

In the last week, Prime Minister Begin of Israel has shown signs that he is hardening his position away from earlier hints of West Bank compromise. The Begin plan for "self-rule" for the Palestinians on the West Bank, originally floated as a starting point for negotiations, is now being characterized by Begin as a final concession. In addition, in an interview last week, Begin equated Palestinian "self-determination" with a Palestinian state and rejected "this mortal danger to Israel," while, only weeks ago, he stated, "Self-determination and self-rule, they are synonymous."

Further, it is reported that Begin named Agriculture Minister Ariel Sharon to join the political committee talks between Egypt and Israel, along with Dayan, in Jerusalem Jan. 16. The inclusion of Sharon, who is a notorious extremist and is pushing for stepped-up Israeli

settlement of the West Bank, is a worrying sign for Sadat.

Another indication of the developing political crisis in Israel is the resignation of Begin's chief adviser, Shmuel Katz, who, according to the *International Herald Tribune*, is having a running political "feud" with Dayan.

Cooperating with Dayan are his former colleagues in the Israeli opposition Labour Party, led by Shimon Peres. The Labourites, reacting hysterically to the signs of a concession from Begin, publicly accused Begin of endorsing the idea of an "independent Palestinian state" and threatened a vote of no confidence in the regime. Along with Dayan and the Labour Party, some members of the Rothschild-sponsored Rafi group of Begin's Likud bloc, and even in Herut itself, are making noises against the Begin diplomacy.

Iran Condemns BBC, British Foreign Office For 'Propagating Violence' Against Shah

For the third time in as many months the Iranian government has registered complaints with both the British Broadcasting Company and the British Foreign Office for meddling in Iran's domestic affairs.

Most recently, an editorial appeared on Dec. 17 in *Kayhan*, the government-owned daily, castigating BBC for broadcasting in Persian "slanted" news designed to feed internal dissent against the Shah's government. *Kayhan* noted that the BBC has exaggerated the role of the London-based Amnesty International and the International League of Human Rights (which has represented the British intelligence-spawned Baader-Meinhof terrorists in court) in enforcing "human rights" in Iran. BBC, according to *Kayhan*, has also grossly overplayed antigovernment demonstration in Iran and elsewhere for the same purpose.

Kayhan concludes that "the BBC is actively propagating violence in our country...What the BBC does cannot be considered accidental or due to the ill-will of individuals in its foreign language department. The department is under the direct supervision of the British

Foreign Office. Considering currently friendly relations between the two governments (referring to Iran and Britain — ed.) it is our turn to be 'surprised' by the BBC's campaign of lies and malice. This campaign would probably have no effect on bilateral relations between the two governments. But it will certainly do much damage to standards of journalism throughout the world. It hits new lows — unprecedented in the annals of journalism in recent years and certainly not reached even by controlled media in the most totalitarian of states."

A week prior to the *Kayhan* editorial a spokesman for the Iranian Foreign Ministry, Parviz Adl, described as in "poor taste" remarks made by British Foreign Minister David Owen. During an interview conducted last month, Mr. Owen did not convincingly rebuke "prejudiced questions" from the interviewer on the human rights issue. According to Mr. Adl: "This was a rather poor way of speaking about a friendly country which has been abused by certain circles in Britain, a country where there are so many examples of violations of human rights, especially in Ireland and elsewhere."