The IDF is encroaching on Palestinian Authority territory (area A) as a tactical measure to provide better security to its forces and Jewish residents, a senior IDF officer said yesterday.

The move also has strategic value of showing the PA that there is a territorial price for continuing the conflict, he said.

The "territorial assets," as he called them, are mainly in the Gaza Strip along the approach roads to the three blocs of Jewish settlements.

Violence Likely To Increase
Head of IDF Intelligence Maj.-Gen. Amos Malka told the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee that an escalation of Palestinian violence is foreseen for the coming days. "The Palestinian Authority will want to test the new government," Malka said, noting also that an upcoming convention of Arab nations at the end of March is also a factor in the PA's plans.

He noted that it does not matter which terrorist organization carries out a given attack, as they all receive the same go-ahead from Arafat and the PA. "All the terror organizations are acting under the auspices of the Palestinian Authority," Gen. Malka said.

Not Without A Plan
Communications M inister Imad Falouji said during a PLO rally that it was a mistake to think the uprising, in which more than 400 people have been killed, was sparked by Israeli Prime Minister-elect Ariel Sharon's visit to the Al-Aqsa mosque compound in late September.

Instead, he said it was planned after the failure of the summit at Camp David. At that time, then-President Clinton pressed Yasser Arafat to make concessions - particularly on the right of return - in response to Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak's willingness to surrender some Jerusalem neighborhoods to the Palestinians.

Sources: Jerusalem Post, BNI, INN, and AP.

PEOPLE of the BOOK

"It has gotten so bad how is my protest going to help? Besides, I am not qualified to rule on such complex matters?"

"Not qualified" not an argument. Concerning the rabbis' argument that "we are not qualified to expound the laws properly," the Rebbe responded, that this reasoning cannot enter into a discussion of Jewish Law involving either matters of life and death or an act which is being continually perpetrated. Indeed in our case, it is clear that we are dealing simultaneously with both an ongoing act and a case of veritable life and death. Therefore the argument claiming a lack of qualifications, has no place whatsoever.

A ruling is a ruling, is a ruling!
The very fact that there are certain rabbis who issued a rabbinic ruling and sent it to the Israeli government (despite the fact that they knew it would not be effective), is already proof, that this is what needs to be done. This is because inasmuch as they are rabbis they must protest, and they must not be concerned with the notion that they may not be adhered to.

From the talks and writings of The Lubavitcher Rebbe Concerning the Integrity of the Land of Israel