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MA'ALE ADUMIM's future settlers cluster around a Tora scroll under the canopy of a prayer shawl as they dedicate the site's synagogue (right) during Independence Day. Some 300 would-be settlers arrived at the concrete-block structure, which they set up during a settlement-attempt two months ago, shortly before noon. Most returned to Jerusalem after the dedication, but they left behind a guard of about 20 young men — the nucleus of a future yeshi va. (Eliahu Harati)