

Picture this...

It is 2:45 a.m... Tuesday morning in Israel...

The streets of Judea and Samaria are nearly deserted. Yesha seems asleep and quiet...

...Except in the District Coordinating Offices and the IDF War Rooms in Yesha, which are in near chaos.

After twenty minutes of confusion and conflicting information, they have just received 100% confirmation from the Security Room in the Prime Minister's office that forty mechanized armor vehicle platoons have been deployed from Palestinian Force-17 and National Security bases in all Palestinian cities.

They are headed for the yishuvim.

The deployment was launched after a senior U.S. administration official whispered to his Palestinian counterpart that "... the United States would not at this time look with favor upon an Israeli action unfriendly to Palestinian declaration of statehood..." Your community is a probable target.

The security coordinator or *ravshatz* of your yishuv has just been notified.

He has been told he has twenty minutes before three Palestinian BRDM2 armored vehicles each carrying 4 commandos knock down the yellow sliding gate of your yishuv, to be followed by crowds of rioters and gunmen...

...Twenty minutes to decide whether to awaken his rapid response team or accept the IDF and Yesha Council recommendation to prepare your yishuv for evacuation.

Either way many of your neighbors will be killed.

And the *ravshatz* is utterly powerless to do anything to prevent a large-scale attack on your yishuv.

And he knows it better than anyone.

He knows that your yishuv has no antitank weapons and is totally unable to stop any armored vehicles once they smash through the gates.

Any armored PA attack cannot be stopped with Yesha's current capabilities once the vehicles enter the yishuv. Period.

Simply put, your yishuv is totally helpless against a Palestinian first strike.



Dear Fellow Yeshan or Friend of Israel:

This grim scenario illustrates a deadly flaw in Yesha's strategic policy.

Our yishuvim are totally vulnerable.

We have no means of defending ourselves against a Palestinian first strike.

If we ever were attacked, the only action we could take would be to evacuate. Even a limited attack on a few yishuvim with a few hundred deaths could bring total demoralization and lead to the collapse of Yesha.

Despite the signing of the Oslo peace accords in 1993, the Palestinians never abandoned their vow to destroy Israel. Ever since then, they have been focused on a campaign of random murder to demoralize us and wear down our will to continue living in and defending Yesha.

Likewise, Israel's pro-eviction governments have manipulated our wishful thinking to deepen our confusion. Our indecision is meant to clear the way for the final attack to bring about the swift, irrevocable collapse of Yesha.

Today, this race to abandon Yesha threatens the very existence of Israel.

According to IDF officials, Palestinian weapon smuggling has reached "catastrophic proportions." They train with those weapons as you read these words.

This preparation for Palestinian statehood maintains Yeshan paralysis as its status quo. It dictates acquiescence in Palestinian first strike preparations as Israeli policy regardless of which political party the Prime Minister belongs to.

Thus the build-up continues, and Palestinian statehood with the threat of a first strike against the yishuvim draws ever closer.

This moment-to-moment threat of attack must end. You and I, and everyone we know, want to escape this terrible threat of abandonment.

That is why I am writing to ask for your support of the Yesha Defense Initiative concept of a 3-way defense against Palestinian first strike capabilities.

It is also why I have included a special questionnaire in the back of this Briefing Book for you to complete and return to me immediately.

Yesha has the capacity right now to build an effective shield against 90-95% of Palestinian capabilities to attack Yesha in an all-out first strike.

If you agree with the Yesha Defense Initiative concept, you are not alone.

Feedback received by the Nachaliel Office for Yesha shows a majority of Yeshans would back the construction of a defense system against Palestinian first strike.

This issue crosses political lines. It is one on which leftists and rightists can agree. For it affects each one of us, and our children and their children.

The Yesha Defense Initiative's problem is that politicians of all parties do not yet understand what we - the people - want.

I am asking you to help them face the true public sentiment in this country on this issue which represents the literal survival of our country and Jews all over the world.

That's why I need your completed questionnaire returned to me as soon as possible. Please do that today while it's fresh in your mind. Second, I hope you can also support the Yesha Defense Initiative with a contribution.

We need your contributions to pay for mailing this Briefing Book to millions of Jews and friends of Israel and we need your completed survey to present to leading politicians of all political parties.

Major contributions are urgently needed. But if you can afford to send only \$1,000, \$100, \$50, or \$25, please do so now.

Your contributions to the Nachaliel Office for Yesha and your survey will be used to help us convince Knesset and the Prime Minister that you want "freedom from fear," and insist that something be done and done now to protect us from Palestinian attack, and get us off the threat of abandonment.

Please join us and thousands of your fellow Yeshans in our all-out war to eliminate forever the awful threat of a Palestinian first strike destroying Yesha.

Thank you,

Mordechai Sones
Executive Director

THE PALESTINIAN ARMOR THREAT

"The Palestinian police will possess...up to 45 wheeled armored vehicles of a type to be agreed between the two sides (Israel and PA)...The use of wheeled armored vehicles...in the vicinity of the Settlements shall be approved through the relevant DCO."

-Oslo Accords, Annex I, Article III, para. 5a3

The Palestinian first strike capability is a strategy developed in the early stages of the Middle East peace process. It is preceded by a long period of demonization, misery, and random murder, intended to wear down our will to continue living in and defending Yesha.

The strategy assumes that mere terrorism is insufficient because there are about 30 or 40 yishuvim that are likely to be recalcitrant and hold on despite the various forms of harassment that terrorism involves.

For Palestinian statehood to be a *fait accompli* will require the sudden collapse of a select number of vital yishuvim. This can only be achieved in a coordinated overnight first strike involving both advancing PA and retreating IDF units.

Therefore, Yeshan security has been specifically designed in a way that will be vulnerable to a certain type of key that is not immediately perceptible to Yeshans encountering them. Thus, the gates and armaments of Yesha (and in general the entire security apparatus) have been designed, selected, and controlled universally to be uniquely vulnerable to a specific tool that has been then semi-secretly given to the PA – armored vehicles.

Armored vehicles are a particular threat to the yishuvim because they can easily smash their way through yishuv gates. The armored vehicles could roam within the yishuvim because the IDF has withheld anti-armor weapons from yishuv stockpiles. The IDF also appears to be withholding information about Arab armored vehicles in Yesha.

The PA did not secretly conspire to come up with a force of armored vehicles. It was given to them at Oslo. The yishuv gates were built a certain way and certain weapons are denied to the yishuvim. For example, there exist 7.62mm armor-piercing rounds that could penetrate through PA armored vehicles, but there is no such armor-piercing ammunition in the

yishuvim, and even the 7.62 weapons that have been selected for the yishuvim jam up almost universally. So in every stage Yesha's defenses have been picked to set up a back-door option for their easy removal.



BRDM2 with Insignia of The Palestinian Authority. The IDF continues to deny the existence of armored vehicles in Ramallah.

The eviction and attack plans on yishuvim have one key vulnerability, however: the complex plans to abandon/evict Yesha's Jews depend on secrecy to succeed.

If the yishuvim prepare to conduct an effective self-defense and stay alert for a sudden IDF abandonment, such a collapse can be prevented. The PA would then be forced to mount a sustained attack against a determined defense.

• • •

YAMIT + LEBANON = YESHA ?

The lesson is clear. So long as there remains a tacit agreement between the super-powers to cooperate in preventing overt conflicts which threaten international peace and security, a nation using open force to resolve a political problem must do so rapidly, if it is to succeed at all. Once it has succeeded, the reluctance of the Great Powers to countenance a second conflict means that it is likely to preserve its gains. The lesson is a somber one, placing as it does a premium on adventurism and pre-emption.

-Institute for Strategic Studies Adelphi Papers on the 1967 war

SHARON'S OUTPOST STRATEGY – DÉJÀ VU:

After the Wye Summit, Ariel Sharon announced that yishuv residents should **“seize the high ground”** around the yishuvim to **“create facts on the ground”** which he claimed would determine the boundaries of Israeli sovereignty in the final status stage.

Sharon's advice inspired the Yeshans. They toiled to create outposts. But now, the outposts are producing a practical effect different than the Yeshans intended: by evicting these vulnerable outposts one by one, Sharon may be creating the psychological momentum to facilitate large scale evictions in Yesha in the future.

IT WASN'T WEDDINGS AFTER ALL...

During the Netanyahu-Sharon administration, Jews throughout different parts of Yesha frequently reported Arab gunfire, especially at night, to local IDF officials, but the officials claimed that the gunfire was caused by “weddings,” not night attack training.

The IDF officials were not alone in the “weddings” claim. Responding to complaints from Yesha, even the Prime Minister's office claimed in a letter that “shooting...was done at the time of weddings that took place in the area...” The letter came the very same week that the Prime Minister and Sharon were carving away further slices of Yesha together at the Wye Plantation.

It was only when residents from approximately 40 yishuvim discussed Arab attack preparations that they realized that the IDF officers throughout Yesha were making the same official claim of “weddings” as well.

Then, the Israeli HaAretz newspaper broke a story entitled “Palestinians Training Forces to Break Into Settlements and Hold Positions.”¹



Pictures from the Wedding: Eight-year-old girl training in assembly of Kalatchnikov rifle.

HaAretz's report about PA training to attack yishuvim was valuable because it again disproved the earlier IDF “wedding” claims. The false claims helped keep Yeshans in the dark about PA attack preparations.²

IDF PRACTICED THE ART OF SURPRISE ABANDONMENT BEFORE - IN LEBANON:

The state of mind that would lead certain IDF officers to deceive Jews into thinking night attack training was only weddings is inconceivable to most Jews and friends of Israel. Despite the evidence, it was hard to believe that the IDF would facilitate a surprise PA attack. Given the ingrained trust of Yeshans for the IDF, many Yeshans still prefer to believe IDF claims instead of their own eyes and ears.

Then came the discovery that a handful of IDF officers had arranged a similar surprise for the South Lebanese Army (SLA). On the night of May 22, 2000, one hour before midnight...

“...the SLA was still in possession of all its arms and equipment, and the 2,500-man force remained intact...A soldier named Roni, with six years experience in the SLA, related that on ‘Monday night at eleven o’clock we got a call from the Israelis [IDF

¹ 1 June 1998. The article is subtitled: “Estimate in Israel: Military Conflict Expected Only with Declaration of Palestinian State”

² Night attack requires more training than day attack, because it involves the rehearsal of troops advancing close up to their objective without being detected, climaxing in a sudden rush of gunfire. The key advantage of night attack over day attack is the element of surprise.

counterparts] telling us that Hizballah is approaching and telling us to leave.”³

The simultaneous IDF abandonment and Hizballah advance both achieved the element of surprise, inflicting a double shock on the SLA. By dawn, the SLA collapsed.

CERTAIN IDF OFFICERS KEPT THE REST IN THE DARK:

The IDF plans to withdraw and the Hizballah advance had both been kept covert. The IDF even skipped its normal withdrawal preparations to avoid tipping off the SLA, preferring to abandon armored vehicles, artillery, computers, and communication equipment to the advancing Hizballah.

Had the Israeli government not feared a potential SLA decision to fight the Hizballah, the abandonment of millions of dollars worth of IDF equipment intact to terrorists would not have been necessary.

Apparently, most IDF officers were also kept in the dark until the last possible moment so they would not be able to tip off their SLA counterparts.

The willingness of the IDF to abandon all that equipment to keep its plans secret from its own officers is powerful evidence indicating how brittle such a policy would have been if people opposed to betrayal would have organized to forestall it.

THE IDF CALL CAME: “HIZBALLAH IS COMING; YOU’VE GOT TO GO.”

Eighteen years of defending Israel’s northern frontier together left strong bonds of trust between IDF and SLA officers. That night, a handful of IDF officers used that trust to issue orders for the SLA not to resist, paralyzing it.

SLA officers later realized that even on their own they still had the firepower and the organization to handily repulse the Hizballah advance...

“...Another SLA soldier said, ‘We could have stopped them with our weapons,’ but the IDF did not shoot and would not allow the SLA to shoot, either.”⁴

On the day preceding the betrayal, the Israeli officers also deprived the SLA of its key resource for early warning...

“...On Monday, May 22, Israeli officers told SLA secret-intelligence-services personnel in south Lebanon to leave...”⁵

If the Lebanese commanders had placed more emphasis on such early warning indicators, they may have realized that a sudden abandonment was imminent. They could have used the remaining hours of May 22 to prepare their defenses. Barak’s midnight abandonment would have been rendered unfeasible.

By repulsing the Hizballah advance, the SLA would have suddenly created the issue in Israel whether to follow through with the abandonment. With every additional hour or day the SLA held on, Jews and friends of Israel would have more time to rally and reverse the abandonment before it had become a *fait accompli*.

But instead, on that night, *they followed orders and fled*. It then became “every man for himself - head for the borders” – dispersing the SLA for good.

But Lebanon was not the first time Israel used trust to produce the paralysis and surprise needed to accomplish a betrayal effectively.

DÉJÀ VU: SHARON’S OUTPOST STRATEGY – FROM YAMIT TO YESHA:

After the Israeli government decided in June of 1981 to evict the Sinai Yishuvim, Prime Minister Begin “offered the Defense Ministry to Moshe Arens, but he refused to accept it because of his opposition to uprooting yishuvim.”⁶ Moshe Arens’ principled refusal in fact turned out to be a stroke of luck for the pro-eviction circle in government, because, instead of Arens, they found a Defense Minister skilled in the military art of surprise attack, willing to accept the messy mission of evicting Yamit - Ariel Sharon.

With Sharon’s acceptance of this mission, the plans to weaken, paralyze, and evict the 17 Yamit yishuvim began.

Sharon was familiar with the settlements and the settlers because he had earlier “**initiated the establishment of tiny outposts in the front lines of the Sinai to prevent a withdrawal from there.**”⁷ The Sinai settlers knew Sharon as someone who intimately understood the years of work and danger they had invested in the yishuvim. Understandably, they assumed he was one leader least likely to betray them. Thus they did not prepare to oppose the evictions...

³ *The Jerusalem Post*, May 26, 2000.

⁴ Mordechai Nisan, “Did Israel Betray Its Lebanese Allies?” *Middle East Quarterly*, December, 2000

⁵ *ibid.*

⁶ Chagai Segal, *Yamit, Over and Out*, pp.43.

⁷ *ibid.*

“...Does anyone really believe that Arik Sharon – of all people – really means to evict? And Rafal [Rafael Eitan], as the head of the Army, he’ll already find some trick. After all, he’s ‘with us.’ We’ve got to explain, we’ve got to protest, we’ve got to strengthen the hand of the government, but a withdrawal there won’t be. Begin and Arik won’t let the disaster happen. After all, they think like us.”⁸

SECRET UNITS TO EVICT YESHANS CREATED AFTER YAMIT:

“In Yamit...the image of Jewish soldiers swinging rifle butts at religious demonstrators on Israeli television traumatized the nation.”⁹

Having seen that the IDF eviction of 17 Yamit yishuvim “traumatized the nation,” steps had to be taken to create additional capabilities for possible future major evictions without having the IDF brutalize Israelis on television.

Sharon, an expert in commando attack operations, may have come to similar conclusions. He was already cognizant that evictions of Jews from Yesha will also be necessary for the implementation of the Camp David Accords.

This is where the Oslo Accords came in, authorizing the PA “...the use of wheeled armored vehicles...in the vicinity of the Settlements ...”¹⁰ with the capability to buckle yishuv gates and drive easily past the Yeshan defenders, none of whom has yet been issued an anti-tank weapon. No outcry occurred against the 45 armored vehicles allowed by Oslo, and evidence indicates that approximately 80 additional armored personnel carriers may have been added to the PA inventory.

SHARON’S YAMIT + KAPLINSKY’S LEBANON = YESHA 2005

Experts in commando operations note that specialized units and armor vehicles plunging through yishuv gates in the dark of night with the element of surprise could preempt the messy civil disobedience that occurred at Yamit and bring the eviction of Yesha to a swift and irreversible conclusion.

To ensure the element of surprise is preserved, it is possible that plans to suddenly abandon Yesha would also be entrusted only to a similar handful of IDF officers, as in Lebanon. The success of this inner

circle is far from assured. It will depend on keeping the Yeshans and most IDF officers ignorant or at least paralyzed on the night of abandonment.

The yishuvim have not yet adopted meaningful countermeasures because most Yeshans are not yet conscious of the danger of a first strike, possibly combined with a sudden evacuation order. Thanks to the false IDF “wedding” claims and other official disinformation, a sudden Arab attack against yishuvim would still have the shock of surprise.

Although the IDF often promises weapons to be made available to the Yeshans once a PA onslaught is imminent, the order to release and distribute such weapons would depend on an Israeli cabinet decision.

A PA first strike’s chances of success would increase if a handful of IDF officers issued orders to the yishuv security coordinators (*ravshatzim*) not to resist, but to evacuate. Such orders would have to come from the top, of course, i.e. Sharon himself.

Is Sharon preparing to give such orders? One important clue stands out. He has assigned the same IDF general who carried out the surprise abandonment of Lebanon to be the OC Central Command, with Yesha under his jurisdiction, Gen. Moshe Kaplinsky. The perpetrator of Yamit is now working together with the perpetrator of Southern Lebanon. Yesha is apparently their target.

This is not to say that the eviction of Yesha was Sharon’s *personal* agenda, rather it was already implicit in the specific language that Menachem Begin signed at Camp David, specifying for the first time in history that “Palestine People” would henceforth be “Palestinian Arabs,” thus setting the basis for evicting Palestinian Jews.

NOT ALL LEFTISTS SEEK TO ERASE JEWISH HISTORY; NOT ALL RIGHTISTS SEEK TO PRESERVE IT:

The majority of IDF officers who have studied Israel’s strategic defenses recognize the Yeshan high ground as vital. Yet a decorated IDF general, like Barak, attempted to give away 98% of Yesha in exchange for a signature of dubious value. How can one explain this strategically suicidal behavior on his part?

He may be part of a segment of Israel’s policy elite that hides behind the ideologies of “Right” and “Left.” What this segment actually pursues is the goal of abandoning Yesha to an Arab Palestinian state. By speaking in the name of the majority of Israelis who support peace, this tiny minority manages to keep a grip on our government and media that would be impossible to hold if their covert agenda was exposed.

⁸ *Ibid.* Written by Psychologist Avia Luz, member of the Movement to Stop the Withdrawal.

⁹ Robert Friedman, *Zealots for Zion*, pp. 141.

¹⁰ Annex I, Article III, para. 5a3

Apparently, Sharon may have become part of this small but influential segment of Jews pressing for the abandonment of Yesha. Struggling to understand this segment, let us spell out that most secular non-religious Jews see Jewish history as a valuable tradition, but among them is a small element engaged in a campaign to erase this tradition.

Members of this segment were behind the “secular revolution.” Some commentators have referred to this as “self-hatred,” but “irritation with a Covenant” may be more accurate. For 3,200 years, there often have been Jews possessing a desire to reject a Covenant that they see as an irritating burden rather than a unique blessing.

The presence of Jews in Biblical Israel (Yesha) is a living, breathing embodiment of this Covenant.

In today’s secular culture, the secular segment has metastasized in Israel as well as abroad. For them, the Covenant is no longer merely an irritation, but intolerable. The intolerance is such that they are willing to blindly sacrifice Israel’s strategic viability and cultural heartland. To get rid of Biblical Israel and its Yeshans, they make concessions to Arabs whose commitment to Israel’s elimination is so deep that it is impervious to appeasement.

That is why, from the very beginning, this “anti-Covenant” segment of our government, military, and cultural elite tried to block, hinder, and discourage settlements in Yesha. But the settlements have persisted and held. The more yishuvim hold, the more Israel’s elite is aggravated with this intolerable irritant, going to ever-greater convoluted means to be rid of them.

Sharon’s recent gratuitous concessions to the Arabs may be another indicator that he has become a member of this dangerous segment.

Sharon, like Barak and Netanyahu before him, is expending diplomatic and military energy to make a policy of abandonment look like a “peace process.” Therefore, significant numbers of people still cling to the idea of a peace process, which is merely a mask for the abandonment process hidden behind it. Once they understand that a betrayal and not a peace process is taking place, they would turn against it.

CAN WE NEUTRALIZE THE THREAT OF EVICTION?

Abandoning or evicting people who are armed depends upon wearing them down, and then suddenly collapsing them in a surprise attack. If the first

strike/eviction against yishuvim is not a *fait accompli* within a day or two, Yeshans still wavering whether to evacuate may begin finding the courage to resist.

If the Yeshans do not summon the courage to take effective countermeasures against eviction, they will have acquiesced in their own betrayal by default.

And in the eyes of the world we will have forfeited the moral right to our homes and our land.

Because the hills on which our homes sit are the strategic backbone of Israel, our obligation to defend them goes beyond our obligation to protect our property from theft. The survival of Israel itself is at stake.

Despite official attempts to confiscate and limit the weapons and ammunition available to yishuvim, each yishuv still has more weapons, ammunition, and trained personnel on hand than was available for the heroes of the Warsaw ghetto uprising.

In the historical sense, it was their heroism that placed these resources in our hands, and it would be immoral for us to squander them in paralysis when Israel’s own survival is at stake.

But by exposing the covert eviction preparations, we can diminish the political support for the abandonment of Yesha and eliminate the element of surprise.

If we adopt effective countermeasures, we can neutralize the threat of eviction.

● ● ●

WHY A YESHA DEFENSE INITIATIVE?

"...We opened up softening fire round the gate and the buildings commanding it. Then I ordered one vehicle to storm the gate and to enter the farmyard. The armored vehicle collided with the gate, pushed it aside, and entered the farmyard but it was greeted with Molotov cocktails and heavy fire and was forced to retreat. We continued to give covering fire and then another vehicle succeeded in forcing its way into the farmyard."

-Lieutenant Nasri Effendi, Officer in Command of the Arab Legion's armored platoon attack on Gush Etzyon – 13 May, 1948

"The anti-tank weapons did not operate at the decisive moment...The Molotov cocktails missed their mark. The wire of the electric mine laid by the gate was cut by a shell. The tanks are already in the middle of the farmyard."

"The men...kept up steady fire at the gate, which the armored vehicles now succeeded in negotiating. In their wake came the Arab gangs and a number of soldiers who occupied the first building. All around on the slope we could see a huge rabble cheering and descending in the direction of the settlement."

"Tzipora came up, weary, covered with dust, and weeping. 'Why have we surrendered?'"

-from the accounts of the survivors of Kfar Etzion

"...In retrospect it is reasonable to assume that with more adequate fortifications, anti-vehicle obstacles, anti-tank guns – even of the lighter variety – and larger reserves of food and ammunition, the Bloc would have been able to hold out for a longer period until it could have been relieved."

-General Yig'al Allon, [The Settlement Movement as a Military Factor in the Israel War of Liberation](#)

"When I observed another group of Jews coming out with a white flag I shouted to the mob to cease fire...A little while later, however, my wireless operator got a message that a direct order had been received from the British colonel that the fellahin must be allowed to finish the Jews off."

-Lieutenant Nasri Effendi, Officer in Command of the Arab Legion's armored platoon – 13 May, 1948

For more than two decades now, the Israeli government has maintained nine policies toward yishuv security. Taken together, the nine policies present a pattern that could indicate an official policy

that would not protect the yishuvim effectively against a PA first strike assault:

1) Not a single anti-tank weapon allowed to any yishuv to stop PA armor.

2) Denial of sufficient amounts of ammunition to yishuvim. The ammunition provided to each yishuv is only enough for several minutes of combat.

3) A pattern of official suppression of information about the PA's specific first strike capabilities; e.g. armored forces, commando units, and night attack training. While occasionally publicizing information about the emerging PA threat, official and semi-official agencies such as the Yesha Council seem to avoid or evade any specific mention of first strike capability. They were generally willing to discuss large-scale shipments of small arms, heavy weapons prohibited by the agreements, and other violations by PA, but when it came to first strike capability, the official answer always seems to consist of denial, avoidance, or silence.

<u>Publicly Discussed</u>	<u>Denied, Suppressed, Ignored, or Discussed Confidentially</u>
terrorist actions and victims	covert Arab surveillance teams on yishuvim
terrorists arrested or released	night attack training around yishuvim
60,000 PA "policemen"	commando units
small arms, mortars, anti-tank weapons	armored vehicles
other miscellaneous Oslo violations	network of dirt roads for surprise attack

4) There is no means for mutual support between yishuvim: The yishuvim do not have the equipment, training, or organization to communicate with neighboring yishuvim to provide early warning and coordinate defenses. They do not possess weapons of sufficient range to mutually support each other. In the current situation, the yishuvim could be isolated and overrun piecemeal.

5) Security fences surrounding yishuvim may heighten vulnerability: The IDF has in some places erected elaborate security barriers, purportedly to improve yishuv security.

Army rules and training restrict yishuv defenders to an inner defense perimeter. This provides the Arabs with a control measure with which to deploy Arab troops on line for an assault, in addition to providing cover and concealment for attackers to trade fire with yishuv

defenders, making the barriers an indefensible trap for yishuv defenders in case of an attack.¹¹

6) **Pressuring officials** associated with Yesha Council and the civilian military liaisons (“ravshatzim”) to downplay the threat and hinder Yishuv residents from taking remedial self-defense steps on their own initiative.

7) **Ineffectual instructions to yishuv residents** from Ariel Sharon and Yesha Council officials: Ariel Sharon suggested that yishuv residents should “seize the high ground...” around the yishuvim to “create facts on the ground” to determine what the boundaries of Israeli sovereignty will be in the final status stage. Meanwhile, officials from the Yesha Council and Benjamin regional council invited yishuv residents to a briefing within the framework of the “Forum of West Benjamin Yishuvim,” at which the spokesman presented colorful charts and maps tailored for each yishuv, depicting areas of “state land” for them to seize. Thus, officials of both the Israeli government and the Yesha Council were sending yishuv residents outside of the yishuvim while denying them the means to defend what they already have. These self-defeating instructions, while doing nothing to improve Yesha's security, do have one practical effect, however: They serve to strain Yesha's overstretched defenders even further.

8) **Insistence on obsolete anti-terrorist scenario.** The scenario calls for a yishuv self-defense sufficient to overcome a small handful of terrorists holding hostages inside a yishuv. Therefore, the scenario becomes the basis to equip and train yishuv self-defense forces at a minimal level that leaves them vulnerable to the real scenario which the IDF refuses to use - an attack by PA militia and/or armor. The inappropriate IDF scenario provides a doctrinal basis to deny vital anti-tank weapons to yishuv self-defense. It also limits yishuv self defense forces to a small size and allows only a handful of small arms.

The IDF's insistence on the obsolete scenario makes no sense in terms of actual PA military capabilities but it

makes sense if the intention is to keep yishuvim vulnerable. So far, the apparent deception has succeeded because the public is not experienced at analyzing scenarios and has found it easier to give Sharon and the IDF the benefit of the doubt.

9) **The transformation of the IDF into a gendarme force.** By denying the yishuvim the equipment, training, and resources to defend themselves, Israel has put the bulk of the responsibility on the IDF. This dictates tactics, leadership, equipment, and organization that sap the IDF's morale and resources, undermining its ability to deter or defeat invasion by foreign armies.

The erosion in morale and resources resulting from this situation is likely to cost lives if Israel goes to war. This approach may have turned otherwise patriotic officers against yishuvim, which they now see as a strategic liability. This is particularly ironic, because if the yishuvim were empowered to defend themselves, they would be a strategic asset - helping to protect the IDF's back in its mission of holding the Jordan Valley line. Unfortunately, this approach has sewn hostility between the IDF and the residents of Yesha, instead of allowing them to function as a strategic team to protect the nation.

● ● ●

¹¹ The barriers provided by the IDF could reveal a similar mindset within the security establishment as existed prior to the breakdown of the Yom Kippur War, when the Bar Lev line was meant to provide both early warning and protection against an enemy assault. The Great Wall of China, the Maginot Line, and the Bar Lev Line all served mostly to comfort the threatened, providing little security in face of an assault. All three fell to the very threat they had been designed to prevent.

The key factors affecting yishuv survival are the weapons, training, and organization to withstand an assault; the food, fuel, and ammunition to outlast a siege; plus an organized system to provide early warning for when an assault would take place.

HOW THE DEFENSE SYSTEM WORKS

“...Degania bore the brunt of the Syrian attack...Syrian troops sought to destroy it and open the route to Galilee and the Valley of Jezreel. The turning point came on the 18th May 1948. The battle raged three full days following the fall of nearby Tzemach. Syrian tanks tried to overrun the settlement and one penetrated the perimeter. But they were halted by members of the kibbutz equipped with small arms and Molotov cocktails.”

-plaque at Kibbutz Degania

The defense system proposed by the Nachaliel Office for Yesha calls for a triple-layered defense to be added to Yesha's rapid response team's capabilities, and actually consists of three separate elements deployed in sequential zones.

In short, this is how the system works:

The first element is an Early Warning system. This is provided by a network of trained observers, each of which is equipped with communication and optical equipment that makes them capable of warning Yesha's rapid response teams when a first strike is imminent. This first element is capable of ruining the shock of surprise and therefore makes the Palestinians less confident about committing to a first strike in the first place.

The second level of Yesha defense utilizes the early warning of the first element. A network of interceptor vehicles, each of which carries and can deploy barriers that are capable of blocking, disabling, or destroying enemy armored vehicles **before they reach the yishuv**, provides this defense.

The third component of the system is a yishuv defense system that is designed to destroy armored and other forces that manage to escape the second level.

The entire system is entirely defensive in nature, with no attack capability whatsoever.

It will not take the life of a single non-combatant. What it can do is save the lives of thousands of Yeshans, as well as Israelis throughout the country, indeed Jews throughout the entire world.

The Yesha Defense Initiative system is designed to increase Yesha's ability to survive and respond to a Palestinian first strike, and thus acts as the strongest possible deterrent to one.

Individually, each component of the system in itself offers tremendously increased deterrence. Taken as a whole, however, the system provides a deterrent to first strike planners that can **neutralize the threat of eviction of Yesha**.

An important fact to remember, however, is that the early warning, interceptors, and yishuv defense systems are not easily separated. To install the yishuv defense without initiating the early warning and interceptors would buy very little time, before the Palestinians came up with a way to overwhelm the yishuv defense system. Nachaliel Office for Yesha's experts have determined that all three systems are interdependent on one another for maximum effectiveness.

It must be stated that there is no such thing as a perfect defense. The purpose of any defensive system is to delay, deter, and make more difficult an enemy's assault.

If we continue to do nothing in the face of the Palestinian's incredible first strike arsenal, they will grow more and more assured that they can render futile any Yeshan rapid response team's attempt at defending their yishuv.

That certainly will only make them more and more likely to consider such an attack.

If, on the other hand, the Yesha Defense Initiative is implemented, the Palestinians can no longer be even remotely comfortable with the predicted effectiveness and destructiveness of a first strike.

That certainly can only make them far more hesitant even to consider such a strike.

KNOCKING OUT ARMORED VEHICLES

The Yesha Defense Initiative utilizes effective techniques that have been developed for poorly armed defenders to defeat an armored vehicle attack with the resources available to them.

600 Hungarian army deserters together with 13-14 year olds destroyed two Soviet armored divisions this way - 150 armored vehicles each.

In Chechnya, 62 Russian tanks were destroyed using these anti-tank killer teams in the first month of fighting there (December 1994).

These techniques are:

Organize your rapid-response team into anti-tank killer teams, which include:

1. **Five anti-tank firebombers**: Five men rushing an armored vehicle are less likely to be hit than 1 or 2 men, and there will be confusion who to shoot, causing them to shoot at the crowd and miss all;
2. **Machine gunner**;
3. **Sniper**;
4. **Additional personnel** will be needed to serve as ammunition and firebomb bearers and as assistant gunners.

Select anti-armor ambush areas in sections of the yishuv where buildings restrict and canalize the movement of armored vehicles.

Lay out the ambush in order to seal off vehicles inside your pre-selected kill zone. Try to maneuver vehicle columns into streets where destruction of the first and last vehicles will trap the column and allow its total destruction.

First slow or stop the vehicle in your preplanned kill zone, such as by dropping in front of it an obstacle, fake mine, tree, burning tires, or even a modest barricade;

Then, with firebombs ready to go, use multiple firebomber teams of 5 to engage armored vehicles from basements, ground level and from second- or third-floor positions.

Engage each target simultaneously with five or six firebombs, rushing crisscross to another hidden or covered location if that can be coordinated. People should not be slowed down by turning around.

Aim for center of mass when trying to kill these vehicles – there is no point in a firebomber aiming for a particular little section of an armored vehicle if that will increase likelihood of missing altogether;

Have several waves of bottles ready; keep the flame going until it incinerates.

Meanwhile, the **sniper** and **machine gunner** should pin down any supporting infantry as the anti-tank firebombers engage the armored vehicles.

Remember – armored vehicles are complicated and vulnerable systems. Just because you are a rifleman doesn't mean you can't seriously hurt that tank. Here is a list of vulnerable things to shoot, thus degrading the combat effectiveness of the vehicle:

- **External lights**: Headlights, tail lights, spotlights, and infrared spotlights – all vulnerable to rifle fire;
- **Tires on wheeled APC's**: Shoot these and you can cause the vehicle to run slower and with less control. Tires also burn well.
- **Antennae**: Shoot these off for obvious reasons;

- **Armor-glass periscopes:** Shoot these out and the crew will have to expose their heads to see and fight; then you eliminate them;
- **Externally mounted fuel tanks:** Sometimes in drum form on the rear, sometimes rectangular mounted on the rear side fenders. Don't expect big flaming explosions like in movies – most of these tank engines are diesel;
- **Spare ammunition stored externally:** Mainly MG ammunition, sometimes missiles;
- **External laser range finders:** Older vehicles are often upgraded with these, since there's no room inside. Very vulnerable to small arms fire;
- **Smoke dischargers:** Usually not bullet proof. Keeps them from deploying protective smoke screen;

Engage armored targets from the top, rear and sides. Shots against frontal armor only serve to expose the gunner. If you can place a sniper in second- or third-floor level positions, engage accompanying air-defense guns first.

BTR-152

The Soviet BTR-152 armored troop carrier was produced from 1950 to 1960, and has appeared in many variants and seen action on many fronts, including the Middle East and Afghanistan. The BTR-152 in Palestinian hands has a mount for the 12.7mm D.Sh.K. heavy machine gun. It has a 6x6 wheel drive configuration. It can hold 2 crew members (driver + commander) and 17 fighters. The BTR-152 is equipped with night vision equipment for the driver. It weighs 8950 kg and can travel at a speed of 75 km/h. It's power-to-weight ratio is 12.29 hp/100kg making it capable of taking down the gates of any yishuv.



BRDM2

The BRDM-2 is a fully armored, four-wheel-drive, amphibious reconnaissance vehicle. It has two-pairs of belly wheels and a centralized tire pressure regulation system for increased cross-country capability. The BRDM-2 has a box-like hull with a boat-shaped bow. The engine is mounted in the vehicle rear and there is a small conical turret mounted on the hull above the belly wheels.

The driver sits at the front of the hull on the left with the vehicle commander to his right. To enter the vehicle, the crew must climb through two roof hatches. The hull, which is constructed of welded steel, provides the crew with protection from small arms and shell splinters. The turret, which is very similar to that of the BTR-60PB and Czechoslovak OT-64, is located in the center of the vehicle and is armed with a 14.5-mm KPV or 7.62mm PKT machine gun. On either side of the hull adjacent to the crew position, there is a firing port. Immediately behind the firing port are three vision blocks that protrude from the outside of the hull, giving some vision to the front and rear of the vehicle. The belly-wheels are chain driven and are lowered by the driver and give the BRDM-2 improved cross-country performance and the ability to cross ditches. The driver can adjust the tire pressure on all four tires or individual tires while the vehicle is in motion to adjust to the



ground conditions. The BRDM-2 is fully amphibious. It is propelled in the water by a single water jet at the rear of the hull. The vehicle has an over-pressure NBC system. The BRDM-2 is equipped with infrared driving and searchlights, a radio and an inertial land navigation system. At the front of the vehicle is a winch that has 30m of cable and has a maximum load of 4000-kg.

Other armored vehicles residents should learn to recognize because the PA army may have them already or can easily get them from countries supporting the PA, such as Egypt or others:

Tracked vehicles or Half-tracks: White M2 Half-track; BTR-50, PT-76, BMP

Wheeled armored personnel carriers: BTR-60, OT-62.

CONCLUSION

Sharon appears to have adopted the nine policies, but has chosen to emphasize one: dividing yishuvim against each other. By declaring some yishuvim to be “safe,” but abandoning others, the “safe” yishuvim can be lulled into turning their backs on the abandoned ones. This approach is designed to prevent what the government fears most: the yishuvim uniting behind a resolution to draw the line for Yesha’s future.

A suggested draft of such a resolution follows. It will enable us to politically and morally pressure our elected representatives and government to strengthen the besieged communities of Yesha. By endorsing it with the enclosed questionnaire, Yesha residents can begin the process of rectifying Israeli policy. With every name we win over to it, with every yishuv that unites behind it, we can increase the likelihood that Yesha will survive and fulfill the role for which it is destined:

KNESSET RESOLUTION

Calling upon the Government of the State of Israel for the abolition of the Palestinian Authority and its replacement with an administration that represents the residents of Yesha loyal to Israel:

Whereas Judea and Samaria are vital to the defense of Israel’s eastern border;

Whereas in the modern missile age, Judea and Samaria’s unique topography and size provide Israel valuable survivability as hill country is far more resistant to NBC contamination;

Whereas water is a strategic resource for Israel, even in an era of peace;

Whereas whoever controls Judea and Samaria controls the mountain aquifer, Israel’s principal source of high-grade drinking water;

Whereas Palestinian military bases in close proximity to Israeli cities would present an unacceptable threat to Israel’s civilian, economic, and military infrastructures;

Whereas Palestinian nationalism is the first national movement in world history conceived for the express purpose to serve as an instrument for the genocide of an existing nation and represents a dangerous and unacceptable development in Islamic expansionism and Arab ultranationalism;

Whereas the struggle against said expansion can succeed if those of us who are dedicated to peace come to its support;

Whereas according to responsible IDF officials, the cost of abolishing the Palestinian Authority is projected to be hundreds of IDF soldiers and thousands of civilian lives, mostly Arab;

Whereas the flow of arms and money to the Palestinian Authority, increased training, and growing international sympathy may increase the cost of abolishing it with every day Israel allows it to fester on her sovereign soil;

Whereas the idea of any concessions to the Palestinian Authority is likely to increase the aforementioned cost in human lives, and would therefore be immoral and unacceptable;

Whereas the Palestinian Authority has brutalized Arabs living within the areas where the government of Israel has allowed them to control and also in places outside these areas;

Whereas for fifteen years the Jews of Yesha have withstood violent campaigns by Arabs and an international campaign to discredit them yet have nevertheless gained the admiration of Jews and friends of Israel the world over with their courageous sacrifice, bravery, and determination;

Whereas many individuals and private organizations all over the world have already sent substantial aid to the Jews of Yesha;

Whereas Yesha, all of Yesha, is an indispensable prerequisite to Israel's survival and future, in virtually every way such as can be measured, including military, cultural, spiritual, economic, and political;

Whereas to entrap any Jewish community within any form of Palestinian sovereign entity, by disarming and abandoning them would amount to an indefensible policy of deception and betrayal: Now, therefore be it

Resolved by the Knesset, that it should be the policy of the State of Israel:

1. to recognize and salute the courage of Jews and Arabs of Yesha who have lost their lives out of loyalty to Israel opposing Palestinian Authority corruption and oppression;
2. to encourage and support the Jewish people of Yesha in their struggle to resist Islamic or Arab domination;
3. to provide the Jewish people of Yesha, if they so request, with material assistance, as the State of Israel considers appropriate, to help them protect themselves effectively against attack; and
4. to pursue a settlement of the war in Yesha, based on the abolition of the Palestinian Authority and the recognition of the inalienable right of the Jewish people in Yesha to choose their own destiny free from fear of attack or eviction, so that the quarter million Yeshan Jews can continue their lives in safety and honor.

YESHA DEFENSE INITIATIVE BRIEFING BOOK – QUESTIONNAIRE

This is Your Personal and Private QUESTIONNAIRE

It is part of a survey that will be compiled for presentation to the Prime Minister and Knesset.

Your name will NEVER BE SHARED without your permission in writing.

Please take a moment now and answer all following questions:

1. Do you consider yourself to be a
 - a. Leftist
 - b. Centrist
 - c. Rightist
2. Are you concerned that regardless of where you may live in Yesha, you are no more than 35 minutes away from a Palestinian first strike attack?
 - a. Yes
 - b. No
3. Do you approve of the Yesha development of improved defense against Palestinian first strike?
 - a. Yes
 - b. No
4. Had you heard of the Yesha Defense Initiative prior to receiving this Briefing Book?
 - a. Yes
 - b. No
5. If you have, where did you hear about the Yesha Defense Initiative?
 - a. Internet
 - b. Television
 - c. Radio
 - d. Newspaper
 - e. Magazine
 - f. Other_____
6. Were you aware that “terrorism” and First Strike are two separate stages in the strategy to wipe Yesha off the map?
 - a. Yes
 - b. No
7. Do you realize that as late as six weeks prior to Israel’s betrayal of the SLA, the IDF was still providing the South Lebanese with “civil defense units”, weapons, and ammunition, to deceive them into believing they would be allowed to fight for their freedom, while in reality the SLA was being subjected to the systematic use of deception to bring about their collapse?
 - a. Yes
 - b. No
8. In your opinion, would the chance of permanent peace and security for Israel be improved if Yesha has a Yesha Defense Initiative defensive system capable of preventing attack by Palestinian armored and commando units?
 - a. Yes
 - b. No
9. Assuming that Yesha has the capability of developing such a defensive system, would you favor it over today’s threat of abandonment?
 - a. Yes

- b. No
10. Although the cost of a defensive system against Palestinian first strike appears reasonable, should such a cost be considered as the primary factor in deciding whether this system should be deployed?
- a. Yes
- b. No
11. Would you be willing to contact Members of Knesset and the Prime Minister (or your Israeli Embassy if you live outside of Israel) to express your opinion in support of the Yesha Defense Initiative Defensive System against Palestinian first strike?
- a. Yes
- b. No
12. Are you aware that the vast majority of the Palestinian armed forces have never been used in a confrontation with Israel and are being saved for the declaration of a Palestinian state?
- a. Yes
- b. No
13. If the Palestinians were to sense that Israel was preparing to pull out of Yesha, do you think they would seriously consider a first strike attack on our yishuvim?
- a. Yes
- b. No
14. Will you use the convenient form to send a contribution so we may send this Yesha Defense Initiative Briefing Book and questionnaire to other concerned Jews and friends of Israel and acquaint the Knesset and Prime Minister with the results of this survey?
- a. Yes
- b. No

TO: Mordechai Sones
Project Director
Yesha Defense Initiative
Nachaliel Office for Yesha
Nachaliel
D.N. Modi'in 71938
Israel

Dear Mordechai Sones:

I received my **Official Yesha Defense Initiative Briefing Book** on _____(date). I agree with you that Yesha desperately needs a defense system like the one proposed by the **Nachaliel Office for Yesha**. To help you in your crucial public education efforts, I have enclosed my contribution to the **Nachaliel Office for Yesha** in the amount of:

1. \$25
2. \$50
3. \$500
4. \$1,000
5. \$_____(other)

Please make checks payable to: **Nachaliel Office for Yesha**.

• • •



Aruch HaShulchan Choshen Mishpat 426 (the obligation for a man to rescue his neighbor by physical or monetary means)

A. One who sees his neighbor drowning or being attacked by bandits, animals, or any other danger – and is capable of personally rescuing him or hiring others to rescue him, and failed to rescue;

Or, one heard enemies conspiring to harm one's neighbor and he fails to inform that neighbor;

Or if one becomes aware that an oppressor intends to extort one's neighbor, and he is able to pacify the oppressor and fails to do so,

These and all similar circumstances violate the prohibition “Do not stand idly by your brother's blood**”.**

...And all the more so is one obligated to prevent injury or loss to the many. Therefore if one is aware of someone committing an act that approaches injury or loss to the many, or even to an individual, one is obligated to object if he is able to.

D. The *Poskim* cite the *Yerushalmi* Talmud that one is obligated to expose oneself to possible danger in order to rescue his neighbor. The *Rishonim* omit this because in our Talmud it is proven that one is not obligated to involve oneself. However, each case goes according to its context, and one must weigh the issue honestly and not guard oneself too much. On this it is said, “He who carefully evaluates the consequences of his ways - I will show him the salvation of G-d.**” (In *Yesha* – I will show him G-d...) And saving one Jewish life is tantamount to saving an entire universe...**