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ISRAEL HAS NO ATOM BOMBS BUT NEEDS PLANES, TANKS

Mr. Begin's New Year Message



MENACHEM BEGIN

BY MENACHEM BEGIN,
PRIME MINISTER,
STATE OF ISRAEL

(ED. NOTE: This year's New Year Message by Prime Minister Begin signifies hope that a lasting peace in the Middle East is more than a dream. He stresses that Jerusalem, however, can never be divided.)

During the past year we signed a Treaty of Peace with the largest and strongest Arab country, Egypt. The Treaty has been ratified and duly brought into effect; it is being carried out in phases as stipulated in its various chapters.

This is a great event of historic importance. It is a turning point in the annals of the Middle East achieved, undeniably, through great sacrifices. The two countries were in a state of war for thirty - one years and actual hostilities broke out between them five times since the renewal of Israel's independence. Now, a momentous decision was made to terminate the state of war, to live in peace, to cooperate economically, to found common ventures, to exchange visits and promote tourism, to guarantee that the Suez Canal shall remain open to ships bearing the Israeli flag - to help each other. Thus it is that peace is becoming a living reality and there is hope that friendship will deepen not only between the representatives of the two countries but also between the Egyptian and Israeli peoples themselves who are coming to know each other more and more.

In accordance with the Camp David agreement of 1978 we are now also negotiating the full autonomy for the Arab inhabitants of Judea, Samaria and the Gaza District. Let it be known

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NEW YORK (WNS) -- Israel Defense Minister Ezer Weizman said that Israel's quest for new weapons despite the fact that it is cementing peace with its largest Arab neighbor, Egypt, is based on the military threat posed by the Arab rejectionist states, principally Iraq and Syria.

In a wide - ranging interview with correspondent Barbara Walters on ABC-TV's "Issues and Answers," Weizman said the two Arab states have 5000 tanks and 1000 combat planes between them. He said Israel was not seeking to enlarge its defense force but to maintain its high qualitative standards. He dismissed the allegations made on the same TV program that Israel has 10 - 15 atom bombs. Asked by Walters to state flatly if Israel has atomic weapons, Weizman said the answer is "no."

The Defense Minister, who is in Washington to discuss his country's future military and economic needs with Administration and Pentagon officials, will be joined by Israel Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan and Egyptian Defense Minister Kamal Hassan Ali for a meeting with Secretary of State Cyrus Vance on the issue of the peace-keeping force in Sinai. He predicted a solution "within the next 72 hours," Weizman insisted that Israel is not seeking proportionately more economic and military aid from the United States than it has received in the past and explained that the \$3.4 billion Israel feels it needs in the next fiscal year, almost twice the current aid figure, was the result primarily of inflation. He conceded, however, that he does not expect to get the full amount.

On the issue of Israel's request for joint production rights for U.S. fighter planes, the Defense Minister said U.S. Defense Secretary Harold Brown has not yet said anything definite one way or another. He said Israel itself has not yet decided which plane -- the F-16 or the F-18 -- it would want to manufacture. He said the purpose of his visit to Wash-

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DAYAN CRITICIZES GERMANS FOR PALESTINIAN SUPPORT -- WEST GERMAN CHANCELLOR HELMUT SCHMIDT, (RIGHT) AND ISRAELI FOREIGN MINISTER MOSHE DAYAN ARE SHOWN DURING TALKS IN BONN.

TALL TALES

"One Man Plus The Truth
Constitutes A Majority"

Yom Kippur in Israel

BY DR. SHMUEL HIMELSTEIN

Those of us who lived in predominantly Jewish areas in the diaspora before moving to Israel can remember how there was a noticeable change in the "atmosphere" on Yom Kippur. There seemed to be a decrease in traffic, many stores were closed, and there were throngs of Jews on their way to or coming from the various overcrowded services at the local synagogues. All that, however, didn't prepare us for Yom Kippur in Israel.

Try to imagine, if you can, a modern country which simply "closes down." Suddenly all traffic disappears from the streets - and that is no exaggeration. Imagine the main intersection of Jerusalem, right at the entrance to the city - where cars whiz by at the rate of many thousands an hour every day of the year - with one or maybe two cars per hour on Yom Kippur - and even those solitary ones are mainly emergency vehicles!

And imagine all the communications media -- all four national radio stations and the TV channel - signing off on the day before Yom Kippur at 2 p.m., not to resume their broadcasts until after the final Shofar blowing at the conclusion of the fast day. Of course skeleton crews are present, because everyone remembers all too well Yom Kippur 1973, when the devastating Yom Kippur War broke out.

Then we have a uniquely Israeli phenomenon: on Yom Kippur the crime rate decreases dramatically. All types of crimes plummet. It appears that even the Jewish criminals (and there are such!) tend to take a break. Maybe they want to give the policemen a chance to pray!

Who then does "mind the store"? Of course, there are many army units which are on duty, as are the members of the police force, although both try to free as many men as possible for Yom Kippur. Hospitals maintain skeleton staffs, as do the electric company and the water company. In addition the international telephone system remains open. In short, only the most essential services keep a minimal number of people on duty.

How important is Yom Kippur in the national consciousness of Israel? Until recently no one had done any in - depth research. There was only a feeling that while most other holidays mean a mass exodus of non - observant families to all parts of the country for picnics and so on, Yom Kippur seemed to be entirely different.

In regard to fasting on Yom Kippur, on the

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