

THE CRISIS IN LEBANON  
KEY ISSUES AND CENTRAL NEGOTIATING POSITIONS

Withdrawal of Forces

UNITED STATES  
In the indirect negotiations conducted by Habib, the U.S. has been trying to find a formula to allow the Palestinian forces to leave West Beirut under honorable circumstances and avoid an Israeli military thrust into the capital. The U.S. is willing to help provide security for the evacuation, but the P.L.O. has reacted coolly to the offer. The major problem in reaching a settlement has been the fact that no Arab country seems willing to take the approximately 6,000 guerrillas and their families.

ISRAEL  
All factions of the P.L.O. should be disarmed and withdrawn from Beirut, then leave Lebanon. They should be allowed to take only "personal arms," presumably meaning a pistol or rifle for each man. As they leave the country, the P.L.O. forces should not detour north to Tripoli or stop short of the Syrian border. Departure by land is acceptable. On 21 July Sharon reaffirmed the Israeli position by ruling out Arab and Palestinian proposals for temporary evacuation of the P.L.O. to Northern Lebanon.

PALESTINE LIBERATION ORGANIZATION  
The Palestinian guerrillas should return to their camps with their weapons, while the Israelis should withdraw five kilometers from the capital. Any P.L.O. forces that are evacuated from Lebanon should leave by road after a pullback by Israeli forces. The P.L.O. has never publicly committed itself to going anywhere except "Palestine". It has offered to move temporarily to an area of northern Lebanon controlled by Syrian troops while negotiations for a permanent solution continue.

LEBANESE GOVERNMENT  
The Lebanese Government is largely powerless, undermined by the sectarian rivalries. Prime Minister Shafik al-Wazzan, a Moslem, is known to support the basic outlines of the P.L.O.'s proposals with the understanding that the guerrilla forces would be evacuated.

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Peacekeeping Force

UNITED STATES President Reagan has said that if an agreement is reached, 800 to 1,000 American troops would be used in a multinational force for "temporary peacekeeping" in Lebanon. The P.L.O. has supported this plan.

NOTE: Refer to Organization of Armed Palestinians in West Beirut when considering if security of such a force could be guaranteed.

ISRAEL Israel would agree to the deployment of a multinational force of American and French troops in west Beirut, but only after the P.L.O. has left or after the bulk of the guerrillas have left. The force should not be permitted to act as a buffer force between the Palestinian and Israeli forces before the withdrawal. Israel has rejected early deployment in the belief that once such a force was in place, the P.L.O. would not withdraw.

PALESTINE LIBERATION ORGANIZATION A multinational peacekeeping force should be formed, including American, French and other European or Arab contingents; it should move into the Beirut area before the Palestinian and Israeli troops disengage. This force should be deployed in the Palestinian camps while the Lebanese Army restores Government authority in west Beirut. The force should be in place before any P.L.O. withdrawal from Lebanon, not only to provide security against attacks by Lebanese Christians or Israelis but also to provide diplomatic contacts between the P.L.O., the United States and France.

LEBANESE GOVERNMENT Would support introduction of multinational force if guerrilla forces would be evacuated.



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Future of the P.L.O. in Lebanon

UNITED STATES P.L.O. guerrillas should withdraw from Lebanon, leaving only an information office in Beirut. U.S. officials say this would clear the way for an eventual political settlement in which Israeli troops would leave Lebanon.

ISRAEL The Israelis would not allow the Palestinians to retain a political office or any armed military units. However, they have not said they would bar civilian Palestinians.

PALESTINE  
LIBERATION  
ORGANIZATION

Senior Lebanese Government officials say they believe that if the P.L.O.'s basic conditions are met, it will agree to transfer its headquarters to Damascus. But the P.L.O. is still insisting that two Palestinian brigades be stationed in Tripoli and the Bekaa Valley under the command of the Lebanese Defense Minister. It also wants to retain a diplomatic mission in Lebanon. In addition, it is insisting that as many of the 650,000 Palestinian civilians be allowed to stay in Lebanon as want to, particularly those who came in 1948 and are registered with the Lebanese Government.

LEBANESE  
GOVERNMENT

A reduced P.L.O. military and political role in Lebanon would be put back under the Government authority. The Moslems of Lebanon are much more sympathetic than the Christians to a P.L.O. role, since the P.L.O. has served as a counterbalance to the Christian Phalangist militia of Gashir Gemayel. It is not clear whether President Elias Sarkis, a Maronite Christian, and Foreign Minister Fuad Butros, who is Greek Orthodox, would be willing to accept even a sharply reduced P.L.O. role.