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DIGEST NEWSCLIPPINGS UCCI

1. SUBJECT: PROPOSED ANTIMISSION LAW

DATE: 14.12.77

JOURNAL: JERUSALEM POST

HEADING: "THE LAW AGAINST MISSIONARIES"

CHARACTER: READERS' LETTER PROTESTING LAW & ALLEGATIONS

BYLINE: Bishop Hanna Kaldany (Head of the Roman Catholic-Latin-Church in Israel)

EXTRACT: "THE DRAFT LAW AGAINST 'THE MISSION'...IN NO WAY CONCERNS THE ACTIVITIES OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH IN ISRAEL...QUOTE A PASSAGE FROM DECLARATION JULY 14, 1963 SIGNED THE ECONOMIC SITUATION OF THE ISRAELI CITIZEN...IN ORDER TO INDUCE CONVERSION, BECAUSE FAITH, IN OUR VIEW, IS A FREE GIFT OF GOD AND A DISINTERESTED RESPONSE ON THE PART OF MAN. NOR DO WE TAKE ADVANTAGE...OF A NEGATIVE PSYCHOLOGICAL ATTITUDE SOME JEWS MAY FEEL...OR A DESIRE TO ESCAPE FROM THEIR JEWISHNESS; FOR WE ARE CONVINCED THAT A JEW WHO BECOMES A CHRISTIAN STILL REMAINS A MEMBER OF HIS PEOPLE, AS HE WAS FROM BIRTH. UNQUOTE SINCE THEN, THIS POSITION HAS NOT CHANGED, I AM THEREFORE ASTONISHED AT THE OUTBURSTS OF CERTAIN MK'S DURING THE SESSION DEC 5, THE DISTORTION OF FACTS AND THE EXAGGERATION OF FIGURES....I WISH TO EXPRESS DEEP APPRECIATION TO THOSE MK'S & JOURNALISTS WHO SHOWED THEMSELVES READY TO SEE THINGS IN THEIR PROPER LIGHT....THE LATE LEVI ESHKOL SUCCESSFULLY REFUTED THE ARGUMENTS OF THOSE IN FAVOUR OF (A PREVIOUS ATTEMPT) BY BRINGING FORWARD FACTS & FIGURES...ONE ASKS WHETHER THE NEW LAW WILL ALSO PROTECT CHRISTIANS LIVING IN THE MIDST OF A JEWISH SOCIETY FROM PRESSURES & TEMPTATIONS, WHICH HAVE LED NOT A FEW TO CHANGE THEIR RELIGION UNDER DURESS."

DATE: 14.12.77

JOURNAL: HAARETZ

HEADING: PROPOSED LAW AGAINST THE MISSION

CHARACTER: READERS' LETTER (SAME AS ABOVE IN HEBREW)

DATE: 15.12.77

JOURNAL: HATSOFE (NRP MORNING)

HEADING: THE AFFLICTION OF THE MISSION

CHARACTER: DEFENCE OF PROPOSED LAW & ATTACK ON MISSIONS

BYLINE: Pinhas Sheinman (M.K. NRP)

EXTRACTS: ONE OF THE HARDEST AND MOST PAINFUL PHENOMENA IS THE MISSIONARY ACTIVITY IN THE STATE OF ISRAEL. AFTER YEARS OF EXILE, WHEN WE RETURNED TO OUR HOMELAND, WE WOULD THINK THAT THOSE HOSTILE FORCES WHICH HAD SOUGHT TO CONVERT US WOULD LEAVE US ALONE. BUT NO. NOT ONLY ARE WE NOT LEFT ALONE, BUT MANY & VARIOUS CHRISTIAN SECTS HAVE SEEN IT AS AN OBLIGATION TO ORGANIZE HERE IN ISRAEL SUBVERSIVE ORGANIZATIONS AGAINST THE SOUL OF THE PEOPLE. THE MISSION IS A PLAGUE AND A BLIGHT AGAINST THE BODY OF THE PEOPLE....(FOLLOWS A DESCRIPTION OF JEWISH SUFFERING FROM ROMAN TIMES OF CAESAR ADRIANOS THROUGHOUT EXILE). THE PROPOSED LAW...DOES NOT PROHIBIT (ALL) MISSIONARY ACTIVITY. INDEED, THERE IS ROOM ALSO FOR THE ENACTMENT OF SUCH A STATUTE...BUT TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION THE SPECIAL SENSITIVITY EXISTING IN THE WORLD--THE TIME IS NOT YET RIPE, I REGRET, FOR ENACTING A LAW THAT WILL FORBID EVERY FORM OF MISSIONARY ACTIVITY. (FOLLOWS A SECTION OUTLINING "PERVERSE" METHODS OF "THE MISSION" IN USING "MATERIAL ENTICEMENTS" AND THEIR UNLIMITED RESOURCES, WITH REFERENCE TO ZIKRON YAACOV.) "OFFICIALS PURSUING THIS SUBJECT HAVE TESTIFIED BEFORE THE CONSTITUTIONAL COMMITTEE OF LAW & JUSTICE THAT THEY COULD BRING 'A FULL TRUCKLOAD' OF MATERIAL WHICH TESTIFIES TO EXTRAVAGANT PROPOSALS OF BENEFICENCE IN EXCHANGE FOR CONVERSION." (FOLLOWS A SECTION DEALING WITH "SECURITY" ASPECT & MISSIONARY PENETRATION IN I.D.F.) "IN THE MATERIAL THAT IS DISTRIBUTED THERE IS AN ATTEMPT TO CAST DOUBT UPON THE JUSTICE OF OUR NATIONAL STRUGGLE & TO UNDERMINE THE MORAL MOTIVATIONS FOR THE DEFENCE OF THE HOMELAND."

"IT IS NECESSARY TO THE POPE AND TO THE ~~NUMEROUS~~ OTHER HEADS OF CHRISTIAN BODIES--LET US ALONE! REMOVE ISRAEL FROM THE MAP OF MISSIONARY ACTIVITY. DIRECT THESE ENERGIES TO THOSE PARTS OF THE WORLD WHERE THE GOSPEL OF HUMANENESS & FAITH HAVE NOT YET REACHED." "WE DO NOT LIMIT IN ANY FORM CHRISTIAN ACTIVITIES WITHIN THE BOUNDARIES OF THE STATE. IN THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE FREEDOM & EQUALITY IS ASSURED TO ALL CITIZENS OF ISRAEL WITHOUT REGARD TO RELIGION, RACE OR BELIEF....IN THE CRIMINAL LAW THERE ARE ~~XXXXXX~~ CLEAR SECTIONS CONCERNING PENALTIES FOR SEDUCERS OR ENTICERS TO CRIME...AND SHALL THERE BE A BREACH (LOOPHOLE) ONLY IN SUCH A SENSITIVE AREA AS ENTICEMENT TO CONVERSION?"

DATE: 16.12.77

JOURNAL: YEDIOT AKRONOT (PM IND)

HEADING: THE MISSION LAW SHOULD BE REVIEWED (DOES NOT THE LAW INVITE ANTISEMITISM IN THE DIASPORA?)

BYLINE: SHULAMIT ALONI (MK CRM)

CHARACTER: FEATURE ARTICLE DISCUSSING LAW & ITS IMPLICATIONS
EXTRACTS: "THE STATE OF ISRAEL SEES ITSELF ~~REPRESENTATIVE~~ AS THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE ENTIRE JEWISH PEOPLE AND AS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE FATE OF THE JEWS WHEREVER THEY BE FOUND." (FOLLOWS ARGUMENT AS TO STATE'S RESPONSIBILITY TOWARDS ESTIMATED SEVEN MILLION JEWS LIVING BY CHOICE IN FREE COUNTRIES WHILE NOT OPTING TO EMIGRATE TO ISRAEL AND IN SOCIETIES PERMITTING ABSOLUTE FREEDOM OF RELIGION INCLUDING IDEOLOGICAL & RELIGIOUS CONVERSION.) "NOW THE KNESSET WHICH REPRESENTS THREE MILLION JEWS ONLY DECIDED TO ACCEPT A LAW...WHOSE MAIN PURPOSE IS TO BATTLE AGAINST CHRISTIANITY IN ISRAEL, WHICH IS HERE AN INSIGNIFICANT MINORITY, AND WHOSE INFLUENCE IS NIL BY ALL OPINIONS (ACCORDING TO FIGURES OF MINISTRY OF RELIGIONS AFFAIRS IN 1974 THERE WERE FOUR CONVERSIONS TO CHRISTIANITY, IN 1975 NINE, AND IN 1976 FOUR). MK'S DID NOT CONCEAL THE FACT THAT THE PROPOSED LAW IS A SETTLING OF ACCOUNTS WITH CHRISTIANITY....AND NOT ONLY THE RELIGIOUS (JEWS)...MK DR. BENJAMIN HALEVY, A WELL KNOWN ~~LEGAL~~ LAWYER & FORMER SUPREME COURT JUSTICE, MANAGED THE DEBATE WITH CHRISTIANITY FROM THE DAYS OF RABBI AKIVA AND HIS COMPANIONS...THROUGH TO THE HOLOCAUST....(REFERENCE TO STRANGE SITUATION OF ONCE PERSECUTED MINORITY SETTLING ACCOUNTS WITH ANOTHER MINORITY WHILE JEWS NOW A MAJORITY IN ISRAEL) - "IF IT IS POSSIBLE PERHAPS TO RELATE WITH UNDERSTANDING TO THE HISTORICAL TRAUMAS OF THE SPEAKERS, MANY OF WHOM PASSED THROUGH PERSONALLY AND AT AN ADVANCED AGE THE PHYSICAL REVOLUTION FROM BEING A PERSECUTED MINORITY IN AN ALIEN SOCIETY AND BECOMING A MAJORITY, WITH SOVEREIGNTY AND AUTHORITY...WHAT IS NOT CLEAR IS THEIR OBTUSENESS TO THE FATE OF THOSE SEVEN MILLION JEWS STILL LIVING AS A MINORITY IN STATES WHOSE MAJORITIES ARE CHRISTIAN. DOES NOT THIS HOSTILE ATTITUDE TOWARDS ~~THE~~ CHRISTIANITY & CHRISTIANS IN ISRAEL, AND TO THOSE WHOSE ORIGIN IS FROM PEOPLES OF A CHRISTIAN TRADITION, OR TO BELIEVERS IN JESUS, WHICH IS NOW ABOUT TO FIND EXPRESSION IN A SEVERE CRIMINAL STATUTE, INVITE WILFULLY WAVES OF ANTISEMITISM IN THE DIASPORA? IS THE STATE OF ISRAEL INTERESTED IN ENCOURAGING THE CHRISTIAN CHURCHES WHICH ARE STILL VERY STRONG IN STATES WHERE JEWS ARE NOW LIVING BY THEIR OWN FREE CHOICE TO ENGAGE IN A BATTLE AND HATRED AGAINST JEWS, ZIONISM, THE STATE OF ISRAEL? THEREFORE, I HAVE REQUESTED ...DELAY IN THE DISCUSSION OF THIS LAW...UNTIL THE EFFECT OF THIS LAW UPON JEWS IN THE DIASPORA CAN BE CLARIFIED. THE COMMITTEE DID NOT ACCEPT MY PROPOSAL....IT SEEMS TO ME OBLIGATORY TO OPEN PUBLIC DISCUSSION ON THIS SUBJECT BEFORE THE LAW IS PASSED, AND NOT ONLY FOR THE REASONS I HAVE GIVEN HERE..."

DATE: 18.12.77

JOURNAL: SHEARIM (AGUDA A.M.)
HEADING: MISSIONARY ACTIVITIES CONTINUING AMONG DROPOUTS IN ROME

BYLINE: Yitzhak Hildesheimer

CHARACTER: NEWS ARTICLE EXPOSE
EXTRACTS: "A LUXURIOUS EVANGELISTIC CLUBHOUSE, WHICH IS ACTUALLY SERVING AS A MODERN CHURCH, CONTINUES TO HOLD/MISSIONARY ACTIVITIES AMONG MANY SOVIET JEWISH EMIGRES WHO HAVE DROPPED OUT AFTER LEAVING THE USSR AND HAVE REACHED ROME, THUS REPORTS CHIEF OF EMIGRATION & ABSORPTION SECTION OF THE JEWISH AGENCY, UZI NARKIS IN A REPORT SUBMITTED TO JEWISH AGENCY MANAGEMENT. (FOLLOWS REPORT OF ALLEGED "ALMOST UNLIMITED BUDGETS & TECHNICAL POSSIBILITIES" AT DISPOSAL OF "EVANGELISTIC CLUBHOUSE"; NEVERTHELESS NO RECORD KNOWN OF ACTUAL CONVERSIONS TO CHRISTIANITY, BUT THERE IS THE POSSIBILITY THAT "AFTER THE DROPOUTS MOVE TO THE USA, THEIR MISSION WILL CONTINUE ITS ACTIVITIES AMONG THEM, AND THEN THERE IS NO POSSIBILITY OF CLARIFYING THE RESULTS.") THE REST OF THE REPORT DEALS WITH EFFORTS BY HASIDIM AND OTHERS TO WOO THE DROPOUTS, INCLUDING THE DISPATCH OF THREE EMMISSARIES, THEMSELVES, ~~KENNEK~~ SOVIET JEWS.

DATE: 15.12.77

JOURNAL: DAVAR (HISTADRUT/LABOUR A.M.)
HEADING: GERSHOM SCHOLEM ON THE QUESTION OF WHO IS A JEW:
SUB-HEADING: WHY THE MAJORITY OF OUR PEOPLE

PERCEPTION AND IN ALL OUR JEWISH CONSCIOUSNESS."
CHARACTER: INTRODUCTORY REMARKS & LONG CITATION OF REMARKS OF PROF.
SCHOLEM IN FEATURE ARTICLE ON THE SUBJECT

SCHOLEM IN FEATURE ARTICLE ON THE SUBJECT
SUMMARY: AFTER REFERENCE TO HONOURS RECENTLY GIVEN TO PROF. SCHOLEM ON
OCCASION OF 80TH BIRTHDAY, WRITER NOTES TENDENCY TO NEUTRALIZE THE OFTEN
DARING VIEWS OF PROF., AND CITES FROM AN ARTICLE IN WHICH HE ANALYZED
THE DIVERGENT VIEWS OF JEWISHNESS FROM ANCIENT TO MODERN TIMES AND THE
POSSIBILITY AND DESIRABILITY FOR VARIOUS VIEWS TO COEXIST (I.E. SECULAR
OR RELIGIOUS OR COMBINATIONS OF THE TWO). "ZIONISM ACCOMMODATED BOTH
PERSPECTIVES, AND WAS PREPARED TO RECEIVE BOTH IN HER RANKS. EVERY MAN
WAS FREE TO DECIDE WHETHER HE WOULD CHOOSE A SECULAR IDENTITY WITH THE
JEWISH PEOPLE OR A RELIGIOUS IDENTITY, OR EVEN BOTH AT ONCE....IN MY
OPINION THE GOVT OF ISRAEL MADE A REGRETTABLE & SERIOUS ERROR WHEN IT
BROUGHT BEFORE THE KNESSET THE PROPOSAL TO CHANGE THE STATUS OF WHO IS A
JEW?"

DATE: 18.12.77

JOURNAL: HAARETZ (A.M. IND.)
HEADING: MASSES OF SOUND: RECITAL OF ELIZABETH ROLOFF (MUSIC IN JERUSALEM)

BYLINE: URI EPSTEIN
SUMMARY: REVIEW OF ORGAN CONCERT AT LUTHERAN CHURCH IN EAST JERUSALEM
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DATE: 16.12.77

HEADING: IN GENERAL & IN PARTICULAR

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SUMMARY: PRES. EFRAIM KATZIR RECEIVED ON 15.12.77 DR. WIM WALGO, PRESIDENT
OF THE CHRISTIAN PHILANTHROPIC GROUP, "BETH SHALOM", WHO WAS PRESENTED
BEFORE THE PRESIDENT OF ISRAEL BY DR. Y. KLEIN, DIRECTOR OF THE ASAF
HAROFI HOSPITAL.

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