

Israeli officials will meet with the mayors, explain the plan and hear their opinions, he said.

Goren said the project had been proposed by the U.S.-based Moriah drilling firm as a means to obtain water for both Jews and Arabs in Jerusalem and along the central mountain ridge. The project could pump as much as 20 million cubic metres of water a year and would cost more than \$10 million, he said. Moriah has already signed a contract with Meqorot to carry out the project.

Jordan said yesterday it would complain to the UN about the new plan.

#### AL-FAJR Denounces Water Plan

NC081705 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in Arabic 27 Jun 87 P 1

[Editorial: "A New Link in the Suffocating Chain"]

[Text] Israeli ambitions are apparently not restricted to expanding into Arab territory by confiscating land, emptying it of its population, and then filling it with settlements. They also extend to what is underneath this land.

The new Israeli plan to seize West Bank water, revealed by *The Jerusalem Post* yesterday, embodies the new policy and adds a new link to the suffocating chain that hangs around the neck of the Palestinian people in the occupied territories.

The seizure of underground Arab water and its diversion to Israel is tantamount to plundering all the elements for life and survival of the Palestinian people. In this way, the Palestinians will be turned not merely into people who have neither identity nor entity, but into people who do not possess the basic necessities of life.

The Israeli project, the details of which were outlined by the Israeli newspaper, will cause the water supply of the towns of Bethlehem, Bayt Jala, and Bayt Sahur and of the villages surrounding them to dry up, thus turning these areas into a waterless desert.

It is ironic that this Israeli plan should come at a time when Israel is professing a desire for peace and displaying a pretended intention of ending the crisis. In reality, it is creating new hotbeds of tension within the crisis and is driving it several steps backwards. By such actions it emphasizes the fact that it does not want peace, but Arab territory, above and below the ground.

We warn of the danger inherent in the new project, which contravenes the provisions of international charters and treaties. We urge the international community, represented by the United Nations, to shoulder its responsibility toward humanity by preventing the implementation of this project, which violates international law and constitutes a flagrant attack on the presence of Palestinian Arabs on their national soil.

#### Shahal Proposal on Jerusalem Electricity Endorsed

TA081133 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew  
1100 GMT 8 Jul 87

[Text] The Inner Cabinet today endorsed Minister Shahal's proposal that the conditions for the franchise given to the [East] Jerusalem Electric Company be changed. The decision was that within the next few days, the energy minister and the defense minister would present draft laws stipulating that the Israel Electricity Company will provide all the electricity services to the Jewish neighborhoods of Jerusalem, including the Jewish Quarter, the Western Wall square, and the Jewish settlements in Judaea and Samaria. The Jerusalem Electric Company will receive a 10- to 15-year franchise to supply electricity to the Arab quarters of Jerusalem only.

Our correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami notes that the debate on the new policy toward South Africa was deferred, owing to the need to adjourn the Inner Cabinet session hastily [to allow its members to vote in the Knesset debate on various draft bills].

#### Flight Agreement Signed With Egypt 8 Jul

TA080822 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew  
0800 GMT 8 Jul 87

[Text] Israel and Egypt signed a flight agreement in Jerusalem this morning. Our correspondent Menahem Friedman reports that the accord regulates flight control coordination between the two countries and between them and Kenya. The Egyptian ambassador expressed the hope that this agreement will help to bring the two countries closer to each other.

#### Additional Cairo-Amman Bank Branches To Open

TA081836 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew  
1800 GMT 8 Jul 87

[Text] The Cairo-Amman Bank plans to open another three branches in Judaea and Samaria in addition to the three that have just been opened. First to come will be the branches in Ramallah, Hebron and Janin. At the next stage, there will be branches in Jericho, Bethlehem, and Tulkarm. All of these branches have been closed since the 6-Day War. Our correspondent Steve Rodan has learned this from sources close to Jawdat Sha'Sha'ah, the manager of the bank.

#### IDF Orders East Jerusalem Theater Closed

TA081036 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew  
1000 GMT 8 Jul 87

[Text] The commander of the Central Command has ordered the East Jerusalem Nizha al-Haqawati theater closed for 12 hours. The order was issued to prevent a rally by PFLP activists. Our correspondent notes that the theater serves as a meeting place for illegal organizations and a stage for incitement. The IDF has warned that if this continues, the place will continue to be closed down whenever necessary.

FBI-NEJ-87-131