

# The Other Israel

Newsletter of the Israeli Council  
for Israeli-Palestinian Peace

May-June, 1986

No. 22

Editor: Herzl Schubert  
P.O.B. 956 Tel-Aviv, Israel 61008  
Phone: (03) 659474

Editorial Board: Uri Avnery, Matti Peled, Yaakov  
Arnon, Haim Bar'am, Yael Lotan, Yossi Amitai

## The rule of Law—The Shin Bet Affair

Are the Prime Minister of Israel and the all-powerful domestic intelligence service (Shin Bet) — a totally independent agency responsible to the Prime Minister and to him alone — bound by the laws of the country or do they stand above them, accountable to no one even when the crime is murder?

Shin Bet director, Avraham Shalom, is suspected of ordering the murder of two Palestinian prisoners in April 1984 and later covering-up his and the Shin Bet's role in the affair (details below). The political echelons in government (Peres, Shamir, Rabin, Sharon, etc.) are all opposed to an investigation, for fears that it could generate an explosive political scandal. Labor-Likud and their leaders are believed to be deeply implicated in the affair. The "it would endanger security" argument, used by the government opposed to an inquiry, should therefore not be taken seriously.

Unable by law to veto Attorney General Yitzhak Zamir's request of the police to begin an official probe (in late May), the removal of Zamir became essential from the perspective of the government bent on stopping the investigation.

Zamir, backed to the hilt by the entire Israeli legal establishment, most of the press and left-of-center groups and parties, had spearheaded the demand for the inquiry. Seizing on Zamir's announcement several months ago that he intends to step down after serving in the office for seven years (since 1979) the government led by Peres and Shamir jumped on the opportunity and quickly replaced him on June 1 — several days before the inquiry was to begin.

The government's immediate objective of halting the investigation has been achieved. At the time of writing (third week of June) Zamir's successor, Yosef Harish, a 62 years old former Tel-Aviv District Judge, is still "studying the details of the case", and in the meantime all proceedings relevant to the affair, including the investigation, have been frozen. Harish's decision, (which he says will be announced shortly) will determine if an investigation will take place at all, and if it does — who will conduct it and what its terms of reference will be.

### THE FACTS BEHIND THE AFFAIR

\* On April 12, 1984 four Palestinian youths from Gaza (See life in Gaza, this issue) hijacked an Israeli bus. Two of them, together with an Israeli passenger, were killed when Israeli troops stormed the vehicle, and the other two were captured alive. Israeli press photographers who were on the scene took pictures of the captives. The incriminating evidence contradicted the official communique on the following day saying that all four hijackers had been killed during the assault. Yitzhak Shamir was Prime Minister at the time.

\* In two subsequent official inquiries, lasting 16 months (April 1984-August 1985) Brigadier-General Yitzhak Mordechai emerged as the chief murder suspect. He had been identified in the pictures leading the captured prisoners. Mordechai admitted beating the captives, but he claimed during the inquiries that the prisoners were alive when he handed them over to Shin Bet officials on the scene. (Medical reports ascertained that the hijackers had died from wounds inflicted on the skull).

\* Mordechai was eventually acquitted of all charges in a short military trial lasting several hours, in August 1985.

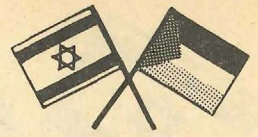
\* In October-November 1985, several months after Mordechai's exoneration, three senior Shin Bet officials (comparable in rank to generals in the army) met Prime Minister Peres who as Prime Minister has sole responsibility for the service. They told him that Shin Bet director Avraham Shalom ordered the prisoners' execution and that he later covered-up his role by falsifying evidence and suborning witnesses at the two official inquiries. Mordechai was to take the rap for the Shin Bet and its Chief, said the officials.

\* More than six months ago the then Attorney General, Yitzhak Zamir, after speaking with the senior officials, became involved in the case. Political echelons in government told him to drop it.

\* In late May, Zamir officially requested the police to begin a probe.

\* On June 1, the cabinet replaced Zamir.

Given that Shamir was Prime Minister when the hijacking and murders took place, did he know of the murders and the cover-up? When questioned about his involvement, Shamir responds: "I knew all that a Prime Minister had to know". How much did Peres know of the affair? Was he informed of its



details by Shamir, when he replaced him as Prime Minister in September 1984, or did he know something even earlier?



## PLP-PLO MEETING

PLP MK Matti Peled and Immad Shakur, political advisor to PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, held a joint press conference in Paris on June 6, a date commemorating 19 years of Israeli occupation.

Peled and Shakur said that they are determined to continue the dialogue and exchange of ideas between them, very much as they have been doing for the past several years.

Peled and Shakur also declared that they support convening an international peace conference on the Middle East with the participation of the two super-powers, the Security Council's permanent members and all the other parties to the conflict, including the PLO.

## PLP MEETS YASSER ARAFAT

On June 10-11, PLP MK Mohammed Mi'ari and PLP Executive member Riach Abu al-Assal met PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat. On June 18 the PLP published a statement which said: "Both sides (PLP-PLO) agree that the impasse in the political process is the result of Israel/US refusal to recognize the PLO and the Palestinian people's right to self-determination. Exercising the right given to other nations, the Palestinian people have delegated the PLO as their sole legitimate representative. Israeli, American and Jordanian efforts to find an alternative to the PLO are therefore doomed to fail and they undermine the peace process". The PLP statement furthermore said, that, in light of the political deadlock, Mi'ari and Arafat agreed that "a dialogue between Israelis and PLO representatives is vital and the PLO is determined to continue and expand them".

Labor party hawks have called on the Attorney General to investigate Mi'ari's meeting with Arafat, and right-wingers are at the time of writing pressuring to table the Anti-Peace Law which if adopted threatens Israelis meeting PLO people with three years imprisonment. (*See Other Israel No. 19, 20*).

The Editor

## ABBA EBAN ON THE PLO

Abba Eban, one of the most well-known Israeli and Labor party personalities in the world, said on June 3 that "THE PEACE PROCESS WILL NEVER GET OFF THE GROUND WITHOUT THE PARTICIPATION OF THE PLO AND RECOGNITION OF THE PALESTINIANS' RIGHT TO SELF-DETERMINATION". Eban made these

remarks behind closed doors at a meeting of a group of MK doves belonging to center and left-of-center parties, such as Labor and the PLP. Eban is one of the most distinguished members of the group called "Forum of MKs."

Eban did not say at the meeting what brought on his "revelation", but it is believed that he became resigned to the necessity of PLO participation in the peace process following recent talks with leading Palestinian intellectuals in the US.

There is little doubt that had Eban published his comments on the PLO, the scoop would have made the headlines of every Israeli paper and perhaps even of newspapers abroad. A declaration to the effect that the PLO must participate in the political process coming from a man like Eban would have generated a serious debate on the issue in the Labor camp, which has become so necessary given the deepening political deadlock.

Eban, however, did nothing of the sort. Instead, he requested the members of the Forum not to make his views public. Eban's behavior is symptomatic of many Labor party doves who, like him, favour negotiations with the PLO, but find the courage to say so only behind closed doors.

Following Eban's remarks on the PLO several members of the Forum – disturbed by the political impasse and by the prospects that Shamir will soon replace Peres (October) – drafted a petition calling for negotiations based on the recognition of "Palestinian people's right to self-determination in a Jordanian-Palestinian framework". The address was to be submitted to Prime Minister Peres. Although clearly less than what PLP members of the Forum wanted the draft to say, its recognition of self-determination was encouraging.

Labor MK Ora Namir, a member of the Forum declared that she would sign the petition, but only if Abba Eban did so also, and he refused. Eban's excuse – publicised on June 18 – was that the principle is not included in the Labor party's political platform.

Eban's opposition thus buried the initiative!

## JEWISH TERRORISTS RELEASED

Eight of the 15 members of the anti-Arab Jewish terrorist underground – the hard core of the 25-member group – convicted in July 1985 of murder and attempted murder, have already been released. Israeli President Haim Herzog pardoned six of them on May 4th and May 12, and two were released several months before leaving now only seven still in prison.

Except for three of the underground group's leaders, who had received mandatory life



sentences, the remaining 12 netted astonishingly short prison terms, ranging from four months to seven years for such crimes as attempting to murder West Bank mayors in June 1980, which resulted in the crippling of two of them; opening fire and killing three Palestinian students at the Hebron Islamic college in June 1983; planning to blow-up the Al-Aqsa/ Temple Mount mosques; and booby-trapping ten Palestinian buses in April 1984 which, had they exploded, would have killed hundreds (see *Other Israel*, No. 16). The recent batch of released terrorists served only two years of a mere three years sentence for some of these crimes.

It has become obvious that it is only a matter of time before the remaining terrorists are released. The significant backing afforded to the terrorists from the beginning of the affair (1984) by the Israeli Right and some Laborites, together with the presidential pardons – notwithstanding the crimes in question – indicates to what degree the ongoing Israeli Occupation is undermining the rule of Law in the country. The current secret service affair (Shin Bet), – which has emerged as Israel completes its 19th year of occupation – raises once again the moral and legal questions that emerged with the Jewish terrorist affair e.g.: ARE THERE ISRAELIS, SUCH AS THE SETTLERS OR THE SHIN BET AND ITS CHIEF, WHO ARE ABOVE THE LAW? AND ARE THE PALESTINIANS PARIASHS LIVING BEYOND THE RULE OF LAW?

## Chronicles

### OF THE PEACE STRUGGLE

15/4 – Fifty Jewish and Arab members of the Progressive List for Peace (PLP), including MKs' Mohammed Mi'ari and Matti Peled, held a sit-in in Nazareth, the largest Arab city in the country, (population 65,000), on the occasion of Prime Minister Peres' visit there. PLP activists held placards calling for Jewish-Arab equality in Israel and Israeli-Palestinian peace.

19/4 – Members of "Yesh Gvul" held a fact-finding tour in Hebron, following vigilante attacks by settlers on Peace Now supporters five days earlier. Activists of the group met with deposed Hebron mayor Mustafa Abdel Nabi Natshe.

21/4 – "Yesh Gvul" (There is a limit/There is a border) is an organization of reserve soldiers who refused to participate in the War of Lebanon; more than 100 of them were jailed for various periods of time. They are now circulating a petition requesting Prime Minister Peres and Defense Minister Rabin to allow them to abstain from reserve duty in the Occupied Territories. Ishai Menuhin, the spokesman of the group, said in a press conference in Jerusalem that they "do not want to take part in the process of suppression and occupation of the territories, and that the

movement will support morally, legally and financially anyone who refuses to serve in the Occupied Territories".

### Below are excerpts from the PLP statement, published in "Haaretz" (April 21).

#### The Truth About The Anti-Racism Law

"... In lieu of a law against discrimination, the anti-racism law that has been tabled in the Knesset neatly camouflages the ugly reality in which racist organizations, racist institutions, racist practices and racist policies will not be eradicated and will continue to cast their shadow over life in this country.

Who is really interested in the law? The answer is: the Likud and the Tehiya Party – the racists whose sole desire is to restrict Kahane's activities so as to prevent him from stealing votes from them and winning a few more Knesset mandates at his expense.

#### THE TRUTH ABOUT THE LAW BANNING MEETINGS WITH (MEMBERS OF THE) PLO

... During seven years of Likud reign, no government tabled such a bill. This is because the Likud is candid about its denial of the national and human rights of the Palestinian Arab people and does not believe in holding peace talks with Palestinians.

The same does not apply to the Labour Alignment. The Labour Party is conducting a policy of saying one thing while believing another. It speaks of the need to hold talks with the Palestinians, but totally rejects recognition of the national leadership of the Palestinian people and negotiations with the PLO. It is searching for Palestinian stand-ins who will agree to settlements and Labour Alignment-style annexation (Jerusalem, the Jordan Valley, Gush Etzion, etc.).

Meetings between Israelis and PLO people refute the Labour Alignment claim that the PLO cannot be a partner for peace and mutual recognition. The idea of realizing the Palestinian people's right to self-determination in the form of a Palestinian state alongside Israel puts the Labour Alignment leaders into a panic.

Who is really interested in the passage of this law? The answer is: the Labour Alignment. When a number of members of the Labour Alignment Knesset faction announced their opposition to the law, the prime minister lost no time in exercising his personal influence and calling them to order, promising that the bill would be passed.



## THE LABOUR ALIGNMENT AND THE LIKUD SUPPORT EACH OTHER

It is not by chance that these two laws have been interlinked. The two rotation factions -- the Labour Alignment and the Likud -- agreed between themselves to help each other: the Labour Alignment will serve (the interests of the) Likud and vice versa. One will strike at the right and the other at the left. The two big fish will profit and the minnows will reap a few crumbs.

The Labour Alignment and the Likud are not working for the good of Israel and its citizens, and definitely not to eradicate racism and discrimination and advance peace. We will not desist from working for these goals nor will we be stifled. The struggle continues".

(Translated by M. Jackson)

27/4 - Peace Now Movement supporters were banned from holding a counter-demonstration against the settlers' movement "Gush Emunim". More than 10,000 settlers paraded on 27/4 in occupied Hebron (West Bank), ostensibly commemorating 18 years of renewed Jewish presence in the Palestinian city. Peace Now Movement's request to hold a counter-demonstration in the city was rejected by Labor Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin. Citizens Rights Movement MKs Yossi Sarid and Mordechai Bar-On staged a counter-demonstration standing in for Peace Now supporters.

29/4 - More than 5000 children aged three to ten smashed their war toys with hammers in Tel-Aviv's Malkei Israel Square. The event was organized by Abie Nathan, whose radio station "The Voice of Peace" broadcasts from a ship anchored on the Israeli Coast.

- Jordanian Television sponsored and recorded a meeting between Israeli and Jordanian intellectuals in Paris. Invitations sent by Jordanian TV to the Israelis were made via North African Jews living in Paris. The Israelis (Vicky Shiran, reporter; Avi Bardugo, lawyer; David Hammo, sociologist; Ben Dror Yamini, reporter) are Oriental Jewish activists involved in the struggle for ethnic equality in the country.

All of them have publicly voiced their views that peace between Israel and the Arab world necessitates the cultural integration of Israel in the region.

11/5 - Members of PLP held a vigil in front of Peres' residence in Jerusalem in protest of Israeli intentions to purchase a nuclear reactor from France.

16/5 - Israel TV instigated a public controversy which lasted a week, when it broadcast that a report prepared by retired Colonel Emanuel Wald claimed that the efficiency of the Israeli Army has eroded significantly, that the lessons of the last three wars (1967, 1973, 1982) have not been taken into account by the army, that massive investments into the military establishment over

the years have created a cumbersome bureaucracy, and that the professional level of Israeli officers has deteriorated.

Colonel Wald - charged by Chief of Staff Moshe Levy in 1983 to prepare a long-term plan for building up the Israeli Army - submitted his report to the Army authorities the following year. Because of fierce opposition by the General Staff, the report was shelved, and its findings came to public attention only two years later (May 1986). Wald had in the meantime resigned his commission over the General Staff's attitude.

Interviewed on Israel TV several days after the affair became public, Wald came out in favour of appointing a commission to investigate the Lebanon War. During the week of public controversy, Labor Defense Minister Rabin defended the General Staff and said that Wald's conclusions were exaggerated.

17/5 - Thousands of Israelis and Palestinians from Israel and the Occupied Territories gathered in the Arab village of Ar'ara in central Israel to commemorate Dr. Sami Mar'i, 40 days after his untimely death. Speakers at the memorial service included individuals and representatives of organizations and institutions who had worked closely with Sami over the years, all of whom described him as a man highly committed to the Palestinian people, equality and justice. The mayor of Ar'ara, Mohammed Yunis, announced that a library would be established in the village in Mar'i's memory. Aryeh Ya'ari of the International Center for Peace in the Middle East presented Mar'i's widow with a prize in his name for his efforts to promote democracy for Jews and Arabs in Israel. Other speakers included PLP MKs Mohammed Mi'ari and Matti Peled, the president of Haifa University Uri Rappaport, and other Israeli and Palestinian dignitaries.

24/5 - On the occasion of "The Year of World Peace" inaugurated by the UN, approximately 8000 people (Arabs and Jews) participated in the first Arab art festival which took place in the Arab city of Shfar-Am in Northern Israel. Palestinian art works were exhibited and theatrical shows were staged. The event was sponsored by the youth movement affiliated with Rakach (Communist party).

4/6 - The Progressive List for Peace (PLP) held a symposium in Tel-Aviv to commemorate 19 years of the Israeli Occupation. All the speakers agreed that Israel now has a historic opportunity to reach a peace agreement with the Palestinians and the rest of the Arab World, but, that Labor-Likud's territorial ambitions in the territories are thwarting the peace efforts.

Hanna Siniora, appointed by Arafat to represent the West Bank in future talks, repeated what he has been saying for more than a year, "Israeli-Palestinian peace must be based on mutual recognition." That is the crux of the PLO's position, continued Siniora, and Israel's only other alternative is to deepen apartheid rule in the Occupied Territories.



Dudu Mahleb, founding member of the group "East for Peace", an organization of Oriental Israeli Jews calling for an Israeli withdrawal and negotiations with the PLO, noted that the Oriental Jewish community in Israel was becoming increasingly critical of the government's settlement policy. Mahleb reminded his listeners that almost all of the Israeli "development towns" and poverty-stricken areas in the major Israel cities have adopted the slogan "Money for development towns and not the settlements". This is a significant development said Mahleb, given that when the demand was first raised seven years ago — by the Black Panthers, a radical Oriental Jewish group active in the '70's — it was a lone cry in the wilderness.

Also participating in the symposium was MK Mohammed Mi'ari, who spoke of the discrimination of Arabs in Israel, citing the recent legislation affirming Israel as the "State of the Jewish people" throughout the world, without even

**6/6 — "Yesh Gvul" (There is a limit/ There is a border) published a petition in the Hebrew daily "Ha'aretz", signed by more than 350 Israeli reserve soldiers and officers, which read:**

**"19 Years of Occupation — THERE IS A LIMIT!**

To the honourable Primer Minister,

To the honourable Minister of Defense,

We, the undersigned, serve as reserve soldiers in the army, and many among us have participated in the wars of Israel. We have different ideological views and we are not aligned to any political party, but we are united in our concern for the existence and character of Israeli society.

The War in Lebanon, the settlements and the suppressive actions undertaken in the Occupied Territories indicate a lack of sensitivity for human life, the loss of values and the loss of the sense of reality. They close the option for peace with the Palestinian people and the rest of our neighbors; they isolate Israel among the nations and they prove that the Israeli government wants territories more than peace.

The occupation has corrupted our values, and manifestations of extreme nationalism and racism have become acceptable in Israeli society. Jewish terrorist groups receive validation and racist theories have become legitimate.

**WE TOOK AND OATH TO DEFEND THE INTEGRITY AND SECURITY OF THE STATE OF ISRAEL AND WE ARE ABIDING BY THE OATH. WE THEREFORE REQUEST OF YOU TO ALLOW US NOT TO TAKE PART IN THE PROCESS OF SUPPRESSION AND OCCUPATION IN THE TERRITORIES."**

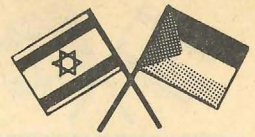
mentioning as to whether Israel belongs likewise to its Palestinian-Arab citizens, who comprise a significant minority (17 percent) of the total population. Referring to the Shin Bet affair, Mi'ari said that for years civil and military courts have convicted Palestinians on the basis of "secret evidence" submitted to them by this domestic intelligence service. Using "security reasons" as the usual excuse, the courts never allow the defendant or his attorney to see the documents and the accusations. It was on the basis of such secret evidence that on May 28 the Supreme Court declined to annul the order of the Ministry of the Interior, prohibiting PLP Executive member Kamel Daher to travel abroad. Daher has not been allowed to leave the country since June, 1985. The Hight Court, relying on secret evidence submitted by the Shin Bet — which neither he nor his counsel was allowed to see — sanctioned the order which said that Daher's movements abroad posed a security threat to the State. Mi'ari pointed out that, given that the Shin Bet director and his subordinates are suspected of murdering two Palestinian prisoners and later falsifying documents presented to two official Commissions of Inquiry, one can seriously question the reliability of the "secret evidence" which is almost always submitted by the Shin Bet to the courts when the defendants are Palestinians.

5/6 — The group "Down with the Occupation" held a joint Jewish-Arab demonstration near the walls of the Old city of Jerusalem to commemorate 19 years of Israeli occupation. The demonstrators held placards reading: "Negotiations with the PLO"; "Down with the Occupation"; "Dismantle the settlements".

## **MARGARET THATCHER AND YITZHAK SHAMIR**

**A smile was to be seen on many faces as British Prime Minister sat down at Israeli Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir's office in Jerusalem to discuss the means of coordinating the combat against terrorism, during her state visit to the country (May 25-27).**

Yitzhak Shamir has come a long way since the days when he commanded "Lehi" (Fighters for Freedom of Israel), the most extreme of the Jewish underground groups operating against the British presence in Palestine. In Cairo on the first of November, 1944, when Shamir was a young man of 28, his organization gunned down Lord Moine, then British Minister Resident in the Middle East and a member of Winston Churchill's War Cabinet. Arguments that were raised by the Jewish community then living in Mandatory Palestine that attacks against Britain should cease while it and her allies were engaged in the war against Nazi



Germany were rebuffed by the Shamir-led "Lehi" group, who claimed that Britain and not Germany was the principle enemy.

Anti-British to the end, the group tried in 1940 unsuccessfully to reach an agreement of collaboration with the German government. In the world of ultra-nationalists, such as Shamir and his friends, Germany's fight against Britain was reason enough to make a deal even with Satan himself.

The assassination of Lord Moine, followed four years later by the assassination of UN mediator Count Folke Bernadotte in Jerusalem (Sept. 1948) were the most renowned of Lehi's underground operations, but they were by no means the only ones.

Once a hunted man, on the British most-wanted terrorist list, Yitzhak Shamir has since become a respectable and successful politician, Israel's current Foreign Minister, and will replace Peres as Premiere on October 13 in accordance with the Labor-Likud rotation agreement.

One can only wonder what went through Margaret Thatcher's mind when she met Shamir at his plush Foreign Office to discuss international terrorism. Also ironic is that during her three day visit Thatcher stayed at the prestigious Kind David Hotel in Jerusalem, which forty years ago (23/7/46) had been blown up by another Jewish underground group, the Irgun, whose leader was Menachem Begin. The dead bodies found in the rubble numbered 91 men, women and children, 41 of whom were Arabs, 28 British, 17 Jews and five others.

### WHO IN AMERICA PAYS FOR KAHANE AND THE SETTLERS' MOVEMENT?

In Israel today there are several groups openly calling for "cleaning" the territories of its Palestinian inhabitants.

Kahane is the most extreme of these in that he includes in his expulsion scheme the 700,000 Palestinian citizens of Israel proper. Gush Emunim, the ultra-right-wing settlers' movement, from whose midst the Jewish terrorist underground arose (convicted in 1985 of murder, attempted murder and planning to blow up the Al-Aqsa / Temple Mount Mosques), is closely identified with Kahane but even more with the extreme nationalist "Renaissance" party, which proposes to "thin out" the Palestinian population by deporting 500,000 of them. We present below a partial list of the American Jews supporting these Israeli racist groups (material gathered by Robert I. Friedman and published in Middle East International, April 18).

\* Reuben Mattus, founder and director of Haagen-Dazs ice cream, supports Kahane financially.

\* Yehuda Schwarz, editor of Jewish Press (orthodox Jewish weekly) Collected more than \$ 100,000 for the Gush Emunim terrorist underground.

Schwarz has not filed financial statements with the New York State Attorney General's office, even though state law requires non-profit charity-raising in excess of \$ 10,000 to be registered.

\* Dov Hikind, New York Assemblyman from the 48th district, which has the largest Jewish constituency in New York State, contributed funds to the committee supporting the Jewish terrorists. Hikind says that the "emotional and financial level of support for Kahane in my district is tremendous. . . Kahane is one of the great men in the Jewish community".

\* Aviv Weiss, head of Hebrew Institute in Riverdale, New York, collected \$ 100,000 from American Jews to defray the cost of the Jewish terrorists' legal expenses.

\* Rabbi Maurice Lamm, of Beth Jacob Congregation in Beverly Hills, made an appeal from the pulpit for the Jewish terrorists and netted "very large sums of money".

\* Rabbi Jack Simcha Cohen of Temple Shaarei Tefila of Los Angeles collected funds on behalf of the terrorists.

\* Marcus Katz, a wealthy arms dealer of Mexican nationality who financed Sharon's case against Time Magazine, contributes regularly to the settlers' movement.

\* Right-wing evangelists, such as born-again Christian Jimmy De Young, president of the religious radio station WNYN in New York, supports Kahane financially.

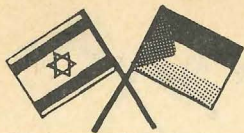
\* Considerable as even these partial sums may be they are peanuts compared to the hundreds and millions of dollars US tax-payers have funneled via their country's treasury to the Occupied Territories over the years.

If only a fraction of the money donated from abroad to the Israeli Right and the Labor party were channeled to Israeli peace groups dedicated to Israeli-PLO negotiations, the face of Israel might look a lot different.



### NO COPYRIGHT!

The Other Israel is not a commercial magazine, but a publication dedicated to the widest possible dissemination of the views contained in it. Therefore, we hereby freely waive our copyright, and invite our readers to copy and distribute The Other Israel, provided only that the copy is faithful to the original, and does not change or distort it in any way.



## Quality of life in Gaza

"The West Bank and Gaza Strip Data Project", headed by Meron Benvenisti published its findings on Gaza Strip at a press conference on May 23. A series of articles relating to the shocking living condition in the Strip also appeared in the "Ha-aretz" (May 23) and the Ha-olam Hazeh news magazine (May 28). Some of the details are prescribed below:

\* 530,000 Palestinians live in the Strip, now the most densely populated region in the world, with 2,100 people per square kilometer (compared to a population density in Israel of 186 people per square kilometer, and 19.5 people per square kilometer in Jewish settlements in the strip). By the year 2000, the population of the Gaza Strip is expected to reach 900,000.

\* Of the total 360,000 dunams which once comprised the Strip's land area, almost 1/3 (113,000 dunams) have been declared state lands for the use of Jewish settlements by the Israeli authorities since 1967.

\* Of the 15 Palestinian population centers in the Strip, (not including the refugee camps), 12 have no sewage systems.

\* 70 percent of the Strip's Palestinian population are refugees from Israel, who left their homes during the war of 1948 and reside in eight refugee camps on a land area which is 1/4 of the lands directly controlled by the Strip's 2,150 settlers living in 18 settlements. (The lands directly controlled by the settlers do not include the state lands under government control, which are considered reserve lands for future settlements).

\* The Gaza Strip's per capita gross national income (GNP) remains 1/5 of Israel's.

\* More than half of the Gaza Strip work force are employed in Israel, 1/3 of them unofficially (without permits), with the majority of the unofficial work-force being children aged 12-15.

\* The average wage of Gaza Strip Palestinians is 40 percent less than the average wage paid to Israelis.

\* Fishing and citrus production, the two chief local industries in the Strip are being destroyed:

(1) Citrus production, which was 243,000 tons in 1975, has dwindled to 114,000 in 1984. Israel

### To our readers:

After receiving many letters from readers who can't afford our subscription rates, we have decided to adopt the new rates enumerated below. We again call upon all readers who have not yet subscribed to do so. *We depend upon you to continue publication!*

The Editorial Board

The Other Israel  
P.O.B. 956  
Tel-Aviv 61008  
Israel



Please send a subscription to:

Name .....

Address .....

I enclose

	six months	one year
Institutions	\$30	\$50
Individuals	\$20	\$30
Students, unemployed	\$10	\$15

I can't afford the above sums, therefore I send  
\$. . . . .

Our new account number is 751-005282/86,  
Bank Le'umi, Agripas Branch,  
111 Agripas St., Jerusalem

Readers preferring to transfer money directly to our account, are asked to inform our subscriptions section, at the above address.

Readers in the U.S. and Canada can receive *The Other Israel* through:

America - Israel Council  
for Israeli-Palestinian Peace (AICIPP)  
4816 Cornell Avenue  
Downers Grove, Illinois 60515, U.S.A.

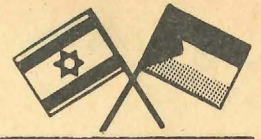
Contributions to AICIPP are tax-deductible, and in addition North American subscribers will receive the AICIPP newsletter, *Voices For Peace*.

Readers in France, Britain and Italy can subscribe through:

Jacqueline Grobety  
B. P. 345-16  
75767 Paris Cedex 16  
France

Readers in Austria and West Germany can subscribe through:

Israel-Palästina Komitee  
John Bunzl  
Biberstr. 8/20  
1010 Wien/AUSTRIA



discourages Gaza citrus exports in order to protect its own, and has also severely restricted the use of water by the Palestinians (Benvenisti reports that water restrictions are not applied to the Israeli settlers in the Strip). Israeli authorities have also placed severe restrictions on marketing Gaza produce in Israel, while Israeli farmers have unlimited access to Gaza fruit and vegetable markets.

(2) The Gaza fishing catch has declined drastically from 3,800 tons in 1968 to 420 tons in the first eight months of 1985. The 12 kilometer offshore fishing limit set by Israeli military authorities is chiefly responsible for this development.

## Jews and arabs in Israel: WHAT DO THEY THINK?

65 percent of the Arab citizens in Israel can read and write in Hebrew and Arabic, while only 13 percent of Jewish Israelis can read and write Arabic.

These were some of the findings presented by Haifa University Sociology professor Sami Samoucha at a symposium held May 29 th. in memory of Dr. Sami Mar'i, who died last month at the age of 46 (See *Other Israel* No. 21). Sources of information available to the Arab population in the country, concludes Samoucha, are therefore much more diversified.

The survey was conducted among 1200 Jews and 1200 Arabs above the age of 18, comprising a representative sample of both societies. Some of the other results of the survey are:

- \* 69 percent of the Arab citizens of Israel know Hebrew well enough to be able to hold a conversation on a variety of topics, while only 33 percent of the Jews can do so in Arabic, and the majority of those who can originate from Arab countries.

- \* 49 percent of the Jews interviewed believed that Arabic should be placed on the same level of importance as English in the country's schools, but only 15 percent of them agree that Arabic be placed on the same level of importance as Hebrew.

- \* 51 percent of the Arabs interviewed supported the Israeli-Egyptian peace treaty, an increase of 7 percent over a similar survey in 1980. (Jewish support has remained steady at 70 percent).

- \* 42 percent of the Jews interviewed oppose territorial compromise in return for peace, BUT ONLY 5 PERCENT SAID THEY WOULD USE VIOLENCE TO FOIL SUCH A DECISION. (The reaction, according to the survey, would be similar no matter who was in government - Labor or Likud).

Basing his conclusions on the recent survey, Samoucha said: "Israeli Arabs have high expectations, compare themselves to the Jews, see their future in Israel, but consider themselves underprivileged and are ready to fight for their rights and equality. They are proud, sensitive and dignified, and see themselves as Palestinians. But while they support a PLO Palestinian state alongside Israel, they see it as the homeland for their brethren in the West Bank and Gaza, and not for themselves, because they have linked their fate with Israel".

### ISRAELIS ON WITHDRAWAL

33.2 percent of the Jewish population in Israel are willing to relinquish parts of the Occupied Territories; and an additional 19.3 percent are ready to withdraw from the entire West Bank, Gaza Strip and East Jerusalem. Thus more than half of the Jewish population (52.5 percent), agree to a partial or total withdrawal, according to the poll published in the Hebrew daily "Ma-ariv" (20/4) by the "Civil Information" Institute. 44.9 percent of those interviewed resisted on principle to budge from the territories. In a poll taken in November 1985, 47.7 percent of those interviewed supported a partial or complete withdrawal and 48.9 percent opposed.

### ISRAELIS ON PEACE

- \* 66.6 percent of the Jewish population in the country believe that Israel should do its utmost to open peace negotiations in order to prevent war with the Arab states, as opposed to 33.4 percent who believe that prevention of war necessitates augmenting Israel's military might.

- \* More than 50 percent of the Jewish population believe that Israeli-Arab peace is possible in the foreseeable future.

- \* 62 percent of the Jewish population believe that government's attitudes can influence Arabs to have peace with Israel.

(The above poll was conducted by Professor Asher Arian for the Center for Strategic Studies at Tel-Aviv University. His findings were published in the Tel-Aviv University journal, "The University", May issue).

"THE OTHER ISRAEL" NO 23 WILL BE A DOUBLE ISSUE COVERING THE MONTHS JULY-SEPTEMBER. IT WILL BE PUBLISHED IN SEPTEMBER.

The Editor