

Israeli consul flays actions of Mubarak

By SYLVIA HART
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When Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak visits Washington, D.C., next week, U.S. leaders should talk candidly with Mubarak about his country's relations with Israel, said an Israeli official in Mobile Friday.

Michael Arbel, Israeli consul for the Southeastern United States, with offices in Atlanta, was in the Port City for a speaking engagement Friday night at Spring Hill Avenue Temple.

In an interview, Arbel said the president of Egypt is involved in acts that violate the spirit of the peace agreement signed in 1979 between Egypt and Israel.

Because the United States was moderator of the Egyptian-Israeli accord, known as the Camp David agreement, "we expect the United States to take the lead and explain to President Mubarak quite clearly that he is not fulfilling his part of the agreement," said Arbel.

Arbel said Israel is proud of having signed an agreement with "the strongest Arab country ... but we paid a lot. We returned territories to Egypt that are strategic. We returned oil fields which were vital to our economy, but we'd rather return all this in order to have peace."

The Israeli said Mubarak's "decision to remove from Israel his ambassador 1½ years ago was totally against the spirit of the peace agreement. His decision not to implement the cultural, tourism and economic agreements is contrary to the spirit of the Camp David agreement. His way of conducting anti-Semitism in the media in Egypt now is totally against the spirit of the agreement."

On another subject, Arbel was asked his view of whether Lebanon's President Amin Gemayel will remain in office in the face of conflict in his country.

The Israeli said, "I really don't know. We still want him to stay in power. We still want him to conduct a full democratic government, but it seems at the moment this is highly questionable."

Arbel also was asked his view about President Reagan's announcement this week that U.S. Marines, which have been stationed since September 1982 in Beirut as a peacekeeping force, will gradually be redeployed to American ships offshore.

Said the Israeli consul, "I tell you quite frankly, Israel has never asked the United States to come to Lebanon. It was only upon the request of the government of Lebanon, so Israel is not in a position to tell the United States to go back or not go back."

Arbel said, however, "We understand the consideration the president of the United States has given in this case, and we understand his decision to pull back the Marines."

Regardless of U.S. decisions about its Marines, the Israeli said, "we are going to defend ourselves and solve our problems with Lebanon on our own."

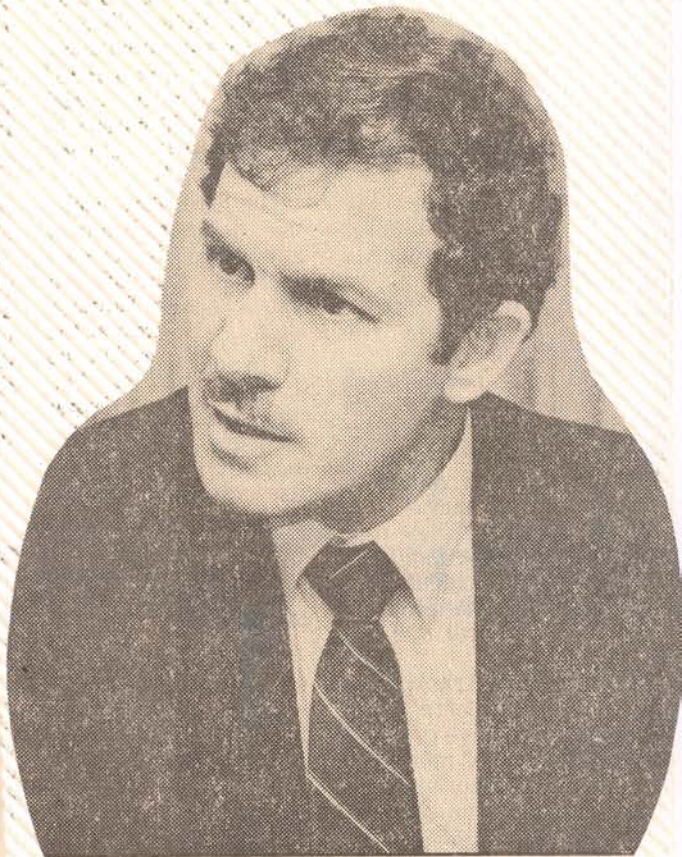
Israel maintains military forces in southern Lebanon. "We are not intending to stay there," Arbel said. "We want to pull back our forces, but the reason we entered Lebanon (in June 1982) remains the same."

Israeli forces entered Lebanon, Arbel said, for "the very simple reason that we didn't want Arab terrorist countries with forces within the state of Lebanon to act against the northern part of Israel. We managed to remove the PLO (Palestine Liberation Organization) terrorists."

Israel will not withdraw its troops from southern Lebanon, according to Arbel, until "we are assured that this part of Lebanon is not going to be a terrorist stronghold."

Arbel said Syrians "are occupying 60 percent of Lebanon with 45,000 soldiers," and Syria's ultimate goal is to control Lebanon, Israel and Jordan.

The consul said, "As far as the Syrian army is concerned, Israel is ready to stay against that army if necessary and to take care of our border with Lebanon."



Israeli Consul Michael Arbel