

SELECTIONS No. 77 (to 95.18)

1. SUBJECT: ANTI-MISSION LAW

DATE: 4.5.78 JOURNAL: HAARETZ (HEBREW A.M. INDEPENDENT) NEWS ITEM
HEADING: "MISSIONARY ACCUSATIONS"

BYLINE: ELIYAHU ZAHAVI, HAARETZ CORRESPONDENT IN SCANDANAVIA
QUOTE: COPENHAGEN, 3RD (SPECIAL TO HAARETZ) IN ECCLESIASTICAL CIRCLES IN EUROPE THERE IS AN INTENTION TO DISPATCH TO ISRAEL AN ECUMENICAL DELEGATION OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE VATICAN, THE ANGLICAN CHURCH AND THE PROTESTANTS IN ORDER TO INVESTIGATE THE ACCUSATIONS THAT MISSIONARIES HAVE OFFERED MATERIAL ENTICEMENT IN EXCHANGE FOR CONVERSION. IT APPEARS THAT THE AIM IS AN OFFICIAL DELEGATION WHICH WILL TRY IN QUIET WAYS TO REFUTE ISRAELI CHARGES IN THIS SUBJECT. IT IS NOT CLEAR WHETHER THE DELEGATION HAS ALREADY GONE ON ITS WAY OR WHETHER IT IS ONLY A PLAN FOR THE FUTURE. SINCE THE PASSAGE OF THE LAW IN DECEMBER 1977 THERE HAS BEEN SEVERE CRITICISM OF IT IN EUROPE. UNQUOTE

DATE: 7.5.78 JOURNAL: AL HAMISHMAR (HEB AM MAPAM) NEWS ARTICLE
HEADING: "NOTWITHSTANDING ASSURANCES OF PRESIDENT & ATTORNEY GENERAL: MISSION LAW EMPLOYED FOR FIRST TIME IN RISHON LE'TZION"

BYLINE : GAVRIEL STERN, CORRESPONDENT OF AL HAMISHMAR
QUOTE: THE HEBREW-PROTESTANT CLERGYMAN, BARUCH MACX, OF RISHON LE'TZION, PUBLISHER OF A HEBREW QUARTERLY JOURNAL NAMED "MAYATH L'AYTH", WAS RECENTLY ORDERED TO APPEAR AT THE LOCAL POLICE STATION, AND ACCORDING TO HIM, WAS VIGOROUSLY QUESTIONED AS TO WHETHER HE OFFERS MATERIAL BENEFITS IN EXCHANGE FOR CONVERSION, WAS REQUESTED TO SUPPLY DETAILS ABOUT HIS ACTIVITIES AND TO PROVIDE A LIST OF HIS FRIENDS AND ACQUAINTAINCES WITH THE ASSURANCE THAT "IT WOULD NOT BE MADE KNOWN TO ANY OTHER SOURCE WHATSOEVER." THE POLICE INVESTIGATORS CLAIMED THAT THEY HAD NO INFORMATION ABOUT THE DIRECTIVES OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, PROFESSOR AHARON BARAK, TO THE EFFECT THAT NO PROCEEDINGS WOULD BE STARTED IN FRAMEWORK OF THE NEW LAW EXCEPT BY HIS AUTHORISATION OR THAT OF THE STATE ATTORNEY. PROF. BARAK, TO WHOM THE INCIDENT WAS MADE KNOWN BY CHURCH PARTIES, TOLD THEM THAT "HE WILL INVESTIGATE THE MATTER." MEANWHILE, THE PRESIDENT OF THE STATE, PROF. EPHRAIM KATZIR, HAS REPLIED TO THE JOINT APPEAL OF THREE PATRIARCHS, BENEDICTUS I (GREEK), ELISHA II DARDARIAN (ARMENIAN) AND YAACOV BALTARISI (LATIN) AND THE HEAD OF THE FRANCISCAN ORDER IN THE HOLY LAND, MORELUS SACCHI, AND PROMISED THEM THAT THERE IS NO THREAT TO THE ACCEPTED EDUCATIONAL AND PHILANTHROPIC ACTIVITIES OF THE CHURCHES WHILE REPEATING THE REASSURING ANNOUNCEMENTS OF THE JUSTICE MINISTER, SHMUEL TAMIR, AND OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, PROF. AHARON BARAK, HE EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT CHRISTIAN LIFE (IN ISRAEL) WOULD ALWAYS ENJOY THE BENEFIT OF FREEDOM OF RELIGION AND CONSCIENCE WHICH WOULD BE MAINTAINED FULLY AND STRICTLY. NEVERTHELESS, THE ORGAN OF THE FRANCISCAN INFORMATION CENTRE AGAIN EXPRESSED STRONG APPREHENSION IN THIS CONNECTION IN VIEW OF THE ABOVE-MENTIONED INCIDENT OF INVESTIGATION, WHICH CONTRADICTS THE ASSURANCES OF THE ATTORNEY-GEN.
UNQUOTE

DATE: 7.5.78 JOURNAL: JERUSALEM POST (ENGL AM IND) FEATURE ARTICLE
HEADING: "DEFENDING THE LAW ON MISSIONARY ACTIVITY"

BYLINE : SIMON A. DOLGIN, RABBI, A FORMER DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF THE RELIG AFFAIRS MIN., RECENTLY ELECTED CHAIRMAN OF MIZRACHI HAPOEL HAMIZRACHI WORLD ORGANIZATION.
QUOTE: "THE RIGHTEOUS OF THE NATIONS OF THE WORLD HAVE A PART IN THE WORLD TO COME" IS AN ADAGE LONG ACCEPTED IN JUDAISM. IT HAS BEEN USED AS A BASIS FOR JUDAISM'S REJECTION OF MISSIONARY ACTIVITY TO CONVERT JEWS TO ANOTHER FAITH. JUDAISM REGARDS MISSIONARIES AS UNDESIRABLE INDIVIDUALS WHO DRAW ITS PEOPLE TO OTHER FAITHS, CONVERSION IS SEEN AS AN ACT OF TREACHERY BY THE CONVERT WHICH AFFECTS THE JEWISH PEOPLE AS A WHOLE. THE INDIVIDUAL WHO EMBRACES ANOTHER FAITH DENIES HIMSELF--FROM THE CLASSICAL JEWISH POINT OF VIEW--THE SALVATION OF THE WORLD TO COME. JEWS DO NOT DENY THE RIGHTEOUS OF OTHER FAITHS A PART OF THE NEXT WORLD. BUT THE DESCENDANTS OF ALRAHAM, ISAAC & JACOB ARE OBLIGED TO LIVE BY THE LAW WHICH THE ALMIGHTY BESTOWED ON THEIR PRAGENY, THE TORA. TO JOIN ANY OTHER FAITH IS TO BETRAY THAT CHARGE. JUDAISM REGARDS THE INDIVIDUAL WHO LEAVES THE FAITH AS ONE WHO LEAVES HIS PEOPLE. THERE CAN BE NO JEWS OF ANOTHER FAITH. THIS AXIOM HOLDS TRUE NOT ONLY IN THE REALM OF TORA LAW, BUT IN THE DECISIONS OF THE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF ISRAEL. INDEED, JEWISH LAW LOOKS UPON THE APOSTATE AS A JEW WHO IS A TRAITOR TO HIS PEOPLE AND NO LONGER ENTITLED TO ANY OF THE RIGHTS OF THE FAITH. IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO FIND ANY PEOPLE ANYWHERE WHO WOULD TOLERATE ACTIVITY THAT INDUCES ITS MEMBERS TO BETRAY THEIR GROUP BECAUSE THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AFFIRMS "THE FREEDOM TO SEEK, RECEIVE & IMPART INFORMATION & IDEAS THROUGH ANY MEDIA." NO NATION ACCEPTS ATTEMPTS TO UNDERMINE ITS VERY EXISTENCE. JUDAISM CONSIDERS CONVERSION OUT OF ITS FAITH AS BETRAYAL BOTH OF THE FAITH AND OF THE PEOPLE. NOR CAN ANY CASE BE MADE FOR THE CONTENTION THAT ONE CAN BE BOTH JEWISH AND A BELIEVER IN JESUS OR CHRISTIANITY'S TENETS. ONLY THE JEWISH PEOPLE CAN DEFINE ITS MEMBERSHIP REQUISITES, AND ONE OF THEM INVOLVES REJECTING ANY KIND OF BELIEF IN JESUS. HENCE, IF THE JEWISH PEOPLE--IN ISRAEL OR ELSEWHERE (IF IT WERE POSSIBLE)--PASSED A LAW BANNING MISSIONARY ACTIVITY IT WOULD BE JUSTIFIED IN DOING SO. UNQUOTE

AS ANY GROUP OR NATION IS JUSTIFIED IN OUTLAWING ACTIVITIES THAT TURN ITS ADHERENTS INTO OPPONENTS IF NOT ENEMIES. THE MOTIVES THAT IMPEL OTHERS TO CONDUCT MISSIONARY ACTIVITIES TO DRAW JEWS INTO THEIR FOLD ARE THE VERY MOTIVES THAT SHOULD AFFIRM JEWRY'S RIGHT TO PROHIBIT SUCH ACTIVITIES. HOWEVER, JEWS HAVE NOT LEGISLATED BLANKET PROHIBITIONS AGAINST MISSIONARY ENTERPRISES DESPITE THE FACT THAT THE LOSS OF EVEN A SINGLE SOUL IS PAINFUL FROM THE JEWISH VIEWPOINT, AND DETRIMENTAL BOTH TO THE SALVATION OF THE APOSTATE AND THE WELL-BEING OF THE PEOPLE. THERE ARE, AS IT HAPPENS, CERTAIN MISSIONARY ACTIVITIES THAT ARE DISDAINED EVEN BY MANY OF THOSE WHO THEMSELVES SPONSOR MISSIONS. "CHRISTIAN COMMUNITIES IN ISRAEL...AS FAR BACK AS 1963...PUBLICLY DECLARED THEIR OPPOSITION TO ANY KIND OF ECONOMIC INDUCEMENTS TO CONVERSION," WROTE GIKCUMENIKOS IN THE JERUSALEM POST ON FEB 17, 1978. "WHO TODAY BRIBES JEWS TO CONVERT THEM, FOR HEAVEN'S SAKE?" ASKED DR CLAUDE DUVERNOY, THE DIRECTOR OF CHRISTIAN ACTION FOR ISRAEL IN THE POST ON FEB 7. NUMEROUS OTHERS HAVE AGREED THAT "BUYING" SOULS IS ANATHEMA AND UNWORTHY OF CHRISTIANITY, AND HAVE DENIED THAT SUCH ACTIVITY EXISTS. IF THESE CLAIMS ARE SINCERE, IT IS DIFFICULT TO UNDERSTAND THE OUTRAGED REACTION TO THE "ABRAMOWITZ LAW" OUTLAWING THE OFFERING OR ACCEPTING OF MATERIAL EMOLUMENTS IN CASES OF CONVERSION. THE CHARGE THAT THE LAW WAS ADOPTED "BECAUSE SOME FANATIC MEMBERS OF THE KNESSET SURREPTITIOUSLY PASSED A LAW WITHOUT TEETH," AS REV DUVERNOY WROTE, BETRAYS SEVERAL UNWORTHY AND CONTRADICTIONARY ASSERTIONS. IT IS UNWORTHY TO RESORT TO ABUSE-- "FANATIC", "SURREPTITIOUSLY" -- AS A MEANS OF SUPPORTING AN ARGUMENT. AND IF THE LAW IS "WITHOUT TEETH", WHY BOTHER ABOUT IT? ON THE OTHER HAND, GIKCUMENIKOS ASKED: "WHAT EXACTLY ARE 'MATERIAL INDUCEMENTS TO CONVERSION'?" IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT THE ABRAMOWITZ LAW WAS PASSED AND ADOPTED BY A MAJORITY OF THE KNESSET. IT IS NOT ADDRESSED TO ANY RELIGIOUS GROUP AND IT APPLIES JUST AS MUCH TO JEWISH ACTIVITY AS IT DOES TO ANY OTHER. IT SIMPLY OUTLAWS OFFERING, SOLICITING OR ACCEPTING MATERIAL BENEFITS IN RETURN FOR CONVERSION FROM ONE GROUP OF BELIEVERS TO ANOTHER. UNQUOTE

(FOREIGN PRESS) DATE: 3.1.78 JOURNAL: JEWISH LEDGER (HARTFORD, CONN.) NEWS ARTICLE
 HEADING: "ISRAELI CHRISTIAN CHURCH COUNCIL OPPOSES ANTI-MISSIONARY LAW"
 QUOTE: JERUSALEM (JTA) THE UCCI HAS PROTESTED VIGOROUSLY AGAINST A RECENTLY ENACTED LAW IMPOSING PRISON TERMS AND FINES FOR CERTAIN TYPES OF MISSIONARY ACTIVITY. A DELEGATION REPRESENTING THE CHURCHES MET THIS WEEK WITH YISRAEL LIPPEL, DIR GEN OF THE MIN OF RELIG AFF, TO PROTEST THAT THE LAW WAS WRITTEN WITHOUT CONSULTING THE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY. THEY ALSO CHARGED THAT ITS AIM WAS TO CREATE "A FEELING OF HATE & SUSPICION AGAINST THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH." THE LAW PROVIDES PENALTIES OF FIVE YEARS IN PRISON OR AN IL 50,000 FINE FOR ANYONE ATTEMPTING TO PERSUADE ANOTHER PERSON TO CONVERT TO HIS RELIGION IN RETURN FOR MATERIAL BENEFIT. A PERSON WHO CONVERTS FOR MATERIAL BENEFIT IS SUBJECT TO THREE YEARS IMPRISONMENT OR AN IL 30,000 FINE. THE LAW DOES NOT MENTION MISSIONARIES NOR DOES IT CONTAIN THE WORD "CHRISTIAN". BUT THE EXPLANATORY PARAGRAPHS ATTACHED TO THE BILL WHEN IT WAS PRESENTED IN THE KNESSET WARNS AGAINST THE ALLEGEDLY GROWING INFLUENCE OF MISSIONARY ELEMENTS IN ISRAEL WHO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF FINANCIAL DIFFICULTIES OF JEWS TO CONVERT THEM TO CHRISTIANITY. IT WAS THE EXPLANATION WHICH AROUSED THE ANGER OF THE UCCI. THE CHURCH REPRESENTATIVES TOLD LIPPEL THEY WERE DETERMINED TO FIGHT TO HAVE THE LAW ABOLISHED. LIPPEL SAID THEY SHOULD UNDERSTAND ISRAEL'S SENSITIVITY TO MISSIONARY ACTIVITY, ESPECIALLY AFTER THE HOLOCAUST. HE CONCEDED, HOWEVER, THAT THE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY SHOULD HAVE BEEN CONSULTED BEFORE THE LAW WAS ADOPTED. THE BILL WAS ORIGINALLY SUBMITTED TO THE KNESSET IN 1975. IT WAS PASSED ONLY LATE LAST YEAR IN ACCORDANCE WITH PROMISES MADE BY THE LIKUD GOVT TO ITS AGUDA ISRAEL COALITION PARTNERS. THE AGUDA HAS BEEN INVEIGHING AGAINST MISSIONARY ACTIVITY FOR YEARS, CLAIMING IT WAS CONDUCTED ON A LARGE SCALE. BUT THE CHURCH DELEGATION NOTED THAT THE CONVERSION RATE OF JEWS TO CHRISTIANITY IS LESS THAN TEN A YEAR COMPARED TO AS MANY AS 2,000 CHRISTIANS WHO CONVERT TO JUDAISM EACH YEAR. OBSERVERS HERE SAID THE LAW WAS NOT NECESSARY BECAUSE IN THE FEW CASES WHERE MISSIONARY ACTIVITY WAS SUCCESSFUL, THE CONVERTED FAMILIES SOON LEFT THE COUNTRY. UNQUOTE

DATE: 9.2.78 JOURNAL: JUDISCHE RUNDSCHAU, MACCABI (BASEL, SWITZ) FEATURE ARTICLE (GERMAN-LANGUAGE)
 BYLINE: (PHOTOGRAPH OF SHULAMIT ALONI AND CAPTION: ZEALOUS ADVOCATE OF ABSOLUTE RELIGIOUS FREEDOM TAKING PART IN AN ISRAELI TV PROGRAM ABOUT MISSION ACTIVITIES IN ISRAEL.)
 RONALD GOLD- BERGER, J'LM.

HEADING: "MISSION ON ISRAELI TV"
 SUMMARY: THIS IS AN EXTENDED REVIEW OF THE ISRAELI TV FEATURE "LEHEM HOKE" ON THE SUBJECT OF THE NEW MISSION LAW, THE DEBATE BETWEEN SHULAMIT ALONI & RABBI LAU, WITH MOST OF THE ARTICLE DEVOTED TO THE CHARGES OF THE RABBI & HIS "WITNESSES" AND A FEW REMARKS OF PROF VERELAWSKY & SHULAMIT ALONI. IT IS OBVIOUS THAT THE WRITER IS PRIMARILY INTERESTED IN THE ANTI-MISSION SIDE WHICH HE QUOTES UNCRITICALLY WITH SCANT ATTENTION TO THE REPUTATIONS PRESENTED

2. SUBJECT: CHRISTIANS IN ISRAEL

DATE: 4.5.78 JOURNAL: JERUSALEM POST NEWS ARTICLE

HEADING: "LONDON TIMES: ISRAEL ABUSES CHRISTIANS"

BYLINE: HYAM CORNEY, JPOST CORRESPONDENT

QUOTE: LONDON.-ISRAEL IS ACCUSED OF TREATING ITS CHRISTIAN POPULATION AS "FIFTH RATE CITIZENS," IN AN ARTICLE PUBLISHED IN "THE TIMES" THIS WEEK. UNDER THE HEADING "HOW THE CHRISTIANS ARE FADING FROM THE HOLY LAND" THE AUTHOR PETER NICHOLS SAYS IT IS ESTIMATED THAT THE NUMBER OF CHRISTIANS LIVING IN ISRAEL AND THE ADMINISTERED TERRITORIES HAS DROPPED BY 70 PERCENT SINCE THE STATE WAS ESTABLISHED. IN JERUSALEM THE CHRISTIAN POPULATION HAS GONE DOWN FROM 25,000 TO ABOUT 11,000 "WHILE THE POPULATION OF THE CITY IS INCREASING AS A RESULT OF ISRAELI POLICY." NICHOLS QUOTES ONE WESTERN PRELATE AS SAYING THAT "THERE IS A DANGER THAT RITES PERFORMED IN THE HOLY PLACES MIGHT ONE DAY SOON BE JUST A THEATRICAL SHOW WITHOUT AN AUDIENCE, MEANINGLESS EXCEPT FOR MAKING AN IMPRESSION ON PILGRIMS." ANOTHER CHRISTIAN OFFICIAL, LIKE THE FIRST, UNNAMED, IS QUOTED AS SAYING THAT CHRISTIANS IN ISRAEL ARE "LOWER IN THE SCALE THAN THREE CATEGORIES OF JEWRY AND BELOW ARAB MUSLEMS." NO EXPLANATION IS GIVEN OF WHAT IS MEANT BY "THREE CATEGORIES OF JEWRY." THE SAME OFFICIAL ALSO SAYS THAT ONE OF THE REASONS WHY CHRISTIANS HAVE EMIGRATED FROM ISRAEL IS THAT "THEY DISLIKE LIVING UNDER MILITARY ADMINISTRATION OR DIRECT ISRAEL RULE." GIVING THE ISRAEL VIEWPOINT, NICHOLS SAYS THAT ISRAELIS POINT OUT THAT THE ARAB CHRISTIANS ARE OFTEN PARTICULARLY STRONG SUPPORTERS OF THE PALESTINIAN CAUSE. BUT THE ISRAELIS ARE NEVERTHELESS "BEWILDERED" BY COMPLAINTS AND MAINTAIN THAT THE MAIN CHRISTIAN EMIGRATION TOOK PLACE UNDER THE JORDANIANS. WHATEVER THE REASONS FOR THE DECLINE IN ISRAEL'S CHRISTIAN POPULATION, THE AUTHOR CONCLUDES THAT THE CHRISTIANS THEMSELVES ARE DOING DISAPPOINTINGLY LITTLE TO IMPROVE THEIR STANDING IN THE HOLY LAND. WHILE NICHOLS HAS MADE A TOKEN ATTEMPT TO BALANCE THE ARTICLE BY GIVING SOME OF THE ISRAEL VIEWPOINTS, THE OVERALL IMPRESSION LEFT BY THE ARTICLE IS ONE OF DELIBERATE ATTEMPT BY THE ISRAELI AUTHORITIES TO UNDERMINE THE STATUS OF THE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY IN ISRAEL AS PART OF ITS OVERALLEFFORTS, PARTICULARLY IN JERUSALEM, TO "JUDAISE" THE COUNTRY. UNQUOTE

DATE: 4.5.78 JOURNAL: MAARIV (HEB PM IND) LETTER TO EDITOR

HEADING: "SELF-ANNULMENT IN THE CEREMONY OF "JERUSALEM WORTHIES"

BYLINE: YAACOV ORLOVSKY

QUOTE: I WAS PRESENT AT THE VERY IMPRESSIVE CEREMONY OF DECORATING JERUSALEM WORTHIES OF THIS YEAR. THE MODERATOR PRESENTED THE RECIPIENTS OF THE DECORATION AND READ BIOGRAPHICAL DATA AND ABOUT THEIR WORK. WHEN THE TURN OF DR DOUGLAS YOUNG CAME, THE MODERATOR FOUND IT NECESSARY (WHETHER ON HIS OWN INITIATIVE OR UPON INSTRUCTION) TO READ THE MATERIAL FIRST IN ENGLISH AND AFTERWARD TO TRANSLATE THEM INTO HEBREW. BUT THE HONOURED ONE DID NOT DO SO, AS HE EXPRESSED THANKS ON HIS OWN AND ON HIS WIFE'S BEHALF FOR THE HONOUR GIVEN HIM PREFACING HIS REMARKS IN HEBREW...I AM NOT SURE THAT SUCH AN INCIDENT WAS NECESSARY WHEN THE HONOURED PERSON IS FULENT IN HEBREW TO HAVE AN ENGLISH TRANSLATION...A LITTLE MORE RESPECT FOR OUR LANGUAGE WOULD NOT DO HARM. UNQ

3. SUBJECT: MISSIONARY ACTIVITY

DATE: 9.5.78 JOURNAL: SHEARIM (HEB AM POALEI AGUDAT ISRAEL) NEWS ARTICLE

HEADLINE: "MISSIONARY MATERIAL FROM CALIFORNIA TO ISRAEL"

QUOTE: THOUSANDS OF AIRMAIL LETTERS WERE SENT LAST MONTH FROM ^{CALIFORNIA} ~~LOS ANGELES~~ TO ISRAEL RESIDENTS, IN WHICH A MISSIONARY SECT OFFERS FREE OF CHARGE A BESTSELLER CALLED "BEIT HALAHMI" WHICH HAS BEEN TRANSLATED INTO HEBREW, AND ACCORDING TO DISTRIBUTORS, THE BOOK BRINGS HAPPINESS, LOVE & FAITH TO PEOPLE IN TIME OF TROUBLE, DISTRESS & DESPAIR. AFTER RECEIVING MANY COMPLAINTS AT THE DEPARTMENT FOR THE WAR AGAINST THE MISSION OF THE ORGANIZATION "THE ACTIVISTS OF THE YAD L'AHIM", THE MATTER HAS BEEN CONVEYED TO ACTIVISTS IN THE U.S.A. TO CLARIFY WHETHER THERE IS NOT HERE THE PURPOSE OF THE AMERICAN MISSIONARY SECT TO BEGIN WORK IN ISRAEL. SPOKESMAN FOR THE MISSIONARY SECTION HAS STATED THAT RECENTLY MISSIONARY ACTIVITY AMONG S&VIET IMMIGRANTS HAS INCREASED, ESPECIALLY AT ^{HEBREW} ~~YERUSHALAYIM~~ ^{YERUSHALAYIM}. UNQUOTE

4. SUBJECT: GERMAN CHRISTIAN TERROR VICTIMS

DATE: 3.5.78 JOURNAL: AL HAMISHMAR (HEB AM MAPAM) NEWS ARTICLE

HEADLINE: "TO BREAK THE VICIOUS CYCLE OF HATRED & VENGEANCE: MEMORIAL TO GERMAN VOLUNTEERS

BYLINE: GAVRIEL STERN, AL HAMISHMAR CORRESPONDENT SLAIN IN SHECHEM"

QUOTE: "IT IS SYMBOLIC THAT 2 OF OUR VOLUNTEER COMANDES WERE KILLED & 5 WOUNDED BY A FEARFUL ACT OF VIOLENCE IN SHECHEM PRECISELY ON THE SAME DAY THAT 5,000 YOUNG ISRAELIS WENT UP TO JERUSALEM UNDER THE SLOGAN "PEACE NOW", AND WE ARE HOPING AND PRAYING THAT THE TWO PEOPLES, JEWS & ARABS, THE FORCES OF PEACE WILL PREVAIL IN THE SPIRIT OF THE VISION OF MICAH THE PROPHET (WHICH WAS READ IN LONDON BY THE...)

EAST JERUSALEM) OVER THE SPIRIT OF HATRED AND VENGEANCE AND WILL BREAK THE VICIOUS CYCLE TO WHICH THE REGION IS BOUND." THUS SPOKE THE LEADER OF THE PROJECT "SIGN OF ATONEMENT-- SERVICE OF PEACE" ON SUNDAY IN ISRAEL, THE GERMAN-LUTHERAN CLERGYMAN, IN AN IMPRESSIVE MEMORIAL SERVICE CONDUCTED IN THE CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER IN THE OLD CITY IN THE PRESENCE OF THE FATHER OF CHRISTOF GUIDA WHO ARRIVED TOGETHER WITH HIS HANDICAPPED BROTHER, AND WHOSE ONLY SON DIETRICH DANIEL LOST AN EYE IN THE EXPLOSION, AND THE PARENTS OF SUZANNA ZAHN WHO ARRIVED FROM GERMANY FOR A BRIEF VISIT. THE CEREMONY WAS CONDUCTED BY THE HEAD OF THE CONGREGATION, THE PROBST HELMUT GLATE, AND TAKING PART WERE ABOUT TEN CLERGYMEN WITH THE CONSPICUOUS ABSENCE OF ARAB-LUTHERAN CLERGY. AMONG THOSE PRESENT EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES TO THE BEREAVED PARENTS AND WISHES OF SPEEDY RECOVERY TO THE WOUNDED, WERE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE MAYOR (WHO WAS ON THAT VERY DAY IN GERMANY) NAOMI TISDALE, A GROUP OF JEWISH FRIENDS OF THE VOLUNTEERS, ESPECIALLY FROM PERSONS IN THE INSTITUTIONS THEY ARE WORKING IN, AND ALSO A GROUP OF SEVEN YOUNG ARABS FROM THE GALILEAN VILLIAGE PEKIIN WHERE THE VOLUNTEERS HAD SPENT A NIGHT AND A DAY PRIOR TO THE TRAGEDY. THE PRAYERS WERE CLOSED BY THE SINGING OF THE ISRAELI SOPRANO, ZELLA GROSSMAYER, AND THE CHOR OF THE GERMAN UNIVERSITY CITY MARBURG, WHICH IS NOW APPEARING IN ISRAEL. IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT THERE IS NO BASIS TO THE INFORMATION BROADCAST ON THE RADIO THAT THE SERMON WAS ANTI-ISRAELI, ONLY THERE WAS AN APPEAL, NOT ONLY TO THE ARABS BUT ALSO TO THE JEWS, TO MAKE CONCESSIONS FOR THE SAKE OF PEACE. UNQUOTE

END TRANSCRIPT 14.5.78
