

President Clinton, Prime Minister Rabin:

**You can ignore rabbis.
You can ignore generals.
But you can't ignore both!**

The following message represents the combined point of view of 150 leading rabbinic authorities in Israel and the United States, 150 senior career military officers on active and reserve duty in the Israel Defense Forces, and 100 retired United States senior military officers. The list of American signatories may be inspected at the offices of the World Committee for Israel. The Israeli signatories must remain confidential since they are still in active service.

The World Committee for Israel is a non-partisan association of Jews and Christians, concerned for the safety and security of the State of Israel, as a Jewish state and as a vital, strategic U.S. ally and a bastion of Western civilization and democracy, in an increasingly turbulent and uncertain Middle East. Unlike American Jewry during the Holocaust, we will not stand silent in the face of what is clearly a grievous threat to the Jews and the Land of Israel.

We believe, moreover, that it is our moral obligation to clarify, explain and communicate the nature and substance of these threats to Israeli security while there is still time to avert catastrophe.

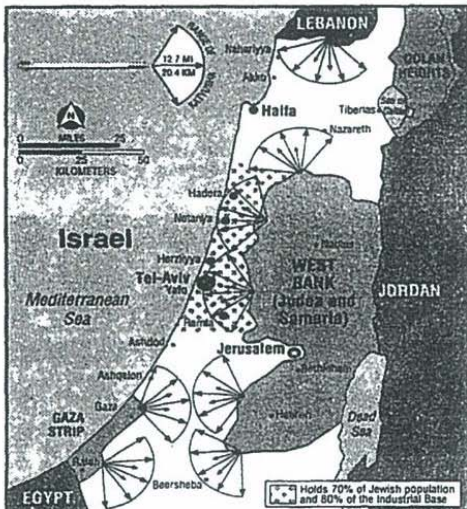
While Biblical claims to the historic Land of Israel are as valid today as they were 3,500 years ago, and while the world's moral obligation to the Jewish People remains as articulated by the League of Nations, the Balfour Declaration and the United Nations, it appears the Rabin Government has taken actions "without preparing any security alternative for future dangers." (Brig.Gen. Amatzia Chen, IDF Res., Yedioth Ahronoth 11/2/93.)

The PLO continues, by its very covenant, to be the foremost terrorist organization, committed as a matter of sacred principle, to the destruction of the Jewish State. Indeed, a leading PLO figure, Ziad Abu Ziad, just declared on Israel radio that: "Israel must not demand that the PLO alter its covenant (to destroy the Jewish State), just as the PLO does not demand that the Jewish Nation cancel the Bible."

And as Rabbi Aaron Soloveichik now states: "Our sages declare that the injunction 'Thou shalt not kill' means do not shed blood and do not become the accomplices and partners of murderers. Thus, forming a covenant with killers is in violation of this commandment."

However, even if it were possible to accept the PLO at face value — despite their covenant, despite their ongoing commitment to the economic boycott of Israel, and despite their refusal to condemn terrorist attacks against Israel ostensibly committed by 'rejectionist' Palestinian groups — the formation of a Palestinian autonomous state in Judea, Samaria and Gaza will unquestionably lead to massive loss of Jewish life and inevitably to war on a scale unprecedented in the history of the Arab-Israeli conflict for the following reasons:

1. 70% of Israel's Jewish population and 80% of her industry will be within direct range of easily concealed and transportable Katyusha rockets. (See map.)



The map above illustrates the total reach of the popular Katyusha Rocket (photo lower right) from the West Bank and Gaza to all of Israel's most densely populated areas.

An autonomous 'demilitarized' Palestinian state, off-limits to Israeli internal security personnel, will be unable (and, in all likelihood, unwilling) to prevent the infiltration and use of these lethal weapons capable of carrying both conventional and low-tech chemical warheads.

The only recourse available to Israel -- and this only after many Israeli civilians have been killed -- will be an invasion of the 'Palestinian State'. This would result inevitably in a war involving combined Arab forces, and a firestorm of sophisticated missiles which would decimate a strategically weakened Jewish State.

2. Israel would be cut off from 55% of its water supply, spelling the end of at least 50% of its agriculture, and effectively destroying the Israeli economy.

At the present time, some 55% of Israel's sweet water is either supplied or directly effected by the Western Samarian mountain aquifer which naturally feeds the Israeli coastal aquifer that serves as Israel's primary water source.

Relinquishing control of the Western Samarian mountain aquifer means this vital water will be 'peacefully' diverted by the Palestinians from Israel with disastrous consequences.

3. Relinquishing the Golan Heights will necessitate the stationing of U.S. buffer troops who will be exposed to murderous attacks from rejectionist Arab irregulars.

The American People will not accept casualties among U.S. peace-keeping forces on the Golan Heights, and rightly so. Any such deployment of U.S. Troops will begin with good intentions and end with American body bags and vehement American protest demonstrations.

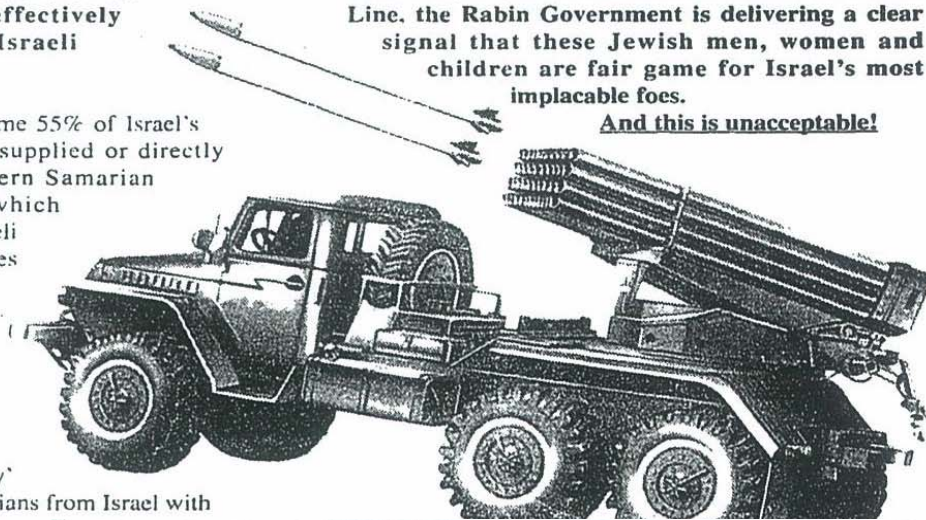
Given the difference in size, topography and location between the Sinai and the Golan, even a 'well-meaning' Syrian Government will be unable to prevent fundamentalist radical 'civilians' from attacking the relatively stationery U.S. peace keeping troops.

The geographic positions of the Israeli communities in Judea and Samaria, which are being accorded pariah status by the Rabin Government, were very carefully and strategically situated along:

- a. The Western Samarian mountain aquifer, on the N-S axis to secure this vital water source;*
- b. The Trans-Samaritan Highway on the E-W axis which serves as the the only supply line to the Jordan River Valley-Allon Line of Defense which even Mr. Rabin claims is vital to Israeli national security;*
- c. The mountainous perimeters of Jerusalem in order to prevent Israel's eternal capital from becoming another topographically entrapped Sarajevo.*

Far from being 'obstacles to peace', these heroic Israeli citizens represent Israel's only bulwark against annihilation. To abandon these patriots and the land they protect, is at best based on wishful thinking, and at worst a combined act of extreme recklessness and national suicide. By differentiating these Israeli citizens from those within the Green Line, the Rabin Government is delivering a clear signal that these Jewish men, women and children are fair game for Israel's most implacable foes.

And this is unacceptable!



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