Israeli sympathizer says America gets untrue picture

Labeling the recent Israeli-PLO-ria conflict a "war against civilians" syria conflict a war against civinals is as far from the truth as you can get. So said David B. Holtzman after re turning from a 96-hour fact finding mission to Lebanon and Israel.

"Approximately 20,000 people were left homeless. Not 600,000 as some sources are saying. Israel now controls about one-third of Lebanon and 300,000

is the total population."

Holtzman, a resident of Birmingham, is a real estate investor and president is National Chairman for Regions for state of Israel Bonds.

At a luncheon in Southfield, he re-layed his impressions to a small group less than 24 hours after his return from the Mideast.

Holzman says that since the PLO fled, tens of thousands of Lebanese Christians and Muslims are coming

goods.
"You can say these are refugees in reverse."

reverse."

CIVILIAN CASUALTIES include 265 killed in Sidon, 68 in Tyre, and, 30 in Nabatea, he said.

"That's less than 1,000, and these are figures now verified by the municipalities and the Red Cross.

Torrists were killed and 5,709 confirmed PLO members are being held in detention camps. "The Sraelis hold 148 Syrian prisoners, six of them pilots," he said.

Holtzman described the amounts of arms still being found by the Straelis as "staggering."

"It may take weeks to move this material to Israel. Every day they're finding mosques, churches, hospitalis and schools all piled high with munitions," he said.

Holtzman contends the American public is not getting the true picture of what is happening in Lebanon. "I have

some as long ago as 1975, but now they are returning. Driving south, you en-counter heavy traffic, many Mercedes and such, piled high with household

no more doubts, having seen it."
Traveling as a guest of the, Israeli
government, Holtzman and 27 others,
were taken from Lod Airport in Tel
Aviv directly to Lebanon by helicopter.
"We flew to Beaufort Castle, which
overlooks the Galilee. It's above Metiula, the northernmost point in Israel," is
said. "Many rockets were launched
from there. It's very strategic.

from there, It's very strategic.

"BEAUFORT CASTLE today is being held by eight soldiers. Four were Phalangist Christian and four Israeli. One of the Lehansee was only 16 years old and has been in the militia since age 11."

When the Sikorsky helicopter in which they were flying lost one of its two hydraulic systems, the chopper landed in an agricultural valley in the middle of a wheat field.

"There were tanks all around, Syrian T-34s, made by the Soviets," Holtzmain said. "We sat and ale box lunches but when we walked over to talk to soldiers they warned us of land mines and told us to walk only in tank tracks."

He said there was a lot of live ammunition lying around as well.

Check our new

"We spoke to Lebanese, both Chris-tian and Muslim, and when we asked them what happened, they said, 'We've been liberated'."

them what happened, they said, "We've been liberated."
Holtzman said Lebanon is lush argreen, much like the Riviera. "In Damur, a lovely seaside town, only the first tier built up from the beaches is damaged. Two-hirds of it is intact. What you see on television is often old damage with the new. Most towns were already blown up by the PLO in the last few years."

IN JERUSALEM the group met with Prime Minister Menachem Begin and Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir. "We were told the cost of the war is going to amount to 10-15 percent of the war is going to amount to 10-15 percent of the war is going to amount to 10-15 percent of the war is going to amount to 10-15 percent of the war is going to amount to 10-15 percent of the war is going to amount to 10-15 percent of the war is going to amount of the war in the

or more.

"Israeli casualties were about 270 killed, 1,200 injured and one pilot captured. We visited a military cemetery and saw the graves, some quite fresh. Each was marked with the names of young men, most just 18 and 19 years old.
"The real cost is in those lives."

But Lebanese have different story to tell about the war

The figures David B. Holtzman gave for civilian casualties in war-torn Leb-anon are outrageously low, according to two area women with Lebanese and

to two area women with Lebanese and Palestinian ties.

"I wish these figures (Holtzman's) were true," said Parida Khoury of Beverly Hills. "These (the ones Khoury claims as correct) are mercletes."

"The situation is so bad, it hurts when someone gives false information," said Wafa Salah of Bloomfield Hills.

The two women are responding to a speech Holtzman gave at a Southfield juncheon in which he said only 20,000 people had been left homeless, not 600,000 as some sources were claiming.

HE ALSO reported that 351 civilian casualties had occurred in Sidon, Tyre and Nabatea, and that the figure was verified by the municipalities and the international Red Cross. Holtzman had retured less than a day before the huncheon from a 96-hour fact-finding mission in Lebanon and Israel. He is a Birmingham resident, real estate investor and national chairman for regions for State of Israel Bonds. Khoury's husband, Elle, who is a medical doctor, left for Beirut after the wounded. He was denied entry lato the civil which was denied entry lato the civil which was denied entry lato the civil which was denied entry lato the civil was denied entry lato the civil was denied entry lato the State Sta

KHOURY AND SALAH said the other sources were correct in claiming 600,000 as the number of homeless.

The city of Sidon was almost completely demolished, Salah said, and it had 100,000 residents. "I'm only talking

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about one city," she said.

Civilian casualties easily number 14,000 dead and 26,000 wounded, Khoury said. Holtzman failed to give the casualties for Beirut in his total, a much larger city than the other three, Salah said.

Khoury was born in Syria to a Lebanese woman.

Khoury was born in SyTiat to a some see woman.

Khoury said two of her first cousins were killed in Beirut and seven members of one of her firend's family were killed after fleeing from Beirut to the mountains for safety.

Salah is Palestinian Both women belong to the Arab American University Graduates and the Arab Anti-Discriberation Committee. Khoury is also on

Graduates and the Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee. Khoury is also on the executive committee of the Arab Women's Union of Detroit, Salah is active with the United floly Land Fund.

Khoury maintains Holtzman was subjected on his trip to "Israeli propaganda."

NOTING THAT he traveled as a guest of the Israeli government, Khoury said, "They're not going to show him the real destruction." Khoury believes that the Lebanese who told Holtzman, "We've been liberated," were "pushed" into saying that.

"Who in the world would like a mili-tary force killing half their people?"

tary force killing nair them proposed asked.

Salah believes the response could have come from a faction of Marounite Christians who represent only 4 percent of the Lebanese population. "The rest of Lebanon, I don't think, would feel that way," she said.

BOTH WOMEN are hoping for an Israell withdrawal from Lebanon.
"The invasion didn't do any good,"
Khoury said. "Violence breeds violence."

Khoury said she wants peace to come to the Midesat and the Palestinians to be able to go home.

While Khoury wishes the United States would become more involved—preferably by asking Israel to withdraw—Salah wishes it would stay out of the conflict.

"It's not their war," she said. Then noting current tensions between Arabs and Americans, she added, "Id hate to see Americans oddiers get hart. Salah foresces the Palestinian Liberation Organization getting stronger in the future, even if Israel succeeds in the fluture, even if Jeasel succeeds the PLO members as freedom fighters and their representatives.



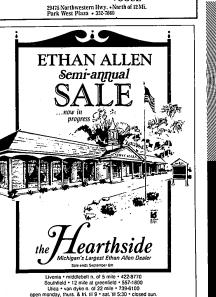


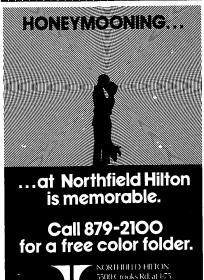






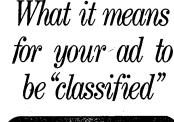


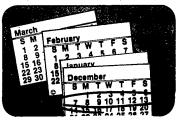




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