

SUBJECT 1: MESSIANIC JEWS IN RISHON LETZION

DATE: 18.6.78 JOURNAL: YEDIOT AKHRONOT (HEBREW PM INDEPENDENT) NEWS ITEM

HEADING: "CLASH WITH 'MESSIANIC JEWS' PREVENTED"

BYLINE: ARYE EGOZI, CORRESPONDENT "YEDIOT AKHRONOT"

QUOTE: SWIFT POLICE ACTION YESTERDAY PREVENTED A VIOLENT CLASH BETWEEN ULTRA-ORTHODOX JEWS AND BETWEEN MEMBERS OF THE SECT OF "THE MESSIANIC JEWS" IN RISHON LETZION. A NUMBER OF THE SECT MEMBERS HAD ASSEMBLED YESTERDAY MORNING FOR PRAYER IN A PRIVATE HOUSE IN THE SHIKUN HAMIZRAH IN RISHON LETZION. A SHORT TIME AFTER THE COMMENCEMENT OF WORSHIP, ULTRA-ORTHODOX JEWS ARRIVED AT THE PLACE, WHO WERE RESIDENTS OF A NEARBY NEIGHBOURHOOD. THE ULTRA-ORTHODOX BEGAN TO CONDUCT GROUP PRAYER IN THE FRONT OF THE HOUSE, AND AFTERWARDS COMMENCED DANCING. THE SECT MEMBERS DID NOT DISCONTINUE THEIR WORSHIP, AND SEVERAL OF THE ULTRAORTHODOX ENTERED INTO THE HOUSE, IN THE COURSE OF WHICH A FLOWER-POT WHICH STOOD ON THE PORCH WAS BROKEN. TEMPER FLARED, AND THERE FOLLOWED A SHARP EXCHANGE OF WORDS (BETWEEN THE TWO GROUPS). NEIGHBOURS CALLED THE POLICE, AND A POLICE FORCE ARRIVING ON THE SCENE PACIFIED THE SITUATION. UNQUOTE

DATE: 18.6.78 JOURNAL: MAARIV (HEB PM IND) NEWS ITEM

HEADING: "ULTRA-ORTHODOX BREAK INTO FLAT IN ORDER TO PREVENT 'MESSIANIC SECT' PRAYER"

BYLINE: M. ROSENBLUM

QUOTE: A NUMBER OF ULTRAORTHODOX JEWS FROM SHIKUN HAMIZRAKH IN RISHON LETZION BROKE INTO THE FLAT OF ARTHUR GOLDBERG YESTERDAY. THE LATTER IDENTIFIES HIMSELF WITH THE MESSIANIC JEWISH SECT. BY SINGING AND DANCING THEY TRIED TO PREVENT THE OWNER OF THE FLAT AND SEVERAL OF HIS COMPANIONS TO WORSHIP ACCORDING TO THEIR BELIEF. IN THE COURSE OF THE DANCING, THEY CAUSED DAMAGE TO THE FLAT. THE RISHON LETZION POLICE WERE CALLED TO THE SCENE AND EMPTIED THE FLAT OF ITS UNINVITED GUESTS. NO ONE WAS ARRESTED BECAUSE OF THE SANCTITY OF THE SABBATH, BUT SEVERAL OF THE ULTRAORTHODOX WERE INVITED TO APPEAR TODAY FOR POLICE INVESTIGATION. UNQUOTE

DATE: 22.6.78 JOURNAL: ALHAIMISHMAR (HEB PM MAPAM) NEWS ARTICLE

HEADING: "PROTEST AGAINST ATTACK ON 'MESSIANIC JEWS'"

QUOTE: THE PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE OF THE UCCI YESTERDAY PROTESTED THE ATTACK AGAINST "MESSIANIC JEWS" WHICH WAS CONDUCTED LAST SABBATH IN RISHON LETZION. THE PROTEST WAS SOUNDED AT A PRESS CONFERENCE IN TELAVIV AT BEIT SOKOLOV. REVEREND ROY KREIDER, REPRESENTING THE UNITED ALLIANCE OF MESSIANISTS IN ISRAEL AND THE LIAISON COMMITTEE OF THE ALLIANCE, PRESENTED A LETTER WRITTEN IN ENGLISH WHICH HAD BEEN SENT BY THE ALLIANCE TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE STATE OF ISRAEL, IN WHICH THERE WAS A PROTEST ABOUT THE ATTACK IN RISHON LETZION. IN THE LETTER TO THE PRESIDENT IT WAS STATED, AMONG OTHER THINGS, THAT IN AN APPEAL MADE TO THE PREVIOUS PRESIDENT ON 29 DECEMBER OF LAST YEAR IT HAD BEEN STATED THAT THE LAW AGAINST RELIGIOUS ENTICEMENT WAS LIABLE TO ENDANGER SMALL COMMUNITIES WHICH CANNOT DEFEND THEMSELVES. IT WAS FURTHER STATED THAT WITHIN THE PAST SIX MONTHS SINCE THE PASSAGE OF THE LAW IN THE KNESSET, THERE HAVE OCCURRED INCIDENTS IN JERUSALEM, TELAVIV, TWICE IN JAFFA, IN HAIFA, IN NAHARIYA, AND RECENTLY IN RISHON LETZION. REVEREND HENRY KNIGHT, WHO WAS BORN A JEW, DECLARED THAT THE MESSIANIC ALLIANCE UNITES WITHIN IT TWENTY MESSIANIC COMMUNITIES (PROTESTANT) IN ISRAEL AS WELL AS OTHER CHURCHES AND INSTITUTIONS. HE CLAIMS THAT MESSIANIC JEWS ARE JEWS, ALTHOUGH THERE ARE MESSIANISTS WHO ARE NOT JEWS. THE MESSIANISTS BELIEVE ALSO IN THE NEW TESTAMENT. THE MESSIANISTS IN ISRAEL HAVE SMALL GROUPS WHICH MEET IN PRIVATE HOMES FOR WORSHIP. IN RISHON LETZION AND THE GENERAL AREA THERE ARE ABOUT THIRTY MESSIANISTS, INCLUDING WOMEN AND CHILDREN. REVEREND ARTHUR GOLDBERG, REVEREND BARUCH MAOZ, AND ONE PERSON WHO IDENTIFIED HIMSELF BY A PSEUDONYM (DANNY OREN), ALL OF RISHON LETZION, RELATED THAT ON SHABBAT MORNING, 17TH JUNE, THE HOME OF THE GOLDBERG FAMILY WAS BROKEN INTO BY AN ANGRY MOB OF 150-200 PERSONS. IN THIS HOUSE THE MESSIANIC JEWS ASSEMBLE FOR WORSHIP. THE CROWD MADE AN OUTCRY AGAINST THE PERSONS WITHIN THE HOUSE AND EVEN ATTACKED THEM. AFTER FIVE HOURS A POLICEMAN CAME AND THE ATTACKERS DISPERSED. UNQUOTE

DATE: 22.6.78 JOURNAL: DAVAR (HEB AM LABOUR) NEWS ARTICLE

HEADING: "THE CHRISTIAN COUNCIL PROTESTS ATTACKS ON MESSIANIC JEWS"

BYLINE: DENKA HARNISH, CORRESPONDENT OF DAVAR

QUOTE: THE PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE OF THE UCCI PROTESTED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE STATE OF ISRAEL, YITZHAK NAVON AGAINST THE ATTACK ON MESSIANIC JEWS WHO WERE WORSHIPPING ON SHABBAT IN A PRIVATE HOME IN RISHON LETZION, AT THE HANDS OF EXTREMIST RELIGIOUS SEMINARIANS, AND CHARGED THAT THE INCREASING VIOLENCE IS THE RESULT OF THE "MISSION LAW". AT A PRESS CONFERENCE YESTERDAY IN BEIT SOKOLOV IN T.A. ARTHUR GOLDBERG, OWNER OF THE HOUSE AT 407 HARAKEFET IN RISHON LETZION, AND REVEREND BARUCH MAOZ, RELATED THAT ON SHABBAT THE SEMINARIANS ENTERED THE HOUSE AND BROKE INTO THE HOUSE OF THE GOLDBERG FAMILY.

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FISTS, SHOUTED ABUSE AND THREATS, OVERTURNED A TABLE, THREW DOWN AND TORE HOLY SCRIPTURE, AND THREW A FLOWERPOT TO THE FLOOR, AND ALSO STRUCK THE MISTRESS OF THE HOUSE AND ONE OF THE GUESTS. AN AUTOMOBILE WHICH HAD BROUGHT ANOTHER GUEST TO THE HOUSE, A BLIND TOURIST FROM ABROAD, WAS ATTACKED, AND THE MOB THREATENED TO SET IT AFIRE. THE SPOKESMEN SAID THAT THE LEADERS OF THE RIOTING MOB WERE TWO RABBIS, WHO ABUSED THEM BECAUSE OF THEIR BELIEF AND THREATENED TO DRIVE THEM OUT OF TOWN AND TO HANG THEM ON AN ELECTRIC POLE. THE HARASSMENTS CONTINUED AT NIGHT BY TELEPHONE. THE SPOKESMEN ALSO SAID THAT THE RELIGIOUS EXTREMISTS WERE INCITING THE RESIDENTS OF THE NEIGHBOURHOOD AGAINST THEM AND THREATENING THEIR CHILDREN. THE POLICE, WHO HAD BEEN CALLED BY TELEPHONE WHEN THE ATTACK BEGAN, SENT A LONE POLICEMAN TO THE SCENE, AFTER FIVE HOURS. ON THE MORROW GOLDBERG MET WITH THE COMMANDER OF THE POLICE STATION IN RISHON LETZION AND, ACCORDING TO HIM, HE WAS TOLD THAT THE POLICE WOULD NOT PRESS CHARGES AGAINST THE RIOTERS. IN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE CORRESPONDENT OF "DAVAR", THE COMMANDER OF THE CENTRAL POLICE DISTRICT, LT.COM. ENOSH GIVATI, SAID THAT THE POLICEMAN ARRIVED AT THE HOME OF GOLDBERG AT 11.00 A.M., A SHORT WHILE AFTER THE COMPLAINT WAS RECEIVED AT THE POLICE, AND THAT AFTERWARDS POLICEMEN WERE SENT TO THE SCENE AS REINFORCEMENTS. FOUR OF THE ATTACKERS WERE DETAINED AND THE POLICE WILL SUBMIT CHARGES AGAINST THEM TO THE COURT. ACCORDING TO HIM, GOLDBERG COMPLAINED OF THE BREAKING OF ONLY ONE FLOWERPOT. UNQUOTE

SUBJECT 24 MISSION LAW

DATE: 19.6.78 JOURNAL: JERUSALEM POST (ENGL AM IND) LETTER TO EDITOR

ADING: "LEGISLATION ON RELIGION"

BYLINE : REVD HENRY KNIGHT, FOR LIAISON COMMITTEE, U.C.C.I., JAFFA

QUOTE : WHILST WE CAN SYMPATHIZE WITH RABBI DOLGIN'S SENSE OF FRUSTRATION AND HIS THEOLOGICAL DISAGREEMENTS WITH THE GROWING NUMBER OF HEBREW-CHRISTIANS IN ISRAEL (MAY 7), HIS SENSE OF GRIEVANCE, HOWEVER JUSTIFIED, LEADS HIM TO DANGEROUS AND APPALLING CONCLUSIONS. FORTUNATELY FOR US MORTALS, THE GRANTING OF "SALVATION OF THE WORLD TO COME" IS THE PROVINCE OF THE MERCIFUL AND ALMIGHTY, NOT OF RELIGIOUS PROFESSIONALS OF ANY KIND. BUT WHEN RELIGIOUS ACTS OF DISSENT FROM AN "ORTHODOX" POSITION ARE DUBBED AS NATIONAL "TREACHERY", "LEAVING ONE'S PEOPLE" RESULTING IN "LOSING RIGHTS," A "BETRAYAL WHICH CANNOT BE TOLERATED ANYWHERE" AND WHICH THEREFORE CANCELS OUT THE APPLICABILITY OF THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS, RABBI DOLGIN AND THOSE WHO PROPAGATE SUCH IDEAS ARE ON DANGEROUS QUICKSANDS WHICH COULD SWALLOW UP MORE THAN THE IMMEDIATE OBJECTS OF CONTEMPT. RABBI DOLGIN'S CALL TO USE THE CIVIL ARM OF THE STATE AS A WEAPON AGAINST RELIGIOUS OPPONENTS WOULD NOT BE TOLERATED BY JEWS ANYWHERE ELSE IN THE WORLD, ESPECIALLY IN THE PREVAILING MOOD TO REASSESS RECENT HISTORY. WHAT'S SAUCE FOR THE GOOSE IS SAUCE FOR THE GANDER. THE C RUEL LOGIC OF RABBI DOLGIN'S POSITION IS THAT, IF RUSSIA SEES JEWS OR CHRISTIANS AS "ENEMIES OF THE PEOPLE" FOR IDEOLOGICAL REASONS, THEN IT HAS THE RIGHT TO LEGISLATE AGAINST THESE DISLOYAL RUSSIANS. JEWS HAVE SUFFERED FROM PRECISELY THESE DOUBLE-THINK STANDARDS DOWN 3 CENTURIES AND HAVE ONLY RECENTLY EMERGED FROM THEIR WORST MANIFESTATIONS IN NAZI EUROPE. LAWS BANNING THE DISSEMINATION OF RELIGIOUS VIEWS CONTRARY TO THOSE OF THE RELIGIOUS ESTABLISHMENT WOULD, IN RABBI DOLGIN'S VIEW, BE ENTIRELY JUSTIFIED IN ISRAEL. AND HOW ARE THE PUBLIC SUPPOSED TO REACT TO THESE "OPPONENTS, IF NOT ENEMIES?" IS NOT THIS A FURTHER SERIOUS INCITEMENT, THAT HAS BEEN INCREASING IN INTENSITY OVER THE PAST 30 YEARS, TO HARASSMENT AND THREATS AGAINST THIS TINY MINORITY? HAVE NOT SUCH NEGATIVE STANCES BEEN GIVEN A SEMBLANCE OF LEGITIMACY BY RELIGIOUS INTEREST GROUPS DEMANDING AND JUSTIFYING THE SO CALLED "ANTIMMISSION LAW"—A LAW REQUESTED ON THE BASIS OF UNSUBSTANTIATED ALLEGATIONS OF THE MOST SERIOUS KIND, WHERE THE ACCUSERS ALSO ACTED AS THE JUDGE, AND PASSED THE LAW WITH ONLY ONE THIRD OF THE KNESSET PRESENT AT A CRITICAL POLITICAL MOMENT? THIS LAW MAY YET PROVE TO BE A POLITICAL BLUNDER OF SERIOUS PROPORTIONS WITH FOREBODING SIGNIFICANCE FOR THE QUALITY OF LIFE AND FREEDOM OF CONSCIENCE IN ISRAEL. THE GOVT AT HOME AND THE FOREIGN MINISTRY ABROAD HAVE GIVEN RENEWED ASSURANCES THAT ISRAEL WILL HONOUR ITS INTERNAL AND INTERNATIONAL OBLIGATIONS ON HUMAN RIGHTS, INCLUDING THE RIGHT TO CHANGE ONE'S RELIGIOUS BELIEF AND TO EXPRESS THAT BELIEF OPENLY. ARE THESE ASSURANCES TO BE TAKEN SERIOUSLY, IN PRACTICE, NOT LIP SERVICE, RABBI DOLGIN? IF SO, THEN SOCIAL, CIVIL OR RELIGIOUS DISABILITIES SHOULD NOT FOLLOW THEOLOGICAL OR IDEOLOGICAL DIFFERENCES OF BELIEF OF LOYAL CITIZENS, BE THEY ORTHODOX, REFORM, CONSERVATIVE, MESSIANIC OR SECULAR JEWS. PERHAPS THE AUTHORITATIVE EVEN SHOSHAN HEBREW DICTIONARY (LATEST EDITION, p.1556) COULD HAVE A SAY HERE. MESSIANIC JEWS (HEBREW CHRISTIANS) ARE DEFINED AS: "A SECT OF JEWS THAT DECLARE THEMSELVES TO BE JEWS IN THEIR NATIONHOOD, LOYAL TO THE STATE OF ISRAEL AND CHRISTIANS IN THEIR RELIGIOUS BELIEF." THAT DEFINITION IS ACCURATE OF MOST, IF NOT ALL, HEBREW CHRISTIANS KNOWN TO US. TO CALL THEM "ENEMIES OF THE PEOPLE" IS RABBI DOLGIN'S FANTASY. SURELY MEN OF GOODWILL CAN DO BETTER THAN THAT. THIS IS A TIME FOR UNITING, NOT DIVIDING. UNQUOTE

DATE: 19.6.78 JOURNAL: HATSOFE (HEB AM NRP) FEATURE ARTICLE ("TATSFIT"—VIEWING POINT)
HEADING: "ANTISEMITIC EXPRESSIONS IN CHRISTIAN ORGAN" 3

QUOTE : (YAKHIN) IN THE ORGAN OF THE ROOF ORGANIZATION OF THE PROTESTANT SECTS IN ISRAEL (ISSUE NO.2, 1978) WE WERE SURPRISED TO READ HARD THINGS AND SHARP EXPRESSIONS REMINISCENT OF THE ATTACKS OF "DER STUERMER", THE NAZI, AGAINST JEWS WHO HAD SPONSORED THE LAW PROHIBITING "ENTICEMENT TO CHANGE OF RELIGION BY MATERIAL MEANS". IN THE LEAD ARTICLE OF THIS ORGAN THE WRITERS DO NOT SPARE . . THEIR EXPRESSIONS AGAINST SUPPORTERS OF THE LAW AS IF THEY HAD "LOST THE IMAGE OF MAN" AND THE LIKE. TO OUR SORROW, THESE WRITERS ARE ASSISTED BY ERKING AND MISLEADING JEWS WHO IN THEIR ANTIRELIGIOUSNESS EVEN DEFINE THE LAW . . IN MALICIOUS AND DISTORTED FASHION, AS IF IT WERE "A LAW AGAINST THE MISSION". THE VARIOUS CHRISTIAN INSTITUTIONS ENJOY LIBERTY OF ACTION IN ISRAEL GENERALLY, AND IN THE HOLY CITY JERUSALEM PARTICULARLY, BENEFIT FROM AID AND A COURTEOUS ATTITUDE, AND THIS IS DONE BY . . . RIGHT. THE KNESSET ENACTED A LAW WHICH WILL PREVENT CERTAIN ELEMENTS WHO ATTEMPT TO FISH IN TROUBLED WATERS FROM CONVERTING JEWS BY INVALID MEANS OF MATERIAL ENTICEMENT. IT IS AGAINST SUCH ACTS THAT THE LAW WAS ENACTED. IN ORDER TO MAKE EASIER FOR THEM THEIR LABOUR OF EXTERMINATION ("HASHMADA", probably an allusion to "shmad"—apostasy) AND ONSLAUGHT, THEY ARE CHARACTERIZING THE LAW AS IF IT WERE A "LAW AGAINST THE MISSION". THE MINISTRIES OF RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS ARE OBLIGED TO MAKE IT UNEQUIVOCALLY CLEAR: THERE IS NO SUCH LAW IN ISRAEL. IN THE SAME ORGAN THERE IS MATERIAL DEALING WITH THE EXTENSIVE ACTIVITY AGAINST THE ABOVE LAW, WHICH PROHIBITS/NAIVE PERSONS OF LIMITED MEANS, THE SETTING UP OF A LIAISON COMMITTEE WITH FOREIGN ELEMENTS, THE SETTING UP OF A MONITORING COMMITTEE IN EVERY AREA AND TOWN IN ISRAEL, AND A PLAN FOR THE ENCOURAGEMENT OF MISSIONARIES ENGAGED IN THE EDUCATION OF JEWS "FOR JESUS" AND MORE. IS THERE NO LIMIT TO THESE WORDS OF ASSAULT AND SLANDER AGAINST THE LEGISLATORS IN ISRAEL? WORDS BASED ON DISTORTION OF THE TRUTH AND OF REALITY? WHERE IS THE FOREIGN MINISTRY, THE MIN OF RELIG AFFAIRS, AND WHERE IS OUR INFORMATION SERVICE? UNQUOTE

MISSION LAW IN FOREIGN PRESS (CONTINUED)

DATE: 26.1.78 JOURNAL: JEWISH PRESS (BROOKLYN NEWYORK) ENGLISH EDITORIAL
HEADING: "A WONDERFUL LAW" (Rabbi Meir Cahana)

QUOTE : THE GOVT OF MENAHEM BEGIN DESERVES TREMENDOUS THANKS AND CREDIT FOR THEIR SUPPORT OF THE NEW LAW OUTLAWING PROSELYTIZING BY MISSIONARIES WHO OFFER INDUCEMENTS. THE FINEST ENDORSEMENT POSSIBLE AND THE SUREST PROOF THAT IT IS A POWERFUL WEAPON IS THE PROTEST BY THE UCCL. FOR YEARS THE ACTIVITIES OF THE MISSIONARIES IN THE JEWISH STATE HAVE BEEN A DISGRACE. THE SOUL SNATCHERS USE EVERY INDUCEMENT TO PERSUADE JEWS TO CONVERT. THOSE DAYS MAY NOW BE COMING TO AN END. IN MY ELECTION PLATFORM FOR KNESSET I CALLED FOR THE OUTRIGHT BANNING OF MISSIONARIES. I WOULD HOPE THAT THIS MAY YET BE DONE, BUT THIS LAW IS CERTAINLY A START, AND IT IS UP TO THE ANTIMISSIONARY GROUPS TO REPORT EVERY VIOLATION OF THE LAW TO THE POLICE AND TO DEMAND SWIFT AND STERN JUDGMENT. IF THE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY WISHES TO LIVE IN OUR LAND, THEY HAVE EVERY RIGHT TO PRACTICE THEIR OWN FAITH WITHIN THE LIMITATIONS OF THE SEVEN NOAHITE LAWS. BUT THEY HAVE NO RIGHT TO STEAL SOULS OF JEWS. IF THIS IS UNACCEPTABLE TO THEM, LET THEM LEAVE AND FIND THIRD WORLD SOULS THAT ARE WAITING TO BE CLEANSED AND WAITING TO "FIND IT." IT SHOULD BE NOTED IMMEDIATELY THAT THERE MAY BE ATTEMPTS MADE BY SECULAR NATIONALISTS TO WARN AGAINST CONFLICT WITH THE EVANGELICALS AND FUNDAMENTALISTS. AS ONE WHO WAS AMONG THE FIRST TO SPEAK ABOUT THE POTENTIAL ALLIES ISRAEL HAS IN THE FUNDAMENTALIST CHRISTIAN MOVEMENT, I ALSO SAY: NO POSSIBLE BENEFIT TO US SHOULD EVER CAUSE US TO FAWN UPON AND OVERLOOK THE MISSIONARY EFFORTS OF THESE PEOPLE. WHEN I WROTE ABOUT THEM AS A WEAPON ON OUR BEHALF I NEVER MEANT THAT WE SHOULD ASK THEM OR APPEAL TO THEM FOR HELP. ONE NEVER APPEALS TO THE GENTILE OR TO ANY MAN FOR HELP. ONLY THE ALLMIGHTY IS THE SUBJECT OF PSALMS AND WEEPING. WE DO NOT ASK, WE DEMAND THAT THEY HELP; NOT FOR OUR SAKE, BUT FOR THEIR SAKE, BECAUSE ON JUDGEMENT DAY IT WILL BE THE NON-JEW PUNISHED FOR REFUSING TO AID THE PEOPLE OF THE L-RD. SO THERE IS NO CONTRADICTION HERE. PROUDLY ADVISE THE CHRISTIAN TO COME TO THE SITE OF THE CHOSEN PEOPLE EVEN AS YOU SHUT DOWN HIS MISSIONARY EFFORTS THAT WOULD TURN THE CHOSEN INTO THE REJECTED.

DATE: 1.2.78 JOURNAL: SOUTH AFRICAN JEWISH TIMES (JOHANNESBURG) ENGLISH UNQUOTE
HEADING: "CHRISTIAN CLERGY DEMAND PROBE INTO BRIBE CHARGES"

QUOTE : TELAVIV: PROTESTANT CLERGYMEN ANGERED BY ALLEGATIONS IN THE KNESSET....
(SEE SELECTIONS No. 16, TOP PAGE 1, HEADED: "PROTESTANT CLERGY IN ISRAEL...")

DATE: 24.2.78 JOURNAL: JEWISH FLORIDIAN (MIAMI, FLA) ENGLISH
HEADING: "CHURCH ANGERED BY NEW LAW IN ISRAEL"

BYLINE + GIL SEDAN, JERUSALEM JTA

(SEE SELECTIONS No. 26, PAGE 2, UNDER HEADING: "CHRISTIANS PROTEST...") ALSO A MORE

DATE: 10.2.78 JOURNAL: KANSAS CITY JEWISH CHRONICLE (K.C. MO.) ENGLISH FEATURE
HEADING: "MARKET IN SOULS" (INSIDE ISRAEL)

BYLINE : CARL ALPERT

QUOTE : HAIFA—AS OF APRIL 1 IT WILL BE A CRIMINAL OFFENCE IN ISRAEL FOR ANYONE TO OFFER MONEY OR ANY OTHER MATERIAL BENEFIT TO INDUCE A PERSON TO CHANGE HIS RELIGION. GIVING A BRIBE TO INDUCE CONVERSION CAN LAND A MISSIONARY IN JAIL FOR FIVE YEARS, AND THE PERSON WHO ACCEPTS SUCH BRIBE CAN GET THREE YEARS. IN VOTING FOR THE NEW LAW MK BENJAMIN HALEVY, A FORMER JUSTICE OF THE SUPREME COURT, DECLARED THAT THE ISSUE IS NOT RELIGIOUS DISCRIMINATION, BUT BRIBERY. "JUST AS BRIBERY IS ABHORRENT IN JUSTICE AND EVERYDAY LIFE, SO IT IS ABHORRENT IN ATTEMPTING TO INFLUENCE SOMEONE TO CHANGE HIS RELIGIOUS CONVICTIONS." HE POINTED OUT THAT IT WOULD ALSO BE A CRIME FOR A JEW TO OFFER COMPENSATION FOR A CHRISTIAN TO CONVERT. IT IS NO SECRET THAT THE SPONSORS OF THE BILL WERE ORTHODOX JEWS WHO HAD BECOME ALARMED AT THE GROWING ACTIVITY OF CHRISTIAN MISSIONARIES. ACCORDING TO FIGURES PRESENTED, THERE ARE MORE THAN 30 MISSIONARY ORGANIZATIONS AND 70 INSTITUTIONS OPERATING IN ISRAEL SEEKING JEWISH SOULS. THEY ARE ACTIVE IN SLUM NEIGHBOURHOODS AND AMONG NEW IMMIGRANTS WHO FIND INTEGRATION DIFFICULT. THEY ARE SAID TO OFFER NEW APARTMENTS, HELP WITH EDUCATION, AND EVEN AID IN EMIGRATING FROM ISRAEL. FOR THE MOST PART, THEY ARE SMALL FRINGE DENOMINATIONS. THE ROMAN CATHOLICS, FOR EXAMPLE, DO NO MISSIONARY WORK AT ALL. REACTIONS TO THE NEW LAW HAVE BEEN MIXED. THE POPULAR AFTERNOON PAPER "MAARIV" QUERIED WHY IT WAS NECESSARY TO PROTECT DROPOUTS. WHO WANTS THEM? IF THEY PUT A PRICE ON THEIR JUDAISM, LET THEM GO. BESIDES, SAID MAARIV, IT'S NOT ONLY THE POOR WHO HAVE A PRICE FOR THEIR RELIGION. IN OUR HISTORY WE HAVE HAD JEWS WHO WERE "BOUGHT" FOR A SEAT IN PARLIAMENT, FOR A POSITION IN A UNIVERSITY, FOR A PLACE IN INDUSTRY. LET THEM GO! OTHER COMMENTS: WHY THE BIG FUSS? FAR MORE NON-JEWS CONVERT TO JUDAISM EVERY YEAR IN ISRAEL THAN THE REVERSE...THE WAY TO STOP SALE OF RELIGIOUS LOYALTY BECAUSE OF PHYSICAL NEED IS TO TACKLE THE SOCIAL PROBLEMS WHICH CAUSE THOSE NEEDS, NOT ENACT LEGISLATION...SECULARISTS HAVE ATTACKED THE NEW LAW AS "PERSECUTION OF CHRISTIANS" AND SUGGEST THAT SEVERE PUNISHMENT BE INFLICTED ON ANYONE FOUND GUILTY OF INDUCING PEOPLE TO PRACTICE RELIGION. THE SECULARISTS ALSO DEMAND "PROTECTION" AGAINST THE ACTIVITIES OF THE LUBAVITCH EMISSARIES WHO SEEK, NOT TO CHANGE A PERSON'S RELIGION, BUT TO EFFECT CHANGE IN HIS WAY OF LIFE...A CHRISTIAN SPOKESMAN IS DISTURBED THAT THE LAW OFFERS OPPORTUNITY FOR PROVOCATEURS TO TRAP DEVOUT CHRISTIANS AND ACCUSE THEM OF BRIBERY IF THEY BEFRIEND PEOPLE. ANOTHER CHRISTIAN: WE ABHOR UNDERHANDED METHODS FOR CONVERSION. ANYONE WHO BECOMES A CHRISTIAN FOR FINANCIAL GAIN IS NOT TRULY A CHRISTIAN. BUT YOU MUST RECOGNIZE THAT IF WE TRULY BELIEVE OUR FAITH THE TRUE ONE, OFFERING SALVATION TO ALL HUMAN BEINGS, IT IS INCUMBENT UPON US TO BRING IT TO THE ATTENTION OF OTHERS AND SEEK TO CONVINCE THEM OF ITS WORTH--BUT CERTAINLY NOT BY BRIBERY. AND RABBI YEHUDA MEIR ABRAMOVITZ, WHO INITIATED THE BILL: IF IT IS A CRIME TO INFLUENCE THE OUTCOME OF A SOCCER GAME BY VARIOUS FORMS OF "PERSUASION", IT IS NO LESS REPREHENSIBLE TO PERSUADE A MAN TO CHANGE HIS RELIGION BY OFFERING HIM MONEY AND A TICKET OUT OF ISRAEL.

UNQUOTE
DATE: 24.2.78 JOURNAL: JEWISHJOURNAL (BROOKLYN NY) ENGLISH NEWS ARTICLE

HEADING: "MISSIONARY GROUPS RESENT NEW LAW"

QUOTE : TELAVIV: ISRAEL'S NEW LAW MAKING IT AN OFFENSE TO INDULGE IN MISSIONARY ACTIVITY HAS CAUSED INCREASED REACTION FROM NONJEWISH RELIGIOUS GROUPS SINCE THE AMENDMENT TO THE PENAL CODE WAS ADOPTED LAST DECEMBER. THE LAW CALLS FOR PENALTIES OF FIVE YEARS IN PRISON UPON CONVICTION FOR ANYONE OFFERING MATERIAL INDUCEMENTS TO CHANGE THEIR RELIGION. ACCEPTING SUCH A MATERIAL BENEFIT IS PUNISHABLE BY THREE YEARS JAIL. THE UCCI, AN UMBRELLA ORGANIZATION OF PROTESTANT CHURCHES AND AGENCIES, HAS BEEN CAMPAIGNING FOR REPEAL OF THE AMENDMENT, WHICH IS REGARDED AS THE START OF A MOVE TO RESTRICT THE CHRISTIANS WHO NUMBER 5,000 TO 6,000. THE MEASURE DOES NOT SPECIFY CHRISTIANS. ITS SPONSOR, RABBI YM ABRAMOWITZ OF THE ULTRAORTHODOX AGUDAT YISRAEL PARTY, HAS ACKNOWLEDGED THAT WHILE HE WANTED A LAW PROHIBITING CHRISTIAN PROSELYTIZING, HE SETTLED FOR THE LIMITED LEGISLATION BECAUSE HE FELT PARLIAMENT WOULD NOT PASS A MORE SWEEPING ONE. THE UCCI, WHICH INCLUDES ANGLICANS, BAPTISTS, LUTHERANS & PRESBYTERIANS, HAS PROTESTED THE LAW IN TELEGRAMS & PETITIONS. LAST WEEK IT ADDRESSED TO ATTY GEN AHARON BARAK A MEMO URGING THAT HE INVITE AN INDEPENDENT INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION TO INVESTIGATE WHAT LED PEOPLE TO EMBRACE CHRISTIANITY, JUDAISM OR ISLAM IN ISRAEL. FR KNIGHT FORECAST THAT SUCH AN INQUIRY WOULD FIND THERE ARE PRESSURES ON PEOPLE TO CONVERT JUDAISM. ISRAELI LAW REQUIRES BOTH PARTNERS IN A MARRIAGE TO BE OF THE SAME RELIGION, AND A SUBSTANTIAL NUMBER OF ISRAELIS HAVE SAID TO HAVE CHANGED THEIR FAITH TO WED. FEW JEWS BECOME CHRISTIANS, ACCORDING TO ISRAELI SOURCES, BUT 500 CHRISTIANS A YEAR CONVERT TO JUDAISM. FR KNIGHT MAINTAINED THAT IMMIGRATION & CITIZENSHIP LAWS GAVE JEWS INTRINSIC PRIVILEGES THAT MIGHT BE CONSTRUED AS INCENTIVES TO CONVERT. THE CHURCHMEN IN THEIR MEMO DEMANDED THAT AN APOLOGY BE DELIVERED IN PARLIAMENT FOR "UNFOUNDED ALLEGATIONS & CHARGES" SAID TO HAVE BEEN MADE IN THE PAST.

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ON THE AMENDMENT. GIDEON HAUXNER (ILP) SAID IT COULD NOT BE FORGOTTEN THAT FOR 2,000 YRS THE JEWISH COMMUNITY WAS REDUCED BY CONVERSIONS TO CHRISTIANITY, OFTEN UNDER BRUTAL COERCION. BINYAMIN HALEVY (DMC) CALLED MISSIONARIES "A CANCER IN THE BODY OF THE NATION". SOME ORTHODOX DEPUTIES CHARGED THAT MISSIONARIES "WITH UNLIMITED MEANS" HAD INCITED ISRAELI SOLDIERS TO DESERT THEIR UNITS AND JEWS TO EMIGRATE. THE CHURCHMEN, DENYING THAT THEY EXPLOITED POVERTY, INADEQUATE HOUSING OR OTHER PRIVATION TO WIN CONVERTS, REAFFIRMED A JOINT DECLARATION BY THE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITIES SAYING THAT "BY DISCUSSION, TALKS & LITERATURE WE SEEK TO ANSWER THE INQUIRIES BY THOSE WHO DESIRE TO OBTAIN INFORMATION ABOUT CHRISTIANITY." THEY ADDED: "WE BELIEVE WE CANNOT REFUSE TO DO SO, BECAUSE WE MUST SHARE WITH EVERYONE THE LIGHT AND JOY OF OUR FAITH." THERE HAS BEEN NO OFFICIAL RESPONSE TO THE CLERGYMEN'S PROTEST, BUT YISRAEL LIPPEL, DIR GEN OF MIN RELIG AFF, DISMISSED IT, IN REPLY TO A QUERY, AS A TEMPEST IN A TEAPOT. ASSERTING THAT THE LAW WAS NOT ANTI-MISSIONARY BUT ANTI-BRIBERY, HE SAID: "CHRISTIANS CAN PREACH AND CONVERT ALL THEY WANT AS LONG AS THEY DON'T OFFER MATERIAL BENEFITS." WHILE HE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THE ATMOSPHERE IN ISRAEL DID NOT FAVOUR LARGE SCALE CONVERSION TO CHRISTIANITY, HE OBSERVED THAT IT WAS TO THE CREDIT OF ISRAELI DEMOCRACY THAT CHRISTIANS COULD PREACH HERE AS THEY DO. UNQUOTE

DATE: 24.3.78 JOURNAL: JEWISH ECHO (GLASGOW ENGLAND) ENGLISH NEWS ARTICLE

HEADING: "CONVERSION LAW WILL NOT AFFECT RELIGIOUS FREEDOM"

QUOTE : NEWYORK: THE ISRAELI GOVT HAS ASSURED MR RICHARD MAASS, PRES OF THE AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE, THAT A CONTROVERSIAL NEW LAW THAT MAKES MATERIAL INDUCEMENTS FOR CONVERSION AN IMPRISONABLE OFFENCE, WAS NOT AIMED AT LIMITING THE RELIGIOUS FREEDOM OF CHRISTIANS IN ISRAEL. MR MASS HAD WRITTEN TO PM MENACHEM BEGIN AND TO JUSTICE MINISTER TAMIR TO ADVISE THEM THAT THE LAW WAS CAUSING GREAT DISMAY AMONG CHRISTIANS HERE WHO TRADITIONALLY SUPPORT ISRAEL. "ISRAELI ACTIONS SUCH AS THIS 'ANTI-MISSIONARY' LAW REPRESENT A SERIOUS OBSTACLE TO THIS KIND OF MUTUAL TRUST AND CLOSE RELATIONSHIP & A CONSEQUENT DANGER OF THE LOSS OF THE SOLID SUPPORT ISRAEL ENJOYS FROM THESE CONSTITUENCIES," HE WROTE. MR MAASS ADDED THAT HE FEARED THAT "SWEEPING PROVISIONS" OF THE LAW MIGHT BE "INTENDED TO INTIMIDATE THE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY." A STATEMENT BY JUSTICE MINISTER TAMIR WAS RELAYED BY TELEPHONE. IT SAID: "THERE IS NO INTENTION WHATSOEVER ON THE PART OF THE ISRAELI GOVT TO RESTRICT IN ANY WAY RELIGIOUS FREEDOM OF THE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY OR ANY OTHER COMMUNITY IN ISRAEL." JONS UNQUOTE

SUBJECT 3: MISSIONARY ACTIVITY

DATE: 19.6.78 JOURNAL: "MAARIV" (HEB PM IND) LETTER TO EDITOR

HEADING: "THE MISSIONARIES ARE WORKING IN ISRAEL" SIGNED: S.V. (NAME & ADDR WITHHELD)

QUOTE: THIS WEEK I RECEIVED IN THE MATERIAL WHOSE NATURE I DID NOT KNOW. I OPENED IT AND TO MY SURPRISE I HAD RECEIVED MATERIAL FROM HAIFA—FROM THE EMMAUS BIBLE SCHOOL. MY SURPRISE WAS INCREASED: FROM WHENCE DID THEY KNOW MY ADDRESS. BUT THAT'S NOT THE MAIN POINT. OUT OF CURIOSITY I OPENED THE MATERIAL AND READ IT, AND THERE WAS NO DOUBT THAT BEFORE ME THERE LAY MISSIONARY MATERIAL. I AM NOT A RELIGIOUS MAN (SERVING IN THE REGULAR ARMY) BUT AFTER I RECEIVED THE MATERIAL, MY FAITH IN THE PEOPLE AND IN G-D (sic G-D) WAS STRENGTHENED. UNQUOTE

DATE: 21.6.78 JOURNAL: "DAVAR" (HEB AM LABOUR) NEWS ITEM

HEADING: "SISTER OF THE PRESIDENT AND THE MISSIONARIES"

QUOTE: RUTH CARTER-STAPLETON, SISTER OF THE USA PRES, WAS ABOUT TO TAKE PART IN THE CONVENTION OF "BNEI YESHUA", AN ORGANIZATION WHOSE MAIN PURPOSE IS TO BRING JEWS TO CONVERT. MRS STAPLETON, KNOWN FOR HER ACTIVITY IN THE FIELD OF "SPIRITUAL HEALING", CANCELED HER AGREEMENT TO SPEAK AT THIS CONVENTION AFTER RECEIVING PROTESTS FROM CHRISTIANS & JEWS WHO WARNED AGAINST THE MISSIONARY EFFORTS OF "BNEI YESHUA". "I WOULD NOT WISH TO BE INVOLVED IN AN INTERCOMMUNAL DISPUTE OR TO IDENTIFY MYSELF WITH ANY AIM WHICH UNDERMINES THE EXISTENCE OF THE JEWISH PEOPLE AS A CLEARLY ETHNIC-RELIGIOUS GROUP." UNQUOTE

DATE: 4.5.78 JOURNAL: ISRAEL NACHRICHTEN (TELAVIV) GERMAN NEWS ARTICLE

HEADING: "MISSIONARY HAS TIES WITH 17 FAMILIES OF PRISONERS"

SUMMARY: THE CONFLICT OVER THE ISSUE OF A GENERAL AMNESTY FOR CONVICTS IN ISRAELI PRISONS HAS BECOME ENTANGLED WITH A MISSION ORGANIZATION. ONE OF THE MISSIONARIES HAS HAD CONTACT WITH 17 JEWISH FAMILIES OF PRISONERS IN BEERSHEVA JAIL, PROMISING EMIGRATION FUNDING FOR THE FAMILIES ON CONDITION THEY ACCEPT CHRISTIAN FAITH. A SPOKESMAN FOR THE PRISON STATED THAT THERE IS NO POSSIBILITY OF MISSION WORK IN THE JAIL. THE SPOKESMAN WOULD NOT COMMENT ABOUT THE AMNESTY, BUT CONCERNING THE DISTURBANCES IN THE PRISONS OVER THE ISSUE, HE STATED THAT "ORGANIZED CRIME" LAY BEHIND THE UNREST OF THE PAST TWO WEEKS, BUT THE SITUATION HAS GENERALLY QUIETED DOWN, EXCEPT FOR RAMLE.

MUSIC REVIEW: DATE: 15.6.78 JOURNAL: JERUSALEM POST:

UNQUOTE

HEADED: "TO BE PRAISED" BYLINE: ESTHER REUTER, MUSIC REVIEW. "THE SINGERS OF PRAISE"

SUMMARY: CONCERT OF ELIJA ORATORIO ORGANIZED WITH MIN TOURISM, MOSTLY BAPTIST VILLAGE MEMBERS & 2 GUEST SINGERS. "AND THE WHOLE PERFORMANCE WAS CONDUCTED BY A MEMBER