

# REPORT ON ISRAELI SETTLEMENT IN THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES

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## NEWS

The Netanyahu government's broad policy of settlement expansion has been overshadowed by the contest for Israel's next prime minister and the events in south Lebanon. The government's record in the settlements is not inconsiderable. The settler population in the West Bank and Gaza Strip has increased during Netanyahu's short tenure from 150,000 to nearly 180,000, excluding the population of an almost equal number of Israelis residing in East Jerusalem. The story opposite examines the government's record. A map on page 7 details recent road construction and the settlements' hilltop expansion.

The harsh reality of Palestinian life under continuing Israel occupation is chronicled by *Ha'aretz's* able correspondent on page 3.

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## ELECTION SEASON SPEEDS SETTLEMENT IN THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES

A recent headline in the Israeli newspaper *Yediot Aharanot* said it all—"Non-Stop Building."

"What was done until now in secret," the report continued, "has come into the open: the bulldozers are working non-stop in settlements—every day new footholds are established, caravans are placed on the land and many settlements are expanded. The objective: the establishment of thousands of new dwelling units in Judea, Samaria, and Gaza before the elections—creating facts on the ground."

A Palestinian official noted that, "the government of Israel has frozen the implementation of the Wye agreement, [but] it has not frozen construction in the settlements."

Saeb Erekat, minister of local government for the Palestinian Authority (PA), voiced his concern that in the months leading to Israel's May elections, the Netanyahu government "will grant gifts to the settlers and the right-wing so that they will vote for him—and these gifts will be [new] settlement, construction at Jebel Abu Ghneim (Har Homa), and land confiscation."

In mid-February, Israel's Ministry of Housing published tenders for the construction of more than one thousand new dwelling units in two settlements—651 in Betar Ilit (pop. 17,650), west of Bethlehem, and 400 in Ofarim (pop. 900), northwest of Ramallah. According to a February 9 article in *Yediot Aharanot*, "Thousands of dwelling units have been authorized in recent months."

At a ceremony to dedicate a new neighborhood in the settlement of Shaked west of the West Bank town of Jenin, Deputy Minister Michael Eitan announced, "Five thousand new dwelling units will be occupied in Judea and Samaria before the next school year begins [in October 1999]." Construction plans already developed for six settlements—Betar Ilit, Ma'ale Adumim (pop. 22,000), Givat Ze'ev (pop. 7,830), and Kiryat Sefar (pop. 4,100), Tel Zion (pop. 621), Efrat (pop. 5,500)—and the Ale Zahav—Ofarim—Bet Arye (pop. 6,250) settlement bloc envision the addition of 27,000 dwelling units in the next few years.

Such settlement expansion—within established settlements and contiguous with existing housing—is no longer publicly opposed by the United States.

Nevertheless, this inflated predication, like many concerning the expansion of Israel's settlement community in the West Bank, now numbering close to 180,000—excluding the almost 200,000 settlers in East Jerusalem—is not likely to be met. What it does signify, however, is the order of magnitude of Israel's settlement expansion efforts, which have been running in high gear for almost two years.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's settlement record during his almost three year tenure has not been inconsiderable. He has presided over the growth of the settler population from

ELECTION, *continued on page 6*

## TO OUR READERS

Israel's election campaign, the longest in its history, is well under way. From all indications, the major aspirants for the premiership—the Labor Party's Ehud Barak, Yitzhak Mordechai of the “center” party, and, lest one forget, the incumbent Benjamin Netanyahu—are each running away from extremes of right and left to the hoped for popularity of the middle.

The overwhelming preference of the next prime minister, whoever he might be, to be all things to the most voters has implications for Israel's post-election settlement policies in the occupied territories and for the prospect of a transformation in Israel's policy of settlement expansion.

Ehud Barak has called for money to be redirected from settlements to education. Yet he told an enthusiastic audience at the settlement of Alfe Menache in February that, “this place is the center of one of the big settlement blocks over which we will be sovereign in the final status. We have clear red lines. Yitzhar and Tel Rumeida are one thing, but Alfe Menache, the Etzion Bloc, Ariel, Nirit, the [transport] corridor, Jordan Valley settlements, and many more places, they are part of the State of Israel, even in the final status.”

Had he won the 1996 election, Shimon Peres was not prepared to withdraw from more than 45 percent of the West Bank before a final agreement. At the Wye talks,

Netanyahu promised 41 percent. Barak is viewed as favoring something between these figures—a splitting of differences rather than a bold break with the past.

Yitzhak Mordechai, in his sprint toward the middle, has distinguished himself in recent weeks by not saying much about anything. Yet, as the article on page one of this issue makes clear, the tremendous, if not unprecedented, settlement expansion of the last 18 months could not have been achieved without the acquiescence of Defense Minister Mordechai. Unlike the hints from Barak, Mordechai will not reveal his view of the need to dismantle settlements, although his party recognizes that the dream of a sovereign Israel between the Jordan River and the Mediterranean cannot be realized, a view which now passes for conventional wisdom in the Jewish state.

Netanyahu's prescriptions for the future of settlements differ only in degree, not in principle, from those championed by his opponents. As election day approaches, and with it, the hopes of many for a new page in relations between Israel and the Palestinians, this assessment may be worth keeping in mind. No major change in settlement policy is likely.



### Israel's 1999 Budget Includes More Than \$400 Million for Settlements

Israel's budget for 1999 includes close to \$400 million in identifiable spending for settlement-related activities. Additional allocations that are not readily definable, such as construction costs in East Jerusalem settlement communities, increase the government's anticipated settlement-related expenditures to at least \$500 million—approximately 2 percent of Israel's \$25 billion budget. Items include the following:

- \$28 million for new roads.
- \$50 million for compensation to landowners at Har Homa (Jebel Abu Ghneim).
- \$45 million for the Ministry of Agriculture to encourage “new settlements” in the occupied territories, including \$8 million for the Golan Heights and \$5 million for the Jerusalem area, and \$7 million for the Gaza Strip and south of Hebron.
- \$2 million for tax benefits for business investors.
- \$95 million in tax benefits and subsidies for residents.

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## FROM THE ISRAELI PRESS

*“Thoroughly Conceived Oppression,”*  
by Ha’aretz West Bank correspondent Amira Hass,  
appeared on February 10, 1999.

Here is a brief rundown of just some of the actions that have been carried out by our strong nation and its representatives on the West Bank which came to the attention of Israeli journalists last week:

■ On February 4, the Civil Administration, backed by a large contingent of soldiers, demolished Fayez Jaber’s home in Hebron and Layla A-Sabarna’s in the village of Bet Omar because they were built without permits. Meanwhile, Jewish settlers encounter no problems as they continue to set up beach-heads throughout the West Bank, using prefabricated structures.

■ In the early morning hours of February 3, 25 Israeli police forcibly entered an apartment building in Hebron where nine families were residing. The children awoke, panic-stricken. Furniture was overturned and some of it was damaged, while cupboards were emptied. Weapons—the focus of the search (“in light of intelligence reports”)—were not found. No arrests were made. Meanwhile, in the village of Jaloud, southeast of Nablus, Jewish settlers prevented local residents from entering their fields. Such incidents have occurred on countless occasions. Palestinian residents have learned that, if they lodge a complaint with the police, the file will be closed “for lack of evidence.”

■ According to a report in *Kol Ha’ir*, on February 6 Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert ordered that the demolition of “illegally built” structures in East Jerusalem be stepped up. Eight municipal inspectors have been transferred from West Jerusalem to Arab neighborhoods in the eastern part of the city. At the same time, *Kol Ha’ir* reports, a fourth Jewish family has taken up residence in Ras al-Amud. The arrival of the families “has turned this Jewish bastion into a full-fledged community,” one of the Jewish residents is quoted as saying.

■ The Jerusalem newspaper also carries the story of Hamed Abu Khalaf, a handicapped cancer patient from East Jerusalem, whose disability allowance was terminated by the National Insurance Institute in compliance with an administrative directive that had previously been canceled.

■ Fayez Zeitawi, the Palestinian Jerusalemite stabbed last month, apparently by a Jewish serial knifer, has learned that the Kupat Holim Clalit health maintenance organization will not cover his hospitalization expenses, because his right to reside in Jerusalem was withdrawn in 1998, together with the right to medical insurance through an Israeli HMO. He must therefore pay the [\$18,000] out of his own pocket—for medical care he received after being attacked by a “Jewish terrorist.” As a Palestinian, he cannot be recognized as the victim of terrorist activity.

■ A committee with representatives from the Foreign, Public Security, and Religious Affairs ministries is working on recommendations designed to prevent the Palestinians from “seizing” land in East Jerusalem, primarily land owned by churches or other Christian institutions.

■ The city of Jerusalem has issued a demolition order for a mosque in the village of Walajeh, which borders on the Jerusalem neighborhood of Gilo, which is expanding in the direction of homes in the village.

■ In the village of Al Khader, south of Bethlehem, the C[ivil] A[dministration] has ordered the demolition of a wing of the Flowers of Hope school. Meanwhile, Jewish settlers residing in Efrat, a city that has been built in part on lands belonging to Al Khader, are making rapid progress in paving a road that will connect Efrat with Herodion to the east. The road will use the sole land reserves of several Arab villages, as well as Bethlehem’s land reserves; however, the villages are forbidden to construct a hothouse or sheep-shed or even to plant a tree beyond the boundaries of the Area B land allotted to them.

There were no doubt other actions last week involving the exercise of superior might. Palestinian workers lacking papers were arrested and a military judge sentenced a Palestinian job-seeker to six months in prison for “illegal entry.” The request of a Gazan woman and her children for a permit to visit relatives on the West Bank was denied. An Interior Ministry official enters another Jerusalemite, the son, grandson and great-grandson of Jerusalemites, as a “non-Jerusalemite”—since the municipality did not allow Palestinians to construct homes in East Jerusalem, he was forced to move his large family to a neighborhood, which, to his misfortune, was designated as being part of the West Bank, not East Jerusalem.

The Israeli authorities argue that Israeli law sanctions such actions as the demolition of Palestinian homes; the granting of permission to Jewish settlers to continue building on the West Bank; the termination of allowances to native residents who are disabled or ill, simply because they are Palestinians; prohibition of construction; police entering homes without search warrants.

Not all that is brought to the attention of journalists makes headlines. When the information is published as scattered news items, it does not convey the depressing significance of life under a regime that arrogantly, deliberately and consistently discriminates. Here in Israel, the public debate almost totally ignores the detailed precision with which ostensibly bureaucratic procedures, anchored in ostensibly fair and rational legislation, provide a cover for systematic, thoroughly conceived oppression, imposed to further nationalist goals. ♦

## SETTLEMENT TIME LINE

**November 23** The Israeli Defense Force submits a defense plan costing \$40 million for the defense of 18 settlements defined as “settlements in great danger” as a consequence of their proximity to areas under Palestinian control. The plan includes construction of circuitous patrol roads and moats, creation of firing emplacements and guard towers known as “hedgehogs,” and placement of lighting, closed-circuit cameras, and electronic gates (and in some cases complete fences) around settlements.

**November 25** Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai approve, in principle, the permanent presence of settlers at the old railway station at Sebastia, near Nablus. A religious seminary and a museum of the settlement history in Samaria are to be established at the site.

**November 26** The IDF declares the area of Brukin, near Kalkilya, a “closed military zone” following Palestinian protests aimed at stopping road work in the area.

**December 1** *Israelwire* reports the planned establishment of a new command college aimed at preparing soldiers and officers for warfare in the West Bank. It is to emphasize combat in an urban environment, and to prepare troops for warfare or attacks inside settlement communities.

Palestinian Council head Abu Ala notes on Voice of Palestine, “No negotiations whatsoever can be conducted as long as settlement expansion continues.”

**December 2** *Ma'ariv* reports the Ministry of Housing's approval of the construction of 480 homes in the settlement of Kochav Ya'acov, which triples the settlement's size. Almost one half of the homes are already under construction.

*Ma'ariv* reports that Prime Minister Netanyahu has given the “green light” to resume the demolition of houses built illegally by Palestinians in the Jerusalem area.

**December 3** Israeli settlers block Palestinian motorists at the Karni Crossing to Gaza in retaliation for the PA's frequently stopping trucks en route to construction projects in the Gaza settlement of Netzarim. The last such incident delayed several cement trucks for more than 14 hours. In a retaliatory move following that episode, the IDF ordered an

immediate closing of the VIP lane at the Erez crossing.

Palestinian villagers from Kariot attempt to infiltrate the Giva Tet neighborhood of the settlement of Eli, south of Nablus.

IDF regulars deploy in the Bethlehem area, replacing reserve units who usually serve there. Commanders admit that the deployment is in preparation for tensions in the aftermath of the Wye memorandum.

**December 4** An ad in the Orthodox Jewish press touts the benefits of the new housing development of Tel Zion “in north Jerusalem.” The Ministry of Housing, however, “forgot” to explain that the “new neighborhood” is part of the West Bank settlement of Kochav Ya'acov.

The IDF is reportedly preparing an order expropriating privately owned Palestinian land north of the settlement of Bet El for use in the construction of the settlement's security fence.

**December 5** About 150 Palestinians break through the security fence of the settlement of Ariel.

The settlement's security chief noted that, “We have to act like the days of the tower and stockade. We have to operate in [the Palestinian] areas, so that they, and not we, will fear leaving their villages. After these events it is necessary to punish them by cutting off their electricity or telephones for a day or two.”

**December 6** Palestinians protest near the settlements of Ariel, Ateret, Neve Tzuf and Eli.

**December 7** For the sixth time in a two-week period, trucks are prevented from bringing supplies into Netzarim by PA forces. The PA insists that construction in the community is a violation of agreements signed with Israel.

**December 8** Prime Minister Netanyahu promises security and road improvements costing millions of shekels to residents from Ganim and Kadim protesting outside his Jerusalem home after a settler was wounded by gunfire.

**December 9** Stone-throwing attacks and roadblocks against Israelis are reported on the Bet-Haggai-Otniel Road near al-Fuar in the southern Hebron area. The road is closed by about 150 Palestinian demonstrators.

**December 10** A tender in the Gaza settlement of Nisanit is published in *Yediot Aharnot* for the construction of four homes. A tender for the construction of 320 dwelling units in the West Bank settlement of Ariel is published in *Ha'aretz*.

**December 11** More than 90 percent of residents of Ganim, and 40 percent of the residents of Homesh—both settlements near Jenin—are reported to have signed a petition stating their willingness to leave the settlements in return for compensation. Organized efforts along similar lines have appeared in the nearby settlements of Mevo Dotan, Sa-Nur, and Kadim. Residents are considering demanding compensation of between \$500,000 and \$700,000 per family.

*Kol Ha'ir* reports that U.S. ambassador Ned Walker intervened to prevent the expulsion of an extended Palestinian family of 20 from a home in Silwan after receiving an order from an Israeli court to vacate in favor of the settlement organization Elad.

**December 13** The Benjamin Regional Council begins marketing a 650 dunam, high-tech park outside Jerusalem. The land sells for \$40,000 per dunam, including development costs, and the 50 companies envisioned for the site are to enjoy all Priority Area A benefits and subsidies.

**December 14** U.S. President Bill Clinton, in Gaza on a state visit, notes his “understanding [of] the Palestinian concern about settlement activities.”

**December 15** The head of the Gaza regional settlement council, Aaron Tzur, announces that the settler population in Gaza increased by 14 percent during 1998, “most of them young families.”

**December 16** Peace Now reports that housing starts in West Bank settlements increased by 136 percent during the first half of 1998, compared with a similar period in 1997. Using figures compiled by the Central Bureau of Statistics, Peace Now reports that there were 1,420 starts in the first half of 1998, compared with 600 in the same period one year earlier. Government construction increased by 245 percent—from 290 to 970 units—while private-sector construction in settlements increased by 45 percent—from 310 to 450 units. At the end of June 1998, there were 3,390 units in various phases of

TIME LINE, continued on page 5



## SETTLEMENT TIME LINE

construction, an increase of 16 percent over June 1997. The public sector contribution to this figure increased by 41 percent—from 1,660 units in June 1997 to 2,340 in June 1998.

The Knesset Finance Committee approves \$6.5 million for settlement housing and infrastructure construction.

**December 18** *Kol Ha'ir* reports that from January 1996 to March 1998 two thousand Palestinians carrying East Jerusalem identity documents were denied the right to live in East Jerusalem by Israel, compared with 327 people between 1987 and 1995.

The beginning of work on a \$180 million tunnel under Jerusalem's Mt. Scopus to link Israel's national road network with the settlement of Ma'ale Adumim is announced.

A 147-unit housing development is announced for the settlement of Mitzpe Jericho, 20km northeast of Jerusalem, overlooking Jericho. Completion of the project will almost double the population of the settlement, currently home to 180 families. The project's developer anticipates heavy demand for the units, which are priced from \$75,000 to \$110,000.

*Kol Ha'ir* reports that a third family has moved into the complex at Ras al Amud, further eroding commitments made to the Clinton administration in late 1997.

**December 21** It is announced that a series of unmanned "smart roadblocks" will be set up along the "seam border" dividing Israel and some settlements from the West Bank. Advanced electro-optics will be used to monitor the passages.

**December 24** A tender for the construction of 136 units in the settlement of Alfe Menache is published.

**December 28** The civil administration demolishes two homes in the village of Kafal Charti near Ariel.

**December 29** *Yediot Aharanot* details Operation Mango—a review of the value of all Israeli civilian settlements on the Golan Heights which was initiated by the government of Yitzhak Rabin. The value of the 31 Golan settlements, excluding the largest, Katzrin, was estimated at \$2.5 billion.

**December 31** A tender is published for the construction of 400 dwelling units in the settlement of Ofarim.

1999

**January 3** Tanzim, a key segment of the Fateh organization, is said to be planning popular protests against settlements based on the model of the "prisoners' intifada" that was waged in the aftermath of the Wye memorandum.

**January 5** *Yediot Aharanot* reports that seven companies have won rights to construct 679 dwelling units at Har Homa in the coming months.

**January 6** The IDF publishes an order requiring settlers to fortify their homes and property.

**January 7** A tender for the construction of 346 dwelling units on land at Har Homa to be leased from the Israeli government for 99 years is published.

The IDF opens the road from the Gaza town of Deir al-Balah to the al-Mouassi district to Palestinian traffic.

**January 8** *Ha'aretz* reports that more than 20 percent of all land to be marketed by the Ministry of Housing during 1999 is located in the occupied territories. The ministry intends to market land for 3,729 dwelling units in the West Bank and Gaza Strip during 1999, as well as 1,320 units at Har Homa in East Jerusalem. Nationally, land for only 19,800 units is to be marketed.

Ministry sales do not give a complete picture of the housing market because they are geared toward young families and others eligible for government assistance.

Sites selected for sales in 1999 include Ariel (500 units), Alfe Menache (500), Emmanuel (400), Beitar (636), Efrat (100), Ma'ale Adumim (600), Givat Ze'ev (811), and Adam (182).

*Yerushalim* reports the creation of a militia by right-wing settlers that will assist small settlements in the Nablus and Hebron areas during conflicts with Palestinians.

**January 15** *Kol Ha'ir* reports the approval for a 410-unit housing development in the Palestinian neighborhood of Sur Baher, the first government-supported residential construction for Palestinians in Jerusalem.

**January 19** A coalition of Orthodox Jewish spiritual leaders publishes a peace plan that offers a Palestinian state with its capital in East Jerusalem in return for the settlement of 600,000 Jews in the West Bank.

**January 21** The first contract is signed for the sale of apartments at Har Homa.

**January 24** *Yom Rishon* reports the approval of a 30,000 m<sup>2</sup> commercial/residential development in the East Jerusalem settlement community of Ramot.

**January 26** The Knesset, led by opponents of withdrawal from the Golan Heights, approves legislation requiring any withdrawal from "sovereign Israeli territory" win the approval of 61 members of the Knesset. If the next Knesset approves, the law will also require a public referendum to ratify any withdrawal.

**January 31** *Ha'aretz* reports the expansion of a number of Golan Heights settlements. Two hundred homes are to be built in the Golan settlements. The settlements of Bnei Yehuda, Gamla, Had Nes, and Kidmat Zvi will each grow by 50 units. If tenders for these projects prove successful, additional projects will be tabled. In August 1998, Israel's National Planning Council approved the tripling of the population in the Golan settlements. The quality of life, "like that of Switzerland—not ideology," according to the land developer, will be highlighted to potential settlers.

*Ha'aretz* reports that during the previous six weeks 20 residents of Tel Aviv purchased homes in the Golan settlement of Katzrin, worth \$2.6 million, for investment purposes. Since the beginning of the decade, the average price of a home in the Golan settlements has more than doubled.

**February 5** *Kol Ha'ir* reports the demolition of two Palestinian homes in Jerusalem by the municipality during the previous week.

It is reported that a fourth family will move into the settlement complex at Ras-al Amud.

**February 9** *Ha'aretz* reports the secret settlement of the paramilitary outpost of Nimrod, located between the Syrian Druze villages of Masada and Majd al-Shams. Up to eight families are expected to settle at the site in the near future. One settlement official noted that "the location [of Nimrod] in the heart of Druze villages has a strategic value and a settlement message." ♦

150,000 to nearly 180,000, an increase of 20 percent. Government sources claim that 20,000 dwelling units have been constructed, if not necessarily completed and occupied, in the West Bank and Gaza Strip during Netanyahu's tenure. Almost 14,000 units have been sold during this same period.

According to the Palestinian geographer Khalil Tufakji, during 1998 existing West Bank settlements were expanded by 8,219 dunams, and those in East Jerusalem by 8,400 dunams. Netanyahu has inaugurated six new industrial parks: in the south Hebron area, near Ma'ale Mikmash, at Kedumim, Shaked, Ma'ale Ephraim, and Ariel. During his term, 20 new neighborhoods in existing settlements and more than 100 new "footholds," including almost 20 since the signing of the Wye Memorandum in October 1998—some of which are destined to evolve into new and distinct settlements—have been established. Five paramilitary settlements, known as *nabals*, have been transformed into permanent civilian settlements: at Giva'ot, near the Etzion Bloc, Rachelim, near Shilo, and Hemdat, Avnat, and Baroush, in the Jordan Valley. His government has created a total of 5 regional colleges in Kiryat Arba, Ma'ale Ephraim, Avnat, Elon Moreh, and Kedumim.

In addition to the many bypass roads whose construction has been facilitated through negotiations with the Palestinian Authority—comprising 18,036 dunams in 1998 alone—the Netanyahu government has spent close to \$70 million on major road construction projects in the West Bank: along the length of the Jordan Valley; the "Trans-Samaria Highway" crossing the northern West Bank; the road from the East Jerusalem community of Ramot to Ben Shemen in Israel; and Road 45, a major transport route from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem.

Eli Cohen, until his recent decision to run for Knesset on the Likud slate, was the aide to the defense minister on settlement matters. In early February, Cohen said that "most definitely, the Defense Ministry intends to reinforce settlement in Judea and Samaria before May 17 [election day]." He explained that the ministry will do so because, "God forbid that something happens like what happened in June 1992, when the Labor Party won the elections, and froze construction and stopped settlement." Defense Minister Moshe Arens' office hastened to note that Cohen was on leave and that what he said represents only his personal opinion. The facts in the field, however, suggest otherwise.

Israeli intelligence and military officials believe that militant Palestinian Islamic organizations and radical settlers present the clearest challenge to "quiet" in the occupied territories in the coming months. Security officials worry about settler

efforts to claim more land for settlement, actions that they believe will spark Palestinian protests, notably on "Land Day," March 30.

There is particular concern about the Palestinian response to the anticipated renewal of construction at Har Homa, where contractors have begun selling planned dwellings to the public, the creation of permanent housing at Tel Rumeida in Hebron, and the widespread effort to establish small territorial footholds on hilltops throughout the West Bank.

"It is necessary to be very careful about uncontrolled construction," explained an Israeli security official in reference to the hilltop sites where new settlements have been established in recent months. "This is exactly what may set fire to all the occupied territories."

Such concerns, however, have been overshadowed by the political advantage to be gained by Netanyahu by facilitating the implementation of the settler-lead effort to claim additional land, not only in anticipation of the upcoming election but also in anticipation of the implementation of the outstanding elements of the Wye agreement and the beginning of final-status talks with the Palestinians.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's settlement record during his almost three year tenure has not been inconsiderable. He has presided over the growth of the settler population from 150,000 to nearly 180,000, an increase of 20 percent.

Uri Elitzur, bureau chief in the Prime Minister's Office, a veteran Gush Emunim activist, and a self-described "radical settler," noted in November, "The government views [the claiming of West Bank hilltops] with understanding."

The current program "to grab and settle" was born more than one year ago, prompted by concerns over Netanyahu's agreement to undertake "further

redeployments" from West Bank territory as outlined in the Oslo II and Hebron accords. The movement's main instrument was the quiet implantation of "agricultural farms" on strategically located hilltops, declared by Israel as "state land," as precursors to new settlement or far-flung neighborhoods of existing outposts.

"Without the quiet cooperation of the ministries of defense, housing, and finance," noted one Israeli correspondent, "which consisted primarily of turning a blind eye to the illegal construction and land claiming activities of the settlers—this plan could not have been implemented."

Defense Minister Arens has a long record of support for settlement expansion, most notably as a member of former prime minister Yitzhak Shamir's last government. Arens noted recently that "settlement is growing in a significant way."

"In principle," he added, "the continuation of Jewish settlement and its ability to keep on existing are very important and a goal of all the governments of Israel." Settler leaders anticipate receiving Arens' approval for new plans to expand and populate settlements. ♦



# West Bank Hilltop Settlements and Bypass Roads - March 1999

**LEGEND**

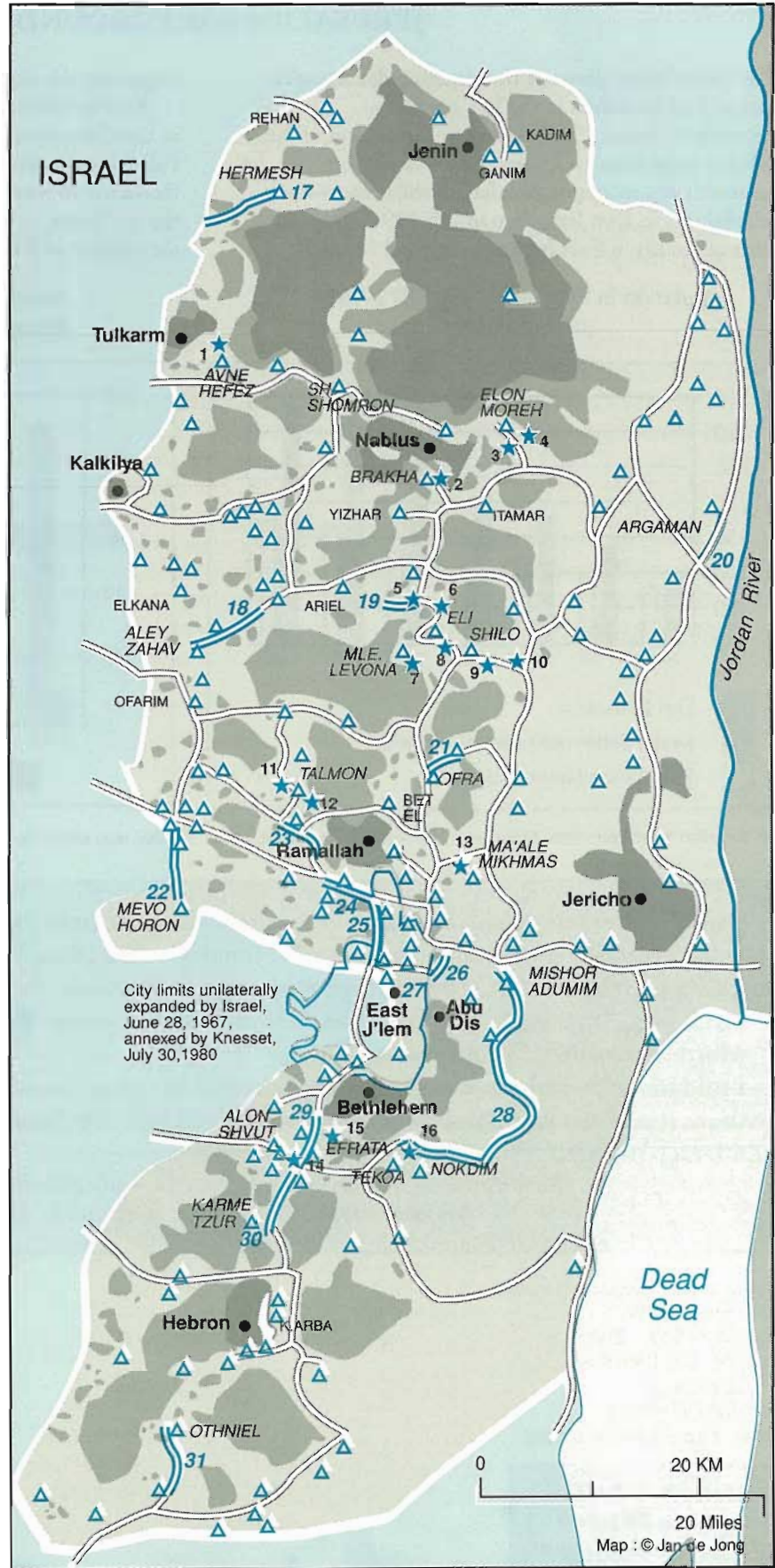
- Palestinian Autonomous Area (Area A; Full Civil and Security Control)
- Palestinian Autonomous Area (Area B; Full Civil Control, Joint Isr. / Pal. Security Control)
- Area C; Israeli Civil and Security Control
- Israeli Settlement
- New Settlement Expansion Site since the Wye Memorandum
- Network of Israeli (re) constructed thoroughfares
- Road Trajectory proposed, tendered, or under construction

**★ NEW SETTLEMENT SITES**

- 1 - Site North of Avne Hefez
- 2 - Site East of Brakha
- 3 - Site Southwest of Elon Moreh
- 4 - Site Southeast of Elon Moreh
- 5 - Rachelim
- 6 - Site North of Eli
- 7 - Site South of Ma'ale Levona
- 8 - Site South of Eli
- 9 - Site South of Shilo/ Shvut Rachel
- 10 - Site East of Shilo
- 11 - Giv'at Zit Ra'anana ( Talmon )
- 12 - Giv'at Horesh ( Talmon )
- 13 - Mizpe Dany ( Ma'ale Mikhmas )
- 14 - Giv'at Ha'ish ( East of Alon Shvut )
- 15 - Site North of Efrata
- 16 - Site North of Nokdim

**NEW BYPASS TRAJECTORIES**

- 17 - Green Line - Hermesh
- 18 - Ariel West - Aley Zahav
- 19 - Eli - Ariel
- 20 - Road Section Argaman
- 21 - Ba'al Hatzor - Ofra
- 22 - Makkabim - Mevo Horon
- 23 - Beitunya - Talmon
- 24 - Giv'at Ze'ev - Atarot
- 25 - Bir Nabala Fly Over
- 26 - Anata Bypass
- 27 - Mt. Scopus Tunnel Road
- 28 - Mishor Adumim - Za'atara - Tekoa
- 29 - Al Khadr- Efrata - Elazar
- 30 - Al Arrub / Karme Tzur
- 31 - Othniel Access Road



## JERUSALEM BACKGROUNDER

The charts below illustrate the changing demographic picture of East Jerusalem in the last generation.

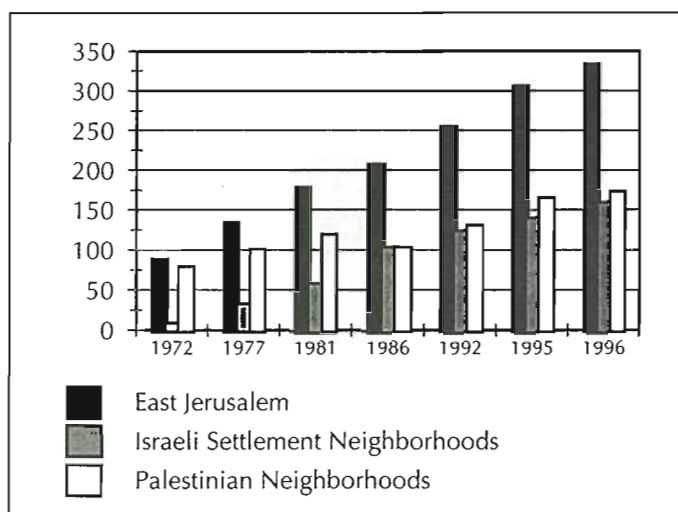
Between 1972 and 1997, the Israeli component of the population grew from 10.3 percent to 48.1 percent.

Jerusalem deputy mayor Abraham Kehila reported an Israeli majority in East Jerusalem in July 1993 when the number of Israelis in East Jerusalem reached 160,000,

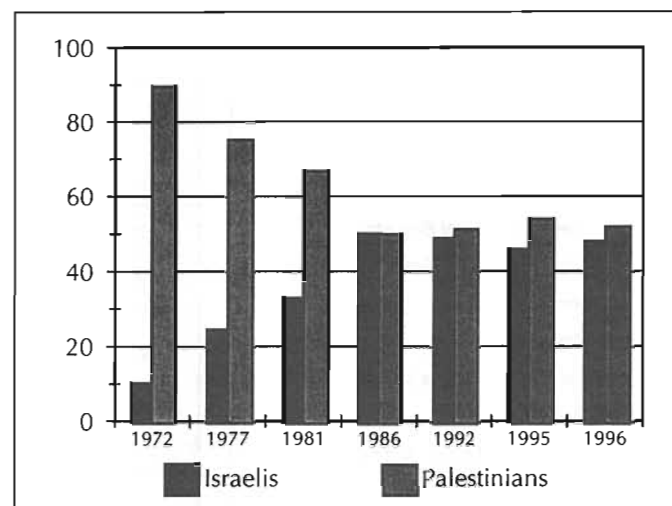
surpassing the city's 155,000 Palestinians.

Another caveat needs to be added to population calculations in East Jerusalem. The figures below appear to include all Palestinians holding East Jerusalem identity documents. Many thousands of these people, however, physically reside outside the city limits. A recent Palestinian population survey placed the number of Palestinians who reside in Jerusalem at 85,000.

**Population in East Jerusalem, 1972–1996**  
(in thousands)



**Israelis and Palestinians, 1972–1996**  
Percent of East Jerusalem Population



Note: Between 1981 and 1986, there were changes in types of data collected that may effect the appearance of data in chart at left.

**“After the Israeli president entered the room where we were present at the Royal Palace and shook hands with me, former minister of defense Yitzhak Mordechai came and extended his hand to salute everyone and asked me how could peace be reached.**

**I told him, “You and the (Jewish) settlers withdraw from the Palestinian territories.”**

**Mordechai asked, “What about security?”**

**I told him, “Security is a circle in the chain and comes as a result of a comprehensive peace and without it security could not be achieved and blood will continue to be spilled from the Palestinian and Israeli people.”**

*Na'if Hawatme, secretary-general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine on events at the funeral of Jordan's King Hussein, as reported by United Press International, February 10, 1999*

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