

DATE: 16.1.78 JOURNAL: EVENING NEWS (BOLTON, ENGLAND) NEWS ARTICLE

HEADING: "NO CONVERSION, ISRAEL ORDERS"

QUOTE: "ISRAEL IS MAKING IT A CRIMINAL OFFENCE FOR MISSIONARIES IN THE HOLY LAND TO PAY A JEW MONEY TO CONVERT TO CHRISTIANITY. CHRISTIAN CLERICS ARE IN AN UPROAR CLAIMING THAT THE NEW LAW IS AN INSULT THAT COULD SHATTER THE DELICATE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE JEWISH STATE AND ITS 650,000 CHRISTIAN RESIDENTS. THE CHURCHES UNANIMOUSLY DENY OFFERING MATERIAL INDUCEMENTS TO PROSPECTIVE CONVERTS. THEY CALL THE NOTION ABHORRENT. ISRAEL'S RABBIS INSIST THAT THE PRACTICE IS WIDESPREAD. "WE ARE A SMALL NATION AND EVERY JEWISH SOUL IS DEAR TO US," SAID RABBI YEHUDA MEIR ABRAMOWITZ, AN MP WHO SPONSORED THE LAW. "THERE ARE HUNDREDS OF MISSIONARIES OPERATING HERE AND IT HAS TO STOP. THE LAW, WHICH TAKES EFFECT APRIL 1, IMPOSES A MAXIMUM FIVE YEAR PRISON TERM ON ANYONE OFFERING "MATERIAL INDUCEMENT" TO CONVERT AND THREE YEARS ON THE RECIPIENT OF A PAYOFF. ISRAELI LIBERALS WHO OPPOSE THE LAW SAY IT WILL BE TOOTHLESS. HOW CAN YOU PROVE ANYTHING? ASKS YOSEF IMMANUEL, SECY OF THE ISRAEL INTERFAITH COMMITTEE. IMMANUEL SAYS HIS GOVERNMENT-BACKED ORGANISATION HAS EXAMINED INNUMERABLE ALLEGATIONS OF CONVERSION-FOR-MONEY, "AND NOTHING EVER COMES OUT OF OUR INVESTIGATIONS." UNQUOTE

SUBJECT 2: U.S. EVANGELICALS

DATE: 19.4.78 JOURNAL: JERUSALEM POST (IND AM ENGLISH) NEWS ARTICLE

HEADING: "U.S. EVANGELICALS TO WORK FOR LASTING "SCRIPTURAL PEACE""

BYLINE: JUDY SIEGEL PHOTOGRAPH: "PM BEGIN BEAMS AS HE RECEIVES A PLAQUE ENTITLED "PROPHET'S PLAN FOR PEACE" IN ARABIC, HEBREW & ENGLISH, FROM A GROUP OF U.S. EVANGELICAL LEADERS YESTERDAY. WITH BEGIN ARE REV BILLY ZEOLI, DR JERRY FALWELL & DR RALPH WILKERSON."

QUOTE: AFTER A WHIRLWIND MIDEAST TOUR THAT INCLUDED MEETINGS WITH PRIME MINISTER BEGIN, EGYPTIAN PRES SADAT & JORDAN'S CROWN PRINCE HASSAN, A GROUP OF AMERICAN EVANGELICAL LEADERS HAVE CONCLUDED THAT PEACE WILL BEST BE ACHIEVED WITHOUT UNDUE AMERICAN PRESSURE OR INTERVENTION. "WE HAVE ASKED FOR A MEETING WITH PRES CARTER NEXT WEEK," DR JERRY FALWELL, PASTOR OF THE THOMAS ROAD BAPTIST CHURCH OF LYNCHBURG, VA. TOLD REPORTERS YESTERDAY. "IF HE RECEIVES US, I'LL TELL HIM THAT PROGRESS IS BEING MADE IN PEACE EFFORTS AND THAT AS LITTLE INTERVENTION AS POSSIBLE FROM THE OUTSIDE IS THE BEST WAY TO HELP IT ALONG." DR FALWELL, WHO APPEARS ON 500 U.S. RADIO STATIONS DAILY & 300 TV STATIONS WEEKLY PREACHING SPIRITUAL MESSAGES, SAID HE HOPED THE US GOVT WOULD "NOT BE A PARTY TO ANY PRESSURE THAT COULD CREATE A PEACE THAT IS NOT LASTING, EQUITABLE & SCRIPTURAL." HE SAID HE'D TELL CARTER NOT TO EXPECT AN "INSTANT CURE" TO ARAB-ISRAELI TROUBLES. THE TOUR OF NINE PROMINENT EVANGELICALS AND THEIR WIVES ORIGINATED IN WASHINGTON WHEN THEY MET A TOP EGYPTIAN OFFICIAL WHILE ATTENDING A NATIONAL RELIGIOUS BROADCASTING CONVENTION. AFTER CONTACTING THE VARIOUS COUNTRIES' REPRESENTATIVES THEY WERE INVITED TO TOUR AS GUESTS OF THE GOVERNMENTS. FROM A TAPE RECORDING OF SADAT'S HOUR LONG MEETING WITH THEM LAST FRIDAY, THE JERUSALEM POST LEARNED THAT THE EGYPTIAN PRESIDENT REMAINS ADAMANT ABOUT HIS REFUSAL TO YIELD AN INCH OF LAND IN SINAI OR TO ALLOW ISRAEL SETTLEMENTS THERE. "SINAI IS MINE. IT IS A FACT AROUND THE WORLD," SADAT TOLD THE EVANGELICALS. "WHENEVER (ISRAEL IS) READY TO RECOGNIZE THE CONCEPT OF MY (PEACE) INITIATIVE, I AM READY TO CONTINUE (NEGOTIATIONS), BUT NOT AT THE EXPENSE OF MY LAND AND MY SOVEREIGNTY." THAT WAS ONE OF THE MESSAGES THAT SADAT ASKED THE CHRISTIAN LEADERS TO BRING ORALLY TO PREMIER BEGIN WHOM THEY SAW YESTERDAY MORNING. HE ALSO THANKED THE AMERICAN PEOPLE FOR "HELPING" HIM TO REOPEN THE SUEZ CANAL & FOR GRANTING ECONOMIC AID THAT IN 1980 WILL TOTAL \$1 BILLION A YEAR, HE SAID. DR RALPH WILKERSON, PASTOR OF MELODYLAND IN ANAHEIM, CALIFORNIA, TOLD REPORTERS THAT HE HAD THE FEELING (FROM THE VARIOUS DISCUSSIONS) THAT "WE'LL SEE THE BEGINNING OF GREAT CHANGES IN ATTITUDES WITHIN THE NEXT 30 DAYS." THE REV BILLY ZEOLI, OF GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN, WHO WAS PRES FORD'S SPIRITUAL ADVISER, SAID THAT THEY ALL FELT A "SENSE OF DESTINY" IN ALL OF THEIR MEETINGS. THE EVANGELICALS CALLED BEGIN AN EXTREMELY "CHARMING & GRACIOUS" MAN WHO WAS COMMITTED TO PEACE. HE ASKED THEM TO GO BACK TO EGYPT AND MAKE SADAT UNDERSTAND THAT EGYPT MUST CONTINUE TO WANT TO NEGOTIATE WITH ISRAEL ON ALMOST ANY POINT. "AN END TO TALKING," THEY QUOTED BEGIN AS SAYING, "IS DANGEROUS." UNQUOTE

SUBJECT 3: JERUSALEM WORTHIES

DATE: 20.4.78 JOURNAL: JERUSALEM POST NEWS ARTICLE

HEADING: "TWELVE JERUSALEMITES MADE CITY WORTHIES"

EXTRACT: "DR DOUGLAS G YOUNG, AMERICAN-BORN CHRISTIAN SCHOLAR WHO FOUNDED THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF HOLYLAND STUDIES ON MT ZION IN 1958. HE WAS BORN IN KOREA & GRADUATED FROM NOVA SCOTIA U. & DROPSIE COLLEGE WHERE HE READ EGYPT STUDIES & ASSYRIOLOGY. AN ENTHUSIASTIC SUPPORTER OF ISRAEL, HAS LECTURED & WRITTEN WIDELY ABOUT ISRAEL, SERVED AS AMBULANCE DRIVER 6-DAY WAR & WITH HIS WIFE BELONGS TO CIVIL GUARD, WAS CITED FOR "HIS FAITHFULNESS TO THE BIBLE & HEBREW TONGUE & WIDE ACTIVITY IN JERUSALEM & FOR J'LM." UNQUOTE MORE

DATE: 24.4.78 JOURNAL: HATSOFE (HEB AM NRP) NEWS FEATURE

HEADING: "THE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITIES IN THE GAZA STRIP"

QUOTE: "THE CHRISTIANS CONSTITUTE ABOUT ONE PERCENT OF THE OVERALL POPULATION OF GAZA STRIP NUMBERING ABOUT THREE THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED PERSONS. NEVERTHELESS, THEY CONSTITUTE A SOCIAL ELITE INASMUCH AS THEY ARE A WEIGHTY CADRE IN MIDST OF THE LOCAL POPULATION. IN THE GAZA STRIP AND NORTH SINAI THERE EXIST FOUR CHRISTIAN COMMUNITIES: A) THE GREEK ORTHODOX COMMUNITY IN GAZA. B) THE LATIN CATHOLIC IN GAZA C) THE BAPTIST PROTESTANT IN GAZA D) THE EASTERN COPTIC COMMUNITY IN EL ARISH. THE ORTHODOX COMMUNITY IS THE LARGEST AMONG THE FOUR CHRISTIAN COMMUNITIES IN THE GAZA REGION NUMBERING ABOUT THREE THOUSAND PERSONS. THE ORTHODOX CHRISTIANS ARE ^{AMONG} INHABITANTS OF GAZA THE ORIGINAL ONES FOR THOUSANDS OF YEARS. THEY BELONG TO THE PROSPEROUS CLASS, MOST OF THEM INTELLIGENT AND MEMBERS OF THE FREE PROFESSIONS. IT WILL SUFFICE TO POINT OUT THE FACT THAT THE CIVIL JUDICIAL ESTABLISHMENT IN THE GAZA REGION (THAT IS THE PRESIDENTS OF THE COURTS IN THEIR THREE CATEGORIES, HIGH COURT, DISTRICT COURT, LOCAL COURT) ARE ORTHODOX CHRISTIANS. AT THE DISPOSAL OF THE ORTHODOX COMMUNITY THERE IS AN ANCIENT CHURCH IN THE EL ZAITUN QUARTER OF GAZA. IT WAS FOUNDED IN AD 425 AND NAMED AFTER ITS FOUNDER BISHOP BERFARIOUS. NEXT TO THE CHURCH IS A MONASTERY WHICH SERVES AS THE PRIVATE RESIDENCE OF THE PRIEST WHO IS THE SPIRITUAL HEAD OF THE COMMUNITY. IN THE MONASTERY'S SQUARE A SCHOOL OPERATES WHEREIN CHILDREN LEARN THE ESSENTIALS OF THE CHRISTIAN RELIGION. FACING THE CHURCH IS A CHRISTIAN CEMETERY OF MANY GENERATIONS. THE CHURCH CONTINUES TO THIS DAY TO SERVE MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY. ON BEHALF OF THIS COMMUNITY THERE EXISTS A GAZA COUNCIL "MAJLIS MALI" OF THREE MEMBERS APPOINTED BY THE GREEK ORTHODOX PATRIARCH WHOSE RESIDENCE IS IN EAST JERUSALEM. AT THE HEAD OF THE COUNCIL STANDS GEORGE AWAR WHO SERVES AS CHIEF OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL COURT DEALING WITH MATTERS OF PERSONAL STATUS, FAMILY PROBLEMS AND INHERITANCES. THERE IS ALSO A CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY COUNCIL AT WORK CONSISTING OF TEN MEMBERS WHO ARE USUALLY HONORED MEMBERS OF THE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY. MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE WERE APPOINTED BY THE EGYPTIAN GOVERNOR. THE GENERAL SECY OF THE COMM. IS ATTORNEY FRAJ ARAF. THE FUNCTION OF THE COMMITTEE IS EXPRESSED IN MAINTAINING COMMUNITY SERVICES AND IN MANAGEMENT OF THE CHURCH'S FISCAL AFFAIRS. THE LATIN COMMUNITY IS SMALL AND NUMBERS SOME 250 PERSONS. THE LATIN CHRISTIANS IN CONTRAST TO THE ORTHODOX ARE MOSTLY REFUGEES WHO MIGRATED TO GAZA FROM SETTLEMENTS IN THE NORTH OF THE LAND. THEIR FINANCIAL CONDITION IS DIFFICULT AND MANY ARE NEEDY. THEY HAVE A RELATIVELY NEW CHURCH AT THEIR DISPOSAL CALLED "THE HOLY FAMILY" AND BUILT 1950 IN THE KMALIA NEIGHBOURHOOD WHICH IS KNOWN AS THE JEWISH QUARTER IN GAZA. NEAR THE CHURCH THERE IS A RESIDENCE WHICH SERVES AS THE PRIVATE DWELLING OF THE PRIEST ALFONSO SALAH WHO IS OF SPANISH ORIGIN. IN THE MONASTERY SQUARE THERE IS A KINDERGARTEN SERVING MAINLY MUSLEMS. IT SHOULD BE REMEMBERED THAT AT THE HEAD OF THIS COMMUNITY STOOD THE LATE PRIEST FATHER YOHANNA NIMRI DURING 25 YEARS AND WHO WAS MURDERED IN 1972 BY TERRORIST ORGANISATIONS FOR "CO-OPERATION" WITH THE ISRAELI MILITARY AUTHORITIES. THE LATIN COMMUNITY DOES NOT HAVE A COMMUNITY COMMITTEE AND THE PRIEST HIMSELF IN ADDITION TO HIS RELIGIOUS & SPIRITUAL DUTIES MANAGES THE FISCAL & ADMINISTRATIVE AFFAIRS OF THE CHURCH & IS RESPONSIBLE TO THE JERUSALEM PATRIARCHATE WHO APPOINTS HIM.

THE BAPTIST COMMUNITY: THERE ARE NO GAZA RESIDENTS WHO ARE BAPTISTS. THE BAPTISTS STAYING IN GAZA ARE FOREIGN VOLUNTEERS OF BRITISH & AMERICAN EXTRACTION & THE GROUP NUMBERS FORTY. THE BAPTISTS RUN A HOSPITAL IN GAZA FOUNDED 90 YEARS AGO WHICH WAS TIED TO THE ENGLISH MISSIONARY ORGANIZATION. THE MAIN SPECIALTY OF THE HOSPITAL IS IN THE FIELD OF SURGERY AND PHYSIOTHERAPY. FUNDING OF THE ACTIVITIES OF THE GROUP CAMES FROM THE AMERICAN WORLD BAPTIST ORGANIZATION. IN THE COURTYARD OF THE HOSPITAL THERE IS A CHURCH WHICH IS MASSIVE (or solid) AND DISTINCTIVE IN CHARACTER IN THE ABSENCE OF IMAGES OR STATUES. ON THE HOSPITAL GROUNDS WHICH ARE THE PROPERTY OF THE BAPTIST COMMUNITY THERE ARE NURSES RESIDENCE AND MEDICAL STAFF RESIDENCES. AT THE HEAD OF THE GROUP STANDS DR GERALD BEACH WHO DEALS IN THE RELIGIOUS AND CEREMONIAL AFFAIRS OF THE COMMUNITY AND IS IN CHARGE OF THE ADMINISTRATION AND FISCAL AFFAIRS. IN ADDITION TO THE HOSPITAL OF 120 BEDS THE BAPTISTS ALSO OPERATE A LIBRARY CALLED LIBRARY OF CULTURE AND LIGHT ("MIKHTABAT AL'TKAFA W'ALNUR") AND IT SERVES A WIDE RANGE OF READERS, BOTH CHRISTIANS AND MUSLEMS. UNQUOTE

THERE FOLLOWS ... PARAGRAPHS ABOUT THE COPTIC COMMUNITY (NUMBERING 500 DURING EGYPTIAN SOVEREIGNTY BUT ONLY A FEW REMAINING NOW) CENTRED IN EL ARISH, WHO RECEIVE GRANTS FROM ISRAELI MILITARY AUTHORITIES FOR SUPPORT OF THE CHURCH AND OTHER RELIGIOUS FACILITIES; AND ABOUT THE PAPAL DELEGATION WHICH IS ACTIVE IN GAZA IN PHILANTHROPIC ACTIVITY & CONSISTS OF SIX NUNS HEADED BY DAMIN DA CAMPO WHO PROVIDE HUMANITARIAN AID TO THE SICK AND OTHER WELFARE MINISTRATIONS WITHOUT REGARD TO RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION...RECENTLY OPENED TWO CLINICS FOR MOTHER-CHILD CARE & ALSO DISTRIBUTE USED CLOTHING AMONG THE POOR.