESS'; MEANWHILE, BACK IN THE MIDDLE EAST, THE PALESTINIAN LEADER
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Second step is to whip up support in world opinion by creating innocent victims of Israeli guns. Palestinian snipers draw fire into civilian crowds for the sole purpose of sacrificing innocents, creating anguished funeral demonstrations and spreading hatred. Every casualty is exploitable; every picture of a boy with a slingshot rather than a gun is a small victory; the gut-wrenching film of the boy dying in a crossfire was a propaganda triumph.

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America's mind is fixed on its own affairs, but thanks to Arafat, whoever wins the White House is sure to have a stressful first 100 days.

William Safire is a syndicated columnist for The New York Times.

Load-Date: November 21, 2000

PM vows Israel will remain in Lebanon

Hamilton Spectator (Ontario, Canada)

November 30, 1998 Monday Final Edition

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Section: CANADA & WORLD; Pg. A12; News

Length: 417 words

Dateline: JERUSALEM

Body

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu held a top-level review yesterday of his government's Lebanon strategy, urged by the United States to show restraint in the face of mounting Israeli casualties.

Netanyahu convened his "security cabinet" after touring the northern border and visiting soldiers wounded in Israel's self-declared security zone in southern Lebanon, the last active Israeli-Arab battlefield.

In the northern city Haifa, Netanyahu said: "As long as we have no way to leave Lebanon in an arrangement to safeguard the north, we will stay in Lebanon with the main goal of defending our soldiers, reducing harm to them and increasing damage to Hezbollah."

Reuters

GUERRILLA WAR

The pro-Iranian Hezbollah guerrilla group is waging a guerrilla war to oust the Israeli army from the 15-kilometre-deep occupation area. Seven Israeli soldiers have been killed in the zone in the last two weeks, reigniting a public debate in Israel over the possibility of a unilateral withdrawal.

No decisions were announced at the end of the four-hour session attended by senior cabinet members and top military officers. Netanyahu said before the meeting that the deliberations would stretch over more than one day.

In south Lebanon yesterday, Israeli planes and artillery blasted suspected guerrilla targets, heightening fears of a wider campaign against civilian and military targets.

In 1996, Israel staged a 17-day offensive on Lebanon in retaliation for guerrilla attacks. Nearly 200 people, mostly civilians, died in the blitz.

Saying it wanted a way out of Lebanon, Israel last spring adopted a UN resolution -- passed in 1978 after a previous Israeli incursion -- calling for an immediate pullout. But Israel made the withdrawal conditional on Lebanese guarantees that Hezbollah would be restrained and Israel's South Lebanon Army militia safeguarded.

Syria, the main power broker in Lebanon, and the Beirut government both say an Israeli withdrawal must be unconditional.

Israeli Foreign Minister Ariel Sharon said yesterday efforts to pull out could not be held hostage by Syria which has 35,000 troops in Lebanon.

PM vows Israel will remain in Lebanon

Analysts said Syria, which wants to regain the strategic Golan Heights which Israel captured in the 1967 Middle East war, has little interest in reducing pressure on Israeli forces in Lebanon by reining in **Hezbollah**. Israeli-

Syrian negotiations over the fate of the Golan have been frozen for nearly three years. Israel has held parts of south Lebanon since 1978 and set up the border zone in 1985.

Graphic

Colour Photo: Eyal Warshavsky, The Associated Press; Israeli **women** protest outside Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office in Jerusalem yesterday, calling for Israel's withdrawal from south Lebanon. Seven Israeli soldiers have been killed in the region during the last two weeks.

Load-Date: October 16, 2002

End of Document

WORLD HEADLINES

Dayton Daily News (Ohio)
February 1, 2000, Tuesday,
CITY EDITION

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Section: NEWS,

Length: 1080 words

Body

Jury decides doc killed 15 patients

PRESTON, England - Jurors convicted a family doctor on Monday of murdering 15 female patients by injecting the middle-aged and elderly women with lethal doses of heroin.

Harold Shipman, who ranks among Britain's most prolific modern-day serial killers, was sentenced to 15 life sentences - the maximum punishment in Britain, which has no death penalty.

EU sends warning to Austrian leader

VIENNA, Austria

- The European Union warned Monday that it would take the unprecedented step of severing most political contacts with any Austrian government that includes a far-right party whose leader has praised aspects of Adolph Hitler's regime.

Joerg Haider of the populist anti-immigration Freedom Party, won international notoriety a decade ago after praising Hitler's "orderly employment policy," and later for lauding veterans of the Waffen SS as "decent people of good character." He has apologized for those statements.

Rebels may shelter guerrilla gang

WALAY KHEE, Myanmar

- Myanmar's main ethnic rebel group said Monday it would shelter members of a beleaguered guerrilla gang led by twin 12-year-old boys, but only if they accept the larger group's leadership.

God's Army, led by Johnny and Luther Htoo, was blamed for the armed takeover of a hospital in Thailand last week and was engaged in heavy fighting with the Myanmar military on Monday.

David Tharckabaw of the Karen National Union said the group was preparing to contact God's Army with an offer to take them in, but "only if they agree to follow our leadership and promise not to do any more foolish acts."

WORLD HEADLINES

A senior leader in the Karen National Union, Bo Mya, said the group believes God's Army was manipulated into the hospital raid by another group, the Vigorous Burmese Student Warriors, who could have been provocateurs sent by the Myanmar government.

Five of the student warriors briefly took over the Myanmar Embassy in Thailand last October, and at least one of its members took part in the hospital takeover in Ratchaburi in western Thailand. The hospital siege ended when all 10 Myanmar raiders were shot dead by Thai security forces.

Bo Mya and other KNU officials spoke at a celebration of Karen Revolution Day, held at a base not far from the border with Thailand. About 300 people shared a communal breakfast of rice and potato-chicken curry and listened to songs and speeches.

The Karen National Union, whose fighting force has dropped in recent years to an estimated 3,000 to 4,000 troops, has been seeking autonomy from the government of Myanmar, also known as Burma, since the country gained independence from Britain in 1948.

God's Army, which has at most 200 people, is only loosely associated with the KNU but the hospital takeover caused outrage in Thailand and a backlash against the Karen cause.

The Karen National Union relies on Bangkok's goodwill to operate, since most of its supply lines run through Thailand, which is also the only safe refuge for its civilian followers.

"There will be a systematic approach to neighboring countries for understanding and sympathy," Bo Mya said in apparent reference to strained relations with Thailand.

Tharckabaw said the KNU had information about fighting around the God's Army base and that the Htoo twins - whom their followers believe have magical powers of victory - were still alive.

"We are concerned about their safety and well-being," he said. "We don't want to see them killed."

Thai television reported Monday that five Thai troops were seriously injured by a land mine they triggered while patrolling near the border with Myanmar, where fighting has been raging between government forces and God's Army.

Myanmar troops were getting close to the frontier in pursuit of God's Army and Karen National Union troops, ITV television said. It was unclear who planted the mine.

Two-line headline goes here

ANKARA, Turkey

- Turkey's military and civilian leaders pledged Monday to wipe out a militant Islamic organization blamed for the torture killings of dozens of people.

Authorities have arrested 938 suspects in their 2-week-old campaign against Hezbollah, a group committed to establishing an Islamic state in Turkey's Kurdish-dominated southeast.

The National Security Council promised to "carry on the operations until the end," a statement issued after a seven-hour meeting said.

Turkey's Hezbollah is not related to the Lebanese-based group of the same name.

Police on Monday found the bodies of two more presumed victims of Hezbollah in the southern sea resort of Antalya and the southeastern city of Diyarbakir.

Police have found 48 corpses so far across Turkey, along with what appears to be the bones of two more victims.

WORLD HEADLINES

Most of the bodies have been dug up in basements and gardens of Hezbollah hideouts around the country. Newspapers have reported that many of the victims were savagely tortured; authorities reportedly have confiscated Hezbollah videos of some torture sessions.

"No doubt that those like (Hezbollah), who dream of achieving their dirty aims by exploiting the pure religious beliefs of our people, will receive the necessary punishment they deserve before Turkish justice," the council said.

The military and civilian leaders warned state officials and ordinary citizens to be vigilant against the group and the many other radical Islamic organizations active in Turkey.

Authorities expect to uncover more bodies in the continuing crackdown. Those detained so far include Muslim clergy, state officials and at least one mayor of the Islamic Virtue Party.

The military has accused Virtue - currently defending itself against prosecutors' attempts to shut it down for alleged anti-secular activities - of supporting radical Islam. The party has denied any links with radical groups.

Authorities have seized scores of automatic weapons, rocket launchers, hand grenades and a mortar from Hezbollah hideouts.

According to Monday's Hurriyet daily, the group was smuggling guns, hidden in frozen carcasses of cows and sheep, from Iran and Lebanon. Authorities have accused Iran of backing the group - an accusation rejected by Tehran.

The council condemned allegations aired in Turkey's media that the state helped train Hezbollah to fight Kurdish rebels, who have been battling the Turkish army for autonomy in the southeast.

"Efforts to link the state with this murderous organization are considered (an attempt) to protect and hide the real culprits," it said.

Dayton Daily News

Load-Date: February 2, 2000

LEBANESE CIVILIANS ARE TAKING HEAVY BLOWS

The Philadelphia Inquirer
APRIL 17, 1996 Wednesday SF EDITION

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The Philadelphia Inquirer
Found on Philly.com

Section: NATIONAL; Pg. A01

Length: 1252 words

Byline: Alan Sipress, INQUIRER STAFF WRITER

Dateline: BEIRUT

Body

Israeli radio broadcasts had given the Lebanese villagers of Mansoura until Saturday to clear out. But a few hours before the deadline, residents say, the Israeli air force and artillery opened fire. Half the villagers were trapped, scrambling for cover in a makeshift shelter in the concrete block school of their southern Lebanese hamlet.

Even inside the building, the bombardment kicked up a cloud of dust, which was only slightly less suffocating than their fear. When Laila Khasseb and her six children could take no more, they emerged. They found Mansoura in flames.

"Most of the homes in the village were already destroyed or burning," said Khasseb, 30, who has escaped to the Lebanese capital. "Our village was very lovely. Thanks to the Israelis, it's become a desert."

Her story is repeated by many among the up to 400,000 Lebanese who have fled Israel's onslaught over the last six days. They contradict Israel's repeated assertions that civilians were warned in plenty of time to flee the fighting. They are the victims of Israel's campaign to uproot the Hezbollah guerrillas who have staged attacks on northern Israel from positions in Lebanon.

But so far, the Israeli campaign has netted practically nothing but civilians. The raids have killed at least 46 people, according to Lebanese police, and wounded scores more, overwhelmingly Lebanese noncombatants. During the same period, Hezbollah has escalated its firing of Katyusha rockets into northern Israel, injuring several dozen Israeli civilians.

This conflict marks the dramatic collapse of a U.S.-brokered understanding between Israel and Hezbollah under which the two sides undertook to avoid attacks on civilians. That agreement came after a similar Israeli offensive in 1993 forced hundreds of thousands of Lebanese from their homes.

This time, say the Lebanese, it's worse.

LEBANESE CIVILIANS ARE TAKING HEAVY BLOWS

"This time it's murder," said Khasseb, cradling her 16-month-old daughter in one of the Beirut schools that has been turned into an emergency shelter. "Last time we felt threatened, but this time there's no mercy. The Israelis don't distinguish between children, civilians and fighters."

Last time, in 1993, Rida Salhab toughed out the Israeli raids on his village of Qana and planned to hunker down again.

But on Saturday, he said, when several rockets crashed into his tobacco field while he was working there, he had a change of heart. He said one of the rockets landed about 10 yards from his cousin, leaving him with shrapnel injuries. Another **female** cousin, working in the field, was so upset by the raid that relatives carried her off speechless.

"What we saw in our village," Salhab said, "was like a horror film."

Salhab piled his wife and three young children into his ancient Datsun and set off in the dark. Along the rutted road north, he picked up three more refugees from the hundreds he passed fleeing on foot. None of his family had a chance to pack provisions, he said, not even milk for his 5-month-old daughter. For the last four days, he's worn the same jeans and green sweatshirt. The gray stubble on his cheeks is a measure of his time as a refugee.

"We weren't that sympathetic to **Hezbollah**. But thanks to the Israelis, now we feel closer to them," Salhab said. "Why is anyone surprised that the result is **Hezbollah** firing rockets into Israel?"

It was just this kind of rocket attack on northern Israel that the Israeli offensive is officially meant to stem.

Exactly who initially broke the 1993 agreement, barring such raids, remains an item of sharp debate. But even before the recent **Hezbollah** rocketing, Israel was becoming increasingly frustrated with the growing daring of the Islamic guerrillas in their attacks on the Israeli troops who have occupied a strip of southern Lebanon for the last decade. In March alone, half a dozen Israeli soldiers were killed. With Israeli elections due May 29, a show of Israeli force was widely anticipated by Israeli commentators.

The Israeli strikes have gone well beyond **Hezbollah** positions. Since Sunday, Israeli aircraft have blasted two electrical power stations in the Beirut area, plunging the city largely into darkness only weeks after it had finally restored full power after the 17-year Lebanese civil war ended in 1992.

Israel widened its targets further yesterday. Helicopter gunships destroyed the home of a radical Palestinian commander in the Ein el-Hilweh refugee camp near Sidon. Israel also launched fresh raids against the southern suburbs of Beirut - killing five civilians, one of them a 2-year-old girl - and reportedly flew mock air raids over the northern city of Tripoli.

Once again, however, southern Lebanon endured the most violent pounding. Towering plumes of smoke and dust rose around the coastal city of Tyre, now largely abandoned. Sonic booms from Israeli jets rocked the few stragglers.

Many of the refugees have fled up the coast to Sidon. The city's mayor reported that as many as 50,000 people had taken refuge in Sidon, many of them in emergency shelters established in schools. The Lebanese Red Cross estimated that the number crowding into Sidon was much higher, since most had not registered at official shelters but sought refuge with friends and family.

Thousands more continued to stream northward into Beirut, 30 miles to the north, where relief agencies reported that up to 80 schools had been turned into shelters.

Classroom benches and desks have been stacked to the side, against the blackboards, to make room for refugees. Mattresses and blankets are now spread across the floors. Donated bundles of rice, sardines and flour are piled against walls, decorated with children's drawings of animals and posters teaching the days and months in Arabic and French.

LEBANESE CIVILIANS ARE TAKING HEAVY BLOWS

Some of the refugees are westernized town-dwellers, in chic track suits and sporty shirts; others are more traditional peasants, in well-worn trousers and, for the women, headscarves. All are bedraggled, all wearing last week's clothes.

They are people like Kaid Madi, a 56-year-old grandfather, who crammed himself and 12 relatives into his decades-old Mercedes and fled north as the Israeli bombardment crept closer to his home, village by village. And they are people like Fatima Abu Khalil, 30, now pregnant with her fourth child, who had only enough time to grab her mascara.

Many of the refugees said they finally resolved to flee their homes only after learning that Israel had rocketed an ambulance Saturday, killing four children and two adults. Pictures of the victims have been repeatedly broadcast on television here.

"The ambulance incident, that was the shock," Abu Khalil said. "People who didn't flee before that became really scared and started to come here."

Many Lebanese said that attack, which Israeli officials justified by saying the ambulance was used to transport Hezbollah members, revealed a cruelty surpassing previous Israeli forays, including the 1993 offensive. Moreover, villagers point to the intensity of bombardment - what they say is the increased use of jets and attack helicopters in addition to artillery.

Tobacco farmer Alaa Muhsein, 34, has long been accustomed to the periodic Israeli shelling of his village, Haris, as part of the wasting conflict between Israel and Hezbollah.

But six days ago, the attacks were suddenly no longer just pesky. On Saturday, he and 16 relatives crowded into three cars and caravaned north to Tyre, only to be chased by air strikes onward to Beirut.

"The usual stuff we can take," Muhsein said. "But this heavy stuff is just too dangerous."

Graphic

PHOTO AND MAP;

PHOTO (1)

1. Iranian-backed Hezbollah guerrillas fired an antiaircraft gun at an Israeli army helicopter near the Beirut airport yesterday. (Associated Press, ALI MUHAMED)

MAP (1)

1. Israel (The Philadelphia Inquirer)

Load-Date: October 28, 2002

**U.N. FORCE AWAITS ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL AS ISRAEL PULLS OUT OF
SOUTHERN LEBANON, PEACEKEEPERS FEAR THE WORST VIOLENCE IS
YET TO COME.**

The Philadelphia Inquirer

MAY 18, 2000 Thursday SF EDITION

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The Philadelphia Inquirer

Found on Philly.com

Section: NATIONAL; Pg. A17

Length: 952 words

Byline: Michael Matza, INQUIRER STAFF WRITER

Dateline: SHAQRAH, Lebanon

Body

Clad in the blue helmet and flak jacket of a U.N. peacekeeper, Irish soldier John Mooney draped a sunburned arm across the machine gun of his armored personnel carrier as it lurched past posters of young **Hezbollah** fighters who died trying to oust Israel from the "security zone" it has occupied in southern Lebanon for more than two decades.

"Our victims' blood is our voice to the world," proclaim the yellow-and-red **Hezbollah** banners strung across dusty roads between steep hills and deep valleys called wadis. The dry creek beds provide cover from which **Hezbollah** has launched rocket attacks into northern Israel and assaults on the dirt-and-stone outposts of the Israeli-supported South Lebanese Army, called the SLA.

Mooney, a member of IrishBatt - the Irish Battalion - is one of 4,500 soldiers from nine nations who patrol a 330-square-mile swath of hills, olive groves and terraced tobacco fields. Their job is to enforce a 1978 U.N. resolution monitoring the removal of Israeli and other occupying forces from Lebanon. Israel, in a move to protect its northern border from attacks, never left after its 1978 invasion of Lebanon. And since 1985, it has had troops stationed here, too, ignoring the U.N. mandate.

That is about to change as Israel moves forward with its plan to withdraw from Lebanon by July 7.

A RISKY NEUTRALITY

For IrishBatt, situated about six miles from the Israeli-Lebanese border in the most dangerous part of the Mideast's last active battlefield, the work is sensitive and risky - 16 of its members have been killed by mortar fire, mines or bomb explosions since 1978. Its members live in a war zone, but are supposed to be neutral. They provide aid in the form of food and education programs for local people, but can do little when bombs destroy villages. They are

U.N. FORCE AWAITS ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL AS ISRAEL PULLS OUT OF SOUTHERN LEBANON , PEACEKEEPERS FEAR THE WORST VIOLENCE IS YET TO COME.

there to watch, not shoot back. And now U.N. officials are expecting that a burst of violence will accompany Israel's withdrawal from the region.

Tours of duty here last six months. Soldiers earn double their pay for hazardous duty. Fiji, Finland, France, Ghana, India, Ireland, Italy, Nepal and Poland have troops on the ground. The cost to maintain the U.N. Interim Force in Lebanon, known as UNIFIL, runs about \$12 million a month. Since the mission began in 1978, 234 UNIFIL soldiers have died, including scores killed in attacks by Hezbollah, Israel and the SLA.

Anticipating the need for more peacekeepers to clear minefields, provide services and stabilize the area after Israel withdraws, U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan is prepared to boost the force by an additional 2,000 troops, expanding its area of deployment to the very edge of the Israeli border.

DAILY BARRAGES

Hours before Mooney and his 12-member company set out on this convoy, Hezbollah mortar fire killed one SLA soldier and wounded another in the nearby village of Rshaf. A neighboring SLA outpost is under attack as Mooney makes his rounds. Retaliatory Israeli air raids are on the way.

But Mooney, 36, a six-tour veteran of UNIFIL, believes the worst is yet to come. The expectation is that Hezbollah will pound the withdrawing Israelis and take bloody retribution against the 1,500-man SLA.

Israelis will use preemptive artillery bombardments to cover their departure. Three thousand Lebanese civilians who cross the border each day to work at jobs in Israel will be out of work when the border is sealed.

Daily artillery barrages have risen dramatically over the last month. Guerrilla attacks on SLA and Israeli positions have increased from about six to 13 a day. The number of firings at or close to UNIFIL positions has also jumped - from six times in March, to 33 times last month.

"When the Israelis pull out," says Mooney, "[the SLA] will be on its own, and Hezbollah will be right down on the Israeli border."

Two weeks ago, an SLA shelling that killed two women prompted retaliatory rocketing of northern Israel by Hezbollah and counterstrike air raids by Israel against civilian power plants in Lebanon.

"There's a lot of tit for tat in this part of the world," says Finbar O'Reilly, a sergeant from County Kildare, Ireland, whose job is to defuse roadside bombs.

Whether UNIFIL can defuse the hostilities is an open question. Its troops were in place in 1982 when the invading Israeli army went through them like an irrelevancy. In 1996, Israeli shelling killed 100 Lebanese civilians who had sought shelter at a U.N. base near Qana. Moreover, any delay in expanding its presence will leave a vacuum.

Now that UNIFIL's mandate has a chance of fulfillment, will countries in the region help facilitate the peace? Israel, Lebanon and Syria - the real power broker in Lebanon - all have said they will allow the peacekeepers to deploy.

But without a regional peace treaty, doubts remain about whether Syria will foster attacks by others to punish Israel for its continued occupation of the Golan Heights.

A dispute over the sovereignty of Chebaa farms, on Lebanon's southeast border, could be an excuse to keep the war machine revving. Israel seized the farms from Syria when it took the Golan Heights in 1967. Lebanon says that Chebaa farms are on Lebanese soil and that Israel's withdrawal is incomplete unless it withdraws from Chebaa too.

What seems evident among civilians on the edge of IrishBatt's deployment zone is a sense of weariness with the war, but some hope too, that U.N. peacekeepers might finally have a peace to keep.

U.N. FORCE AWAITS ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL AS ISRAEL PULLS OUT OF SOUTHERN LEBANON , PEACEKEEPERS FEAR THE WORST VIOLENCE IS YET TO COME.

"After 50 years of conflict with Israel we're not ready to become Israel's border guards," said Sadallah Faikih, 60, a director of a school in Beirut. "But if the U.N. comes with enough means to stop infiltration and military activity, it will be excellent."

Michael Matza's e-mail address is for@phillynews.com

Graphic

PHOTO AND MAP;

PHOTO

Irish soldier John Mooney is a U.N. peacekeeper in southern Lebanon. Serving on the U.N. force are 4,500 soldiers from nine nations. (MICHAEL MATZA, Inquirer Staff)

Load-Date: February 4, 2002

End of Document

**UNslams Lebanon's retaliation strikes;
CIVILIANS SCATTER: Shiites hit back after Israeli rocket raids**

Bath Chronicle

May 6, 2000

BATH CHRONICLE

Copyright 2000 Bristol United Press

Section: News, Pg.5

Length: 328 words

Body

CIVILIANS scattered in panic as Lebanese guerrillas fired rockets at the Israeli border city of Kiryat Shemona.

People had just emerged from a night in the bomb shelters as the missiles struck yesterday.

The Arab League announced an urgent meeting at its Cairo headquarters to discuss the situation in southern Lebanon after attacks by guerrilla and Israeli forces.

A top United Nations official in the Middle East joined the condemnation of the raids which saw **Hezbollah** guerrillas fire rockets at the Israeli border city of Kiryat Shemon.

The guerrilla group **Hezbollah** said it was in retaliation for overnight Israeli bombing raids on Lebanese power installations.

The day before, **Hezbollah** launched its fiercest rocket attack in a year on Israel's north, killing an Israeli soldier and wounding 26 other people. That rocket barrage came hours after two Lebanese **women** were killed in shelling by Israel's allied militia in south Lebanon.

The sharp exchange of retaliatory fire raised fears of escalated fighting once Israel withdraws its troops from the buffer zone it set up 15 years ago in south Lebanon.

Israel said the planned troop pullout, to take place by July 7, would not be delayed, but promised to hit back hard in response to any attacks on its northern towns.

In yesterday's attacks rockets fell in Shlomi, a poverty-stricken border town near Israel's Mediterranean coast, injuring one person.

Moments later, a sustained barrage targeted Kiryat Shemona, the biggest town on the IsraelLebanon border. The attack came as the streets were crowded with people shopping for the Jewish Sabbath, beginning at sundown.

Queues had formed at bakeries when the rocket fire was heard, scattering customers.

The deputy mayor, Yitzhak Kakon, said four homes, two supermarkets and 15 cars were hit.

UNslams Lebanon 's retaliation strikes; CIVILIANS SCATTER: Shiites hit back after Israeli rocket raids

The overnight Israeli strikes on power installations in Beirut and northern Lebanon plunged large areas into darkness and carved a crater into the main Beirut-Damascus road.

Load-Date: May 15, 2000

End of Document

Bloodbath in Lebanon: UN calls for ceasefire after Israeli shells kill 101

The Gazette (Montreal, Quebec)

April 19, 1996, Friday, FINAL EDITION

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Section: NEWS; Pg. A1 / FRONT

Length: 914 words

Byline: NORMA GREENAWAY AND KATHERINE WILTON; SOUTHAM NEWS, CP, AP, REUTER

Dateline: QANA, Lebanon

Body

Israeli shells slammed into a UN peacekeeping camp sheltering hundreds of Lebanese civilians yesterday, turning it into an inferno of burning flesh and limbs.

Security sources said at least 101 people were killed and 104 wounded. A UN spokesman said four Fijian members of the UN force were also wounded.

Israel admitted an "unfortunate mistake" in the bloody assault but defended it as retaliation for rocket attacks into northern Israel from a nearby **Hezbollah** guerrilla post.

Lebanese leaders called the shelling "the mother of all atrocities" and a new page in "the annals of terror."

The United Nations Security Council called for an immediate ceasefire, without singling out either side for condemnation. The vote in the 15-country council was unanimous. It followed the defeat of a tougher Arab-sponsored resolution that would have condemned "Israeli aggression."

Canada earlier condemned the bombing and demanded a ceasefire. U.S. President Bill Clinton ordered Secretary of State Warren Christopher to the region to mediate.

In Qana, screaming, crying men, **women** and children fled the scene in panic and anger. Many shouted their outrage at Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres. Others vented their rage at Clinton, whom they blame for providing military aid and hardware to Israel.

UN soldiers and rescue workers struggled to pull the dead and wounded from two shelled buildings at the camp, home to 150 Fijian peacekeepers. It was the bloodiest day yet in the 8-day-old assault by Israeli forces against Iranian-backed **Hezbollah**.

Earlier yesterday, an Israeli attack on a house in the **Hezbollah** stronghold of Nabatiyeh in south Lebanon killed a mother, her five children and two other relatives.

Peres said he regretted the death of Lebanese civilians. But he laid the blame squarely at the feet of **Hezbollah** guerrillas, who, he said, had fired Katyusha rockets into northern Israel from a point only 300 metres from the UN camp. "If our citizens and soldiers are fired on, we will return fire," he said, adding that Israel had warned civilians to clear out of south Lebanon for their own safety.

Bloodbath in Lebanon : UN calls for ceasefire after Israeli shells kill 101

Peres said Israel was open to a negotiated settlement of the hostilities, but the country has no intention of halting its military offensive to crush Hezbollah's ability to fire rockets into Israel.

Hezbollah guerrillas are leading the fight to evict Israel from a narrow strip of land it occupies in southern Lebanon as a so-called security zone.

Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Hariri made no secret of his disgust with Peres's response to what many Lebanese are calling a massacre. "I'm really surprised," Hariri said. "I thought that Mr. Peres would have the courage to say they made a terrible mistake."

The strike followed days of fruitless diplomatic manoeuvring by the United States, France, Israel, Lebanon and Syria, the main power broker in Lebanon, to bring about a ceasefire.

The UN camp on the outskirts of Qana, about 15 kilometres southeast of Tyre, was a temporary home to about 850 Lebanese from surrounding villages. They had sought refuge there thinking they would be protected from the fallout of the brutal fighting.

"I believed Israel would not strike at the United Nations," said Ali Deeb, 28, as he arrived stunned and weeping at a nearby hospital with his injured sister.

"I thought I was safe," agreed 30-year-old Mohammed Ismaine Burger, who said most of his 25-member extended family had been killed or wounded.

The civilians had been told to take cover because the UN soldiers expected Israel to respond to Katyushya rocket attacks. Most crowded into the two main buildings, made of aluminum and wood, because the camp's 10 small bomb shelters hold only about 150 people. Most of the 150 soldiers from Fiji based at the camp and several dozen civilians crowded into the bomb shelters. None of them was injured in the shelling.

At Nazam Hospital in nearby Tyre, medical workers and volunteers silently unloaded the bodies that were rushed there, wrapped them in clear plastic bags and piled them in a basement room. Many were toddlers, their clothes and faces caked in blood. Less than three hours after the attack, all the dead and wounded had been evacuated from the camp, leaving solemn UN soldiers to sift through the smoldering wreckage.

The Israeli foreign minister, Ehud Barak, called the attack on the base an "unfortunate mistake."

In Moscow, where he was attending a summit of the world's top industrialized countries, Prime Minister Jean Chretien deplored the attack. "This cannot continue," he said.

In Montreal, the president of the Canadian Arab Federation called the killings a "terrible tragedy" and denounced Israel for committing "violent acts against humanity."

John Asfour said Israel should stop bombing Lebanon and withdraw immediately from its territory.

"They must stop the killing of innocent women and children," he said. "We are calling on all Jews, especially the Jewish community here in Montreal, to condemn this act."

Yesterday afternoon, Canadian Jewish Congress president Goldie Hershon released a statement saying she felt "deep sorrow and pain over the loss of life in Lebanon."

"It is always heart-rending to see civilians caught in the middle of such a conflict," she said.

However, Hershon added that "every government, including Israel's, has a right and a duty to protect its citizens and Hezbollah terrorists must cease their attacks on Israel."

Bloodbath in Lebanon : UN calls for ceasefire after Israeli shells kill 101

End of Document

**TURKEY ORDERS READING OF ANTI-VIOLENCE SERMON IN MOSQUES
AFTER TERRORIST;
KILLINGS**

St. Louis Post-Dispatch (Missouri)

January 29, 2000, Saturday, FIVE STAR LIFT EDITION

Copyright 2000 St. Louis Post-Dispatch, Inc.

Section: NEWS, Pg. 19

Length: 301 words

Byline: The Associated Press

Dateline: ANKARA, TURKEY

Body

Turkey ordered Muslim clerics to read a sermon denouncing violence during prayers on Friday, while police uncovered seven more bodies of people believed slain by an Islamic group whose underground torture chambers have shocked the nation.

The bodies were discovered at an Istanbul hide-out allegedly used by the militant group Hezbollah, raising to 40 the number of bodies dug up during the past 10 days.

Hezbollah, whose goal is the creation of an Islamic state in southeastern Turkey, has used mosques to recruit militants in the largely Kurdish area. The group is not linked to the Lebanon-based guerrilla group of the same name.

Authorities have arrested some 700 militants whose confessions have led police to corpses in basements and gardens in cities throughout the country. Many victims had their arms and legs tied behind their backs, and some bodies bore signs of torture.

Captured militants in the southeastern city of Batman on Friday led police to nine secret hide-outs, where authorities discovered 134 pistols and 26 AK-47 assault rifles, said Isa Parlak, Batman's governor.

Hezbollah's suspected victims included businessmen who refused to support the group and a women's rights activist who insisted on the right to pray alongside men.

In Ankara's main mosque, a leader of Friday prayers read a government-approved sermon denouncing the killings.

"Terror, violence and anarchy have nothing to do with Islam," the prayer leader read to about 2,000 people gathered at the Kocatepe mosque. "Our religion has banned all kinds of anarchy, terror, violence, wickedness, torment and torture."

The text, which was read by thousands of clerics across the country, was titled "Violence has no place in Islam" and cited verses from the Islamic holy book, the Quran, in which the prophet Mohammed forbids cruelty.

TURKEY ORDERS READING OF ANTI-VIOLENCE SERMON IN MOSQUES AFTER TERRORIST; KILLINGS

Load-Date: January 29, 2000

End of Document

Serb-led Yugoslavs call for end to fighting

St. Petersburg Times (Florida)

May 26, 1992, Tuesday, City Edition

Times Publishing Company

Section: NATIONAL; WORLD DIGEST; Pg. 9A; DIGEST

Length: 455 words

Dateline: BELGRADE, Yugoslavia; KABUL Afghanistan; VATICAN CITY; JIBSHEET, Lebanon; BARCELONA, Spain

Body

Yugoslavia on Monday called on all sides to stop warfare in Bosnia-Herzegovina in an apparent effort to stave off tough Western sanctions. The Serb-led government also said it supported U.N. relief and peacekeeping missions. In Bosnia, Yugoslav troops prepared to complete their pullout from Sarajevo, the capital. And in Serbia's southern province of Kosovo, Ibrahim Rugova, the leader of the majority ethnic Albanians, was chosen president in Sunday's elections, according to preliminary results released Monday. Serbian authorities have declared the elections illegal. The vote could be a step toward independence. European Community talks on the Yugoslav crisis were expected to continue Thursday in Brussels.

Afghan guerrilla leaders seek cease-fire

KABUL, Afghanistan Two rival guerrilla chiefs Gulbuddin Hekmatyar and Ahmad Shah Masood, who is now defense minister in the new government on Monday agreed to stop fighting and hold elections within six months. They also called for the withdrawal of all militia forces from the capital. It was their first meeting since the Islamic government came to power a month ago. The two, who together battled ousted President Najibullah, now seek to dominate the new government. Hekmatyar seeks a stricter Islamic state than that envisioned by Masood.

Archbishop of Canterbury, pope meet

VATICAN CITY Archbishop of Canterbury George Carey had his first meeting with Pope John Paul II on Monday and firmly defended the ordination of women priests as a "proper development" in Christianity. But the pope told Carey women priests were an obstacle to eventual unity between the Roman Catholic church and the 70-million-member worldwide Anglican Communion, which Carey leads as head of the Church of England. The two churches have been split since 1534, when King Henry VIII of England refused to accept papal authority. Carey later said he had unofficially invited the pope on a second trip to Britain.

Elsewhere . . .

JIBSHEET, Lebanon Israeli planes and helicopters blasted the pro-Iranian Hezbollah in south Lebanon on Monday, and security sources said hundreds of Syrian soldiers had been deployed in the eastern Bekaa Valley in Lebanon. Israeli attacks on the village of Jibsheet, a Hezbollah stronghold 38 miles south of Beirut, killed Hezbollah commander Yasser Nassour, his wife, his father-in-law and two daughters, ages 2 and 4. In Jerusalem, Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir said Israel would continue its raids until Hezbollah guerrillas halted attacks on Israel's self-declared security zone.

BARCELONA, Spain A bomb injured 15 people in Barcelona on Monday, just two months away from the Summer Olympics here. Local officials said it was probably the work of Catalan separatists.

Serb-led Yugoslavs call for end to fighting

Load-Date: November 3, 1992

End of Document

ISRAELI SOLDIERS, 1 GUERRILLA KILLED IN LEBANON CLASHES

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette (Pennsylvania)

August 18, 1999, Wednesday,

SOONER EDITION

Copyright 1999 P.G. Publishing Co.

Section: WORLD,

Length: 799 words

Byline: BUTROS WANNA, THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dateline: MARKABA, Lebanon

Body

Hezbollah guerrillas avenging a commander's slaying killed two Israeli soldiers and wounded four others in clashes yesterday in southern Lebanon that also left one guerrilla dead, security officials said.

Israel sent its air force on several bombing runs during a fierce four-hour artillery, mortar and rocket battle in Wadi Slouki, a valley in no-man's land across from the Israeli-occupied zone.

Israel confirmed airstrikes on Lebanon, but did not have immediate comment on its casualties. It was the most serious fighting since Israeli air raids targeted bridges and power stations in central Lebanon in June, killing 10 people.

The Israeli casualties would be Israel's first combat fatalities in Lebanon since Prime Minister Ehud Barak took office in July. They almost certainly would increase calls in Israel for a withdrawal.

Barak has pledged to pull the army out of Lebanon within a year.

Speaking in the Israeli town of Beersheba, he suggested the fighting "will be what makes it possible in the end to remove the Israeli army from Lebanon by agreement."

Meanwhile, in the Hezbollah stronghold of south Beirut, a funeral was held for commander Ali Hassan Deeb, better known as Abu Hassan, who was killed by roadside bombs Monday in the southern port city of Sidon.

The Iranian-backed Hezbollah and the Lebanese government blamed Israel for the bombing. No one has claimed responsibility.

More than 8,000 Hezbollah supporters marched in searing heat behind Abu Hassan's coffin, which was draped with the yellow Hezbollah banner. Women in black flowing robes followed the men, who beat their chests in traditional Shiite Muslim mourning or waved their clenched fists in the air.

Abu Hassan was buried in the Shiite-inhabited suburbs of Beirut because his body could not be taken to his native village of Kounin, which is in the Israeli-occupied zone.

ISRAELI SOLDIERS, 1 GUERRILLA KILLED IN LEBANON CLASHES

In yesterday's combat, fighter jets fired two missiles at the Wadi Slouki area, which is believed used by Hezbollah guerrillas as a base to launch attacks on the Israeli-occupied zone.

The same area was targeted by Israeli jets and helicopter gunships early yesterday before the ground fighting erupted.

pg99 0018 990818 N S 9908180167 00003030 IT N

Challenging the weakened Boris Yeltsin, ex-prime minister Yevgeny Primakov joined a coalition of the Russian president's rivals yesterday that plans to contest upcoming elections.

For his part, Yeltsin spent yesterday in the Kremlin cautioning his latest prime minister, Vladimir Putin, not to stray from his political line. Yeltsin has fired four premiers in the past 17 months.

Primakov was one of those dumped by Yeltsin - apparently because he was becoming too popular in his own right. Primakov's new alliance is with Moscow Mayor Yuri Luzhkov, another former Yeltsin ally who now has a score to settle with the president.

Primakov and Luzhkov are two of the country's most popular politicians, and either would be a strong contender for president in elections set for next summer.

The duo has linked up with several prominent regional governors in a bloc that has set its sights on the December parliamentary polls. A strong showing would serve as a springboard for either one to run for president. Both were noncommittal yesterday when asked which would enter the presidential campaign.

"I haven't yet made up my mind," Primakov told a joint news conference. "Much will depend on whether I feel that people trust me."

"Don't you hurry us," Luzhkov said. "Let us get into [parliament], and then we will make a decision."

Yeltsin, 68, is not allowed to run for a third term and has grown increasingly isolated as his term winds down. But he clearly wants to influence both the parliamentary elections and the presidential poll. He announced last week that Putin is his preferred successor.

Primakov was a well-regarded prime minister until Yeltsin removed him in May. Luzhkov was a Yeltsin ally for years, but they have become increasingly bitter rivals in recent months.

The coalition, called Fatherland-All Russia, hopes to attract political moderates who once supported Yeltsin, but also to steal away votes from the Communist Party and other hard-line groups.

Yeltsin has beaten back his political rivals throughout this decade, and the Kremlin has actively tried to undermine the new coalition.

But with Yeltsin's uncertain health, his erratic behavior and the end of his term now in sight, politicians have been emboldened to challenge him.

The unpredictable president still hasn't given any reason for last week's dismissal of Sergei Stepashin as prime minister.

But the Russian media has speculated that the president was unhappy with Stepashin's failure to prevent the formation of the new alliance. Putin is expected to take a tougher line against the Kremlin's growing number of political opponents.

Load-Date: August 28, 1999

ISRAELI SOLDIERS, 1 GUERRILLA KILLED IN LEBANON CLASHES

End of Document

Gloom overshadows truce talks

The Record (Kitchener-Waterloo, Ontario)

April 26, 1996 Friday Final Edition

Copyright 1996 Metroland Media Group Ltd

Section: FRONT; Pg. A8; News

Length: 331 words

Dateline: BEIRUT

Body

Israeli warplanes attacked Palestinian guerrillas Thursday near the Syrian border and stepped up pressure on Lebanese civilians by targeting vital roads and services, as hopes for a ceasefire waned.

Israel warned the Lebanese army that it would risk danger to work crews if it attempted to repair the roads and bridges destroyed in the 15-day air, naval and artillery assault.

Eight Lebanese civilians were wounded in Thursday's fighting. Rockets fired by Iranian-backed Hezbollah guerrillas wounded three soldiers and a civilian woman in northern Israel.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

The casualties raised the overall toll to 152 dead, mostly Lebanese civilians, and about 337 wounded. About 500,000 Lebanese and more than 20,000 Israelis have been displaced.

The fighting raged as prospects of a U.S.-brokered truce turned gloomier despite shuttling by State Secretary Warren Christopher and French Foreign Minister Herve de Charette, who were promoting rival ceasefire blueprints in Israel and Syria.

Christopher sounded downbeat Thursday, prompting speculation his mission could end without a settlement. He urged Syria and Israel to resolve their "important differences."

De Charette, pursuing a parallel effort in Damascus, Jerusalem and Beirut, sounded more optimistic, saying: "We're close to the moment of decision."

Hezbollah's deputy leader, Sheik Naim Qassem, accused Christopher of pushing a pro-Israel plan that would ban Islamic resistance to the Israeli occupation of southern Lebanon.

"This is totally rejected. The United States, in effect, is seeking to reward the aggressor and punish the victim," he said.

The Israeli onslaught has wreaked immense damage in Lebanon, but failed to achieve its goal of halting Hezbollah rocket salvos on northern Israel.

Israeli jets blasted roads linking villages southeast of the port of Tyre, further isolating those who refused to abandon their homes.

Gloom overshadows truce talks

One missile hit a house in the village of Yater, wounding four boys and three women, a UN official said.

Load-Date: September 21, 2002

End of Document

It's hard to be 'surgical' with 500-pound bombs

St. Petersburg Times (Florida)

April 19, 1996, Friday, 0 South Pinellas Edition

Copyright 1996 Times Publishing Company

Section: NATIONAL; Pg. 2A; COLUMN

Length: 910 words

Byline: JACK R. PAYTON

Dateline: WASHINGTON

Body

Let's state one brutally central fact right up front: Civilians - perfectly innocent civilians - get killed in wars, sometimes in greater numbers than the actual combatants.

It happened in southern Lebanon on Thursday when Israeli gunners accidentally shelled a U.N. post crowded with war refugees. And it happened in Baghdad during the gulf war five years ago when American warplanes bombed a shelter they thought was an Iraqi military command bunker.

In both cases, the results were bloody and horrible - so bloody and horrible that even those who launched the attacks had to wonder at the madness they had unleashed.

ISR-LEB

The Israeli attack resulted in more than 75 dead, many of them terrified women and children huddled in the U.N. encampment after fleeing Israeli shelling elsewhere. In Baghdad, the death toll was more than 200, also including many women and children. Reports at the time said the American pilots thought they were going after Saddam Hussein or some other high-ranking Iraqi leader believed to be in the bunker at the time.

And in both cases, the attackers were using high-tech weapons supposedly capable of hitting an enemy while doing minimal or no damage to those close by. That's why you hear terms such as "surgical strikes" or "smart weapons."

But as anybody who has been in combat can tell you, there is no such thing as a surgical strike when the scalpel is a 500-pound bomb or a 155mm artillery shell. If you're nearby when these things hit, you're just as dead as the people they're aiming at.

Reports from the scene Thursday indicated the Israelis fired their big guns after using "artillery radar." This is an American-developed technology that measures the trajectory of incoming rockets and artillery shells, allows gunners to pinpoint their origin and then aim "counter-battery" return fire.

In this case, the Hezbollah guerrillas were firing their Katyusha rockets at Israel from Lebanese positions very close to the U.N. encampment crowded with refugees. Firing from among civilians and non-combatants is a tactic used often by guerrillas, sometimes to keep the other side from shooting back and sometimes to make it pay a heavy price if it does.

It's hard to be 'surgical' with 500-pound bombs

The problem is that while artillery radar can tell you almost exactly where a shell or rocket came from, it can't tell you if there are any civilians in the area. It's probable then that the Israeli gunners who unleashed the deadly counter-battery fusillade had no idea civilians would be hit.

That was the opinion of Timor Goksel, spokesman of the 4,500-member U.N. forces in Lebanon. "I think it was too much reliance on high technology. I don't think it was intentional," he told reporters.

In any case, the Israelis will now have to pay the price for their terrible mistake. Their goal of putting an end to the Hezbollah guerrilla threat once and for all will almost certainly have to be trimmed back, especially if U.S. calls for an early cease-fire are successful.

The logic of Israel's weeklong assault on southern Lebanon was clear enough. In addition to eliminating as many Hezbollah guerrillas as possible, the operation was designed to put pressure on the Lebanese, and through them the Syrians, to remove Hezbollah as a fighting force.

Hezbollah may be ideologically close to the Islamic fundamentalists in Iran, but its lifeline goes through Syria. Because Syria controls most of Lebanon with its 35,000-man occupation army, nothing gets through to the Hezbollah guerrillas unless Syria lets it get through.

And the guerrillas don't fire Katyusha rockets at Israel unless the Syrians allow them to fire. The Lebanese government, weak and dependent on Syrian good will for its existence, isn't a real factor even though it pretends to be.

Yossi Beilin, the most prominent dove in the Israeli Cabinet, put his finger on it here in Washington on Thursday when he said that "Only when we have peace with Syria will we have peace in Lebanon."

And Beilin, whose credentials on this issue are beyond reproach, also pointed out another obvious but often overlooked truth: No country - not Israel, not the United States, not France or Germany - can stand idly by while guerrilla forces use the territory of a neighboring state to fire rockets on its towns and cities.

Arguing that the Hezbollah rocket attacks would stop if Israel withdrew from the strip of border territory it controls in southern Lebanon isn't at all convincing, Beilin says, because the rocket attacks were going on long before Israel moved into the territory in the early 1980s.

I can attest to that, having personally witnessed dozens of rocket attacks in northern Israeli border towns throughout the 1970s. There's not a child in the northern region of Israel who hasn't spent sleepless and often terrified nights in bomb shelters as rockets barrages coming in from Lebanon shake the ground.

No government worthy of the name can tolerate such a situation for any length of time and do nothing about it.

Does this excuse what happened in southern Lebanon on Thursday?

Of course not. There is no excuse for such a thing, and no justification either. It's one of those terrible things that happens when people go to war. When blood and force, not reason and human compassion, are used to settle old disputes.

And when you're talking about Israel and its Arab adversaries, the disputes are very old and bitter and never as simple as they might seem to outsiders.

Load-Date: April 19, 1996

LEBANON FIGHTING DEFIES DIPLOMACY AFTER DEATH OF 75

The New York Times

April 20, 1996, Saturday, Late Edition - Final

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Distribution: Foreign Desk

Section: Section 1; ; Section 1; Page 1; Column 6; Foreign Desk ; Column 6;

Length: 1492 words

Byline: By SERGE SCHMEMANN

By SERGE SCHMEMANN

Dateline: JERUSALEM, April 19

Body

Despite a flurry of diplomatic efforts to end the fighting, and despite the global outcry over the fiery killing of at least 75 Lebanese civilians by Israeli guns on Thursday, exchanges of shells and rockets in southern Lebanon continued unabated for the ninth day today.

The mass deaths generated a swirl of diplomatic moves to secure a cease-fire, involving, at last count, the United States, France, Russia, the European Union and the Group of Seven industrial nations.

Diplomatic leaders were converging on Syria, which dominates Lebanon and has sanctioned the attacks by anti-Israeli guerrillas there, and also holds the key to reining them in.

Secretary of State Warren Christopher is expected in Damascus on Saturday, along with Foreign Ministers Yevgeny M. Primakov of Russia, Herve de Charette of France and Susanna Agnelli of Italy. Mr. Christopher's chief Middle East coordinator, Dennis Ross, met with Israeli leaders today and is also headed for Syria on Saturday.

There were reports that senior officials of Lebanon, Iran and Hezbollah, the fundamentalist Muslim organization against which Israel staged its attacks in southern Lebanon, met today with Syrian officials in Damascus.

Through it all, the mutual shelling continued. Israeli military officers said their strikes had been scaled down in the aftermath of Thursday's disastrous strike against a United Nations base packed with refugees. But Israeli military and Government leaders defiantly insisted that they had had no choice but to press the fight in parallel with the diplomatic efforts.

Israeli security officials reported that guerrillas of Hezbollah, or the Party of God, had fired 65 Katyusha rockets today, and that Israeli artillery, helicopters and gunboats had shelled targets across southern Lebanon. Gunships reportedly shelled a Palestinian refugee camp near Tyre and the main coastal road near the port.

[Israeli fighter planes struck again early Saturday near villages southeast of Tyre, Reuters reported, quoting local witnesses.]

LEBANON FIGHTING DEFIES DIPLOMACY AFTER DEATH OF 75

Though everyone involved expressed hope for a quick cease-fire, estimates on when one might be reached varied widely. Syrian and French officials spoke of a cease-fire within 24 to 48 hours, and Prime Minister Shimon Peres of Israel said, "It's possible -- it's not certain, but there is a chance."

The Americans, however, were more cautious. "I'd steer you away from any reports that something is imminent," said the White House spokesman, Michael D. McCurry, who was in Moscow with President Clinton.

Mr. Christopher told reporters in The Hague: "I hope we're drawing closer. I use the word 'hope' because we're not quite there."

There was no immediate word on what might be holding up a cease-fire. What was clear was that Israel was determined for now to press on with its military actions and to achieve its goals. Though Israel has never spelled those out in detail, the primary one is to secure a Syrian guarantee that Hezbollah will cease firing rockets into Israel.

Mr. Peres decided to continue the attacks at an emergency meeting of his Cabinet on Thursday evening. There, Foreign Minister Ehud Barak and other ministers argued that Israel would lose any chance of achieving any of the operation's goals if it agreed to halt fire before reaching an agreement, according to Israeli news reports.

Mr. Peres has appeared stern and determined since the killings at the United Nations base.

At his news conference on Thursday night, he declared that he had "sorrow in his heart" over the loss of civilian lives, but he stopped well short of an apology. He insisted that Hezbollah was solely to blame for forcing Israel's hand and for hiding behind civilians, and that Israel was within its rights in attacking a rocket launching site, even if it was near a United Nations base.

Today his chief peace negotiator, Uri Savir, maintained the tough line. "If the Katyusha attacks continue, there will be no cease-fire," he said. "The Syrians are acting like they have tough nerves. This is no doubt a difficult and sad day, but we too have strong nerves."

Mr. Peres and his military commanders insisted that Israeli gunners acted within their standing orders in returning fire after Hezbollah guerrillas launched two Katyusha rockets and eight mortar rounds from a site only a few hundred yards from the United Nations base. Several Israeli artillery rounds slammed into shelters packed with Lebanese civilians.

A military officer said that the Israeli soldiers knew where the United Nations base was, but that their orders were to return fire immediately. Officers insisted that the gunners were not aware of the refugees, and that they had followed standard procedures in warning the Fijian troops to take cover.

But United Nations officials said that the first artillery rounds landed at 2:13 P.M., and that the warning had come only at 2:16 P.M.

Despite widespread dismay among Israelis over the images of shattered bodies and the accompanying chorus of condemnation from abroad, many Israelis seemed to share the Government's conviction that Israel had been left no choice but to act militarily to halt Hezbollah's attacks.

"It hurt me, just like it hurt to see the attacks in Jerusalem and Tel Aviv, but we need security," said Orly Jordan, sitting with her husband in their grocery store in Jerusalem. "These people are playing with human lives. What happened was a war, a war of survival. I don't justify it, but there was no alternative."

Others seemed horrified that the Government seemed to be treating the killings as simply the cost of war.

"As Jews, it doesn't befit us to do such things," said an elderly women walking with her grandchildren. "We're not supposed to make war on women and children. I can't turn on the TV and see the scenes. I'm ashamed to see them. It's not enough to say we're sorry."

LEBANON FIGHTING DEFIES DIPLOMACY AFTER DEATH OF 75

Part of the Israeli dismay was a profound disappointment that what was initially promoted as a "surgical operation" that promised to achieve peace without undue casualties or reproaches turned into a debacle in which Israel might be forced to return to where it began, with little to show for the operation.

"Suddenly, everybody woke up to the fact that Lebanon is Lebanon and war is war, that there's no such thing as a clean war," said Hemi Shalev, a commentator for the newspaper Maariv. "I would assume that this has lowered expectations about what can be achieved as a result of the operation. This is probably positive, because expectations were too high."

"The key as usual is the American-Syrian channel, what sort of influence Americans can bring on Assad," he said referring to President Hafez al-Assad of Syria. "It always gets back to the same place."

After similar Israeli attacks in 1993, the United States brokered an unwritten agreement that neither side would strike the other's civilians. Israel opened the current strike after charging that Hezbollah had interpreted the agreement to mean that it could strike at the Israelis from civilian villages, and that any retaliatory Israeli strike entitled the guerrillas to send rockets into northern Israel.

With the current operation, the Israelis hoped to secure firm, written guarantees from Syria against any more Katyusha attacks, coupled with broad curbs on Hezbollah activities. Though Syria has agreed to return to the 1993 agreement, it has insisted that Israel recognize Hezbollah's right to continue fighting against Israel inside the buffer zone, which Israeli has occupied since withdrawing from the rest of Lebanon in 1985.

At The Hague, Mr. Christopher said the United States was working on a two-stage approach: "The first phase is a cease-fire, and the second would be to have a deepening and a clarification of the 1993 understanding and have this written down."

Israeli television reported tonight that France and Russia had prepared another proposal, calling for an immediate cease-fire followed by the disarming of Hezbollah and an unconditional undertaking by Israel to withdraw from Lebanon.

The Israeli Government issued a warning today that Islamic fundamentalist groups might try to take revenge against Israelis and Jews for Thursday's killings. Hamas, the militant Palestinian group that has been responsible for most of the suicide bombings inside Israel, has warned of creating a "sea of blood" in Tel Aviv.

The Government said in a statement, "Given the threats of revenge attacks against Israeli targets following Israeli army activities in Operation Grapes of Wrath in Lebanon, security has been increased at Israeli and Jewish sites abroad."

Israelis were also concerned about a call today to a French news agency in Beirut by a person claiming to speak for a group calling itself the Organization of the Oppressed on Earth. The caller said that the group holds Ron Arad, an Israeli airman missing in Lebanon since 1986, and that he would be executed in 48 hours unless the Israelis stopped shelling. There was no immediate way to verify the claim.

Graphic

Photo: As two Israeli soldiers loaded artillery shells for firing at Muslim guerrilla targets yesterday, a third prepared himself for the Sabbath. (Agence France-Presse) (pg. 6)

Load-Date: April 20, 1996

LEBANON FIGHTING DEFIES DIPLOMACY AFTER DEATH OF 75

End of Document

Israeli attacks prompt protest at 'U' by Twin Cities Muslims

Star Tribune (Minneapolis, MN)

April 20, 1996, Metro Edition

Copyright 1996 Star Tribune

Section: News; Pg. 16A

Length: 296 words

Byline: Jim Parsons; Staff Writer

Body

A University of Minnesota student who hasn't heard whether his relatives were killed, injured or spared when their refugee camp was hit by artillery fire joined other Twin Cities Muslims on Friday in condemning Israel for its recent attacks in southern Lebanon.

Ayman Ibrahim said that about 15 members of his extended family left their village several days ago for the safety of the U.N. camp in nearby Qana.

Israeli shells turned the camp into a macabre scene Thursday, killing about 75 refugees and wounding 100.

Israel has apologized for hitting the camp, calling it an "unfortunate mistake," but about two dozen Muslims demonstrating outside the university's Coffman Union weren't in a mood to accept the apology.

The Israeli attacks in southern Lebanon are an attempt to weaken Lebanon's recovering economy, said Karim Abulaban, of the Islamic Cultural Community Center in northeast Minneapolis.

And, said protester Hesham Reda, they are a continuation of Israel's policy of controlling southern Lebanon in defiance of a U.N. resolution calling for the Israelis to withdraw troops from the area.

Israel maintains that its military action is a response to the firing of hundreds of rockets into northern Israel by the guerrilla group Hezbollah. Reda said that it is regrettable that some of Hezbollah's rockets have killed women and children, but he would not condemn those rocket attacks. "Hezbollah is trying to get rid of the occupation," he said.

Several speakers chastised the Clinton administration for not publicly condemning "Israel's violence and state-sponsored terrorism" and for allowing what they said were abuses of Palestinian human rights in the occupied lands.

They also criticized the U.S. media, saying they show a pro-Israel bias in reporting the conflict.

Load-Date: April 22, 1996

Guerillas win support of a shocked people

THE AUSTRALIAN

April 16, 1996, Tuesday

Copyright 1996 Nationwide News Pty Limited

Length: 781 words

Body

LEBANESE refugees, some livid with rage, others numb and dazed, sat on the grass outside Sidon's chaotic town hall listening to a tinny radio detailing the "criminal attacks of the evil Zionists" on the towns and villages they abandoned in fear a few hours earlier.

No one blamed **Hezbollah** for their misery. Israel's latest blitz was once again in danger of serving only to glorify **Hezbollah** as the sole organisation willing and able to challenge the region's superpower.

"When the Israelis fire rockets on our children, we must respond," said Mr Khaled Hussein, whose niece, Huda, 10, was one of four girls killed when an Israeli helicopter fired a rocket into an ambulance crammed with refugees on Saturday.

The Times

"It was clearly marked as a village ambulance," he said, speaking softly, still in shock.

"The bodies are in Tyre hospital and we cannot bury them because the Israelis are attacking the city."

Photographs of the bodies of the four children and two **women**, carried on the front pages of Lebanese newspapers and broadcast on local television, caused a deep sense of revulsion and outrage.

Mr Nimr Shour, 58, a labourer from Tyre, his grey-stubbed jaw quivering with anger, said: "It is a massacre."

Four children clutched at his shabby jacket. "What is their future? We have nothing to eat and nowhere to go," he said, clutching at a set of worry beads.

"The only people who do not like **Hezbollah** now are Britain and America."

Another day of Israeli air raids spawned another exodus of refugees after Israel gave the 200,000 inhabitants of the ancient port city of Tyre an ultimatum to leave their homes. A similar number had already fled other towns and villages across a broad swath of southern Lebanon.

The coastal road north of Tyre was a swollen river of refugees.

Many fled within minutes of the Israeli warning of renewed attacks. Buses, pick-up trucks and battered Mercedes taxis overflowed with people and their belongings. Groups of Lebanese army soldiers manned anti-aircraft guns along the road.

Guerillas win support of a shocked people

Inside Sidon's town hall, where local authorities were arranging shelter for more refugees in schools and mosques, Bilal Qasim Salih, 6, lay expressionless on a foam mattress, his right arm in a sling. It was broken in two places by shrapnel from an Israeli helicopter attack on Saturday.

His mother, Hanieh, 32, spoke of an uncertain future. "Where is safe? Yesterday we thought Tyre was. Today we think it is Sidon. Is Beirut even safe?"

Israel promptly answered her question with an air raid on a power station less than 14km south-east of the capital, cutting electricity to parts of the city, which echoed throughout the day with the sound of antiaircraft fire. More air raids targeted the Shia southern suburbs of the city.

The second wave of air strikes on Beirut in less than a week was another blow to the Lebanese Government, which has been spending millions of dollars rebuilding the capital shattered by 15 years of civil war that ended in 1990.

Until last week, Beirut had been cocooned from the war of attrition in the south. Now, its revival as the Middle East's cultural and financial centre is imperilled and its people are despondent. Foreign investment is threatened and authorities are once again burdened with a humanitarian crisis.

The Government, dismayed by Washington's fulsome support of Israel and a lack of effective Arab backing, feels powerless to halt the worsening cycle of violence. "Alone, Lebanon faces the indifference of the world," a Lebanese newspaper commented.

Damascus and Beirut say **Hezbollah** has every right to fight Israel's occupation of southern Lebanon, although the Prime Minister, Mr Hariri, says that if Israel withdraws he will guarantee the security of its northern border.

The message from **Hezbollah**, riding a crest of popularity, was bellicose and uncompromising. It vowed to unleash its "humanbomb battalions" and said it would keep lobbing Katyusha rockets across the border.

At a **Hezbollah** news office in Beirut's southern slums, guarded by a bearded fighter wearing an American helmet and carrying an M16 assault rifle, a smooth young spokesman for the organisation said: "Shimon Peres, Israel's Prime Minister, is using the flesh and blood of our people to win his election."

Speaking fluent English and often pausing to take calls on his mobile telephone, he added: "Israel started this cycle of violence and Israel must be the first to end it.

"We are not fighting because we want to fight. We have no choice: they are occupying our land and killing our people.

"Do not say because we are weaker we should give in. Israel is not so strong. Look at the Vietnamese. Did they stop because America was stronger?"

Load-Date: March 1, 2002

We'll Drown You In A Sea Of Blood; Terrorist threat to Israel

The Sun (England)

April 20, 1996 Saturday

Edition 6G

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Section: OVERSEAS NEWS; Pg. 2

Length: 304 words

Body

TERRORISTS threatened yesterday to drown Tel Aviv in "a sea of blood" unless Israel stops attacks in Lebanon.

The Palestinian Hamas group said it would make five new suicide bomb attacks "to save our brothers"-the Hezbollah fighters in southern Lebanon.

Hamas, whose bombings have killed 59 people since February, warned in a leaflet: "The heart of Tel Aviv will be drowned in a new sea of blood."

Last night world leaders including Bill Clinton, John Major and Boris Yeltsin piled on the pressure for a peaceful solution by calling for "an immediate ceasefire."

The leaders at the G-7 summit in Moscow said: "Only a political solution can provide a lasting settlement of the crisis and enable the resumption of the peace process."

Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres said there COULD be a ceasefire with Hezbollah this weekend.

Asked on TV in Israel if U.S. diplomacy could work, Mr Peres replied: "It's possible. There is a chance."

U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher is due to fly to the area for peace talks tomorrow.

Another terror group threatened to kill hostage airman Ron Arad in the wake of Thursday's Israeli attack on a U.N. base at Qana in which 101 Lebanese refugees, mainly women and children, died.

The Shiite Muslim Organization of the Oppressed on Earth said: "We will execute Ron Arad in 48 hours. We will film the execution and send tapes to the media." The Israeli has been missing since his jet was shot down during an air raid over Lebanon in 1986.

Meanwhile Israel and Hezbollah continued the fighting which has claimed more than 150 lives in nine days.

Israeli jets pounded villages in southern Lebanon, killing another eight people, while gunboats shelled the coast road.

We'll Drown You In A Sea Of Blood;Terrorist threat to Israel

The guerillas replied by firing more than 50 Katyusha rockets into northern Israel. They caused damage but no injuries.

Graphic

Peacemaker..Clinton last night

Load-Date: April 3, 2020

End of Document

Israelis emerge from shelters after night under rocket attack

Times Colonist (Victoria, British Columbia)

May 6, 2000 Saturday Final Edition

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Section: World; Pg. A13; News

Length: 646 words

Byline: Mark Matthews

Dateline: KIRYAT SHIMONA, Israel

Body

KIRYAT SHIMONA, Israel -- Calm returned to Israel and Lebanon late Friday after a night and morning of destruction, panic and grief.

As the Jewish Sabbath began, residents of this border city left the shelter in relief at having narrowly escaped with only wrecked or damaged buildings, burned-out cars and scattered light injuries and shock.

But in a rural village farther south, soldiers hugged one another and choked back sobs as they buried Master Sgt. Shaked Ozery, 24, killed Thursday night when a Katyusha rocket fired by Lebanese Hezbollah guerrillas struck his jeep.

And Lebanese, meanwhile, were assessing another body blow to their economy after Israeli warplanes, for the second time this year, bombed power stations supplying electricity to the Beirut area and Tripoli.

Baltimore Sun

Israel and Lebanese guerrillas both brought an end to their worst attacks in nearly a year after a renewed barrage of Katyusha rockets fell into northern Israel Friday morning, followed by more retaliatory airstrikes. Each side warned it would strike again if there were attacks on civilians.

"If they continue, we'll make their world dark," warned Israel's president, Ezer Weizman.

"If (Israel) wants to spare its northern settlements the danger of the Katyusha rockets then it has to restrain its army from any aggression and also has to restrain its agent militia," Hezbollah said, referring to the South Lebanese Army.

The sudden escalation, after a week of tit-for-tat shelling that by Thursday had killed two Lebanese women, raised new fears that Israel's planned July withdrawal from its occupation zone in southern Lebanon will be difficult and bloody.

Israeli officials vowed Friday they would not be driven out of the zone. "We intend leaving south Lebanon in an orderly manner and not abruptly," said Maj.-Gen. Giora Eiland, the army's chief of operations.

But he held out the prospect of advancing the date. "If we will be called upon to leave earlier than intended, we will be able to."

Israelis emerge from shelters after night under rocket attack

In addition to striking two electricity transformers near Beirut and Tripoli and a **Hezbollah** ammunition dump, Israeli bombs also gouged a large crater on the side of the Damascus-Beirut highway. The site, close to a Syrian intelligence building, was chosen "in order to send a message" a senior Israeli official said.

Israel says that Syria, which controls Lebanon's government, could control **Hezbollah** if it wanted to.

The renewed Katyusha attacks struck Kiryat Shimona Friday after families had emerged from staying in shelters overnight to do their grocery shopping before the Sabbath. They were abruptly ordered back inside.

Town treasurer Golan Zrihan estimated damage to structures and to the local economy in the millions of dollars.

Far south of here, in the mostly Sephardic agricultural settlement of Eliakin, villagers in casual clothes, men wearing yarmulkes, walked en masse to a local cemetery for Ozery's funeral, joining scores of soldiers who came by bus.

Under clear skies, they listened as Public Security Minister Shlomo Ben-Ami said he hoped, but could not promise, that Ozery would be "the last Israeli soldier to die" in the border war.

The halt to fighting Friday followed American and French calls for restraint on both sides, relayed through a variety of channels.

U.S. peace envoy Dennis Ross and Ambassador Martin Indyk were in Prime Minister Ehud Barak's office Thursday when the first Katyushas fell. Ross is in Israel to try to bridge wide gaps between Israel and the Palestinians in hopes of reaching a framework peace accord by this summer, just about the time when Israel withdraws from Lebanon. Ross plans to end his visit early next week.

American officials hope to convene a meeting soon of the monitoring group set up to enforce 1996 accords that bar any firing to or from civilian targets in the Lebanon war.

Graphic

Photo: Lefteris Pitarakis;Associated Press; Israeli soldiers in Elyakhin prepare to fire a salute during the funeral service Friday for Shaked Uzari, the Israeli soldier who was killed Thursday in the northern Israeli city of Kiryat Shemona in a **Hezbollah** rocket barrage.

Load-Date: March 29, 2002

Eyewitness: Israel's pursuit of an elusive enemy puts angry villagers in the firing line

The Guardian (London)

November 28, 1991

Copyright 1991 Guardian Newspapers Limited

Length: 780 words

Byline: By IAN BLACK in Majdal Salim, Lebanon

Body

IT WAS a tank shell that hit the village first, shearing a chunk off a low breeze-block house and scattering shards of metal over furrows of rich brown earth ready for winter ploughing. 'Terrorist targets,' the Israeli army said later.

Only in south Lebanon could this be normal, but in Majdal Salim there was still outrage, even though no one was hurt. A blond-haired toddler was sobbing hours after.

The round was the first of six dispatched from an Israeli tank half a mile away across the wadi towards the South Lebanon Army base at Talousa, right on the edge of the border 'security zone'.

A couple of mortar shells and 1,000 rounds of machinegun fire came next, according to the report of Commandant Gerry Broom, a wiry Dubliner who commands the nearest detachment of United Nations troops. For good measure a pair of Cobra helicopter gunships raked the wadi. Reconnaissance by fire, soldiers call this.

'The Israelis say we are terrorists,' complained Haydar Zahoul, the village headman, as sniping continued down the road, 'but we are ordinary farmers and have nothing to do with what you call resistance. I was in my field this morning when the shells landed. This is all Israeli propaganda.'

Not quite. The firing began at 8.55am on Tuesday after two explosions on the road outside the SLA base: remote-controlled bombs had injured two members of an Israeli infantry patrol.

The response was as routine as the incident that triggered it: six Israeli soldiers have been killed in the past month by bombs planted by the Hezbollah organisation, spearhead of Lebanon's Islamic resistance.

With no more than 300 fulltime fighters, Hezbollah is a dangerous and elusive foe. Their latest bombs have been planted not on the ground where foot patrols can look for telltale command wires, but above the roadsides, exploding at head level as the Israelis drive past.

Inspired by Iran and motivated by hatred of those who occupy their land, these are well-paid, highly motivated men whose share of attacks on the Israelis and the SLA has risen dramatically since the rival Amal militia was disbanded earlier this year.

'These guys work out of their bedrooms,' said a seasoned observer of life in the country's wild south. 'If they had bases or checkpoints the Israelis would have been able to wipe them out. But if you don't have any intelligence to collect how effective can you be? The Israelis do react very quickly, but every counter-measure they adopt reduces their freedom of manoeuvre.'

Eyewitness: Israel 's pursuit of an elusive enemy puts angry villagers in the firing line

From beyond the ridge line where the SLA and Israelis man their observation posts come signs of frustration: for two weeks from October 24 the Shi'ite villages north of the security zone were shelled almost daily by Israeli 155mm cannon. Hadatha and Brashit, close to the Irish battalion HQ at Camp Shamrock, in Tibnin, are still largely depopulated.

Loudspeakers boomed messages to the Lebanese to turn their backs on 'the terrorists' if they wanted to live in peace. The shelling underlined what could happen to those who ignored the warning.

The long-suffering villagers have learned to tell the difference between the Israelis and the SLA, even though they wear identical uniforms and often operate together. Viewed from this rough and beautiful lowland country, Israel's claim that it does not control its militia proxy is a transparent fiction.

All this makes south Lebanon a very dangerous place, even as the Middle East peace process limps forward: three Lebanese army soldiers died on Monday when an Israeli patrol mistook them for Hezbollah men. A few days before an Irish soldier was killed in a clash with the SLA. 'Here they shoot first and ask questions later,' says a UN official.

It is a vicious, unwinnable little war. Mr Zahoul and his friends will not admit that Hezbollah operates from here, but adds: 'We can't stop anyone who wants to go back into the security zone.'

How could it be otherwise? Last week an SLA force crossed the wadi in the dead of night and took away Mamoun Yassin, his brother, and two sons. Two women and three children were injured when the family home was blown up, pour encourager les autres. Mr Yassin's 10-year-old daughter was shot dead, her body ripped apart by bullets.

Mr Yassin, they insist here, was an Amal trade union officer and had nothing to do with Hezbollah or military matters.

'Have you ever heard of Lebanese villagers destroying houses in Israel or the security zone?' asks Mr Zahoul, fingering his worry beads.

Abbas Mussawi, the Hezbollah leader, makes the same point in a different way. 'What kind of independence does Lebanon have,' he asked an interviewer last week, 'when our land is occupied and our sons are kidnapped?'

Load-Date: June 9, 2000

ISRAELI ATTACKS ARE 'OBSTACLES' TO PEACE: SYRIA

The Toronto Star

January 27, 2000, Thursday, Edition 1

Copyright 2000 Toronto Star Newspapers, Ltd.

Section: NEWS

Length: 343 words

Body

as clashes in Lebanon heat up

DAMASCUS (Reuters-AP) - Syria accused Israel yesterday of escalating the fighting in south Lebanon and attacking Lebanese civilians indiscriminately.

"Whoever wants peace does not resort to escalation and does not send warplanes to destroy homes," said the government newspaper Tishreen. "Instead he works on calming the situation and creating a real peace climate. He does not put obstacles in the way of peace."

Lebanese guerrillas fighting to drive out Israeli forces from a border zone in south Lebanon killed an Israeli soldier Tuesday. The death came after Israeli warplanes injured two Lebanese women and destroyed their home overlooking the zone.

The violence continued yesterday. Mortar shells exploded near two schools in south Lebanon, sending panicked students running for cover, Lebanese security officials said.

The schools were not hit, but about 10 students were hospitalized and treated for shock, the officials said.

In fighting elsewhere in the region, a Hezbollah guerrilla was killed during a clash with Israeli troops, Hezbollah said.

The Hezbollah guerrillas have been fighting for years to oust 1,500 Israeli soldiers and 2,500 pro-Israeli militiamen from the occupied zone in south Lebanon. Israel set up the zone in 1985 as a buffer against cross-border guerrilla attacks.

Mortar shells narrowly missed a girls' secondary school and a nearby intermediate school for boys and girls in the village of Kfar Roumman on the edge of an Israeli-occupied zone, according to Lebanese security officials.

The officials said the Israeli-allied South Lebanon Army militia fired the shells after guerrillas attacked its position.

Israel said Syria must rein in the guerrillas if south Lebanon was to become stable and Israeli peace talks with Syria were to succeed. Israeli-Syrian negotiations restarted last month after a 45-month break but failed to resume last week as scheduled.

Syria is the dominant foreign power in Lebanon, and Israel wants peace with Syria to ease the process of withdrawing from the zone.

Graphic

REUTERS PHOTO

STUDENTS IN SHOCK:

A Lebanese Red Cross worker and a teacher help a student who fainted after shells fell near a south Lebanon school.

Load-Date: January 27, 2000

End of Document

ISRAELI JETS BOMB TARGETS IN LEBANON AFTER GUERRILLA ATTACKS

St. Louis Post-Dispatch (Missouri)

February 8, 2000, Tuesday, FIVE STAR LIFT EDITION

Copyright 2000 St. Louis Post-Dispatch, Inc.

Section: NEWS, Pg. A11

Length: 355 words

Byline: The Associated Press

Dateline: BEIRUT, LEBANON

Body

Israeli planes struck a guerrilla stronghold and power stations across Lebanon early today in retaliation for **Hezbollah** attacks that killed five Israeli soldiers. Witnesses said 15 people were wounded in the heaviest airstrikes in months.

Large areas of Lebanon were plunged into darkness, including the capital of Beirut, Baalbek and the cities of Sidon and Tyre in the south.

Witnesses said the air raids began with concentrated attacks on Baalbek, targeting a power station on the edge of the town and a **Hezbollah** stronghold. The town immediately lost electricity. The power station still was burning hours after the strike.

The 15 people injured, including four **women** and four children, lived in houses near the station, witnesses said. Their injuries were caused by flying glass and debris. Some houses in the area cracked and shop shutters were blown off.

The strikes occurred after a week of attacks by the Muslim guerrillas and graphic footage of wounded Israelis on the evening news in Israel.

The bloodshed has prompted talk that Israel would expedite plans to withdrawal from Lebanon, but it also spurred fears of increased violence near the Israel-Lebanon border. Sirens ordered residents into shelters in Israeli border towns Monday, and heavily armed troops reported to their commanders at border crossings.

The Israeli army said the attacks were in response to "the severe escalation in the activities of **Hezbollah** and other organizations in south Lebanon."

Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak said Monday, "Those who have harmed us will be harmed."

But Israeli officials' attention also turned to the longer-term impact of the violence. Ministers in Barak's Cabinet said Monday that it was becoming clear that a withdrawal from Lebanon without Syria's agreement was likely.

Barak had hoped a pullout would be through an agreement with Syria, the main power broker in Lebanon. But Israeli-Syrian peace talks broke down last month.

ISRAELI JETS BOMB TARGETS IN LEBANON AFTER GUERRILLA ATTACKS

"There is no point in waiting until July, unless someone thinks that by then we can achieve an agreement," said Amnon Lipkin-Shahak, Barak's tourism minister and one of his lead Syria negotiators.

Load-Date: February 8, 2000

End of Document

FIGHTERS WHO AIM FOR MARTYRDOM

The Scotsman

January 23, 1999, Saturday

Copyright 1999 The Scotsman Publications Ltd.

Section: Pg. 13

Length: 774 words

Byline: Matt Rees In Lebanon

Body

HE looks like any other young builder. A leather jacket and plaid shirt. Thinning, sandy hair and a wispy goatee.

Slouched back in his chair, he holds his head on its side, wary, almost insolent.

But at night, Ahmed Sayid leaves his day job and changes into camouflage fatigues. He eats a meal with the rest of his **Hezbollah** guerrilla unit and joins them in prayer. Before combat, they add two extra prostrations to their worship.

"I pray to God to be a martyr," he says. "Any minute, I might die."

On a sunny balcony in this village bordered on three sides by Israel's self-declared security zone in southern Lebanon, Sayid and his comrade, Khalil Moussa, told The Scotsman about their lives as **Hezbollah** guerrillas.

Although everyone in the village knows who the guerrillas are, they are not accustomed to talking with outsiders about their role in "the Islamic resistance." They twitch and grimace at questions about their methods. But they reveal a glimpse of the men who have exacted such a toll on Israel's modern war machine.

The prayer before dying that these men say each time they go into action is the essence of their strength. Sayid joined ten years ago because of "the wake -up call to Muslims from the Imam Khomeini." He correctly points out that even the best of the Israeli conscripts sitting behind the heavily fortified positions on the hilltops above the village would not welcome death. For Moussa, that is the Israelis' weakness.

"It is a spiritual difference.

We would like to go to God," he says. "They would not."

Moussa, who is 29, has sought that martyrdom throughout his 12 years with **Hezbollah**. He joined to help with back-up work at first.

Then he graduated to his current role, where he uses the skills of his daytime occupation as an electrician in setting roadside bombs. He personally, he says, has killed four Israelis in ambushes. Sayid interjects that he has taken only one Israeli life. So far.

In southern Lebanon, the people have two names for those killed by the Israelis.

FIGHTERS WHO AIM FOR MARTYRDOM

There are the "oppressed martyrs", old men, women or children who die when a shell falls inside a village, but Sayid and Moussa aim to be "martyrs of the struggle", giving up their lives fighting. This view of death is perhaps harder for a Westerner to comprehend even than the notion that these two ordinary-looking men are the vaunted freedom fighters so feared by Israeli troops.

Each time he goes on an operation, Moussa kisses his two young boys. "They know I am a fighter," he says. "They expect me to die at any time."

His eldest, Issa, is ten. Already he wants to join his father, but he will have to wait until he is at least 16. Just as Moussa has absolute confidence in the paradise coming to him after death, he does not wish to protect his son from the same fate.

"Of course, I will let Issa join us," he says. "It is our goal to be killed. So if he is killed, I am not afraid of that."

Moussa's eyes are green and penetrating and cold. He looks up at the Israeli post on the hilltop. Does he ever feel sorry for the soldiers up there, isolated in a hostile land? With no pause, he replies: "Never."

Hezbollah uses its fundamentalist Islamic creed to block all such doubts from its fighters' minds. But it adds another layer of propaganda to demonise the Israeli soldiers.

Posters around Tyre, the nearest city to Barasheet, show the silhouette of a soldier's head.

There is a Star of David on the helmet. The mouth is open, a long, canine jaw and gnashing, vicious teeth.

"When we face an Israeli soldier, we look at him as though he were a cartoon," says Moussa. Even if some of them are not essentially evil at first, "the Israelis are all trained to know how to terrorise our people".

There are about 5,000 full and part-time Hezbollah fighters. In a village like Barasheet on the front line, more than half of the young men are involved. Many homes have a photograph of a close relative martyred in the struggle hanging in a gilded frame on their wall. Two guerrillas die for every Israeli killed in an average year. But while the Israeli mothers weep at their son's funeral and call for a withdrawal, the Lebanese women ululate triumphantly.

For the fighters, the toughest times are spent waiting. A Hezbollah unit might set an ambush and wait days for an Israeli patrol to pass. But, the men say, it is not fear which eats at them as they lie in wait.

It is the desire for a fight.

With each engagement and each Israeli casualty, they feel closer to the day when the soldiers will go home. "We have more hope now than ever that Israel will lose," says Mr Sayid.

Before then, they also hope for a few martyrs more.

Load-Date: January 25, 1999

SLAIN TURKISH FEMINIST SPARKS DEBATE ON RIGHTS 0000107064:

The Columbian (Vancouver, WA.)

February 1, 2000, Tuesday

Copyright 2000 The Columbian Publishing Co.

Section: World/Nation; Pg. a7

Length: 551 words

Byline: SELCAN HACAOGU, Associated Press writer

Body

ANKARA, Turkey -- Even in death, Konca Kuris was denied her last wish that women be allowed to pray alongside men. It was a desire that cost the religious feminist her life at the hands of Islamic radicals.

Police dug up Kuris' naked body from the basement of a hideout used by Islamic militants who videotaped weeks of abuse they inflicted before suffocating her. The bodies of dozens of male victims also have been found and a second female victim was discovered Friday.

The killings have horrified the country, but Kuris' slaying also has focused attention on the role of women in Islam, a flashpoint that was underscored when male relatives at her funeral last week refused to allow her eldest daughter to pray beside her coffin.

Media support

"Who are the real Muslims, those who have killed Konca or those who go to mosque together, women and men?" asked Necati Dogru, a columnist for the newspaper Sabah.

"One more person paid with her life for being different and searching for her own voice," Sibel Eraslan, a female commentator, wrote in the Islamic newspaper Akit.

But at Ankara's main Kocatepe mosque, worshipper Nese Ince spoke out against Kuris' feminist brand of Islam.

"I don't want the Islam that I have believed in for years to be changed," she said.

Kuris at first was a member of the militant group Hezbollah, which seeks to establish an Islamic state in southeastern Turkey and which is not related to the Lebanese militia of the same name.

She traveled to Iran with a delegation from the organization but gradually became disillusioned with the group's attitude toward women.

She demanded the right to pray alongside men and that prayers be said in Turkish and not the traditional Arabic, which few Turks understand. Although Kuris wore a traditional Islamic head scarf, she said head scarves or the full black robes worn by some religious women were optional and not required in Islam.

Hezbollah infuriated

SLAIN TURKISH FEMINIST SPARKS DEBATE ON RIGHTS 0000107064:

Kuris' feminist views infuriated Hezbollah, which is dominated by traditional, rural Kurds.

In early 1998, she began to receive anonymous telephone calls. "Are you inventing a new religion?" the voices asked, according to the newspaper Milliyet.

In July of that year, three militants kidnapped Kuris from in front of her home in the southern port of Mersin, and she was never seen again.

Tapes of Kuris' interrogation were discovered about two weeks ago during a police raid on a Hezbollah safe house in Istanbul, Sabah reported. It said they showed militants stuffing a picture of Mustafa Kemal Ataturk, the founder of secular Turkey, into her mouth.

The newspaper also said the militants accused Kuris of seeking to become a Salman Rushdie or Taslima Nasrin, secular Muslim writers considered heretics by Muslim radicals.

Kuris was apparently suffocated with a pillow or clothing in the basement of a house in the central Anatolian city of Konya. In death, she also was kept from her goal of equality. Her body was buried in a different corner of the basement than those of the murdered men.

At her funeral, the dispute over her views erupted in full force.

"I will carry out my mother's last will," shouted Kuris' eldest daughter, Sirma. But men blocked her from the male section of the mosque.

Mosques are divided into sections by gender, with the separate area for women usually in the back.

Load-Date: February 1, 2000

***A message of peace;
Pope John Paul II - welcomed to Lebanon by a crowd of 20,000 - talks of
forgiveness to the nation's war-torn people. His visit to the Middle East, the
first by a pope in three decades, was welcomed by most factions from
hardline Christians to the militant Muslim Hezbollah***

The Tampa Tribune (Florida)

May 11, 1997, Sunday,

METRO EDITION

Copyright 1997 The Tribune Co. Publishes The Tampa Tribune

Section: NATION/WORLD,

Length: 596 words

Byline: A Tribune wire report

Body

BEIRUT, Lebanon - Showered with rice and rosewater in a spirited traditional welcome, Pope John Paul II appealed Saturday to the people of war-battered Lebanon to forgive years of brutal strife between Muslims and Christians.

Tens of thousands of people lined the streets of Beirut to see the pope in his glass-enclosed Popemobile, past the remnants of buildings crushed by artillery during Lebanon's 1975-90 civil war.

In the crowd were Christian students in T-shirts, Muslim women in veils and old men in flowing Arab headdress. Some ululated. Others chanted "Baba, Baba" - Arabic for pope.

"You are now the image of hope for all the Lebanese people," President Elias Hrawi told the pontiff upon his arrival at the airport.

John Paul spoke of the many who "died in vain" during Lebanon's war, which was sparked by conflicts that began after Muslims became a majority in the traditionally Christian land. The war killed about 150,000 people and displaced hundreds of thousands.

"That period, which has happily come to an end, is still present in everyone's memory and has left many scars on people's hearts," he said.

The pope kissed a box of soil offered by Lebanese schoolchildren. In brief remarks, he largely steered clear of politics, dwelling on the need for unity and reconciliation.

"Everyone is invited to engage in the service of peace and reconciliation ... so violence will never triumph over dialogue, nor fear and caution over confidence, nor hatred over fraternal love," he said. "On the eve of the third millennium, Lebanon should, while preserving its special riches and remaining as it is, be able to open to the developing realities of modern society."

A message of peace; Pope John Paul II - welcomed to Lebanon by a crowd of 20,000 - talks of forgiveness to the nation's war-torn people. His visit to the Middle....

The warm reception for the pope's first visit reflected a broad acceptance of the trip by virtually all Lebanese factions, from hard-line Christians to the militant Muslim **Hezbollah**.

Later Saturday, the 76-year-old John Paul met with young people at a prayer service at Harissa, about 15 miles north of Beirut and site of a sanctuary dedicated to the Virgin Mary.

John Paul was greeted with cheering, rock-concert-style enthusiasm he has not seen for a long time. The government estimated the turnout at more than 20,000.

As Christians, John Paul told the young people, they have a special duty to be "a luminous example" of reconciliation.

The crowd interrupted with cries of "Liberty, liberty," to demand freedom for Lebanon, which is occupied by both Syrian and Israeli troops.

The formal purpose of the trip was today's delivery of a major document outlining his aims for the Catholic church in Lebanon.

The document is in response to a 1995 report by Lebanese bishops that urged Syria and Israel to withdraw from Lebanon. Syria effectively controls Lebanon with 40,000 troops.

The pope's journey from the airport to the presidential palace, where he met the nation's leaders, led him past key sites in the war that at various times pitted Lebanese, Palestinians and Israelis against each other.

"We have been waiting to see His Holiness," said Juliana Hanna, a 23-year-old Christian university student. "The earth that he steps on becomes sacred. The gates of hell shatter." (CHART) Religion in Lebanon Muslims make up 55 percent of the 3.2 million people in Lebanon. The rest are Christians. There are 18 religious sects, with the Shiite Muslims, numbering 1 million, the largest of them. <A1> The presidency is allotted to a Maronite Catholic, the prime ministership to a Sunni Mulsim and the Parliament speakership to a Shiite Muslim. Parliament's 128 seats are divided equally between Christians and Muslims.

Notes

UP CLOSE NATION WORLD WATCH

Graphic

PHOTO 3; MAP; CHART,
(MAP) Lebanon

Load-Date: May 13, 1997

IN BRIEF STAND-OFF IN KOSOVO

Canberra Times (Australia)

June 29, 1998, Monday Edition

Copyright 1998 The Federal Capital Press of Australia Pty Limited

Section: Part A; Page 6

Length: 391 words

Body

PRISTINA, Yugoslavia: A stand-off at a crossroads village in the centre of the secessionist province of Kosovo has become the focus of international negotiators, who fear it could ignite an all-out war in the region.

Ethnic Albanian guerrillas maintained an armed ring around Kijevo and rebuffed demands that they end their 10-day siege of the strategic village, located on one of Kosovo's two main roads.

Serbian forces reportedly flew in food and supplies and evacuated four women and a child. Western and Albanian sources reported an army build-up that could signal Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic was poised for another crackdown.

Timor protest DILI, East Timor: Hundreds of anti-Indonesian protesters blocked yesterday three European ambassadors on a special mission in East Timor. The East Timorese demonstrators, shouting "referendum" and displaying banners and pictures of jailed guerrilla leader Xanana Gusmao, gathered in front of the hotel where the ambassadors of Britain, Austria and The Netherlands were staying.

Netanyahu's call JERUSALEM: Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu called yesterday for the convening of another international conference about the Middle East in a bid to revive the multilateral track of peace negotiations.

Hezbollah burial BEIRUT: Lebanon's Hezbollah group has buried the bodies of its guerrillas returned home in a swap for the remains of Israeli soldiers. Tens of thousands of people marched in Beirut in an emotional funeral procession for the "martyrs" - Hezbollah's term for those killed in fighting with Israeli troops occupying parts of south Lebanon.

Berlin airlift BERLIN: To the sound of 1940s big-band music, Berlin has marked the 50th anniversary of the Berlin airlift, when World War II Allies launched a 15-month operation to overcome a Soviet blockade of the city.

Rubin tour BEIJING: United States Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin will visit Malaysia, Thailand and South Korea this week on a whirlwind tour to assess Asia's financial crisis.

Terror twins WELLINGTON: New Zealand's most notorious twins, the Inghams, have reportedly been reunited in Malaysia with the sailor who hid them as stowaways aboard a cargo ship.

Sarah and Joanne Ingham flew to Malaysia to be with Sarah's sailor lover Ja'afar Bin Mohamed Zan at his village, the Sunday News reported. Sarah plans to marry him.

IN BRIEF STAND-OFF IN KOSOVO

Load-Date: June 29, 1998

End of Document

AMID CHANTS OF GRIEF, LEBANON BURIES ITS VICTIMS

The Philadelphia Inquirer
MAY 1, 1996 Wednesday SF EDITION

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The Philadelphia Inquirer
Found on Philly.com

Section: NATIONAL; Pg. A02

Length: 652 words

Byline: Greg Myre, ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dateline: QANA, Lebanon

Body

As chants of grief filled the air, 90 wooden coffins were passed hand-over-hand above a frenzied crowd of mourners yesterday at the mass burial of refugees who died in an Israeli missile attack on a U.N. base.

The procession began with a mass funeral in the coastal city of Tyre, evoking a solidarity seldom seen among Lebanon's Muslim and Christian sects. Israel's 16-day offensive against the Shiite Muslim guerrillas of Hezbollah has unified a country long tormented by its religious and political diversity.

While Qana wept for the men, women and children killed in the April 18 bombardment, Israeli forces and Lebanese guerrillas had their first serious exchange of fire since a cease-fire took effect Saturday. There was no immediate word on casualties. The exchange did not technically violate the cease-fire because civilians were not involved.

Yesterday's funeral procession was led by Sheik Mohammed Shamseddine, Lebanon's top Shiite cleric, and Prime Minister Rafik al-Hariri, a Sunni Muslim; Muslims make up about 55 percent of Lebanon's four million people. Nearby stood black-robed Catholic bishops, golden crucifixes on their chests, representing the Christians who make up the remainder of the population.

The mass killing of the villagers April 18 provoked unprecedented anger from Lebanon's Christians, once relatively sympathetic to Israel. It also fueled an international uproar.

In Qana, thousands of mourners jammed a vacant lot and climbed buildings overlooking the mass grave next to the U.N. base where Lebanese civilians had thought they were safe from the fighting between Israel and Hezbollah.

In a funeral oration in front of the coffins, Sheik Shamseddine denounced the "Israeli crime" and said: "The Jews have made a holocaust of the Arabs and of Lebanon."

Young men beat their chests with clenched fists in a traditional Shiite expression of grief. Women wailed and shrieked, and many fainted. Volunteers sprayed water from a hose in an effort to cool down the sweaty crowd, pressed body to body in the heat of the midday sun.

AMID CHANTS OF GRIEF, LEBANON BURIES ITS VICTIMS

In chants that grew progressively louder, the crowd shouted "Allahu akbar!" - God is great! - drowning out the somber music from a Boy Scout brass band.

The coffins were brought to the main street in Qana until they reached the jam-packed gravesite. Then they were passed forward on the raised hands of the mourners. Hundreds of soldiers, civil defense workers and mourners took part in a chaotic effort to remove the wrapped bodies from the coffins and then lower them into the grave, side by side.

The 60-by-60-foot mass grave is adjacent to the Fijian base of the U.N. peacekeeping force where the victims perished, many bodies shredded so badly that the exact death toll may never be known.

"We feel total despair," said a tearful Alia Saad. "We'll never forget this terrible disaster."

She and her family of nine survived the artillery attack, which Israel said was an attempt to hit Hezbollah guerrillas who had fired rockets from a site 300 yards from the U.N. base. At graveside, a black poster read in Arabic: "In Qana, Jesus Christ performed his miracles. In Qana, Shimon Peres staged his murderous debacles."

Many Lebanese say Qana is the biblical site where Jesus changed water into wine, his first miracle. Christian scholars say the Qana mentioned in the Bible is in northern Israel's Galilee region.

The Qana victims were among the 162 people known to have died - all in Lebanon and most of them civilians - during Israel's 16-day bombing blitz against Hezbollah, or Party of God. About 340 people were wounded.

Fewer than half of the bodies of the Qana victims could be identified. Estimates of the death toll range from 91 to more than 100.

Under the U.S.-brokered cease-fire that went into effect Saturday, neither side is supposed to fire at civilian areas. But the agreement says nothing can stop either side "from exercising the right of self-defense."

Graphic

PHOTO;

PHOTO (2)

1. Coffins of some of the Lebanese killed when Israel shelled a U.N. base were carried by mourners before yesterday's mass burial in the village of Qana. Clergy from Muslim and Christian sects were there. (Associated Press, ALI MOHAMED)

2. Lebanese mourners carry a coffin draped with the flag of Lebanon during a mass funeral in Qana yesterday for more than 90 victims of the Israeli shelling of a U.N. base. Israel and Hezbollah forces had bombarded each other for 16 days. (Associated Press, ALI MOHAMED) (A01)

Load-Date: October 28, 2002

Gunmen kill 18 at Cairo tourist hotel

Guardian Weekly

April 28, 1996

Copyright 1996 Guardian Publication, Ltd.

Section: INTERNATIONAL NEWS; Pg. 4

Length: 281 words

Byline: Guardian Reporters

Body

GUNMEN shot dead 17 mostly elderly Greek tourists and an Egyptian parking attendant at a Cairo hotel last week. Fourteen other tourists and an Egyptian parking attendant were wounded, three critically, in the attack, responsibility for which was later claimed by the terrorist Islamic Group.

The Greek tourists were on an Easter visit of the Holy Land sites and had arrived from Jerusalem. They were about to board a bus to Alexandria, a seat of the Greek Orthodox Church, when the massacre began.

According to witnesses, four men drew up in a white van, stepped out and fired on the party as they stood outside the foyer of the Europa Hotel on the road to the pyramids.

"I heard bubububum, four shots in the first burst, then it started, again, a longer burst, and I saw women falling like flies, covered in blood," said Sotirios Grykis, a Greek tourist who saw the scene from a first-floor balcony.

There was speculation that the shooting might be linked to the Israeli offensive in Lebanon, for which Hizbullah, or Party of God, has vowed revenge. The group of middle-aged and elderly Greek visitors, said photographer Essam Said, 30, "looked like Israelis, so maybe these people thought they were Jews."

"I believe the operation is connected to Lebanon because the Europa Hotel is known for accepting Israeli tourists," said Majdi Hussein, editor of the Islamic opposition newspaper Shaab. "The timing seems to make this the logical conclusion. Also, according to my information, these Greek tourists had come originally from Israel and hence the mistake."

However, Yasser Shetta, assistant marketing manager at the Europa disputed these claims: "Anybody could tell they were not Jewish."

Load-Date: May 13, 1996

Guerillas on Israel's doorstep; Troop pullout triggers jubilation in southern Lebanon MIDDLE EAST

Sydney Morning Herald (Australia)

May 24, 2000 Wednesday

Early Edition

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Section: NEWS AND FEATURES; International News; Pg. 19

Length: 569 words

Byline: ROSS DUNN Herald Correspondent in Jerusalem

Body

Car horns honked, children waved flags and **women** cried with joy after hundreds of villagers in southern Lebanon many exiled for more than 20 years returned to their homes.

Israeli troop withdrawals may have caused panic in Israel but there is jubilation in southern Lebanon. Convoys of Israeli soldiers drove out of Lebanon at daybreak yesterday, honking horns, waving brigade banners and kissing the soil of their homeland.

Lebanese television showed pictures of elderly villagers embracing grandchildren they had never met. One middle-aged man said the Lebanese people had achieved "victory" and the "liberation of our land and our families".

He added: "Our people have now regained their dignity."

Israel's plans for an orderly withdrawal of its troops from southern Lebanon appear to have been shattered in the face of rapid territorial advances by the militant Muslim guerilla group **Hezbollah**.

But the Israeli Prime Minister, Mr Ehud Barak, said yesterday that Israel would complete its accelerated troop withdrawal from Lebanon within a few days.

The **Hezbollah** (Party of God) now controls the central sector of the area occupied by Israeli troops since 1985 as a buffer zone to prevent cross-border attacks against the Jewish State.

As a result of these gains, **Hezbollah** guerilla fighters are now stationed only a few kilometres from the Israeli border, after Israel's proxy Lebanese militia, the South Lebanon Army (SLA), began abandoning a number of villages inside the zone.

The Israeli Army said its troops had also abandoned their western sector headquarters in Bint Jbeil the second-largest town in the occupation zone overnight. Lebanese civilians and members of the SLA and their families were also fleeing south.

As the guerillas moved in, the Israeli-backed SLA militiamen deserted their posts.

Hundreds of Lebanese entered Houla village, just two kilometres from the Israeli border.

Guerillas on Israel 's doorstep Troop pullout triggers jubilation in southern Lebanon MIDDLE EAST

Lebanese officials say Israeli forces, apparently trying to prevent the crowds from advancing further, opened fire, killing two civilians.

The advance puts the guerillas on Israel's doorstep.

As a result of the latest developments, the Israeli Security Cabinet has granted Mr Barak special powers to speed up the withdrawal.

Mr Barak said later: "We will redeploy in the next few days on the international border. This 18-year tragedy is over."

Israel has maintained a 15-kilometre buffer zone to guard against cross-border attacks, but in recent weeks has gradually handed over military outposts to its allies, the SLA.

During a tour of communities in northern Israel, Mr Barak warned that retaliation for any new guerilla attacks would be "very painful".

"I do not recommend anyone, directly or indirectly, try and check our reaction should anyone dare fire on Israeli soldiers."

Mr Barak appears to have only two options speed up the process of withdrawal to prevent Israeli troops from being killed by the Hezbollah or try to help the SLA to retain the remaining parts of the security zone, in the hope they will later be filled by United Nations peacekeepers.

Meeting in closed session in New York, the UN Security Council received a report from the UN Secretary-General, Mr Kofi Annan, in which he recommends that the UN peacekeeping force in Lebanon be increased from nearly 5,000 to 8,000.

But UN officials are also demanding that the SLA be completely disbanded or the world body will not regard an Israeli withdrawal as complete.

Graphic

ILLUS: Dancing in the streets ... Lebanese celebrate in the formerly occupied village of Beit Yahoun in southern Lebanon after the Israeli pullout. Photograph by AP/SAMER WEHBI

Load-Date: July 24, 2007

Guerillas on Israel's doorstep; Jubilation in South Lebanon as troops step up withdrawal MIDDLE EAST

Sydney Morning Herald (Australia)

May 24, 2000 Wednesday

Late Edition

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Section: NEWS AND FEATURES; International News; Pg. 19

Length: 570 words

Byline: ROSS DUNN, Herald Correspondent in Jerusalem

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But UN officials are also demanding that the SLA be completely disbanded or the world body will not regard an Israeli withdrawal as complete. More than 100 villagers stormed the notorious Khiam prison inside the crumbling Israeli occupation zone in south Lebanon on Tuesday and freed 130 Lebanese prisoners held by Israel's allies for up to 15 years.

Graphic

ILLUS: Dancing in the streets ... Lebanese celebrate in the formerly occupied village of Beit Yahoun in southern Lebanon after the Israeli pullout. Photograph by AP/SAMER WEHBI

Load-Date: July 24, 2007

ALONG ISRAEL-LEBANON BORDER, CHEERS, DEBATE AND UNCERTAINTY

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Length: 1189 words

Byline: Nomi Morris and Michael Matza, INQUIRER STAFF WRITERS

Dateline: METULLA, Israel

Body

Triumphant Islamic fighters and Lebanese civilians rushed to the Israel-Lebanon border yesterday, filling the void left by withdrawn Israeli troops with taunts, cheers and waves.

Within hours after Israeli soldiers completed their rapid pullout after 22 years of occupation, the border was awash in humanity, as Israeli citizens and Hezbollah guerrillas got a close-up look at each other in a daylong series of extraordinary scenes.

Some Hezbollah supporters waved flags and shot in the air just yards from Israeli soldiers, while others debated Middle East policies through the fence with Israeli civilians. There were no exchanges of gunfire across the border.

Israeli soldiers were under strict orders not to react and cause an escalation that might prompt their leaders to strike back hard inside Lebanon and risk another war.

"Today is different. We have changed the rules of the game," said Maj. Olivier Rafowicz, spokesman for the army's northern command. "If they want to wave yellow or red or green flags and shoot in the air, it's their internal affair. We will not open fire as long as nobody from Lebanese territory opens fire on us."

Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak said yesterday that Israeli punishment for cross-border attacks would be unprecedented in its severity and would be felt "across Lebanon."

In Lebanon, sightseers swarmed south through the zone that had been off-limits for two decades, causing traffic jams on roads formerly barred to them. Some residents threw rice and flower petals. As smoke rose from the ruins of bombed gun emplacements, old women in chadors, ululating with happiness, kissed black-bearded Hezbollah fighters.

The victory shouts and songs coming from Lebanon did not lead to violence but to cross-border dialogues such as one between an Israeli peace activist and Hezbollah supporters on opposite sides of barbed-wire fences.

ALONG ISRAEL - LEBANON BORDER, CHEERS, DEBATE AND UNCERTAINTY

"Get lost, get out of here," a little Lebanese girl yelled toward the Israeli side.

"I don't hate you. Why should I go?" called the Israeli.

"We won! Hezbollah won!" yelled a man with a rifle across his chest.

"I don't want winners and losers. I want peace," yelled the Israeli.

"We want Palestine. We don't want Israel," answered the Hezbollah supporter.

Israel's planned withdrawal from the nine-mile-deep buffer zone was designed to end the cycle of violence that has gripped its northern border. Barak had promised to get Israel's troops out of Lebanon by July 7 to "end the tragedy" that has killed thousands of Lebanese and more than 1,000 Israelis since 1985.

But the pullback was hastened by the collapse of Israel's proxy force, the South Lebanon Army.

In less than five hours yesterday, the area's top commander, Gen. Benny Ganz, evacuated the last 600 Israelis in Lebanon.

"I first went in 1978 as a young man," said Ganz, 41, before leading the last of his men over the line as a bulldozer tore up the road behind them. "I come home today feeling old. But I am optimistic."

At 6:42 a.m., Maj. Kobi Dostakam locked the gate behind the last Israeli tank to leave Lebanon.

Behind him, Hezbollah fighters were already moving into villages vacated by Israel during the early morning hours, most dramatically celebrating at the Crusader-era Beaufort Castle, which has changed hands countless times in the war-ravaged history of south Lebanon.

Celebrating motorists leaned on their horns and played music through loudspeakers. Passengers hung out car windows, waving AK-47s and M-16s. People danced atop abandoned Israeli tanks. There was no sign of Lebanese army troops, who the United Nations hopes will take control of the vacated buffer zone.

"Your arrival is worth fortunes," shouted a woman in a gray chador as guerrillas in bandoliers swaggered by.

"We hope the peace will reign in this region," Diala Rizk, 21, a college student in Beirut, said. Rizk rushed home Monday when she learned that the withdrawal had begun in earnest even though she worried that she would find herself in the thick of the fighting.

Before Israel imposed its "security zone" on southern Lebanon in 1985, about 4,000 people lived in her town near El Qlaiaa, about three miles north of Metulla, she said. The population dwindled to about 250. Now that occupation has turned to liberation, maybe some of them will flow back, she said.

In Marjayoun, villagers ransacked the home of Antoine Lahad, 72-year-old commander of the SLA, who had returned from Paris to Israel, where he found temporary accommodation in the Cedars Hotel in Metulla.

After an encounter at which SLA men he had hoped to comfort yelled at him in anger, a dejected Lahad kept a low profile, dining on vegetable soup and chicken while a bodyguard kept the press at bay.

"I'm very sad," he said. "I never dreamed of a defeat like this."

More than 5,000 SLA-affiliated refugees are in the midst of being moved from a tent camp beside the Sea of Galilee to communities around the country. Israelis are donating diapers and baby food to help them out.

The SLA fighters who stayed behind in Lebanon faced an uncertain future. At a Greek Orthodox church in Marjayoun, about 30 SLA soldiers surrendered, seeking the protection of the church. Most were in their late 20s and 30s and appeared not to have shaved for a day or two. Holding gym bags filled with personal belongings, they

ALONG ISRAEL - LEBANON BORDER, CHEERS, DEBATE AND UNCERTAINTY

milled around in a courtyard under the watchful eye of Syrian Socialist Party guards. Eventually, they were handed over to the Lebanese police, who loaded them onto two gray buses and drove off toward Beirut.

"I said goodbye to my family and I came here," said one soldier, who asked not to be identified.

Hanging back from the crowd, three young soldiers looked scared.

"The Lebanese government is free to do whatever it wants with us," said Hussein Hasbani, 25. "We trust that they will be fair. We've been very afraid for some time, especially by the reports in the media that we would get slaughtered. We would have surrendered earlier if we weren't so afraid of the consequences. Maybe the soldiers who left for Israel didn't trust the government, but we do."

In the village of Khiam, home of a notorious SLA-run prison where inmates were held without charges, curious sightseers came to wander among the fetid cells that housed 144 prisoners until Tuesday.

The trash-filled cellblocks were strewn with broken glass and torn mattresses. Solid stone walls enclosed rooms in which 10 bunk beds were squeezed into a 6-by-18-foot space. Ragged towels and torn T-shirts hung from cagelike bars. Barbed wire was strung for a clothes line.

About 500 villagers, backed by resistance fighters firing in the air and chanting "Allahu Akbar," (God is great) freed the prisoners Tuesday.

One of the prisoners released after serving 2 1/2 years was Hussein Akil, 21, sent to Khiam for making roadside bombs. He said the psychological pressure of incarceration was worse than the physical abuse.

His father, Assad Akil, said: "Sometimes I didn't think that I would see my son again." For his part, Hussein Akil was happy to be free. His time in prison, he said, only strengthened his commitment to the resistance.

Michael Matza's e-mail address is foreign@phillynews.com

Load-Date: February 4, 2002