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THE WORLD

purpose had been accomplished—for the moment, anyway—in most of central and northeastern Lebanon. Only in battle-scarred Beirut did devastating fighting continue.

What prompted Assad to order last week's incursion was his mounting frustration at seeing the failures of his previous attempts to end the war. His hope that Syrian-backed Elias Sarkis, who was named Lebanese President-elect last month, would soon take office has dimmed considerably because President Suleiman Franjeh refuses to resign until the fighting stops. A symbol of intransigent Christians to many Moslems, Franjeh's term does not officially expire until mid-September. Thus, according to a Syrian official, Assad decided "to create a situation in which Lebanon's President-elect can take office." But Assad waited until he had renewed the United Nations Observer Force mandate on the Golan Heights, thus assuring himself a calm frontier with Israel.

Reaction in the U.S. was muted. Washington is thought to be reconciled to a strong Syrian hand in Lebanon as the best hope for peace and for eventually controlling the terrorists based in the Palestinian refugee camps. Soviet Premier Alexei Kosygin, at the end of his four-day official visit to Damascus, signed a joint communiqué calling for peace in Lebanon but said nothing about the intervention. Israel's leaders could barely suppress their glee at the events in Lebanon. Quipped Premier Yitzhak Rabin to a group of Haifa students: "Why should we stop the Syrian army, which is killing terrorists?" Rabin added that his country does not feel threatened by Damascus' military action in Lebanon so long as the Syrians do not start moving toward the Israeli-Lebanese border.

Raised Hope. Assad must now decide whether to send his troops into Beirut in order to impose a Syrian solution. He probably realizes, however, that that could trigger a ferocious battle in which Syrians would surely suffer the kind of heavy casualties they have been spared so far. The resulting funerals in Syria could unleash new anti-régime demonstrations, as an officer's burial did last month (TIME, May 31).

The Lebanese also do not want a violent confrontation with the Syrians. Fear of this was probably one factor spurring the three-hour meeting last week between top Phalange Militia Commander Bashir Gemayel (son of that right-wing party's leader, Pierre Gemayel) and Jumblatt: it was the first rightist-leftist discussion at that high level since the war began. According to aides, the two men expressed optimism that a "Lebanese solution" could be found, and both were said to have endorsed the basic political reforms long demanded by the left. Jumblatt later met with Sarkis, raising some hope that Lebanon's leaders were more willing than before to compromise their differences.



JUAN CARLOS GREETING BETTY FORD IN WASHINGTON AS THE PRESIDENT OBSERVES

SPAIN

In Columbus' Footsteps

For Spain's King Juan Carlos I, 38, and Queen Sofia, 37, it was an extraordinary week of firsts. Not since they ascended the throne last November had the royal couple traveled outside Spain. Never before had a Spanish monarch visited the Western Hemisphere. When Juan Carlos received eleven American Jewish leaders for a 25-minute talk in Washington, it marked the first time since at least 1492 (when Spain expelled its Jews) that a Spanish head of state had met with a Jewish delegation of any nationality (the week before, Sofia similarly shattered precedent by attending services at a Madrid synagogue).

En route to the U.S., the royal couple stopped off in the Dominican Republic, where Christopher Columbus, financed by Queen Isabella of Spain, made one of his first landfalls in the New World in 1492. In Washington, President Ford welcomed Juan Carlos and Sofia on the south lawn of the White House, then went off with the King and aides for a 40-minute review of Spanish-American relations. The talk centered on the proposed five-year treaty renewing U.S. base rights in Spain in return for \$1.2 billion in grants and credits. Though the treaty is likely to be approved this week, some Senators are unhappy about the size of the aid package and about what they see as Juan Carlos' failure—despite his short tenure—to do more to democratize post-Franco Spain.

The King sought to answer such criticisms in an 18-minute speech, de-

livered in English, before a joint session of Congress. "The monarchy," he vowed, "will ensure the orderly access to power of distinct political alternatives, in accordance with the freely expressed will of the people." Spain's still potent old guard and growing Communist Party may complicate that task, but Ford later told the King at a white-tie dinner: "I am confident that your leadership will prove more than equal to the tasks ahead." All told, the King impressed his listeners as a young man who is trying hard to get a handle on the serious problems that confront Spain before they erupt.

Bronze Plaque. After unveiling a 20-ft.-high, 66-ton sculpture of Don Quixote astride Rosinante at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, and holding a party for the Fords at the Spanish embassy, Juan Carlos and his blonde Queen jetted to New York for the windup of their four-day visit. At the Metropolitan Museum of Art, they inaugurated a display of eight Goyas that were lent by Madrid's Prado, including both naked and clothed *Majas*. In Fort Greene Park, across the East River, Juan Carlos presented a bronze plaque at the monument to the Brooklyn Martyrs—the 12,000 men who died aboard British prison ships in nearby Wallabout Bay during the Revolutionary War. Most of the dead were Americans, but a large number of foreign soldiers and sailors who were fighting for the newborn nation also perished aboard the floating jails. More than 300 of them were Spanish.