

SUBJECT 1: THE MISSION LAW

SELECTIONS No. 25
(To 30.5.78)

DATE: 28.5.78 JOURNAL: JERUSALEM POST (ENGLISH AM INDEPENDENT) LETTER TO EDITOR
HEADING: "THE MISSIONARY LAW"

BYLINE : Adam Keller, Tel-Aviv

QUOTE : I STRONGLY OBJECT TO RABBI DOLGIN'S ARTICLE OF MAY 7TH IN WHICH HE DEFENDS THE ANTIMISSIONARY LAW AND EVEN SUGGESTS A NEW ONE WHICH WOULD OUTLAW ALL MISSIONARY ACTIVITY. ALTHOUGH RABBI DOLGIN WAS ACTIVE IN THE NRP, ONE OF THE POLITICAL PARTIES WHICH FUNCTION IN THE FRAMEWORK OF ISRAELI DEMOCRACY, HIS ARTICLE REVEALS A TOTAL LACK OF THE MOST ELEMENTARY KNOWLEDGE OF DEMOCRACY AND FREEDOM OF SPEECH. RABBI DOLGIN CLAIMS THAT THE CONVERSION OF A JEW TO CHRISTIANITY CONSTITUTES THE LOSS OF A JEWISH SOUL AND A BLOW TO THE JEWISH PEOPLE AND ITS RELIGION. THIS IS A LEGITIMATE OPINION, AND IT IS HIS RIGHT TO DEFEND IT. IT IS NO LESS LEGITIMATE, IN A COUNTRY WHOSE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE PROMISES FREEDOM AND EQUALITY TO ALL RELIGIONS, THAT CHRISTIANS SHOULD BELIEVE THAT CONVERSION CONSTITUTES SALVATION OF A SOUL FROM HELL. A DEMOCRATIC STATE HAS NO REASON OR NEED TO INTERFERE IN THE DISCUSSION AND IN THE EFFORTS OF THE PARTICIPANTS TO CONVINCE OTHERS OF THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF THEIR STAND. MOREOVER, RABBI DOLGIN'S CLAIM THAT MISSIONARY ACTIVITY ENDANGERS THE EXISTENCE OF THE JEWISH PEOPLE IS EXAGGERATED AND RIDICULOUS. THE JEWISH PEOPLE SURVIVED TWO THOUSAND YEARS AS A PERSECUTED MINORITY NOTWITHSTANDING ALL EFFORTS TO ASSIMILATE THEM AND CONVERT THEM BY FORCE. IS IT POSSIBLE TO BELIEVE THAT A SMALL GROUP OF MISSIONARIES WORKING IN A FREE JEWISH STATE WHERE JEWS CONSTITUTE THE MAJORITY WILL SUCCEED WHERE ANTISEMITIC GOVERNMENTS FAILED THROUGHOUT HISTORY? UNQUOTE

FOREIGN PRESS ON ANTIMISSION LAW

DATE: 30.12.77 JOURNAL: JEWISH PRESS (BROOKLYN NY) ENGLISH LANGUAGE NEWS ARTICLE

HEADING: "ANTIMISSION BILL GAINS BROAD KNESSET SUPPORT"

QUOTE : LEGISLATION OUTLAWING THE GIVING OR TAKING OF FINANCIAL INDUCEMENTS TO CONVERT GAINED SUPPORT FROM WIDELY DIVERGENT FACTIONS IN THE KNESSET. THE BILL, INITIATED BY AGUDAT ISRAEL'S RABBI YEHUDA MEIR ABRAMOWITZ, WAS SENT TO COMMITTEE ON ITS FIRST READING THANKS TO THE VOTES OF THE RELIGIOUS PARTIES, THE LIKUD, PART OF THE DEMOCRATIC MOVEMENT FOR CHANGE AND THE INDEPENDENT LIBERALS. MOST OF THE ALIGNMENT MK'S ABSTAINED WHILE THE LEFTIST ELEMENTS OF THE KNESSET VOTED AGAINST THE BILL. IN PRESENTING HIS LEGISLATION, RABBI ABRAMOWITZ STATED THAT IF IT WAS ILLEGAL TO AFFECT THE OUTCOME OF A SOCCER GAME BY VARIOUS FORMS OF PERSUASION IT WOULD CERTAINLY BE A CRIME TO PERSUADE SOMEONE TO SWITCH RELIGION BY OFFERING MONEY TO CONVERT TO CHRISTIANITY AND LEAVE THE COUNTRY. THE DMC'S BINYAMIN HALEVI LABELED THE MISSIONARIES "A CANCER IN THE BODY OF THE NATION" WHO WERE ATTEMPTING TO CARRY FORWARD THE AIM OF PHYSICAL LIQUIDATION CHAMPIONED BY THE CATHOLIC CHURCH FROM ITS VERY OUTSET. THE ILP'S GIDEON HAUSNER SUGGESTED THAT IF NOT FOR THE FORCED CONVERSIONS, COUPLED WITH PERSECUTION AND MASSACRE OVER THE YEARS, THE JEWISH PEOPLE MIGHT HAVE NUMBERED 700 MILLION SOULS TODAY. THE CRM'S SHULAMIT ALONI POOH-POOHED THE WHOLE BUSINESS AS AN EXPRESSION OF "THE JEWISH TRAUMA OF THE INQUISITION AND THE CRUSADES." SHE INSISTED THAT HUNDREDS OF GENTILES ADOPTED JUDAISM IN ISRAEL EACH YEAR WHILE ONLY FOUR OR FIVE JEWS CONVERT TO CHRISTIANITY. UNQUOTE

DATE: 13.1.78 JOURNAL: JEWISH NEWS (DETROIT MICH.) ENGLISH LANGUAGE NEWS ARTICLE

HEADING: "CHRISTIAN CHURCHES PROTEST ISRAEL'S MISSIONARY STATUTE"

NOTE: THIS IS A SLIGHTLY DIFFERENT VERSION OF A J.T.A. REPORT FROM JERUSALEM ON THE LAW, THE CONTENT OF WHICH APPEARS IN SELECTIONS No. 19, PAGE 1, BOTTOM, UNDER
HEADING: " CHRISTIANS PROTEST AGAINST ANTIMISSIONARY LAW"

SUBJECT 2: JEWISH CHRISTIANS

DATE: 28.5.78 JOURNAL: JERUSALEM POST LETTER TO EDITOR

HEADING: "JEWISH CHRISTIANS"

BYLINE : RABBI DAVID LANDESMAN, DIRECTOR, PUBLIC RELATIONS PEYLIM YAD L'ACHIA (TORAH ACTIVISTS)

QUOTE : IN AN ADVERTISEMENT IN YOUR PAPER OF MAY 12, A GROUP CALLING ITSELF "ISRAELI JEWISH CHRISTIANS" (SEE SELECTIONS No. 23 TOP PAGE 2 "COMMUNICATED APPEAL...") ACCUSED OUR ORGANIZATION OF ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES AGAINST THEM. I FEEL THAT IT IS OUR RIGHT AND DUTY TO RESPOND TO THEIR "CRASS AND WICKED ACCUSATIONS MADE WITHOUT THE SLIGHTEST FACTUAL GROUNDS." FIRST, IF WE ARE TO BE CHARGED WITH ANY CRIMES IT SHOULD BE DONE THROUGH THE POLICE. THE MEDIA MIGHT BE PREFERABLE TO SOME, AS NO PROOF IS NEEDED, ONLY THE WHEREWITHAL TO PAY ADVERTISING EXPENSES. TO THIS DATE WE HAVE NEVER BEEN CHARGED WITH ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES BY ANY AUTHORITY CONSTITUTED TO PROTECT THE LAW. WE RESPECT THE RIGHTS OF ALL TO WORSHIP AS THEY SEE FIT AND HAVE NEVER NOR WOULD WE EVER INTERFERE WITH THE RELIGIOUS LIBERTIES OF ANYONE. SECOND, WE ARE NOT IN THE EVANGELICAL BUSINESS AND AS JEWS FULLY COMMITTED

TO HALACHA, WE DO NOT PROSELYTIZE. OURS TRAINED BUDGET COULD NEVER OFFER MATERIAL INDUCEMENTS TO ANYONE--WE HAVE MORE THAN ENOUGH TROUBLE MEETING OUR MONTHLY EXPENSES. WE DO NOT PRESSURE PEOPLE TO "OBTAIN A CHANGE IN RELIGIOUS OPINION," NOR ARE WE AWARE OF ANY OTHER GROUP THAT DOES. OUR WORK IS WHOLLY EDUCATIONAL--PRESENTING AN AUTHENTIC PICTURE OF THE BEAUTY OF JUDAISM--AND WE'VE NEVER USED ECONOMIC, SOCIAL OR PSYCHOLOGICAL PRESSURE. THIRD, WE TOO SERVE IN THE ISRAEL DEFENCE FORCES. OUR VOLUNTEERS REPRESENT THE BROAD SPECTRUM OF ISRAELI JEWRY. THEY CAN BE FOUND IN YESHIVOT, YESHIVOT BESDER, FACTORIES AND BUSINESSES. WHAT UNIFIES THEM IS A PROFOUND LOVE FOR THEIR FELLOW JEW AND WILLINGNESS TO GIVE OF THEMSELVES. PEYLIM YAD L'ACHID--OR "HEVER HAPILIM" AS THE ADVERTISERS CHOOSE TO REFER TO US--IS AN ORGANIZATION WITHOUT ANY POLITICAL TIES AND, AS SUCH, CANNOT BE HELD RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ANTIMISSIONARY LAW RECENTLY PASSED BY THE KNESSET. TO OUR MINDS, THE LAW SHOULD BE CHANGED FOR IT IS NOT NEARLY STRONG ENOUGH. OUR MEANS ARE LEGAL AND PROTECTED BY LAW: THE SAME LAW THE 'ISRAELI JEWISH CHRISTIANS' SEEK TO HIDE BEHIND. AGAIN, WE RESPECT THE RIGHTS OF ALL TO WORSHIP AS THEY SEE FIT, AND WE'LL LEGALLY BATTLE ALL THOSE WHO CHOOSE TO INFLICT THEIR VIEWS ON OTHERS. UNQUOTE

DATE: 28.5.78 JOURNAL: DAVAR (HEB AM LABOUR) NEWS ARTICLE
 HEADING: "APPEAL TO CARTER SISTER NOT TO SUPPORT MISSIONARY GROUP"
 BYLINE: MORDECAI BARKAI, DAVAR CORRESPONDENT IN U.S.A.
 QUOTE: WASHINGTON (SPECIAL TO DAVAR) THE AMERICAN JEWISH CONGRESS PUBLISHED THIS WEEKEND THE CONTENT OF A LETTER WHICH HAD BEEN SENT TO RUTH CARTER STAPLETON, THE SISTER OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE USA, IN WHICH THERE WAS A REQUEST THAT SHE AVOID LENDING A HAND TO THE ACTIVITIES OF A GROUP TRYING TO CONVERT JEWS TO CHRISTIANITY. RUTH CARTER STAPLETON UNDERTOOK TO DELIVER AN ADDRESS FOR PAYMENT AT THE ANNUAL CONVENTION OF "BNEI YESHUA" IN STONY BROOK, LONG ISLAND, ON THE 8TH JUNE. THIS IS A MISSIONARY GROUP WHICH IS SEEKING TO WIN SOULS AMONG THE JEWS. THE LETTER WAS SIGNED BY EIGHT PROMINENT PERSONS IN THE LONG ISLAND BRANCH OF THE AMERICAN JEWISH CONGRESS, AND EXPRESSES "REGRET THAT A WOMAN AND A MEMBER OF THE CLERGY OF YOUR STANDING WOULD PARTICIPATE IN THIS EFFORT TO TURN JEWS ASIDE FROM THE FAITH OF THEIR FATHERS." THE LETTER ALSO ACCUSES THE "BNEI YESHUA" OF "AN ATTEMPT TO EXPLOIT THE NAME OF THE SISTER OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE USA." THE LETTER DECLARES THAT ONE OF THE PRINCIPLES UNDERLYING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE USA IS FREEDOM OF RELIGION. "YOU, MORE THAN OTHERS, SHOULD REVEAL A GREATER SENSITIVITY TO OUR RIGHT TO REMAIN JEWS WITHOUT BEING CONSTANTLY EXPOSED TO THE PRESSURE OF MISSIONARY ACTIVITY." UNQUOTE

DATE: 30.5.78 JOURNAL: HAMODIYA (AGUDAT YISRAEL AM HEBREW) EDITORIAL
 HEADING: "THE MISSION IN AMERICA AND IN ISRAEL"
 QUOTE: THE LAW PROHIBITING MISSIONARY ACTIVITY BY MEANS OF FINANCIAL ENTICEMENTS IS NOT DIRECTED SPECIFICALLY AGAINST THOSE CHRISTIAN SECTS ENGAGED IN THIS CONTEMPTIBLE BUSINESS. NEVERTHELESS, CHRISTIAN ORGANIZATIONS WITH THE SUPPORT OF "ENLIGHTENED" JEWS CONTINUE TO ATTACK THE GOVERNMENT BECAUSE OF ITS ALLEGED BLOW TO WHAT THEY CALL "FREEDOM OF WORSHIP". NO OFFICIAL OR UNOFFICIAL EXPLANATION HAS PACIFIED THESE PRETENDED ZEALOTS FOR LIBERTY, AND SEVERAL CHRISTIAN SECTS HAVE EVEN CARRIED THE BATTLE AGAINST THE LAW TO SOURCES OUTSIDE ISRAEL. "THE KNIGHTS OF LIBERTY" IN ISRAEL HAVE BEEN HARNESSSED TO THIS WORK. THE DESIRE TO BLACKEN THE FACE OF THE GOVERNMENT FOR ITS RESPONSE TO THE DEMANDS OF THE RELIGIOUS COMMUNITY UNSETTLES THESE PEOPLE. WE DO NOT KNOW WHAT TRULY MOTIVATES THEM. IS IT AN ARTIFICIAL ZEAL FOR THE RIGHTS OF THE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITIES OR ABYSMAL HOSTILITY TO ORTHODOX JUDAISM, AND ESPECIALLY TO AGUDAT YISRAEL TO WHOM HAS BEFALLEN THIS PRIVILEGE? ON THE OTHER HAND WE READ RECENTLY THAT THE AMERICAN JEWISH CONGRESS HAS GONE FORTH TO BATTLE AGAINST ONE OF THE MISSIONARY SECTS IN THE UNITED STATES FOR ITS ATTEMPT TO CONVERT JEWS TO THE CHRISTIAN RELIGION. THEIR INDIGNATION WAS AROUSED WHEN IT BECAME KNOWN THAT THE SISTER OF PRESIDENT CARTER TOOK IT UPON HERSELF TO DELIVER AN ADDRESS FOR PAYMENT AT THE ANNUAL CONVENTION OF A SECT BY NAME OF "BNEI YESHUA" IN STONY BROOK LONGISLAND. IN THEIR LETTER SIGNED BY EIGHT PROMINENT PERSONS OF THIS BRANCH OF THE AMERICAN JEWISH CONGRESS, THEY EXPRESS THEIR REGRET THAT THE SISTER OF THE PRESIDENT, WHO SERVES AS A MINISTER IN A CHURCH HERSELF, HAD AGREED TO TAKE PART IN AN EFFORT TO TURN JEWS ASIDE FROM THE FAITH OF THEIR FOREFATHERS. THE LETTER ACCUSES THE MISSIONARY SECT OF EXPLOITING THE NAME OF THE SISTER OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE USA: "YOU, MORE THAN OTHER PERSONS," THE LETTER STATES ALSO, "SHOULD EXHIBIT GREATER SENSITIVITY TO OUR RIGHT TO REMAIN JEWS WITHOUT BEING CONSTANTLY EXPOSED TO THE PRESSURE OF MISSIONARY ACTIVITY." THE JEWS IN THE UNITED STATES, WHO HAVE NO OPPOSITIONISTS LIKE IN ISRAEL, HAVE THEIR (BATTLE), OTHERWISE THEY WOULD HAVE SIDED WITH THE SECT, WHICH HAS ITS BRANCH ALSO IN ISRAEL. UNQUOTE

SUBJECT 3: "JEHOVA WITNESSES"

DATE: 25.5.78 JOURNAL: AL HAMISHMAR (MAPAM AM HEBREW) NEWS ARTICLE
 HEADING: "15,000 MEMBERS OF SECT 'JEHOVA'S WITNESSES' WILL COME AS TOURISTS"
 QUOTE : ABOUT 15,000 TOURISTS FROM ABROAD, MEMBERS OF THE INTERNATIONAL SECT "J.W.'s" WILL ARRIVE IN ISRAEL THIS YEAR IN ORGANIZED TOURS FOR THE PURPOSE OF VISITING VARIOUS BIBLE SITES. DAVID NAMAR, JOSEPH LEVY, AND JONA NISSENZWEIG, MEMBERS OF THE SECT IN ISRAEL, WHO ANNOUNCED THIS YESTERDAY TO THE PRESS, STRESSED IN THEIR REMARKS THAT THE BROAD PUBLIC IN THE STATE OF ISRAEL SHOULD NOT IDENTIFY MEMBERS OF THE SECT WITH THE CHRISTIAN FAITH, INASMUCH AS THEY TOTALLY REPUDIATE MOST OF THE CEREMONIES, BELIEFS AND RITES OF CHRISTIANS AND VIEW THEM AS IDOLATRY. THE SECT MEMBERS NOTED THAT THEY SUPPORT THE MISSION LAW AS IT IS AND PROTEST AGAINST ALL RELIGIOUS CONVERSION EFFECTED BY MEANS OF ECONOMIC OR OTHER MEANS OF COERCION. ACCORDING TO THEM, THE "JW'S" ARE NOT IN THE NATURE OF A MISSION AND ALL THE ACTIVITY IS EFFECTED LEGALLY BY MEANS OF EXPLANATION AND PERSUASION IN CONVERSATION AND COMMUNAL MEETINGS. THEIR THREE REPRESENTATIVES SHARPLY DENOUNCED THE VIOLENT ACTIVITY OF EXTREMIST JEWISH RELIGIOUS SECTS AGAINST THEM AT WHICH TIME SEVERAL OF THEM PERFORMED ACTS OF VANDALISM AND DESTRUCTION IN THEIR HOUSE OF WORSHIP ON LEVANDA STREET IN TELAVIV. AT PRESENT THERE ARE SOME 250 MEMBERS OF THE SECT FOUND IN ISRAEL WHO DO NOT SERVE IN THE IDF ON GROUNDS OF CONSCIENCE AND VIEW THEMSELVES AS BELONGING TO AN INTERNATIONAL PEOPLE NUMBERING SOME 2.2 MILLION BELIEVERS IN 220 LANDS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD. UNQUOTE

DATE: 29.5.78 JOURNAL: HAMODIYA (AGUDAT ISRAEL AM HEBREW) EDITORIAL
 HEADING: "SUPERFLUOUS TOURISM"
 QUOTE : IF ONE IS TO CREDIT THE REMARKS OF REPRESENTATIVES OF A DANGEROUS MISSIONARY GROUP BY NAME OF "WITNESSES OF THE NAME", WE ARE THEN TO EXPECT A FLOW OF 15,000 MEMBERS FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD WHO WILL ARRIVE IN ISRAEL IN THE COURSE OF THE COMING MONTHS AS "TOURISTS". RELIABLE SOURCES STATE THAT THIS IS ONE OF THE MOST DANGEROUS GROUPS INASMUCH AS IT EXCEEDS ALL OTHERS IN CRAFTINESS BY ITS CONTENTION THAT THEY ARE NOT MISSIONARIES, WHILE THEY LABOUR TO CONVINCE BOTH JEWS AND GENTILES TO JOIN THEIR "FAITH". ONE MAY SUPPOSE THAT IF THEIR PLAN IS A CONCRETE ONE, AND THEY WILL BE FLOODING US WITH "GUESTS" OR WITH "TOURISTS" IN SUCH GREAT NUMBERS, THEN THEY CANNOT DO THIS WITHOUT SUBSTANTIAL ASSISTANCE ON THE PART OF OFFICIAL TOURISM ELEMENTS IN THE LAND. THE QUESTION THEREFORE IS: DO WE REALLY NEED SUCH ELEMENTS IN ISRAEL? IS SUCH TOURISM INDEED NECESSARY? WE MUST FREE OURSELVES FROM THE APPROACH THAT IN ORDER TO STRENGTHEN THE POSITIVE BALANCE OF TOURISTS VISITING ISRAEL WE SHOULD NOT MAKE ANY DISTINCTION BETWEEN ^{THESE} VISITORS AND TOURISTS. THIS IS A HARMFUL TOURISM AND COMPLETELY SUPERFLUOUS. IT IS CERTAINLY POSSIBLE, EVEN FROM THE VIEWPOINT OF THE GOOD OF TOURISM ITSELF, TO GET ON WITHOUT THEM. UNQUOTE

SUBJECT 4: CHRISTIAN ZIONISM

DATE: 28.5.78 JOURNAL: JERUSALEM POST PRESS NOTICE OF DAILY EVENTS
 QUOTE: A RECEPTION IN HONOUR OF GEORGE SAMSON, PRESIDENT OF EVANGELICALS UNITED FOR ZION, AND MRS. SAMSON, WAS GIVEN YESTERDAY BY M.K. MENAHEM SAVIDOR AND MRS SAVIDOR AT THEIR RESIDENCE IN TELAVIV. UNQUOTE (ALSO 31.5.78: GEO SAMSON, HEAD OF E.U.Z., YESTERDAY VISITED KNESSET IN COMPANY OF HARLY HURWITZ, ADVISER TO PRIME MINISTER ON INFORMATION ABROAD.)
 DATE: 9.5.78 JOURNAL: ISRAEL NACHRICHTEN (TELAVIV) GERMAN LANGUAGE FEATURE ARTICLE
 HEADING: "CHRISTIAN FRIENDS BELIEVE IN ISRAEL'S FUTURE"

BYLINE: HERMANN BEZNER (JOKNEAM)

SUMMARY: THE WRITER OF THE ARTICLE IS A FOLLOWER OF RUSSELL. HE DESCRIBES THE LINK OF CHRISTIAN ZIONISTS FROM BEFORE THE DAYS OF HERZL (WHOSE CONFIDANT WAS PASTOR HECHLER) TO MODERN "AMERICAN FUNDAMENTALISTS...BIBLE BELIEVERS" WHO HAVE BEEN CHRISTIAN ZIONISTS. HE DESCRIBES THE BEGINNINGS OF THE RUSSELLITE MOVEMENT WITH CHARLES TAZE RUSSELL (BORN IN PITTSBURGH, PA., 1852) WHO IN 1872 PUBLISHED A WORK ON ESCHATOLOGY WHICH TAUGHT THE RESTORATION OF THE JEWS TO ZION AND ITS PROPHETIC IMPLICATIONS FOR THE WORLD. IN THE FIRST EDITION THERE WERE 4,817,000 COPIES ISSUED BESIDES FIVE SUBSEQUENT EDITIONS. HE MENTIONS THE SPLIT WHICH OCCURRED IN THE MOVEMENT, ONE PART DEVELOPING INTO WHAT IS NOW KNOWN AS "JEHOVA WITNESSES", THE OTHER HE CALLS "DER MENSCHENFREUNDE" ("FRIENDS OF MAN") BOTH GROUPS SUFFERED AT THE HANDS OF THE NAZIS. THE WRITER WAS ALSO IMPRISONED AND RUINED FINANCIALLY. AFTER WORLD WAR II HE EMIGRATED TO ISRAEL AND ESTABLISHED A SETTLEMENT IN ISRAEL, EMEK HASHALOM, IN YOKNEAM. SEVERAL ARTICLES ON THE SUBJECT HAVE APPEARED IN ISRAEL. HE REPORTS ON A RECENT TRIP ABROAD AND INTEREST IN ISRAEL, THE WORLDWIDE HUNGER FOR A VISION SINCE "MAN DOES NOT LIVE BY BREAD ALONE." HE CLOSES: "THIS IS THE WAY...WITHOUT THESE GREAT VALUES NO PEOPLE CAN SURVIVE...AND NO POWER ON EARTH CAN BREAK THE GREAT ELECTION OF ISRAEL. IF THAT VERDICT IS NOT REVERSED, ISRAEL WILL SURVIVE AND GROW." UNQUOTE

MISCELLANEOUS SUBJECTS

DATE: 30.5.78 JOURNAL: AL HAMISHMAR (MAPAM AM HEB) NEWS ARTICLE

HEADING: "GERMANS FROM ARAB LANDS AND ISLAM GATHER IN JERUSALEM"

BYLINE: GAVRIEL STERN, AL HAMISHMAR CORRESPONDENT

QUOTE: FOR THE FIRST TIME THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE GERMAN-SPEAKING LUTHERAN CONGREGATIONS IN THE MIDEAST ASSEMBLED IN JERUSALEM HEADED BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE FOREIGN AFFAIRS OFFICE OF THE CHURCH IN GERMANY, DR HELD. ABOUT FORTY REPRESENTATIVES TOOK PART FROM ATHENS, ISTANBUL, BEYRUT, RAMBAT AMMON, CAIRO, TEHERAN, CABUL, KARACHI, AND LAHORE. FOR A WEEK THEY DISCUSSED THE SPECIAL PROBLEMS CONCERNING SEVERAL THOUSANDS OF THEIR CONGREGANTS. IN HONOR OF THE CONFERENCE THE HEAD OF THE JERUSALEM CONGREGATION THE SENIOR CLERGYMAN HELMUT GLATE ARRANGED A SOCIAL GATHERING FOR THE GUESTS AND MEMBERS OF VARIOUS COMMUNITIES IN JERUSALEM. UNQUOTE

DATE: 14.5.78 JOURNAL: "LA'ISHA" (FOR THE WOMAN) WEEKLY HEBREW WOMEN'S MAGAZINE

HEADING: "DJIGAN: IF I WERE ONLY YOUNGER, I WOULD CONVERT TO CHRISTIANITY AND EMIGRATE FROM ISRAEL" ^{INTERVIEW ARTICLE}

SUMMARY & EXTRACT: THE ARTICLE (WHOSE SENSATIONALIST HEADLINE HAS DISTORTED THE MAIN TENOR OF THE INTERVIEW) IS AN EXPRESSION OF AN AGING YIDDISH ACTOR AND PRODUCER EMBITTERED BY THE PLIGHT OF YIDDISH CULTURE IN ISRAEL, AND IN A TOUCH OF SATIRIC HUMOUR BRIEFLY PLAYS ON THE MYTHOLOGY OF MISSIONS IN A FEW IRONIC LINES TO CONVEY HIS FEELINGS, WHICH ARE TOTALLY UNRELATED TO THE RELIGIOUS ISSUE: THE FOLLOWING IS A DIRECT QUOTE OF THE RELEVANT PORTION OF THE INTERVIEW: "IF THERE WILL BE NO CHANGE IN THE SITUATION (DJIGAN STATES) THEN THIS WILL BE MY LAST PERFORMANCE IN ISRAEL. NU, REALLY, WHAT IS LEFT FOR ME TO DO? YOU KNOW WHAT? IF I WERE ONLY YOUNGER TODAY, I WOULD CONVERT TO CHRISTIANITY AND EMIGRATE FROM ISRAEL. THAT IS ALL THAT IS LEFT FOR ME IN SUM IN ORDER TO UNDERSTAND MY PROTEST. BUT WHAT CAN I DO, SINCE IN THE FINAL ANALYSIS, I LOVE THIS LAND AND THIS RELIGION--IN ALL, ALL THAT IS LEFT FOR ME IS TO CONTINUE AND TO WEEP..." UNQUOTE

DATE: 23.5.78 JOURNAL: JERUSALEM POST FEATURE ARTICLE

HEADING: "CHRISTIAN INFLUENCE IN GAZA"

BYLINE: ZVI ARENSTEIN, JP REPORTER

SUMMARY: THIS IS BASICALLY THE SAME ARTICLE AS APPEARED IN HATSOFE (SEE SELECTIONS NO 21, page 2) UNDER HEADING "THE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY IN GAZA STRIP" AND IS APPARENTLY BASED ON THE SAME INFORMATION SOURCES.

DATE: MAR CH 1978 JOURNAL: REGEV (RAMAT GAN) HEBREW LANGUAGE NEWS ARTICLE

HEADING: "POLICE FILE OPENED AGAINST DISTRIBUTORS OF MISSIONARY MATERIAL"

SUMMARY: THIS IS A SIMILAR ARTICLE WHICH APPEARED IN SEVERAL CLIPPINGS ABOUT THE DISTRIBUTION OF "MISSIONARY MATERIAL" IN THE BNEI BRAK AREA OFFERING A BIBLE COURSE BY EMMAUS IN HAIFA. (SEE SELECTIONS No. 14, page 7 headed "POLICE INVESTIGATION OF MISSIONARY ACTIVITY" ALSO SELECTIONS No. 14, p.1, HEADED: "MISSIONARY MATERIAL DISTRIBUTED IN BNEI BRAK")

END TRANSCRIPT 4.6.78 mh/