

SUBJECT 1: NEW MISSION LAW

DATE: 5.6.78 JOURNAL: AL HAMISHMAR (HEBREW AM MAPAM) NEWS ARTICLE  
 HEADING: "FILE AGAINST CLERGYMAN MAOZ CLOSED: PROCEEDINGS ON MISSION LAW ONLY BY APPROVAL  
 BYLINE: GAVRIEL STERN, AL HAMISHMAR CORRESPONDENT. OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL"  
 QUOTE: ATTORNEY GENERAL PROF AHARON BARAK HAS INSTRUCTED ALL STATE ATTORNEYS AND POLICE  
 TO BEGIN PROCEEDINGS IN CONNECTION WITH THE NEW MISSION LAW ONLY UPON HIS AUTHORIZATION.  
 THIS WAS CONVEYED BY THE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITIES SECTION OF THE MIN OF RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS  
 TO FATHER IGNAZIO MANCCINI OF THE FRANCISCANS WHO IN HIS PUBLICATION HAD DISCLOSED THE  
 AFFAIR IN WHICH THE HEBREW-PROTESTANT CLERGYMAN BARUCH MAOZ HAD BEEN QUESTIONED AT THE  
 POLICE STATION IN RISHON LETSION, WHICH WAS ALSO REPORTED IN AL HAMISHMAR. THE RELIG  
 AFFAIRS MINISTRY NOTES THAT THE ATTORNEY GENERAL BEGAN THE INVESTIGATION OF THE MAOZ  
 AFFAIR IMMEDIATELY UPON BEING NOTIFIED OF IT, AND AS A RESULT, THE FILE HAS BEEN CLOSED.  
 THE MISSION LAW PASSED IN THE KNESSET UPON THE INITIATIVE OF AGUDAT YISRAEL IN ACCORDANCE  
 WITH A COALITION AGREEMENT IMPOSES HEAVY PENALTIES ON ATTEMPTS TO ENTICE PERSONS TO CON-  
 VERSION BY MATERIAL MEANS. THE LAW (ESPECIALLY THE EXPLANATORY REMARKS SURROUNDING IT)  
 STIRRED UP A TEMPEST IN THE CHRISTIAN WORLD AS WELL AS AMONG JEWISH CIRCLES IN THE U.S.  
 WHO ARE ESPECIALLY SENSITIVE TO EVERY BLOW AGAINST FREEDOM OF RELIGION. POPE PAUL VI  
 ALSO RAISED THE SUBJECT IN THE COURSE OF AN INTERVIEW HE RECENTLY GRANTED TO P.M. DAYAN.  
 FOREIGN PRESS CLIPPINGS ON MISSION LAW: UNQUOTE

DATE: 30.12.77 JOURNAL: ALLGEMEINE JUDISCHE WOCHENZEITUNG, DUSSELDORF, GERMANY  
 (GERMAN-JEWISH WEEKLY PUBLICATION)  
 FEATURE ARTICLE: "MISSION AND PUNISHMENT"  
 BYLINE: RABBI DR N PETER LEVINSON  
 SUMMARY: THE WRITER STRONGLY OPPOSES THE PASSAGE AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MISSION LAW  
 ON VARIOUS GROUNDS WHILE EXPRESSING UNDERSTANDING OF SOME OF THE EMOTIONAL AND HISTORIC  
 FACTORS WHICH UNDERLIE THE ISSUE. THE PRINCIPLE OF MISSION CANNOT BE EXCLUDED EVEN  
 FROM JUDAISM AND HISTORICAL EVIDENCE IS ADDUCED TO THIS (INCLUDING JESUS' STATEMENT IN  
 MATTHEW 23 "YOU COMPASS LAND AND SEA TO MAKE ONE PROSELYTE") AND SEVERAL MODERN TENDENCIES  
 IN THIS DIRECTION. THE LAW IS ALSO AN OBSTACLE TO GENUINE INTERRELIGIOUS DIALOGUE FROM  
 WHICH TRULY SECURE PERSONS (WHETHER JEWISH OR CHRISTIAN) DO NOT SHRINK. FURTHERMORE, A  
 GOVERNMENT IN A DEMOCRATIC SOCIETY HAS NO BUSINESS INTERFERING WITH RELIGIOUS ISSUES SUCH  
 AS CONVERSION, AND IN ANY CASE WILL PROVE INEFFECTIVE, FOR COMMITTED MISSIONARIES WILL  
 NOT HESITATE TO BECOME MARTYRS, WHILE CONVERTS WHO WERE BRIBED INTO A CONVERSION ARE  
 SMALL LOSS TO JUDAISM. HE CALLS FOR CANCELLATION OF THE LAW.

DATE: 6.1.78 JOURNAL: JEWISH TELEGRAPH (MANCHESTER) : ARTICLE  
 HEADING: "CASH FOR CONVERSION HIT BY ISRAELI LAW  
 QUOTE: ISRAEL HAS TAKEN THE FIRST IMPORTANT STEP TO OUTLAW THE SOULSMATCHER WHO HAS PLAGUED  
 JEWRY AND OCCASIONALLY CAUSED INTERNATIONAL INCIDENTS. THE KNESSET HAS ENACTED THAT ATTEMPTS  
 TO CHANGE ANYONE'S FAITH BY OFFERING FINANCIAL OR MATERIAL INDUCEMENTS WILL BE PUNISHABLE  
 BY FIVE YEARS IMPRISONMENT AND HEAVY FINES. THE LAW DOES NOT REFER TO CHRISTIAN MISSION-  
 ARIES BUT RABBI YM ABRAWOWITZ, SPONSOR OF THE NEW LAW, SAID THE MEASURE WAS DESIGNED TO  
 CURB THEM. HE ALLEGED THAT THEY HAD OFFERED HUGE SUMS OF MONEY AND OTHER ECONOMIC BENEFITS  
 TO "ENSURE (sic) THE SOULS OF THE POOR." THE JEWISH TELEGRAPH HAS PUBLISHED REPORTS OF  
 GERMAN MISSIONARIES SUPPLIED WITH CONSIDERABLE FINANCE OFFERING FREE EDUCATION TO CHILDREN  
 IN ZICHRON YAACOV. TO COMBAT THE SCHEME A SCHOOL TO COUNTER THEIR ACTIVITIES WAS BUILT  
 THERE HELPED BY FUNDS RAISED IN BRITAIN. THE NEW LAW COVERS CONVERSION NOT ONLY OF JEWS  
 BUT THOSE OF OTHER FAITHS. BUT THE EMERGENCY COMMITTEE OF THE UCCI HAS PROTESTED. IN A  
 TELEGRAM TO PM BEGIN IT COMPLAINS THAT THE LAW COULD BE "MISUSED IN RESTRICTING RELIGIOUS  
 LIBERTY". MR BENJAMIN HALEVI, WHO PILOTTED THE BILL THRO' THE KNESSET, DENIED THAT IT  
 WAS A COVER FOR PERSECUTION OF CHRISTIANS. THE LAW EQUALLY WOULD MAKE IT AN OFFENCE TO  
 ENCOURAGE A CHRISTIAN TO BECOME A JEW. CANON NA'EM ATECK OF THE EVANGELICAL EPISCOPAL  
 CHURCH IN HAIFA ADMITTED: "TOURISTS MIGHT FIND A JEW AND TALK TO HIM ABOUT FAITH IN JESUS  
 AND MIGHT GIVE MORE INCENTIVES." THE CHURCHES ARGUE THAT ABOUT 500 CHRISTIANS ARE CONVERTED  
 TO JUDAISM EACH YEAR WHEREAS ONLY A HANDFUL OF JEWS TURN TO CHRISTIANITY. THE ROMAN CATH  
 CHURCH AS WELL AS ANGLICAN CHURCH HAS CRITICIZED THE NEW LAW. THE REV HENRY KNIGHT, AN  
 ANGLICAN, CLAIMED THAT THE LOOSE WORDING OF THE LAW MIGHT MAKE IT POSSIBLE FOR A PERSON  
 TO BE CHARGED FOR AN INNOCENT ACT OF CHARITY IN HELPING SOMEONE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT  
 ANOTHER FAITH. THE CHURCHES FURTHER CLAIM THAT THE BILL "WAS HASTILY PUSHED THRO' THE  
 KNESSET DURING THE CHRISTMAS PERIOD WHEN CHRISTIANS WERE BUSILY PREPARING FOR AND  
 CELEBRATING THEIR MAJOR FESTIVAL." UNQUOTE



DATE: 13.1.78 JOURNAL: CLEVELAND JEWISH NEWS (OHIO) NEWS ARTICLE

HEADING: "CHRISTIANS PROTEST NEW ISRAELI 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 LAST WEEK WITH ISRAEL LIPPEL, DIRECTOR GEN OF MIN 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 AND SUSPICION AGAINST THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH." THE LAW PROVIDES PENALTIES...AND 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 WARN 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. THEY TOLD LIPPEL THEY WERE DETERMINED TO FIGHT TO HAVE THE LAW ABOLISHED. 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 AGUDAT ISRAEL COALITION PARTNERS. THE AGUDA HAS BEEN INVEIGHING AGAINST MISSIONARY ACTIVITY FOR YEARS CLAIMING IT WAS CONDUCTED ON A LARGE SCALE. UNQUOTE

DATE: 13.1.78 JOURNAL: JEWISH JOURNAL (BROOKLYN, N.Y.) NEWS ARTICLE

HEADING: "CHRISTIAN CHURCHES PROTEST ISRAEL'S 'CONVERT' LAW"

BYLINE : GIL SEDAN (THIS IS A SLIGHTLY LARGER VERSION OF ABOVE ARTICLE AND HAS BEEN USED ELSEWHERE AND TRANSCRIBED IN PREVIOUS SELECTIONS.)

DATE: 20.1.78 JOURNAL: JEWISH JOURNAL (BROOKLYN NY) NEWS ARTICLE

HEADING: "IRATE OVER ANTIMISSIONARY LAW"

BYLINE : ARIK BACHAR

QUOTE : JERUSALEM--A NEW ISRAELI LAW WHICH THREATENS PROSECUTION FOR ANYONE TRYING TO INFLUENCE A PERSON TO CHANGE RELIGIONS HAS ANGERED CHRISTIAN MISSIONARIES HERE. THEY SAY THE BILL, PROPOSED BY A RELIGIOUS MEMBER OF THE KNESSET AND PASSED QUICKLY LAST MONTH, MAKES IT DIFFICULT FOR ANYONE WHO WANTS TO CHANGE HIS RELIGION TO DO SO AND THEY PLAN TO ENLIST U.S. CONGRESSIONAL PRESSURE AGAINST IT. THE BILL WHICH FORBIDS BRIBERY TO GAIN CONVERTS INVOLVES A MAXIMUM FINE OF \$3,225. MISSIONARIES HERE SENT A PROTEST LETTER TO PM BEGIN AND PRES EFRAIM KATZIR. THEY COMPLAINED THAT THE BILL WAS RUSHED THRO' THE REQUIRED THREE PARLIAMENTARY READINGS WHEN CHRISTIANS WERE PREOCCUPIED WITH CHRISTMAS AND GENERAL PUBLIC ATTENTION WAS DIVERTED BY MIDDLE EAST PEACE MOVES. THERE HAVE BEEN PERSISTENT REPORTS IN THE LOCAL PRESS THAT CHRISTIAN MISSIONARIES HAVE SOUGHT JEWISH CONVERTS BY PROVIDING MATERIAL HELP TO THE UNDERPRIVILEGED. SOME REPORTS SAY POOR JEWS AND THEIR FAMILIES HAVE BEEN FLOWN OUT OF ISRAEL, MAINLY TO CANADA AND AUSTRALIA WHERE THEY LATER CONVERTED TO CHRISTIANITY. BUT LEADERS OF THE MISSIONARY ORGANIZATION IN JERUSALEM CATEGORICALLY DENIED THAT SUCH METHODS HAD BEEN USED TO CONVERT JEWS. NOWELL GRAHAM OF WASHINGTON DC OF THE UCCI CALLED THE REPORTS "TOTALLY UNTRUE". HE SAID THAT THE 80,000 STRONG CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY IN ISRAEL WANTED CONVERSIONS ONLY FROM THOSE WHO TRULY BELIEVE THE NEW TESTAMENT. GRAHAM SAID HE HAD NOTHING AGAINST THE LAW ITSELF BUT OPPOSED ITS IMPLICATIONS. "THE QUESTION IS WHERE YOU DRAW A LINE BETWEEN HELPING A FELLOW HUMAN BEING AND PAYING SOMEBODY TO CONVERT," HE ARGUED. HE ACCUSED SOME JEWS OF RELIGIOUS PERSECUTION, SAYING MISSIONARIES' CARS HAD BEEN SET ON FIRE. THREATENING TELEPHONE CALLS HAD ALSO BEEN RECEIVED, HE SAID. OPPOSITION TO THE "ENTICEMENT TO CHANGE OF RELIGION" LAW WAS ALSO SHARED BY SOME ISRAELI PARLIAMENTARIANS. THEY SAID THE BILL WAS BROUGHT TO THE HOUSE FOR SECOND AND THIRD HEARINGS WITHOUT APPEARING ON THE AGENDA. OVERWHELMING SUPPORT CAME FROM THE RULING LIKUD BLOC AND ITS 3 RELIGIOUS COALITION PARTNERS. CHRISTIAN SOURCES ESTIMATE THAT THE NUMBER OF JEWS CONVERTING TO CHRISTIANITY AVERAGES ABOUT TEN A YEAR BUT A SUPPLEMENT TO THE PROPOSED BILL SPEAKS AS "MASS CONVERSIONS RESULTING FROM MATERIALISTIC OFFERINGS." IT ALSO SAID CHRISTIAN MISSIONARIES WERE TRYING TO INFLUENCE ISRAELI SOLDIERS TO DESERT. IN A LETTER TO BEGIN THE UCCI SAID: "BOTH THE CONTENT OF MATERIAL PRESENTED IN THE KNESSET AND THE METHOD OF STEAM-ROLLING THE BILL THRO' DURING THE CHRISTMAS SEASON HAVE CAUSED US CONSIDERABLE DISTRESS AND HAVE LEFT US STUNNED WITH DISBELIEF." "WE HARDLY THINK IT NECESSARY TO STATE THE OBVIOUS: NAMELY THAT WE ARE ALL OPPOSED AS WE HAVE STATED PUBLICLY ON REPEATED OCCASIONS TO THE USE OF IMPROPER INDUCEMENTS TO BRING ABOUT THE CHANGE OF ANYBODY'S RELIGION," IT ADDED. SOME MISSIONARIES SAID THAT IF EFFORTS TO REVERSE THE LAW FAILED THEY WOULD SEEK SUPPORT FROM THE UNITED STATES. UNQUOTE



DATE: 4.6.78 JOURNAL: OMER (HEBREW VOWELLED & SIMPLIFIED) NEWS ARTICLE

HEADING: "SISTER OF CARTER WILL NOT APPEAR AT MISSIONARY CONFERENCE"

QUOTE : RUTH CARTER STAPLETON, SISTER OF THE PRES OF THE UNITED STATES, ANNOUNCED ON FRIDAY THAT SHE HAD CANCELLED HER PLANS TO APPEAR THIS WEEK AT AN ASSEMBLY OF THE JEWISH-CHRISTIAN "BNEI YESHUA", WHICH JEWISH ORGANIZATIONS CHARGE IS AN ATTEMPT TO CONVERT JEWS TO CHRISTIANITY. THE MEETING OF BNEI YESHUA WAS DUE TO TAKE PLACE ON 8TH JUNE. "I DON'T WANT TO BE INVOLVED IN ANY WAY WHATSOEVER IN ANY DISPUTE BETWEEN RELIGIOUS GROUPS," RUTH CARTER SAID. IN REPLY TO A QUESTION SHE STRESSED THAT THE PRESIDENT HAD NOT ADVISED HER TO CANCEL HER APPEARANCE AND THAT SHE HAD DECIDED ON IT ON HER OWN. "I WILL NOT LEND A HAND (TO A SITUATION) WHEREBY ONE RELIGIOUS GROUP WILL USE ME AGAINST ANOTHER," RUTH CARTER SAID. UNQUOTE

DATE: 5.6.78 JOURNAL: MAARIV (HEB PM IND) NEWS ARTICLE

HEADING: "THREATENS: I WILL TURN OVER MY CHILDREN TO THE MISSION IF I AM NOT RETURNED TO WORK."

BYLINE : YOSEF VALTER

QUOTE : A RESIDENT OF BINYAMINA, FATHER OF FIVE CHILDREN, IS ABOUT TO ENTER HIS CHILDREN INTO THE MISSION AND TO BEGIN A HUNGER STRIKE TODAY OPPOSITE THE HEALTH DEPT IN JERUSALEM DEMANDING THAT HE BE RETURNED TO HIS JOB AT THE HILLEL YAFFA HOSPITAL IN HADERA. THE MAN, SHALOM SALMA, CLAIMS THAT HE WAS SUSPENDED FROM HIS JOB AS A HOSPITAL ELECTRICIAN FOR SEVEN MONTHS AND TO DATE HIS CASE HAS NOT BEEN CLARIFIED. HE IS NOT WORKING, RECEIVES ONLY A SMALL PORTION OF HIS SALARY, AND HAS REACHED THE POINT OF HUNGER. WITHOUT ALTERNATIVE, HE HAS TURNED, ACCORDING TO HIM, TO A MISSION IN THE HAIFA AREA, AND IT HAS BEEN SETTLED THAT HIS CHILDREN WILL BE ABSORBED THERE UNDER CERTAIN CONDITIONS. IF WITHIN 72 HOURS THERE IS NO PROGRESS IN HIS MATTER, HE THREATENS TO TURN OVER HIS CHILDREN TO THE MISSION. SHALOM SALMA WORKED AS AN ELECTRICIAN IN THE HILEL YAFFA HOSPITAL ABOUT 15 YEARS. ACCORDING TO HIM THEY BEGAN TO TROUBLE HIM AFTER THE HADERA POLICE HAD BEGUN TO INVESTIGATE SUSPICIONS OF THEFT OF HOSPITAL EQUIPMENT WHICH WERE RAISED AGAINST ONE OF THE WORKERS. SALMA WAS ONE OF THE PERSONS WHO GAVE TESTIMONY TO THE POLICE IN THIS CONNECTION. HE CLAIMS THAT AS A RESULT THEY STOPPED ENGAGING HIM FOR OVERTIME WORK AND AFTERWARD HE RECEIVED A LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE HEALTH BUREAU INFORMING HIM OF HIS SUSPENSION FROM WORK UNTIL HIS MATTER WAS CLARIFIED IN THE COURT OF THE CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION. IN THE LETTER IT WAS STATED THAT THE SUSPENSION WAS DUE TO DISCIPLINARY INFRACTIONS AFTER HE WAS FOUND ABSENT WITHOUT PERMISSION FROM WORK, AND AFTER HE WAS EVEN FOUND ASLEEP ON THE NIGHT SHIFT. SALMA REJECTS ALL THE CHARGES AND STRESSES THAT HE HAS IN HAND LETTERS OF COMMENDATION FROM HIS SUPERIORS, ATTESTING TO HIS DEVOTION AND EXCELLENCE IN WORK. THE DIRECTOR OF HILEL YAFFA HOSPITAL, YAIR NETZER, REJECTS SALMA'S CLAIMS. ACCORDING TO HIM, HE IS A PROBLEMATIC WORKER, AND THE HOSPITAL MANAGEMENT HAS ACCUSED HIM OF BEING GUILTY OF CARELESSNESS ABOUT HUMAN LIFE. "A NUMBER OF TIMES THEY WERE SEARCHING FOR HIM AT NIGHT WHILE HE WAS ON NIGHT DUTY IN ORDER TO ATTEND TO ESSENTIAL APPARATUS LIKE BREATHING EQUIPMENT AND DIALYSIS WHEN HUMAN LIFE WAS INVOLVED. AT SUCH TIMES HE WAS NOWHERE TO BE FOUND IN THE HOSPITAL. HIS RETURN TO THE HOSPITAL WOULD CAUSE RUIN TO DISCIPLINE. THE CLARIFICATION OF HIS MATTER IS IN THE HANDS OF THE CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION AND IS NOT DEPENDENT UPON US," HE STATED. A SPOKESWOMAN FOR THE BUREAU OF HEALTH TOLD THE MAARIV CORRESPONDENT THAT BEGINNING THE SEVENTH MONTH OF HIS SUSPENSION SALMA WOULD RECEIVE FULL SALARY. UNQUOTE

DATE: 2.6.78 JOURNAL: HAARETZ WEEKEND SUPPLEMENT (HEB AM IND) FEATURE ARTICLE

PHOTOGRAPH CAPTION: MISSIONARY STORE IN ASHDOD SPLATTERED WITH MUD AND PAINT BY ULTRA-ORTHODOX YOUTH WHOSE ATTACKS AGAINST THE MISSION ARE INCREASING.

CAPTION: RELIGIOUS FANATICS IN COURT ON CHARGES OF UNLAWFUL ENTRY INTO THE MISSION HOUSE IN JAFFA, BUT THE LAW HAS NO POWER TO STOP THE STRUGGLE.

HEADING: "THE CONFRONTATION"

BYLINE : YITZHAK LATZ

QUOTE : TO ALL APPEARANCES THE STRUGGLE GOING ON BETWEEN ULTRAORTHODOX CIRCLES AND CHRISTIAN CIRCLES IN ISRAEL IS BEING CONDUCTED VERBALLY BY THE FUNCTIONARIES ON EITHER SIDE. IN ACTUAL FACT, FAR FROM THE PUBLIC EYE, THIS POLITICAL-RELIGIOUS STRUGGLE BEARS A VIOLENT CHARACTER. GROUPS OF THE ULTRAORTHODOX ARE ASSAULTING THE PROPERTY OF DOZENS OF CHRISTIAN DENOMINATIONS/WHILE THE CHRISTIAN DENOMINATIONS HAVE BEEN HIRING OF LATE ARAB GUARDS TO PROTECT THEIR PROPERTY AND AS NECESSITY ARISES TO RETURN SOME "DRY BLOWS" TO THE ATTACKERS FROM THE JEWISH CAMP. THE STRUGGLES ARE BEING WAGED FAR FROM THE EYES OF THE POLICE AND ONLY ISOLATED REPORTS FROM TIME TO TIME FILTER INTO THE NEWSPAPERS. BUT WHAT IS CONCEALED FROM THE VIEW OF THE ISRAELI PUBLIC IS NOT HIDDEN FROM CENTRAL FIGURES IN THE WORLD CENTRES, AMONG THEM POPE PAUL VI AND THE PRES OF THE USA JIMMY CARTER. I HAVE RECENTLY LEARNED THAT EMISSARIES OF THE ISRAEL CHURCHES HAVE GONE OUT TO MEET WITH THESE WHO MEN FOR THE PURPOSE OF BRINGING THEM TO THE MISSIONARY STORE.



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THE CHRISTIAN CHURCHES AND THEIR EMISSARIES ARE SUSTAINING IN ISRAEL. PRES. CARTER (WHO AS IS WELL KNOWN IS NUMBERED AMONG THE DEVOUT BELIEVERS FROM THE BAPTIST CHURCH) RECENTLY RECEIVED IN PERSONAL AUDIENCE AN EMISSARY OF THE BAPTIST CHURCH IN JERUSALEM WHO RELATED TO HIM THE HELPLESSNESS OF THE AUTHORITIES IN ISRAEL WHO ARE FAILING TO PREVENT DAMAGE TO THEIR PROPERTY BY ULTRAORTHODOX JEWISH CIRCLES. THE NEW LAW WHICH WAS RECENTLY PASSED IN THE KNESSET CONCERNING THE PROHIBITION OF CONVERSION AND PROHIBITING PERSUASION TO CONVERT HAS AROUSED MANY REACTIONS IN THE WORLD AND ESPECIALLY AMONG THE WORLD CHURCHES. THE ORGAN OF THE ECUMENICAL COUNCIL IN WHICH THERE ARE 271 CHURCHES FROM ALL CHRISTIAN STREAMS FROM ABOUT ONE HUNDRED COUNTRIES HAS CALLED FOR THE CESSATION OF THE CAMPAIGN OF SLANDERS AGAINST THE CHRISTIAN CHURCHES IN ISRAEL AND INSTEAD TO INVESTIGATE WHETHER THE ACCUSATIONS RAISED IN THE PAST AGAINST MISSION ACTIVITIES IN ISRAEL ARE INDEED SUBSTANTIATED. ACCORDING TO THIS PUBLICATION (WHICH IS AN IMPORTANT FORM OF EXPRESSION IN THE CHRISTIAN WORLD) THE NEW LAW WILL DAMAGE THE FRAMEWORK OF RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN ISRAEL AND THE CHRISTIAN WORLD.

AT THE HEAD OF THE ULTRAORTHODOX CAMP FIGHTING AGAINST CHRISTIAN ORGANIZATIONS AND THE MISSION IN ISRAEL THERE STANDS THE ORGANIZATION NAMED "YAD L'AKHIM" WHOSE MEMBERS ARE CALLED "PEILIM" (ACTIVISTS). THE CENTRE OF THE ORGANIZATION IS IN JERUSALEM IN THE GEULA NEIGHBOURHOOD IN AN APARTMENT OF THREE ROOMS. FROM THIS FLAT THE ACTIVISTS CONDUCT THEIR BATTLE. EVERY EVENING THE ROOM IS FILLED WITH YESHIVA STUDENTS RESIDENTS OF MEAH SHEARIM AND OTHER ULTRAORTHODOX NEIGHBOURHOODS IN JERUSALEM. MOST OF THEM WORK AS VOLUNTEERS. THE ORGANIZATION HAS BRANCHES IN TELAVIV, PETAH TIQVA, BNEI BRAK AND HAIFA. THEIR EXPENDITURES FOR EXPLANATORY TRACTS, GIANT NOTICES, SPECIAL JOURNEYS OUT OF TOWN, TELEPHONE, AND EVEN SPECIAL WELFARE FUNDS, ARE FINANCED BY WELL-TO-DO ULTRAORTHODOX JEWS FROM ABROAD, ESPECIALLY IN NEW YORK. TO ONE OF THE ROOMS OF THE FLAT ENTRY IS PERMITTED TO ONLY A FEW PERSONS. THE CENTRAL PERSON AMONG THEM IS URI, 26 YEARS OLD, FORMERLY A SECULARIST, WHOSE BROTHER IS A WELL-KNOWN IMPRESSARIO, AND WHO SERVES TODAY AS THE RESPONSIBLE PERSON OVER THE WAR AGAINST THE MISSION. IN THIS ROOM TO WHICH ENTRY IS PERMITTED TO A SELECT FEW THERE IS A COMPLETE ARCHIVE CONTAINING THOUSANDS OF FACTS ABOUT THE EXTENT OF THE ACTIVITIES OF THE VARIOUS CHURCHES IN ISRAEL. URI (WHO WORKS AS A VOLUNTEER AND SERVES AS A YESHIVA TEACHER DURING THE MORNING HOURS) DRAWS HIS INFORMATION FROM THE TENS OF "AGENTS", ULTRA-ORTHODOX JEWS, WHOM HE HAS INFILTRATED INTO THE CAMP OF THE OPPOSITION. THE ARCHIVES INCLUDE ECONOMIC INFORMATION, PHOTOGRAPHS OF PERSONS DEFINED AS "MISSIONARIES" THE ADDRESSES OF "SUSPECT" JEWISH FAMILIES WHO MAY HAVE LINKS TO CHRISTIANS, AND EXPLANATORY MATERIAL CONCERNING THE CHRISTIAN SECTS IN ISRAEL (INCLUDING CHILDREN'S BOOKS, RECORDS AND DRAWINGS). THE STRUGGLE OF THE ACTIVISTS IS DIRECTED AGAINST THE CHRISTIAN CHURCHES IN ISRAEL, THEIR WORKERS AND SYMPATHIZERS. THE ACTIVISTS ENJOY THE SILENT SUPPORT OF THE MIN OF RELIG AFFAIRS BY MEANS OF A CHAIN OF EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS KNOWN AS "KEREN YALDENU" (THE FUND FOR OUR CHILDREN). MORDECAI FRISHTIK, WHO IS ONE OF THE SENIOR OFFICIALS IN THE MIN OF RELIG AFF (HIS TITLE: SECRETARY FOR SPECIAL DUTIES) MAINTAINS ARCHIVES SIMILAR TO THAT OF "YAD L'AKHIM" AT THE KEREN YALDENU CENTRE IN THE ROMEMA NEIGHBOURHOOD OF JERUSALEM. THE INFORMATION WHICH FLOWS INTO HIS ARCHIVES IS FOR THE MOST PART DRAWN FROM OVERT SOURCES, FROM PERSONAL LETTERS SENT TO HIM FROM THE EMISSARIES OF THE (JEWISH) AGENCY THROUGHOUT THE WORLD AND FROM THE EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION WITH THE YAD L'AKHIM ARCHIVES. THIS INFORMATION SERVED THE RELIGIOUS PARTIES WHEN THEY PRESENTED THEIR VIEWS ABOUT THE EXTENT OF THE MISSION ACTIVITIES IN ISRAEL. IN THEIR JUDGMENT AND ON THE BASIS OF MATERIAL ACCUMULATED IN THE ARCHIVES THEY MADE THEIR PROPOSAL IN THE KNESSET AGAINST CONVERSION AND ENTICEMENT TO CONVERSION. THE INFORMATION SERVES THE SUPPORTERS OF THE LAW IN ALL THE CONFERENCES AND LECTURES IN WHICH THEY TAKE PART. NAAVA (FICTITIOUS NAME) IS A YOUNG WOMAN OF 21, ATTRACTIVE, DEVOUT IN HER FAITH. DURING THE MORNING SHE STUDIES IN A RELIGIOUS INSTITUTION FOR WOMEN IN JERUSALEM, AND IN THE EVENING SHE GOES OUT ALONE TO ONE OF THE ELITE NEIGHBOURHOODS IN JERUSALEM IN A FLAT WHERE, ACCORDING TO HER, WORSHIP SERVICES OF ONE OF THE CHRISTIAN SECTS ARE HELD. ACCORDING TO HER, MOST OF THE PARTICIPANTS IN THESE SERVICES ARE JEWS. NAAVA IS AN "AGENT" OF URI FROM THE ORGANIZATION YAD L'AKHIM. SHE ALSO TAKES PART IN THE SERVICES OF THE CHRISTIAN SECT. NAAVA TOLD ME: "FROM MY HEART I PUT FAR AWAY EVERY CHRISTIAN WORD OF DEFILEMENT. I AM DOING A HOLY WORK, THIS IS A MISSION. I FEEL THAT I AM CONTRIBUTING SOMETHING TO THE EFFORT AGAINST THE APOSTATES AND THE MISSIONARIES. I OWE THIS SERVICE TO THE RELIGION AND TO THE WONDERFUL PEOPLE WHO SAVED ME FROM FALLING INTO THE GUTTER." NAAVA WAS NOT ALWAYS A RELIGIOUS GIRL. UNTIL JUST TWO YEARS AGO SHE LIVED WITH HER NONRELIGIOUS FAMILY IN THE AREA OF THE CENTRAL BUS STATION IN TELAVIV. TWICE SHE WAS COMPELLED TO ABORT PREGNANCY OUTSIDE OF WEDLOCK BEFORE SHE HAD EVEN REACHED THE AGE OF 18. SHE CONSORTED WITH DILIOUS CHARACTERS, AS SHE DESCRIBES IT, NOTWITHSTANDING



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HER FAMILY'S PLEAS. ON THE VERGE OF DESPAIR NAAVA CAME TO KNOW A RELIGIOUS PERSON WHO PROPOSED TO HER TO MOVE TO JERUSALEM TO A RELIGIOUS DORMITORY. SHE AGREED--AND SINCE THEN SHE LIVES THERE. NAAVA ON HER OWN INITIATIVE MADE CONTACT WITH THE ORGANIZATION "YAD L'AKHIM" FOR THE PURPOSE OF HELPING OUT IN ITS ACTIVITY AS AN EXPRESSION OF HER GRATITUDE FOR HER NEW COMPANIONSHIP. WHEN IT WAS PROPOSED THAT SHE SERVE AS AN "AGENT" IN THE CHRISTIAN CAMP, SHE IMMEDIATELY CONSENTED, URI . . . , WHO IS IN CHARGE OF THE WAR AGAINST THE MISSION IN THE ORGANIZATION "YAD L'AKHIM" AND WHO CONCEIVED THE IDEA OF HER "RECRUITMENT", RELATES: "WE INVESTIGATED THE EXTENT OF HER FAITH IN JUDAISM VERY CAREFULLY AS WELL AS HER CHARACTER. ONLY ABSOLUTE DEVOUTNESS CAN PREPARE A PERSON FOR PERSONALITY-SPLITTING TASK SUCH AS THIS." EACH EVENING, BEFORE SHE GOES OUT ON HER ASSIGNMENT, NAAVA PRESENTS HERSELF AT URI'S OFFICE AND REPORTS TO HIM ON THE EVENTS OF THE PRECEDING EVENING. SHE ALSO POINTS OUT VARIOUS FIGURES WHO APPEAR IN THE PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE ARCHIVES, WHO SERVES WHOM AND WHERE. ACCORDING TO THE ACTIVISTS SUCH AGENTS HAVE INFILTRATED MOST OF THE CHRISTIAN RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATIONS IN ISRAEL, AND SOME OF THEM HAVE EVEN ADVANCED TO THE LEVEL OF SENIOR POSTS IN THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH. OTHER "AGENTS" OF THE ACTIVISTS ARE SECRETARIES IN RABBINIC COURTS. ON THE PAGES OF OFFICIAL LETTERS OF RABBINIC COURTS THERE IS FURNISHED PERSONAL INFORMATION WHICH REACHED THE JUDGES IN THE COURSE OF THEIR DUTIES. IN A LETTER BEARING THE DATE 6 JAN 1977 BEARING THE OFFICIAL IDENTITY MARKS OF THE RABBINICAL COURT IN THE TEL AVIV AREA IT IS STATED: "THE ABOVE-MENTIONED (NAME OF THE SUBJECT OF THE LETTER IS MENTIONED AT THE TOP OF THE LETTER) IS A FATHER OF FIVE CHILDREN, IS SEEKING TO CONVERT TO CHRISTIANITY WITH HIS CHILDREN AND TO EMIGRATE FROM ISRAEL BECAUSE HE CANNOT FIND EMPLOYMENT AND CANNOT SUPPORT HIS FAMILY. SEVERAL MONTHS AGO HE WAS RELEASED FROM PRISON (AFTER SERVING A SENTENCE FOR FIVE YEARS) AND SINCE THEN IS UNEMPLOYED. HIS WIFE COMPLETELY OPPOSES THIS STEP," . . . BUT HE IS ADAMANT. HIS THREATS SEEM TO US MOST EARNEST AND WE WOULD THEREFORE REQUEST YOU TO ASSIST IN THE SAVING OF SOULS IN ISRAEL. IT IS TO BE NOTED THAT THE ABOVE WAS EDUCATED IN A RELIGIOUS KIBBUTZ (HERE THE NAME OF THE KIBBUTZ IS MENTIONED) AND HAS DECLARED THAT ONLY ECONOMIC COMPULSION AND THE ASSISTANCE PROMISED HIM BY THE MISSION ARE PUSHING HIM INTO THIS." THE LETTER WAS DIRECTED TO "HEVER HAPILIM" ON 89 ALLENBY STREET, TELAVIV, AND SIGNED INDISTINCTLY AND WITH THE WORD: THE SECRETARIAT. OTHER INFORMATION REACHES THE MEN OF YAD L'AKHIM BY MEANS OF THE CHRISTIAN ACTIVISTS THEMSELVES. SUCH AN ACTIVIST TRANSMITTED A MILITARY POSTCARD SENT BY A SOLDIER IN REGULAR SERVICE A SHORT TIME AFTER THE YOM KIPPUR WAR TO THE POSTAL BOX OF A CHRISTIAN ORGANIZATION IN JERUSALEM. "I AM A SOLDIER SERVING SOMEWHERE IN SINAI AND I WOULD BE INTERESTED TO RECEIVE THE BOOK OF JOB AND ALSO A COMPLETE BIBLE AND ALSO ADDITIONAL PUBLICATIONS YOU PRINT. WITH ME THERE ARE ALSO SEVERAL SOLDIERS, SYMPATHIZERS OF YOURS, WHO ARE ALSO INTERESTED IN SIMILAR MATERIAL. OUR ADDRESS HERE IS NOT FIXED AND WOULD YOU THEREFORE PLEASE BE SO KIND AS TO SEND THIS MATERIAL TO OUR CIVILIAN ADDRESS. THANK YOU IN ADVANCE." AND HERE THERE IS THE SIGNATURE OF THE SOLDIER, A RESIDENT OF BEERSHEVA. NOTWITHSTANDING THE FACT THAT THE POSTCARD (OF THE KIND DISTRIBUTED BY THE SOLDIERS WELFARE ORGANIZATION) WAS SENT FROM SINAI, ACCORDING TO THE WRITER, IT BEARS NO ARMY STAMP. THAT CHRISTIAN WORKER FOR ONE OF THE CHURCHES IN JERUSALEM TRANSMITTED TO THE YAD L'AKHIM INFORMATION A LETTER OF THREE MEN OF JUDEA AND SAMARIA COMMAND AND THE OFFICE OF THE TRANSPORT HEADQUARTERS, ON OFFICIAL LETTERHEAD OF THE JUDEA AND SAMARIA COMMAND AND THE OFFICE OF TRANSPORT HEADQUARTERS. THE LETTER SIGNED BY THE OFFICER OF THE TRANSPORT HEADQUARTERS OF JUDEA AND SAMARIA AND TWO OF HIS AIDES (ALL JEWS), THE THREE OF WHOM REQUEST TRACTS OF THE CHRISTIAN SECTARIANS. (FROM THE OFFICE OF THE IDF SPOKESMAN AND FROM THE SPOKESMAN OF THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE I WAS INFORMED THAT THE DEFENCE ORGANIZATION HAS NO INFORMATION CONCERNING A . . . LINK OR THE SUSPICION OF A LINK BETWEEN DEFENCE PERSONNEL OR SOLDIERS AND MISSIONARY ORGANIZATIONS.)

SEVERAL OF THE CHRISTIAN SECTS IN ISRAEL IN WHICH JEWS ARE ALSO ACTIVE FORBID THEIR MEMBERS TO SERVE IN THE IDF. A JEWISH YOUTH (WHOSE NAME IS HELD IN THE EDITOR'S OFFICE) WHO HAD BEGUN TO PARTICIPATE IN THE WORSHIP OF THE SECT AROUND THE TIME OF HIS RECRUITMENT INTO IDF REFUSED UPON ENLISTMENT TO DON A UNIFORM. THE ARMY WAS ABOUT TO RELEASE HIM FROM SERVICE ACCOMPANIED BY DOCUMENTS INDICATING PSYCHIATRIC DEFICIENCY, BUT THE YOUNG MAN'S PARENTS TOOK GREAT PAINS TO PREVENT THE DISCHARGE OF THEIR SON FROM THE IDF. THE YOUNG MAN SENT OFF LETTERS TO THE MILITARY AUTHORITIES, THE CHIEF RABBI AND EVEN TO THE YAD L'AKHIM PEOPLE. IN THEIR LETTERS THE PARENTS CLAIMED THAT THE SOUL OF THE YOUNG MAN WAS "STOLEN" BY CHRISTIAN SEDUCERS, AND IF THEIR SON WERE DISCHARGED FROM THE IDF THE DISGRACE WOULD PURSUE HIM TO THE END OF HIS DAYS, EVEN BEYOND THE STAGE WHEN, AS THEY BELIEVED, HE WOULD BECOME DISENCHANCED WITH HIS NEW FAITH. DESPITE THE EFFORTS OF HIS PARENTS THE YOUNG MAN WAS DISCHARGED FINALLY FROM THE IDF--QUIETLY. THE MILITARY



AUTHORITIES DID NOT WISH TO PROVIDE IDEAS FOR THE VARIOUS CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTORS.

IN THE ARCHIVES OF "YAD L'AKHIM" THERE ARE MANY ADDRESSES OF JEWISH FAMILIES WHICH IN THEIR OPINION SERVE AS AGENTS OF THE MISSION. S.K. IS RECORDED IN ONE OF THE FILES AS A JEW, "AN APOSTATE WHO HELPS CHRISTIANS RECRUIT JEWS INTO THEIR SERVICE." IN A TELEPHONE CONVERSATION WITH S.K. HE TOLD ME THAT HE IS AWARE THAT HE IS ON TARGET OF THE YAD L'AKHIM PEOPLE, BUT ALL HE DOES IS ORGANIZE TRIPS OF SEMINARIES ABROAD WHO COME TO TOUR IN ISRAEL. IS EVERY CHRISTIAN HOST AN "OFFENDER" IN THE EYES OF THE ACTIVISTS? ARE THE ARCHIVES OVERFLOWING WITH DETAILS ABOUT MISSIONIZING WHICH ACTUALLY DOES NOT EXIST? URI: "ALL THE INFORMATION IS CHECKED AND IS RELIABLE. THE LAND OF ISRAEL HAS BECOME A WIDE OPEN FIELD PURCHASERS OF FAITH WITH MONEY."

JOHN LINDSAY, ONE OF THE HEADS OF THE BAPTISTS IN ISRAEL, WHOSE NAME AND THE NAME OF HIS PEOPLE APPEAR AT LENGTH IN THE ACTIVISTS' FILES SAYS: "WHAT DO THEY WANT OF OUR LIVES? WE HAVE NEVER CHANGED ANYONE'S RELIGION. WE HAVE NO INTEREST TO BUY SOULS, AS THEY ACCUSE US. TRUE, JEWS TAKE PART IN OUR WORSHIP, BUT THE MATTER IS QUITE COMPATIBLE WITH THE PRINCIPLES OF OUR FAITH CONCERNING THE LOVE OF MAN, WITHOUT ANY CONNECTION TO HIS RELIGION." AVRAHAM, A JEWISH STUDENT OF 30 YEARS AGE FROM JERUSALEM IS ONE OF THE BAPTIST ACTIVISTS IN JERUSALEM AND A REGULAR PARTICIPANT IN THEIR WORSHIP SERVICES. "SOMEONE DISCLOSED MY IDENTITY AND MY NEW FAITH. SINCE THEN THE TELEPHONE DOESN'T STOP RINGING. I HEAR THREATS IN THREE LANGUAGES. THEY THREATEN ME THAT IF I DON'T STOP CONSORTING WITH THE BAPTISTS SOMEONE WILL TAKE CARE TO PUT AN END TO MY LIFE. I'M NOT AFRAID. NO ONE WILL TELL ME IN THE STATE OF ISRAEL TODAY WHETHER I SHOULD BELIEVE IN THIS OR THAT. I KNOW EXACTLY WHO IS THREATENING ME BUT I HAVE NO LEGAL PROOFS. WHAT IS INTERESTING IS THAT THEY KNOW EXACTLY WHEN AND HOW I PARTICIPATE WITH THE BAPTISTS <sup>SPECIAL</sup> IN ALL MY PRAYERS." URI ADMITS THAT HIS ORGANIZATION FROM TIME TO TIME ORGANIZES "PROJECTS" SUCH AS DEMONSTRATIONS OPPOSITE THE FLATS OF JEWS WHO ARE "SUSPECT" OF TIES WITH CHRISTIAN CHURCHES. BUT ACCORDING TO HIM THE YAD L'AKHIM ACTIVISTS HAVE NEVER TAKEN PART IN VIOLENT OR ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES. "THE INTERESTING THING IS THAT THE SECTS ARE SO AT ODDS WITH ONE ANOTHER THAT THEY ACTUALLY FIGHT PHYSICALLY WITH ONE ANOTHER," SAYS URI, "AND ALWAYS THE ACCUSATIONS FALL UPON THE (JEWISH) RELIGIOUS, AS IF WE HAD AN ARMY OF OUR OWN."

LAST OCTOBER ULTRAORTHODOX JEWS DISGUISED AS "HIPPIES" ATTACKED MEMBERS OF THE "EMMANUEL" SECT IN ROSH PINA AND DESTROYED THE HOUSE IN WHICH THEY HAD LIVED TEMPORARILY. TO A JOURNALIST WHO CAME TO INTERVIEW THEM THE ATTACKERS SAID, AMONG OTHER THINGS, "THESE ARE PURCHASERS OF JEWISH SOULS BY MEANS OF MONEY THAT REACHES THEM FROM THE WEST BANK. EVERY GODFEARING JEW WHO LOVES HIS PEOPLE MUST REMOVE THIS AFFLICTION FROM THE CONGREGATION OF ISRAEL. WE HAVE PROOFS THAT FOUR FAMILIES WHO WERE ROOTED IN THE VILLAGE OF ROSH PINA WERE ENTICED TO FOLLOW THE MEMBERS OF THE SECT. THEY'VE STOPPED WORKING AND THEIR CHILDREN STOPPED STUDYING. ALL THIS IN EXCHANGE FOR A MONTHLY WAGE OF IL 4,000. WE WENT OUT AS A SMALL GROUP TO THE PLACE AND WE STONED THE HOUSE. AFTERWARD WE TOOK CARE TO NOTIFY THEM THAT THIS WAS ONLY A WARNING ACTION. THEY REJECTED IT. THEN WE WENT OUT ON A SECOND ACTION. WE DISGUISED OURSELVES AS HIPPIES AND AFTER TOURING ABOUT THE HOUSE WE ATTACKED THEM." INCIDENTALLY, FROM THE ROSH PINA COUNCIL I WAS INFORMED THAT AS FAR AS THEY KNOW, NOT ONE OF THE JEWISH RESIDENTS OF THE VILLAGE HAS CONVERTED TO CHRISTIANITY WITHIN THE PAST YEAR. IN THE SAME MONTH A HAND GRENADE WAS THROWN AGAINST THE BAPTIST HOUSE IN JERUSALEM ON NARKISS STREET. THERE WAS ONLY DAMAGE TO THE CHURCH CORRIDOR. AN UNSIGNED NOTICE OF INCITEMENT WAS FOUND ON THE SPOT. THE POLICE HAVE NOT DETAINED ANY SUSPECT. SEVERAL WEEKS AGO HOODLUMS BROKE INTO THE PRAYER HALL OF THE "JEHOVA WITNESS" SECT ON LEVANDA STREET, 36, IN TELAVIV, FOR THE THIRD TIME. THE PLACE WAS COMPLETELY WRECKED. ALTHO' THE SECT MEMBERS ACCUSE ULTRAORTHODOX ORGANIZATIONS OF RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE DEED, NO COMPLAINT HAS BEEN REGISTERED WITH THE POLICE. NEITHER HAVE THE OWNERS OF THE CHRISTIAN SCRIPTURE SHOPS IN JERUSALEM REGISTERED ANY COMPLAINTS WITH THE POLICE FOR THE SHATTERING OF THEIR SHOW WINDOWS PERIODICALLY. A SENIOR OFFICER IN THE JERUSALEM POLICE HAS SAID THAT THE POLICE ARE "POWERLESS IN THEIR INVESTIGATIONS AMONG THE ULTRAORTHODOX IN JERUSALEM. "WE HAVE NO INFORMATION ABOUT WHAT IS GOING ON THERE, AND IF THERE IS NO INFORMATION, THERE ARE ALSO NO SUSPICIONS." GROUPS OF ULTRAORTHODOX BREAK IN FROM TIME TO TIME IN THE SCHOOLS OF JAFFA UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF THE MISSION, AND TRY TO FORCIBLY REMOVE JEWISH STUDENTS. MORE THAN ONCE IN THE COURSE OF THE "BREAK-IN" THERE HAVE BEEN SOME HARD FISTFIGHTS BETWEEN THE YESHIVA STUDENTS AND THE MONKS, BUT INFORMATION ABOUT THIS HAS NEVER REACHED THE POLICE. ONLY THE NEWSPAPERS IN ONE-COLUMN STORIES HAS HAD REFERENCE TO THESE INCIDENTS. THERE HAVE BEEN FIST-FIGHTS MORE THAN ONCE IN THE ABSORPTION CENTRES IN CARMIEL, AND IN MEVASERET TSION. THOSE AMONG THE NEW IMMIGRANTS SYMPATHETIC TO CHRISTIAN WORSHIP HAVE REFUSED TO CEASE FROM THE WORSHIP AT THE DEMAND



OF THE YESHIVA STUDENTS WHO CAME TO THE ABSORPTION CENTRES TO PUT A STOP TO IT. AN ILLUSTRATION OF THE RITES: SETTING UP A CHRISTMAS TREE AT CHRISTMAS. IN NEW YORK THERE WAS RECENTLY SET UP AN ORGANIZATION BY NAME OF "ISRAELIS FOR CHRISTIANS". MOST OF ITS MEMBERS ARE ISRAELI EMIGRANTS. THEY REQUEST JEWS SEEKING TO COME TO ISRAEL ON ALIYA TO BRING WITH THEM TO ISRAEL TRACTS EXPLAINING THE CHRISTIAN IDEA. THE MOTIVE IS NOT CLEAR. RECENTLY, THE MAIN CHRISTIAN DENOMINATIONS IN ISRAEL, ESPECIALLY IN JERUSALEM, HAVE APPROACHED PRIVATE WATCHMEN SERVICES TO HIRE WATCHMEN TO PROTECT THEIR INSTITUTIONS. IN THE REQUESTS IT IS SPECIFICALLY STATED THAT THE WATCHMEN MUST BE MEMBERS OF THE RELIGION OF ISLAM. AT THE END OF FEBRUARY A DELEGATION OF CHRISTIANS FROM ISRAEL WENT OUT TO WEST EUROPE IN ORDER TO ENLIST SUPPORT INTERNATIONALLY AGAINST THE OPERATION OF THE NEW LAW AGAINST CONVERTS. THE DELEGATION WHOSE MEMBERS CONSISTED OF AN ANGLICAN PRIEST, A LUTHERAN PRIEST, AND A CATHOLIC PRIEST, MET WITH THE POPE AND STRESSED TO HIM THE DANGERS THREATENING THE LIBERTY OF THEIR TINY COMMUNITY OF CHRISTIANS IN ISRAEL AND TO THE RELATIONSHIPS EXISTING BETWEEN CHRISTIANS AND JEWS IN ISRAEL. ON THE OTHER HAND, THE YAD L'AKHIM ORGANIZATION THIS WEEK EXPRESSED SUPPORT FOR THE DEMAND OF THE UCCI (WHICH REPRESENTS THE MISSION ORGANIZATIONS) TO SET UP AN INTERNATIONAL INVESTIGATIVE COMMISSION WHICH SHOULD INVESTIGATE THE MATTER OF CONVERSIONS IN ISRAEL. "THE CHARGES MADE BY THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE MISSION ABOUT ALLEGED PERSECUTION OF CHRISTIANS IS NOTHING BUT A SMOKESCREEN," SAID ONE OF THE ACTIVIST LEADERS. UNQUOTE

SUBJECT 3: JERUSALEM : MAYOR

DATE: 31.5.78 JOURNAL: JERUSALEM POST NEWS ARTICLE

HEADING: "KOLLEK DENIES RECEIVING INVITATION TO VISIT POPE"

BYLINE : ABRAHAM RABINOVICH

QUOTE: MAYOR TEDDY KOLLEK YESTERDAY DENIED THAT HE HAD RECEIVED AN INVITATION TO VISIT POPE PAUL VI BUT REPORTS PERSISTED IN INFORMED CIRCLES THAT SUCH A VISIT WAS IN THE OFFING. "I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT A VISIT," SAID KOLLEK. IT WAS LEARNED HOWEVER THAT KOLLEK RECENTLY HAD INDIRECT CONTACT WITH THE POPE THRO' A PROMINENT PROTESTANT THEOLOGIAN WHO ATTENDED LAST MONTH'S MEETING OF THE JERUSALEM COMMITTEE. KOLLEK AND THE THEOLOGIAN, A PERSONAL FRIEND OF THE POPE'S, DISCUSSED TWO ITEMS WHICH HAD APPEARED IN THE JERUSALEM POST (DURING THE COMMITTEE MEETING) KING HUSSEIN'S AUDIENCE WITH THE POPE AND THE KING'S STATEMENT ABOUT THE "FLAGELLATION OF JERUSALEM", AND A REPORT IN THE LONDON TIMES ABOUT THE DECLINING CHRISTIAN POPULATION IN JERUSALEM. WHEN THE THEOLOGIAN SAID IT WAS UNFAIR THAT THE POSITIVE ASPECTS OF UNITED JERUSALEM WENT UNREPORTED, KOLLEK ASKED HIM TO BRING THESE ASPECTS TO THE POPE'S ATTENTION. THE MAYOR THEN PREPARED A MEMORANDUM ALONG THESE LINES WHICH THE THEOLOGIAN PASSED ON TO THE POPE IN A SUBSEQUENT MEETING. ACCORDING TO REPORTS RECEIVED IN JERUSALEM, THE POPE EXPRESSED HIMSELF FAVOURABLY ON THE FACTS PRESENTED TO HIM. KOLLEK HAD TOLD THE THEOLOGIAN THAT HE WOULD LIKE TO HAVE AN AUDIENCE WITH THE POPE TO BALANCE THE VIEW ON JERUSALEM PRESENTED BY HUSSEIN AND OTHER ARAB PERSONALITIES. AS OF YESTERDAY, HOWEVER, KOLLEK HAD RECEIVED NO OFFICIAL INDICATION THAT SUCH AN INVITATION WAS FORTHCOMING. THE MAYOR IS TO DEPART ON AN OFFICIAL VISIT TO PARIS NEXT WEEK.

UNQUOTE

SUBJECT 4: MISCELLANEOUS

DATE: 10.2.78 JOURNAL: BUFFALO JEWISH REVIEW (BUFFALO NEW YORK) FEATURE ARTICLE

HEADING: "SOME OF ISRAEL'S CHRISTIAN GROUPS ARE 'MINORITIES THREE-TIMES-OVER'"

BYLINE : ROBERT D. KAPLAN, (FROM W.Z.O.)

NOTE : ARTICLE ABOUT MIN OF RELIG AFFAIRS ACTIVITIES ON BEHALF OF CHRISTIAN COMMUNITIES IN ISRAEL AS PUBLISHED IN MANY PERIODICALS (AS PREVIOUSLY TRANSCRIBED IN SELECTIONS).

END TRANSCRIPTION 8.6.78/mb