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ON THE LEGAL STATUS OF THE GOLAN HEIGHTS: APPLICATION OF ISRAELI LAW OR ANNEXATION?

PREFACE

The territory of the Golan Heights was captured from Syria in the course of the Six Day War. In 1981 the Knesset passed the Golan Heights Law, which applied Israeli law, jurisdiction and administration to the Golan Heights.

In the context of the current peace negotiations between Israel and Syria, Israel is being asked to ultimately withdraw from all or part of the Golan. The implications of the Golan Heights Law thus come to the fore. Did the law bring about the annexation of the Golan Heights to Israel? If so, is the Israeli government authorized to withdraw from the Golan Heights without further legislation?

Opposing views are expressed by Professors Leon Sheleff and Asher Maoz of the Tel Aviv University Faculty of Law. All translations not cited to official English-language sources are by the authors.

