

TSOMET presents the Shamir initiative for
ELECTIONS IN THE WEST BANK AND GAZA

The Shamir election initiative for the West Bank and Gaza embodies mortal dangers of the State of Israel

It is dangerous because of what is known of it
but even more so
It is dangerous because of what is not known of it.

For once the value of the public relations stunt has been exhausted, the substantive issues will have to be addressed.

If the future of Israel is of concern to you

These are questions of you should ask yourself.

!General!

The "Election Plan" is based on the principle of giving the Palestinians living in West Bank and Gaza the opportunity choose their own representatives by means of the ballot box.

But to what body will these representatives be elected?

Will it be a collection of local and uncoordinated administrative bodies, each limited in their authority to their own immediate regional area?

Or will it be a single united body with authority extending over the whole area of the West Bank and Gaza, comprising proto-type Palestinian Parliament or an Assembly of National Representatives?

Does not the second possibility herald the birth of a Palestinian state which Mr. Shamir himself defines as a perilous to Israel's existence?

Is there any conceivable hope that a even single Palestinian will find the first possibility even remotely acceptable? Surely any offer of such limited rights will be considered by world opinion as no more than an "Israeli smoke-screen" and a transparent propaganda ploy to gain time? And would not such a shabby tactic incite the media against Israel even more than before, so that any short term public relations gain will be more than out weighed by the long term damage incurred by such a patently unacceptable offer?

!The Implications for the Status of Jerusalem !

The issue of the participation of the Arab residents of East Jerusalem will

inevitably have crucial implications on the status of the city.

If the Arab residents of the city participate in the ballot, what will be the nature and the authority of the elected body? What role and functions will it fulfill? Clearly and authority or functions delegated to the elected Palestinian body will be at the expense of those presently discharged by Israel. Thus Israel's status in Jerusalem will unavoidably diminished!!

 !Control of Road System!

There is no disputing the fact that freedom of movement for the I.D.F. (Israeli Defence Forces) on the roads of the West Bank and Gaza is a crucial component in the maintenance of security in the region - both in times of routine patrols and in times of military emergency when large scale movement of troops and equipment may be required at short notice.

Under the election plan

- (a) who would have the authority as to the laws regarding the freedom of movement on the road system in the West Bank and Gaza - the elected Palestinian body or the Israeli Army?
- (b) who would decide when vital roads are to be open or closed to traffic - and who would resolve any conflict between the needs of the Israeli Army and decision of the elected Palestinian body?
- (c) who would be responsible for the maintenance of the road system and from what budget is this maintenance to be financed? Who is to ensure that the roads will be kept in a usable condition, capable of allowing large scale movement of heavy military vehicles, in times of emergency??

 !Control of the Water Supply and the Sewerage System !

Approximately 60% of Israel's water supply is contained in geological structures (aquifers) which serve as natural underground reservoirs. These structures (Yarkon-Taninim and Coastal Aquifers) and the waters they store are affected, directly and indirectly, by civilian and ecological activity in Judea and Samaria - both as to the quantity and the quality of the water.

Excessive pumping and of uncontrolled sewerage and waste disposal is liable to cause serious depletion, salination and pollution of the aquifers. Who ever controls the water sources of the West Bank can dry up the coastal plain and the Jezriiel Valley. These fact raise some very acute questions:

- (a) Who will control these water sources, Israel of the elected Palestinian body?
- (b) Will Israel allow this Palestinian body to control the sewerage

disposal system - whose flows would inevitably stream westward towards the Coastal Aquifer and densely populated areas along the shoreline?

(c) Is it conceivable that Israel could abandon the fate of the her water supply leaving it in the control of Arab hands?

 !"The Right of Return"!

Hundreds of thousands of Palestinian refugees live in camps in Arab countries that surround Israel

(a) Who will determine the criteria which will allow for the entry of these Palestinians into the West Bank and Gaza? Israel or the elected Palestinian body?

(b) If it is the Palestinians who will determine these criteria, how can Israel prevent a flood of misery stricken refugees from taking up residence with in the West Bank and Gaza?

(c) How will Israel avoid the establishment by the refugees of huge areas of poverty, deprivation, crime and social unrest, festering on the very doorstep of Jerusalem and Coastal plain?

 !Control of the Financial and Banking System !

Under whose authority will control and inspection of banking and financial institutions be? If under the authority of the elected Palestinian body, how will Israel be able to prevent the flow of funds to hostile elements in the West Bank and Gaza? How will Israel be able to prevent these funds from being used to finance terrorist operations against her?

 !Frontier and Customs Control!

Who will be the authority that determines and administers the inspections at frontier crossings and customs controls? If it is to be the elected Palestinian body how will Israel prevent the smuggling of arms and the infiltration of men from Arab countries to hostile elements in West Bank and Gaza? Mr. Shamir, as a former clandestine operative, knows better than most, just what and who can be infiltrated secretly across borders unless stringent inspections are enforced!

 !The Fate of the Jewish Settlers !

Who will determine the fate of the Jewish settlers in the West Bank and Gaza fall? What authority will the elected Palestinian body have in regard to them? Will a grotesquely absurd situation arise in which the State of Israel creates by its own purposeful policy, a Jewish Diaspora in Eretz

Israel? Will the Ministry of Immigration send emissaries to persuade Jews to emigrate from Eretz Israel to the State of Israel?

!All of these questions have crucial implications for Israel!

If Israel is to control all these factors which are vital for the daily routine of life - the road system, the water supplies, the sewerage system, frontier and customs inspections, the banking and financial institutions, immigration laws - what authority will be left to give the elected Palestinian body? And if Israel does not control them, how can she prevent the mortal dangers implicit in abandoning them to the control of the Arabs?

!Answering Them Cannot be Evaded !
