

**OUR MAN
IN HAIFA**



CARL ALPERT

*What Should Have
Happened This Year*

HAIFA -- They do it every year, and they're doing it again now - the astrologists and the soothsayers who consult the stars and announce to the public their predictions - dire or delightful - of what will happen during the coming year, 1982.

How reliable are their prognostications? Last year I craftily filed away all the predictions, and now I trot them out for verification. If we compare the forecasts it would appear that some of the prophets consult entirely different sets of stars. At any rate, the following is what is supposed to have happened during the twelve months of 1981 just elapsed.

Herzl Lipschitz, best known of Israel's astrologists, had a mixed bag of successes and failures. He predicted that the Likud would be returned to power, but Begin would be out of service for prolonged periods because of illness. Assad of Syria and Hussein of Jordan were both to be toppled by September of 1981. Brezhnev was to retire from power in the Soviet Union. Before the year was up a military agreement was to have been reached between Israel, Egypt and Saudi Arabia and even Iran, now free of Khomeini, was to join. The American hostages in Iran were to be released between 10 - 22 January 1981 (bull's eye!) Israel would strike oil this year. Reagan would be assassinated. By the end of the year World War III would break out. Israel would emerge not only safe, but stronger than ever. Judge for yourself how well he did.

His major competitor is Miriam Spector. She had a different view of what was to be expected. She found all indications in the horoscope of Shimon Peres that he would become Prime Minister. There was no chance of finding oil in Israel. She foresaw violence in Egypt, but the peace process with Israel would continue. Without being specific she forecast earthquakes in various parts of the world, mounting energy problems (a safe prediction) crisis in the stock exchanges and an expansion of religious revivalism. She agreed with Lipschitz that the American president was in danger of assassination. She too foresaw World War III, but placed its outbreak in the beginning of 1984. In the summer of 1981 an Israeli personality was supposed to have won a prestigious international honor. Shlomo Glickstein tried.

Clairvoyant Miriam Benjamin took to the radio last New Year to tell the public what to

expect. According to her Labor would win the elections. Israel would strike oil this year, and Khomeini would be finished - through! However, she agreed with her colleagues that Reagan should beware of an ambush being prepared for him by demented men.

The traditional astrologists were last year challenged by a pair of young men, Danny Hferman and Shmuel Waknin, both in their early 20's who maintained that the oldtimers were not using proper mathematical methods to study the movements of the celestial bodies. Their calculations showed that in the fall of 1981

there would be danger to Sadat - but he would escape. Israel would lose more friends abroad, the Government at home would be increasingly impotent, subject to crises and helpless in the face of problems.

Hferman and Waknin contemptuously declared that 80% of the predictions by the other astrologists turn out to be wrong. It would appear that their own average is not much better.

It's an interesting game. I suggest to readers who would like to try a hand at it that they drink a pint of whiskey straight, wait for reaction and then write their predictions for 1982. If they can still write straight.

MUNITIONS DUMP BLOWS UP

JERUSALEM (WNS) -- One person was killed and two were injured when a munitions dump at a military camp near Haifa blew up. The dead man, who was not immediately identified, was a resident of Jenin

store and then spread to larger concentrations of shells and explosive.

The explosives continued to detonate for two and a half hours before fire fighters on land and in the air were able to attempt to put out the massive conflagration that developed. Workers in nearby plants and residents were ordered into bomb shelters and the entire region was cordoned off from traffic. Warnings were issued to the public to stay in their homes and not to touch unexploded shells.

in Samaria who happened to be in the area at the time of the explosion. The blast occurred in Kiryat Hayim a suburb and industrial zone. The cause of the explosion was not immediately determined. One report said it was touched off by a smoke grenade which ignited a small munitions

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