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U.S. nurse aids Lebanese **United Press International** 

TRIPOLI, Lebanon — Amid the rockets and bullets in Tripoli, an American Florence Nightingale tends to the wounded.

One of Lisa Cantrell's favo-rite patients at the Red Crescent Hospital, is known only as Ahmed — one of the "RPG kids' of Palestinian guerrilla chief Yasser Arafat. He is 13 and doesn't think he, will live to see\_

He looks like a sweet cuddly child lying there in his hospital cot sleeping. But Ahmed has been a fighter for the Palestine Liberation Organization since he was 10.

He is an expert on RPG's — rocket-propelled grenades — from his days fighting in the Bekaa Valley.

Ahmed is in the hospital a second time, recovering from shrapnel wounds in his foot, along with the 16-, 17- and 18-year-olds who make up the bulk of Arafat's guerrilla army, now trapped in Tripoli and outnumbered by a rebel Palestinian army with Syrian and Libyan

"This kid is phenomenal. I really love him. He's been fighting three years, but he's pretty depressed now in the hospital because he wants to get back out and fight," says Ms. Cantrell, 32, a volunteer in the Red Crescent's makeshift basement hos-

She is proud of him, completely separate from the pain of knowing he is a mere boy and has lost three childhood friends, all RPG kids, in the fighting in Lebanon's eastern Bekaa Valley. Yet, he is not even a Palesti-nian. He is Lebanese.

"He knows what he's doing. He's not playing a game," she says, recalling the night he stood guard outside the operating too.

room with his pistol to preven rival Palestinian fighters from rushing in with their Kalash nikov rifles.

"This little one went and go his pistol and stood guard," Ms Cantrell said. She said he young Lebanese friend warned those who approached that i anyone tried to hurt her, he would shoot them.

"Then at times he is very much the little boy. He came in one Sunday with two little boys one with a sore on his foot. He said they reminded him of hi brothers who he really missed.

> When I talked to him one day, he said, 'I don't think I'n gonna live until I'm 16.' Wha could I say? I told him I see a lo of PLO fighters in their 50s."

> Attitudes like that astonisl some who don't understand th cause of the most recent Palesti nian fighting, she admits. He understanding did not come un til she married a Palestinian. "People ask me how can yo

work for Palestinians who ar fighting among themselves?

I don't like the fact they'r fighting between themselves bu it's a small portion of Palesti nians fighting. It's mostly the Sy rians and Libyans fighting to en ter Tripoli. We know that, so it

not hard to keep working." Besides nursing, Ms. Cantrel born to American parents in th Virgin Islands, also washes dirt sheets and scrubs floors. A night, she sleeps on a piece o foam plastic in the basemen amid her patients. She rarel goes upstairs because of shellin outside.

"The Palestinians can' understand why I'm here eithe — why I've given up what the conceive of as such a wonderfu life in America," says Lisa "Why would anybody do any thing for us?' they wonder. I depresses me but keeps me her

U.S. officials, including Reagan

and an Israeli delegatio

headed by Shamir and Defens Minister Moshe Arens.

Undersecretary of Stat

Laurence Eagleburger recentl

held extensive talks with Israe

officials in Israel. Reagan also expected to consult with h Middle East envoy, Donal Rumsfeld, before meeting ne

Rumsfeld was on his way bac

to Washington Tuesday afte completing his first official tot of the Middle East.

week with Shamir.

Reagan to talk to Israeli group

United Press International WASHINGTON — President Reagan met Tuesday with Israeli President Chaim Herzog - a prelude to talks next week designed to strengthen the 35year-old alliance at a time of instability and violence in the Middle East.

Herzog met with Reagan for about 30 minutes to deliver the Israeli assessment of what he called "the very, very fluid situation in the Middle East" and discuss the possibilities for a further advance in the process of peace. 'I come away from the talk

Relations between the Unite once again reassured about the States and Israel have not bee



The law requires schools\_ stage for a repeal bill.

Sen. Sydney Nelson, D Shreveport, said Keith's defe, may make it easier for oppe nents to win a repeal of the law

Civil Liberties Union, sai Keith's defeat "clearly sets th