



OLMERT OFFERS SYRIA THE GOLAN IN EXCHANGE FOR FULL PEACE

JUNE 8. Israeli PM Ehud Olmert has offered a deal to Syrian leader Bashar Assad, whereby Syria would receive control of the Golan Heights in exchange for revoking the Syrian-Iranian alliance and cutting all ties with terrorist organizations.

Olmert reportedly informed Syria, via a third party, that he is aware that a peace agreement with Syria “means returning the Golan to Syrian sovereignty.” He said he is willing to do so, but wishes to know if Syria, in return, will “dismantle, in stages, its alliance with Iran, Hizbullah and Palestinian terrorist organizations.”

Meir Dagan, the director of the Israeli espionage agency, the Mossad, told a closed government meeting last month that Syria was broadcasting its willingness to talk with Israel strictly as a tactical maneuver.

This conclusion, he said, is based on intelligence information and internal Mossad analysis. But Dagan said that even if Israel were to open a channel of negotiations with Syria, the Assad regime would not cut its support for, or ties with, the Hizbullah terrorists in Lebanon, although it might do so in the cases of Hamas and the Islamic Jihad. Assad has not yet responded to Israel’s latest offer. - Yediot Acharonot / Arutz / 8 June 07

NATION UP IN ARMS AT OLMERT’S GOLAN OFFER

JUNE 8. PM Ehud Olmert’s latest offer to give the Golan Heights to Syria flies in the face of polls showing overwhelming public opposition to ceding the Golan. The offer also has many MKs (Members of the Knesset - Parliament) on both sides of the political spectrum up in arms.

A recent poll shows that a full 84% of the public opposes a full withdrawal from the Golan.

LIKUD MK CALLS ON SHAS AND YISRAEL BEITEINU TO QUIT GOVERNMENT

MKs from the Likud and National Union/National Religious Party came out vehemently against Olmert. Likud faction head Gideon Saar called upon *Shas* and *Yisrael Beiteinu* - two coalition parties whose voters are nearly all right-wing - to immediately quit the government. “Olmert has no public legitimacy for a withdrawal from the Golan,” Saar said. “Far from our eyes, processes are taking place that will be hard to stop in the future. The responsibility for this lies upon all the members of the government and coalition.”

THE LEFT DEMANDS THAT OLMERT GIVES GOLAN AWAY NOW!

Left-wing MKs, on the other hand, attacked Olmert for only offering the Golan and not actually taking steps to actualize the offer. Meretz Party leader Yossi Beilin said the agreement to give back the Golan has been ready to sign “ever since 2000 when [then-PM] Ehud Barak became scared of himself and ended the meeting with the Syrians in Shepherdstown, West Virginia.”

BASHAR ASSAD ADVOCATES DIPLOMATIC TALKS, BUT PREPARES FOR WAR

The UN Security Council’s decision to establish an international court to try Basher Assad and his relatives for the murder of former Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Hariri has made the Syrian government frantic. This development may come at Israel’s expense, as within the battle for his survival, Assad may embark on a war against Israel sooner than expected. - Israel Opinion / 3 June 07

ABBAS: ‘PALESTINIANS ON VERGE OF CIVIL WAR’

Palestinian Authority Chairman Mahmoud Abbas warned Tuesday that his people were on the verge of civil war, and said the infighting was worse than living under Israeli military rule. - Jerusalem Post / 5 June 07

HAMAS GETTING LONGER RANGE MISSILES

Military Intelligence Chief Maj.-Gen. Amos Yadlin reported to the Knesset Defence Committee that in Gaza, Hamas possessed Grad missiles with a range of 20 kilometers that have yet to be fired at Israel.

Yadlin also warned that shoulder-fired missiles, with a range of 40 kilometers, could soon be smuggled into the Gaza Strip. - Jerusalem Post / Jun. 5, 2007