

**BEGIN TRANSFERS POWERS**

JERUSALEM (WNS) -- Three days after Premier Menachem Begin was hospitalized for a broken hip he transferred the full power and authority of his office to Deputy Premier Simcha Ehrlich. Begin disclosed in a 3,000-word letter dictated to Haaretz columnist Yoel Marcus published in that newspaper. According to officials Ehrlich remains in charge of the government for the present.

The unusual letter Begin dictated from his bed in Hadassah Hospital described in detail how his hip joint was fractured when he fell in his bathroom and the subsequent surgery and other treatment. He said he transferred his authority to Ehrlich because he was in too much pain to exercise his duties.

One point Begin noted in the letter was that he knew that former Premier Golda Meir was suffering from cancer 15 - 20 years before she died, but despite their deep political differences he never used that knowledge to undermine her, although there were some who had urged him "to bring an end to her

political career." The point of Meir was noted because he said that often politicians became indisposed by ill health

and felt that opponents in the political system often wanted to use the health issue against him, thus a measure of reticence was justified.

Begin stressed in his letter and the apparent reason he offered it for

publication at the newspaper's discretion -- was that he has always been truthful with the public about various ailments which include two heart attacks. He chided the press for criticizing past Israeli


leaders for misleading the public on the subject of their health.

**SYRIAN MISSILES**

JERUSALEM (WNS) -- Special U.S. envoy Philip Habib has made

no progress in his latest round of shuttle diplomacy in his effort to seek removal of Syrian surface-

to-air missiles in Lebanon. Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir told the Cabinet



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