

Meeting with French Ambassador De La Costa
First Secretary Olivier Brochenin
Friday January 23

I. Purpose of meeting

A. THANKS

We want to thank you for your efforts toward finding a peaceful solution to the fighting in Lebanon. You have played an important role and will continue to do so, we hope.

B. INFORMATION ABOUT POSSIBILITIES FOR PEACE

We would like to hear from you your assessment of the present situations and the possibilities of some solution.

We read in Haaretz three days ago that your Foreign Minister Hubert Vedrine held separate conversations in Beirut with President Elias Hrawi, Prime Minister Rafik Hariri, Foreign Minister Farez Boueiz, and Lebanese Speaker of Parliament Nabih Berri who said that "if Israel withdrew from Lebanon unilaterally, the Lebanese Army would deploy its forces in the south."

Just yesterday in Haaretz there was an article that indicated in a meeting in Damascus on Saturday, President Assad informed President Hrawi that Syria supports an unconditional Israeli withdrawal and that Damascus would not prevent the Lebanese army from gaining control of the territory ceded by Israel.

This confirms what your foreign minister learned, but strengthens the point by indicating that Assad is also willing to allow Lebanon to redeploy there.

~~Four~~ ^{Three} points emerged in the discussions between Assad and Harawi:

- a. Syria and Lebanon say they will not conduct any dialogue with Israel on issue of withdrawal.
- b. They will not accept any conditions whatsoever that Israel might try to impose.
- c. There would be no separation between the Syrian and Lebanese tracks.

On the Israeli side, in our meetings with Israeli officials repeatedly we hear that Israel will leave if Lebanon can provide stability in the region.

The question seems to be how these two positions --Israel's willingness to withdraw if Lebanon can move in, and Lebanon's willingness to do so, if Israel leaves unconditionally--be moved to the next step.

Our questions is what can France do to forward peace and create a situation which will allow Israel to withdraw from the self-declared security zone?

We know that Defense Minister Mordecai at one time discussed the

possibility of withdrawal by Israel and deployment of a French force, perhaps combined with a Lebanese or UN force.
Is this a viable option that is being pursued?

Do you have ongoing discussions with Lebanese officials and what has their reaction been. Can you pressure them to take more steps to alleviate the fear that in the absence of Israeli troops, the Hizbollah will use south Lebanon for a staging area into the north of Israel?

C. FOUR MOTHERS MOVEMENT

Tell about the movement

What we have done to date: demonstrations, public awareness, meeting with officials

What we want to do: make contact people to people: mention article in paper

Find ways of getting our government to leave Lebanon and for the Lebanese government creating an atmosphere which will make this possible.

What you can do for us:

1. Facilitate meetings between interested people in Israel and Lebanon
2. Offer some sort of liaison to our group so that should opportunities arise for dialogue on a people to people basis we will know of them
3. Listen to suggestions from you about how to spread our message to the Lebanese people, who in turn may be able to pressure their government as we are doing our.

Our goals

C. INFORMATION TO YOU ABOUT THE FOUR MOTHERS MOVEMENT

About the four Mothers Movement

Lieutenant General Amnon Shahak opposes unilateral withdrawal from south Lebanon, and two days ago added that without "a responsible negotiating partner," in Lebanon Israeli troops could remain there "for another thousand years."

Questions:

1. What can France do to bridge these differences and to move the process to the next step.
 - a. Can they pressure Lebanon to clarify their position
 - b. Do they believe that these comments coming from Syria and Lebanon are genuine
 - c. Do they believe that there is a possibility of a neutral force, say France or the UN acting as an effective buffer.

What we want
1. - facilitate meeting people to people
2. to know what you are doing - atmos. which will
and public opinion in Israel