

Israeli Cabinet Minister Moshe Arens Says Free Enterprise Is Answer To Israel's Economic Woes



Israeli Cabinet Minister Moshe Arens at Herut-USA Offices in New York.

despite recent improvements in Israel's economic picture resulting from "drastic steps" taken by the Government of national unity, the government's "over-involvement in the economy" remains an obstacle to progress. He made the statement during an afternoon press conference at the national executive offices of the Herut Zionist of America.

The statement was in response to a question regarding the encouragement of free enterprise in Israel, which is a traditional plank of the Herut party. Minister Arens responded by saying that the government must "step back from the economy" by halting such measures as price controls, fixed stock prices and fixed salaries which discourage independent business initiatives. The Likud Minister also criticized the fact that so many companies are controlled by the Histadrut, Israel's Labor party dominated "workers' union." He said that "even the Labor party is starting to realize that the government must disengage from its dominance of the nation's economy."

Hart N. Hasten, President of the Herut Zionists of America, commented that "Jewish people have achieved success through free enterprise in many places they have lived, so why shouldn't they be able to do the same thing in their homeland, Israel?" He added that "by attracting more capital investment from the United States and other countries, Israel could not only help solve her economic difficulties but also further develop crucial regions like Judea and Samaria and the Galilee." "To accomplish this however, Israel must first remove those government restrictions that now discourage such investment," Hasten said.

The Herut Zionists of America is the United States branch of the worldwide Herut movement. In Israel, the Herut party is the principal member of the Likud coalition, which is the major partner in the Government of National Unity. Founded by former Prime Minister Menachem Begin, the party is lead today by Alternate Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir, and Cabinet Ministers Moshe Arens, Ariel Sharon and David Levy.

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