

Lebanon Rejects Demand by U. S. For Release of Jews Taken Off Ship

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WASHINGTON, May 23—The little Arab state of Lebanon, just north of Palestine, rejected today the demand of the United States for the release of forty-one American citizens taken off the American ship *Marine Carp* at Beirut Thursday.

The State Department spokesman gave no indication what further steps the United States would take to accomplish the release of its citizens.

The Lebanese note rejecting the demand for the release of the Jewish immigrants said the action had been taken "by the military authorities in view of the safety of the Lebanese Army of Occupation in Palestine and for order and security in Palestine territories occupied."

The note also declared that the immigrants bound for Haifa had not been provided with the regular immigration permits at a time "when this port, reserved for the embarkation of British forces, has been declared a zone forbidden to all landing of passengers."

The note charged that the able-bodied men among the interned passengers planned to "join elements of trouble and anarchy in Palestine" and to attack the Lebanese forces that have intervened with other Arab forces to re-establish order and end Zionist terrorism.

The State Department tonight released the text of the Lebanese reply to United States representations. No text of the American note exists as the department simply had instructed Lowell Pinkerton, Minister in Beirut, that the United States does not admit the right of any government to seize any American, regardless of race, creed or color.

The exact words in which this view was presented to the Lebanese Foreign Office by Mr. Pinkerton were not available at the department for release jointly with the Lebanese reply. The instruction given to Mr. Pinkerton, in addition, were supplied to repre-

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representatives of the United States in the troubled area as a statement of policy going beyond the individual incident at Beirut.

The State Department also announced that Mr. Pinkerton had reported that all forty-one United States citizens taken off the Marine Carp were in good health. The Minister in Beirut said they were interned in the Syrian Army barracks at Baalbek, forty miles east of Beirut.

The State Department said that "an officer of the Legation visited the Americans yesterday, May 22, and talked personally with each of them. He reported all in good health."

Some Complaints Offered

"There were complaints of inadequate sheets, soap, towels, etc. The Legation officer discussed this matter with the Lebanese officer in charge, and was assured that improvements in the conditions of the internment camp were being made as rapidly as possible."

The Lebanese note, the State Department revealed, said that Arab intervention from without Palestine had come at the request and with the consent of the majority of Palestine's inhabitants. These, the note said, have asked for protection against the crimes of the Zionist minority—Haganah, Irgun or Stern.

These organizations, it said, are reinforced by a continuous illegal immigration. It charged, too, that they were responsible for the "most atrocious crimes" committed in Palestine, Egypt, Italy, the Orient and Britain "which the Jewish Agency itself had discredited before the so-called Jewish state had assembled these organizations and had incorporated them into its armed forces."