

SELECTION No. 19 (to 12.9.78)

SUBJECT 1: MISSION LAW (FOREIGN PRESS & ISRAELI FOREIGN LANGUAGE PRESS) PLEASE NOTE: FOREIGN LANGUAGE TRANSLATIONS (EXCEPT HEBREW) ARE APPROXIMATE!

DATE: 16.12.77 JOURNAL: JEWISH TRIBUNE (LONDON) NEWS ARTICLE
HEADING: "KNESSET PASSES FIRST READING OF AGUDAS ISRAEL'S ANTIMISSIONARY AMENDMENT"
QUOTE: "THE KNESSET PASSED THE FIRST READING OF AN AMENDMENT TO THE PENAL CODE LAST WEEK UNDER WHICH GIVING OR RECEIVING A BRIBE IN CASH OR IN KIND WILL BE AN OFFENCE. ANYONE FOUND GUILTY UNDER THE AMENDMENT OF OFFERING A BRIBE WOULD BE LIABLE TO FIVE YEARS IN PRISON OR A IL 50,000 FINE. THE RECIPIENT OF SUCH A BRIBE WOULD BE LIABLE TO THREE YEARS IN JAIL OR A IL 30,000 FINE. THE AMENDMENT WHICH WAS INTRODUCED BY RABBI YM ABRAMOWITZ OF AGUDAS ISRAEL RECEIVED THE SUPPORT OF THE LIKUD, NRP, SOME OF THE LMC AND ONE OF THE INDEPENDENT LIBERALS BESIDES AGUDAS ISRAEL. VOTING AGAINST WERE THE SMALL LEFTWING PARTIES AND INDIVIDUALS FROM THE ALIGNMENT AND THE DMC. MOST OF THE ALIGNMENT MEMBERS ABSTAINED. RABBI YEHUDA MEIR ABRAMOWITZ SAID THAT THOUSANDS OF MISSIONARIES WERE ACTIVE IN THE COUNTRY WITH UNLIMITED FUNDS AT THEIR DISPOSAL AND WERE WORKING IN A HIGHLY ORGANIZED AND INTENSIVE MANNER. HE SAID THAT THE BILL WOULD NOT CURB THE FREEDOM OF THE MISSIONARIES TO PROPAGATE THEIR IDEAS BUT ONLY PREVENT ENTICING CONVERTS BY GIVING MATERIAL BENEFITS. HE SAID THAT IF IT WERE A CRIME TO TRY TO INFLUENCE THE OUTCOME OF A SOCCER GAME BY VARIOUS FORMS OF PERSUASION, IT MUST SURELY BE REPREHENSIBLE TO PERSUADE A MAN TO CHANGE HIS RELIGION BY OFFERING HIM MONEY TO EMBRACE CHRISTIANITY AND LEAVE THE COUNTRY. MR PINHAS SCHEINMAN (NRP) SAID THAT THE CHRISTIAN MISSIONARIES ENTICE THEIR PREY BY PROMISING PARENTS FREE HIGH SCHOOL FOR THEIR CHILDREN, HELP WITH HOUSING, EMPLOYMENT AND EVEN MONEY TO PAY FOR EMIGRATION. HE SAID THE MISSIONARIES HAD MADE SERIOUS INCROADS INTO THE RANKS OF THE IDF AND HAD PERSUADED SOLDIERS TO READ THEIR PROPAGANDA BINYAMIN HALEVI (DMC) SAID THE CHRISTIAN MISSIONS WERE A CANCER IN THE BODY OF THE NATION & WERE TRYING TO CARRY FORWARD THE AIM OF PHYSICAL LIQUIDATION WHICH HAD BEEN FURTHERED BY THE CATHOLIC CHURCH SINCE IT WAS ESTABLISHED. THE NEW LAW WAS FRAMED TO FIGHT CORRUPTION AND WOULD NOT AFFECT GENUINE FREEDOM OF WORSHIP, HE SAID. DEV SHILANSKY (LIKUD) SAID THAT THE ORTHODOX PRIESTS IN THE BALTIC STATES DURING THE NAZI OCCUPATION EXHORTED THE SOLDIERS WHO TRACKED DOWN AND MASSACRED THOUSANDS OF LOCAL JEWS. THESE SAME PRIESTS HELD HIGH POSTS IN THE CHURCH TODAY IN OTHER COUNTRIES. SOME OF THE FEW JEWISH CHILDREN SAVED BY CHRISTIANS WERE ONLY RESTORED TO THEIR RELATIVES WITH DIFFICULTY AFTER THE WAR, HE SAID. MR SHLOMO YAAKOV GROSS (AGUDA) SAID ALL THE RELIGIONS WERE RESPECTED AND PROTECTED IN THE COUNTRY AS MUCH, IF NOT MORE THAN IN OTHER COUNTRIES. JEWRY DID NOT SEEK CONVERTS AND IT DID NOT WANT OTHER FAITHS TO MAKE INCROADS INTO ITS OWN RANKS." UNQUOTE

DATE: 23.12.77 JOURNAL: JEWISH TRIBUNE (LONDON) COMMENT ON NEWS
HEADING: "OPPOSING ANTI-MISSIONARIES"
QUOTE: "AN INTERESTING SEQUEL TO THE FIRST KNESSET READING OF THE ANTIMISSIONARY LEGISLATION IS A STATEMENT BY BISHOP HANNA KALDANY (HEAD OF THE ROMAN CATHOLIC--LATIN--CHURCH OF ISRAEL) THE BISHOP EXPRESSES "ASTONISHMENT AT THE OUTBURST OF CERTAIN MEMBERS OF KNESSET DURING THE SESSION OF DEC 5TH AS WELL AS AT THE DISTORTION OF FACTS (!) AND THE EXAGGERATION OF FIGURES (!) THAT WERE HEARD ON THAT OCCASION." NO MENTION OF COURSE AS TO WHICH FACTS WERE DISTORTED OR WHICH FIGURES WERE EXAGGERATED. THE RIDER TO THE COMPLAINT IS OF PARTICULAR INTEREST: "IT IS IN THE NATURE OF LAW" POSTULATES THE BISHOP, FIRST AND FOREMOST TO PROTECT THE WEAK ONE ASKS WHETHER THE NEW LAW AS PROPOSED WILL ALSO PROTECT CHRISTIANS LIVING IN THE MIDST OF A JEWISH SOCIETY FROM PRESSURES AND TEMPTATIONS WHICH HAVE LED NOT A FEW TO CHANGE THEIR RELIGION UNDER DURESS. THE LATTER POINT IS QUITE A NEW REVELATION AND IN THE ABSENCE OF CONCRETE EVIDENCE SEEMS TO BE A CASE OF ATTACK IS THE BEST METHOD OF DEFENCE. BUT THE BASIC COMPLAINT SEEMS QUITE SURPRISING AS IT REVEALS A COMPLETE LACK OF UNDERSTANDING OF THE ISSUES INVOLVED. ISRAEL IS A JEWISH STATE, ITS POPULATION CONSISTS LARGELY OF JEWS WHO HAVE SUFFERED FOR THEIR RELIGION AT THE HANDS OF CHRISTIAN PERSECUTORS. JEWS HAVE AN INNATE DESIRE TO REMAIN JEWS & RESENT THE EXPLOITATION BY MISSIONARIES OF POVERTY OR WEAK CHARACTER ON THE PART OF A FOREIGN ELEMENT TO WEAN AWAY JEWS FROM THEIR NATURAL RELIGIOUS COMMITMENT. THIS IS NOT A PROBLEM WHICH CAN BE GAUGED BY A YARDSTICK OF DEMOCRACY. IF CATHOLICS CHOOSE TO LIVE IN A JEWISH STATE, NO ONE CAN OR WILL STOP THEM. BUT THEY HAVE TO ABIDE BY THE "RULES OF THE GAME". THEY MUST NOT BE ALLOWED TO IMPOSE THEIR RELIGIOUS AMBITIONS ON OTHERS. IF THEY WISH THE PROPOSED LAW TO INCLUDE A CLAUSE OF RECIPROCITY, I.E. THAT JEWS SHOULD NOT ATTEMPT TO CONVERT CHRISTIANS TO JUDAISM, NO ONE WILL OBJECT. BUT AFTER THIRTY YEARS OF STATEHOOD DURING WHICH TIME THOUSANDS OF INNOCENT JEWISH CHILDREN HAVE BEEN DELIBERATELY AND CUNNINGLY ESTRANGED FROM THE FAITH OF THEIR PARENTS, IT IS HIGH TIME THAT THE SITUATION IS REGULARISED BY LEGISLATION. THAT PRECISELY IS THE OBJECTIVE OF THE BILL NOW INTRODUCED INTO KNESSET BY AGUDA REPRESENTATIVES." UNQUOTE

DATE: 5.1.78 JOURNAL: DAILY NEWS BULLETIN (LONDON) NEWS ARTICLE
HEADING: "CHRISTIANS PROTEST AGAINST ANTIMISSIONARY LAW"
BYLINE: GIL SEDAN
QUOTE: "JERUSALEM: A DELEGATION OF THE UCCI HAS HAD TALKS WITH ISRAEL LIPPEL, DIRECTOR GEN OF THE RELIG AFFAIRS MIN & PROTESTED STRONGLY AGAINST A RECENT LAW DIRECTED AGAINST MISSIONARY

2 ON ANYBODY TRYING TO PERSUADE A PERSON TO CONVERT IN RETURN FOR MATERIAL BENEFIT. SIMILARLY THE LAW IMPOSES THREE YEARS IMPRISONMENT (OR IL 30,000 FINE) ON ANYBODY WHO CONVERTS IN RETURN FOR MATERIAL BENEFIT. BUT THE CHRISTIAN LEADERS WERE MORE ANGERED BY THE EXPLANATION OF THE LAW THAN THE LAW ITSELF. THE EXPLANATION WHICH USUALLY IS ATTACHED TO THE BILL WHEN TABLED IN THE KNESSET WARNS AGAINST THE GROWING INFLUENCE OF MISSIONARY ELEMENTS IN ISRAEL WHICH IT SAYS TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES IN ORDER TO CONVERT JEWS TO CHRISTIANITY. THE LAW ITSELF DOES NOT MENTION THE WORDS "CHRISTIAN" OR "MISSIONARIES." THE DELEGATION PROTESTED THAT THE BILL WAS PREPARED WITHOUT CONSULTATION WITH HEADS OF THE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY IN ISRAEL. THEY SAID THAT WHEREAS THE NUMBER OF CHRISTIANS CONVERTING TO JUDAISM MAY REACH AS MANY AS 2,000 A YEAR, THE NUMBER OF JEWS CONVERTING TO CHRISTIANITY IS LESS THAN 10. THEY SAID THEY WERE DETERMINED TO FIGHT FOR THE ABOLITION OF THE LAW WHICH WAS PASSED BY THE KNESSET AS PART OF A COALITION AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE LIKUD & THE AGUDA. LIPPEL TOLD THE DELEGATION THEY SHOULD UNDERSTAND ISRAEL'S SENSITIVITY TO ATTEMPTS TO CONVERT JEWISH FAMILIES ESPECIALLY AFTER THE HOLOCAUST. HOWEVER, HE ADMITTED THAT THE LEADERS OF THE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY SHOULD HAVE BEEN CONSULTED BEFORE THE LAW WAS PASSED BY THE KNESSET. OBSERVERS HERE NOTED THAT THE LAW WAS NOT VERY EFFECTIVE ANYWAY. IN THE FEW CASES OF MISSIONARY ACTIVITY, THE FAMILIES CONCERNED LEFT THE COUNTRY." UNQUOTE

DATE: 12.1.78 JOURNAL: JUDISCHE RUNDSCHAU MACCABI (BASEL) NEWS ARTICLE (GERMAN LANG)
HEADING: "PROTEST AGAINST MISSION BAN"

TEXT: "JERUSALEM (JTA) THE UCCI HAS SHARPLY PROTESTED AGAINST A NEW LAW WHICH PROVIDES IMPRISONMENT AND FINES FOR CERTAIN MISSIONARY ACTIVITIES. A DELEGATION OF THE COUNCIL MET WITH THE GENERAL DIRECTOR OF THE MIN OF RELIG AFFAIRS IN ORDER TO EXPRESS ITSELF CONCERNING THE PASSAGE OF THE LAW WITHOUT CONSULTATION WITH THE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY. THE COUNCIL IS OF THE OPINION THAT THE LAW GENERATES HATRED AND FALSEHOODS ABOUT THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH. THE LAW PROVIDES PENALTIES OF FIVE YEARS IMPRISONMENT OR A FINE OF IL 50,000 FOR ANY PERSON WHO SEEKS TO PERSUADE ANOTHER TO CONVERT BY PROMISE OF MATERIAL BENEFIT. A PERSON WHO IN EXCHANGE FOR MATERIAL GAIN AGREES TO CONVERT MAY BE IMPRISONED FOR THREE YEARS OR FINED IL 30,000..... THE EXPLANATORY REMARKS OF THE LAW, AS PRESENTED BEFORE THE KNESSET, DECLARED A GROWING INFLUENCE OF MISSIONARIES IN ISRAEL WHO EXPLOIT THE FINANCIAL NEED OF JEWS IN ORDER TO WIN THEM TO CHRISTIANITY. THE CHURCH REPRESENTATIVES...SEEK TO REPEAL THE LAW. THE LAW HAD BEEN LYING UNTABLED SINCE 1975 IN THE KNESSET. IT WAS PASSED LAST YEAR IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE LIKUD REGIME AND THE AGUDA COALITION PARTNERS IN THIS REGARD. ACCORDING TO THE VIEW OF THE CHURCH REPRESENTATIVES THERE ARE LESS THAN TEN JEWS PER YEAR WHO CONVERT TO CHRISTIANITY AGAINST UP TO TWO THOUSAND CHRISTIANS CONVERTING TO JUDAISM." UNQUOTE

DATE: 3.3.78 JOURNAL: ISRAEL NACHRICHTEN (TELAVIV) NEWS AND COMMENT
HEADING: "THE SILENCE OF THE RABBINATE"

BYLINE: SCHALOM BENCHORIN

EXTRACTS/SUMMARY: BEGINNING WITH A QUOTATION FROM KOHELET (ECCLESIASTES) CHAPTER 3 CONCERNING A TIME TO SPEAK AND A TIME TO BE SILENT, THE AUTHOR DISCUSSES VARIOUS CURRENT ISSUES IN RELATION TO THE RELIGIOUS ESTABLISHMENT--THE TRAGIC DEATH OF TWO CHILDREN WHO FELL DOWN A JERUSALEM OPEN PIT, THE PROBLEM OF KASHRUT CONTROL IN JERUSALEM'S HOTELS, THE DIASPORA YESHIVA ON MOUNT ZION & THE MISSION LAW. THE WRITER TAKES THE RABBINATE TO TASK FOR ITS SILENCE RESPECTING THE "RASH" ANTIMISSION LAW. THE LAW IS QUOTED IN FULL. THERE FOLLOWS AN ATTACK UPON THE LAW, QUOTE: "BEHIND THE DRY TEXT OF THESE PARAGRAPHS HOWEVER LURKS THE HYSTERICAL OVERPLAYED FEAR OF THE CHRISTIAN MISSIONS IN ISRAEL. WE HAVE SEEN AND HEARD ON RADIO AND TELEVISION EXPOSITIONS OF THIS CONTROVERSIAL THEME, AND THAT THE UCCI IN TELEGRAMS TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE STATE, THE PRIME MINISTER, THE MIN OF RELIG AFFAIRS & THE MIN OF THE INTERIOR PROTESTED...THESE CHRISTIAN CIRCLES FOUND IT PARTICULARLY DISTRESSING THAT THIS LAW WAS RUSHED THROUGH THE KNESSET DURING THE CHRISTMAS SEASON. THIS WAS SURELY NO OVERSIGHT, BUT IT SHOWS US HOW IMPORTANT IT IS ALWAYS TO TAKE THE OTHER PERSON INTO CONSIDERATION. WE CAN IMAGINE WHAT THE REACTION WOULD BE SHOULD AN ELECTION BE SET OFF, FOR EXAMPLE, IN THE DIASPORA DURING A JEWISH FESTIVAL PREVENTING DEVOUT JEWS FROM EXERCISING THEIR CIVIC DUTIES. NO ONE CAN CONDONE EXPLOITATION OF SOCIALLY WEAK CIRCLES FOR RELIGIOUS PURPOSES, BUT IT IS QUITE EVIDENT THAT THE TEXT SIGNIFIES MUCH MORE THAN THE TEXT EXPRESSES....BUT HERE TOO THE RABBINATE REMAINS SILENT AND PERMITS THE FANATICS TO (HAVE FREE REIN)...."

DATE: 15.3.78 JOURNAL: JOURNAL D'ISRAEL (FRENCH) EXTRACTS FROM KNESSET DEBATE
HEADING: "AMENDMENT TO THE PENAL CODE: LAW CONCERNING ENTICEMENT TO CHANGE OF RELIGION"

EXTRACTS AND SUMMARY: THE TWO PARAGRAPHS OF THE LAW ARE QUOTED VERBATIM. THERE FOLLOWS VERBATIM EXTRACTS OF SPEECHES MADE IN THE KNESSET DEBATE CONCERNING THE AMENDMENT.
TEXT. AHARON YADLIN (ALIGNMENT) "ALL THE MK'S RECOGNIZE THAT THE EXPLOITATION OF THE MATERIAL DISTRESS OF A PERSON IN ORDER TO INDUCE HIM TO CHANGE HIS OPINIONS, VALUES, & BELIEFS IS A REPREHENSIBLE ACT, I WOULD EVEN SAY ABOMINABLE IN THE EXTREME & TOTALLY INADMISSIBLE."

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Y ARIDOR (LIKUD) "IN OUR DAYS A RELIGIOUS CONVERSION, LIKE ANY OTHER ACT, OBTAINED BY BRIB-
ERY, IS STILL A REPREHENSIBLE THING IN THE EYES OF THE LAW... IT IS FOR THIS REASON THAT
RELIGIOUS CONVERSION BY MEANS OF ENTICEMENT IS INADMISSIBLE. AND EVERY PERSON FOR WHOM RE-
LIGION IS A MATTER OF LIBERTY SHOULD APPROVE THIS PROJECT OF LAW (i.e. MAKING RELIGIOUS
BRIBERY AS ILLEGAL AS OTHER FORMS OF BRIBERY).

DAVID GLASS (NRP) "WHY SHOULD WE IN ISRAEL FIGHT THE FIXING IN ADVANCE THE RESULTS OF A
FOOTBALL MATCH, CONSIDERING THAT SOCIETY OUGHT TO COMBAT BY LAW A PHENOMENON THAT UNDERMINES
ITS VALUES, AND BY THE SAME CRITERION WHY SHOULD THE LAW NOT BE APPLIED TO RELIGIOUS CONVERS-
ION?" B. HALEVI (DMC) THE PURPOSE OF THIS LAW IS NOT TO RESTRICT RELIGIOUS LIBERTY,
BELIEF OR OPINION, OR THE RIGHT OF AN INDIVIDUAL TO CHANGE HIS RELIGION FREELY. IT IS ONLY
DIRECTED AGAINST CORRUPTION, THE PAYMENT IN MONEY, THE PROMISE OF A SUM OF MONEY OR ITS
EQUIVALENT IN KIND OR ANY OTHER MATERIAL BENEFIT IN VIEW OF INDUCING A PERSON TO CHANGE HIS
RELIGION OR TO INCITE OR PERSUADE ANOTHER PERSON TO CHANGE HIS RELIGION. IT IS EQUALLY
APPLICABLE TO ALL RELIGIONS IN ISRAEL. THIS AMENDMENT HAS NO SUGGESTION OF RELIGIOUS
DISCRIMINATION. IT DOES NOT REFER TO ANY SPECIFIC RELIGION. ALL THIS AMENDMENT ENVISAGES
IS THE FACT OF A GIFT OF MONEY FOR OBTAINING A CONVERSION OF A PERSON TO ANOTHER RELIGION.
TO THE SAME EXTENT AS IT FORBIDS OFFERING A SUM OF MONEY TO A JEW TO CONVERT TO CHRISTIANITY
IT EQUALLY PROHIBITS THE OFFER OF MONEY TO A CHRISTIAN IN ORDER THAT HE SHOULD BECOME JEWISH.
THE SAME APPLIES FOR A MUSLEM. THERE IS NOT A WORD OF DISCRIMINATION CONCERNING ANY RELIG-
ION. THE AMENDMENT IS BASED ON THE IDEA THAT THE ACT OF OFFERING MONEY, OR ITS EQUIVALENT
OR ANY MATERIAL BENEFITS WITH A VIEW TO INDUCE OR INCITE A PERSON TO CHANGE RELIG-
ION IS SUBVERSIVE TO MORALS. EVERYONE RECOGNIZES THIS... THAT THIS IS AN ACT OF CORRUPTION
COMPARABLE TO SIMILAR ACTS IN OTHER AREAS OF LIFE."

HAUSNER (ILP) IN MY OPINION, ANYONE CONCERNED WITH FAITH AND RELIGION, MUST REGARD INCITE-
MENT OF ANOTHER PERSON BY MATERIAL BENEFITS WHICH IS EQUIVALENT TO COERCION, BECAUSE IT
UTILIZES THE POWER OF WEALTH TO ACCOMPLISH SOMETHING WHICH COULD NOT BE DONE WITHOUT IT,
FOR THE ACT WHICH THIS AMENDMENT DESIRES TO PREVENT IS NOT ACCOMPLISHED BY PERSUASION AND
FREE DISCUSSION OF THE QUESTION OF CONVERSION BUT RATHER BY THE EXPLOITATION OF THE WEAK-
NESS OF SUCH PERSON BY MEANS OF THE PROPOSED MATERIAL BENEFITS. THIS SHOULD BE PROHIBITED
AND INTERDICTED BY LAW IN A PERSPECTIVE OF PRESERVATION OF INDIVIDUAL LIBERTIES. MISERY
IS THE MOTHER OF ALL VICES... IN MY OPINION, GAINING LOYALTY BY THE ATTRACTION OF MATERIAL
BENEFITS IS A REPREHENSIBLE ACT, IT DOES NOT PRESERVE RELIGIOUS LIBERTY, BUT ABUSES LIBERTY,
PERVERTS RELIGIOUS LIBERTY, TRAFFICS IN LIBERTY, COMMERCE IN SOULS IS NO LESS SERIOUS THAN
COMMERCE IN BODIES. MANY MODERN STATES RESTRICT NOT ONLY PROSELYTIZING WHICH UTILIZES THE
APPEAL OF MATERIAL BENEFITS BUT EQUALLY OF PROPAGANDA TO PROSELYTIZE AND SUCH PROHIBITION IS
NOT CONSIDERED DAMAGING TO THE STATE OR TO RELIGION. NEVERTHELESS, IF ONE ADMITS FREEDOM
TO DIFFUSE MATERIAL OF RELIGIOUS CONTROVERSY BY PUBLIC MEETINGS AND OTHER MEANS OF INFORMA-
TION, ONE NEED NOT TOLERATE THE FREEDOM TO CONVERT BY THE FORCE OR ATTRACTION OF MATERIAL
BENEFITS. RELIGIOUS PROSELYTISM IS FORBIDDEN IN MANY ENLIGHTENED STATES. IN SWEDEN, FOR
EXAMPLE, ONE DOES NOT FIND MISSIONARIES, AND NOT BECAUSE SWEDEN IS A BACKWARD STATE..."

DATE: 12.4.78 JOURNAL: JERUSALEM POST "POSTSCRIPTS" BY H.B.

QUOTE: "THE RECENT LAW MAKING ILLEGAL THE TENDERING OF MATERIAL BENEFITS TO POTENTIAL RELIG-
IOUS CONVERTS WAS THE SUBJECT OF A 20-MINUTE SPECIAL REPORT ON DUTCH TV ON MARCH 30. THE
DUTCH WHO ARE USUALLY COUNTED AMONG THE PEOPLE MOST SYMPATHETIC TO ISRAEL VIEWED THE NEW LEG-
ISLATION WITH SOME DEGREE OF ALARM. ACCORDING TO OUR CORRESPONDENT THE REPORT ON THE WHOLE
WAS BALANCED ALTHO' IT DID INCLUDE SCENES AT THE CHRISTIAN BIBLE CENTRE ON THE MOUNT OF OLIVES
WHICH IS SURROUNDED BY BARBED WIRE AND GUARDED LIKE A FORTRESS "FOR FEAR OF THREATS BY ORTH-
ODOX JEWS."

SUBJECT 2: ATTACKS ON J.W.'S BY RELIGIOUS ZEALOTS

DATE: 9.4.78 JOURNAL: YEDIOT AKHRONOT (HEBREW PM IND) NEWS ARTICLE

HEADING: "TWO CAUGHT BREAKING IN TO CHRISTIAN HOUSE OF WORSHIP: WE SAW HOW THE MISSION
SNATCHES CHILDREN"

BYLINE: MOSHE RANEN, YEDIOT CORRESPONDENT

QUOTE: "THE ACCUSED BELIEVE THAT THEY EXECUTED THE SERIOUS OFFENSES WITH WHICH THEY ARE
CHARGED FOR THE SANCTIFICATION OF THE NAME OF GOD. THEY BELIEVE IN ALL SINCERITY THAT THEY
WERE SENT BY GOD TO CAUSE DAMAGE TO THE HOUSE OF WORSHIP. THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT THIS IS A
SERIOUS OFFENCE BUT FROM THE SUBJECTIVE VIEW OF THE ACCUSED THEY ARE NOT TRANSGRESSORS."
THUS CLAIMED ADVOCATE ZVI LIDSKY BEFORE THE JUSTICE OF PEACE YESTERDAY IN TELAVIV IN HIS
DEFENCE OF YITZHAK & ELIEZER YOM TOV, ACCUSED OF BREAKING IN TO THE HOUSE OF WORSHIP OF THE
SECT OF JEHOVA'S WITNESSES IN ORDER TO CAUSE SEVERE DAMAGE TO IT. THE HOUSE OF WORSHIP OF
THE RELIGIOUS SECT IS LOCATED ON THE THIRD FLOOR OF THE BUILDING ON REHOV LEVANDA 36 IN TEL
AVIV. THREE TIMES DURING THE MONTH OF DECEMBER, JANUARY & FEBRUARY BREAK-INS OCCURRED AT THE

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DECIDED TO SET AN AMBUSH IN THE CHAPEL IN ORDER TO CATCH THE CULPRITS SHOULD THEY RETURN TO THE PLACE. LAST THURSDAY NIGHT AT 10:45 PM THE POLICE LYING IN WAIT DETECTED THREE YOUTHS WHO HAD IN THEIR POSSESSION A METAL LEVER (FOR BREAKING IN), A CONTAINER WITH FUEL AND MATCHES, TRYING TO BREAK INTO THE DOOR IN THE CHAPEL. THE THREE WERE ARRESTED AND IT WAS LEARNED THAT THEY WERE YITZHAK YOMTOV, 25, OF BAT YAM, ELIEZER YOM TOV, 25, OF SHEKUNAT HATIKVA (THEY ARE NOT BROTHERS) AND A BOY OF 17, A MEMBER OF THEIR FAMILY. WHEN THEY WERE QUESTIONED, IT WAS LEARNED THAT THEY ARE "PENITENTS" WHO HAVE RETURNED TO THE JEWISH RELIGION AND ARE ENGAGED IN STUDY OF TORAH. THE THREE DECLARED TO THE POLICE THEIR BELIEF THAT THE SECT J.W. ENGAGES IN MISSIONARY ACTIVITY AND THAT THEY WERE DOING THE WORK OF GOD WHEN THEY DAMAGED THE CHAPEL. THE ACCUSED CONFESSED THAT IT WAS THEY WHO CARRIED OUT THE THREE PREVIOUS BREAK-INS CAUSING DAMAGE TO THE CHAPEL. IN COURT THE POLICE REPRESENTATIVE, CDR GREENBAUM, RELATED HOW THREATS HAD BEEN MADE AGAINST THE ELDERS OF THE CHAPEL IN RECENT MONTHS AS WELL AS AGAINST OWNERS OF THE FACTORIES IN THE BUILDING, THAT IF THE CHAPEL WAS NOT EVICTED FROM THE PLACE DAMAGE WOULD BE DONE TO THE BUILDING AS WELL AS TO THE CHAPEL. THE INVESTIGATOR RAISED THE SUSPICION THAT THE THREE YOUTHS HAD BEEN SENT OUT ON THEIR MISSION BY A GROUP OF PERSONS WHOSE IDENTITY REMAINS UNKNOWN TO THE POLICE. HE RELATED THAT IN THE WAKE OF THE THREATS A CERTAIN RABBI WAS INVESTIGATED BUT NO PROOFS WERE FOUND AGAINST HIM. IN COURT ELIEZER & YITZHAK YOMTOV SAT WITH BLACK SKULLCAPS ON THEIR HEADS. THEY CARRIED A LARGE NYLON BAG CONTAINING PRAYER BOOKS AND BIBLES. ELIEZER MUTTERED PASSAGES OF PRAYER UNCEASINGLY WHILE KISSING FROM TIME TO TIME THE (RITUAL) TASSELS ON HIS GARMENTS AND THE BIBLE IN HIS POCKET. THE RABBI OF THE TWO ACCUSED AND SEVERAL OF HIS STUDENTS SAT ON THE BENCHES RESERVED FOR THE PUBLIC IN THE COURTHOUSE. WHEN HE WAS GIVEN PERMISSION TO SPEAK, ELIEZER OPENED HIS MOUTH AND STATED: "YOUR HONOR AND ALL THOSE PRESENT! I WAS A PARACHUTIST IN THE ARMY AND A SECULAR JEW. I WAS WOUNDED IN THE YOM KIPPUR WAR AT THE SINAI FRONT AND SAVED BY A MIRACLE. I UNDERSTOOD WHO HAD SAVED ME AND I BECAME A PENITENT. IN RECENT YEARS I SAW HOW THE MISSION SNATCHES CHILDREN AND RUINS THEM. TODAY IT IS POSSIBLE TO SEE THOSE SAME CHILDREN IN THE MADHOUSE IN BEER YAACOB." HIS COMPANION YITZHAK ECHOED HIS REMARKS AND ADDED: "I SAW A BOY WHOM THE MISSIONARIES HYPNOTIZED AGAINST HIS OWN MOTHER!" THE DEFENCE SUMMED UP: "THE ACCUSED ARE NOT CRIMINALS. THEY DID NOT BREAK IN FOR FINANCIAL GAIN OR FOR THEIR OWN PERSONAL ADVANTAGE. THEY STOLE NOTHING. IN THE HANDS OF THE POLICE THERE ARE NO PROOFS THAT THEY WERE SENT BY ANY ORGANIZED GROUP WHATSOEVER." THE JUDGE, HAYIM SIMCHA NAKHMANI, CATEGORIZED THE ACTS OF THE ACCUSED AS MOST SERIOUS AND AS AN OFFENCE AGAINST FREEDOM OF CONSCIENCE, FREEDOM OF RELIGION AND THE RIGHTS OF MAN. INASMUCH AS THERE EXISTS A REASONABLE SUSPICION THAT ELIEZER AND YITZHAK YOMTOV ARE LINKED TO A MUCH LARGER GROUP, HE ORDERED THEIR DETENTION FOR TEN DAYS. UNQUOTE

DATE: 9.4.78 JOURNAL: MAARIV (HEBREW PM IND) NEWS ARTICLE
 HEADING: "SUSPECT IN ATTEMPTED BREAK-IN AT THE CHAPEL OF THE JEHOVA WITNESSES: WE OPERATED AGAINST A SECT WHOSE PEOPLE DRAG CHILDREN INTO THE MISSION"

QUOTE: "TWO YOUTHS WHO CONFESSED TO AN ATTEMPTED BREAK-IN AT THE CHAPEL OF THE SECT "J.W." ON THURSDAY NIGHT NEAR THE CENTRAL BUS STATION IN TELAVIV WERE DETAINED THE DAY BEFORE YESTERDAY FOR TEN DAYS QUESTIONING ON ORDER OF THE JUSTICE OF THE PEACE HAYIM SIMCHA NAKHMANI. THE THIRD SUSPECT, A MINOR, WAS TRANSFERRED TO THE JURISDICTION OF THE YOUTH SECTION. CDR. ABRAHAM GREENBAUM TOLD THE JUDGE THAT THE THREE SUSPECTS WERE SEIZED BY AN INVESTIGATION TEAM OF THE YARKON REGION WHILE ATTEMPTING TO BREAK INTO THE CHAPEL OF THE JW SECT. IN THE HANDS OF THE ACCUSED THERE WERE FOUND A METAL BAR FOR BREAKING IN, A CONTAINER OF INFLAMMABLE MATERIAL AND MATCHES AT SOME DISTANCE FROM THEM. HE TOLD THE JUDGE THAT THE TWO ACCUSED HAD CONFESSED TO THE ATTEMPTED BREAK-IN AS WELL AS TO THREE PREVIOUS INCIDENTS. ATTORNEY ZVI LIDSKY STATED TO THE JUDGE THAT THE TWO ACCUSED ARE WORKING AND STUDYING AND ARE "PENITENTS". ACCORDING TO HIM, THE TWO CONFESSED THAT THEY HAD DAMAGED PROPERTY BUT THEY TOOK NOTHING. THEY BELIEVE IN THE JUSTICE OF THEIR ACTS AND DID WHAT THEY DID FOR THE SANCTIFICATION OF THE NAME OF GOD. THE TWO OF THEM, HE SAID, PROMISE THAT THEY WILL NOT HARM ANY OTHER HOUSE OF WORSHIP BELONGING TO ANY RELIGION. THE ACCUSED ELIEZER YOMTOV CLAIMED THAT HE AND HIS COMPANION WERE OPERATING AGAINST A MISSIONARY SECT "WHOSE MEMBERS DRAG CHILDREN TO THE MISSION." ACCORDING TO HIM HE KNOWS OF A WOMAN WHO WEPT BECAUSE MEMBERS OF THE SECT INFLUENCED HER YOUNG SON, CONFUSED HIS MIND & HE IS NOW IN NEED OF HOSPITALIZATION BECAUSE OF MISSIONARY ACTIVITY. JUDGE NAKHMANI SAID THAT THE TWO ARE ACCUSED OF HARMING FREEDOM OF CONSCIENCE AND THE RIGHTS OF MAN AND ORDERED THEIR DETENTION FOR TEN DAYS TO CONTINUE THE INVESTIGATION." UNQUOTE

DATE: 10.4.78 JOURNAL: AL HAMISHMAR (HEB AM MAPAM) NEWS ARTICLE
 HEADING: "PENITENTS SOUGHT TO BURN DOWN CHAPEL OF JEHOVA WITNESSES SECT"

QUOTE: "TWO PENITENTS WHO HAVE CONFESSED THAT THEY CAME TO BURN DOWN THE CHAPEL OF THE JW'S IN TELAVIV YESTERDAY PRESENTED AN APPEAL TO THE DISTRICT COURT OF TELAVIV YESTERDAY AGAINST THE DECISION OF JUSTICE OF THE PEACE TO DETAIN THEM UNTIL TRIAL. THEY EXPRESSED REGRET FOR THEIR ACTS AND REQUESTED THEIR RELEASE ON BAIL. THEIR ATTORNEY, ZVI LIDSKY, CLAIMED IN HIS PETITION

THAT THE ACCUSED HAD ADMITTED THEIR DEEDS BOTH IN THE POLICE INVESTIGATION AND IN THE COURT. THEY ALSO ADMITTED THAT THEY HAD ERRED IN THEIR DEEDS AND ACTED OUT OF THE SINCERE BELIEF THAT THEY WERE DOING SOMETHING FOR THE SAKE OF HEAVEN. A REVIEW OF THE APPEAL WILL BE MADE IN THE NEAR FUTURE. AS WILL BE RECALLED, THE BROTHERS ELIEZER & YITZHAK YOM TOV FROM BAT YAM AND SHEKHUNAT HATIKVA WERE ARRESTED A FEW DAYS AGO WHEN THEY WERE NEAR THE CHAPEL OF THE JW SECT ON LEVANDA STREET IN TELAVIV AT NIGHT, AND IN THE POSSESSION OF INFLAMMABLE MATERIAL THEY ARE SUSPECTED OF ATTEMPTED BREAK-IN WITH THE INTENT OF ARSON. THE TWO STATED IN COURT THAT THEY ARE "PENITENTS" AND HAD SEEN CHILDREN BEING TAKEN TO THE MISSION AND THEREFORE DID WHAT THEY DID. THEY DENIED THAT ANY GROUP WAS BEHIND THEM." UNQUOTE

SUBJECT 3: CHRISTIAN SECT (QUAKERS) AND PETITION OF ARAB MUSLEM TO LIVE IN JEWISH QUARTER

DATE: 12.4.78 JOURNAL: HAARETZ (HEB AM IND) NEWS ARTICLE

HEADING: "THE JEWISH QUARTER DEVELOPMENT COMPANY ACCUSES BURKAN OF MISLEADING AND CONCEALMENT OF INTENTIONS: CLAIMS HE IS BEING AIDED IN HIS PETITION TO LIVE IN THE QUARTER BY AN ANTI-ISRAELI CHRISTIAN SECT"

EXTRACTS: "MUHAMMED SAID BURKAN WHO SEEKS TO LIVE IN THE JEWISH QUARTER IN THE OLD CITY REPRESENTS FOREIGN INTERESTS HOSTILE TO THE NATIONAL INTEREST IN REHABILITATING THE JEWISH QUARTER AND HE IS RECEIVING ASSISTANCE FINANCIALLY FROM AN ANTI-ISRAELI CHRISTIAN SECT—SO CLAIMS THE COMPANY FOR REHABILITATING AND DEVELOPING THE JEWISH QUARTER IN THE OLD CITY, IN AN AFFIDAVIT SUBMITTED TO THE HIGH COURT FOR JUSTICE IN REPLY TO BURKAN'S PETITION. IN THE AFFIDAVIT WRITTEN BY MR JOSEPH GEVA, CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE COMPANY, THE COMPANY REJECTS BURKAN'S CLAIMS AND BRINGS ACCUSATIONS AGAINST HIM OF MISLEADING, HYPOCRISY AND CONCEALMENT OF HIS TRUE INTENTIONS. AS WILL BE RECALLED, BURKAN OBTAINED ABOUT A MONTH AND A HALF AGO AN ORDER NISI FROM THE HIGH COURT FOR JUSTICE WHICH INSTRUCTED THE MINISTER OF HOUSING TO DETAIL REASONS WITHIN 45 DAYS WHY IT WILL NOT PERMIT HIM TO BUY TWO FLATS IN THE JEWISH QUARTER WHICH WERE EXPROPRIATED FROM HIM, AS HE CLAIMS, AND WHICH WERE OFFERED FOR SALE IN A PUBLIC TENDER. IN ADDITION THE HIGH COURT INSTRUCTED THE HOUSING MINISTER TO GIVE THE REASON WHY IT SHOULD NOT CANCEL THE CONDITIONS OF THE TENDER ACCORDING TO WHICH ONLY A CITIZEN OF ISRAEL WHO SERVED IN THE IDF IS PERMITTED TO BUY A FLAT IN THE JEWISH QUARTER... MR GEVA (IN HIS REPLY) CHARGED THAT THE PETITIONER HAD NO OWNERSHIP RIGHTS ON THE HOUSE AND THAT HE HAD CONCEALED FROM THE HIGH COURT THE FACT THAT HE BEGAN TO LIVE IN THE SITE ONLY IN 1963 AND NOT IN 1947, AND THEN AS A TENANT ONLY. THE AFFIDAVIT STATES FURTHER THAT IT WAS A JEWISH FAMILY WHICH LIVED IN THAT HOUSE, WHICH THEY ABANDONED ALONG WITH OTHER JEWISH FAMILIES DURING THE DISTURBANCES OF 1936-1939. THE COMPANY ACCUSES BURKAN OF "HYPOCRISY" WHEN HE CLAIMS THAT HE DESIRES TO LIVE AMONG JEWS BECAUSE HE HAD SPENT HIS CHILDHOOD IN THE QUARTER. BURKAN, ALONG WITH A NUMBER OF OTHER RESIDENTS, VIEW THEIR LIVING IN THE JEWISH QUARTER AS A KIND OF MISSION INFLUENCED NOT A LITTLE BY HOSTILE PROPAGANDA AND RELIGIOUS IDEOLOGY... HIS MOTIVES WERE RELIGIOUS, INASMUCH AS A MUSLEM HE SEES HIMSELF CHARGED BY HIS RELIGION NOT TO SELL TO JEWS PROPERTY IN JERUSALEM OR IN GENERAL. "ACCORDING TO INFORMATION WHICH I HAVE OBTAINED FROM AN INVESTIGATION FIRM," MR GEVA ADDS, "BURKAN IS RECEIVING FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR THIS PURPOSE BY THE QUAKER SECT, A CHRISTIAN SECT WHICH HAS BECOME KNOWN LATELY FOR ITS LACK OF SYMPATHY FOR ISRAEL. THIS SECT IS FUNDING HIS PROPOSITIONS TO PURCHASE (PROPERTY) WHICH HE SUBMITS FROM TIME TO TIME TO THE COMPANY." THE FOLLOWING IS CLAIMED IN THE AFFIDAVIT: "IT IS HARD TO AVOID THE IMPRESSION" THAT THE ACTIVITY OF BURKAN IS COORDINATED WITH INTERESTS AND AIMS OF ORGANIZATIONS AND PERSONS HOSTILE TO ISRAEL AND THAT BURKAN'S AIM IS "TO HARM THE REHABILITATION OF THE QUARTER AS A JEWISH QUARTER AND TO UNDERMINE THE PROCEDURES SET UP TO POPULATE THE QUARTER BY THE COMPANY. THE PETITIONER REPRESENTS A FOREIGN AND HOSTILE INTEREST TO THE INTEREST OF THE NATION TO REHABILITATE THE JEWISH QUARTER. HE IS THE AGENT OF A FANATICAL RELIGIOUS IDEOLOGY WHICH OBLIGATES HIM TO ACQUIRE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY IN THE JEWISH QUARTER AND TO HOLD ON TO THEM LEST THEY FALL INTO JEWISH HANDS." ...UNQUOTE

SUBJECT 4: ECUMENICAL GROUP IN JERUSALEM

DATE: 30.3.78 JOURNAL: ISRAEL NACHRICHTEN (TELAVIV) GERMAN LANGUAGE LETTER TO EDITOR
SUMMARY: AN ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE ARRIVAL OF AN ECUMENICAL (GERMAN) GROUP OF 36 AT JERUSALEM HOLY LAND HOTEL, THEIR POLITICAL DISCUSSIONS, A VISIT TO RELIGIOUS KIBBUTZ LAVI & GENERAL FRIENDLY IMPRESSIONS. SIGNED: I.E. LOWENSTEIN, J'LM.

SUBJECT 5: TERROR ATTACK ON COASTAL ROAD (CHRISTIAN RESPONSES)

DATE: 9.4.78 JOURNAL: JERUSALEM POST LETTERS TO EDITOR

HEADING: SYMPATHY FROM ABROAD

EXPRESSIONS BY THREE PERSONS: N.V. IYER, NAGPUR, INDIA (NO CHRISTIAN REFERENCE), JOSEPH H. HUNTING, EDITOR THE VINEYARD (CHRISTIAN PUBLICATION), EAST BENTLEIGH, AUSTRALIA, AND SISTER ANN GILLEN, BOARD MEMBER NATIONAL COALITION OF AMERICAN NUNS, WRITING IN BEHALF OF THE JEWISH CHRISTIAN RELATIONS COMMITTEE OF HER GROUP...FROM CHICAGO, ILL.

END TRANSCRIPTION OF CLIPPINGS (DATE: 14.4.78)

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