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Historical Notes on Jerusalem by Moshe Loshinsky

1000 BCE: King David entered Jerusalem and did the preparatory work for his son Solomon to build the First Temple.

Since then, Jewish presence in the city has been almost continuous. After the destruction of the Second Temple, Jews were permitted to come on the 9th of Av, paying a fee to the Roman Empire to pray at the Western Wall.

Even though Jews were residing in Jerusalem, they lived under social restrictions and many times were assessed high taxes.

The world is uncomfortable with Jewish domination of Jerusalem. As such on November 29, 1947, the U.N. in its partition plan of Palestine decided to internationalize Jerusalem. The day after, Arab mobs already broke out from the Old City to burn and murder in the commercial section – the Mamilla neighborhood. The remaining events are well-known. The Jewish Quarter fell to the Arab Legion of Jordan and 28 synagogues were destroyed. Jerusalem outside the wall was under siege without food and water. The U.N. did nothing to impose its internationalization decision. Jerusalem remained divided between Israel and Jordan.

The Armistice agreements with Jordan in 1949 provided for access to the Western Wall and passage to Jerusalem on the old highway at Latrun. Jordan never honored that agreement and Jews were not permitted to approach the Western Wall.

Nineteen years later, in 1967, the Jordanians did not heed Israel's offer to stay out of the war. The results are known. The euphoria in Israel and world Jewry was electrifying.

Within a month new municipal borders were drawn up and formally accepted by a large majority in the Knesset, known as the Jerusalem Law.

For many years, the Israeli political hierarchy would declare at every occasion 'Jerusalem will remain united forever'.

In 1996 Netanyahu won the elections saying 'Peres will divide Jerusalem'.

The Mayor of Jerusalem, until 2003, our Prime Minister, swore of a united Jerusalem.

(continued)

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At the memorial of Rechavam Zeevi (Gandi), the Prime Minister outlined his proposal to eliminate Arab neighborhoods within the present borders of the Jerusalem Municipality.

After the 1967 War, new Jewish neighborhoods were built in Pisgat Zeev and Neve Yaakov with today's population in excess of 5,000. Gilo and Har Homa (Homat Shmuel) with 60,000 people, Ramot and Ramat Shlomo with 75,000 people. The Jerusalem population today is in excess of 750,000 people – the largest city in Israel. Approximately 30% of the population is Arab and benefits from all the Israeli social and health benefits.

One of the neighborhoods that the Prime Minister mentioned is Shuafat. It is sandwiched between Pisgat Zeev, Ramat Shlomo and Givat Shapira (French Hill). The impact of such an act will result in the abandonment of these neighborhoods. In addition, Arabs residing in Shuafat, generally well-to-do, are not interested in becoming Palestinians and will lose the social and health benefits.

In addition, even if they decide to stay under Palestinian rule, they may go to court for the benefits and probably get a favorable ruling.

The neighborhood of Abu Dis and Aswachra to the East also mentioned by the Prime Minister have a direct site on Jerusalem was used by Jordanians to shell the city and has Jewish property owners in their midst. Har Hazeitim is bordered by these neighborhoods. In the south Um Tubor borders East Talpiot and Har Homa and Wallaye is near Har Gilo, Gilo and Beitar Eilit.

Certainly the Gush Katif experience is fresh in our minds in what happens to territory turned over to Arabs. The reliability of agreements are generally not worth the paper they are written on.

Jerusalem is the heart and soul of the Jewish people. When this City is endangered in whatever manner we must go all out to fight for it with all our means.

The whole concept of a Palestinian state is wrong and dangerous. There is no place for two countries west of Jordan for economic, social and security reasons. Did anyone think where water will come from?

Today the aquifer is dependent on water coming from Jordan and Samaria. A marked increase of population in the Palestinian Entity will cause serious strife and war.

Once established and recognized by the world, Israel will have little recourse but to defend herself when attacked, as proven with Gaza.

"אם אשכך ירושלים תשכח ימיני"

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