

Ethiopia against Warm on Israel, stone-cold on Iraq

In an exclusive two-part interview with *The Jerusalem Post's* Micha Odenheimer, Ethiopian President Mengistu Haile Mariam says that he seeks a strategic alliance with Israel to contain Arab and Moslem expansionism. In part two, to be published on Sunday, Mengistu answers questions about Ethiopian Jewry

QUESTION - What kind of relationship would you like with Israel?
ANSWER - There have been long-standing relations between Ethiopia and Israel. Diplomatic relations between the two countries were interrupted for 17 years - not as a result of any problem that arose between Ethiopia and Israel.

The source of the problems between the two countries always springs from a third country, from the chronic problem between Israel and the Arab nations which has been an unfortunate element which has contributed to this.

At present, the situation has changed. One important change is the African countries' decision to restore their diplomatic relations with Israel. Personally, I see no reason why we should inhibit African countries from doing this. The overall development was the effect of glasnost and perestroika, this has changed the attitude of the socialist countries themselves.

Having said that, I can't say that there are no problems. [Restored relations] have made the anti-Israel forces even more vociferous against us. Though Israel has restored its relations with many African countries, and maintains traditional links with European countries, that Ethiopia has broken links with Israel regarded as unprecedented and has put us under undue pressure from these forces.

How do you define this relationship with Israel as very dangerous and one that portends great danger for the Arab countries. Since the restoration of relations with Israel this has been a very delicate situation for our enemies - particularly by Iraq and Libya.

Q - Did Israel make a commitment to stand by you and help you if there was such a negative response?
A - Throughout the years when diplomatic relations between the two countries were broken links were maintained between Ethiopia and Israel, and pressure was brought to bear by Israel for the restoration of ties.

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clear concept of the problem we are facing.
Q - What kind of relationship do you want between Ethiopia and Israel do you want?
A - It is quite clear that if we want to live peacefully in the region, we have to work together with our friends, and align ourselves against our common enemies. This is not my personal view, it is something that everybody in Ethiopia expects to happen - the party, the government, the people - everybody wants to see this alliance.

While allegations are already circulating about the restored relations between Ethiopia and Israel. Some Arab countries allege that the Israeli army is already in Ethiopia fighting alongside the Ethiopian army, that a host of Israeli engineers is already on Ethiopian soil, to construct a huge dam on the Blue Nile and stop the Nile from flowing into Egypt and Sudan and so on.

There is not a single Israeli soldier in Ethiopia; in fact, [the Israeli] embassy does not even have a military attaché.
If we were the recipients of all that the Arabs imagine, we would not mind they could say what they want. But since we do not stand to benefit, why should we suffer? We wonder whether the Israeli leadership is really sensitive to our situation.

Q - Many people see the Gulf crisis as the first test of a new world order. What do you feel the stakes are in the crisis?
A - It appears quite clear that Iraq, obsessed with its idea of national renaissance, has entirely overlooked the realities in neighboring countries and in the whole world.

If we analyze the policy and path pursued by the Ba'ath party, it clearly underlines three important aspects - Arab nationalism, religion, and expansionism. They are drawing a map, an Arab world map. This new Arab world includes some parts of Africa, and parts of Ethiopia. Israel does not figure in this map. It has been the professed objective of the Ba'ath party to turn this map into reality.

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have been fighting a war or a proxy war here for the past 30 years, and Iraq has the entire time been present on the side of our enemies.
It does not appear to us that the objectives of the Iraqi invasion would be limited to Kuwait. It is quite clear that it has plans to invade countries beyond that. As a matter of fact, Kuwait may be taken as a stepping stone in this adventurous campaign. The whole objective of course, is to make the Arab dream, the Arab map, a reality.

If Iraqi expansionism is not checked, the situation will further deteriorate. The objective in checking Iraqi expansionism is not only forcing Iraq to disgorge Kuwait, the lasting solution lies in forcing Iraq to abandon its expansionist and adventurist plan regarding its neighbors and the world.

Q - Has the Gulf crisis affected your battle against the rebel forces within Ethiopia?
A - The present crisis may be said to have a beneficial effect for Ethiopia because Iraq has been the traditional supplier of arms, or the mainstay of the supply for the insurgents. Now, with the UN embargo, they are not in a position to supply arms generously to the insurgents. But that is not the question. In the long run, the situation with Iraq must be checked.

Q - Will the embargo on Iraq help bring the rebel forces to the negotiating table?
A - Yes, that can be helpful.
Q - What will it take to bring peace?
A - [The rebels] are nothing but mercenaries. What must be realized is that Egypt, Sudan and some of the countries of East Africa are entirely dependent on Ethiopia for their water. And they know very well that one day, when this country sets itself to the task of developing its economy, it will harness this water. Eighty-four

percent of the water resources of our neighboring countries comes from Ethiopia. They owe their life to Ethiopia. Their agriculture, their industry, their energy comes from the water of Ethiopia.
So they see to it that Ethiopia does not emerge as a strong country; money, resources, are pumped into perpetually debilitating Ethiopia. As long as we remain in the world, hydro-politics will stay a constant factor. As therefore, of necessity, war will remain a constant factor.

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know what it takes for a tiny country such as Israel, entirely surrounded, to force the enemy to accept the reality of the existence of Israel. We have great respect and admiration for what you have achieved. And our wish is incidentally, to benefit from this solid experience that you have accumulated in the course of decades of defending yourself. That is exactly what I mean by cooperation between our two countries, because this is, so to speak, a virgin land, a promised land, which we can develop by our cooperation.
We have not totally neglected the development of our economy. We have identified our weak and strong points. It is exactly because we have completed this phase of identification and were about to move into the stage of implementation that the heavy enemy pressure came. It was coordinated and synchronized. The Soviet Union and the socialist countries are not in Ethiopia anymore. The Western world is not providing Ethiopia with assistance. Ethiopia is entirely alone. This was the golden opportunity to strike.
Q - Is Ethiopia moving away from Marxism and toward more Western economic and political systems?
A - We were convinced that the introduction of socialism was not bringing about rapid development in the country, and this would force all nationalities to work together. We were convinced that religious and ethnic aspirations no longer be the overriding concern. The measure we took at the time - introducing socialism - has helped our country hold together, it has helped to avert the danger of disintegration.
Had we not taken that step, the situation in Ethiopia would have been quite different. In fact, if we had not had the military resources to ward off the combined attack of Ethiopia of Somalia, Sudan, and the secessionist forces.
But now of course, situations have developed quite differently. In the first place, the Cold War is coming to an end, the superpowers have found ways and means to bridge their traditional differences. And the other important development is what has happened within the socialist countries. When the revolution triumphed in our country, disgruntled elements went to neighboring countries and returned with arms to invade the country and to terrorize the ordinary civilian population. The steps we have taken to protect the people against these marauders these terrorists are frequently described as human rights abuses in the West. This situation has taken place is not to the extent of the excesses of the industrial revolution in Europe or the civil war in America or in many places in Europe today. For example, our prisons are not teeming with prisoners as in any European country.
Q - Do you foresee a multiparty system for Ethiopia sometime in the future?
A - Sure, we want to introduce a multiparty system, as reflecting the will of the people of Ethiopia. We are ready for a multiparty system. But we don't want the parties to be set up on lines of ethnic or religious interests, but on broadly-based issues of national interest.
Q - How can this be encouraged?
A - In the first place, the people have not yet requested it. They did demand the setting up of a multiparty system in our country. There is no question that the idea of a multiparty system in the limelight now. If the people think that such a system is in their interest and they endorse it in a referendum, naturally, we will approve it.
Q - As a young man you went to the U.S. for military training.
A - That was a long time ago, and the America of those days was quite different from contemporary America. It was a time when blacks and Jews were discriminated against in America. I will remember a bus ride I had from Chicago to Davenport where the bus driver said, "There is a back seat for the blacks and the Jews." Still, in spite of this, I can say that America is a great society. I learned so much from Americans. I don't at all have a pathological-negative attitude towards America or Americans.
Q - Were you influenced by the radical ideas of the '60s in America?
A - Of course I was. And in the course of expressing my feelings, I must have antagonized some people.
Q - Is there famine now in Ethiopia?
A - Yes, there is still drought and famine in Ethiopia. By African standards this is a huge country - 1.2 million square kilometers, and it is generally fertile country, endowed with huge water sources. In the past, it has been an exporter of food. It is only recently that this drought situation became cyclical and persistent, even chronic, exclusively in the northern part of our country. This is the only part of our country burdened with excess population and which uses primitive agricultural techniques. This has led to widespread denudation of our country and it has become a devastated area. This situation could have been remedied very easily if we had peace, by relocating people, by exporting food from other areas of the country to that area and rehabilitating this denuded and eroded area.
Q - Are the secessionist forces now allowing relief supplies to be brought into drought areas?
A - No, they do not allow it. We started relocating people elsewhere, to stable areas of the country. In one scheme, we relocated some half-million people. As human rights violation, there was an uproar and we were forced to abandon it.
What the secessionists and the bandits do is to force the hungry people into joining their ranks. Famine helps the secessionists because it creates a social vacuum from which to recruit.
Q - What is your ambition for Ethiopia?
A - Forty percent of our budget goes towards the preservation of national unity. You can figure out what that means. We could have built two huge industrial plants annually, or highways and many hospitals with this money. So what I would like to see is peace, and the preservation of national unity. If we had peace, we could divert this money and transform this country, dramatically and in a brief period.



Mengistu: 'We must fight our common enemies.' (Micha Odenheimer)

I have great respect for what Israel has achieved in forcing the enemy to recognize the existence of Israel, to respect its reality. We have great respect and admiration for what you have achieved

Going through the non-confidence motions

THE KNESSET doesn't often have such active weeks as the one just ended. On Monday, the first day of the week's sessions, the turnout was massive. And so it had to be, because of the seven non-confidence motions and because of the Attorney General's resignation. It was the first time since the assassination of Yitzhak Rabin that the Knesset has been so busy. The agenda, which was turned down in a surprise vote.

Conditions face frequent non-confidence threats during their statutory terms. But most of the threats are not serious. Opposition factions, unfortunately, still get into the habit of treating their non-confidence motions merely as a more sensational parliamentary device than a regular or an urgent motion for the agenda, knowing full well that they have not the slightest chance of obtaining a majority.

Non-confidence motions, in other words, have been employed indiscriminately and with such little effect that their sharpness has become blunted and their value debased. Small factions which are disgruntled inside the coalition like Shas, or are outside waiting thirstily to come in, like Agudat Yisrael, exploit the opportunity of obtaining non-confidence motions in order to unnerve, harass, or even

IN ORDER AT THE HOUSE
Asher Wallfish

intimidate the major coalition partner: in this case, the Likud. They employ the standard cliffhanger routine of building up tension to an artificial climax with the aid of glib or sensational-seeking journalists.

Small coalition-oriented factions, in order to preserve their credibility, must broadcast a regular signal to the effect that the senior partner faction should not take them for granted. Shas and Aguda have to remind the Likud that the lion requires regular feeding and that its roars should not be contemptuously ignored.

The two-man Molechet faction, which is outside the right-wing coalition but at the end of the day prefers the present government to an Alignment-led alternative, plays a similar game to Shas and Aguda. Like those two hard-core factions, Molechet wants the Likud to feel that it is in nobody's pocket. But it is not so smart enough to realize that Shas, Aguda and Molechet behave most annoyingly when there is least risk of the coalition collapsing.

THE NON-CONFIDENCE motions on the government's performance in immigrant housing and absorption provided an opportunity for the Knesset's two bulkiest MKs to joust with each other: Avraham Shohat (Alignment) and Housing Minister Ariel Sharon. Shohat chairs the Finance Committee. He is due to lose his post any day, now that the Likud has promised it to an Aguda MK. Sharon chairs the committee of ministers for immigrant absorption.

Shohat has built up an impressive record as committee chairman which the Aguda MK can hope to match. However, an opposition member running the most important parliamentary committee represents a potential thorn in the flesh of the Likud. Anyway, the Likud is short of jobs to offer the Aguda in payment for its entry into the coalition. For many years, the Aguda held the Finance Committee chairmanship and by now it regards the post as its own by right. It has done very well out of it, remember.

As a plenum speaker, Shohat is a flop. For the man, and for his faction, it is a pity. He has the capacity to rise high in the ranks of the Alignment. But he will have to stop writing boring speeches and reading them out in boring tones which he has failed to do to date. The only time he came to life briefly in parliamentary theatrics was when he threw a few off-the-cuff comments in the direction of the Likud benches.

Shohat needs a few dashes of anger, or irony, or emotion, or even demagoguery, to leave out his lumpy dough. Then he can be still higher.

Sharon, replying to Shohat and the six other opposition speakers, treated their criticism of the government's lamentable housing record, as well as his own, with the contempt reflecting his certainty that the coalition was not in danger. Sharon bore living testimony to the principle that a government maintains the confidence of the Knesset for what it is, and not for what it does.

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Inflated hopes for conception

A BALLOON similar to the type that stems clogged cardiac arteries (angioplasty) is now being used to unclog blocked fallopian tubes in infertile women. The balloon is attached to a catheter and threaded through the womb into one of the fallopian tubes, which connect the uterus to the ovaries. Once the balloon is in place, doctors inflate it to open the passage.

Transcervical balloon tuboplasty requires neither surgery nor anesthesia, and may help up to a third of women with blocked fallopian tubes, says Dr. Edmond Confino, who headed a U.S. study documented in the technique's success. It can also reduce the cost of treating women with blockages by two-thirds. Until now, they have generally been treated by microsurgery or test-tube fertilization, according to the *Journal of the American Medical Association*.

Confino claims the balloon device is superior to regular catheterization because it causes far fewer puncture wounds and provides longer-lasting results. The balloon device and the technique are awaiting U.S. Food and Drug Administration approval.

In tests, the procedure was found to open one or both tubes in 135 of 150 women, some 45 conceived.

The procedure is appropriate only for dealing with soft blockages, such as mucus plugs. Hard scar or fibrous tissue, as found in uterine tumors (called fibroids) must be removed by surgery.

The procedure is expected to cost only about a third as much as test-tube fertilization, which usually totals about \$6,000 in the U.S. and has a 20 percent success rate.

However, one surgeon not involved in the study claims the procedure does not offer significant advantages over simple catheterization of blocked fallopian tubes.

HARVARD UNIVERSITY has sold all its shares in the tobacco industry on principle. It was "imprudent to have a share not to be associated with a shareholder in companies whose products create a substantial and unjustified risk of harm to other human beings," explained Harvard president Derek Bok.

Prior to the decision, Harvard assisted the companies about ethical aspects of selling tobacco products, especially in developing countries, but received no satisfactory reply.

In a public statement, the tobacco companies said that Harvard had "deprived itself of a highly profit-

able investment" and made a gesture that "wouldn't have the slightest effect" on them. But Dr. Alan Blum of Houston, who leads a large pressure group that supports withdrawing investments from tobacco firms, hailed Harvard's announcement as a "historic event and a moral and financial breakthrough."

ELIAD HAUSMAN, a 15-year-old cystic fibrosis patient who underwent a successful liver transplant at Children's Hospital in Philadelphia in July, has returned to Israel, school and normal life. The hospital is reportedly the only one to give a low-dose steroid drug called FK 506, reducing side effects. A Greek surgeon, Dr. Baktur, performed the operation. Eliad had been flown to the U.S. after suffering severe hemorrhaging. Some \$350,000 to cover the operation and expenses had been raised by the Israel Cystic Fibrosis Foundation.

HEALTH SCAN

Judy Siegel-Itzkovich

PARENTS OF girls suffering from Turner's Syndrome are trying to start a self-help group. The condition, caused by a chromosomal abnormality, affects about one in 2,500 babies born yearly. Identified by Dr. Henry T. Turner in 1938, it is caused by the absence of or a structural defect in one of the X chromosomes.

Most women with the syndrome have no ovaries, and therefore lack the hormone estrogen. This results in infertility and incomplete sexual development, but usually doesn't affect intelligence. Their growth is stunted, and a variety of other medical problems, including hearing and vision disabilities, may be linked to the disorder. The new technique of ova donations now offers these women the chance to become pregnant.

Since the syndrome is relatively rare, most women with Turner's have never met another sufferer. A Turner's Syndrome Association is located at POB 61100, Jerusalem 91968. Call (02)761010 or 437821 in the evening for information about the syndrome or the planned self-help group.

MANY NECK operations are unnecessary and specialists in a particular procedure are among those most likely to operate unnecessarily,

according to researchers writing in the *New England Journal of Medicine*. They found that one out of every three operations designed to open clogged arteries in the neck, known as an endarterectomy, were avoidable.

When patients were operated upon by doctors who did not specialize in the neck operation, surgery was clearly needed in 40 percent of the cases. But when the patient was treated by an endarterectomist, as well as by an endarterectomist extended to other medical areas as well.

The researchers, led by Dr. Robert Brook of the Rand Corporation in Santa Monica, CA, found the trend to operate unnecessarily extended to other medical areas as well.

A CHANGING of the guard, has taken place at the Israel Cancer Association, which replaces John Furman as its chairman. Leon Recanati of Israel Discount Bank has been appointed vice-chairman, along with cancer expert Prof. Eliezer Robinson. Suzy Eban remains president of the organization.

The British-born Furman, 75, resigned in order to give a younger generation the chance to promote cancer prevention, treatment and research.

RESEARCHERS CLAIM they have come a step closer to finding a genetic cause for Tourette syndrome, a neurological disease that causes its victims to bark, sniff, twitch and swear uncontrollably. A team from University College London investigated a family of 122 people, 46 of whom had the syndrome, and said they were able to identify a common genetic abnormality connected to the disease.

The syndrome, which almost always affects men, usually manifests itself between the ages of two and 15 and causes its victims extreme embarrassment. While the disorder is not linked to any anatomical abnormality in the brain, doctors believe it is physical rather than psychological. It is incurable, but can be controlled with drugs.

Writing in *The Lancet*, the researchers reported that they have narrowed down the location of the gene responsible for the syndrome to the short arm of chromosome 3, one of the 26 pairs of chromosomes in the human body.

QUESTION - Why is the family reunification of Ethiopian Jews taking so long?

ANSWER - I think we have to have some kind of [background]. There has been some unnecessary confusion created about this concept of family reunification.

Before the introduction of Christianity, the beliefs of people in Ethiopia and also southern Arabia were anchored in the Torah. The Christianity and Islam became the dominant faiths in Ethiopia and Judaism was marginalized.

Later on, the question of the Jews in Ethiopia was raised, again, because someone had the idea that the Jews in Ethiopia were actually the children of a lost son of Israel. Until very recently, no Israeli experts and no Ethiopian expert accepted the Falashas as being Jews. The belief was that the Falashas were the remnants of the pre-Christian era in Ethiopia who had once adopted Judaism, so they were not ethnically Jews. If we subscribe to this concept, it means that the entire Northern Ethiopia were once Jews.

One common element among Ethiopians is the positive attitude and affection that Ethiopians have for Israel. All the Christians in our country are absolutely sympathetic to Judaism and Israel, and in fact ... say the two communities have the same God - the God of Israel, Yisrael Amikud in Amharic.

So as the result of research done by some individual, suddenly one has come to believe that the Falashas are ethnically Jews. And the Jewish community accepted them and there was the movement to relocate the Falashas back to Israel.

The notorious Operation Moses was the very first time that the Ethiopian people were angry at the Israelis

When we first came to power, this problem was discussed at a high level. We said we really do not care if Israel considers the Falashas as ethnic Jews. And we said then that Ethiopians are free to settle where they want - after all, there are 80,000 Ethiopians in Saudi Arabia and tens of thousands in Western countries. As a matter of fact, this could strengthen cement relations between Ethiopia and Israel.

So we gave our Israeli brothers a signal. They requested whether they could come over and pay the Falashas a visit and we told them, yes, they could. They wanted to be allowed to provide some assistance in setting up some economic and cultural facilities in Falash country, well, we told them yes, you could. They came, and at that time they included in the mind of the Falashas that we were not ethnic Jews. And this led to a serious problem between the Falashas and the local government. We asked them to please refrain from such acts.

In the meantime, American Jews came to Ethiopia and changed this concept of family reunification. They came here with money, and they hired people of dubious standing in our country who would go to Falash country and recruit people who would like to go to Israel without going into the real specifics. And in the process they recruited people who were both Falashas and non-Falashas.

This led to the huge influx of people from the north to Addis Ababa. Many of them were peasants who simply abandoned their work and abandoned their family; there were people who were given money to come over here. This has led to a serious situation here. At last we had to send people to Israel to find out exactly what the Israelis want. If they really want to have Falashas or Ethiopians, non-Falashas - what exactly did they want to have in the country in terms of immigrants?

The Israeli officials told us that this was not of their making; it was the American Jews who created this confusion. What we decided to do was to urge the American Jews not to interfere. Through our discussions on several occasions, a mechanism has been set up to facilitate the migration. So now a process has been set up to implement the program. What we are doing in concrete terms is the screening of the people who are not considered as Falashas, to determine who is Falasha, and which of these would like to go to Israel, and which to some other country.

'Wake up,' Mengistu urges Israel

In part two of an exclusive interview, Ethiopian President Mengistu Haile Mariam tells *The Jerusalem Post's* Micha Odenheimer that all Ethiopian Jews are free to leave his country.



Mengistu: 'We are absolutely sympathetic to Judaism and Israel.' (Micha Odenheimer)

agreement, but there was an understanding and consensus between us and Israel on this issue.

We are screening people to determine who is Falasha, and which of these would like to go to Israel, and which to some other country

Then we requested that the Israeli officials give us a list of the prospective immigrants to Israel. And we also worked out the formality by which the exit of these people could be facilitated both by our security people and their Israeli counterparts. It was working quite smoothly, an unprecedented number of Falashas were going to Israel without any difficulty.

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Q - The Ethiopian government itself is doing that?

A - We have set up a national screening committee, and when Mr. Labran [Uzi Labran, the former minister's special emissary to Ethiopia] came here, we extensively exchanged views on this.

There is one question that remains unanswered: Whether the Israelis want exclusively Falashas or Ethiopians as such? We asked this; no clear answer has yet been forthcoming.

A - We are not clear as to what the American Jews want, what their interest is in this. It is tragic to note that in spite of the good attitude and the positive steps we have taken to facilitate the migration of the Falashas, we have become the target of scathing criticism of the American Jewish media and the Israeli media.

Under the umbrella of family reunification, we are ready to encourage as many people as want to go to Israel.

But I am afraid we do not have a counterpart in Israel to work with us towards this ideal

The other important question is what is the situation of the Falashas in Israel now as compared to the Jews who came from the Soviet Union and from other European countries? We note that there are Falashas who came from Ethiopia years ago; still they find themselves in camps... and are unemployed. And now we are swelling that number. We warn you that this will bring a great social upheaval to Israel. This could be, in the long run, a serious problem for Israeli society, and the repression might be that it could destroy the positive attitude that Ethiopians traditionally have had towards Israel.

Q - You know how important family is for Ethiopians. Right now in Israel every family is split. Israeli feels that it would be easier to absorb 5,000 complete families than to deal with families that are broken. A - The Israelis do not seem to have a clear concept of which members of

the family they want. So far, they have given us forms for only 300 people. Those 300 people are already in Israel, and they don't have an unbroken list. But still, there is this unheeded slogan.

As far as we are concerned, if they want people, we are ready, even outside the parameters of family reunification, but under its umbrella, to encourage as many people as want to go to Israel. But I am afraid we do not have a counterpart in Israel to work with us towards this ideal.

Q - Wasn't progress made during meetings with the Lubrani delegation?

A - The response to that is still pending. There are two ambassadors here at present in the Israeli Embassy. When we were in the wilderness, before we renewed relations with Israel, there was pressure from Israel. 'Why don't we set up an embassy?'

We were almost pestered by telephone calls - sometimes, when I was visiting foreign countries, we would receive telephone calls from the Israelis. So after 18 years we did receive diplomatic relations. We have an embassy in Tel Aviv... but there

are at our wit's end. I am afraid that the Israelis we are dealing with now are not the same as the Israelis we dealt with in the past

is no Israeli [ambassador] here in Addis.

We are at our wit's end. I am afraid that the Israelis we are dealing with now are not the same as the Israelis we dealt with in the past. In those days, together, we achieved so many things. So I feel there is some problem, particularly with your foreign office. We doubt if there is a full comprehension among the Israelis of the positive attitude which Ethiopia is taking towards Israel, of its readiness to work with Israel. We are 52 million Ethiopians, and all of us are ready to work together with Israel. There is a psychological preparedness on the part of the Ethiopian people to stand side by side with Israel. The fact that some 15,000 Falashas leave for Israel does not get at the demographics of Ethiopia; we do not have a population shortage. So in this we see an unnecessary and artificial problem.

Q - Was the stoppage of immigration caused by a specific demand which Israel is obliged to meet?

A - There is an ugly allegation made by the American media that Ethiopia has held up the Falashas from going to Israel because Israel has not been forthcoming with arms, and is holding them hostage. This is utterly absurd. My government has said that at many Falashas who wanted to go to Israel could go, even in those days when we did not have diplomatic relations.

The Israeli-Ethiopian cooperation must view not only within the parameters of this single issue. In regard, we exchanged a series of views with Israel on the governmental level by bringing about economic cooperation and trade links, and cooperation in the field of science and technology, and to bring about cooperation on our common security, and to identify exactly those areas Israel wants from Ethiopia and which Israel can send to Ethiopia in exchange.

This is a time when the Arabs, encouraged by the oil bonanza, are trying to destabilize Ethiopia - and if possible also Israel, although they know very well that Israel is strong and that Israel has no intention of going for our common interests.

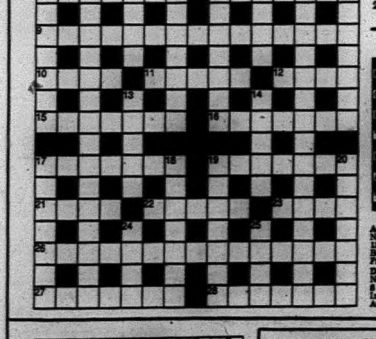
We feel that this is the time for the two countries to join hands, and perhaps also for the Israeli scientific and technological know-how and financial resources to help Ethiopia. It is not forthcoming from Israel, perhaps from Jewish sources - for Jewish know-how and capital to come here and develop this country to go for our common interests.

It is sad to note that the West provided arms to Iraq, which is now challenging it. It is not in the interest of Israel to see Ethiopia from break up. This is a time when the Islamic world is being swept by fundamentalism, which is the ultimate danger. And now there is this new danger emerging from the Gulf Crisis. Which of the countries on the Red Sea would take the brunt of this? What the Israelis should realize is that we are not prepared to absorb what Israel. What we are doing is urging Israel to wake up.



CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

- ACROSS
- Told the fate of the incorrigible co-respondent (7)
 - Slater's disposition shows animosity (7)
 - What one must make do with grapes use of poor quality (4,3,1,3,5)
 - Ring smuggled Algerian port (4)
 - Charge account for one in debt (5)
 - Too short for a capital orchestra (4)
 - Dead heat after narrow winning margin - useless after losing thro' (7)
 - Ill-humored, obtains ingenuous contrivance (7)
 - Invited sappers in army drill formation (7)
 - Comes induced by nitrogen in quiescence (7)
 - Subdivides in set last (4)
 - How musicians may play back first then the Four Seasons (9,5)
 - Falasha's yarn - and tall it (4)
 - Turn away, or give credit pickers alternative work (4,7)
 - Breathing space (7)
 - Metal in genuine type of photo-sensitive coil (7)
- DOWN
- Not a break - more like a twinning (5,4)
 - Book men who drunkenly accept noblesse oblige - modulating workers (4,11)
 - The echoing sound of a horn drill (4)
 - A block which, understandably, is found under a shroud (4-3)
 - One's credit in Berkshire (4)
 - Contributions to naval power (4)
 - Odd man out is expecting lesson to be troublesome (5,9)
 - They educate communities in the main (7)
 - US/Russian negotiations begin (5)
 - Best possible proposal a case for state make (10)
 - Boards another's child (5,2)
 - No dank dungeon for one charged with battery (5,4)
 - He goes peeling, around the world (5)
 - African state seen to be troubled by US (5,4)
 - Headline of the theatrical world (4)
 - One proverbially reluctant to pay a poll tax (4)



- ACROSS
- Balloon (6)
 - Resting markers (8)
 - Punctuated mark (8)
 - Of greatest size (7)
 - Protestantism (4)
 - Stopped sail (4)
 - Punishment (5)
 - Protestantism (4)
 - Company (4)
 - Whisk (4)
 - Whisk (4)
 - Blind of the 30s (7)
 - Early morning (7)
 - Stage (5)
 - Condition (5)
 - Convincing (8)
 - Owain (6)
 - Referent (7)
 - Piss away (8)
 - Foot (4)
 - Extremely stout (5)
 - Reference (7)
 - Landscape (8)
 - Arabic guide (8)
 - Prickly plant (7)
 - Handed (8)
 - Classical language (8)
 - Small vicious animal (8)
 - Stomped (8)
 - Divanant (4)

ACROSS 1 Canon, 4 Michel, 7 ...

So in order to whip up the thing, to make it convenient raw material for the Arab media, we thought that we should play it cool, proceed very calmly. It was we who suggested that we should give the whole thing the cover of family reunification. So it was no secret or

(The first part of this interview appeared last Friday.)