

**SETTLEMENT PACE**  
(Continued from Page 1)

Arens claimed that large - scale settlements will be impossible without appropriations of land and without major new aliya. He said the Gush Emunim was an important reservoir of manpower for the settlements. Haim Kaufman, head of the Likud Knesset faction, said the government must not be "led along" by the Gush. The meeting was stormy but Begin did not take part in the name - calling between the moderates and hardliners. But in his address at the end of the meeting, he said it had not added to Likud's prestige.

The Gush had made several attempts to set up new settlements since Chanukah. A group of about 25 would - be settlers has camped on a road near an army roadblock which has barred them from attempting to set up a settlement near Nablus. Another group of 25 Gush Emunim settlers abandoned a hillside north of Jerusalem Jan. 1 after an army unit told them they would be removed physically if they did not leave. The group said they wanted to "thicken" an existing settlement at Beit Horon.

Meanwhile, Finance Minister Simcha Ehrlich is awaiting for approval from the Knesset Finance Committee to transfer IL 76 million from the reserve budget to use for constructing additional housing at three settlements in Samaria. The money would finance 590 housing units in Givon, Hares and Karnie Shomron.

**CARTER BLAMED FOR HARDENING EGYPT**

NEW YORK (WNS) -- President Carter is to blame for Egypt's hardened position in the peace negotiations with Israel, it was charged here Jan. 4 by MK Abraham Sharir, chairman of the Likud Knesset faction.

He told a press conference at the Israeli Consulate that the Egyptian position hardened as a result of Carter's "extreme" siding with the Arab cause. Sharir warned that if the negotiations are not resumed soon, the Middle East will have "a long crisis, the end of which is hard to foresee." He said the U.S. can play a positive role by taking a more balanced position between the two sides.

Sharir, a member of Likud's Liberal Party wing, said, however, the feeling in the Knesset is that a breakthrough will be made in the stalled talks. Sharir warned that the crisis in Iran has allowed the Soviet Union to increase its influence in the Mideast. He predicted that Saudi Arabia will be the next nation to face turmoil and stressed that "To weaken Israel now will be a grave mistake."



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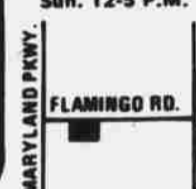
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