

# DECISION BY REAGAN

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## President Is Said to Send Begin a Note Warning About Relations

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By **BERNARD WEINRAUB**

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Aug. 5 — The United States called on Israel today to yield the military gains won in its thrust into west Beirut and to withdraw to the cease-fire lines that existed on Sunday.

A State Department spokesman, Alan Romberg, said the decision was “a judgment that the Government, the President has reached.”

But in Jerusalem tonight, after a five-hour Cabinet meeting, the Israeli Government said its forces would not pull back so long as Palestinian guerrillas remained in place.

[King Fahd of Saudi Arabia said he was pleased that the United States had called on Israel to withdraw its troops from west Beirut, the Saudi press agency reported. It said the King was in frequent telephone contact with Mr. Reagan. Page A4.]

### A Sharply Worded Message

Reagan Administration officials said the request to Israel coincided with a sharply worded personal message sent Wednesday by President Reagan to Prime Minister Menachem Begin. Officials said the message made it plain that American-Israeli relations would be threatened unless Israel stopped what Mr. Reagan termed “unnecessary bloodshed” in Lebanon.

State Department officials said that in delivering the letter, the United States chargé d'affaires in Israel, William A. Brown, also made a request for a withdrawal of Israeli troops from the western half of the city where about 6,000 Palestinian guerrillas are trapped.

Israeli armored units moved into west Beirut early Wednesday. A withdrawal would mean one pullback of several hundred yards across the Ouzai area to the edge of the Beirut airport, and another eastward across the so-called green line dividing east and west Beirut.

### 'A Clear Signal'

Larry Speakes, the deputy White House press secretary, said of the Israelis, “Our desire is they back off from their advance to their position of Aug. 1.”

“If indeed that is the policy,” said Benjamin Abileah, an Israeli Embassy spokesman here, “this is a clear signal to the P.L.O. that they do not have to leave Beirut.”

Meanwhile, a ranking Administration official said that although some problems remained on the withdrawal of the

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# U.S. Calls for an Israeli Pullback From West Beirut

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P.L.O., several key issues had been dealt with. "We're now really talking operational withdrawal," he said. "There's no more polemics. The principles have been taken care of. Not to say all the differences have been bridged. It's going to take a few more days."

The call for the Israeli withdrawal came as conflicting reports were received on whether the Reagan Administration was considering sanctions against Israel as a result of the military drive in west Beirut. After meeting Vice President Bush and Secretary of State George P. Shultz, a delegation of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations said this morning that it had been assured the Administration was not planning to invoke sanctions against Israel.

## 'A New Development'

But an Administration official said Mr. Bush had indicated that sanctions against Israel remained an option. State Department officials declined to say what the Administration would do if Israel ignored the American request.

A ranking Administration official explained the reason for the renewed pressure on Israel by saying that Wednesday's move into west Beirut "was a new development of some identifiable character which is seriously harmful to the negotiating process."

He said American officials felt that, particularly in light of the meetings here this week with Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir "and the serious expressions of concern by us to him, the Israeli action was just inappropriate and disregarded the points we made."

Another Administration official said that although it was unlikely that Israel would withdraw, the request for an Israeli pullback "was a way for us to sig-

nal our displeasure." The official indicated the Administration was especially upset that the Israeli move into west Beirut came at a time Mr. Shamir was in Washington and Mr. Reagan and Mr. Shultz were privately and publicly imploring him on the need for Israeli military restraint in west Beirut.

The Administration decision appeared to strike another discordant note in the increasingly uneasy relations between the United States and Israel over Lebanon and the most effective means of driving out the P.L.O. leadership and fighters to other countries.

On Wednesday Mr. Reagan referred to a "cease-fire in place" that would permit the United States special envoy, Philip C. Habib, to negotiate a withdrawal of the P.L.O. from Lebanon. A White House statement made no reference to a date, leaving the impression that Mr. Reagan was not asking Israel to withdraw from areas of west Beirut seized by Israeli troops.

Today Mr. Romberg told reporters at the State Department's daily briefing, "The ceasefire in place meant the positions of the forces as of Aug. 1."

Discussing the Administration's pressure on the Israelis, one ranking official noted today that the Begin Government had been told repeatedly in recent weeks that if the Israelis moved into west Beirut and thereby inflicted large-scale civilian casualties, "all bets were off on Israel-U.S. relations." The official added that supporters of Israel in the United States "should not be sanguine" about the possibilities of sanctions against the Israelis.

The official said that, by and large, the Reagan Administration had recognized that some forms of military pressures by Israel were necessary to force the P.L.O. to leave Beirut, but that the "misapplication of force" by the Israelis, the "indiscriminate bombings" and

civilian casualties had stirred broad "anger" within the Reagan Administration. Essentially, the official said, the feeling within the Administration was that Israel had unnecessarily overreacted at a time when a settlement seemed to be approaching.

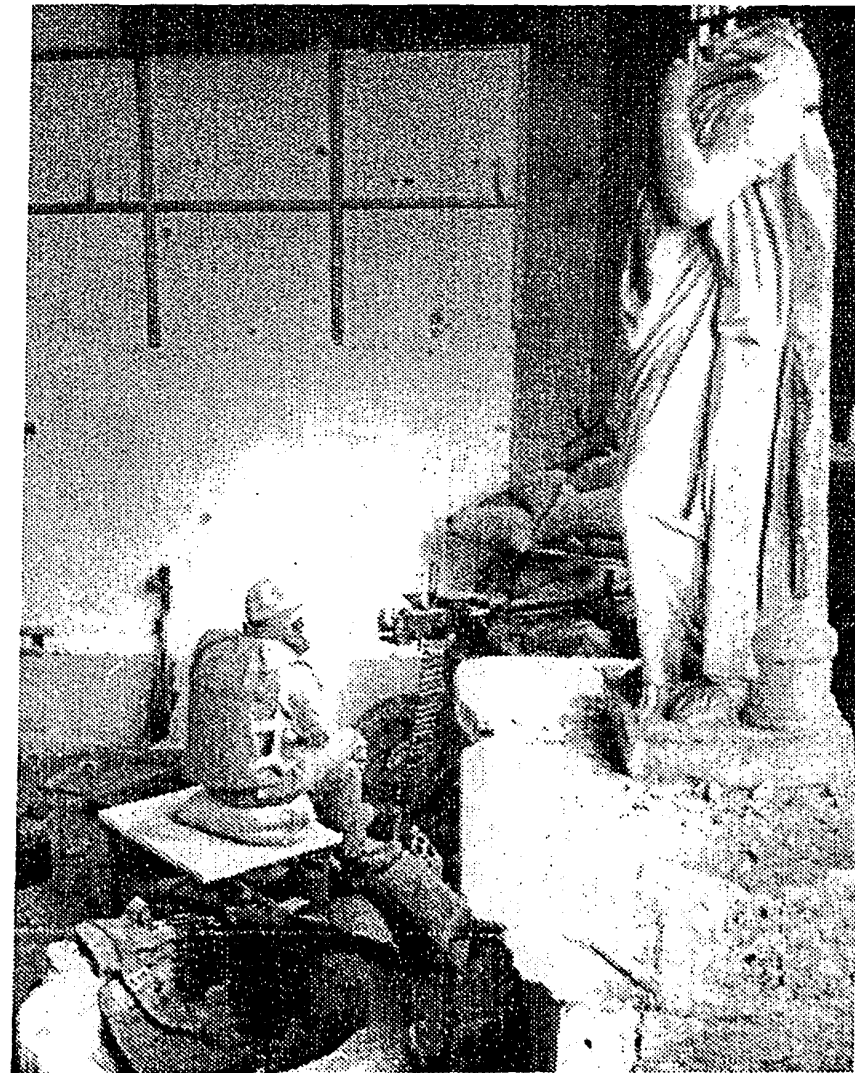
## 'Tightening a Noose'

"If you're a P.L.O. and Israelis are 100 meters away intercepting your communications and its guns trained on you and demonstrating what it can do, that's pressure," said the official. "They are tightening a noose. That's why we have felt the Israelis don't need to do too much in the way of pressure. They've ringed the city with steel."

Discussing negotiations, the official said the issues to be resolved were "mechanical," and the Administration was "confident" the P.L.O. would withdraw — an opinion the Israelis do not share. The official said the Administration was aware of the Israeli anxiety that the P.L.O. will somehow win a "victory," and this was one reason the Israelis were stepping up their pressure.

At the same time, the Administration is aware that the Begin Government faces major economic and political problems if the Lebanese situation remains unresolved and indicated that the United States was prepared to use its leverage accordingly.

The official said Mr. Reagan felt "misled" by the Begin Government, largely because of what he called the "gratuitous" violence of the Israelis. "Naval bombardments are notoriously unreliable and inaccurate," he said. "They hit the International Red Cross Building. There are no P.L.O. in the Red Cross. Too many civilians were killed. The indiscriminate nature on the people of Beirut was unjustified."



The New York Times/Micha Bar-Am

An Israeli soldier manning a captured Soviet-made machine gun in the museum at the green line separating east and west Beirut. The building had been occupied by Syrian troops for four years.