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Israel's most advanced satellite will soon be in orbit
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THE ROMANIAN MODEL

Will Israel's leaders follow the example of Traian Basescu?
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**AND THE WINNER IS...**

It's a tight race for Israeli films at tonight's Ophir Awards
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A decision that will backfire**ANALYSIS**

• By KHALED ABU TOAMEH

It's hard to see how the Israeli decision to declare the Gaza Strip "hostile territory" could undermine Hamas. In fact, the move is likely to backfire, rallying more Palestinians around Hamas and other radical groups.

Hamas is not lacking in funds and weapons. Just last Friday, Hamas Prime Minister Ismail Haniyeh announced that some 40,000 unemployed laborers would each receive \$100. And earlier this week, he announced that thousands of students in the Gaza Strip would be exempted from school fees.

Depriving Palestinians of water and electricity will not turn them against Hamas. Instead, they will vent their frustration and despair against Israel and Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas and his Fatah faction.

That's why Abbas and his top aides were quick to condemn the decision to designate the Strip a hostile entity, employing the same language used by Hamas leaders: "A declaration of war" and "crime against humanity," they called it.

The move is seen by Abbas and his

entourage as a form of "collective punishment" that will only weaken their standing among their people.

For the past three months, Abbas has been trying to draw a clear line between Hamas and the rest of the Palestinians in the Gaza Strip.

In this context, Abbas has repeatedly demanded during meetings with Prime Minister Ehud Olmert that Israel lift various restrictions imposed on the population and avoid harming civilians in the Gaza Strip.

Abbas's hope was that such gestures would have some kind of a moderating effect on the Palestinians there, who might eventually turn against Hamas.

There is no doubt that Abbas's reaction to the latest Israeli decision would have been much more restrained had Israel directed it exclusively against Hamas. As one of his aides said on Wednesday, "The problem is Hamas, not the 1.5 million Palestinians living in the Gaza Strip. This decision plays into the hands of Hamas because it makes them appear as the scapegoat."

When Israel temporarily cut off the power supply to large parts of the Strip several

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Cabinet paves way to dim Hamas's power in Gaza**Rice supports move, calls Hamas 'hostile to US as well'**

• By HERB KEINON

The security cabinet's decision Wednesday to designate Gaza "hostile territory," a declaration preparing the way for a possible cutoff of gas and electricity supplies, has as much to do with Israeli frustration that Hamas is showing it can govern the Strip as it does with the constant Kassam barrages, *The Jerusalem Post* has learned.

Defense Minister Ehud Barak told the security cabinet the decision, which unanimously passed, was intended to weaken Hamas and strengthen Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas and PA Prime Minister Salaam Fayad. Barak also said that no one could expect that the rocket attacks would be completely ended.

The logic behind the decision, the *Post* has learned, was to hold Hamas "both responsible and accountable" for June's violent takeover of Gaza. Israel, by threatening to cut fuel and gas supplies, wants to prevent Hamas from being able to show the Palestinians that they are governing effectively, as has increasingly been the case.

Following the cabinet meeting, the Prime Minister's Office issued a communiqué saying: "Hamas is a terrorist organization that has taken control of the Gaza Strip and turned it into hostile territory. This organization engages in hostile activity against the State of Israel and its citizens and bears responsibility for this activity."

"In light of the foregoing, it has been decided to adopt the recommendations that have been presented by the security establishment, including the continuation of military and counterterrorist operations against the terrorist organizations. Additional sanctions will be



FOREIGN MINISTER Tzipi Livni motions to US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice during their press conference after their meeting in Jerusalem on Wednesday. (Emilio Morenatti/AP)

placed on the Hamas regime to restrict the passage of various goods to the Gaza Strip and to reduce the supply of fuel and electricity.

Barak tells Rice IDF roadblocks will come down, Page 2

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"Restrictions will also be placed on the movement of people to and from the Gaza Strip. The sanctions will be

enacted following a legal examination, while taking into account both the humanitarian aspects relevant to the Gaza Strip and the intention to avoid a humanitarian crisis."

Cabinet sources said Israel would ensure that a humanitarian crisis not result as a result of the decision. While visiting US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice seemed to give a nod of approval to the decision, it was slammed by UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon.

Rice, asked to comment on the decision at a Jerusalem press conference with Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni, said: "Hamas is indeed a hostile entity, and a hostile entity to the US as well."

Ban, by contrast, called on Israel to reconsider the deci-

sion, saying that cutting off vital services would violate international law and punish the already suffering civilian population in Gaza.

In one of his toughest statements aimed at Israel since taking the reins of the UN on January 1, Ban said he was "very concerned" about the government's decision.

"Such a step would be contrary to Israel's obligations towards the civilian population under international humanitarian and human rights law," he said. "I call for Israel to reconsider this decision."

Livni denied during the press conference with Rice that the moved violated international law, saying the decision was taken in consultation

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Olmert moves to keep Kadima united over capital's future**Ramon's J'lem proposal blasted in party as 'left of Meretz'**

• By GIL HOFFMAN

Prime Minister Ehud Olmert will deliver a major policy address on diplomatic issues for the first time in several months at Thursday's Kadima council meeting at the party's Petah Tikva headquarters.

The meeting comes amid a conflict in Kadima over Vice Premier Haim Ramon's recent statements about dividing Jerusalem. Ramon's words angered officials in the Prime Minister's Office and the Foreign Ministry, as well as Kadima ministers, who will use their speeches at the event to call upon Olmert to rule out dividing Jerusalem.

"Olmert will attempt to ease the tension in the party," a source close to the prime minister said. "He will deliver a broad diplomatic



MK MENACHEM Ben-Sasson speaks at the inauguration of the Jerusalem branch of the Kadima Party in the capital on Wednesday. (Ariel Jerozolimski/The Jerusalem Post)

address that will explain exactly what he intends to do with the Palestinians."

The ideological battle over Jerusalem in Kadima is symbolic for a party led by

Olmert, who, as Jerusalem mayor, often declared that the capital would never be divided, but spoke about giving up

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In a sign of the times, more streets to be named after outstanding women

• By SHELLY PAZ

Each year brings with it more and more streets named after the late prime minister Yitzhak Rabin. But some time soon we might also be seeing the first road named after Rabin's mother Rosa - and dozens of other women who so far have not gotten due recognition on Israel's avenues.

The Prime Minister's Office is pushing a new plan to name more streets and public buildings after women. Former Netanya mayor Vered Swid, Prime Minister Ehud Olmert's adviser for social affairs, recently asked mayors and heads of local councils, including Yona Yahav of Haifa, Yitzhak Meir-Halevi of Eilat, Ya'acov Turner of Beer-sheba and Ron Huldai of Tel Aviv-Jaffa to name more streets after women who initiated significant change and made important contributions to society.

Swid told *The Jerusalem Post* that according to an informal survey she had conducted, only a few dozens of Tel Aviv's more than 2,000 streets were named after women.

The municipal leaders seemed receptive of the initiative and their cities' committees for street names would take it into consideration, Swid said.

"We must make sure that

future generations will also know and remember who the women were who led a change, contributed and helped reshaping our world and reality," she said.

Among those whose names should be immortalized were women such as Rosa Rabin, who was a member of the Tel Aviv City Council; former MK Chyka Grossman-Orkin (1919-1996), who served as deputy Knesset speaker during the '70s and '80s and who fought against the Nazis in the Bialystok Ghetto; and Shoshana Parsitz (1892-1969), the first female MK to chair a permanent Knesset panel - the Education and Culture Committee - and an Israel Prize laureate for education.

Former minister Shulamit Aloni told the *Post* she supported anything that promoted women's social status and corrected inequality.

"I think streets should be named after nice things like flowers, ideas or great artists,



SAMUEL'S MOTHER. Jerusalem's Hanna Street is one of the few Israeli streets named after women. (Ariel Jerozolimski/The Jerusalem Post)

for example, and not be named as Holocaust Street or other terms that remind us of awful things," Aloni said. "However, as long as men are being immortalized on street signs, women should be remembered in this way as well. Many women performed great deeds and dedicated their entire existence to achieving goals such as equal

social rights and things like women's right to vote, to influence events or to control their own lives and bodies."

Aloni added that she herself would want to be remembered as someone who fought for freedom and human rights, but "not necessarily on a street sign, as people usually don't remember who these people were."

Tel Aviv Deputy Mayor Yael Dayan's father, Moshe Dayan, was defense minister during the Six Day War and has many streets named after him. Yael Dayan also said that any gender inequity, whether in employment or in street names, had to be fixed. "The Tel Aviv Municipality is considered to be quite progressive when it comes to affirmative action for women, but there are places where the situation is not so encouraging," she said.

Dayan said that while Tel Aviv's city council was working to name more streets after women, they were finding it hard to do this in Arab and haredi neighborhoods, whose representatives tended not to nominate women's names.

"I, personally, don't think that the head of the Women's Corps in the IDF should be immortalized on a street sign, but rather artists, women of letters and intellectuals such as song writer Naomi Shemer - a school named after her

was recently inaugurated - or author and poet Lea Goldberg, who is remembered in so many ways," Dayan said.

"In any case," added Dayan, "no matter how we honor women after they are gone, we should remember to respect them during their lifetimes as well."

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