

**OUR MAN  
IN HAIFA  
CARL ALPERT**



*Predict the Future*

HAIFA -- As the calendar year 1980 is about to depart the astrologers, soothsayers and clairvoyants are preparing their predictions for the twelve months that lie ahead. Israel, too, has its crystal-gazers, and all are now consulting their globes, their stars, their tea-leaves, or whatever may be their sources of information.

But what about their predictions uttered in December, 1979. What did they forecast for the twelve months now elapsing, and how right were they? Does nobody recall their predictions? Well, we do! We saved all the prophecies and prognostications, all the expectations and the forebodings and we spread them out before us now to see how well the prophets did.

One of the best known in Israel is Herzl Lipshitz whose main claim to fame was his accurate prediction of the Israel-Egypt peace treaty at a time when such an augury was dismissed as a hallucination.

Last year Lipshitz forecast for 1980, the year we now know so well: the collapse of Khomeini and the return of the Shah to power; an unprecedented economic revival in Israel; a sharp increase in aliyah from Russia and from elsewhere as well; the discovery of oil in Israel; a political comeback for Yigal Allon and Moshe Davan, and the re-election of Jimmy Carter.

It seems to have been a catastrophic year for Lipshitz, but in 1979 he ventured into 1981-82 as well. He foresaw the beginning of a great world military conflagration with widespread use of nuclear bombs; disaster all over the world - and in 1982 California will be wiped

off the map. Cheer up: his record for inaccuracy may be consistent.

Next fortune-teller: This one is Miriam Spector, who calls herself a psychological astrologer, but she refuses to cast horoscopes for individuals. She says people usually come around when they are in trouble, and she doesn't want to be the one to tell them the bad news.

Miriam's predictions in 1979 for the year 1980: The Moslem revolution in Iran will get stronger and spread; inflation in Israel will continue at a dizzying pace; not a chance in the world of finding oil there; Ezer Weizmann will have the worst year in his life; no increase in aliyah, and continued yerida; Peres has no political chances; and whoever is elected President of the United States (she wouldn't say who) will be assassinated in office - but that goes beyond our present vision.

Her record is a pretty good one.

Next clairvoyant: Miriam Tamir claims to have been the personal family astrologer of the Shah when he was at the height of his power. (What happened? Did he fail to heed her advice?) Her vision of what would happen in 1980: There will be a sharp increase in crime in Israel; negotiations will begin with Jordan eventually leading to peace with that country; Khomeini will fall, but Jimmy Carter will be re-elected. Ezer Weizmann will some day be Prime Minister and if President Yitzhak Navon goes into active politics he will be enormously successful.

And what does everybody have to say about 1981? You too can be a successful prophet. Set down your predictions in detail, put them away for twelve months, and next year write and tell me how good you were.

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