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ISRAEL: New Public Opinion Poll

A recent telephone survey conducted by the Dahaf polling organisation indicates that more than 60 percent of the Israeli public would support the return of some of the occupied West Bank if this would enable Israel to obtain an agreement with Egypt at Camp David. A poll conducted by Hebrew University early in August indicated a majority of Israelis do not share Prime Minister Begin's religious and ideological attachment to the whole of the territory.

The Dahaf organization also found that 62 percent of those polled were satisfied with Begin's performance in cffice, a gain of a few percentage points from previous polls and an indication that Begin's popularity continues on the upturn that began in July. Begin's rebounding health clearly has impressed many Israelis, who now also appear convinced that he has demonstrated reasonable flexibility on key peace negotiation issues.

Egyptian President Sadat's public hard line on the West Bank withdrawal issue and his ouster of the Israeli military delegation from Alexandria probably have reinforced already strong Israeli perceptions that Sadat, not Begin, is the intransigent party blocking progress on the negotiating front.

The Dahaf poll further indicated Defense Minister Weizman enjoys the support of more than 70 percent of the

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public--a level of popularity he has maintained throughout most of the year. About 50 percent of those polled registered satisfaction with Foreign Minister Davan, whose popularity has dropped somewhat in recent months.