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New Broom in Israel

Will Netanyahu bring peace and security to his country?

When Benjamin Netanyahu was elected prime minister of Israel many believed that the "peace process" would come to an end. But Netanyahu, like all of his countrymen yearns for peace. In standing firm on his campaign promises he will bring peace with security to his country.

What are the facts?

Land for Peace. The whole concept is absurd. Never in the history of the world has any nation returned lands to those who have attacked it. Even so, in line with the Camp David accord, Israel has yielded the vast Sinai to Egypt. It has yielded Gaza to the Palestinians. What else is expected of a country, that occupies only a fraction of 1% of the lands occupied by the Arabs? And shouldn't land for peace work both ways? Shouldn't the Arabs give up some land to get peace? Or why not just simply "peace for peace"?

The Golan. Before Israel wrested it from Syria, the Golan was a desolate plateau. The Israelis have created cities on the Heights, and a vibrant industry and agriculture. The Syrians, whose historical claim to the Golan is dubious, are obsessed with it and have

vowed not to make peace with Israel unless it is turned back to them in its entirety. But the Golan, would not be more than 1% of Syria's territory, and could be of only one use to it: as a staging ground for a break-through attack on Israel. For Israel, the Golan is an irreplaceable strategic asset. It is also the source of 30% of its fresh water. Such crucial assets should not be bartered for vague and empty promises.

A Palestinian State. Israel could not survive if Judea/Samaria (the "West Bank") were in unfriendly hands. And especially in light of the experience since the "handshake" during which time more Israelis were killed by Palestinian terrorists than in any comparable previous period, there can be little question of the enduring hos-

These are the most important issues that Netanyahu will address. As to Jewish "settlements", in the "West Bank". Netanyahu has made clear that Jews have the right to live in any part of the land of Israel, all of the land west of the Jordan River. And why not? How is it possible that 160,000 Jews living among 1 million Arabs in the "West Bank" should be an obstacle to peace if over 1 million Arabs live within the "green line" of Israel? They don't have to fear for their lives and nobody considers them an obstacle to peace. By standing firm on his campaign promises and not yielding to pressure from any source, Netanyahu will bring peace with security, *shalom batuach*, to Israel and to its area of the Middle East.

tility of the Arabs. The "West Bank" mountain ridges dominate the narrow waist of Israel, in which over 70% of the Jewish population, 80% of its industrial base, and the most important military installations are located. The Palestinians would not need an army to make life in Israel impossible. Moveable Katyusha rockets would dominate the area. And why should the Palestinians be allowed to carve a state off Israel's back? There are countless minorities all over the world who would be deeply grateful to have even a fraction of the autonomy that Israel is already granting its Arab minority and which it is prepared to expand even further. Israel needs to keep strategic control of the "West

Bank", without which it would not be defensible.

Jerusalem. Before the end of the 1967 Six-Day War, claims to Jerusalem being a Moslem holy city or

the capital of any Arab country were rarely, if ever, asserted. The Moslems have designated the entire Jewish Temple Mount as their holy site. The Israeli government, in its constant spirit of accommodation to Moslem sensitivities, has largely acceded to this and has put the area under Moslem control. For over two thousand years, Jews have been living in Jerusalem and they have been the majority population since the 19th century. Why should they give up their capital, their holy city as far back as memory goes—or even any part of it? The Moslems have their holy cities, Mecca and Medina, and they have 22 Arab capitals. There are important cities in the "West Bank". But Jerusalem is the eternal and indivisible capital of the Jewish State.

"By standing firm on his campaign promises and not yielding to pressure from any source, Netanyahu will bring peace with security, shalom batuach, to Israel and to its area of the Middle East."

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