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Would-be Samaritans will try harder

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Gush Emunim is threatening to go ahead with "stubborn and intensive" plans for much more frequent Jewish settlement bids in Judea and Samaria, "with or without Government approval."

Rabbi Yohanan Fried, spokesman for the group, told reporters in Jerusalem yesterday that their almost weekly attempts to put down roots in Sebastia, Ma'ale Adumim and Alon Moreh proved "successful," despite the fact that all were dislodged by security forces. "We showed Kissinger that Israel is not willing to give up its land," he explained, and claimed that Jewish settlement in those areas has now entered the consciousness of most Israelis. About 2,500 persons have already registered to settle and establish homes in Samaria, according to the Gush Emunim secretariat.

Rabbi Fried censured the use of soldiers to evacuate the settlers, asserting that "many of them are on our side and they have mixed feelings when they're ordered to get us out." On future settlement attempts, "we will stick to the floor," he promised, but said the settlers will not use violence against those ordered to remove them.

Rabbi Moshe Levinger, leader of the Jewish settlers in Kiryat Arba, announced that a new *gar'in* (settlement group) is being formed for the Dotan Valley near Jenin, in addition to the already extant *gar'inim* for Shilo, Ma'ale Adumim, western hills of Samaria, Sebastia and Jericho. Unlike the others, the Dotan group is largely non-religious. The members now live in northern cities and will try to win Government approval for their settlement.

Rabbi Fried invited sympathizers to join the two-day Samaria march next Sunday and Monday. Participants will leave from moshav Nitzanei Oz on the "Green Line," and hike to an encampment for the night, where they will be entertained by a sound-light show and debate the future of settlement in the territories). On Monday, they will have another day's march and disperse at the ancient amphitheatre in the old city of Shomron.

"Marchers should bring their own gear and food," said the organizers, but the event, which will be well-protected by security forces and participants who may carry guns, will cost the organization some IL70,000. The march has been granted a permit, and MKs, religious leaders and other public figures are expected to attend.