

Begin writes resignation letter

By ARYHUR MAX
 Associated Press Writer

JERUSALEM — Prime Minister Menachem Begin wrote his letter of resignation yesterday, setting off a scramble in his party to pick a successor who could hold his right-wing government coalition together.

"I cannot go on any longer," the 70-year-old prime minister told colleagues who begged him to change his mind.

Although he delayed submitting his resignation to President Chaim Herzog, political circles were convinced that the six-year Begin era, which brought Israel peace with Egypt and war in Lebanon, was over.

The ministers of Begin's Herut Party in the ruling Likud bloc caucused for three hours last night, but failed to decide on Begin's successor. "We didn't come to any conclusions," said Ronnie Milo, a Herut deputy who attended the meeting as an observer.

The ministers were to renew efforts today to find a successor, Milo told reporters.

The chief contenders were Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir, 68, and Deputy Prime Minister David Levy, 45, and Israel radio said Shamir was preferred. But Levy denied this, saying nothing had been decided.

Israeli television reported that Shamir told the ministers he wanted an immediate meeting of the 24-member Herut parliamentary faction to choose a new leader, while Levy wanted the issue decided by the much more broadly based central committee. Shamir is considered the more likely victor in the smaller body, while Levy has strong support among the rank-and-file in the committee.

Other Likud leaders appealed to Begin to withhold his resignation for a few days to allow time to choose a successor. He promised an answer last night or this morning.

Israel radio said the opposition Labor Party, which dominated the

government for the first 29 years of Israel's 35-year existence, was contacting potential defectors in the government.

The religious parties that hold the balance of power have pledged publicly to remain with the government. But if Herut and the Likud cannot agree quickly on a leader, the allegiance of the minor parties might weaken under the pressure of inducements that Labor is sure to offer them.

After he resigns, Begin will continue as caretaker prime minister until a new government is formed. His spokesman, Uri Porat, said he expects him to withdraw from political life. But he added that Begin had promised to campaign for the Likud if neither it nor Labor can form a majority government, and elections must be held.

Begin made his surprise announcement of his intention to resign at the weekly Cabinet meeting Sunday, then delayed while his associates pleaded with him to change his mind.

"You have to understand that the members of the Herut movement see Menachem Begin not just as a man who was prime minister for six years but a man who for 40 years was a leader, a guide, a mentor, a man who knew how to rescue us in any situation," said a Likud member of Parliament, Michael Kleiner.

But Cabinet leaders said when they called on him yesterday, they found him penning his resignation letter.

"We won't let you do it," exclaimed Economics Minister Yaaqov Meridor, a comrade from his guerrilla days fighting for Israeli independence.

"Then I'll do it without your permission," Begin replied as he finished the letter and sent it to be typed.

Shlomo Lorenz of Agudat Israel, one of the religious parties in the coalition, said Begin still did not spell out his reasons for quitting.



Menachem Begin

AP Laserphoto

Marines on full alert in Beirut

By TERRY A. ANDERSON
 Associated Press Writer

BEIRUT, Lebanon — U.S. Marines went on full alert again early today and fired illumination rounds after several shells exploded near their positions beside the Beirut airport, a spokesman reported.

It was the fourth straight day of action involving the American peacekeeping force and came as artillery and rocket fire pounded both Moslem west Beirut and Christian east Beirut.

Yesterday, the Marines waged a 90-minute firefight with Moslem militiamen near the airport and hundreds of Lebanese soldiers attacked militia gunners threatening a west Beirut hotel housing U.S. Embassy personnel.

A Marine spokesman, Warrant Officer Charles Rowe, said Marine artillery fired four illumination rounds early today toward the sources of the shells that struck near the airport runway. He said the 1,200 Marines in the multinational peacekeeping force were placed on their highest state of alert — category one — for the third time in 24 hours.

State radio claimed the shells striking both east and west Beirut were coming from the Syrian-controlled Upper Metn Mountains east of the capital. There was no word on casualties but hospitals broadcast urgent appeals for blood.

No Marine casualties were reported in yesterday's fighting, but three French soldiers in the peacekeeping force and a French paramilitary policeman stationed at the French Embassy were among those slain in street battles and shelling. The Marines were killed

and 14 wounded by mortar fire at the airport Monday.

The state radio said shells were "pouring down" on Beirut despite announcements late yesterday by leading Moslem politicians, including former Premier Saeb Salam, that they would withdraw their militias from the streets of west Beirut and cooperate with the Lebanese army to stave off civil war.

Nabih Berri, leader of the Shiite Moslems' Amal militia that was blamed for the mortar attack that killed the American Marines, issued a statement on state radio calling on his forces to cease operations. He said the government had agreed "to restore stability with the consent of all parties."

Shortly after his announcement, a shell struck his home in west Beirut. The uninjured Berri made another broadcast saying the attack "was aimed at undermining the reconciliation drive which I had announced in my statement ordering gunmen off the streets."

State radio said Lebanese soldiers went into action in west Beirut yesterday after the Cabinet decided to clear out militia strongholds and "restore calm and safety for the residents."

Government and private radio stations said Lebanese soldiers landed by boat and helicopter at the beachside Cadmos Hotel to protect the American Embassy personnel and U.S. Army Green Beret advisers living in the building.

They said the soldiers then launched attacks on the nearby 25-story Holiday Inn that Moslem Druse militias had seized earlier in the day and from which they threatened to attack the Cadmos Hotel.

The U.S. aircraft carrier Dwight D. Eisenhower, carrying about 90 jet fighters, and a destroyer escort armed with guided missiles moved closer to the coast to support the Marines at the airport on Beirut's southern outskirts.

The French Defense Ministry in Paris said two of the French soldiers and the policeman were killed in a shelling attack at the French Embassy that injured several other people. It said the third French soldier was killed and two were wounded in an attack at the midcity Galerie Semaan crossing point.

A military communique said Defense Minister Charles Hernu was following the situation "with the utmost attention."

British peacekeeping forces also came under attack near the Galerie Semaan crossing but no casualties were reported.

U.S. Marine positions at the airport came under militia fire at 4:55 p.m. yesterday — 10:55 a.m. EDT — and the Marines fought back with machine-gun and rifle fire, Warrant Officer Rowe reported.

"At 5:35 p.m. — 11:35 a.m. EDT — we began receiving rocket, mortar and artillery fire near our positions. Twenty-five shells landed near our positions in the span of one hour," he said.

Another Marine spokesman, Maj. Robert Jordan, said the Marines fired illumination rounds from 155mm artillery in southern and eastern districts around the airport and sent up Cobra helicopter gunships. But he denied reports that the gunships rocketed suspected militia positions in the Moslem Shiite stronghold of Bourj el-Barajneh.

Jordan said the airport fighting lasted about 90 minutes, and that the Marines had climbed out of their foxholes but were still on alert.

The Cadmos Hotel is about four miles north of the airport. State and private radios said President Amin Gemayel ordered his army to land just 400 yards from other U.S. Marines guarding the six-story building that houses most U.S. Embassy personnel and a number of Green Beret advisers.

U.S. Embassy personnel have been quartered in a number of hotels and other buildings in west Beirut since the embassy building was blown up in a bomb attack April 18.

Druse militiamen who support the Shiite fighters had threatened earlier in the day to attack the Lebanese army contingent guarding the hotel in the largely Druse-populated Ein Mreisseh neighborhood of west Beirut, which includes the U.S., British and other foreign embassies.

The French soldiers killed at the Galerie Semaan were in a water truck that was hit by a "medium or large-caliber projectile," according to Maj. Alain de Lestrade, spokesman for the French contingent of the 5,400-man peacekeeping force that also includes Italian soldiers.

Six Lebanese soldiers died in local hospitals of wounds received in the last three days of fighting. Police said their deaths brought the casualty toll since Sunday to 51 killed and 219 wounded.

In Jerusalem, Prime Minister Menachem Begin remained adamant about quitting and was writing his letter of resignation, Israeli officials said.



AP Laserphoto

A Moslem militiaman peers around a telephone pole in a southern Beirut neighborhood yesterday as fighting continued with the Lebanese Army. The four-day fight has involved the U.S. Marines and British and French troops of the Multi-National Peacekeeping Force in Beirut.

Financial pinch:

Academic standard limiting students eligible for aid

By CHRISTINE MURRAY
 Collegian Staff Writer

University students receiving financial aid are feeling the crunch of the Satisfactory Academic Progress standard implemented at the end of Spring Term.

Based on the number of University students who applied for campus-based aid for this year, about 5 percent were found ineligible for aid, said John Brugel, director of the Office of Student Aid. In addition, seven percent were placed on probation, Brugel said.

Campus based aid includes the Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants, National Direct Student Loans and the College Work Study Program.

Students receiving aid must first meet the requirements set by the University in the Student Handbook, Brugel said. Any student who fails to meet the requirements as stated in the handbook will be ineligible for financial assistance.

According to the Student Handbook, students will be dropped as degree candidates if they do not complete the required number of credits based on their academic standing and have acquired an excessive number of grade point deficiencies.

Only quantitative data is looked at, he said, and extenuating circumstances that may have caused the student to be declared ineligible

are not considered.

However, Brugel said students can bring any such circumstances to the office's attention by speaking with a member of the staff.

Although the office has been handling appeals all summer, Brugel said they

'Our position on this has been to be as lenient as possible. The number (of appeals) this summer was lower than those I would have anticipated.'

—John Brugel, director of the Office of Student Aid

University has not been using the transitional policy for satisfactory academic progress long enough to know if students are making up the credits.

"Our position on this has been to be as lenient as possible," Brugel said. "The number (of appeals) this summer was lower than those I would have anticipated." Every student who has received aid has

been assessed prior to being granted aid for this academic year, Brugel said.

"We made a sincere effort to alert the students because this is a cumulative review of a student's academic history," Brugel said. "Some students do get caught and have no way of being alerted other than the University Baccalaureate Degree Catalog."

Under the transitional policy now being used, degree provisions were modified giving the student 10 semesters of study, instead of nine, to earn a bachelor's degree, he said.

When students are placed on probation they have one academic year to change from probationary status to the eligible status.

When students have been declared ineligible they must earn enough credits to place them in the eligible status, but they may not go from ineligible status to probationary status to eligible status.

The transitional policy states that to establish eligibility for the second academic level, a student must successfully complete a minimum of 26 credits. Completion of at least 16 credits will place the student on probation and completion of less than 16 credits will determine a student ineligible for financial aid.

Similarly, for a student to be declared eligible for aid for the third academic level, a minimum of 52 credits must be earned. Completion of at least 42 credits will place a

student on probation. However, if less than 42 credits are earned, the student will be declared ineligible for financial assistance.

Also, a student entering the fourth academic level must successfully complete at least 78 credits for eligibility. If a minimum of 68 credits are completed, the student will be placed on probation. If less than 68 credits are acquired, the student will be declared ineligible for aid.

When students are declared ineligible for financial assistance they will receive a letter in the mail detailing what is required of them to make satisfactory academic progress.

This transitional policy was published last fall and reviewed by the Administrative Committee on Undergraduate Instruction and approved by the President's Administrative Policy Council, Brugel said.

The U.S. Department of Education had previously stated that all universities must develop a policy of satisfactory academic progress. Brugel said the University had to specify the length of study and decide a credit system to define measurable progress.

The Department expected the University to establish time limits on study and issue stricter requirements in addition to those in Section 54-52, listed in "Academic Policies and Procedures for Undergraduate Students" in the Student Handbook.

wednesday

inside

● Centre County families with health problems can receive free nursing consultations from the University Nurse-Family Health Service. Page 4

● Anti-nuclear demonstrators plan to blockade a U.S. Army base tomorrow to launch a "hot autumn" of protests against the deployment of new American missiles in West Germany in December. Page 12

index

Arts.....25
 Opinions.....6
 Sports.....17
 State/nation/world.....9

weather

Mostly cloudy today with occasional showers and thunderstorms. High of 76. A-low of 60 tonight, with fog developing. Partly sunny tomorrow with a high near 79.

—by Glenn Rolph