

SUBJECT 1: NEW MISSION LAW

DATE: 23.2.78 JOURNAL: HAMODIYA (HEBREW A.M. AGUDAT) NEWS ARTICLE
 HEADING: "DEMAND FOR FOREIGN MINISTRY REACTION TO INCITEMENT OF CHRISTIAN CHURCHES:
 RAISED BY RABBI ABRAMOWITZ IN PARLIAMENTARY QUERY TO FOREIGN MINISTER"
 BYLINE: OUR PARLIAMENTARY CORRESPONDENT
 QUOTE: MK RABBI YM ABRAMOWITZ HAS DIRECTED A PARLIAMENTARY QUERY TO FM MOSHE DAYAN,
 BRINGING TO HIS ATTENTION THE INCITEMENT AGAINST HIM BEING CONDUCTED ON THE PART OF
 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE CHRISTIAN CHURCHES. IN THE FOREIGN PRESS BLATANT LIES ARE BEING
 PUBLISHED WHILE THE FOREIGN MINISTRY HAS YET TO REACT AGAINST THESE DISTORTED REPORTS.
 FM DAYAN WAS REQUESTED TO DISTRIBUTE AMONG THE EMBASSIES THE CONTENT OF THE LAW AS WELL
 AS EXPLANATORY MATERIAL IN ORDER TO REFUTE THE DISTORTIONS OF HOSTILE ELEMENTS. IN THE
 PARLIAMENTARY QUERY RABBI ABRAMOWITZ NOTES THAT SINCE THE PASSAGE OF THE LAW AGAINST
 CHANGE OF RELIGION THE CHRISTIAN CHURCHES' REPRESENTATIVES HAVE BEEN CONDUCTING A CAMPAIGN
 OF VIRULENT INCITEMENT AGAINST IT, ACCOMPANIED BY VARIOUS DISTORTIONS, AMONG THEM THAT
 THE LAW AS IT WERE CONTAINS EXPRESSIONS AGAINST THE CHRISTIANS. THIS INCITEMENT IS ESPECIALLY
 ACTIVE IN EUROPE AND AMERICA IN THE PRESS AND BY MEANS OF THEIR EMISSARIES. LAST
 WEEK I RECEIVED SOME TWENTY NEWS CLIPPINGS FROM THE WORLD PRESS, ESPECIALLY FROM EUROPE
 AND AMERICA, IN WHICH BLATANT LIES WERE PUBLISHED ABOUT THE LAW. IT IS A VERY CURIOUS
 THING THAT IN ALL THESE CLIPPINGS I DID NOT FIND EVEN ONE RESPONSE FROM ANY SOURCE WHATSOEVER
 AGAINST THESE DISTORTED NEWS ITEMS. RECENTLY A SPECIAL DELEGATION OF THE CHRISTIAN
 CHURCHES IN ISRAEL WENT OUT TO THE VATICAN IN ROME. THE NEWSPAPER "MAARIV" DATED
 12 ADAR-A THIS YEAR WHICH REPORTED THIS, ADDED THAT IN THE MEMORANDUM PUBLISHED BY THIS
 DELEGATION IT IS STATED: "THERE IS IN THIS LAW AN INDICATION OF WHAT IS IN THE MINDS OF
 THOSE WHO PROPOSED IT: THE ASPIRATION TO USE IT AS A POWERFUL WEAPON IN ORDER TO WAGE AN
 EXTREMIST CAMPAIGN WHOSE AIM IS TO LIQUIDATE THE CHRISTIAN PRESENCE IN ISRAEL." THE
 ITEM CONCLUDES THAT THE VATICAN RESPONDED WITH "UNDERSTANDING AND CONCERN" ABOUT IT.
 ALSO IN THE ISRAELI PRESS THERE ARE ALMOST DAILY ITEMS AGAINST THE LAW WHOSE SOURCE IS
 IN THE CHRISTIAN CHURCHES. THE FM IS REQUESTED TO INVESTIGATE AND NOTIFY (THE KNESSET)
 WHY THE FOREIGN MINISTRY IS NOT DEFENDING THE LAW WHICH WAS PASSED BY THE KNESSET AND
 WHY IT IS NOT PUBLISHING THE CONTENT OF THE LAW IN THE WORLD PRESS IN ORDER TO REFUTE
 THE DISTORTIONS BEING PROMULGATED ABOUT IT AND IN ORDER TO PROVE THAT IN THE LAW THERE
 IS NO MENTION OF THE WORD "CHRISTIANS", BUT THAT IT IS AGAINST ALL THOSE WHO GIVE MONEY
 IN EXCHANGE FOR CONVERSION OF RELIGION! RABBI ABRAMOWITZ ALSO DEMANDED THAT THE FM DIS-
 TRIBUTE AMONG THE ISRAELI AMBASSADORS IN ALL COUNTRIES OF THE WORLD THE CONTENT OF THE
 LAW AS WELL AS ADDITIONAL EXPLANATORY MATERIAL CONCERNING IT IN ORDER THAT THEY MAY KNOW
 HOW TO EXPLAIN THE TRUE CONTENT OF THE LAW IN ALL LANDS AND THUS TO UPSET THE HOSTILE
 ACTIVITIES OF THOSE ELEMENTS INTERESTED IN INCREASING HATRED FOR THE STATE OF ISRAEL
 BY MEANS OF DISTORTED AND VICIOUS PUBLICATIONS OF VARIOUS KINDS. UNQUOTE

DATE: 26.2.78 JOURNAL: "LETZTE NAYIS" (YIDDISH) REUTERS NEWS ITEM
 HEADING: "BITTERNESS AMONG CHRISTIANS IN ISRAEL OVER LAW AGAINST MISSION"
 QUOTE: GENEVA (REUTER) ~~XXX~~ CHRISTIANS FROM ISRAEL HAVE EXPRESSED THEIR DEEP CONCERN OVER
 THE LAW PASSED IN ISRAEL SETTING FORTH LARGE PENALTIES FOR GIVING MATERIAL INDUCE-
 MENTS TO PEOPLE WHO WILL APOSTASIZE. THE WCC WITH HEADQUARTERS IN GENEVA HAS ANNOUNCED
 THAT A THREE-PERSON DELEGATION OF THE UCCI VISITED LAST WEEK IN GENEVA AND DECLARED THAT
 THE NEW LAW AGAINST MISSIONARIES WILL RESTRICT THE FREEDOM OF THE CHRISTIAN MINORITY IN
 ISRAEL AND HARM JEWISH-CHRISTIAN RELATIONSHIPS. THE DELEGATION DEMANDED THE CREATION OF
 AN INDEPENDENT COMMISSION TO INVESTIGATE THE CHARGES REGARDING MATERIAL ENTICEMENTS WHOSE
 AIM IS TO ~~XXXX~~ CAUSE JEWS TO APOSTASIZE. UNQUOTE

DATE: 26.2.78 JOURNAL: ISRAEL NACHRICHTEN (GERMAN) NEWS ARTICLE
 HEADING: "CHRISTIANS AGAINST NEW MISSIONS LAW"
 (SAME ITEM AS IN YIDDISH JOURNAL REPORTED BY REUTERS FROM GENEVA REGARDING DELEGATION OF UCCI)

DATE: 28.2.78 JOURNAL: HAMODIYA (HEB AM AGUDA) EDITORIAL
 HEADING: "HOW HAVE THEY BEEN HURT?..."
 QUOTE: "EXTREMIST ELEMENTS IN THE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITIES OF ISRAEL CONTINUE TO CONDUCT THEIR
 WILD AND UNRESTRAINED PROPAGANDA AGAINST THE LAW DESIGNED TO IMPOSE PENALTIES FOR ENTICEMENT
 TO CHANGE OF RELIGION WHICH WAS PASSED IN THE KNESSET ON THE INITIATIVE OF AGUDAT ISRAEL.
 THEY HAVE EXPRESSED "CONCERN" BEFORE THE WCC AT ITS GENEVA HQ, AS IF THE PURPOSE OF THE LAW
 WERE TO "CUT DOWN THE LIBERTY OF THE CHRISTIAN MINORITY IN ISRAEL AND TO HARM JEWISH-CHRISTIAN
 RELATIONSHIPS." THESE ANNOUNCEMENTS ARE MOST TENDENTIOUS AND THEIR INTENTION IS TO REMOVE
 THIS STUMBLINGBLOCK AS WELL TO THE MISSIONARY SOULHUNTERS. THERE IS NO OTHER WAY TO UNDER-
 STAND WHY ALL THIS COMMOTION. THE LAW DOES NOT EVEN MENTION THE WORD "CHRISTIAN" OR

OTHER RELIGIOUS ELEMENTS. THE LAW FIXES A SEVERE PENALTY FOR ANYONE ENGAGING IN ENTICEMENT FOR CONVERSION IN EXCHANGE OF MONEY OR ITS EQUIVALENT, AND IT IS NOT RELEVANT WHICH RELIGION IS INVOLVED. SO WHAT IS THE HARM TO CHRISTIANS? THEY THEMSELVES CLAIM THAT THEY ARE TURNING AWAY FROM THE ACTIVITIES OF MISSIONARIES AND THAT THEY OPPOSE CONVERSIONS ON THE BASIS OF MONETARY ENTICEMENTS. SO WHY ALL THE NOISE? AND PERHAPS THERE IS TRUTH IN THE CHARGE THAT THEY REALLY WANT IN THIS WAY TO PROTECT THE FREE OPERATION OF THE MISSION? IF THIS CONCERNS THEM--IT IS A SIGN THAT THERE IS SOMETHING TO THIS CHARGE! INCIDENTALLY, THE STRANGE SILENCE OF THE FOREIGN MINISTRY IS QUITE INCOMPREHENSIBLE, WHICH SO CASUALLY TOLERATES THE WILD DEFAMATION OF THE STATE BY CHRISTIAN ELEMENTS ENJOYING THE FULL FREEDOM AND LIBERTIES OF THE STATE WITHOUT ANY DISCRIMINATION AGAINST THEM. THERE IS MORE THAN AN ELEMENT OF INSOLENCE AND VULGARITY IN THESE REMARKS OF CHRISTIANS WHO EXPRESS APPREHENSION AT THE "CUTTING DOWN OF THE LIBERTY OF CHRISTIANS IN ISRAEL," AT THE VERY TIME THAT THE STATE EXTENDS ABUNDANT AID AS THE SOLE SOURCE TO THE CHRISTIAN MINORITY IN LEBANON. WHERE IS THE WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES IN GENEVA IN ALL THIS AFFAIR?" UNQUOTE

DATE: 1.3.78 JOURNAL: HAMODIYA (HEB AM AGUDA) NEWS ARTICLE
 HEADING: "DEMAND TO CURB CHRISTIAN ACTIVITY AGAINST LAW OF THE MISSION"

QUOTE: "IN THE WAKE OF THE DISTORTED NEWS ITEMS BEING PUBLISHED ALMOST DAILY IN THE ISRAELI PRESS IN CONNECTION WITH THE LAW AGAINST CHANGE OF RELIGION WHICH WAS PASSED IN THE KNESSET, MK RABBI YM ABRAMOWITZ HAS APPEALED TO THE MIN OF RELIG AFFAIRS MR ABUHATSEIRA AND DEMANDED OF HIM TO PUBLISH IN ALL ISRAELI NEWSPAPERS THE ORIGINAL TEXT OF THE LAW AND SUITABLE EXPLANATIONS IN ORDER TO BRING TO THE ATTENTION OF THE PUBLIC THE TRUE SITUATION IN THE MATTER. MK RABBI ABRAMOWITZ CITED AS AN EXAMPLE & THE FABRICATION THAT THE LAW AS IT WERE IS DIRECTED AGAINST THE CHRISTIANS WHEN THIS WORD DOES NOT EVEN APPEAR IN THE TEXT OF THE LAW. AS A FURTHER EXAMPLE OF THE CAMPAIGN OF INCITEMENT BEING CONDUCTED AGAINST THE LAW, MK RABBI ABRAMOWITZ QUOTED "MAARIV" OF 12 Adar-A THIS YEAR, IN THE CONTEXT OF A PROMINENT NEWS ITEM CONCERNING A DELEGATION OF CHRISTIAN CHURCH REPRESENTATIVES FROM ISRAEL WHO HAVE GONE OUT TO THE VATICAN IN ROME. IN THE MEMORANDUM PUBLISHED BY THIS DELEGATION IT IS STATED AMONG OTHER THINGS THAT THIS LAW IS AN INDICATION OF WHAT LIES IN THE MINDS OF THOSE WHO HAVE PROPOSED IT, THE ASPIRATION TO EMPLOY THE LAW AS A WEAPON OF GREAT FORCE IN ORDER TO CONDUCT AN EXTREMIST CAMPAIGN WHOSE AIM IS TO LIQUIDATE THE CHRISTIAN PRESENCE IN ISRAEL. FOLLOWING THIS IT IS STATED IN THE NEWS ITEM THAT THE RESPONSE OF THE VATICAN TO THE MEMORANDUM WAS OF UNDERSTANDING AND CONCERN. THE MIN OF RELIG AFFAIRS WAS REQUESTED TO PUBLISH IN ALL ISRAELI NEWSPAPERS THE ORIGINAL TEXT OF THE LAW AS WELL AS SUITABLE EXPLANATIONS IN ORDER TO BRING TO THE ATTENTION OF THE GENERAL PUBLIC THE TRUE SITUATION IN THE MATTER." UNQUOTE

DATE: 2.3.78 JOURNAL: HAARETZ (HEB AM IND.) FEATURE ARTICLE (MOOD "matzav ruakh")
 HEADING: "THE ENTICEMENT" BYLINE: B. MICHAL

QUOTE: "AMENDMENT TO THE PENAL LAW (ENTICEMENT TO CHANGE OF RELIGION) 1977: 1. WHOSEVER GIVES OR PROMISES TO GIVE ANY PERSON MONEY, ITS EQUIVALENT, OR ANY OTHER BENEFIT IN ORDER TO ENTICE HIM TO CHANGE HIS RELIGION, HIS SENTENCE IS--FIVE YEARS IMPRISONMENT OR A FINE OF IL 50,000. (FROM THE BOOK OF LAWS OF THE STATE OF ISRAEL). NICOLA BARBANIAN WAS IN TROUBLE. HE WAS AN ARMENIAN REFUGEE IN ITALY, STATELESS, NEITHER ITALIAN NOR ANYTHING ELSE. ARMENIAN REFUGEES ARE NOT ACCEPTABLE AND THEIR REQUESTS FOR NATURALIZATION ENCOUNTERED OPPOSITION AND DEPORTATION. BEING A REFUGEE, NICOLA BARBANIAN HAD DIFFICULTY FINDING WORK, AND IN ANY CASE HIS MATERIAL SITUATION WAS AT ITS WORST. HIS PROPERTY WAS REDUCED TO A DECHEPIT HUT, A PAIR OF BOOTS, A SHEEPSKIN COAT AND HIS GRANDMOTHER'S ORNAMENTS. NICOLA BARBANIAN SAW NO SOLUTION TO HIS PROBLEMS. IN DESPAIR HE TURNED TO THE MISSION REQUESTING AID, BUT WAS MET WITH A SMILE OF DISDAIN. "WHY SHOULD WE HELP YOU?" THE PRIEST SAID COOLLY. "LOOK, YOU'RE ALREADY A CHRISTIAN QUITE LEGITIMATELY..." IT WAS HARD. BUT ONE DAY NICOLA MET AN OLD MAN OF THE VILLAGE AND HE LAID OUT BEFORE HIM HIS TROUBLES. THE OLD MAN THOUGHT A LITTLE AND THEN SAID: "WHY DON'T YOU TRAVEL TO ISRAEL? I'VE HEARD THAT THERE YOU WILL GET A LOT OF MONEY IF YOU AGREE TO CHANGE YOUR RELIGION AND BECOME A JEW." NICOLA THOUGHT THE TALE WAS MOST ODD. BUT BEING IN DESPAIR HE DECIDED TO GO. HE SOLD HIS BELONGINGS, IN EXCHANGE FOR WHICH HE BOUGHT A FLIGHT TICKET TO ISRAEL AND LANDED AT LOD IN ' GOOD TIME. THE FOLLOWING DAY NICOLA BARBANIAN WENT TO AN ATTORNEY AND SAID TO HIM: "I WANT PLEASE LOTS OF MONEY, AND LOTS OF EQUIVALENTS OF MONEY, AND LOTS OF OTHER MATERIAL BENEFITS, AND QUICKLY. NOW WHAT AM I TO DO?" THE LAWYER LEAFED THROUGH THE STATUTE BOOKS OF THE STATE OF ISRAEL AND SAID: "NO PROBLEM. ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS CONVERT TO JUDAISM."

"ARE YOU SURE?" ASKED ^{THE SURPRISED} BARABANIAN. "CERTAINLY," REPLIED THE ATTORNEY. "SEE: THE LAW OF RETURN OF 1950, PARA. 1, GRANTS THE RIGHT OF IMMIGRATION TO ISRAEL TO EVERY JEW. THE AMENDED LAW OF RETURN OF 1970 EXTENDS THIS RIGHT ALSO TO A PERSON WHO CONVERTS TO JUDAISM. IF YOU CONVERT TO JUDAISM YOU ARE ENTITLED TO EMIGRATE TO ISRAEL. AND THIS ISN'T ALL. THE LAW OF CITIZENSHIP, PARA. 2 THEREIN, GRANTS YOU AUTOMATIC CITIZENSHIP IF YOU CONVERT TO JUDAISM..." NICOLA BARABANIAN COULD HARDLY CONTAIN HIMSELF FOR JOY. AT LAST HE WOULD BE A REAL CITIZEN AND ALL THIS FOR THE PRICE OF A SIMPLE ENOUGH CHANGE OF RELIGION. HE WANTED TO GO TO THE NEAREST RABBI BUT THE ATTORNEY DETAINED HIM. "AND THIS ISN'T ALL. IF YOU CONVERT AND BECOME AN IMMIGRANT ON THE BASIS OF THE LAW OF RETURN, YOU ARE ALSO ENTITLED TO ALL THE BENEFITS GRANTED TO NEW IMMIGRANTS: A LOAN FOR OBTAINING AN APARTMENT, DUTY-FREE ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES, DUTY-FREE VEHICLE, HELP IN LEARNING THE LANGUAGE, ASSISTANCE IN FINDING EMPLOYMENT, AND MORE AND MORE AND MORE..." NICOLA BARABANIAN ALMOST FAINTED FROM JOY. "BUT SIR," HE SAID: "I HAVE NOTHING TO PAY YOU FOR ALL YOUR TROUBLES." "NOT SO TERRIBLE," THE LAWYER ANSWERED. "WHEN YOU BECOME A NEW IMMIGRANT, PLEASE BUY FOR ME ON THE ACCOUNT OF YOUR IMMIGRANT RIGHTS A STEREO SET FREE OF DUTY. I'LL PAY, AND YOU WILL ONLY USE YOUR RIGHTS, AND WE'LL SEE THE ACCOUNT BETWEEN US AS SETTLED." NICOLA BARABANIAN COULD NOT WITHSTAND THE ENTICEMENT WHICH THE STATE OF ISRAEL OFFERED HIM. HE CONVERTED TO JUDAISM AND ~~THE~~ ^{THESE} THINGS WORKED OUT WELL. AND NOW SOME QUESTIONS FOR THE READER: WHAT IS THE SENTENCE OF THE STATE WHICH IS TRANSGRESSING THE VERY LAWS WHICH SHE HAS LEGISLATED? AND ~~THE~~ ^{THESE} FURTHERMORE: WHICH LAW SHOULD BE REPEALED--THE LAW OF RETURN OR THE LAW AGAINST ENTICEMENT TO CHANGE OF RELIGION? AND FURTHERMORE AGAIN: IN THE ABOVE TALE WHO SHALL BE PUNISHED WITH FIVE YEARS IMPRISONMENT OR A FINE OF IL50,000? THE STATE? THE LAWYER? THE RABBI WHO DID THE CONVERTING? AND THE READER WHO MAY THINK THAT ~~IT~~ ^{HE} AM BEING TOO SMART AND SHARP, IS HEREBY INVITED TO LOOK THE LAW OVER AND TO DISCOVER THAT ~~IT~~ ^{HE} DOES NOT STATE ANYTHING ABOUT CONVERSION FROM WHICH RELIGION TO WHICH OTHER RELIGION." UNQUOTE

DATE: 3.3.78 JOURNAL: AL HAMISHMAR (HEB AM MAPAM) NEWS ARTICLE
 HEADING: "THE LAW AGAINST THE MISSION BECLOUDS APPROACHING JEWISH-CHRISTIAN DIALOGUE: DECLARATION BY SENIOR OFFICIAL IN ECUMENICAL COUNCIL TO OUR CORRESPONDENT"
 BYLINE: JOSEPH HALPERN, OUR CORRESPONDENT IN ITALY
 QUOTE: "A SENIOR OFFICIAL IN THE ECUMENICAL COUNCIL STATED YESTERDAY TO THE AL HAMISHMAR CORRESPONDENT THAT THE LAW AGAINST THE MISSION PASSED IN ISRAEL WILL BECLOUD NOT A LITTLE THE ATMOSPHERE OF THE APPROACHING JEWISH-CHRISTIAN DIALOGUE INITIATED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CHURCHES AND WHICH IS DUE TO TAKE PLACE IN GENEVA ON 12-16TH THIS MONTH. ALSO THE ORGAN OF THE ECUMENICAL COUNCIL (IN WHICH ^{THESE ARE} 271 MEMBER CHURCHES FROM ALL THE STREAMS OF CHRISTENDOM IN CLOSE TO ONE HUNDRED COUNTRIES) DEVOTED YESTERDAY CONSIDERABLE SPACE TO THE PASSAGE OF THE LAW AGAINST THE MISSION IN ISRAEL AND TO THE CONVERSATIONS WHICH TOOK PLACE RECENTLY IN GENEVA ON THE SUBJECT BETWEEN COUNCIL LEADERS AND THE CHRISTIAN DELEGATION FROM ISRAEL. UNDER THE HEADING "CHRISTIANS IN ISRAEL CONCERNED OVER THE NEW LAW AGAINST THE MISSION" THE PERIODICAL PRESENTED A DIGEST OF THE LAW AND AFTERWARD ARGUMENTS AGAINST IT BY THE UCCI WHOSE CENTRE IS IN JERUSALEM. AS WILL BE RECALLED, THERE WERE THREE MEMBERS OF ^{THIS} ISRAELI CHRISTIAN BODY VISITING EUROPE THIS FEBRUARY WITH THE AIM OF ENLISTING SUPPORT INTERNATIONALLY AGAINST THE EXERCISE OF THE LAW. IN THE PERIODICAL IT WAS STATED THAT MEMBERS OF THE DELEGATION (COMPOSED OF AN ANGLICAN PRIEST, A LUTHERAN PRIEST AND A CATHOLIC PRIEST) "LEFT ENCOURAGED BY THEIR CONVERSATIONS IN THE VATICAN AND IN GENEVA," AND UNDERScoreD IN THEIR MEETINGS THERE "THE DANGERS INHERENT IN PASSAGE OF THE LAW AGAINST MISSIONARIES FOR THE LIBERTY OF THEIR ^{CHRISTIAN} SMALL COMMUNITY IN ISRAEL AND TO THE WHOLE WEB OF RELATIONS BETWEEN CHRISTIANS AND JEWS IN ISRAEL." THE MEMBERS OF THE DELEGATION ALSO DEMANDED "THE IMMEDIATE REPEAL OF THE LAW AGAINST THE MISSION IN ISRAEL, TO CEASE THE CAMPAIGN OF SLANDERS AGAINST THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH IN ISRAEL AND TO SET UP AN ECUMENICAL INVESTIGATION COMMITTEE WHICH SHOULD CHECK IF THE ACCUSATIONS RAISED IN THE PAST AGAINST THE ACTIVITIES OF THE MISSION IN ISRAEL ARE INDEED BASED ON FACT." UNQUOTE

DATE: 3(?UNCLEAR)MAR 78 JOURNAL: DAVAR (HEB AM LABOUR) FEATURE ARTICLE: (IMPRESSIONS
 HEADING: "A LIGHT TO THE GENTILES" (BYLINE: ARON MEGED) FROM ANOTHER COUNTRY)
 EXTRACTS: "THE BLAZING FLAME OF FANATICISM ILLUMINES BRILLIANTLY THE DWELLERS IN THE LAND ALL THE DAYS OF THE YEAR. FOR THOSE WHO ARE OUTSIDE THE LAND--HER LIGHT IS SEVEN TIMES BRIGHTER THAN THE LIGHT OF THE SUN. WHEN HE FOLLOWS IT FROM BEHIND THE MIRROR
 MORE

OF THE DAILY NEWSPAPER, NOTING WHAT IS SAID, WHAT IS WRITTEN & WHAT IS TAKING PLACE, IT SEEMS TO HIM THAT THE LAND IS ABLAZE WITH THIS FIRE: RELIGIOUS FANATICISM, POLITICAL FANATICISM, CULTURAL FANATICISM, ALL MANNER OF SECTS, FROM THE RIGHT AND FROM THE LEFT, QUARRELLING FOR HEAVEN KNOWS WHY. EVERYTHING IS AT BOILING PITCH. NOT ONLY ABOUT BORDERS, SETTLEMENTS IN SINAI AND IN JUDEA,....BUT IT IS NOT ABOUT "THE GENERAL ATMOSPHERE" THAT I WISH TO WRITE, WHICH IS SO UTTERLY UNIQUE, INASMUCH AS WE ARE A JEWISH STATE, FULL OF KNOWLEDGEABLE MEN, AGGRESSIVE, BOILING, "BURNING UP WITH THE BREATH OF OUR MOUTH", THE SONS AND GRANDSONS OF HASSIDIM AND MITNAGDIN, KEEPERS OF WALLS AND DESTROYERS OF WALLS. I WILL DO THAT ON ANOTHER OCCASION FROM WITHIN AND INASMUCH AS THERE FLOWS IN MY VEINS JEWISH-ISRAELI BLOOD IT IS TO BE SURMISED THAT I WILL WRITE IN PRAISE OF MODERATION OUT OF A BURNING ZEAL. NO, NOT ON THAT (WILL I WRITE) BUT ON A SMALL DETAIL WHICH CONCERNS US, BUT NOT US ALONE. SUNDAYS HERE IN ENGLAND ARE DEVOTED IN PART TO CHURCH NEWS ON THE RADIO AND ON THIS SUNDAY IT WAS RELATED AT LENGTH ABOUT A DELEGATION OF THE REPRESENTATIVES FROM ALL THE CHURCHES IN ENGLAND ABOUT TO GO TO ISRAEL IN ORDER TO PROTEST THE LAW IN THE MATTER OF "RELIGIOUS PERSUASION", IF ONE MAY CALL IT THAT. THIS IS THE LAW WHICH ACCORDING TO THE ANNOUNCER HAS AS ITS PURPOSE TO "DRIVE OUT CHRISTIANITY FROM THE HOLY LAND." TO THE ANNOUNCEMENT THERE IS JOINED AN EXPLANATION: INASMUCH AS THE CHRISTIAN CHURCHES AND CHRISTIAN MISSIONS IN EVERY LAND ENGAGE FROM OF OLD IN CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES, THEN EVERY CHARITABLE ACTIVITY CAN BE RECKONED AS A PERSUASION TO CHANGE OF RELIGION, AND THOSE ENGAGING IN IT ARE LIABLE TO BE PUNISHED BY FIVE YEARS IMPRISONMENT ACCORDING TO THE NEW ISRAELI LAW. NEWS ITEMS AND REACTIONS TO IT APPEARED ALSO IN THE REGULAR NEWS EDITIONS AND IN THE PRESS. THE FIRST REACTION OF THE ISRAELI LISTENING TO THIS IS OF COURSE POLITICAL: "THIS IS EXACTLY WHAT WE LACK NOW! NOW--WHEN WE APPEAR IN THE EYES OF THE WORLD ANYWAY AS "STIFFNECKED" UNWILLING TO MAKE CONCESSIONS, "INGRATES UNWILLING TO REPAK KINDNESS FOR KINDNESS, WHEN WE REQUIRE LIKE AIR FOR BREATHING EVERY GENTLE BREEZE OF SYMPATHY IN EUROPE AND AMERICA IN THE LARGE CHRISTIAN WORLD--AN IMAGE OF THIS KIND IS YET LACKING TO US...OF A BENIGHTED FANATICAL STATE THAT ATTACKS OTHER RELIGIONS! AND IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THIS NEWS ITEM ANOTHER ITEM APPEARS FROM THE OTHER SIDE: SADAT PROCLAIMS THAT, GOD WILLING, WHEN SINAI RETURNS TO HIS BORDER, HE WILL ERECT ON THE PEAK WHERE MOSES RECEIVED THE TWO TABLETS OF STONE A CHURCH FOR THE THREE RELIGIONS, "AND THE MOUNTAIN OF THE HOUSE OF THE LORD SHALL BE ESTABLISHED AT THE HEAD OF THE MOUNTAINS...AND ALL THE GENTILES SHALL STREAM UNTO IT." THIS FACING THAT: JEWISH ISRAEL BUILDING AROUND HER A WALL OF RELIGION, A GHETTO WALL, TO SEAL OFF EVERY FOREIGN INFLUENCE. AND MOSLEM EGYPT OPENING HER GATES AND FULFILLING THE VISION OF ISAIAH. THE REALPOLITIK RESPONSE OF THE CONCERNED ISRAELI IS THEREFORE: WHAT FOLLY! POLITICAL FOLLY, FIRST OF ALL! TO SET UP AGAINST US THE CHRISTIAN WORLD AS AN ENEMY! AND PRECISELY THE CHURCHES, AMONG WHOM SO LARGE A BLOC (WITH ALL THE FRIENDSHIP LEAGUES OF JEWS & CHRISTIANS) WHICH HAVE DEMONSTRATED TO US SUPPORT, EVEN A CERTAIN DEGREE OF UNDERSTANDING FOR OUR MAXIMUM DEMANDS ("THE PROMISED LAND" IN THE BIBLICAL BORDERS...)!

THE SECOND REACTION IS PRACTICAL: WHY WAS SUCH A LAW AT ALL NECESSARY EVEN FROM THE VIEWPOINT OF THE ORTHODOX? THE MISSION OPERATES IN ISRAEL ALREADY ABOUT 150 YEARS. ALREADY IN THE TURKISH TIMES ^{was} ENGAGED IN PHILANTHROPIC ACTIVITIES AMONG THE POOR OF THE EXTREME JEWISH ORTHODOX. (CHRISTIAN PHILANTHROPY, LIKE JEWISH PHILANTHROPY AMONG JEWS, IS NOT ONLY A MEANS TO AN END, BUT IS ALSO AN END IN ITSELF, A PART OF THE DOGMA AND THE ACCOMPLISHMENT OF THE MIRACLES OF JESUS OF NAZARETH, SUCH AS HEALING OF THE SICK, FEEDING AND SHELTERING THE POOR, ETC. THUS THE MISSIONARIES HAVE BROUGHT THE FIRST HOSPITALS AND HOSPICES TO THE MOST BACKWARD LANDS IN AFRICA AND ASIA). HOW MANY PEOPLE IN ISRAEL HAVE THE MISSION CONVERTED IN ALL THESE YEARS? FIVE PER YEAR? AND IF TEN--WE HAVE NOT BEEN LIKE SODOM. AND WHO KNOWS THE WAY OF THE SPIRIT? WHO KNOWS AT ALL WHAT CAUSES PEOPLE TO CONVERT? IS IT ONLY FOR MATERIAL REASONS, EXPEDIENCY? IS IT ONLY FOR SUCH REASONS THAT JEWS CONVERT IN THE LANDS OF THEIR DISPERSION? IS IT NOT BECAUSE OF INTERMARRIAGE, SOCIAL STATUS, ALIENATION, ABSENCE OF ATTRACTION TO JUDAISM, OR ("BE ASTONISHED, O YE HEAVENS!") BECAUSE OF BELIEF? AND WHAT IS THE GREAT DANGER ESPECIALLY IN AN INDEPENDENT JEWISH STATE IN WHICH EDUCATION IS JEWISH, THE LANGUAGE, THE FESTIVALS, THE TRADITION, AND EVERYONE WHO CONVERTS IS ALMOST BANISHED FROM SOCIETY? WHY IS IT NEEDED THEN? YET THE QUESTION IS OF COURSE NOT POLITICAL NOR RELIGIOUS BUT ONE OF PRINCIPLE: THE LAW IS CONTRARY TO THE FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS OF A DEMOCRATIC SOCIETY, CONTRARY TO FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND CONTRARY TO THE EQUAL RIGHTS OF ALL RELIGIONS. MORE

NOW, FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION IS NOT ONLY THE FREEDOM TO EXPRESS AN ^{OPINION} BUT ALSO THE FREEDOM TO INFLUENCE OPINION OF WHATEVER KIND, POLITICAL, SOCIAL, RELIGIOUS, THE FREEDOM TO ENGAGE IN PROPAGANDA. THE CHARGE ABOUT "INFLUENCE" OR ENTICEMENT BY MEANS OF MATERIAL BENEFITS CAN BE RELATED TO ALL PROPAGANDA ^{AND} TO A FAR GREATER EXTENT TO PARTY PROPAGANDA THAN TO THE PROMOTION OF RELIGIOUS INFLUENCE. IS THE PARTY PROPAGANDA CONDUCTED BY THE NATIONAL RELIGIOUS PARTY, FOR EXAMPLE, IN ARAB SETTLEMENTS BEFORE KNESSET ELECTIONS (WITH IMPRESSIVE SUCCESS HERE AND THERE) CLEAN OF THESE ENTICEMENTS? IS IT ONLY OUT OF AN INTERIOR FAITH IN THE G-D OF ISRAEL AND HIS TORAH THAT ARABS VOTE FOR HER? DO NOT THE PARTIES IN POWER PROMISE (OPENLY OR SECRETLY) BENEFITS TO THEIR SUPPORTERS? ARE NOT HONOURS AND JOBS DIVIDED? WHY THEN NOT PROHIBIT POLITICAL PROPAGANDA WHICH HAS "INFLUENCE" IN ITS KNAPSACK? AND HOW SHALL WE DISTINGUISH BETWEEN INFLUENCE AND ENTICEMENT EXCEPT IT IS DONE AS OPEN MERCHANDISE, GIVE AND TAKE? WHY ARE PHILANTHROPIC ACTS ANY WORSE WHEN DONE BY RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATIONS THAN THE SECRET GIFTS OF POLITICAL GROUPS? AND THE LAW IS DIRECTED (CONTRARY TO THE STATEMENT CONTAINED IN THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE CONCERNING EQUAL RELIGIOUS RIGHTS TO ALL RELIGIONS OF ALL CITIZENS) AGAINST ONE RELIGION ALONE. THE CLAIM THAT IT IS ONE LAW FOR THE JEW, THE MOSLEM OR THE CHRISTIAN IS REALLY UNCONCEALED HYPOCRISY. IT'S THE KIND OF CLAIM THAT THE RICH MAN AND THE POOR MAN ARE EQUALLY FREE TO SLEEP UNDER THE BRIDGE AT NIGHT, OR IN A MORE REALISTIC CONTEXT, THAT ARABS AND JEWS HAVE EQUAL RIGHTS TO PURCHASE LAND IN EVERY PLACE OF THE GREATER LAND OF ISRAEL. JEWS AND MOSLEMS DO NOT HAVE MISSIONS AND THEY ARE NOT INTERESTED IN CONVERTS. THIS DEMOCRATIC RIGHT TO PROMULGATE ONE'S FAITH IS EXERCISED ONLY BY CHRISTIANS. BUT EVEN THEY, IN THE STATE OF ISRAEL, MAKE LIMITED USE OF THIS RIGHT. BUT THAT IS ANOTHER MATTER." (THERE FOLLOWS A DESCRIPTION OF AN ORTHODOX JEWISH COUPLE IN ENGLAND, ORIGINALLY FROM CANADA, WHO WILL BE COMING TO ISRAEL LATER ON, AGNES AND ELIEZER, FORMER STUDENTS OF RABBI DAVID HARTMAN, WHO STAND IN COMPLETE CONTRAST TO FANATICAL ESTABLISHMENT ORTHODOXY IN ISRAEL AND SEE IT AS CONTRARY TO THE BEST JEWISH AND TALMUDICAL TRADITIONS.) "THEY ARE DEVOUT OBSERVERS OF THE COMMANDMENTS, AS NOTED, AND THEY ARE NOT ALONE. THERE ARE THOUSANDS OF THEM IN ISRAEL BUT THEIR VOICE IS NOT HEARD. NOW, CONTRARY TO THE SITUATION OBTAINING FOR CENTURIES, GREAT BLOCS OF THE CHRISTIAN CHURCHES ARE AMONG THE MOST PROGRESSIVE ELEMENTS IN THE WORLD TODAY. ANGLICAN AND CATHOLIC CLERGY IN SOUTH AFRICA ARE AMONG THE FEW PREACHING OPENLY AGAINST RACISM, CONDUCTING MEETINGS BETWEEN BLACKS AND WHITES IN VIOLATION OF THE LAW OF THE STATE, MANY BEING ARRESTED AND DEPORTED FOR THIS. THE MISSIONS IN RHODESIA CONDUCT A CONTINUOUS ACTIVITY AGAINST THE RACIST REGIME IN THAT LAND AND ARE ACCUSED OF "SUBVERSIVENESS" AND "LEFTISM". IN MILITARY AND COMMUNIST DICTATORSHIPS WHETHER IN EAST EUROPE OR LATIN AMERICA CLERGYMEN HAVE HAZARDED THEIR LIVES IN THEIR BATTLE FOR LIBERTY, CIVIL RIGHTS, SOCIAL EQUALITY, AND AGAINST TYRANNY. GREAT CHANGES HAVE TAKEN PLACE IN THE CHRISTIAN CHURCHES DURING THE PAST 30 YEARS, BOTH IN RESPECT TO THE LIBERAL IDEAS FROM WITHIN AND RELATIONS WITH THE OUTSIDE AND WITH OTHER RELIGIONS. THESE CHANGES ARE WELL KNOWN AND SUFFICIENTLY PUBLICIZED, INCLUDING THE ATTITUDE OF THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH TO JUDAISM AND TO ISRAEL. THE FOOLISH LAW AGAINST THE MISSION--WHICH HAS NEITHER LEGAL LOGIC NOR MORAL JUSTIFICATION, IS LIABLE TO RAISE UP AGAINST US ONE MORE ENEMY WHOSE POWER IS GREATER THAN : MANY WEAPONS WHICH WE ARE TRYING SO HARD TO ENGAGE." UNQUOTE.

DATE: 6.3.78 JOURNAL: JERUSALEM POST (ENG AN IND) LETTER TO EDITOR

HEADING: "THE CONVERSION LAW AND FREEDOM" SIGNED: DAVID ZVI, JERUSALEM

QUOTE: "WE HAVE BEEN BOMBARDED OF LATE WITH A SPATE OF NEWS ITEMS INCLUDING SEVERAL OF IN YOUR NEWSPAPER ON THE LAW ADOPTED BY THE KNESSET CONCERNING OBJECTIONABLE CHRISTIAN MISSIONARY ACTIVITY IN THE COUNTRY. STRANGELY ENOUGH HARDLY A WORD HAS GOT THRU' IN ALL THE ATTEMPTED PUBLIC BRAINWASH BY CERTAIN INTERESTED BODIES OF THE ACTUAL AND CRYSTAL CLEAR AIMS OF THE LAW. ALLOW ME TO SET THE RECORD STRAIGHT: THE LAW FORBIDS THE "PROMISE OF MATERIAL EMOLUMENTS" (MY OWN TRANSLATION) TO ANYONE IN RETURN FOR CONVERSION TO ANOTHER FAITH. THIS MEANS PURELY & SIMPLY THAT NO ONE MAY NOW OFFER MONEY OR ITS EQUIVALENT FOR THE PURPOSE STATED. AND BY THE WAY THIS EFFECTS PERSONS OF ALL FAITHS IN THEIR POSSIBLE ATTEMPTS TO INDUCE OTHERS TO CHANGE THEIRS. MEMBERS OF ALL FAITHS REMAIN FREE TO PRACTICE THEIR WAYS OF LIFE UNINTERRUPTED. ANY CLAIM TO THE CONTRARY IS AN OUTRIGHT (AND I HAVE THE IMPRESSION, DELIBERATE) DISTORTION OF THE FACTS. AS IT NOW STANDS, THE LAW (WHICH ALSO FORBIDS THE RECEIVING OF MATERIAL BENEFITS FOR CHANGING ONE'S RELIGION) WILL ALSO DO AWAY WITH A SPECIES OF BLACKMAIL THAT SOCIAL WORKERS & THE G.V'T HAVE HAD TO COPE WITH IN NO SMALL MEASURE OVER THE YEARS. NO RECIPIENT OR WOULD BE RECIPIENT OF GOV'T WELFARE AID WILL BE ABLE NOW TO THREATEN WELFARE EMPLOYEES... THAT IF HE DOES NOT RECEIVE THE AID HE DEEMS HIS DUE, HE WILL TURN TO THE MISSION BODIES. IT WILL BE BROUGHT

MORE

COME TO HIM THAT SHOULD HE ACCEPT SUCH MATERIAL INDUCEMENTS HE WILL BE LIABLE TO PROSECUTION UNDER THE LAW. PAST CASES MIGHT BE CITED, BUT I FEEL I HAVE STRESSED THE BASIC SIMPLE FACT THAT THE LAW HAS ABSOLUTELY NOTHING TO DO WITH FREEDOM OF WORSHIP. IT HAS EVERYTHING TO DO WITH (TO USE AN UNDERSTATEMENT) SHODDY MEANS OF SEDUCING ONE AWAY FROM ONE'S ANCESTRAL FAITH AND THEREBY CUTTING THE INDIVIDUAL AND HIS FAMILY AND OFFSPRING OFF FOR GOOD FROM HIS PEOPLE AND SOCIETY." UNQUOTE

DATE: 6.3.78 JOURNAL: MAARIV (HEB PM IND) NEWS ARTICLE
 HEADING: "SECRETARY OF THE COMMITTEE FOR VATICAN RELATIONS WITH OTHER RELIGIONS TO OUR CORRESPONDENT IN ROME: THE LAW AGAINST MISSIONARY ACTIVITIES IN ISRAEL FOR DISCUSSION IN MADRID"

BYLINE: ADA LUCIANI, MAARIV CORRESPONDENT IN ROME

QUOTE: "THE NEW LAW PROHIBITING ENTICEMENT TO CONVERSION BY PROMISES OF BENEFITS WHICH WAS PASSED BY THE KNESSET LAST DECEMBER WILL BE DISCUSSED AT THE FORTHCOMING ANNUAL MEETING OF THE LIAISON COMMITTEE OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH AND REPRESENTATIVES OF JEWISH ORGANIZATIONS. THE MEETING WILL TAKE PLACE IN MADRID AND AT THE HEAD OF THE VATICAN DELEGATION WILL BE THE ARGENTINIAN PRIEST JORGE MEJILLA, SECY OF THE COMMITTEE FOR VATICAN RELATIONS WITH OTHER RELIGIONS, INCLUDING JUDAISM. ON THE JEWISH SIDE OF THE TABLE THERE WILL BE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE INTERRELIGIOUS COMMITTEE OF ISRAEL, THE WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS, THE AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE, THE SYNAGOGUE COUNCIL OF THE USA & THE BNEI BRITH ORGANIZATION. IN A SPECIAL INTERVIEW GRANTED TO THE CORRESPONDENT OF "MAARIV", FR. MEJILLA STATED THAT "THE DISCUSSIONS IN MADRID (WHICH ARE THE SEVENTH OF THE MEETINGS OF THE COORDINATING COMMITTEE SINCE IT WAS SET UP IN 1970) WILL DEAL WITH A STUDY MADE OF THE IMAGE EACH OF THE TWO FAITHS EXISTING IN THE EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM VIS-A-VIS ONE ANOTHER. THE JEWISH REPRESENTATIVES WILL DETAIL TO US WHAT IS THE IMAGE OF CHRISTIANITY IN THE FRAMEWORK OF STUDY PROGRAMS IN JEWISH EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS (AND ESPECIALLY IN THE USA AND ISRAEL). IN THIS MANNER WE SHALL EXCHANGE VIEWS CONCERNING PROBLEMS WHICH CAUSE CONCERN TO BOTH FAITHS. FR. MEJILLA ADDED, AND IN THIS FRAMEWORK THE CATHOLIC SIDE WILL RAISE THE QUESTION OF THE NEW LAW AGAINST MISSION ACTIVITY WHICH WAS RECENTLY PASSED IN ISRAEL. THIS IS A PROBLEM WHICH IS WORRYING US AND IT HAS ALREADY BEEN RAISED IN CONTACTS MADE BETWEEN REPRESENTATIVES OF CHRISTIAN DENOMINATIONS IN ISRAEL ITSELF. FR. MEJILLA EXPRESSED THE OPINION THAT "WE HAVE HIGH HOPES THAT THE LAW WILL BE INTERPRETED ONLY AS INTENDED AGAINST THOSE WHO TRY TO EXERT PRESSURE ON ANY PERSON TO CHANGE HIS RELIGION, EVEN THOUGH IT DOES NOT SEEM TO US THAT IN ISRAEL THERE IS A NEED FOR SUCH SPECIAL LEGISLATION. HOWEVER, INASMUCH AS THE LAW HAS CAUSED CONCERN TO CHRISTIANS IN ISRAEL, IT IS OUR DUTY AS MEMBERS OF THE MIXED COMMITTEE TO TAKE IT INTO CONSIDERATION IN OUR DISCUSSIONS." THE CATHOLIC SIDE IS INTERESTED TO OBTAIN INFORMATION OF A MORE COMPREHENSIVE KIND ABOUT THE LAW ITSELF AND THE MOTIVATION LEADING TO ITS PASSAGE. BUT THE CHRISTIAN SIDE IS ALSO TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THAT ON THE JEWISH SIDE THERE WILL BE POINTED QUESTIONS "WE ANTICIPATE THAT THE JEWISH SIDE WILL SEEK INFORMATION FROM CATHOLIC REPRESENTATIVES CONCERNING RECENT MANIFESTATIONS OF REVIVED ANTISEMITISM IN VARIOUS PLACES." I ASKED FR. MEJILLA HOW HE DELIMITS THE BOUNDARY BETWEEN PROMULGATING THE CHRISTIAN FAITH AND MISSIONARY WORK. ON HIS PART THE ANSWER WAS QUITE SIMPLE: "THE PROMULGATION OF FAITH IS AT BOTTOM AN ACTIVITY WHICH TREATS RESPECTFULLY THE LIBERTY OF THE PERSON TO WHOM EXPLANATIONS ARE DIRECTED OR THE PROPOSAL TO ADOPT ANOTHER FAITH. THAT IS TO SAY: HE IS FREE TO LISTEN, TO ACCEPT OR TO REJECT THE PROPOSAL. THIS IS ACCORDING TO THE BEST TRADITION OF CATHOLICISM. WE TOO BELIEVE THAT FAITH WHICH IS NOT FREE IS NOT FAITH AT ALL." I COULD NOT, HOWEVER, RESTRAIN MYSELF. I REMINDED FR. MEJILLA THAT CHRISTIAN HISTORY DID NOT EXCEL IN EVERY AGE IN THE STRICT MAINTENANCE OF HUMAN LIBERTIES. I MENTIONED THE TERRORS OF THE INQUISITION. FR. MEJILLA WAS NOT LEFT SPEECHLESS. "NEITHER HAVE WE CHRISTIANS FORGOTTEN THESE ERAS. IT IS NOT SIMPLE MATTER TO ERASE HISTORY. WHENEVER CHRISTIANITY BEHAVED IN THAT WAY, IT WAS IN ERROR. SEE HOW POPE PAUL VI IN HIS FAMOUS ADDRESS AT THE OPENING OF THE SECOND ECUMENICAL COUNCIL STATED THAT WE MUST ASK PARDON AND FERGIVENESS FOR THE CRIMES WE COMMITTED. (more literally: for the distortions wherein we transgressed), AND THE SAME APPLIES WITH RESPECT TO WHAT WE DID TO THE JEWS. THE CHURCH HAS ABANDONED EVERY FORM OF FORCED CONVERSION, AND WE HAVE DETERMINED THIS FORMALLY IN THE DECLARATION OF THE ECUMENICAL COUNCIL. THIS DOCUMENT IS LINKED TO ANOTHER DOCUMENT WHICH DEALS WITH NONCHRISTIAN RELIGIONS. THE TWO DOCUMENTS TOGETHER SHED LIGHT ON THE SUBJECT OF FAITH, THAT IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO FORCE CHRISTIANITY ON ANY PERSON." FR. MEJILLA IS A HUMBLE MAN. HE IS

CONCERNED LEST HIS FEEBLE POWERS BE INADEQUATE FOR LIFTING THE BURDEN WHICH HIS JOB AS SECRETARY OF THE MIXED COMMISSION LAYS UPON HIM. ON HIS PART THIS IS A CAPTIVATING WORK, BUT INCOMPARABLY DIFFICULT AND COMPLEX. "IT IS IMPOSSIBLE NOT TO FEAR THAT WE MAY MISS THE OPPORTUNITY TO LAY THE GROUNDWORK FOR RELATIONS BETWEEN CHRISTIANS AND JEWS ON A NEW AND FIRM FOUNDATION, TO BE ANXIOUS LEST WE FAIL AND BE UNABLE TO OVERCOME EVEN WITHIN THE CHURCH HERSELF, AS IN ANY OTHER AREA, TO THIS MALIGNANT AFFLICTION OF ANTI-SEMITISM IN ALL ITS FORMS." NOTWITHSTANDING, FR. MEJILLA IN THE SAME DEGREE HOPES THAT JUDAISM ALSO "WILL WORK FOR THE DISAPPEARANCE OF PREJUDICES TOWARDS THE CHURCH. MY HOPE IS THAT BOTH SIDES WILL BE WISE ENOUGH TO GAIN INSIGHT AND RECONCILIATION. WE ARE BROTHERS," FR. MEJILLA CONCLUDES. UNQUOTE (PLEASE NOTE THAT THE NAME "MEJILLA" IS ONLY A CONJECTURED TRANSCRIPTION OF THE HEBREW LETTERS INTO THE ORIGINAL SPANISH NAME)

DATE: 8.3.78 JOURNAL: HAMODIYA (HEB AM AGUDAT) FEATURE COLUMN "HADE HAYOM"
 HEADING: "STRANGE SILENCE OF THE FOREIGN MINISTRY" ("ECHO OF THE DAY")

QUOTE: "THE LAW AGAINST ENTICEMENT FOR CHANGE OF RELIGION ("THE MISSION LAW") WHICH THE KNESSET APPROVED SEVERAL WEEKS AGO HAS UNTIL NOW BEEN SERVING AS MATERIAL FOR INCITEMENT BY CERTAIN ELEMENTS WHO ARE NOT DETERRED FROM OPERATING BOTH INSIDE AND OUTSIDE THE STATE, WHILE CONDUCTING A WILD CAMPAIGN OF INCITEMENT MAINLY ON THE BASIS OF WHAT THE LAW DOES NOT CONTAIN, WITH A DELIBERATE INATTENTION TO WHAT THE LAW DOES CONTAIN, AND IT IS QUITE OBVIOUS THAT THE MISSIONARY ORGANIZATIONS (ABOUNDING IN POSSESSIONS AND MANIFOLD MEANS) HAVE THEIR HANDS STEWING ABOUT IN THIS UGLY DARKNESS. THE LAW, AS IS WELL KNOWN, DOES NOT AT ALL RESTRICT A SINGLE CITIZEN OF THE STATE TO LIVE ACCORDING TO HIS FAITH AND CONSCIENCE, DOES NOT HARM JEWS, CHRISTIANS OR MEMBERS OF ANY OTHER FAITH, BUT ONLY FORBIDS ONE OF THE ACTIVITIES OF THE MISSIONARIES, TO EMPLOY MONEY OR ITS EQUIVALENT IN ORDER TO ENTICE PERSONS TO CONVERSION. THE LAW DOES NOT MENTION CHRISTIANS OR MEMBERS OF OTHER RELIGIONS, BUT FORBIDS TO ALL OF THEM SOUL HUNTING FOR THE PURPOSE OF CONVERSION BY FINANCIAL MEANS. IS IT STRANGE THAT VARIOUS CHRISTIAN ORGANIZATIONS HAVE BEEN MISLED BY THE PROPAGANDA OF THE MISSIONARIES WHO ARE DIRECTING ALL THEIR ENERGIES TO THE SUBVERSION OF THIS LAW AT THE SAME TIME THEY SHAMEFULLY ENJOY THE DIRECT AND INDIRECT ASSISTANCE OF ANTIRELIGIOUS ELEMENTS IN ISRAEL WHO BEGRUDGE "AGUDAT ISRAEL" ITS ACHIEVEMENT IN THE PASSAGE OF THE LAW, AND IN THEIR BLIND HATRED FOR THE TORAH OF ISRAEL TO LEND THEIR HAND TO ORGANIZATIONS WHICH ATTACK THE WELLBEING OF JUDAISM AND WHO SEE THEIR MAIN ASSIGNMENT AS EFFECTING CONVERSIONS. IN ORDER TO INTENSIFY THEIR PROPAGANDA ACTIVITY AGAINST THE LAW THEY DO NOT REFRAIN FROM USING THE SAME POISONOUS INCITEMENT IN SUGGESTING THAT THE LAW IS DESIGNED TO RESTRICT CHRISTIANS IN THEIR LIFE IN ISRAEL OR TO DISTURB THEM IN THE EXERCISE OF THEIR RELIGION AND ITS TRADITIONS. THIS HAS FOUND EXPRESSION IN MANY AND VARIOUS PUBLICATIONS IN ISRAEL AND ABROAD, WITH DELIBERATE DISTORTION OF THE REAL FACTS AS THEY APPEAR IN THE STATUTE, WHICH SPEAKS SOLELY ABOUT A LEGAL PROHIBITION (WITH PENALTIES PROVIDED) FOR THOSE WHO WILL NOT BE DETERRED FROM LAYING A TRAP FOR PERSONS OF WEAK CHARACTER BY MEANS OF VARIOUS MONETARY AND MATERIAL ENTICEMENTS. THE FACT THAT THE MATTER AROUSES SUCH FIERCE OPPOSITION ONLY PROVES THAT MONETARY ENTICEMENT IS THE MAIN INSTRUMENT IN THE HANDS OF THE MISSIONARIES, AND THAT THE LAW HAS REMOVED FROM THEIR GRASP THEIR MOST EFFECTIVE MEANS (OTHERWISE THEY WOULD NOT BE CRYING OUT SO MUCH. BUT STRANGEST OF ALL IS THE FACT THAT THE ISRAELI FOREIGN MINISTRY WHICH SHOULD BE SHOWING SENSITIVITY TO THESE HOSTILE PUBLICATIONS REMAINS COMPLETELY SILENT AND IS NOT REACTING AS IT SHOULD REACT AGAINST SUCH SLANDEROUS REMARKS AGAINST THE STATE. IS IT INDEED BECAUSE THE FOREIGN MINISTRY IN FORMER ADMINISTRATIONS THROUGHOUT THE YEARS WAS AMONG THE LEADING OPPONENTS TO THE PASSAGE OF LEGISLATION PROHIBITING THE MISSION—IS THIS THEN THAT CAUSES THE APATHY WHICH IS BEING DEMONSTRATED NOW IN THE FACE OF THE ORGANIZED INCITEMENT AGAINST THE STATE?" UNQUOTE

SUBJECT 2: POLICE INVESTIGATION OF MISSIONARY ACTIVITY

DATE: 6.3.78 JOURNAL: DAVAR (HEB AM LABOUR) NEWS ARTICLE
 HEADING: "POLICE VERSUS MISSIONARIES"

QUOTE: "THE BUREAU OF POLICE INVESTIGATIONS IN THE DAN REGION HAS JUST BEGUN AN INVESTIGATION OF THE DISTRIBUTION OF MISSIONARY MATERIAL IN THE NEIGHBOURHOODS OF KIRYAT HERZOG, & PARDES CATZ, IN BNEI BRAK, AT THE REQUEST OF THE MAYOR, DR. I. GOTTLIEB. THE MAYOR STATED TO THE POLICE THAT RECENTLY THERE HAS BEEN DISTRIBUTED IN BENEI BARAK NEIGHBOURHOODS AN ENVELOPE WITH THE INSCRIPTION "A LETTER FOR YOU" AND CONTAINING QUOTATIONS FROM THE NEW

TESTAMENT CONCERNING JESUS AND CHRISTIANITY. THIS MATERIAL, GOTTLIEB CLAIMS, IS BEING DISTRIBUTED IN POST BOXES, AND IT CONTAINS PROPOSALS FOR PERSONAL CONTACT WITH THE SENDERS FOR THE PURPOSE OF ORGANIZATION OF LECTURES AND MORE. " UNQUOTE

SUBJECT 3: "CHILDREN RESCUED FROM MISSION"

DATE: 3.3.78 JOURNAL: SHEARIM (POALEI AGUDT ISRAEL) "NEWS" ARTICLE
 HEADING: "TWENTY CHILDREN RESCUED FROM THE CLAWS OF THE MISSION IN JAFFA"
 QUOTE: "THE COMMUNITY TORAH CENTRE IN JAFFA "BEITH HAZON NAHUM" HAS SUCCEEDED IN RECENT MONTHS . TO RESCUE FROM THE CLAWS OF THE MISSION IN JAFFA TWENTY CHILDREN, THIS THANKS TO THE EXTENSIVE EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITY ON BEHALF OF THE CHILDREN OF JAFFA. RABBI MEIR MOSCOVITZ, ASST MANAGER OF THE CENTRE, CONVINCED THE PARENTS OF THE CHILDREN TO TRANSFER THEIR CHILDREN FROM THE INSTITUTIONS OF THE MISSION TO A DAYTIME RESIDENCE OPENED ESPECIALLY FOR THEM AT THE COMMUNITY CENTRE. THE CHILDREN ARE IN THE CENTRE THROUGHOUT THE DAY, RECEIVE ^{JAFFA} MEALS, AND SPECIAL COUNSELLORS DEAL WITH THEM. ABOUT FIVE HUNDRED ^{JAFFA} CHILDREN TAKE PART IN THE CENTRE ACTIVITIES. THEY PARTICIPATE IN LESSONS, ART CIRCLES, HANDICRAFTS, PAINTING, MUSIC, DANCE, CERAMICS, ETC. THE COMMUNITY CENTRE IN JAFFA IS UNIQUE IN ISRAEL. IT WAS SET UP IN THE HEART OF A DISTRESSED AREA FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING ^{JEWISH} A/SOLUTION TO PROBLEM YOUTH LIVING ON THE FRINGES OF THE UNDERWORLD AND DRUGS." UNQUOTE E

SUBJECT 4: CHRISTIAN FRIENDS OF ISRAEL"

DATE: 6.3.78 JOURNAL: DAVAR (HEB AM LABOUR) FEATURE ARTICLE
 HEADING: "THE NEGLECTED FRONT OF HASBARA" (explanation, information, propaganda)
 BYLINE: ABRAHAM WOLFENSON
 QUOTE: "AT THE END OF JANUARY & AT THE BEGINNING OF FEBRUARY 1978 THERE TOOK PLACE AT THE HOTEL DIPLOMAT IN JERUSALEM AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF CHRISTIAN EVANGELISTS (sic) WITH A CERTAIN TARDINESS ONE ISRAELI NEWSPAPER (JERUSALEM POST) REPORTED BRIEFLY ABOUT "CHRISTIANS FROM TEN COUNTRIES WHO HAVE COME TO JERUSALEM...TO REAFFIRM THEIR BIBLICAL SOLIDARITY WITH ISRAEL..." AND THAT THEY HAD DECIDED TO SET UP AN INTERNATIONAL OFFICE OF CHRISTIANS FOR ISRAEL--IN JERUSALEM. THE JERUSALEM POST LISTED THE NAMES OF THE DIRECTORS OF THE ORGANIZATION: DR DOUGLAS YOUNG, CHAIRMAN (ISRAEL), DR CLAUDE LUVERNOIS (ISRAEL), DR ISRAEL CARMONA, CASIMIR LANOWICK, DR ARNOLD OLSON & THE CHRISTIAN CLERGYMAN CHUCK SMITH (USA), BASIL JACOBS (SOUTH AFRICA) & THE REV PAYE HANSEN (NORWAY). THE ASSEMBLING OF HUNDREDS OF BELIEVING CHRISTIANS IN ISRAEL IN AN INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS "FOR THE PEACE OF JERUSALEM" IS ONLY THE BEGINNING OF THE ROAD OF WORLDWIDE CHRISTIAN SOLIDARITY WITH THE REVIVAL OF THE JEWISH PEOPLE IN ITS LAND. ON THE THIRD OF JUNE 1978 THERE IS DUE TO ARRIVE IN ISRAEL ANOTHER ONE THOUSAND EVANGELISTIC (sic) CHRISTIANS WHO SUPPORT THE STATE OF ISRAEL. THIS ENTERPRISE IS ENTIRELY DEPENDENT UPON THE INITIATIVE OF THE CHRISTIANS THEMSELVES, WITHOUT ENCOURAGEMENT, INITIATIVE OR SUPPORT OF THE ^J GOVERNMENT AND/OR THE ZIONIST MOVEMENT! CONCERNING THE PURPOSES OF THE CHRISTIAN LEADERS ORGANIZING THESE WORLD CONGRESSES--A KIND OF PILGRIMAGE OF CHRISTIAN ZIONISTS--DR YOUNG RELATED IN AN INTERVIEW WHICH WAS BROADCAST IN JANUARY 1978 ON THE VOICE OF ISRAEL. DR YOUNG: "WE HOPE THAT TWO THINGS WILL COME OUT OF THIS. FIRST, IT WILL DEMONSTRATE THE SOLIDARITY OF THE EVANGELISTIC COMMUNITY WITH ISRAEL AND IT WILL SUPPORT HER BY MEANS OF THIS ASSEMBLAGE. SECONDLY, IT WILL TRY TO MOVE THEM (i.e. the Christians) TO DO SOMETHING...TO RELATE TO ISRAEL...AS TO A PEOPLE WHO (ACCORDING TO THE HOLY SCRIPTURES WHICH THESE PEOPLE BELIEVE) ISRAEL MUST DWELL SECURELY, THUS SUITABLE ACTIVITY IS REQUIRED (OF THE CHRISTIANS) WHICH THEY MUST DEMAND OF THEIR CONGRESSIONAL REPRESENTATIVES, THEIR SENATORS, THEIR GOVERNORS, THEIR PREISDENTS, OR ANY OF THEIR REPRESENTATIVES IN THEIR COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN...AND TO PRAY FOR THE PEACE OF JERUSALEM IS NOT ENOUGH. PRAYER WITHOUT ACTIVITY DOES NOT HAVE FULL VALUE. THE TIME HAS COME TO ADD PRACTICAL STEPS TO THEIR PRAYERS, AND TO DO SOMETHING..." THE AMERICAN WEEKLY "TIME" IN ITS ISSUE OF 20.12.77 RELATED THE STORY OF THE SURPRISING AND IMPRESSIVE GROWTH OF THE CHRISTIAN EVANGELISTIC MOVEMENT IN THE USA AND THROUGHOUT THE WORLD. THE SPECIAL THING ABOUT THEM (ACCORDING TO TIME) IS THEIR STRONG BELIEF IN THE AUTHORITY OF THE BIBLE IN ALL MATTERS. THEIR NUMBER IN THE USA ALONE IS 45.5 MILLIONS. IN THEIR DISCUSSIONS AT THE "DIPLOMAT" IN JERUSALEM THEY READ FREQUENTLY FROM THE BOOK OF ISAIAH...AND IN VERY MOVING LECTURES THE MAIN SPEAKERS SPOKE OF THE WRONGS DONE TO THE JEWS BY FANATICS OF THE CHURCH (INQUISITION, PERSECUTIONS) IN THE COURSE OF THE AGES, AND ABOUT THEIR OBLIGATION TO ASSIST

MORE

PROVIDENCE IN THE RE-ESTABLISHMENT AND PROSPERITY OF THE JEWISH STATE IN ITS HISTORIC HOMETLAND. THE LECTURES SOUNDED LIKE RELIGIOUS SERMONS. THEIR EFFECT ON THE LISTENERS WAS APPARENT (WEEPING, EMOTIONS, THUNDEROUS APPLAUSE, CRIES OF "AMEN AMEN" AS A SIGN OF AGREEMENT AND SOLIDARITY). ACCORDING TO THE UNDERSTANDING OF EVANGELISTS, GOD COMMANDED THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL TO ESTABLISH A JEWISH STATE IN THE LAND OF ISRAEL, AND IT IS THE DUTY OF HIS CHRISTIAN BELIEVERS TO ASSIST IN THIS WITH ALL THEIR MIGHT. SUCH REASONS GIVEN BY CHRISTIAN SPIRITUAL LEADERS ARE INCOMPARABLY POWERFUL IN THE EARS OF TENS OF MILLIONS OF CHRISTIANS BELIEVING IN THE BIBLE THROUGHOUT THE WORLD. THE SAD PART IS THAT THIS IS THE INFORMATION FRONT MOST NEGLECTED BY ISRAEL. ALL OF THIS INDEPENDENT AND SPONTANEOUS CHRISTIAN ACTIVITY FOR ISRAEL AND ZIONISM RESTS ON A DELICATE BASE IN ISRAEL. NOT THE BUREAU OF INFORMATION (WHICH DOES NOT EXIST FOR SOME TIME NOW) AND NOT THE ADVISER IN INFORMATION MATTERS (WHO HAS DECIDED TO ENGAGE IN "LOFTY POLITICS") AND NOT THE PRIME MINISTER (WHO IN THE HEAT OF HIS ELECTORAL VICTORY FORGOT HIS PROMISE TO SET UP A BUREAU FOR FOREIGN INFORMATION). ALL OF THESE, TO OUR SHAME AND REPROACH, DO NOT TAKE SERIOUSLY THE MATTER OF BIBLICAL "HASEBARA" AMONG CHRISTIAN ZIONISTS, OR MAINTAIN A REGULAR INFORMATION LIAISON WITH THEM. THE P.M. INDEED DID APPEAR ONCE AND ADDRESSED THE CONGRESS FOR THE PEACE OF JERUSALEM, BUT HIS MOVING WORDS MANAGED (LARELY) TO BLUR THE BAD EFFECT OF THE "GREETINGS" OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE MIN OF RELIG AFFAIRS WHO IN A KIND OF REVERSE BALAAM ACT FOUND IT PROPER PRECISELY AT A N ENTHUSIASTIC CHRISTIAN ZIONIST CONGRESS TO "BLESS" THE CONGRESS WITH A FANATICAL ADDRESS AGAINST THE CHRISTIAN MISSION... THERE IS ONLY ONE LONE ISRAELI WHO HAS BEEN SUPPORTING ALL ALONG THE LINE FOR SEVERAL YEARS THE MATTER OF "HASEBARA" AMONG CHRISTIANS. THIS LONE PERSON IS MR. BEN-TZION DIKOVSKY, HONORARY TREASURER OF THE ISRAELI COUNCIL FOR INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS, AN INSTITUTION SET UP BY DECISION OF THE PREVIOUS ZIONIST CONGRESS IN ORDER TO CULTIVATE RELATIONS WITH FOREIGN VISITORS IN ISRAEL OR THOSE WHO WORK FOR ISRAEL IN THE WORLD. IN HIS BOOK (ENGLISH) "THE JEW IS MY NEIGHBOUR", ONE OF THE LEADING CHRISTIAN ZIONISTS DR CHARLES MONROE WRITES: "A UNIQUE ISRAELI IS BENTZION DIKOVSKY, CHIEF OF THE ISRAELI COUNCIL FOR INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS!...HE IS A ZIONIST, FULL OF LOVE AND DEVOTION TO HIS PEOPLE AND HOMETLAND, AND ALSO ABUNDING IN LOVE FOR THE GENTILES...THERE ARE JEWS WHO SENSE THAT THE GOD OF ABRAHAM, ISAAC AND JACOB ALSO LOVES GENTILES..." (p.24, 1977 edition of the book) (THIS IS NOT THE ONLY BOOK OF CHRISTIAN ZIONISTS WHICH EXPLAINS ISRAEL AND ZIONISM IN ENGLISH IN A MORE POSITIVE LIGHT THAN ALL THE ISRAELI INFORMATION PAMPHLETS. ANOTHER OUTSTANDING BOOK WHICH IS VERY POWERFUL IS THE BOOK OF PAUL PETERSON "PIC & ISRAEL" WHICH LINKS VERY SKILFULLY BIBLICAL ZIONISM AND MORAL AND POLITICAL CONDEMNATION OF THE PALESTINIAN TERROR ORGANIZATIONS...publ 1978 USA) THE LABOUR OF ONE MAN IN ISRAEL CAN THEREFORE WORK WONDERS. HOW MANY WONDERS WE COULD HAVE WORKED HAD WE NOT NEGLECTED THE POWERFUL RESERVOIR OF SUPPORT AMONG TENS AND HUNDREDS OF MILLIONS OF BELIEVING CHRISTIANS IN WHAT THEY DEFINE AS THE FULFILMENT OF THE PROMISES OF THE GOD OF ABRAHAM, ISAAC AND JACOB--THAT IS TO SAY, THE FULFILMENT OF ZIONISM! THIS QUESTION TROUBLES ME WITHOUT RESPITE. ALL THE TALK ABOUT "HARNESSING THE INFORMATION ENTERPRISE" THAT SUCH AND SUCH A MINISTER OF THE GOVT PROCLAIMS AND SUCH AND SUCH A FUNCTIONARY SOUNDS OFF ABOUT CANNOT COVER THIS SHORTCOMING, WHICH MAY NOT BE THE ONLY ONE, BUT IT STANDS OUT PARTICULARLY IN ITS ABSENCE AND IN THE LACK OF LOGIC BEHIND IT." UNQUOTE

SUBJECT 5: MOUNT ZION DISPUTES

DATE: 27.2.78 JOURNAL: JERUSALEM POST (ENGL AM IND) NEWS ARTICLE

HEADING: "NEW C'TEE STUDYING MT ZION DISPUTES"

QUOTE: A CALL FOR MORE ENERGETIC POLICE SUPERVISION OF THE STATUS QUO ON MT ZION WAS ISSUED YESTERDAY BY THE NEWLY FORMED COMMITTEE OF DIRECTORS GENERAL FOR JERUSALEM. THERE HAVE BEEN A NUMBER OF PROPERTY DISPUTES ON THE MOUNT INVOLVING THE DIASPORA YESHIVA. THE COMMITTEE, HEADED BY INTERIOR MINISTRY DIRECTOR GENERAL HAIM KUBERSKY, ASKED FOR A FREEZE ON ALL LEGAL OR PHYSICAL ACTION INVOLVING MT ZION UNTIL A STUDY OF THE SITUATION IS CARRIED OUT BY A SUBCOMMITTEE IT HAS APPOINTED." UNQUOTE

MORE

SUBJECT 6: NOTRE DAME HOSTEL

DATE: 3.3.78 JOURNAL: JERUSALEM POST NEWS ARTICLE & PHOTOGRAPH
 HEADING: "NOTRE DAME CONVERTED TO NEW PILGRIM HOSTEL"

BYLINE: ABRAHAM RABINOVICH (PHOTO WITH CAPTION OF NOTRE DAME IN JERUSALEM)

EXTRACTS: "THE 91-YEAR OLD NOTRE DAME HOSPICE UNINHABITED FOR YEARS HAS QUIETLY BEGUN A NEW LIFE AS A MODERN HOTEL FOR PILGRIMS. THE MASSIVE B'LDG OPPOSITE THE NEW GATE TO THE OLD CITY OF JERUSALEM IS STILL IN THE MIDST OF RENOVATIONS BUT ITS DOORS HAVE BEEN PARTIALLY OPEN TO GUESTS SINCE LAST MONTH AS PART OF THE RUNNING IN PROCESS. FORMAL OPENING WILL TAKE PLACE THIS AUTUMN. THE WAR BATTERED B'LDG WAS THE CENTRE OF A MAJOR CONTROVERSY SEVEN YEARS AGO WHEN THE VATICAN TOOK THE HIGHLY UNUSUAL STEP OF GOING TO COURT--AN ISRAELI COURT--TO UPSET THE SALE OF THE BUILDING BY THE ASSUMPTIONIST ORDER... (WHICH HAD) SOLD THE B'LDING TO A DAUGHTER COMPANY OF THE JEWISH NATIONAL FUND WHICH IN TURN SOLD IT TO THE HEBREW U...AT THE ISRAELI GOVT'S REQUEST THE HEBREW U AGREED TO SELL THE B'LDG TO THE HOLY SEE FOR THE ORIGINAL PURCHASE PRICE & THE CASE WAS DROPPED. MAYOR TEDDY KOLLEK WHO HAD PRESSED THE GOVT ON THIS ISSUE TERMED THE SALE TO THE HOLY SEE AS A TURNING POINT IN ITS ATTITUDE TOWARDS JERUSALEM SINCE IT DEMONSTRATED THAT THE ISRAELIS WERE NOT OUT TO JUDAIZE JERUSALEM AT THE CHURCH'S EXPENSE. THE VATICAN HAS NOT IN RECENT YEARS REPEATED ITS CALL FOR INTERNATIONALIZATION OF THE CITY." (THERE FOLLOWS SOME BACKGROUND INFORMATION ABOUT DECISION TO CONVERT NOTRE DAME TO PILGRIM HOSTEL.) "NOTRE DAME WILL CONTINUE TO BE A TRUE PILGRIM'S HOSPICE DESPITE ITS MODERNIZATION AND WILL NOT ACCEPT ORDINARY TOURISTS....CHARGING ONLY \$15.- A NIGHT DURING THE RUNNING IN PERIOD. THERE WILL BE 140 ROOMS WHEN WORK IS COMPLETED...2% OF THEM SINGLE ROOMS... A HANDSOME DINING ROOM OVERLOOKING CENTRAL COURTYARD. IN ADDITION TO THE REFURBISHED HOTEL, 2 NEW STRUCTURES ARE TO BE BUILT ON THE GROUNDS. ONE AN ARTS & CRAFTS CENTRE (FOR) CHRISTIAN CRAFTSMEN FROM THE AREA MAKING ARTICLES OF GLASS, WOOD, POTTERY, ETC THE OTHER STRUCTURE WILL BE A MEETING HALL FOR VISITING GROUPS & LOCAL CHRISTIANS."

SUBJECT 7: MONASTIC LIFE

DATE: 3.3.78 JOURNAL: JERUSALEM POST FEATURE ARTICLE: CHRISTIAN COMMENT/
 HEADING: "MONK FOR A DAY" (PHOTO OF ARCHIMANDRITE THEOPHANES) OIKUMENIKOS

SUMMARY: A DESCRIPTION OF THE LIFE OF A GREEK ORTHODOX MONK AS ILLUSTRATED BY THEOPHANES AT THE CHAPEL OF ST CONSTANTINE & ST HELENA ADJOINING THE ROTUNDA OF THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY SEPULCHRE. IT BEGINS WITH THE CALL TO PRAYER BY CHURCHBELLS AT 4:45 AM, DESCRIBES MATINS AND SCRIPTURE READINGS, ICONS, EUCHARIST, COFFEE & BREAKFAST, THE LIBRARY, VARIED MANUSCRIPTS IN GREEK, SYRIAC, ETHIOPIAN, COPTIC, AND ONE HEBREW SCROLL FROM 15/16TH CENT. THERE IS ALSO A DESCRIPTION OF ARCHIMANDRITE THEOPHANES, A YOUNG GREEK PRIEST WHO CAME TO JERUSALEM IN 1961 WHO SERVES IN THE GREEK ORTHODOX PATRIARCHATE OFFICE UNDER METROPOLITAN VASILEOS, "SUPERVISES AND GIVES GUIDANCE TO PARISHES, SCHOOLS & MONASTERIES THROUGHOUT ISRAEL, THE WEST BANK & JORDAN." HIS TASKS ARE "PRIMARILY ADMINISTRATIVE". THERE IS A DESCRIPTION OF THE FINDING OF BISHOP CHRYSANTHOS WHO LIVES IN THE COMPOUND DEAD, THE FUNERAL SERVICE. THERE FOLLOWS SOME MORE BACKGROUND MATERIAL ABOUT THE MONASTERY AND GREEK ORTHODOXY. "THE VAST MAJORITY OF CHRISTIANS IN THE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCHES IN THE LAND ARE ARABS...LOCAL PARISHES ARE LED BY ARAB PRIESTS WHO ARE ALL PERMITTED TO MARRY. THE LITURGY THEY FOLLOW IS IN ARABIC, BUT ITS ORIGINS DATE TO THE BYZANTINE RITE OR EARLIER. THE CHURCHES SHOULD NOT BE CONFUSED WITH THOSE OF THE GREEK CATHOLIC TRADITION, WHICH ACCEPT THE AUTHORITY OF THE POPE OF ROME."

END TRANSCRIPTION: 12.3.78