



Who Am I?

BASIC/ GENERAL LEVEL

A) I have been the prime minister of Israel since 2001. Since then, there has been a lot of violence between my country and the Palestinians.

B) Much of this violence has to do with arguments about areas where Israelis have built homes on land that the Palestinians say is theirs. In the past I have done a lot to encourage Israelis to build or settle in these areas.

C) This year, as part of a step towards peace, I promised that all of the Israeli settlers now living in the Gaza Strip and some living in the West

Bank would have to leave by July 20th, so that those lands could be turned over to the Palestinians. But recently, I said that the Israeli pullout would be put off for four weeks and will now happen in August. **Who am I? (Ariel Sharon.) Read your newspaper to find out what happens this summer as Israel pulls out of these areas.**

ADVANCED LEVEL

A) In 2001, I became Israel's 11th prime minister. During the ensuing four years, I have been very aggressive in my efforts to destroy Palestinian groups that have been associated with terrorist activity. Some of my critics say that my tactics have resulted in great hardships for innocent Palestinians.

B) For many years, I have encouraged the building of Jewish settlements on disputed lands. But this year, in a gesture towards peace, I agreed to dismantle all of the Israeli settlements in the Gaza Strip and four in the West Bank. I am expecting strong opposition from Jewish settler groups who say they will fight the withdrawal. At the same time, I am being criticized by Palestinians and others for continuing to authorize the building of more settlements in the West Bank.

C) I will be meeting with Palestinian leader, Mahmoud Abbas, in early May to discuss the pullout, now scheduled to take place in August. **Who am I? (Ariel Sharon.) What is the name of my political party? (Likud.) Read your newspaper to find out what happens this summer with the proposed pullout.**

This is the last regular issue of the NewsCurrents year. Next week, you will receive the semester quiz, covering the NewsCurrents issues of Vol. 54, Nos. 17-33. We thank all of you for participating in the NewsCurrents program and wish you a happy, healthy summer.

