

SUBJECT 1: MISSIONS & MISSION LAW

DATE: 6.2.78 JOURNAL: TIME MAGAZINE

HEADING: "HUMAN RIGHTS: BRIBERY & CONVERSION - ISRAEL'S ANTIMISSIONARY LAW"

QUOTE: "BEGINNING IN APRIL UNDER THE TERMS OF A NEW LAW PASSED BY ISRAEL'S KNESSET, ANYONE WHO OFFERS ANY "MATERIAL INDUCEMENT" TO AN ISRAELI TO CHANGE HIS RELIGION WILL BE LIABLE TO A \$3,200 FINE AND FIVE YEARS IMPRISONMENT. AND ANYONE CONVICTED OF CONVERTING TO ANOTHER FAITH FOR NONSPIRITUAL BENEFIT MAY SPEND THREE YEARS BEHIND BARS. EXPLAINING HIS COUNTRY'S FIRST ANTIMISSIONARY LAW, ORTHODOX MK MEIR ABRAMOWICZ, THE BILL'S SPONSOR, SAYS: "WE ARE THE REMNANT OF MILLIONS OF JEWS FROM THE PAST. WE MERELY WANT TO PROTECT OUR CHILDREN." BUT ISRAEL'S 8,000 CHRISTIANS--NOT TO MENTION MANY OF ABRAMOWICZ'S FELLOW JEWS WHO ARE CONCERNED ABOUT CIVIL RIGHTS, AMERICAN GOOD WILL & RELIGIOUS HARMONY--THINK THE NEW BILL IS REPRESSIVE AND BADLY WRITTEN, ILL-TIMED & ILL-ADVISED. THE WORST PROBLEM LIES IN THE BILL'S TEXT. CHRISTIANS POINT OUT THAT THEY COULD CONCEIVABLY BE CONVICTED OF OFFERING "MATERIAL INDUCEMENT" IF A RECENTLY CONVERTED JEW MADE USE OF CHRISTIAN RUN SCHOOLS OR HOSPITAL SERVICES. ONE SPOKESMAN ADDS THAT THE BILL'S SUGGESTION THAT WELL-HEELED CHRISTIAN MISSIONS ENGAGE IN BRIBERY FOR SCHOOLS IS "CALUMNY, SLANDER & LIBEL, AS WELL AS AN INCITEMENT TO HATRED." THE BILL SLIPPED THROUGH THE KNESSET TWO DAYS AFTER CHRISTMAS WHEN ATTENTION WAS FOCUSED ON MIDDLE EAST DIPLOMACY, AND DIPLOMACY MAY IN PART EXPLAIN ITS PASSAGE. PM MENAHEM BEGIN HAD PROMISED THE TWO ORTHODOX PARTIES, IN HIS COALITION THE PASSAGE OF ANOTHER BILL ON A DIFFERENT SUBJECT, A LAW THAT WOULD REFUSE TO RECOGNIZE CONVERSIONS TO JUDAISM IN ISRAEL EXCEPT UNDER ORTHODOX AUSPICES BUT BEGIN HAS SO FAR NOT DELIVERED ON THAT PROMISE, PERHAPS OUT OF FEAR THAT LIBERAL U.S. JEWS WOULD RESENT IT. HE MAY HAVE HOPED TO GIVE THE ANTIMISSIONARY BILL TO THE ORTHODOX PARTIES AS A CONSOLATION PRIZE, SHORING UP THEIR SUPPORT DURING THE NEGOTIATIONS WITH EGYPT ABOUT THE FUTURE OF THE WEST BANK, AN ISSUE ON WHICH MOST ORTHODOX JEWS TAKE A HARD LINE. IF SO, THE TACTIC IS DUBIOUS: THE BILL COULD COST ISRAEL SOME OF THE STRONG SUPPORT IT NOW HAS FROM U.S. CHRISTIANS. INDEED, CHRISTIAN GROUPS IN ISRAEL ARE ALREADY ORGANIZING TO REPEAL THE LAW BEFORE IT TAKES EFFECT. CHURCH LEADERS WILL MEET NEXT WEEK WITH DAVID GLASS, CHAIRMAN OF THE KNESSET LAW COMMITTEE. THEY ARE BUOYED BY THE OUTCOME OF A SIMILAR THREAT IN EGYPT LAST YEAR WHEN ANWAR SADAT WAS FACING PRESSURE FROM MUSLIM MILITANTS FOR A LAW MAKING APOSTASY A CAPITAL CRIME FOR MUSLIMS. EGYPTIAN CHRISTIANS RAISED SUCH AN OUTCRY THAT SADAT MADE SURE THE BILL WAS DEFEATED." UNQUOTE

DATE: 29.3.78 JOURNAL: JERUSALEM POST FEATURE ARTICLE

HEADING: "AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE FACILITATES INTERGROUP RELATIONS"

BYLINE: J. ERIC MILES

SUMMARY & EXCERPT: THIS IS A BACKGROUND ARTICLE ABOUT THE AJC, FOUNDED IN 1906 FOLLOWING KISHINEV POGROMS, ITS UNDERLYING PRINCIPLE TO FIGHT FOR EQUAL RIGHTS FOR ALL, ITS RELIEF & RESCUE OPERATIONS AT THE BEGINNING, DEVELOPING INTO AN ORGZATION OF SOME EIGHTY CHAPTERS, 40,000 MEMBERS IN OVER 600 U.S. COMMUNITIES PLUS AN OVERSEAS SERVICE IN THREE CONTINENTS, INCLUDING JERUSALEM OFFICE ESTABLISHED 1961, ITS PROGRAM OF DEVELOPING INTERGROUP RELATIONS AND EDUCATION, AN INSTITUTE OF HUMAN RELATIONS WITH STAFF OF OVER 150 PROFESSIONALS, AND ITS CURRENT INITIATIVE IN CLARIFYING THE RECENT CONTROVERSY SURROUNDING THE SO CALLED ANTIMISSIONARY LAW AMENDMENTS TO ISRAEL'S CRIMINAL CODE. THE LEGISLATION SPARKED A FLURRY OF CONCERN AMONG CHRISTIAN GROUPS AROUND THE WORLD. THE AJC'S HQ IN NEW YORK RECEIVED A SERIES OF REPORTS DESCRIBING THE RESPONSES OF INTERNATIONAL CHRISTIAN AND INTERFAITH GROUPS. COMMITTEE ANALYSTS CONCLUDED THAT THESE REACTIONS INDICATED THE EXISTENCE OF A SERIOUS PROBLEM FOR CHRISTIAN JEWISH RELATIONS IN THE DIASPORA. ACCORDINGLY, AJC PRES. RICHARD MAAS WROTE TO PM MENAHEM BEGIN & JUSTICE MIN SHMUEL TAMIR DRAWING THEIR ATTENTION TO THE DISTRESS FELT BY CHRISTIAN LEADERS, PARTICULARLY AMONG THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN ISRAEL'S STAINCHEST SUPPORTERS. AT THE SAME TIME, DR BERNARD RESNIKOFF, DIRECTOR OF THE AJC'S ISRAEL OFFICE IN JERUSALEM, ARRANGED A SERIES OF CONSULTATIONS FOR CHRISTIAN LEADERS WITH DR DAVID GLASS, CHAIRMAN OF THE KNESSET LAW COMMITTEE. SUBSEQUENTLY DR RESNIKOFF ESCORTED A SEVEN MAN DELEGATION OF THE UCCI TO A TWO HOUR CONFERENCE WITH SENIOR OFFICIALS IN THE MINISTRY OF JUSTICE. THE RESULT OF THE AJC INITIATIVE WAS A FOUR PAGE LETTER TO PRES MAASS FROM JUSTICE MIN TAMIR WHICH GAVE ASSURANCES THAT THE LEGISLATION IS NOT INTENDED IN ANY WAY TO RESTRICT THE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY'S RELIGIOUS FREEDOM IN ISRAEL. TAMIR REAFFIRMED THE GOVT'S COMMITMENT TO UPHOLD THE FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES OF THE RIGHT TO FREEDOM OF RELIGION AND CONSCIENCE, INCLUDING THE RIGHT TO CHANGE RELIGION OR BELIEF. THE LEGISLATION PROHIBITS THE GIVING OF MONEY OR OTHER MATERIAL BENEFITS TO ANYONE IN ORDER TO INDUCE A CHANGE IN RELIGION. IT PROVIDES FOR FIVE YEARS IMPRISONMENT OR A FINE OF IL50,000. IN HIS LETTER TO MR MAASS THE JUSTICE MIN EXPLAINED THAT THE LAW IS NOT DESIGNED TO IMPEDE THE CHRISTIAN OR ANY OTHER COMMUNITY "FROM THE PURSUIT OF NORMAL EDUCATIONAL OR PHILANTHROPIC ACTIVITIES." HE ALSO POINTED OUT THAT IN THE FINAL ANALYSIS THE INTERPRETATION OF THE LAW IS A MATTER FOR THE ISRAELI COURTS, WHOSE INDEPENDENCE & REPUTATION FOR THE HIGHEST STANDARDS OF JUDICIAL INTEGRITY ARE BEYOND QUESTION.

* (FROM THIS POINT THE ARTICLE IS QUOTED VERBATIM)

MORE

2. DURING THE CONFERENCE ARRANGED BY DR RESNIKOFF FOR LOCAL CHRISTIAN LEADERS AND GOVT OFFICIALS IT WAS AGREED THAT THE TWO SIDES WILL MEET AGAIN WITHIN A FEW MONTHS TO JOINTLY ASSESS THE RESULTS OF THE LAW. THE UCCI DELEGATION MEMBERS, WHO CAME TO EXPRESS THEIR FEARS AND ANXIETIES ABOUT THE LEGISLATION AND HOW IT WOULD BE IMPLEMENTED, SAID THEY WERE REASSURED BY WHAT THEY LEARNED. CANON NA'EM ATEEK, THE HALFA ANGLICAN CHURCHMAN WHO HEADS THE UCCI, TOLD DR RESNIKOFF: "I FEEL MUCH BETTER ABOUT THIS WHOLE MATTER AFTER THE CONFERENCE THAN WHEN I WALKED IN." COOPERATING WITH THE AJC IN ISRAEL WERE THE ISRAELI OFFICE OF THE AMERICAN JEWISH CONGRESS AND THE ISRAEL INTERFAITH COMMITTEE." UNQUOTE

DATE: 31.3.78 JOURNAL: YEDIOT AKHRONOT (HEBREW PM IND) FEATURE ARTICLE
HEADING: "REPRESSION—OR DENUNCIATION AND A SOLUTION"
BYLINE: SHULAMIT ALONI

SUMMARY & EXTRACT: THIS IS WRITTEN BY MK LEADER OF THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT, CALLING ATTENTION TO WHAT SHE DEFINES AS "THE SYSTEM OF COLLECTIVE REPRESSION OF INFORMATION" IN ORDER TO AVOID DISTURBING A "CONSENSUS" ABOUT THE ISRAELI SITUATION. SEVERAL INSTANCES ARE CITED (FOR THE MOST PART INVOLVING ISSUES OF RELIGION... "BLACK HEBREWS", PRESSURES TO CONVERT TO JUDAISM ON GENTILES IN CERTAIN CASES AND ON THE COCHIN INDIAN JEWS, AND THE NEW MISSION LAW, THE RELEVANT EXCERPT FOLLOWS IN VERBATIM): "IN ISRAEL THERE'S A LAW AGAINST THE MISSION, WITH FIVE YEARS IMPRISONMENT AND 50,000 IL FINE FOR ENTICEMENT TO CONVERSION. BUT HAS ANYONE CONSIDERED BRINGING THE JEWISH AGENCY TO COURT? HAS ANYONE CONSIDERED BRINGING TO COURT THE ARMY BECAUSE IN CERTAIN UNITS, IN FIELD SECURITY CONTROL, NO PERSON WILL BE ACCEPTED UNLESS HE DECLARES HIMSELF TO BE A RELIGIOUS JEW. THIS IS EXACTLY WHAT THE PERSONAL QUESTIONNAIRE REQUIRES. A RELIGIOUS MARK FOR THE RECRUIT, OF HIS NEXT OF KIN AND OF THOSE WHO RECOMMEND HIM. HAS ANYONE CONSIDERED BRINGING THE STATE OF ISRAEL AND THE KNESSET OF ISRAEL TO COURT FOR DETERMINING THAT CHILDREN OF MIXED MARRIAGES WHO CAME TO US ACCORDING TO THE LAW OF RETURN FROM ROMANIA, RUSSIA, POLAND, THE USA, ARE UNABLE TO WED, TO REAR A FAMILY, TO OBTAIN RIGHTS TO A FLAT, ETC ETC, EXCEPT IF THEY FIRST CONVERT TO JUDAISM? IS THIS NOT ENTICEMENT TO CONVERSION IN EXCHANGE FOR MATERIAL BENEFITS? ON THE OTHER HAND, NOT A SINGLE PROOF WAS BROUGHT BEFORE THE KNESSET, IN PLENARY OR IN COMMITTEE, OF ENTICEMENT OF THIS KIND, OR RESEMBLING IT, BY ANY CHRISTIAN CHURCH. WE ALL KNOW THE TRUTH. WE ALL REPRESS IT. THE FOREIGN MINISTER ANNOUNCED IN THE KNESSET, AT THE REQUEST OF THE SPONSOR OF THE LAW, MK ABRAMOWITZ OF AGUDAT ISRAEL, THAT HE HAS GIVEN INSTRUCTIONS TO OUR EMBASSIES THROUGHOUT THE WORLD TO EXPLAIN THAT THIS LAW IS NEUTRAL AND IS ALSO VALID AGAINST JEWS WHO ENTICE OTHERS TO CONVERSION. THE F.M. KNOWS THE TRUTH. THE ISRAELI EMBASSIES ABROAD KNOW THE TRUTH. THE KNESSET KNOWS THE TRUTH. BUT ANYONE WHO DECLARES IT OPENLY AND IN PUBLIC IS "A TROUBLER OF ISRAEL" AND SLANDERS HER GOOD NAME, FOR THE SAKE OF DOMESTIC HARMONY AND FOR THE SAKE OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE COALITION REGIME, AND IN THE NAME OF "NATIONAL UNITY", THE TRUTH IS REPRESSED... "NO ONE KNOWS...IT NEVER WAS...IT'S NOT THE SAME THING, REALLY..." UNQUOTE

DATE: (?) MARCH 1978 JOURNAL: MAARIV (HEBREW PM IND) "NEWS ARTICLE"
HEADING: "BABY SITTERS FREE OF CHARGE TO PARTICIPANTS IN STUDY GROUPS OF THE MISSION"
SUMMARY: THIS IS THE IDENTICAL ARTICLE WHICH WAS PUBLISHED IN THE ORTHODOX DAILIES HATSOFE (NRP) & SHEARIM (PAY) ABOUT THE JW'S AND ALLEGED 3,600 MISSIONARIES OF ALL GROUPS REPORTED IN AN INVESTIGATION MADE BY THE ANTIMISSION SOCIETY "YAD L'AKHIM" UNDER THE TITLE "IN THE SHADOW OF APOSTACY". (SEE SELECTIONS No. 16, page 4 dated 21.3.78)

DATE: 31.3.78 JOURNAL: YEDIOT AKHRONOT (HEBREW PM IND) FEATURE ARTICLE ("THE HOLY CITY")
HEADING: "THREE MISSIONARIES—AND ONE WINE DEAL"
BYLINE: DOV GANHOVSKY

SUMMARY: THIS IS A JAUNDICED TALE OF PIONEER MISSIONARIES IN JERUSALEM DURING THE 19TH CENTURY: NICOLASEN, A DANE, WHO ARRIVED IN 1827 REPRESENTING LONDON SOCIETY FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF CHRISTIANITY AMONG THE JEWS. HE WAS ONE OF THE FOUNDERS OF THE ENGLISH HOSPITAL IN J'LM WHICH HAD KOSHER CUISINE, AND FUNCTIONED WITHIN THE JEWISH QUARTER, WHICH SPURRED THE DEVELOPMENT OF JEWISH INSTITUTIONS BECAUSE OF "THE MISSION MENACE". HE ALSO FOUNDED A RESIDENCE FOR JEWISH CONVERTS. ALSO A DESCRIPTION OF SCHNELLER, A GERMAN/PROTESTANT CHRISTIAN, WHO WORKED AMONG THE EASTERN CHURCHES, ALSO FOUNDED AN ORPHANAGE FOR VICTIMS OF THE MASSACRE OF CHRISTIANS IN LEBANON, A SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND, A PRINTING PLANT, A BRICK FACTORY, ETC ETC A JEWISH CONVERT PAUL BERGHEIM BECAME A SUCCESSFUL BANKER AND WINE DEALER, ALSO DEVELOPED A MILL RUN BY STEAM FOR GRINDING FLOUR. "THE JEWS CALLED IT BERHEIM'S MEAL (FLOUR IN YIDDISH), NEVERTHELESS, ACCORDING TO JEWISH LAW BERGHEIM WAS A JEW AND HIS LAND WAS THE LAND OF JEWS—HE WAS THEREFORE LIABLE TO THE (RELIGIOUS) LAWS OF OFFERINGS AND TITHES FROM HIS PRODUCE."

DATE: 11.11.77 JOURNAL: HERITAGE (L.A. CALIFORNIA) FEATURE ARTICLE
HEADING: "ISRAEL GIVES PRIORITY TO HOLY LAND CHRISTIANS"
BYLINE: ROBERT D KAPLAN (THIS IS A SHORTENED VERSION OF AN ARTICLE WHICH HAS APPEARED IN SEVERAL PUBLICATIONS AS WELL AS THE MTN BELTS AREA...)