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*Preserving American Jewish History*

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TESTIMONY OF  
J RICHARD BUTLER, DIRECTOR  
MIDDLE EAST OFFICE  
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF THE CHURCHES OF CHRIST IN THE USA  
BEFORE THE  
HOUSE SUBCOMMITTEE ON EUROPE AND THE MIDDLE EAST  
OF THE HOUSE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE

July 13, 1982

My name is J Richard Butler. I am the Middle East director for Church World Service, the relief, refugee and development agency of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA. I thank you for this opportunity to testify before the subcommittee with respect to the situation in Lebanon.

The National Council of Churches is an agency of thirty-one Protestant and Orthodox communions in the United States, which together have a total membership of about forty-two million persons. Its member communions have charged the NCCC "to study and to speak and act on conditions and issues in the nation and in the world which involve moral, ethical and spiritual principles inherent in the Christian Gospel." The Governing Board does not claim to speak for all the members of its member churches, but they express the considered judgment and position of the representatives of those churches sitting for that purpose as the Governing Board.

On November 6, 1980 the Governing Board adopted the "Middle East Policy Statement" which forms the basis of my comments regarding Lebanon. Further, on May 13, 1982 the Governing Board adopted a "Resolution on the Middle East Peace Process" which addresses not only the general situation but also our con-

cern for Lebanon and the need to find a peaceful solution to the conflict there.

From June 20 to July 6, 1982 I was part of a World Council of Churches'<sup>1</sup> four-person delegation visiting the Middle East. Our visit took us first to Jerusalem, then to Lebanon including East and West Beirut, and Sidon. The purpose of the delegation visit was first of all to express by our physical presence the solidarity of the world ecumenical family with the World Council of Churches'(W.C.C.) member churches and peoples of the Middle East, and to the Middle East Council of Churches (M.E.C.C.).<sup>2</sup> Second, we were to supplement the information provided by the M.E.C.C. as to the needs of the victims of the war in Lebanon and the best means by which the ecumenical family could be of assistance in light of this tragedy.

We traveled first to Jerusalem, because it was our belief that it was necessary to make contact with the Israeli government as the occupying power in South Lebanon, regarding relief operations to be mounted there. In addition, we understood at that time that the only practical way of getting to South Lebanon would be through Israel. We did make contact with Israeli government officials in Jerusalem, but very quickly came to understand that no international voluntary agency persons would be allowed into South Lebanon from Israel without a delay of several days, if not a week. When access would be allowed,

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<sup>1</sup>Founded in 1948, the World Council of Churches is an international body of over 300 member churches in over 100 countries, and is headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland. The membership consists of major Protestant, Anglican, Orthodox and Old Catholic traditions.

<sup>2</sup>The Middle East Council of Churches brings together Oriental and Eastern Orthodox, and Anglican/Protestant families. The Middle East Council of Churches represents approximately 70% of the 12 million Christians of the Middle East.

we came to understand, it would only be with Israeli military escort thus compromising the independent role of the international voluntary agencies. Finally, we learned that relief supplies were moving from West Beirut to South Lebanon and that even personnel were moving the same way without insurmountable obstacles. Therefore, on Thursday, June 24, a member of our delegation, Mr. John Clark of the Church Missionary Society of London, England and I flew from Tel Aviv to Cyprus and arranged passage on a cargo ship from Limassol to Jounieh, the Lebanese port just north of Beirut. The other two team members of the W.C.C. delegation remained in Jerusalem to follow up on contacts there.

Our time in Jerusalem and in Beirut and Sidon gave us the opportunity to meet and talk with church representatives and Christian leaders; with government officials; with Israelis, Palestinians and Lebanese; and with international relief officials. We saw and smelled death and destruction; we saw those who think they are the victors and those who are afraid they are the defeated; and most poignantly, we saw the civilians, young and old who, as in all wars, are caught in the middle and suffer far beyond the measure due them.

As our mission was first of all to the people of the Middle East, let me share some of the words and impressions of the people there--Palestinians, Israelis, Lebanese. They express the kinds of realities that are behind the shorthand headlines of our daily newspapers and the simplified, if not simplistic, accounts of the television reporters. Let the people speak for themselves.

-Hear a young Palestinian woman in Jerusalem: "Don't they know that we are the PLO and that the PLO is us? The PLO is our only chance to be free! But please, do something to stop the killing."

-A different note from an Israeli official, born in the U.S. and now an Israeli citizen: "Our fight against the PLO is pure self-defense. Perhaps you can't understand the fear we know daily. Do you know that when I go outside Israel I am tempted to remove my yarmulka so that I am not a target of the terrorists?"

-A young Palestinian male in Jerusalem: "This genocide which Sharon and Begin are carrying out against the Palestinians in Lebanon will be turned against us next, we the Palestinians of the West Bank and Gaza. When will America wake up to what is happening?"

-The words and emotion of an American church representative working in Israel: "I am torn apart by my loyalty to Israel and what Israel means to the Jewish people, and by the death and destruction taking place in Lebanon. I am not alone. You should see the letters and editorials in Israeli papers questioning, condemning the policies of Begin and Sharon. I and many Israeli Jews want to be of help."

-Also from Jerusalem, the defiant words of a Palestinian Christian upon hearing that Mayor Teddy Kolleck was launching a drive to collect food and clothing as relief for Lebanon: "Save your food and clothes, Mr. Mayor. Send our Palestinian brothers and sisters to us here in Palestine. We will make room for them and care for them here in our and their home."

-Finally, the voices and witness to peace of the thousands, perhaps one hundred thousand, Israelis on the streets of Tel Aviv a week ago: Voices for peace, for an end to war, and for a negotiated settlement of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

These Jerusalem voices speak with feeling and emotion. These are the dif-

fering and at times conflicting voices of non-rational logic which the policy makers in Jerusalem, Beirut, Cairo, Damascus, Washington, D.C. and Moscow must heed if indeed there is to be peace in the Holy Land. These voices need to be heard more clearly--more carefully--by us all if we hope to play the role we must in contributing to the solution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and not to its continuation and complication.

To travel from Jerusalem to Beirut can be a mere five-hour drive. However, John Clark and I took the long way around. A flight to Cyprus; delay there while booking passage on a cargo ship; and finally, 48 hours after leaving Jerusalem, beginning a fourteen-hour trip from Limassol to Jounieh. Our traveling companions on the Panamanian-flag ship were 50 other persons and four new Mercedes cars. Even during war, business is business!

The voyage from Cyprus to Lebanon was almost uneventful, but certainly uncomfortable. Fourteen hours in a wicker chair can leave an indelible impression on one. After the long night, and about five kilometers outside Jounieh, we were stopped by an Israeli gunboat and the captain was told to await further instructions. Having heard stories of ships being escorted to the port of Haifa for interrogation of passengers, we felt fortunate when two hours later our captain was instructed to proceed to shore. As we came in sight of land we were greeted by water skiers and motor boats, sights reminiscent of the "old Lebanon," of days before the 1975 civil war and the subsequent Middle East war fought on Lebanese territory.

On our arrival in Jounieh we were met by a staff member of the Middle East

Council of Churches, our host and counterpart agency in the area. He took us to the headquarters of the Armenian Orthodox Church at Antelias, midway between Jounieh and Beirut. There, we were met by Lebanese church leaders and by Mr. Gabriel Habib, General Secretary of the Middle East Council of Churches. Thus began another chapter in our experience of the tragedy of Lebanon. Again, listen to the voices of the persons caught in this conflict.

-An Armenian bishop greeting us on arrival, in the midst of a warm embrace, said: "Just seeing you come here from the outside gives us hope. Thank you for coming!"

-A Lebanese bishop reaffirmed the support which Lebanese give to the 'Palestinian cause': "We believe that Palestinians have a right to a home of their own and would expect them to struggle and fight for that right. But we Lebanese have paid too heavy a price in this struggle. The Palestinians must be helped to find non-military ways of continuing their search for a homeland, one that is not at the expense of Lebanon."

Not all the sights, sounds and smells of West Beirut and Sidon were cheerful.

-A heart-searing scream that would not stop assaulted our ears from the basement of the Near East School of Theology, now turned into a hospital of the Palestine Red Crescent. When we were led to the basement ward, we saw a girl of twelve being cradled in a woman's arms. The child, one arm recently amputated, was inconsolable. We were told that both parents had been killed by a bombing raid. She begged that her mother and her father and her arm be given back to her.

-There was the sight and smell, but no sound, of some 200 dead bodies

covered with quicklime in the basement of a secondary school in Sidon. The victims had taken shelter there, considering it safe during bombardment. A bomb had penetrated several floors of the building and exploded in the basement, instantly killing all those huddled there.

-There were the muffled sobs of women in the totally destroyed Palestinian refugee camp at Ein el-Hilweh. Formerly home for 60,000 persons, it is now a mass of rubble. The women sobbed as they greeted one another, learning that another was still alive, or perhaps that other family members or friends were dead. Other women quietly picked through remains of their homes trying to salvage some possessions representing much of what is left of their lives; to face beginning again, perhaps for the second, third, fourth time since the Palestine exodus of 1948.

-Again in Sidon, the silent vigil of women outside the Safah Citrus Packing Plant, now an Israeli interrogation/detention center where Palestinian and Lebanese men suspected of PLO connections are taken. They are identified as suspects by hooded men who, without words, indicate whether those in the lineup pass to the right or to the left--to release or to interrogation, detention and according to reports beatings and worse.

-Finally, in leaving West Beirut and saying goodbye to staff members of the M.E.C.C., one who happened to be Palestinian said that we would probably not see each other again in this life. I was reminded of the ancient Roman salutation that kept running through my mind during a good part of our stay in West Beirut: "We who are about to die, salute you."

Another voice, both sad and angry, has remained with me as I returned to the United States. This is the voice of a Christian Palestinian, an Israeli



citizen of Gallilee. Seeing an Israeli helicopter fly over his village carrying dead and wounded soldiers back from Lebanon, he said sadly: "It pains me that my Jewish brothers are killing my Palestinian brothers, and that my Palestinian brothers are killing my Jewish brothers." He went on in anger, "There are three kinds of terrorists: There are those who plant bombs on buses. There are those who drop bombs on unseen persons from high in the sky. And there are those who live comfortably on the profits gained from selling the planes, bombs and weapons of death. We are all involved in terrorism, one way or another!"

I wonder since returning home who among the people I know in Lebanon today--Lebanese, Palestinians, Israelis--might now be dead. Whether I knew them really matters little. All of them are human beings known and loved by someone . . . most of all by God, who must certainly be weeping over Beirut these days.

These impressions and voices from the Middle East have led the World Council of Churches Team, of which I was a member, to raise three basic concerns since our return home. I raise these issues with this subcommittee of the House Foreign Relations Committee in light of possible policy implications which they raise for you.

Our first concern relates to the present situation in West Beirut. In spite of the fighting that has gone on in and around West Beirut and in spite of Israeli encouragement that people leave that part of the city, it was estimated during our stay that there are still some 300,000 Lebanese and some 200,000 Palestinian civilians in West Beirut. These are in addition to whatever number of

Palestinian and Lebanese militiamen or fighters may be there. The large number of Palestinians have come into the area of West Beirut known as Ras Beirut as a result of the bombing and shelling of the Palestinian areas in the southern section of the city. These persons have taken shelter in empty buildings and apartments, schools, wherever they are able. This influx of Palestinians has created a cruel dilemma for Lebanese residents of West Beirut: to leave and thereby lose one's apartment and belongings to a refugee family or to stay and be submitted to Israeli bombing and shelling.

The threat to this high concentration of civilian population in West Beirut has prompted the W.C.C. Team to urge that Israel be dissuaded from launching an all-out assault on the city. Such an attack would not only bring untold, and I believe unnecessary, suffering and death to the civilian population. But it would also bring heavy casualties to both Israeli and Palestinian/Lebanese forces. Such further bloodshed should be averted. I am pleased at reports that the United States government is using its influence to make clear that such a military adventure by General Sharon would be unacceptable.

Related to the condition of the civilian population in West Beirut is the current blockade of food supplies and, to a lesser extent, medical supplies which Israel imposed over one week ago. Reports indicated that not only were private trucks of merchants carrying fresh fruits and vegetables and meats to West Beirut from the eastern sector turned back at the orders of the Israeli army, but also a convoy of International Committee of the Red Cross (I.C.R.C.) trucks carrying medical supplies. During our three days in West Beirut it was not possible to say that people were starving or were desperately short of food.

However, the situation will radically alter in the next days if this Israeli blockade is not lifted. As in all war situations, armies and fighters have the means of supplying themselves. It is the innocent civilian population which bears the brunt of such measures as imposed recently by Israel.

This situation, as well as other matters related to access of relief supplies, led us in the W.C.C. Team to state that we felt that Israeli authorities were "needlessly obstructing the work of humanitarian agencies by creating delays in the shipping, documentation, unloading and distribution of relief supplies." On June 21, the Israeli government made an announcement that international voluntary agencies would be permitted to resume activities in South Lebanon. As of July 6, when the W.C.C. Team returned to Geneva, Switzerland to report, the Israeli authorities had not authorized any such work from its territory. Further, as voluntary agency representatives, we are unable to accept the Israeli condition that armed Israeli military escort must accompany any international voluntary agency representative traveling to South Lebanon from Israel. This condition compromises the independent role which voluntary agencies have traditionally played in war situations. This requirement has had the effect of slowing down the resumption of relief and aid programs which were in place in South Lebanon prior to June 6 and therefore to increase the suffering of the civilian population.

In conversation with various relief and aid officials in Cyprus and Lebanon, one received the impression of other delays in the movement and distribution of relief supplies. At the time of our visit to Cyprus on June 25, we were informed that the first shipments of relief supplies were scheduled to move by

ship to Jounieh, Lebanon and to Haifa, Israel. This latter shipment was one which was turned back from Sidon, Lebanon because of reports by Israel that the harbor was mined. When we talked with I.C.R.C. officials in Beirut several days later, we learned that the ship to Jounieh had still not been cleared for landing there. When we asked an I.C.R.C. official about needs which the voluntary agency community could help the International Red Cross to meet, we were advised that rather than contributing food or medicines, we should raise our voices to call for the removal of the obstacles to relief channels which were hindering the movement of supplies stockpiled in Cyprus to places most in need.

A further concern which relates to the provision of humanitarian aid to the victims of the fighting in Lebanon is the reported refusal of the Israeli authorities to permit erection of tents or other shelter for persons made homeless in South Lebanon. At the time of our visit to Sidon (June 29) we were advised that homeless persons numbering in tens of thousands were forced to sleep in the open, in orange groves, in stairwells, and other make-shift arrangements as relief agencies were not permitted to provide tents. This situation was particularly serious and life-threatening in the case of the former residents of Ein el-Hilweh camp where some 60,000 persons had been housed before the hostilities. Such restrictions were also hindering the distribution of food supplies to refugees as they were not in a central location, but scattered throughout the city and its environs.

Finally, we returned from our visit to Lebanon alarmed by firsthand reports of the activities of the Israeli army in detaining suspected PLO sympathizers among the Palestinian and Lebanese population. Press reports while we were in

Lebanon put the figure of Palestinians so held as between five thousand and seven thousand. Subsequent reports have placed the figure much higher. In addition, we were told by a Lebanese official of the Sidon municipality that he prepared a list of 1,000 Lebanese men detained by the Israeli army whom he could assure us were innocent of any such connections. This figure merely suggests the number of Lebanese so detained.

The means of searching out and identifying such suspected persons give reason for alarm. The following eyewitness account was recorded on Thursday, June 24, 1982 at 7:00 AM in Sidon, Lebanon:

All men in Miye Miye, located on the edge of Sidon, between the ages of 14 and 60 years, have been summoned by loudspeaker to the center of the village this morning to have their I.D.s stamped by the Israelis. Several thousand men--Palestinians in one group, Lebanese in another--are sitting in the sun waiting. As each man is processed he passes before four hooded men. A nod from any of the four divides the men into two groups: those who will be detained for interrogation and possible internment, and those who will go free.

Reports of persons who have been themselves detained including medical workers from Scandinavia and France, suggest the treatment of persons detained for interrogation has been harsh and cruel with some deaths being reported as a result of beatings.

Without attempting to judge the accuracy of such reports, or the extent of their occurrence, the plea which we would make is that Israel permit recognized international organizations such as the I.C.R.C., which has a traditional function to play as regards prisoners and captives in wartime, to have access to these detained persons. Such observance of recognized standards of conduct

would make evident whether Israel is or is not following accepted norms of practice. Further, Israel should provide lists of all persons held in detention centers so that families will know the whereabouts of loved ones and whether they are alive or dead. Failure to provide such lists only furthers the suffering of the civilian population, both Lebanese and Palestinian, caught up in this tragedy.

It is with great sadness that one views the death and destruction in Lebanon. This is all the more so as I am convinced that it was unnecessary. Seldom are political issues resolved by military action; they are only complicated. This is certainly the case in Lebanon.

As one looks beyond the immediate difficult issues to be resolved as regards West Beirut, the central issue of the Palestinians and their future emerges clearly. Indeed, the debate in recent days over the transfer of some 6,000 Palestinians from Beirut has raised the larger issue of a place for the greater Palestinian diaspora to settle.

In considering the Middle East dilemma, one gets a visual image of a picture puzzle with interchangeable parts. However, in fitting the pieces together there is always one extra piece, although without that piece the puzzle looks completed. At one time in history there was a slogan, whether real or imagined, of "throwing the Jews into the sea." Today, the temptation is to somehow throw the Palestinians away.

It is out of a commitment to all peoples of the Middle East conflict--

Israeli Jews, Palestinian Arabs, Lebanese Christians and Muslims--that the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA has spoken out for a peace with justice.

In conclusion, allow me to quote from an action of our Governing Board of May 13, 1982:

...the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA urges the Government of the United States of America to formulate a new dynamic Middle East policy that:

a. reaffirms the right of the State of Israel to exist within secure, defined and recognized borders, and affirms the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination,  
b. makes evident its commitment to the next stage of the Camp David process, recognition of "the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people" and the "resolution of the Palestinian problem in all its aspects,"

c. promotes the goal of mutual recognition between Israel and the representatives of the Palestinian people, and undertakes an open United States Government dialogue with the Palestine Liberation Organization as one means of moving toward this goal,....

further urges the Government of the United States of America to reaffirm its commitment to the independence, unity and territorial integrity of the Republic of Lebanon as a country where religious pluralism may once again thrive....

The United Church of Christ  
65 MAIN STREET • LENOX, MASS. 01240

The Rev. Robert R. Kyte

July 14, 1982

Rabbi A. James Rudin  
Assitant National Director  
Interreligious Affairs  
The American Jewish Committee  
165 East 56 Street  
New York, New York 10022

Dear Rabbi Rudin,

Our conversation in Pittsfield at Knesset Israel last spring concerning UCC national opinion about Israel and grass roots church support for Israel came back to me as I was writing these letters. I thought you might like to see them.

The "Dear Al" in one of them is Alfred Williams, Massachusetts Conference President. His message to the local churches relayed a national request to write letters to government officials condemning the Israeli military action.

I hope we will meet again some day.

Peace,

*Bob Kyte*





# The United Church of Christ

65 MAIN STREET • LENOX, MASSACHUSETTS 01240

July 14, 1982

Dear Al,

It was with disagreement and anger that I read the request recently received from your office suggesting public condemnation of the Israeli military action in Lebanon. Let me take advantage of your openness to dissent and share with you the reasons for my disappointment in that action taken by UCC national officials.

First, the action struck me as an eager attempt to play moral scorekeeper of other nation's problems. Such moral grandstanding in the heat of daily headlines is, to my mind, not only self-righteous rather than righteous, it is poor leadership of our congregations. To make quick judgment on this sad and complex situation and to ask our members to voice indignation from our safe distance when in fact they may be feeling more sadness and sympathy is to promote anger rather than prophecy. The request strikes me as an attempt by those at the Board for World Ministries who desire the UCC to be more vocal in support of the Palestinian cause against the claims of Israel. If this is even in part the case, I resent such a view being presented as a UCC position without an attempt at listening to local church opinion. If I am wrong, then I am willing to stand corrected.

As for local church opinion, let me share a bit of our situation. Over the years we have developed close bonds with the Jews in Lenox some of whom even attend our Christmas Eve service. Our adults and children have attended synagogue services. The rabbis have spoken here at services and suppers. Our people value this easy access to another faith community. A far better suggestion, at least for us, would have been to ask that our local congregations seek to discuss the problems of Lebanon with the local synagogues perhaps even eventually jointly sponsoring open forums in the area. While the moment might have passed with such a suggestion, discussion and openmindedness on this complex issue is still more productive for future relations for us on the local level than making wounds by taking sides.

When the very real human evil of impatience is turning into a tide of war, standing at a distance looking for white hats and black hats is neither relevant nor helpful. Thanks for your openness to other opinion.

Peace,

THE CHURCH ON THE HILL



The United Church of Christ

65 MAIN STREET • LENOX, MASS. 01240

The Rev. Robert R. Kyte

July 14, 1982

Editor  
Berkshire Eagle  
33 Eagle Street  
Pittsfield, Ma. 01201

To the Editor:

Recent letters condemning the Israeli military action against hostile Syrian and PLO armies in Lebanon have angered me to the point of writing one myself.

This eagerness of some to be the moral scorekeepers of other nation's actions in complex and heated situations is neither relevant nor helpful. I wonder if it hides either short memories or other motives?

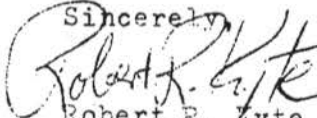
For thirty two years Israeli soldiers and citizens have been violently harassed by Palestians and Arabs who openly wish their disappearance. The patience and willingness to negotiate of the Israeli governments over the years in the face of such fanaticism is remarkable.

For years we have heard that daily life in Lebanon was being disrupted by warfare between rival Lebanese factions, the PLO and the Syrian armies. Arabs, not Israelis, brought Lebanon into economic and social ruin.

While the Israelis have attempted to create peace with security and an improved standard of living for all in the Middle East, the PLO and its Arab supporters have promoted only a modern version of tribal bloodshed.

Perhaps some see the PLO as the underdog fighting a fanatic, self absorbed enemy. Historical reality shows it to be the opposite case. The PLO with a record of fanatic terrorism, making it unwelcome even in other Arab countries, is not worthy of our sympathy.

Israel deserves our loud support in its attempts to bring permanent peace and security to the Middle East so that all may live and prosper.

Sincerely,  
  
Robert R. Kyte

CALL FOR PEACE IN THE  
MIDDLE EAST

The General Synod of the Reformed Church in America in session on June 11, 1982, responds to this week's invasion of Lebanon by re-affirming its longstanding commitment to the peoples of the Middle East and declaring again its call for justice and peace throughout the area.

In light of the events of this week, we repeat the church's call through the National Council of Churches' Middle East policy statement for the cessation of acts of violence in all its forms by all parties. We call upon the states and peoples of the area to respect the recognized international borders of the region and the rights of all peoples of the area to national self-determination.

The 176th regular session of the General Synod:

- Calls upon the congregations and people of the Reformed Church in America to remember in prayer the pain and suffering of the people of the Middle East and to offer relief and support to the Christians and churches of the Middle East in this time of crisis.
- Affirms the unanimous call of the United Nations' Security Council upon Israel to "withdraw all its military forces forthwith and unconditionally" from Lebanon.
- Calls upon the Congress of the United States to investigate the use of American made military equipment in the Middle East to determine if the conditions agree upon when the equipment was purchased or given are being observed by all parties.
- Urges the United States to stop the transfer of military equipment to the Middle East until it is assured that such military material will be used exclusively for defensive purposes. If necessary, we urge the United States government to consider further action to implement this policy.
- Urges the members and congregations of the Reformed Church in America in association with the churches of the Middle East to encourage and support constructive communication among the Muslim, Jewish, and Christian communities in the Middle East and the United States in the search for new options and creative directions to promote justice and peace in the Middle East.
- Requests the General Secretary to communicate these actions to the congregations of the Reformed Church in America, the appropriate committees of the Congress of the United States, the United States Department of State, the Middle East Council of Churches, and the Evangelical Synod of Syria and Lebanon.

# Lutheran Church in America

131 MADISON AVENUE  
NEW YORK, N.Y. 10017  
Cable: Lutheran Network  
(212) 696-790



Office of the Bishop

June 18, 1982

President Ronald Reagan  
The White House  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Reagan:

While persons all over the world are calling for reconciliation and peace, I am saddened by the overwhelming destruction and loss of life in Lebanon. We express our special concern for Christian brothers and sisters in the Middle East and join them in their plea for a cessation of hostilities, relief for the wounded and homeless, consolation of the mourning and urge with them the establishment of conditions leading to a lasting, secure and just peace.

As a church, we deplore the increasing numbers of dead and wounded caused by the use of the large arsenals of sophisticated weapons available through allies to both sides in the conflict, especially in the present situation. I have called upon our own members in the United States and Canada and on our sister churches all over the world to help relieve the great suffering of the victims of the civil war and the Israeli invasion through gifts to the Lutheran World Federation and Lutheran World Relief. While we can do our part to provide humanitarian assistance to the wounded and homeless, it is only through an exercise of great political will and vision that positive steps towards justice and peace in the Middle East can be taken.

I ask you and your administration to work in a creative, consistent and concerted way towards peace and encourage you and other servants of government to help facilitate the withdrawal of all foreign powers from Lebanon. The possibility after the civil war and unrest in Lebanon of an effective international peacekeeping force to aid in re-establishing a strong government which can guarantee the territorial and political integrity of Lebanon is welcomed.

At the same time, I ask you to stress evermore resolutely with Israel the legitimate needs of the Palestinian people for a homeland in which their political identity and need for autonomy can be expressed in a positive way for themselves, the Israelis and the whole region. It is only through a just political solution for all parties involved that the darkness and carnage of the last two weeks can begin to be transformed into the dawn of a new day of justice. My prayers and those of other Lutherans will be with you and all people in the Middle East as you work towards peace.

Sincerely,

*James R. Crumley, Jr.*  
James R. Crumley, Jr.  
Bishop

JRC:bf  
cc: Hon. Alexander M. Haig, Jr.

JR Butler



MIDDLE EAST/EUROPE  
WORKING GROUPS  
JUN 10 1982

## MIDDLE EAST OFFICE

Division of  
Overseas Ministries  
Christian Church  
(Disciples of Christ)

Robert A. Thomas  
*President*

United Church Board  
for World Ministries  
United Church  
of Christ

David M. Stowe  
*Executive Vice President*

TEXT OF MAILGRAM SENT TO WHITE HOUSE:

June 10, 1982

President Ronald Reagan  
The White House  
Washington, DC

Mr. President:

AMERICAN JEWISH

You have our wholehearted support for the making of firm demands, backed by sanctions, for Israel to stop immediately military action in Lebanon and return its forces to its own territory, in accordance with the United Nations Security Council resolution. We recognize and support Israel's legitimate security needs. But there is an equally pressing need to maintain American integrity. The United States must oppose armed aggression by one nation against another, whether the aggressor be our friend or our foe. Israel has clearly transgressed the bounds of legitimate self defense.

We have received reports from reliable Christian sources in Lebanon of widespread civilian casualties, destruction of medical facilities and supplies and critical shortage of food and water. An Israeli assault on Beirut and its heavily populated surroundings will create additional need for civilian aid. We urge you to order an immediate United States relief effort for the unfortunate people of Lebanon. Our churches are prepared to assist in this effort through Church World Service and the Middle East Council of Churches.

Further, Mr. President, we urge you to call upon all governments in the Middle East and their arms suppliers to abide by the humanitarian principles held in common by Christians, Jews and Muslims and to refrain from further military action in Lebanon. The political problems in Lebanon cannot be solved by military means.

Avery Post, President  
United Church of Christ

Kenneth Teegarden, President  
Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

Dale L. Bishop, *Executive Secretary*  
Elizabeth R. Owens, *Secretary*

475 Riverside Drive, 16th Floor  
New York, New York 10115  
(212) 870-2835

Lutheran  
Church  
America

100 Madison Avenue  
New York, N.Y. 10017

100 Madison Avenue  
New York, N.Y. 10017

100 Madison Avenue  
New York, N.Y. 10017



June 18, 1982

President Ronald Reagan  
The White House  
Washington, D.C. 20500

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While persons all over the world are calling for reconciliation and peace, I am saddened by the overwhelming destruction and loss of life in Lebanon. We express our special concern for Christian brothers and sisters in the Middle East and join them in their plea for a cessation of hostilities, relief for the wounded and homeless, consolation of the mourning and urge with them the establishment of conditions leading to a lasting, secure and just peace.

As a church, we deplore the increasing numbers of dead and wounded caused by the use of the large arsenals of sophisticated weapons available through allies to both sides in the conflict, especially in the present situation. I have called upon our own members in the United States and Canada and on our sister churches all over the world to help relieve the great suffering of the victims of the civil war and the Israeli invasion through gifts to the Lutheran World Federation and Lutheran World Relief. While we can do our part to provide humanitarian assistance to the wounded and homeless, it is only through an exercise of great political will and vision that positive steps towards justice and peace in the Middle East can be taken.

I ask you and your administration to work in a creative, consistent and concerted way towards peace and encourage you and other servants of government to help facilitate the withdrawal of all foreign powers from Lebanon. The possibility after the civil war and unrest in Lebanon of an effective international peacekeeping force to aid in re-establishing a strong government which can guarantee the territorial and political integrity of Lebanon is welcomed.

At the same time, I ask you to stress evermore resolutely with Israel the legitimate needs of the Palestinian people for a homeland in which their political identity and need for autonomy can be expressed in a positive way for themselves, the Israelis and the whole region. It is only through a just political solution for all parties involved that the darkness and carnage of the last two weeks can begin to be transformed into the dawn of a new day of justice. My prayers and those of other Lutherans will be with you and all people in the Middle East as you work towards peace.

Sincerely,

*James R. Crumley, Jr.*  
James R. Crumley, Jr.  
Bishop

JRC:bf

cc: Hon. Alexander M. Haig, Jr.

MEMORANDUM

**THE AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE**

**date** June 18, 1982  
**to** Bertram Gold  
**from** Rabbi A. James Rudin  
**subject**

I have spoken with Richard Butler, the Middle East Director of the National Council of Churches. He is leaving this week for Israel and he hopes to visit South Lebanon. He indicated that the official invitation to Maynard Wishner may not have been sent as yet. In any event, the enclosed RNS story is a distortion, Butler says, as the invitation is not for joint meetings between American Jews and American Palestinians, but rather the NCC wants to meet with each group independently as it did in 1980. It may be that a joint meeting will emerge from these initial conversations.

I believe we should respond affirmatively to the NCC invitation when it arrives since it is always important to maintain contact with the National Council on the Middle East.

I am also enclosing the recent statement of Cardinal Cooke and Archbishop Roach along with the statement of the Executive Committee of the National Christian Leadership Conference for Israel. I understand you already have the statement that was sent to President Reagan by Bishop James Armstrong, the NCC's President. I am also enclosing that statement as well.

AJR:FM  
Encls.

- cc: Judith Banki
- Inge Lederer Gibel
- Zach Schuster
- Rabbi Marc Tanenbaum

[start]

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*Patricia Wagner is a representative in The Philippines of the Mennonite Central Committee, headquartered in Akron, Pa.*

06-16-82

## National Council invites U.S. Jews, Palestinians to engage in a dialogue

By Religious News Service

NEW YORK (RNS) — The National Council of Churches, accused by Jewish leaders of a bias in favor of the Palestine Liberation Organization, has extended an offer to dialogue about differences.

United Methodist Bishop James Armstrong, NCC president, invited leaders of the American Jewish and Palestinian communities to take part in a joint meeting to discuss "recent events in Lebanon, Middle East peace prospects and our appropriate role."

His offer was extended on June 11, at the height of the Israeli invasion of southern Lebanon, aimed at knocking out PLO strongholds.

Bishop Armstrong sent a telegram June 11 to the Synagogue Council of America, the American Jewish Committee, the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, and the Palestine Congress of North America.

The first acceptance of the invitation came from the Synagogue Council of America, the coordinating body of the rabbinical and congregational organizations of Conservative, Orthodox and Reform Judaism in the United States.

Its president, Rabbi Walter Wurzbarger, said an end to fighting in Lebanon would have to come about through an end to the terrorist activities of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO). At the same time, he said his organization would "welcome the opportunity" to discuss the Middle East with the National Council of Churches.

J. Richard Butler, director of the NCC's Middle East office, said, "We feel that the U.S. religious community and other groups directly concerned with the Middle East have an important role to play in U.S. policy formulation. This proposal is a continuation of discussions between NCC leadership, the American Jewish community, and the American Palestinian community that began during the development of our Middle East policy statement."

The American Jewish Committee and the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith recently denounced a resolution of the NCC's governing board which called for United States dialogues with the PLO as a means of working toward peace in the Middle East.

FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT OF MY TELEGRAM YESTERDAY TO PRESIDENT REAGAN.  
"APPRECIATE YOUR EFFORTS TO DATE IN ACHIEVING OF OBSERVANCE OF U.N.  
SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS 508 AND 509 IN LEBANON CONFLICT.  
ENCOURAGE YOU TO TAKE STRONGEST MEASURES TO ACHIEVE IMMEDIATE CEASE  
FIRE IN LEBANON BEFORE FURTHER DEATH AND DESTRUCTION IMPOSED ON THAT  
TRAGIC COUNTRY. IT IS NOW URGENT THAT THE U.S. TAKE NEW DIPLOMATIC  
INITIATIVES ALONG WITH EUROPEAN ALLIES TO BEGIN ISRAEL-PALESTINIAN  
NEGOTIATIONS AS NECESSARY MEANS OF RESOLVING THIS CONFLICT. NEW  
SITUATION REQUIRES BOLD ACTION UNENCUMBERED BY FORMULAS OF THE PAST.  
WE PRAY FOR STRENGTH FOR YOU TO TAKE LEADERSHIP THAT EVENTS DEMAND."

ENCOURAGE YOU TO JOIN ME IN APPEALING FOR IMMEDIATE AND TOTAL CEASE  
FIRE BY ALL PARTIES. INVITE YOU TO MEET WITH HEADS OF NCCC COMMUNIONS  
IN NEAR FUTURE FOR SERIOUS DISCUSSIONS OF RECENT EVENTS IN LEBANON,  
MIDDLE EAST PEACE PROSPECTS AND OUR APPROPRIATE ROLLS. LETTER FOLLOWS

BISHOP JAMES ARMSTRONG  
PRESIDENT

NATIONAL COUNCIL CHURCHES OF CHRIST USA RICHARD BUTLER  
ROOM 612 475 RIVERSIDE DR  
NEW YORK NY 10115

13119 EST

HGMCOMP

TO REPLY BY MAILGRAM, SEE REVERSE SIDE FOR WESTERN UNION'S TOLL - FREE PHONE NUMBERS

# Catholic Bishops Focus on Aspects Of Their Work at 10-Day Retreat

6.26.82

W.P.

The 10-day gathering of the nation's Roman Catholic bishops in Collegeville, Minn., was "basically a spiritual retreat by bishops with bishops on their role in the church," said Bishop James Malone of Youngstown, Ohio, in summarizing the closed-door session that ended Tuesday.

Malone, vice president of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops, told a press conference here that the Collegeville gathering made no attempt to legislate or reach any action recommendations.

He said that in the small group discussions among the more than 250 bishops present there were "certain topics" which were "more frequently mentioned." He said these included:

- The individual bishop's need to find time for "his own spiritual life," continued study, and "to be personally present to people," especially his priests and co-workers and the poor.

- The need to recruit and train "co-workers" in the bishops' teaching mission, with special concern for the declining numbers of priests.

- Relations with theologians, who, he said "are an important resource to the magisterium and the church as a whole" but who, on occasion, have provided the occasion for "real pastoral harm . . . by the publicity surrounding dissent from the teaching of the church."

- The "pluralism and diversity among the bishops themselves . . .

how much uniformity is needed? How much pluralism is desired?" Also, the need to involve more bishops in the work of the bishops conference.

- The church's role on issues of social justice.

The National Council of Churches, often accused by Jewish leaders of being soft on the Palestine Liberation Organization, has invited major national Jewish organizations and the Palestine Congress of North America to come together to discuss peace prospects in Lebanon and the Middle East.

The invitation from NCC President James Armstrong also proposes dialogue on the role that "the U.S. religious community . . . can play in U.S. policy formation" as it affects the Middle East.

The Catholic Health Association, representing some 900 church-sponsored health care facilities, has announced plans for "an intensive study to determine ethical protocol for withholding medical treatment."

Plans for the study, which was announced at the CHA's annual meeting in Boston, grew out of the recent controversy over the case of "Baby Doe," a Downs Syndrome infant born without an esophagus who was allowed to die in a Bloomington, Ind., hospital.

Catholic teaching going back to

## World of Religion

the time of Pope Pius XII has held that "extraordinary" means need not be used on a dying patient, but that no measures may be used to terminate a life. With the evolution of medical technology, it has become increasingly difficult for both ethicists and doctors to apply that teaching in actual cases.

When the Baby Doe case became known, some Catholic groups were active in pressuring the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to withhold federal funds from any hospital that permitted malformed newborns to die. The basis for such withholding would have been discrimination against the handicapped.

In announcing the study, CHA president John E. Curley Jr. referred to the controversy over the Baby Doe case as "a public mud-slinging contest."

— Marjorie Hyer

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475 Riverside Drive, New York, NY 10115

Room 880

James Armstrong, President

Claire Randall, General Secretary

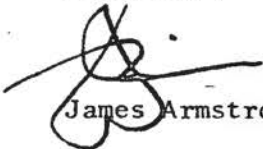
June 17, 1982

Rabbi Joseph B. Glaser  
Central Conference of American Rabbis  
21 E. 40th Street  
New York, NY 10016

Dear Joe:

By now you are aware of the fact that the poorly developed and unacceptable "first draft" of a Middle East statement was revised as it went through the Governing Board meeting of the NCCC in Nashville. I have talked with those who drafted it as well as Claire Randall and feel that the mind-set that authored it is regrettable. Even as I say that, I am aware of the fact that official statements by the NCCC will not necessarily coincide with or be in full agreement with the type of proclamation desired by many Jewish leaders in the United States.

Sincerely,

  
James Armstrong

JA:kas

*Am anxious to see  
talk with you!*

[start]

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UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN THE USA  
RESOLUTION ON THE MIDDLE EAST  
Hartford, Connecticut - June 1982

K. Resolution on the Israeli Invasion of Lebanon

Background

~~SECRET~~  
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

1

It is impossible for any but the most dedicated expert to follow and interpret the continuing interplay of events and forces that constitute "the Middle East issue," making regional peace impossible and threatening wider conflict. In the last year or so the more prominent dynamics have included: the assassination of President Sadat, the continuation and development of the war between Iran and Iraq, the internal tension in Israel as Israeli's protesting withdrawal from the Sinai on terms agreed with Egypt were forcibly removed, the apprehension that mounted as the date for the last return of Sinai territory to Egypt neared and the relief as it was accomplished, and the recent death of the monarch of Saudi Arabia.

2

Early in June of 1982 a series of events more ominous than any of these took place. On June 3, an attempt was made on the life of Israeli Ambassador Argov in London. The Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) immediately disclaimed any responsibility, but on June 4 Israeli air forces carried out heavy bombing attacks on PLO concentrations in Lebanon, particularly Beirut, in retaliation. (It was soon revealed that the assassination attempt was the work of an extremist group based in Syria, ousted from the PLO in 1975, which also has an announced intention to kill PLO chairman Yasir Arafat). PLO forces in southern Lebanon responded with artillery and rocket attacks on northern Israel. Israeli forces, largely with American made or American supplied military equipment, launched a full scale invasion of Lebanon, causing enormous devastation of Lebanese communities and their facilities. As of June 16, ~~more reliable~~ estimates were that over 10,000 civilians had died and over 600,000 were homeless. Israeli forces were in the suburbs of Beirut and fighting was continuing.

PROP.

~~SECRET~~

note the opposite  
3  
against  
of other...  
4

Tragically, much of the news reporting and international diplomatic activity have focussed on the complex factors related to the presence of PLO and Syrian forces in Lebanon, the disintegration of Lebanese government authority, and the future state of affairs that Israel is attempting to dictate in Lebanon through military action. There has been too little attention to either the wholesale senseless destruction of Lebanon or the Israeli unwillingness to arrive at a just and peaceful resolution of the Palestinian question which is the festering source of much of the continuing unrest in the region.

What  
the

How can the world understand an Israeli action that seems to be so costly? Beyond the destruction of property and civilian life, Israel's own forces have suffered casualties at a level very painful to a small nation. Her economy has been badly disrupted by the mobilization of forces to carry out and maintain the invasion and occupation. The invasion and its aftermath will even more sorely strain the peace process hopefully initiated by the Camp David agreement; which envisioned progress toward Palestinian autonomy

as an integral part of the bold strategy grounded in President Sadat's historic initiative. It earns Israel the enmity of yet another neighbor and purchases no more than the temporary "security" that armed occupation makes possible. Wherever a new "border" or "zone" is imposed, there will be hostility and opposition to Israel on the other side until the related issues of West Bank autonomy and the future of the Palestinian people are justly resolved.

What of legit. direct security? (overseas?)

A world searching for explanation comes reluctantly to suspect that Israeli policy makers consciously or unconsciously, have decided that the PLO and all it symbolizes must be eliminated in order to "insure the survival and security of Israel" and avoid a solution that many believe would gain those objectives, but at the cost of Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territory of the West Bank and Gaza. Nine months ago a cease-fire between Israel and the PLO was arranged by U.S. Ambassador Habib, and the PLO had observed it in spite of Israeli bombing of Lebanon in April. Yet four times in those months Israel had mobilized on the Lebanese border, and the international community was convinced that Israel was committed to an assault on Lebanon, awaiting only opportunity. The very presence of PLO forces in southern Lebanon and the potential for their use seems as threatening as their actual employment.

What of PLO? (months) what do they do, now? (APRS of Lebanon?)

1777? (APRS) Mike

The difficulty with Israeli action meant to eliminate the PLO is that the PLO exists as a vehicle for expressing the aspirations of the Palestinian people, those on the occupied West Bank, in Lebanon and elsewhere. The PLO or a similar organization with another name will continue to exist until those aspirations find just resolution. These stubborn realities raise the awful specter that Israel's "sense of security" will not be satisfied so long as the Palestinian people exist with sufficient numbers, cohesiveness and Middle Eastern presence to pose even a potential threat to Israeli territorial sovereignty in the West Bank and Gaza. Prime Minister Begin makes this territorial intention of Israel quite clear: "When the time comes for the application of our national sovereignty over Judea, Samaria and the Gaza District, we shall continue to maintain full autonomy for the Arab inhabitants." Palestinian refusal to accept this strange definition of "autonomy" and increasing world support for the legitimacy of the PLO are thus at the root of Lebanon's present tragedy: Lebanon itself will be obliterated in the attempt to remove the Palestinian threat to Israeli territorial ambition.

What of (change) to destroy Israel?

John Le Carré, the British novelist, was in Israel at the time of the recent assault on Lebanon, and wrote: "Too many Israelis, in their claustrophobia, have persuaded themselves that every Palestinian man and woman and child is by definition a military target, and that Israel will not be safe until the pack of them are swept away." This blunt suggestion that the carnage in Lebanon may be the by-product of a genocidal urge must itself be terribly painful for a people and a nation whose own beginnings are shadowed by the Nazi Holocaust. It can be included as part of the background only because its roots are openly acknowledged and debated by Israelis in Israel. An Israeli newspaper advertisement asks:

To J.E. Haddad

For what? For what are people being killed? For what are people killing? Have we agreed as a nation to go off to a war like this one? Is our existence hanging in the balance? Will we, by this horrible war, put an end to the cycle of violence, suffering and

602-8-112 - pattern of PST ACTION - rentance

placed by the Israeli Peace Movement in Israel



hatred? We say to the Government of Israel:  
Stop! Now is the time to call on the Palestin-  
ian people to join negotiations for peace.

*still  
in Lebanon*

These are good questions, but they do not alter the facts that Israeli government policy continues to create, nor do they in themselves deal either with the immediate destruction of Lebanon and the human need created by it or with the vast task of reconstruction that awaits. It would be far more helpful for the leaders of the world and the media to concentrate on those matters rather than on speculation as to how Syrian-Lebanese-Israeli-PLO-Middle East-great power dynamics may be altered by the political arrangements made in the wake of Israel's assault.

Finally, even a brief background statement must deal with the media prominence given to the religious dimensions of the internal Lebanese crisis. As Christians in the West, far from the complex situation, it is critical that our judgment be informed by religious leadership in the area. The secular press and other organs of communication are not adequate sources to assess the scene and the religious dimensions of the conflict. Though the popular media seek to create the impression that Israeli Defense Forces are "saving the Christians," information reaching us through church sources informs us that the vast majority of Evangelical Protestants, and Orthodox Christians, and many of the Roman Catholics (including Maronites) neither share this view nor find it possible to accept destruction of their land and lives as "salvation"

*J3*  
*For [unclear]*

Resolution

WHEREAS, the Israeli invasion of Lebanon in June 1982 has resulted in widespread destruction of property and community facilities, thousands of civilian deaths, and hundreds of thousands homeless, hungry, and wounded; and

*Ms Pherson - Libe Study*

WHEREAS, much of the military equipment used by Israel in this act of aggression was supplied by the United States under clear provision that it not be used for aggressive purposes; and

WHEREAS, the international community will be called upon to assist in the relief and reconstruction requirements of the Lebanese people and nation, and may well have a role in negotiating the agreements and providing the forces that will be needed to secure the withdrawal of Israeli and other foreign troops and to restore internal order and stability to Lebanon under a Lebanese authority; and

*N. P. M. E. Study*

WHEREAS, the internal strife that has afflicted Lebanon for many years as well as much of the turmoil and instability in the Middle East is directly attributable to the unresolved matters of the rights of the Palestinian people and the status of Arab territories occupied by Israel; and

WHEREAS, the spirit of the Framework for Peace signed at Camp David commits the United States as well as Israel and Egypt to seek a peaceful solution to the problems of the region; and

WHEREAS, the 186th General Assembly (1974) affirmed the following criteria as one of the standards for any successful settlement in the Middle East:

...The right and power of Palestinian people to self-determination by political expression, based upon full civil liberties for all, should be recognized by the parties in the Middle East and by the international community. If the Palestinians choose to organize a permanent political structure, then provisions should be made to determine its jurisdiction, assure its security, and support its development.... The Palestinian people should be full participants in negotiations concerning any of these matters through representatives of their own choosing.

+ Israel  
1974

Whatever political expression the Palestinians achieve they should subscribe to the conditions requisite for the recognition and security of other states and peoples in the area.

→ U.S.A., the U.P

THEREFORE, the 194th General Assembly (1982) of the United Presbyterian Church expressing prayerful sorrow over the suffering and destruction visited upon the people of Lebanon by the Israeli invasion and desiring to take action that will address underlying causes as well as meet immediate needs for relief and rehabilitation

1. Urges the United States Government
- a. to seek the immediate withdrawal of Israeli forces from the territory of Lebanon;
  - b. to provide immediate and ongoing assistance for relief and reconstruction in Lebanon;
  - c. to enter open discussion with all immediately relevant parties including Syria, Egypt, Israel, Lebanon, and the PLO, bilaterally or in whatever groupings are possible, with a view to seeking the withdrawal of all outside forces from Lebanon and international guarantees for Lebanon's sovereignty, independence and neutrality, in the context of a prompt opportunity for the Palestinians of Gaza, the West Bank, and Lebanon to decide their future political status;
  - d. to seek regional and international commitment to respect the decision of the Palestinians in the framework of the regional discussions and plebescite noted above and to provide assistance in implementing the decision and providing compensation for Palestinians unable to return to their homeland;
  - e. to renew United States support and seek regional and international support for recognition of the full sovereignty of Israel within boundaries agreed to in U.N. Resolution 242 or those determined by negotiation with all the parties noted above.

IMMEDIATE CASE-FILE  
ALL PARTIES

f.

*STAMPED*

3.

Directs the Stated Clerk of the General Assembly to explore with other religious bodies the courses of action available to the United Presbyterian Church, including action in the courts, in an attempt to see that laws governing the sale or gift of military equipment and prohibiting their aggressive use are obeyed in relations with the State of Israel.

*Self defense*  
4.

Urges the Congress of the United States to enact legislation making further U.S. military aid to Israel or U.S. participation in any international force in Lebanon dependent upon meaningful progress toward the regional negotiation involving all parties noted above, including Israel and the PLO.

4. Urges the judicatories and members of the United Presbyterian Church to respond generously to opportunities to assist in the relief and reconstruction needs of Lebanon; and to advocate the kind of national policies that will help to bring about the goals adopted by the 188th General Assembly (1976) and outlined above.

5. Requests the Program Agency to keep the church informed of continuing developments in the Middle East, the efforts of the United Presbyterian Church and others to meet needs there, and the reports and perspectives available through the Christian churches of the region.

6.  
*B.*

Directs the Stated Clerk to communicate this resolution to the President, the Secretary of State, and members of the Congress, seeking opportunity with other religious leaders to present the concern of this General Assembly personally to the President.

*WB + Gaza State*  
*1979, 1977, 1978*

*Carpe Diem*  
*Wm McLean*  
*Fred Katz*  
*Ruth Brechenow*  
*KRM*

[end]

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APPROVED  
AMENDMENTS

WHEREAS, the 186th General Assembly (1974) affirmed, "the right and power of Jewish people to self-determination by political expression in Israel, based upon full civil liberties for all, should be recognized by the parties in the Middle East and by the international community."

1. Reaffirms the earlier UPCUSA statements of 1974, 1977, and 1978.
2. Urges the United States Government
  - a. to seek an immediate cease fire between all parties and the immediate withdrawal of Israeli forces from the territory of Lebanon;
  - b. to seek actively the establishment of a national sovereign state in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip as an expression of self-determination of the Palestinian people.
5. Urges the Program Agency in light of its Peacemaking emphasis to be actively in contact with and supportive of the peace movement in Israel and that the aims of this movement be communicated through the most effective channels available to the Program Agency.

↓ Joint M. E. national  
the Palestinian  
people.

Adopted by the 194th General Assembly (1982)  
The United Presbyterian Church in the United States of America  
June 28, 1982

Resolution on the Israeli Invasion of Lebanon

Background

It is impossible for any but the most dedicated expert to follow and interpret the continuing interplay of events and forces that constitute "the Middle East issue," making regional peace impossible and threatening wider conflict. In the last year or so the more prominent dynamics have included: the assassination of President Sadat, the continuation and development of the war between Iran and Iraq, the internal tension in Israel as Israeli's protesting withdrawal from the Sinai on terms agreed with Egypt were forcibly removed, the apprehension that mounted as the date for the last return of Sinai territory to Egypt neared and the relief as it was accomplished, and the recent death of the monarch of Saudi Arabia.

Early in June of 1982 a series of events more ominous than any of these took place. On June 3, an attempt was made on the life of Israeli Ambassador Argov in London. The Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) immediately disclaimed any responsibility, but on June 4 Israeli air forces carried out heavy bombing attacks on PLO concentrations in Lebanon, particularly Beirut, in retaliation. (It was soon revealed that the assassination attempt was the work of an extremist group based in Syria, ousted from the PLO in 1975, which also has an announced intention to kill PLO chairman Yasir Arafat). PLO forces in southern Lebanon responded with artillery and rocket attacks on northern Israel. Israeli forces, largely with American made or American supplied military equipment, launched a full scale invasion of Lebanon, causing enormous devastation of Lebanese communities and their facilities. As of June 16, estimates were that over 10,000 civilians had died and over 600,000 were homeless. Israeli forces were in the suburbs of Beirut and fighting was continuing.

Tragically, much of the news reporting and international diplomatic activity have focussed on the complex factors related to the presence of PLO and Syrian forces in Lebanon, the disintegration of Lebanese government authority, and the future state of affairs that Israel is attempting to dictate in Lebanon through military action. There has been too little attention to either the wholesale senseless destruction of Lebanon or the Israeli unwillingness to arrive at a just and peaceful resolution of the Palestinian question which is the festering source of much of the continuing unrest in the region.

How can the world understand an Israeli action that seems to be so costly? Beyond the destruction of property and civilian life, Israel's own forces have suffered casualties at a level very painful to a small nation. Her economy has been badly disrupted by the mobilization of forces to carry out and maintain the invasion and occupation. The invasion and its aftermath will even more sorely strain the peace process hopefully initiated by the Camp David agreement, which envisioned progress toward Palestinian autonomy

as an integral part of the bold strategy grounded in President Sadat's historic initiative. It earns Israel the enmity of yet another neighbor and purchases no more than the temporary "security" that armed occupation makes possible. Wherever a new "border" or "zone" is imposed, there will be hostility and opposition to Israel on the other side until the related issues of West Bank autonomy and the future of the Palestinian people are justly resolved.

A world searching for explanation comes reluctantly to suspect that Israeli policy makers consciously or unconsciously, have decided that the PLO and all it symbolizes must be eliminated in order to "insure the survival and security of Israel" and avoid a solution that many believe would gain those objectives, but at the cost of Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territory of the West Bank and Gaza. Nine months ago a cease-fire between Israel and the PLO was arranged by U.S. Ambassador Habib, and the PLO had observed it in spite of Israeli bombing of Lebanon in April. Yet four times in those months Israel had mobilized on the Lebanese border, and the international community was convinced that Israel was committed to an assault on Lebanon, awaiting only opportunity. The very presence of PLO forces in southern Lebanon and the potential for their use seems as threatening as their actual employment.

The difficulty with Israeli action meant to eliminate the PLO is that the PLO exists as a vehicle for expressing the aspirations of the Palestinian people, those on the occupied West Bank, in Lebanon and elsewhere. The PLO or a similar organization with another name will continue to exist until those aspirations find just resolution. These stubborn realities raise the awful specter that Israel's "sense of security" will not be satisfied so long as the Palestinian people exist with sufficient numbers, cohesiveness and Middle Eastern presence to pose even a potential threat to Israeli territorial sovereignty in the West Bank and Gaza. Prime Minister Begin makes this territorial intention of Israel quite clear: "When the time comes for the application of our national sovereignty over Judea, Samaria and the Gaza District, we shall continue to maintain full autonomy for the Arab inhabitants." Palestinian refusal to accept this strange definition of "autonomy" and increasing world support for the legitimacy of the PLO are thus at the root of Lebanon's present tragedy: Lebanon itself will be obliterated in the attempt to remove the Palestinian threat to Israeli territorial ambition.

John Le Carré, the British novelist, was in Israel at the time of the recent assault on Lebanon, and wrote: "Too many Israelis, in their claustrophobia, have persuaded themselves that every Palestinian man and woman and child is by definition a military target, and that Israel will not be safe until the pack of them are swept away." An Israeli newspaper advertisement, placed by the peace movement in Israel, asks:

For what? For what are people being killed? For what are people killing? Have we agreed as a nation to go off to a war like this one? Is our existence hanging in the balance? Will we, by this horrible war, put an end to the cycle of violence, suffering and hatred? We say to the Government of Israel: Stop! Now is the time to call on the Palestinian people to join negotiations for peace.

These are good questions, but they do not alter the facts that Israeli government policy continues to create, nor do they in themselves deal either with the immediate destruction of Lebanon and the human need created by it or with the vast task of reconstruction that awaits. It would be far more helpful for the leaders of the world and the media to concentrate on those matters rather than on speculation as to how Syrian-Lebanese-Israeli-FLO-Middle East-great power dynamics may be altered by the political arrangements made in the wake of Israel's assault.

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#### Resolution

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WHEREAS, much of the military equipment used by Israel in this act of aggression was supplied by the United States under clear provision that it not be used for aggressive purposes; and

WHEREAS, the international community will be called upon to assist in the relief and reconstruction requirements of the Lebanese people and nation, and may well have a role in negotiating the agreements and providing the forces that will be needed to secure the withdrawal of Israeli and other foreign troops and to restore internal order and stability to Lebanon under a Lebanese authority; and



WHEREAS, the internal strife that has afflicted Lebanon for many years as well as much of the turmoil and instability in the Middle East is directly attributable to the unresolved matters of the rights of the Palestinian people and the status of Arab territories occupied by Israel; and

WHEREAS, the spirit of the Framework for Peace signed at Camp David commits the United States as well as Israel and Egypt to seek a peaceful solution to the problems of the region; and

WHEREAS, the 186th General Assembly (1974) affirmed the following criteria as one of the standards for any successful settlement in the Middle East:

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Whatever political expression the Palestinians achieve they should subscribe to the conditions requisite for the recognition and security of other states and peoples in the area.

WHEREAS, the 186th General Assembly (1974) affirmed, 'the right and power of Jewish people to self-determination by political expression in Israel, based upon full civil liberties for all, should be recognized by the parties in the Middle East and by the international community.'

THEREFORE, the 194th General Assembly (1982) of the United Presbyterian Church expressing prayerful sorrow over the suffering and destruction visited upon the people of Lebanon by the Israeli invasion and desiring to take action that will address underlying causes as well as meet immediate needs for relief and rehabilitation

1. Reaffirms the earlier statements of the United Presbyterian Church in 1974, 1977, and 1978.
2. Urges the United States Government
  - a. to continue to seek an immediate cease-fire between all parties and the immediate withdrawal of Israeli forces from the territory of Lebanon;
  - b. to seek agreement from all parties to the Lebanon conflict to provide immediate access, for bona fide international relief agencies, to all parts of Lebanon affected by the invasion in order to ascertain and report without censorship on the emergency needs of people for medical care, food, water, and shelter and to open all ports to entry of these needed supplies;
  - c. to provide immediate and ongoing assistance for relief and reconstruction in Lebanon;

- d. to enter open discussion with all immediately relevant parties including Syria, Egypt, Israel, Lebanon, and the PLO, bilaterally or in whatever groupings are possible, with a view to seeking the withdrawal of all outside forces from Lebanon and international guarantees for Lebanon's sovereignty, independence and neutrality, in the context of a prompt opportunity for the Palestinians of Gaza, the West Bank, and Lebanon to decide their future political status;
  - c. to seek regional and international commitment to respect the decision of the Palestinians in the framework of the regional discussions and plebescite noted above and to provide assistance in implementing the decision and providing compensation for Palestinians unable to return to their homeland;
  - f. to renew United States support and seek regional and international support for recognition of the full sovereignty of Israel within boundaries agreed to in U.N. Resolution 242 or those determined by negotiation with all the parties noted above;
  - g. to seek actively the establishment of a national sovereign state in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip as an expression of self-determination of the Palestinian people.
3. Directs the Stated Clerk of the General Assembly to explore with other religious bodies the courses of action available to the United Presbyterian Church, including action in the courts, in an attempt to see that laws governing the sale or gift of military equipment and prohibiting their aggressive use are obeyed in relations with the State of Israel.
  4. Urges the Congress of the United States to enact legislation making further U.S. military aid to Israel or U.S. participation in any international force in Lebanon dependent upon meaningful progress toward the regional negotiation involving all parties noted above, including Israel and the PLO.
  5. Urges the Program Agency in light of its Peacemaking emphasis to be actively in contact with and supportive of the peace movements in Israel, other Middle Eastern countries, and among the Palestinian people, and that the aims of this movement be communicated through the most effective channels available to the Program Agency.
  6. Urges the judicatories and members of the United Presbyterian Church to respond generously to opportunities to assist in the relief and reconstruction needs of Lebanon; and to advocate the kind of national policies that will help to bring about the goals adopted by the 188th General Assembly (1976) and outlined above.
  7. Requests the Program Agency to keep the church informed of continuing developments in the Middle East, the efforts of the United Presbyterian Church and others to meet needs there, and the reports and perspectives available through the Christian churches of the region.

8. Urges the 194th General Assembly (1982) to express its concern for the people involved in the conflict in Lebanon and that its prayer for all parties involved and solidarity with the Evangelical Synod of Syria, Lebanon, and other partners in mission be expressed to them and to the Middle East Council of Churches.
9. Directs the Stated Clerk to communicate this resolution to the President, the Secretary of State, and members of the Congress, seeking opportunity with other religious leaders to present the concern of this General Assembly personally to the President.



[start]

Original documents  
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4-0059025159002 06/08/82 ICS IPMBNGZ CSP CGBB  
1 3127425100 MGM TDBN ELGIN IL 06-08 0832A EST

JUN 9 1982

CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN GEN OFCS, VON  
1451 DUNDEE AVE  
ELGIN IL 60120

THIS MAILGRAM IS A CONFIRMATION COPY OF THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE:

3127425100 TDBN ELGIN IL 26 06-08 0832A EST  
PMS PRESIDENT RONALD REAGAN  
WHITE HOUSE DC  
ISRAELI AGGRESSION IN LEBANON MUST BE CONDEMNED URGE TERMINATION  
U.S. ARMS ASSISTANCE AND SHIPMENTS TO ISRAEL BECAUSE OF THIS  
AGGRESSION AND VIOLATION OF ARMS USE AGREEMENTS  
LAMAR GIBBLE CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN PEACE AND INTL AFFAIRS OFFICE  
1451 DUNDEE AVE ELGIN IL 60120

08:32 EST

MGMCOMP

MIDDLE EAST/EUROPE  
WORKING GROUPS  
JUN 14 1982

Same text also sent to:

- Sec. Haig
- Senator Percy (IL)
- Rep. Zablocki
- Senator Dixon (IL)
- Rep. McClory (IL)

[end]

Original documents  
faded and/or illegible



# RCA

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To

Via \_\_\_\_\_  
Insert "RCA"

MAILGRAM

PRESIDENT RONALD REAGAN  
THE WHITE HOUSE  
1600 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20006

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT:

THE BLOODSHED AND KILLING IN LEBANON AND ISRAEL RESULTING FROM THE ESCALATED FIGHTING BETWEEN ISRAEL AND THE PALESTINE LIBERATION ORGANIZATION CALL FOR NEW RESOLVE TO END THE MIDEAST CONFLICT. THE EFFORTS OF AMBASSADOR PHILIP HABIB AND THE CHANCES FOR PEACE WOULD BE STRENGTHENED IF YOU WERE TO TAKE THE FOLLOWING ACTIONS:

- 1) ANNOUNCE A CESSATION OF ALL ARMS SALES AND SHIPMENTS TO ALL COUNTRIES OF THE MIDDLE EAST AND CALL UPON THE SOVIET UNION AND OTHER SUPPLIERS TO JOIN WITH THE U.S. IN THIS INITIATIVE FOR PEACE.
- 2) OPEN DIRECT CONTACT WITH THE PALESTINE LIBERATION ORGANIZATION AS ONE OF THE KEY ANTAGONISTS IN THE MIDDLE EAST CONFLICT, IN ORDER TO MOVE THE PARTIES FROM THE BATTLEFIELD TO THE NEGOTIATING TABLE.
- 3) BROADEN THE MANDATE TO AMBASSADOR PHILIP HABIB TO DEAL WITH THE CORE ISSUES OF THE ISRAEL-PALESTINIAN DISPUTE, NOT JUST THOSE RELEVANT TO THE LEBANON CONFLICT.

I BELIEVE, MR. PRESIDENT, THAT THESE ACTIONS WOULD STRENGTHEN THE PEACE-MAKING ROLE OF THE UNITED STATES AND SERVE ITS BEST INTERESTS IN THE AREA

MAIL GRAM TO PRES. REAGAN  
JULY 24, 1981

PAGE 2

AND CERTAINLY BRING A MUCH-NEEDED MEASURE OF PEACE AND JUSTICE TO THE  
PEOPLES OF THAT TROUBLED PART OF THE WORLD.

DR. ROBERT W. NEFF  
GENERAL SECRETARY  
CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN  
1451 DUNDEE AVENUE  
ELGIN, ILLINOIS 60120



JULY 24, 1981





TO: President Ronald Reagan

Present military actions by Israeli forces have violated the sovereignty of Lebanon and broken the ceasefire arranged by Ambassador Habib between Israel and the PLO, which had been observed by the PLO for nine months. Israel seized upon the attempted assassination of Ambassador Argov as cause to mount a massive bombing of Lebanon despite PLO denials of involvement and before any evidence of PLO culpability. The same sequence of events occurred in April when the PLO said it would continue to adhere to the ceasefire provided Israel stopped the bombings. PLO response to the June bombings was predictable and provided Israel with the excuse needed to invade Lebanon, plans for which had been developed and publicized for many months.

We urgently request action by our government that will stop present and future aggressive use of American arms against the people of Lebanon and especially non-combatants. We are reliably told that American-made planes have been used in the bombings that have killed many Lebanese civilians and destroyed ambulances and supplies of blood plasma and food stuffs.

We support the United States commitment to defend the existence of the State of Israel, but that commitment must not be misused to cover aggressive actions against neighboring countries and the current full-scale bombing and invasion of Lebanon. We urge immediate action bilaterally and in the United Nations to secure prompt Israeli withdrawal, provide assistance for the rehabilitation of Lebanon, and guarantees of its future sovereign independence.

We assert again that prospects for future peace and stability in the Middle East depend upon a just negotiated settlement of the Palestinian question.

William P. Thompson, Stated Clerk  
United Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A.

J. Oscar McCloud, General Secretary  
Program Agency  
United Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A.

6/9/82

memorandum

cc: Eugene DuBow  
Rabbi Marc Tanenbaum  
Rabbi James Rudin ✓  
Sheba Mittelman  
Lois Gottesman  
Ernest Weiner

**THE AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE**

**date** July 13, 1982  
**to** Harold Applebaum  
**from** Art Abramson  
**subject** Lebanon: The Seattle Clergy

As I mentioned in an earlier memo, some of the Seattle clergy that travelled to Lebanon as guests of the PLO have publicly rebuked Israel. This last week, the enclosed statement and ad ran in local newspapers. As part of our originally planned response to the ministers, an interfaith prayer service for peace in the Middle East was held at noon on July 9th. A Catholic priest, a Rabbi and a minister each led those present in prayer, and at the end of the service all were urged to help collect funds for humanitarian assistance. On the hand-outs (see enclosure), addresses to which funds could be sent were listed.

The service went quite well, although attendance was sparse (about 25 people). Over 500 churches and all the local synagogues were sent invitations to the prayer service; none of the Seattle clergy that went to Lebanon attended. Instead, on the same day, the Church Council ad ran in the Seattle Times, with its implicit attack on Israel. I would not be surprised if its timing was directly related to the prayer service. While AJC was responsible for setting up the service, so as to avoid it appearing as a pre-arranged Jewish community event, the local office of the National Conference of Christians and Jews agreed to serve as convenor.

Given the lack of participation by those who travelled to Lebanon, the ministers may be vulnerable to some material in the newspapers about how they would rather denounce Israel than pray for peace. Whatever advice you have in this regard would be appreciated.

As things progress, I will keep you posted.

Best regards,



AA/dw  
Enclosures

# DEATH AND DEVASTATION IN LEBANON

- 40,000 people killed and wounded
- 700,000 people homeless

The war in Lebanon has entailed intensive bombing of Beirut, Tyre and Sidon and the total destruction of scores of small towns, villages and refugee camps.

*This bombing has brought death and dreadful injury to the most vulnerable of the civilian population—women with small children, the elderly and the ailing—those least able to escape these attacks. Strafing assaults upon hospitals e.g., the Red Cross hospital in Sidon, emergency vehicles and buses carrying fleeing civilians, many of them killed or injured, have compounded the horror.*

The abhorrent use of anti-personnel weapons such as cluster bombs, has further contributed to the alarming rise in civilian casualties.

Lebanese and Palestinian victims are crying for attention. We appeal to all people of conscience to help alleviate their suffering by sending your tax-deductible contributions.

## YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS WILL BE USED TO:

- Purchase urgently needed antibiotics, anesthetics and medical supplies
- Provide shelter, food and clothing for the homeless

The United Holy Land Fund is a non-profit, non-political tax-exempt organization. Chartered in the U.S., the fund is committed to rescuing the innocent victims of war. For 13 years, it has served the hungry, ill, wounded and homeless of every faith.

Send your tax-deductible contributions to:

United Holy Land Fund  
c/o Church Council of Greater Seattle  
4759 15th Ave. N.E.  
Seattle, WA 98105

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Seattle Times

7/9/82

OVER

## Israeli attack indefensible

We, the undersigned, have recently been in Lebanon and make this statement from a perspective of personal commitment, deep sorrow, and urgent concern.

We protest the outrageous invasion and bombardment of Lebanon by Israel as immoral and illegal. The alleged reason for this invasion has now been effectively refuted: the attempted assassination of the Israeli ambassador to England was not carried out by the PLO according to the British ambassador to the United Nations.

We abhor the United States' complicity in this terroristic invasion by supplying military aid and weapons to Israel and for ignoring the attempted destruction of the Palestinian people and the indiscriminate killing of the Lebanese population.

We call for immediate and unconditional withdrawal of Israeli troops from Lebanon. We support the right of Palestinians to self-determination and the right of the Lebanese for independent sovereignty. We, therefore, ask for the reduction of all U.S. aid to Israel if these conditions are not met at once.

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free lance photographer

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Melvin M. Finkbeiner  
Senior Pastor  
University United Methodist Temple

Danile W. O'Neill

Fawzi Khoury  
University of Washington Library

Rodney R. Romney  
Pastor  
Seattle First Baptist Church

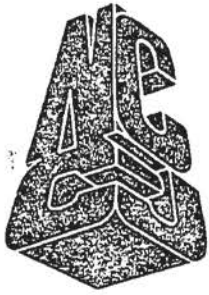
Dwight Van Winkle  
Asst. Professor of Religion  
Seattle Pacific University

Richard G. Younge  
Episcopal Chaplain  
Campus Christian Ministry  
University of Washington

Farhat J. Ziadeh  
University of Washington

Organizations are listed for identification only.

Belleuve Journal - Tuesday 7/6/82



THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF CHRISTIANS & JEWS, INC.

WASHINGTON REGION

# BROTHERHOOD THROUGH EDUCATION

Kalman C. Szekely  
Executive Director

1402 - 3rd AVE., SUITE 1326  
SEATTLE, WASHINGTON 98101

INTERFAITH PRAYER SERVICE FOR PEACE

(206) 622-7310

JULY 9, 1982

## PROGRAM

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*George S. Weigel, Jr.*  
*William M. Weisfield*  
*Spruiell D. White*  
*Stanley H. Wolfstone*

WELCOME: Kalman Szekely, Regional Director, NCCJ

### PRAYER SERVICE:

Rev. N. Randall Mullins  
Director of Christian Education,  
University Congregational Church

READING: "Price of Peace,"  
Daniel Berrigan  
SCRIPTURE READING:

Rabbi Earl N. Starr  
Senior Rabbi,  
Temple DeHirsch Sinai

PRAYER:  
SCRIPTURE READING: Micah 4:  
RESPONSE: Pslam 122: (over)

Rev. Joseph F. X. Smith  
Co-Pastor,  
St. Patrick Catholic Church

PRAYER:  
SCRIPTURE READING: Isaih 11: 1-10  
RESPONSE: Psalm 85: (over)

### CLOSING:

George Weigel, Jr.  
World Without War Council

The following organizations have pledged substantial amounts for humanitarian relief in Lebanon. Your help will be appreciated!

### NATIONAL OFFICERS

National Chairman,  
Executive Board  
*Irving Mitchell Felt*  
President  
*Dr. David Hyatt*

The American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee  
60 East 48th Street  
New York, New York 10165 check payable to: "JDC-Lebanon"

The Catholic Relief Service  
Mission Office, Archdiocese of Seattle  
907 Terry Avenue  
Seattle, Washington 98104 check payable to:  
"Catholic Relief Service-Lebanon"

PSALM 122

I rejoiced because they said to me, "We will go up to the house of the Lord."  
And now we have set foot within your gates, O Jerusalem--  
Jerusalem, built as a city with compact unity.  
To it the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord, according to the decree for Israel,  
to give thanks to the name of the Lord.  
In it are set up judgement seats, seats for the house of David.  
Pray for the peace of Jerusalem! May those who love you prosper!  
May peace be within your walls, prosperity in your buildings.  
Because of my relatives and friends I will say, "Peace be within you!"  
Because of the house of the Lord, our God, I will pray for your good.

PSALM 85

You have favored, O Lord, your land; you have restored the well-being of Jacob.  
You have forgiven the guilt of your people; you have covered all their sins.  
You have withdrawn all your wrath; you have revoked your burning anger.  
Restore us, O God our savior, and abandon your displeasure against us.  
Will you be ever angry with us, prolonging your anger to all generations?  
Will you not instead give us life; and shall not your people rejoice in you?  
Show us, O Lord, your kindness, and grant us your salvation.  
I will hear what God proclaims; the Lord--for he proclaims peace.  
To his people, and to his faithful ones, and to those who put in him their hope.  
Near indeed is his salvation to those who fear him, glory dwelling in our land.  
Kindness and truth shall meet; justice and peace shall kiss.  
Truth shall spring out of the earth, and justice shall look down from heaven.  
The Lord himself will give his benefits; our land shall yield its increase.  
Justice shall walk before him, and salvation, along the way of his steps.



**NATIONAL COUNCIL OF CHURCHES**

MIDDLE EAST OFFICE • Room 612

Tel: (212) 870-2811 Telex: 234579 NCC UR

Division of Overseas Ministries  
National Council of Churches  
475 Riverside Drive  
New York, NY 10115

J Richard Butler  
Director

July 15, 1982

Rabbi Rudin -

Enclosed are the materials  
that you requested today.

Greetings!

Jay Vogelbein



David Simpson

M. William Howard, Jr.

AN OPEN LETTER

July 2, 1982

The Honorable Manachem Begin  
Prime Minister of Israel  
The State of Israel

Dear Mr. Prime Minister:

When you received me in your office in Tel Aviv in October, 1980, you talked convincingly and with deep conviction about the moral principles which lie at the heart of Jewish tradition. I listened carefully because, as a Christian, I am a beneficiary of this great tradition. I also had the privilege of visiting the Yad Vashem Museum and witnessing the evidence of the horrible price the Jews have had to pay in Europe and elsewhere for being true to their peoplehood and identity. Your rich heritage and the seemingly endless suffering of your people is what has made most of the world affirm and celebrate the existence and well-being of the State of Israel. But it is also precisely because of this heritage that many supporters of Israel around the world now wonder how Israel can be so apparently callous to the need of the Palestinians for their own sense of peoplehood and identity. I ask you earnestly, is this the true Israel we see each night on the television screens, terrorizing bewildered and helpless people; is it the true Israel to detain so many people and to leave so many homeless? This seems a far cry from the nation envisioned by its early mothers and fathers.

all  
c. 6/2/82

The State of Israel has seen some difficult days since its founding in 1948, but I believe this is its darkest hour. The invasion and continued occupation of Lebanon by Israel is creating a strong negative backlash of world opinion against the policies of your government toward the Palestinians that is unlike any that has existed before. I believe this is a permanent development, one that is not likely to subside with the passage of a few days or weeks or months. The outcry for due recognition of the legitimate right of the Palestinians to determine their destiny is growing and from places not heard from so strongly until now. This situation may further jeopardize Israel's security and continue to put off into the distant future any possibility for a lasting peace for you and your neighbors.

That is why I appeal to you to stop the assault on the Lebanese and Palestinian peoples who are by now obviously defenseless against your military might. Stop the senseless bombing which has resulted in the death and injury of so many innocent people, especially the children. Now is the time for Israel to show its strength as a nation by taking bold initiatives for peace, not more opportunities for war and destruction.

The events of the recent days have been a great tragedy, one which you have stated publicly you would like to have avoided. Now I believe you are in the unique and historic position of making new roads to peace, but time is running out as the possibility for even broader chaos in the Middle East seems to lurk on the horizon.

475 Riverside Drive · New York, New York 10115

over

Perhaps as never before there is in the international community a willingness to provide for the context in which the mutual recognition of Israel by the PLO and the PLO by Israel can take place. I think this important step is crucial toward opening up the channels of direct negotiation between Israel and the Palestinians which is so sorely needed if the search for a lasting and just peace is to be your legacy.

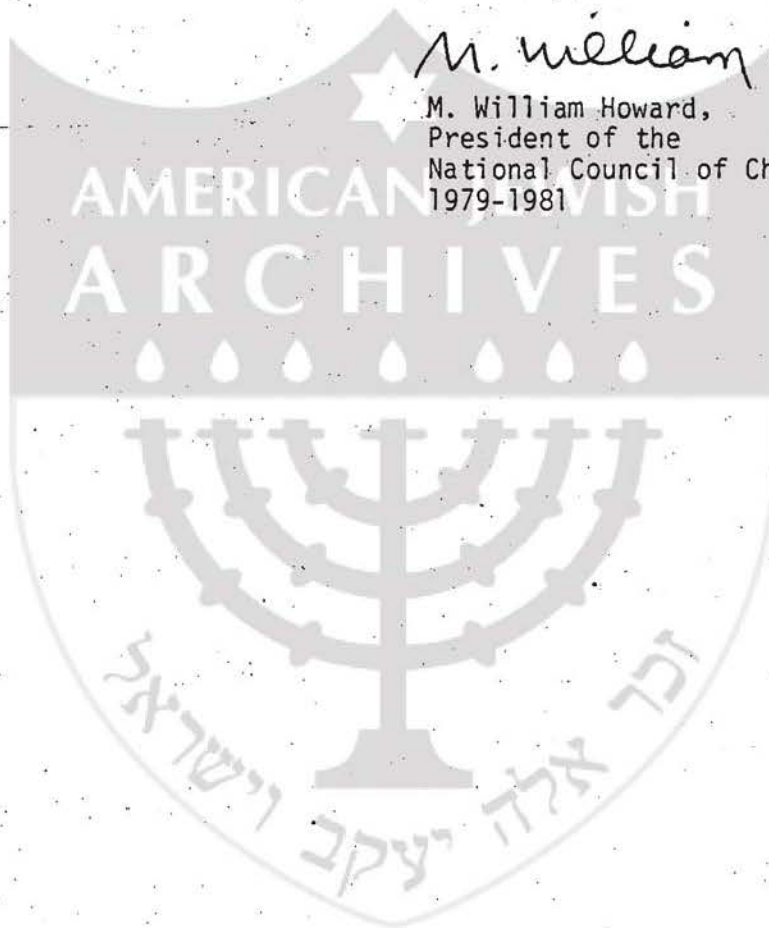
I hope and pray you will find a way to break open this new future.

Sincerely,

*M. William Howard*

M. William Howard,  
President of the  
National Council of Churches in Christ, USA  
1979-1981

/spo



cc: Eugene DuBow  
Rabbi Marc Tanenbaum ✓  
Rabbi James Rudin  
Sheba Mittelman  
Lois Gottesman  
Ernest Weiner

**THE AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE**

**date** July 13, 1982  
**to** Harold Applebaum  
**from** Art Abramson  
**subject** Lebanon: The Seattle Clergy

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As things progress, I will keep you posted.

Best regards,

*Art*

AA/dw  
Enclosures

memorandum

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Campus Christian Ministry  
University of Washington

Farhat J. Ziadeh  
University of Washington

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*Belleune Journal - American*

*7/6/82*



THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF CHRISTIANS & JEWS, INC.

WASHINGTON REGION

# BROTHERHOOD THROUGH EDUCATION

Kalman C. Szekely  
Executive Director

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SEATTLE, WASHINGTON 98101

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Max A. Silver  
Carole A. Smith  
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Phillip B. Swain  
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PSALM 122

I rejoiced because they said to me, "We will go up to the house of the Lord."  
And now we have set foot within your gates, O Jerusalem--  
Jerusalem, built as a city with compact unity.  
To it the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord, according to the decree for Israel,  
to give thanks to the name of the Lord.  
In it are set up judgement seats, seats for the house of David.  
Pray for the peace of Jerusalem! May those who love you prosper!  
May peace be within your walls, prosperity in your buildings.  
Because of my relatives and friends I will say, "Peace be within you!"  
Because of the house of the Lord, our God, I will pray for your good.

PSALM 85

You have favored, O Lord, your land; you have restored the well-being of Jacob.  
You have forgiven the guilt of your people; you have covered all their sins.  
You have withdrawn all your wrath; you have revoked your burning anger.  
Restore us, O God our savior, and abandon your displeasure against us.  
Will you be ever angry with us, prolonging your anger to all generations?  
Will you not instead give us life; and shall not your people rejoice in you?  
Show us, O Lord, your kindness, and grant us your salvation.  
I will hear what God proclaims; the Lord--for he proclaims peace.  
To his people, and to his faithful ones, and to those who put in him their hope.  
Near indeed is his salvation to those who fear him, glory dwelling in our land.  
Kindness and truth shall meet; justice and peace shall kiss.  
Truth shall spring out of the earth, and justice shall look down from heaven.  
The Lord himself will give his benefits; our land shall yield its increase.  
Justice shall walk before him, and salvation, along the way of his steps.