

DATE: 25.6.78 JOURNAL: HAARETZ (HEBREW A.M. INDEPENDENT) FEATURE ARTICLE

HEADING: "BAD FOR THE JEWS"

BYLINE: ANNON RUBINSTEIN

EXTRACT: (THIS IS A DISCUSSION OF ISRAELI DECISIONS WHICH HAVE AN IMPACT UPON THE STATUS OF JEWISH COMMUNITIES IN THE DIASPORA, AND MAKES REFERENCE TO A SIMILAR ARTICLE IN HAARETZ BY HILLEL KOOK ON 8.6.78 IN HAARETZ—SEE SELECTIONS No. 27 ENTITLED "GOOD OR BAD FOR THE JEWS", 2nd ITEM ON 1st PAGE.) "THE MISSION LAW WAS PASSED IN THE KNESSET HASTILY AND RECKLESSLY AS IS FITTING TO A LAW WHICH AGUDAT YISRAEL DESIRES FOR PRESTIGE. THIS LAW IS DIRECTED AGAINST THE CHRISTIAN MISSION IN ISRAEL, AND THE EXTENT OF DAMAGE WHICH IT HAS CAUSED TO THE STANDING OF ISRAEL IS IN INVERSE PROPORTION TO ITS IMPORTANCE. HILLEL KOOK EXPLAINS THAT NO ONE TOOK INTO CONSIDERATION AT THE TIME OF THE ENACTMENT OF THE LAW ITS NEGATIVE INFLUENCE ON COMMUNITIES OF JEWS LIVING IN CHRISTIAN LANDS....WE ARE OBLIGED TO DISCUSS WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF JEWISH COMMUNITIES EVERY MATTER WHICH IS LIABLE TO AFFECT THEM. UNQUOTE

DATE: (UNLISTED) ISSUE No. 215-216 JOURNAL: "BEIT YAACOV" (HEBREW)

HEADING: "THE LAW APPROVED AGAINST 'BARTER IN SOULS' OF THE MISSION: WHY DO THE ANTI-RELIGIOUS WARRIORS RAGE IN DEFENCE OF 'BUYERS OF SOULS'?"

SUMMARY: THIS IS A LENGTHY THREE-PAGE "REPORT OF THE SPIRITUAL STRUGGLE IN THE NINTH KNESSET" CONCERNING THE MISSION LAW AND REACTIONS TO IT, AND REPLIES TO VARIOUS CHARGES IN RELATION TO THE BACKGROUND OF THE LAW. "A: THE DESPERATE CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE MACHINATIONS OF THE MISSION: WHO IS HERE THE PERSECUTOR AND WHO THE PERSECUTED? AT THE VERY HEIGHT OF THE DESPERATE INTERNATIONAL STRUGGLE OVER AN ISSUE OF TOP PRIORITY, NAMELY PEACE OR WAR BETWEEN THE STATE OF ISRAEL AND THE ARAB NATIONS, THE BRAVE ANTIRELIGIOUS WARRIORS BEGAN THEIR CAMPAIGN OF INCITEMENT, DECEITFUL AND ARROGANT CAMPAIGN OF THIS KIND: ONE OF THE LEADING BELL-RINGERS IN THE ANTIRELIGIOUS CHORUS, WHOSE NAME IS BOAZ EVRON OF THE CANAANITE PARTY WHO FOR SOME REASON HAS CAPTURED A STRONGHOLD IN THE NEWSPAPER YEDIOT AKHRONOT, CRIES "LIKE THIEVES IN THE NIGHT". IN HIS FOOTSTEPS TO ROUSE THE WORLD COMES THE JOURNAL "HAARETZ" WHICH SEES ITSELF AS WARRIOR AND DEFENDER OF THE SECULAR CONSCIENCE IN ISRAEL, AND IT EXPLAINS IN A SCREAMING HEADLINE ABOUT "THE MISSION LAW" WHICH IS LIABLE TO IMPAIR THE CREDIBILITY OF THE STATE OF ISRAEL IN THE WORLD. "A LAW SNEAKED IN BY THE BACK DOOR." AND ALL THIS STAGED TUMULT ABOUT WHAT? FROM THESE PROVOCATIVE HEADLINES ONE MIGHT HAVE THE IMPRESSION THAT AT THE ENTRANCE TO THE KNESSET SOME KIND OF LAW WAS THROWN IN, A KIND OF ILLEGITIMATE CHILD, WITHOUT FATHER OR MOTHER, AN AESOPIAN CREATURE WHICH IS LIABLE TO ENDANGER ISRAEL'S RELATIONS WITH THE PEOPLES OF THE WORLD AND MORE PARTICULARLY WORLD CHRISTENDOM WHICH WILL BE STIRRED UP AGAINST THE STATE AND PEOPLE OF ISRAEL. IN THE FACE OF THIS MALICIOUS CAMPAIGN OF SLANDER, WHICH HAS NOT A PARTICLE OF TRUTH IN IT AND IS ENTIRELY STAGED BY A HANDFUL OF ANTIRELIGIOUS INCITERS UNDER THE DIRECTION OF SHULANIT ALONI WHO IS KNOWN FOR HER STUBBORN WARFARE AGAINST ALL THE SANCTITIES OF ISRAEL, IT IS FITTING TO EXAMINE THIS MATTER CLOSE AT HAND, TO CHECK WHAT EXACTLY IS "THE MISSION LAW" PASSED AND APPROVED RECENTLY IN THE KNESSET, WHAT IS ITS CONTENT AND ITS PURPOSE. INDEED THE SPONSOR OF THE LAW, AND FIRST IN THE KNESSET LIST FOR TORAH JUDAISM, AGUDAT YISRAEL RABBI YEHUDA MEIR ABRAMOWITZ, HAS VIGOROUSLY ATTACKED ON THE PAGES OF THE SECULAR PRESS...THE INCITERS AND PROVED THAT THE WHOLE CAMPAIGN IS NOTHING BUT A BASE LIBEL. WHO IS THE PERSECUTOR AND WHO THE PERSECUTED? RABBI ABRAMOWITZ DECLARES, CLARIFYING THE BACKGROUND TO THE PROBLEM IN ORDER TO SILENCE THE CHORUS OF INSTIGATION. "THE LAW AGAINST ENTICEMENT TO CONVERSION HAS COME TO DEFEND THE JEWS IN ISRAEL AND NOT TO HARM CHRISTIANS AT ALL!" HE PROCLAIMED AND PROVIDED ARGUMENTS FOR THE LAW IN A LOGICAL AND CONVINCING MANNER. BUT THE INSTIGATIONS HAVE NOT CEASED INASMUCH AS THE SECULARIST SPOKESMEN DO NOT RELY ON FACTS AT ALL AND ARE NOT INTERESTED AT ALL IN A PUBLIC CLARIFICATION OF THE DEPRESSING REALITY IN THE AREA OF THE RUINOUS ACTIVITIES OF THE MISSIONARY BANDS, "SOULSNATCHERS". THEREFORE IT IS URGENT TO PRESENT THE MATTER BEFORE THE PUBLIC ON THE GROUNDS OF: LET THE CONGREGATION SEE AND JUDGE. (B) FIRST OF ALL, IT IS NECESSARY TO REFUTE THE MALICIOUS ACCUSATION THAT THE LAW AGAINST ENTICEMENT TO CONVERSION WAS SMUGGLED AS IT WERE INTO THE KNESSET AS IF DONE BY THIEVES IN THE NIGHT. THE REVERSE IS TRUE: THE LAW PASSED OVER A LONG ROAD AS CUSTOMARY. THE TRUTH IS THAT THE LAW WAS SUBMITTED IN THE PREVIOUS KNESSET. NEVERTHELESS, THE PROPOSAL FOR THE LAW WAS SUBMITTED ANEW ACCORDING TO THE KNESSET RULES FOR THE AGENDA OF THE NINTH KNESSET. (THERE FOLLOWS A DESCRIPTION OF VARIOUS KNESSET COMMITTEE SESSIONS) FINALLY THE VERSION OF THE LAW WAS PRESENTED TO THE KNESSET FOR A SECOND AND THIRD READING, AND THE DEBATE IN THE PLENUM WAS QUITE LENGTHY, AND THE OPPONENTS OF THE LAW WHO WERE SO FEW ALBEIT SO NOISY MADE LONG SPEECHES UNTIL THE LAW WAS PASSED. THIS IS LIE NUMBER ONE AND IT IS A LIE FROM BEGINNING TO END....LIE NUMBER TWO IS THAT THE ENTIRE PROBLEM OF THE MISSION IN THIS LAND IS "A MARGINAL MATTER" AND IT IS ONLY THE RELIGIOUS



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WHO HAVE INFLATED THE PROBLEM IN A VULGAR ATTACK UPON THE SPONSORS OF THE LAW THE "CANAANITE" SPOKESMAN BOAZ EVRON WRITES AS FOLLOWS: "HOW MANY JEWS CONVERT TO CHRISTIANITY EACH YEAR? FIVE? TEN? AND ON THE OTHER HAND, HOW MANY CHRISTIANS CONVERT TO JUDAISM EACH YEAR? FIVE HUNDRED? A THOUSAND? AND THIS IS "A DANGER TO THE JEWISH PEOPLE? THE WHOLE AFFAIR REEKS OF GHETTO INTOLERANCE...THIS IS A REACTION NOT TO A REALITY BUT TO PSYCHOLOGICAL COMPLEXES." THE LIE NUMBER THREE WHICH THE SECULARIST PRESS IS INFLATING TO SHOCKING PROPORTIONS IS THAT THIS VERY MODEST LAW WHICH IS SPECIFICALLY DIRECTED AGAINST "ENTICEMENT TO CONVERSION" AND IN WHICH THERE IS NO MENTION WHATEVER OF THE CHRISTIAN RELIGION WILL LEAD TO A WORLDWIDE CLASH BETWEEN THE STATE OF ISRAEL AND THE CHRISTIAN CHURCHES. THE LIE NUMBER FOUR IS THAT THE LAW IS OPPOSED TO THE TRUE INTERESTS OF THE STATE OF ISRAEL AND OF THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL...

(C) QUOTING FROM THE STENOGRAPHIC RECORDS OF THE KNESSET, THE REMARKS OF RABBI ABRAHAMOWITZ: "THERE ARE MORE THAN THIRTY MISSION GROUPS OF VARIOUS KINDS WHICH HAVE SPREAD THEIR NETS IN THE LAND. AT THEIR DISPOSAL ARE INSTITUTIONS AND ADMINISTRATIONS, BUDGETS OF MILLIONS AND HUNDREDS OF ACTIVISTS. THEY ARE BASED AT MORE THAN SEVENTY EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS WITH WELL-KNOWN MISSIONARIES, CONCERNING WHICH THE STATE KNOWS NOTHING ABOUT WHAT IS DONE WITHIN THEM, AND THEREFORE IT IS DIFFICULT TO EVALUATE THE FULL AND PRECISE... OF THE PROBLEM...THERE IS A VAST AMOUNT OF MATERIAL CONCERNING THE ACTIVITY OF THE MISSIONARIES IN ISRAEL AND I COULD BRING TENS OF EXAMPLES AND MANY DETAILS TO DESCRIBE THE COMPENSATION THEY OFFER (FOR CONVERSION), IN HOUSING, IN EMIGRATION, IN NON-ENLISTMENT INTO THE ARMY, IN EDUCATION, IN TRIPS AND STAYS AT MISSIONARY CENTRES IN THE LAND AND ABROAD ETC ETC. GREAT IS THEIR ACTIVITY IN THE SLUMS, IN THE ABSORPTION CENTRES AND IN THE NEIGHBOURHOODS WHERE NEW IMMIGRANTS LIVE...THERE EXISTS AN IDENTITY OF INTERESTS BETWEEN THE MISSIONARIES AND THE ENEMIES OF THE STATE—IT HAS BEEN PROVEN IN THE PAST THAT THERE IS A LINK BETWEEN MISSIONARIES, BODIES AND THE RULER OF LYBIA KADAFI." THE GREAT SURPRISE OF THE SESSION (OF 28 HESHVAN 5738) WAS THAT GIDEON HAUSNER OF THE I.L.P. WHO HIMSELF IS NUMBERED AMONG THE LIBERALS FIGHTING "RELIGIOUS COERCION" EXPRESSED HIS FULL SUPPORT FOR THE PROPOSED LAW, AND FOLLOWING ARE HIS ARGUMENTS: "I OPPOSE THE PURCHASE OF SOULS IN MATTERS OF BELIEFS AND OPINIONS BY ILLEGITIMATE MEANS...IF THERE IS IN ISRAEL ACTS OF CONVERSION BY MEANS OF MATERIAL ENTICEMENT OR OTHER ENTICEMENT, THIS MUST BE PROHIBITED...THERE IS SUCH A PHENOMENON IN THE LAND AND TO OUR REGRET IT IS QUITE COMMON...I KNOW OF INCIDENTS OF GIVING OF MONEY FOR JOURNEYS ABROAD AND ARRANGEMENTS FOR EMPLOYMENT. ACTIVITY TO PERSUADE OTHERS TO CONVERT IS NOT PERMITTED IN SEVERAL ENLIGHTENED LANDS. IN SWEDEN, FOR EXAMPLE, THERE IS NO MISSION...IF IN ISRAEL THERE ARE SUCH PHENOMENA AS THESE, LEGISLATION MUST BE ENACTED AGAINST THEM." AN EVEN STRONGER AND MORE SHOCKING IMPRESSION WAS MADE BY MK DR BENJAMIN HALEVY...."I SUPPORT THIS PROPOSED LAW! I HAVE ENCOUNTERED ATTEMPTS OF THIS KIND AND EVEN TO A LARGE EXTENT, OF THE SENDING OF MISSIONARY MATERIAL AND OF STEPS TAKEN IN ZICHON YAACOV...WE KNOW THAT THIS IS A CANCER IN THE BODY AND SOUL OF THE JEWISH PEOPLE. TO ENDURE THIS IN THE LAND OF ISRAEL, OUR YOUNG PEOPLE ENTICED, THOSE WHO ARE DISADVANTAGED, NEW IMMIGRANTS AND PERSONS WITHOUT JEWISH OR NATIONAL CONSCIOUSNESS WHO ARE WILLING TO DO ANYTHING IN EXCHANGE FOR MONEY—THIS IS OF COURSE SUBVERSION...." FROM ANOTHER ANGLE, BUT PIERCING THE VERY DEPTH OF THE SICK ISRAELI SOUL, MK DOV SHILANSKI OF THE LIKUD, A SURVIVOR OF THE HOLOCAUST, APPROACHED THE PROBLEM "WHILE WE DISCUSS THIS LAW THERE STANDS BEFORE MY EYES NOT ONLY ALL THOSE THINGS THAT I SAW IN MY CHILDHOOD, NOT ONLY THE DEEDS OF DESTRUCTION OF JEWISH CHILDREN, BUT THERE STANDS BEFORE ME THAT PICTURE WHICH I BEAR IN MY HEART IN PAIN: THOSE CLERGYMEN WHO WENT AT THE HEAD OF THE CONVOYS WHICH LED THE CHILDREN INTO THE PITS IN LITHUANIA! ....I PERSONALLY TOOK PART IN ACTIVITIES TO RESCUE CHILDREN (WHEN HE WAS A PARTISAN) AND WE CAME TO A MONASTERY AND ASKED THEM TO CONCEAL TWO CHILDREN THAT WE HAD SAVED DURING AN ACTION IN THE GHETTO. THE ABBOT, A PRIEST WITH A LARGE CROSS, STATED THAT HE WOULD NOT CONCEAL THE CHILDREN, NOT EVEN FOR ONE NIGHT, EXCEPT ON CONDITION THAT WE AGREE "TO BAPTISE THEM AS CHRISTIANS"! AND AFTER THE WAR WHEN WE SUCCEEDED IN LOCATING SOMEONE FROM AMONG THE PARENTS OF THE CHILDREN WHO WERE SAVED IN THE MONASTERIES, THE MONASTERY DID NOT WANT TO RETURN THE CHILDREN, AND WE WERE FORCED TO FIGHT HARD EVEN AT RISK OF LIFE IN ORDER TO SAVE A JEWISH CHILD FROM THE HANDS OF THESE "CHRISTIAN RESCUERS"! I EMPHASIZE THAT WE ARE LIVING HERE IN THE STATE OF ISRAEL IN THE JEWISH STATE! EVEN AS WE SAY TO GERMANY, THAT SHE MUST REMEMBER "EVERYTHING THAT WAS", SO WE MAY TURN TO CHRISTENDOM WITH THE SAME THOUGHT: YOU MUST REMEMBER ALL THAT YOU HAVE DONE TO US THROUGHOUT THE AGES AND ESPECIALLY DURING THE RECENT HOLOCAUST! THEREFORE I WOULD BE EVEN MORE STRINGENT, MUCH MORE THAN WHAT MK ABRAHAMOWITZ PROPOSED, BUT I AM AWARE OF THE PROBLEMS...IT IS CLAIMED THAT IF THERE WAS BETTER EDUCATION THERE WOULD BE NO DANGER OF CONVERSION. TRUE, BUT IF THERE WERE BETTER EDUCATION THERE WOULD BE FEWER THIEVES. WHY THEN DO WE ENACT LAWS AGAINST THEFTS?! (D) MK MADAME SARA STERN-KATAN WHO IS A SOCIAL WORKER INSERTED AN ADDITIONAL TONE TO THE PENETRATING CLARITY OF



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"I WILL SAY SEVERAL WORDS CONCERNING WHAT IS HAPPENING TODAY. THERE IS A PROCESS OF INCREASING SEVERITY IN THE AREA OF ENTICEMENT OR PERSUASION TO CONVERSION...I WOULD ADVISE THE MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE TO GO OUT TO THE SEASHORE IN EILAT OR TO NUWEIHA AND SEE WHAT IS HAPPENING, HOW PEOPLE ARE BEING ENTICED TO GET AWAY FROM THE ARMY, TO FORSAKE THE JEWISH RELIGION...I AM READY TO PRESENT WITNESSES! ALSO IN NEWSPAPERS LIKE "AL HAMISHMAR" OR "DAVAR" FACTS OF THIS KIND HAVE BEEN PUBLISHED. I AM READY TO PRESENT ADDRESSES AND TELEPHONE NUMBERS OF YOUNG COUPLES IN YAVNA WHO HAVE RECEIVED "PROMISES" IF THEY WILL CONVERT. WITH MY OWN EYES I HAVE SEEN "LETTERS OF PROMISE" WRITTEN IN FRENCH, SPANISH AND ALSO IN HEBREW IN THIS STYLE: "WE WILL SOLVE YOUR PROBLEMS OF HOUSING," AND THE LIKE. AND A FURTHER SERIOUS PROOF OF THE EXTENT OF THE MISSIONARY MENACE. I WISH TO MENTION THAT THE GENERAL KIBBUTZ MOVEMENT HAS DECIDED NOT TO ACCEPT NON-JEWS INTO ULPANIM! THIS WAS NOT DONE IN A VACUUM BUT BECAUSE OF BITTER EXPERIENCES IN THE SOCIAL AND RELIGION AREAS." AND A QUOTATION FROM THE WORDS OF MK DAVID GLASS: "I WANT TO CONGRATULATE MK ABRAMOWITZ FOR THIS SECOND PROPOSAL OF THE LAW WHICH SERVES <sup>AN</sup> INTEREST OF THE FIRST IMPORTANCE. THIS IS A RELIGIOUS INTEREST, AND IF YOU WILL, A NATIONAL ONE, WHICH COMES TO PREVENT FRAUD AND ILLEGITIMATE PHENOMENA..." MOST INSTRUCTIVE WAS THE VOTE IN THE CONSTITUTIONAL COMMITTEE ON THE PROPOSED LAW AGAINST ENTICEMENTS TO CONVERSION: FOR THE LAW EIGHT MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE VOTED, AGAINST THE LAW TWO. FOR THE PURPOSE OF REFUTING <sup>IN</sup> AN EVEN MORE PROFOUND AND EXHAUSTIVE MANNER ALL THE LIES AND FALSEHOODS WHICH THE ANTIRELIGIOUS WARRIORS ARE SPREADING CONCERNING THE LAW AGAINST THE ACTIVITIES OF THE MISSION, IT IS WORTHWHILE TO SURVEY QUICKLY THE DISCUSSIONS IN THE PLENUM OF THE KNESSET AT THE TIME IT WAS FIRST BROUGHT IN, AND AFTERWARD....

RABBI ABRAMOWITZ: AT ALL STAGES OF THE DISCUSSION THE PROPOSED LAW HAD THE SUPPORT OF ALMOST ALL THE PARTIES IN THE KNESSET, A SUPPORT WHICH WAS MOST ENCOURAGING TO ME. MEMBERS OF THE KNESSET, THE REPRESENTATIVES OF 95 PERCENT OF THE PARTIES IN THE HOUSE EXPRESSED THEIR SUPPORT ON THE PROPOSED LAW. I WAS ESPECIALLY IMPRESSED BY THE REMARKS OF SEVERAL OF THEM, INCLUDING TWO SENIOR MEN OF LAW, DR GIDEON HAUSNER AND DR BENJAMIN HALEVY....SIMILAR LAWS EXIST IN MANY STATES IN THE WORLD, AND PRECISELY WE WHO HAVE COME TO OUR LAND IN ORDER TO LIVE AS JEWS IN OUR JEWISH SPIRIT AND MANNER, HAVE UNTIL NOW HESITATED ENACTING SUCH A JUST LAW! (E) THERE FOLLOWS CITATIONS FROM THE REMARKS OF MK'S IN THE KNESSET: DR BENJAMIN HALEVY: RECENTLY THE MISSIONARIES HAVE BEGUN TO PENETRATE THE UNIVERSITIES AND EVEN TO WORK AMONG SOLDIERS. THEIR ACTIVITIES ARE SUBVERSIVE IN ALL SENSES...I WILL CITE ONE EXAMPLE AMONG MANY WHICH I HAVE SEEN AND EXAMINED. BUT ENOUGH TO SUPPLY ONE CHARACTERISTIC DETAIL. THIS IS A LETTER TO THE FORMER PRIME MINISTER YITZHAK RABIN DATED 6 DEC 1976 AND WAS SENT BY A MEMBER OF EGGED AND HIS WIFE WHO SERVED IN THE I.D.F. AND THEY ARE THE PARENTS OF YOUNG PEOPLE WHO HAVE NOT BENEFITED FROM PROPER REHABILITATION. THE LETTER CONTAINS THE FOLLOWING PASSAGE: AND I QUOTE: "WE ARE DESPERATE AND THIS LETTER COMES AS A LAST STEP BEFORE WE TURN TO THE MISSION WHERE WE HAVE BEEN PROMISED REASONABLE LIVING CONDITIONS... WE AREN'T THREATENING, JUST STATING FACTS!" THE STATE OF ISRAEL MUST DEFEND ITSELF AND DEFEND ITS CITIZENS AGAINST MISSIONARY SUBVERSION AND TO LIMIT AT LEAST ILLEGITIMATE MEANS USED BY THEM TO ATTAIN THEIR ENDS. THERE IS NOTHING IN THE LAW WHICH IMPAIRS FREEDOM OF RELIGION AND BELIEF, FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION OR THE RIGHT OF A PRIVATE PERSON TO CHANGE HIS RELIGION OF HIS OWN FREE WILL. THE PROPOSED LAW ONLY PROHIBITS CORRUPTION AND CORRUPTING OF OTHERS BY GIVING MONEY OR PROMISES OF MONEY, THE EQUIVALENT OF MONEY OR ANY OTHER BENEFIT IN ORDER TO ENTICE A MAN TO CHANGE HIS RELIGION OR IN ORDER TO ENTICE A PERSON THAT WILL CAUSE THE CHANGE OF RELIGION OF ANOTHER PERSON— AND THIS APPLIES EQUALLY TO ALL RELIGIONS IN THE STATE OF ISRAEL! "

DOV SKILANSKY: IN 1963 THE GERMAN MISSIONARY SECT HEADED BY EMMA BERGER BEGAN TO TAKE OVER JEWISH LAND WHEN SHE PURCHASED "BEIT BRAKHA" IN ZICRON YAACOV. TODAY THIS SECT OWNS AN APPRECIABLE AMOUNT OF LAND IN SEVERAL PLACES. IN ZICRON 32 DUNAMS OF BLDG LOTS WITH A NUMBER OF BUILDINGS, 29 BUILDING LOTS WITH STRUCTURES FOR INDUSTRY, 9 DUNAMS AGRICULTURAL LAND. ALSO IN BINYAMINA THIS GROUP HAS PURCHASED 10 DUNAMS AND STILL CONTINUES TO MAKE PURCHASES. IN PARDESS HANA THEY HAVE PURCHASED 150 DUNAMS OF ORCHARDS, ALSO IN GIVAT ADA THEY HAVE BOUGHT A LARGE TRACT..."

RABBI SHLOMO YAACOV GROSS FOR AGUDAT YISRAEL: THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL HAVE EVER BEEN REARED ON THE PRINCIPLE THAT ONE MUST RESPECT THE BELIEF AND RELIGION OF OTHERS. NOT ONLY DO WE NOT ATTEMPT TO IMPOSE THE RELIGION OF ISRAEL ON MEMBERS OF OTHER RELIGIONS, BUT WE DO NOT ACCEPT PROSELYTES. WHEN A MEMBER OF ANOTHER RELIGION COMES AND WANTS TO CONVERT TO JUDAISM, WE SAY TO HIM: DON'T CONVERT. THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL HAVE TROUBLES AND IT ISN'T WORTHWHILE TO BE JOINED TO IT." WE KNOW THAT IN ISRAEL THERE IS A COMPLETE NETWORK OF MISSIONARIES OF ALL KINDS OF SECTS, BECAUSE CHRISTENDOM IS SPLIT UP INTO MANY SECTS. MK'S ALONI AND PEIL HAVE BEEN STRICKEN WITH FEAR: WHAT WILL THE



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GENTILES SAY? AND WHAT ARE WE DOING OURSELVES? WE ARE PROTECTING EVERY RELIGION. THERE IS NO GREATER FREEDOM OF RELIGION IN THE WORLD THAN IN THE STATE OF ISRAEL FOR ALL THE RELIGIONS AND ALL THE BELIEFS. WHAT IS INVOLVED HERE IS GROUPS OF CROOKS, PURSUERS OF GAIN, APOSTATES, JEWISH CONVERTS, WHO ARE THEMSELVES DOING WHAT THEY DO FOR FILTHY LUCRE AND DESTROYING THE HOUSE OF ISRAEL ..."

WHEN THE LAW WAS BROUGHT BEFORE THE KNESSET FOR ITS SECOND AND THIRD READING, MRS SHULAMIT ALONI TRIED BY ALL KINDS OF "FORMAL PROPOSALS" TO DELAY THE DECISION ON THE LAW. BUT DR HALEMY AS SUBSTITUTE FOR THE CHAIRMAN OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL COMMITTEE PROVED THE ILLOGIC AND LACK OF JUSTICE IN ALL THE DELAYING TACTICS AND EMPHASIZED ON THE BASIS OF PURE JURIDICAL PERSPECTIVES: "THE LAW HARMS NOTHING OF THE RIGHT OF ANY PERSON IN ISRAEL TO CHANGE HIS RELIGION. THE LAW DOES NOT LIMIT THE RIGHT OF A PERSON TO CONVERT OUT OF HIS OWN FREEWILL, NEITHER DOES THE LAW IMPAIR OR LIMIT THE FREEDOM OF ANY PERSON TO EXPRESS HIS OPINION IN PUBLIC AND TO CONVINCE ANYONE IN A PROPER MANNER TO CHANGE HIS RELIGION...THE CONSTITUTIONAL COMMITTEE IS OF THE OPINION THAT RELIGION AND CHANGE OF RELIGION MUST BE FREE OF MONETARY INFLUENCES, THAT THE INTERTWINING OF MONEY AND CONVERSION IS A CORRUPT THING WHICH MUST BE PREVENTED. AS HAS BEEN PROVED TO US THERE IS SUFFICIENT GROUNDS THAT THIS PHENOMENON IS QUITE WIDESPREAD IN THE COUNTRY AND MUST BE CURBED BY THE LEGISLATOR."...SHULAMIT ALONI COMPLAINED THAT THE LAW HURTS CHRISTIANITY, AND DR BENJAMIN HALEVY GAVE AN IRREFUTABLE REPLY: "I THOROUGHLY REJECT THE CHARGES OF MK ALONI THAT THERE IS IN THIS LAW AN INTENT OR PURPOSE OR POSSIBILITY TO PERSECUTE CHRISTIANS IN ISRAEL. I THINK THIS IS A SLANDEROUS MATTER BROUGHT AGAINST THE KNESSET BY MK ALONI. IT IS ALSO A SLANDER AGAINST THE LAND AND AGAINST ISRAEL. THERE IS NO PERSECUTION OF CHRISTIANS...I ALSO REJECT THESE EXPRESSIONS ABOUT "VENGEANCE ON THE GENTILES" OR THAT WE ARE EXPOSING 11 MILLION DIASPORA JEWS TO THE DANGER OF PERSECUTION IN REVENGE FOR OUR PERSECUTIONS OF THEM!" IN THE KNESSET VOTE THERE WERE A TOTAL OF SEVEN VOTES FOR THE "AMENDMENTS" OF SHULAMIT ALONI WHILE THE DECISIVE MAJORITY REJECTED THEM. AND THIS IS THE MOST CONVINCING PROOF OF THE POWER OF DEMOCRACY. AFTER THE VOTE OF THE KNESSET AND THE PUBLICATION OF THE LAW OFFICIALLY (REHUMOT-ISSUE No. 880 DATED 5 JAN 78), IT WENT INTO EFFECT ON THAT DATE. ONLY A FEW DAYS PASSED AFTER THE PUBLICATION OF THE LAW, WHEN IN DAVAR, THE ORGAN OF THE HISTADRUT OF THE 23 JANUARY 1978 AN INSTRUCTIVE AND CHARACTERISTIC ITEM APPEARED UNDER THIS HEADING: "THE PRESIDENT HAS REJECTED AMNESTY TO A TELAVIV PEDLAR--THE MISSION PROMISES TO HELP HIM" IN THE NEWS ITEM THE FACT IS DESCRIBED THAT IN ESSENCE A TELAVIV PEDLAR FIGHTING FOR MANY YEARS AGAINST THE MUNICIPALITY AND WHO HAS ACCRUED VARIOUS FINES AMOUNTING TO IL 40,000, REQUESTED AMNESTY FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE STATE, BUT THE PRESIDENT AFTER AN EXHAUSTIVE INQUIRY REJECTED THIS APPEAL...THE PEDLAR RESPONDED WITH THIS STATEMENT TO THE DAVAR CORRESPONDENT: "RECENTLY AN AGENT OF THE MISSION VISITED HIS HOME WHO HAD READ ABOUT HIS MATTER IN THE PRESS, AND THE MISSION REPRESENTATIVE PROMISED TO PAY THE SUM OF HIS FINES TO THE TELAVIV MUNICIPALITY AND ALSO TO ARRANGE FOR HIM TO EMIGRATE FROM ISRAEL, TO RECEIVE CITIZENSHIP IN A NEW PLACE AND A GUARANTY OF LIVING CONDITIONS!" SUCH IS THE SITUATION IN THE STATE OF ISRAEL. AND LET EVERY ONE BE CONVINCED WHETHER OR NOT THERE WAS A NEED FOR A LAW AGAINST "THE PURCHASE OF SOULS BY THE MISSIONARIES!" (THERE IS ALSO A REPRINT OF THE FINAL TEXT OF THE LAW AS SIGNED, PLUS TWO PHOTOGRAPHS OF CLERGY, THE FIRST CAPTIONED: SHOCKING DOCUMENTARY PHOTOGRAPH FROM THE HOLOCAUST: THE PRIEST IN THE MONASTERY WHO SAVED JEWISH CHILDREN FROM DESTRUCTION AND REFUSED TO RETURN THE CHILDREN TO THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL. THE SECOND PHOTOGRAPH CAPTIONED: "EMISSARIES OF THE MISSION IN ULPANIM FOR HEBREW: FOR THE PURPOSE OF TRAPPING SOULS AMONG NEW IMMIGRANTS AND TO ENTICE THEM TO EMIGRATE FROM ISRAEL. THE YOUNG PRIESTS STUDY HEBREW AS A PART OF THEIR GENERAL EDUCATION--WHAT ARE THEY LOOKING FOR IN "ELEF MILIM B'IVRIT" - A THOUSAND WORDS IN HEBREW.)

THE MISSION LAW IN THE FOREIGN PRESS: (U.S.A. & U.K. IN ENGLISH LANGUAGE)

DATE: 6.1.78 JOURNAL: KANSAS CITY JEWISH CHRONICLE, MISSOURI

HEADING: "CHRISTIAN CHURCHES OPPOSE NEW ANTI-MISSIONARY LAW

BYLINE: GIL SEDAN (JTA) JERUSALEM (AS PREVIOUSLY TRANSCRIBED IN SELECTIONS)

DATE: 6.1.78 JOURNAL: SAN FRANCISCO JEWISH BULLETIN, CALIFORNIA

HEADING: "AIMED AT MISSIONARIES: PROTESTANTS IN ISRAEL CHARGE LAW IS BIASED"

TELAVIV: PROTESTANT CHURCHES IN ISRAEL PROTESTED...(AS PREVIOUSLY TRANSCRIBED)

DATE: 13.1.78 JOURNAL: BUFFALO JEWISH REVIEW, BUFFALO, N.Y.

HEADING: "CHRISTIAN GROUP PROTESTS ISRAEL'S ANTI-MISSIONARY LAW"

JERUSALEM (JTA) A SHORTENED VERSION OF GIL SEDAN STORY (AS PREVIOUSLY TRANSCRIBED)



DATE: 19.1.78 JOURNAL: JEWISH PRESS, BROOKLYN NY (RABBI CAHANA) EDITORIAL  
HEADING: THE ANTIMISSIONARY LAW

QUOTE : ISRAEL RECENTLY PASSED A LAW THAT PROVIDES A PENALTY OF FIVE YEARS IN PRISON AND ABOUT A FIVE THOUSAND DOLLAR FINE FOR ANYONE "WHO ATTEMPTS TO PERSUADE ANOTHER PERSON TO CONVERT TO HIS RELIGION IN RETURN FOR MATERIAL BENEFIT." THE PERSON WHO CONVERTS FOR MATERIAL BENEFIT IS ALSO SUBJECT TO THREE YEARS IN PRISON AND ABOUT A THREE THOUSAND DOLLAR FINE. THOUGH THE LAW DOES NOT MENTION MISSIONARIES BY NAME OR EVEN CONTAIN THE WORD "CHRISTIAN" YET THE UCCI HAS RAISED A VIGOROUS PROTEST AGAINST THE NEW LAW. AN EFFORT IS NOW UNDERWAY TO HAVE THE LAW ABOLISHED. THE IRONY OF ALL THIS IS THAT EVERY NATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND INDIA HAVE TRADITIONALLY HAD ANTIMISSIONARY LAWS. YET THERE HAS NEVER BEEN A PROTEST REGISTERED AGAINST ANY OF THOSE NATIONS. IN THE UNITED STATES TODAY THE GROWING CANCER OF MISSIONARY ACTIVITY HAS MADE SERIOUS INROADS IN TWISTING THE MINDS OF MANY INNOCENT YOUNG PEOPLE. THE MISSIONARY WORK OF REV MOON'S UNIFICATION CHURCH HAS SERIOUSLY HURT MANY FAMILIES IN THIS NATION. THE MISSIONARY ACTIVITIES OF THE JEWS FOR JESUS, AN EQUALLY OBNOXIOUS CULT, CONTINUES TO BE A DISGUSTING BLOT ON OUR SOCIETY. ISRAEL SEEKS TO AVOID SUCH TRAGEDIES. THE LAW THAT WAS PASSED IN ISRAEL WAS A LONG TIME IN COMING. IT WAS FIRST FORMULATED IN 1975 AND TOOK TWO YEARS TO BECOME LAW. IF THERE IS ANY NATION IN THE WORLD WHERE AN ANTIMISSIONARY LAW IS ESSENTIAL TO THE WELLBEING OF THE NATION, IT CERTAINLY IS ISRAEL! IF THE PROTESTORS WANT TO PROTEST, LET THEM TARGET IN ON ANY OTHER NATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST--OR DON'T THEY DARE! UNQUOTE

DATE: 10.2.78 JOURNAL: DAILY NEWS BULLETIN, LONDON, U.K.

HEADING: "CHRISTIAN BUSINESSMEN CANCEL INVESTMENTS"

JEHU SALEM: (BRIEF NEWS ITEM AS PREVIOUSLY TRANSCRIBED IN SELECTIONS)

DATE: 10.2.78 JOURNAL: AMERICAN JEWISH WORLD, MINNEAPOLIS, MINN. FEATURE ARTICLE

HEADING: LETTER FROM ISRAEL: "COMBATTING THE MARKET IN SOULS"

BY LINE : CARL ALPERT, AMERICAN JEWISH WORLD ISRAEL CORRESPONDENT

HAIFA. AS OF APRIL 1 IT WILL BE A CRIMINAL OFFENSE IN ISRAEL.... (SEE PREVIOUS SELECTIONS)

DATE: 17.2.78 JOURNAL: JEWISH TELEGRAPH, MANCHESTER, U.K. No. 28

HEADING: "FINE PAID IF YOU CONVERT"—CLERGY DEMAND MISSION APOLOGY FROM KNESSET"

RECENTLY AN ICE CREAM VENDOR PINHAS GOLAN APPEARED ON ISRAELI TV.....

PROTESTANT CLERGYMEN ANGERED BY ALLEGATIONS IN THE KNESSET THAT CHRISTIAN MISSIONARIES... (AS PREVIOUSLY TRANSCRIBED IN SELECTIONS)

DATE: 7.2.78 JOURNAL: NATIONAL JEWISH POST & OPINION, INDIANAPOLIS, IND.

HEADING: "COMPLAINT OF CHRISTIAN COUNCIL: PRESSURE ON CHRISTIANS TO CONVERT IN ISRAEL?"

TEL AVIV: (AS PREVIOUSLY TRANSCRIBED IN SELECTIONS) "A SPOKESMAN FOR THE UCCI...."

DATE: 24.2.78 JOURNAL: JEWISH TRIBUNE, LONDON, UK FEATURE ARTICLE

HEADING: THE AGUDA'S ANTIBRIBE LAW COMES UNDER FIRE"

SUMMARY: "WHEN AGUDAS ISRAEL LENT ITS SUPPORT TO THE LIKUD ENABLING IT TO FORM A COALITION GOVT, ONE OF THE CONCESSIONS IT GAINED IN EXCHANGE WAS AN AGREEMENT TO TAKE ACTION ON THE EVER INCREASING DANGER FROM MISSIONARY ACTIVITY AMONG THE POORER SECTIONS OF THE COMMUNITY... TAKING THE FIRST AVAILABLE OPPORTUNITY RABBI ABRAWOWITZ PRESENTED ON BEHALF OF AGUDAS ISRAEL HIS BILL TO AMEND THE EXISTING LAW. (TEXT OF LAW CITED) RABBI ABRAWOWITZ IS THE FIRST TO ADMIT THAT HIS BILL DID NOT GO AS FAR AS HE WOULD HAVE LIKED, THE COMPLETE BANNING OF MISSIONARY ACTIVITY, BUT IT WAS OBVIOUS AFTER TAKING SOUNDINGS THAT SUCH A BILL WOULD NOT HAVE RECEIVED A MAJORITY. DESPITE THE FACT THAT THE NEW LAW ONLY MAKES IT ILLEGAL TO BRIBE SOMEONE TO CHANGE HIS RELIGION, THERE HAS BEEN A VIOLENT REACTION FROM CERTAIN CHURCH CIRCLES. THE UCCI SENT A TELEGRAM OF PROTEST TO THE PM ON JANUARY 1 AT WHAT IT CALLS THE "HASTY PASSING" OF THE BILL. SINCE THEN THERE HAVE BEEN OTHER NOISES FROM VARIOUS QUARTERS... THE HYSTERIA ACCOMPANYING THE OPPOSITION TO THE NEW LAW HAS IN FACT LED DR CLAUDE DUVERNOY, DIRECTOR GEN OF CHRISTIAN ACTION FOR ISRAEL TO WRITE IN THE JERUSALEM POST OF 17 FEBRUARY: "ARE THEY FIGHTING THEN FOR THE RIGHT TO BRIBE JEWS?" A THREE MAN DELEGATION FROM THE UCCI HAS NOW ARRIVED IN THIS COUNTRY TO CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE ANTIBRIBE LAW. THEY CLAIM THAT THE LAW IS THE WORK OF "RELIGIOUS FANATICS" (A PECULIAR PHRASE FROM A RELIGIOUS BODY) AND THAT IT AIMS AT "SQUEEZING CHRISTIANITY OUT OF ISRAEL." THE NEW LEGISLATION IS IN NO WAY A BREACH OF INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS OR OF HUMAN RIGHTS NOR AN INTERFERENCE BY THE STATE IN THE PRIVATE LIVES AND BELIEFS OF INDIVIDUALS. IT DOES NOT LIMIT THE LEGITIMATE ACTIVITIES OF CHRISTIAN OR OTHER MISSIONS... (THERE FOLLOWS A SERIES OF EXCERPTS FROM REMARKS MADE BY MK'S DURING THE KNESSET DEBATE ON THE LAW: AARON YADLIN, LABOUR, Y. ARIDOR, LIKUD, B. HALEVY, I.M.C, G. HAUSNER, I.L.P.)

END FOREIGN PRESS



DATE: 23.6.78 JOURNAL: HAMODIYA (HEBREW AM AGUDA) FEATURE ARTICLE  
HEADING: "ILLUSTRATED MISSIONARY BOOKLETS SOLD IN BOOK STORES"

SUMMARY AND EXTRACTS: "AN EXTRACT FROM THE MONTHLY LOGBOOK OF THE DIVISION FOR THE FIGHT AGAINST THE MISSION: IN THE NEVE YAACOV SECTION AN ACTIVE MISSIONARY CIRCLE IN THE HOME OF AN IMMIGRANT FROM THE USSR WHO SERVES AS A LECTURER IN MATHEMATICS AT THE HEBREW UNIVERSITY WAS UNCOVERED. IN A LOCAL PAPER IN AFULA "MAYDA HAAMAKIM" THERE WERE PUBLISHED MISSION ADVERTISEMENTS. IN THE JW SECT CENTRE AN ADDITIONAL SUNDAY CIRCLE HAS BEEN OPENED. IN THE AMIDAR SECTION OF BAT YAM THERE IS MISSIONARY ACTIVITY OF A GROUP OF WOMEN WHO ARE WONT TO GO FROM HOUSE TO HOUSE PREACHING CHRISTIANITY. IN BETHESDA IN HAIFA THERE ARE SHOWN FILMS ON THE SUBJECT OF "SCIENCE AND FAITH" IN WHICH PERSONS OF ALL AGES ARE PARTICIPATING, INCLUDING CHILDREN. THE VIEWERS HAVE BEEN ENTICED BY INNOCENT ANNOUNCEMENTS IN PUBLIC PLACES OF THE CITY. IN A SERIES OF BOOKSTORES IT HAS BEEN DISCOVERED THAT ILLUSTRATED CHILDREN'S BOOKS ARE BEING SOLD UNDER TITLES "THE JUNGLE", "A MONKEY CROSSES THE EQUATOR", "THE GIRAFFE" AND THE LIKE, DISTRIBUTED BY A MISSIONARY PUBLISHING COMPANY WHICH CONTAINS HIDDEN PREACHING. THE ACTIVITY OF THE JW SECT BY A WOMAN ACTIVIST IN THE NEVE JOSHUA SECTION, IN RAMAT GAN, AND IN KIRYAT ONO, IS NOTED. A RELIGIOUS GROUP IN KIRYAT ONO WENT OUT ON A CAMPAIGN OF EXPLANATION AFTER RECEIVING GUIDELINES BY THE DIVISION. ALSO REVEALED WERE THE ACTIVITIES OF TWO ADDITIONAL COUPLES FROM THE ABOVE SECT IN KIRYAT HERZOG AND RAMAT HANE. A CATHOLIC GROUP IS ABOUT TO SET UP A HOME IN NAHARIYA. ELEVEN FAMILIES WERE DEALT WITH WHO IT WAS MADE KNOWN TO US THAT THEY WERE IN TOUCH WITH THE MISSION (IN ADDITION TO ONGOING ATTENTION TO DOZENS OF MATTERS FROM PREVIOUS MONTHS). ANNOUNCEMENTS WERE PUBLISHED IN THE PRESS AND IN THE HEBREW UNIVERSITY IN JERUSALEM CONCERNING A SERIES OF LECTURES WHICH WERE EVIDENTLY MISSIONARY PREACHING. IN HAIFA A NUMBER OF MISSIONARIES WERE REVEALED CONCERNING WHOM NOTHING WAS KNOWN ABOUT THEM, AMONG THEM A WOMAN WHO SERVES AS A NATUROPATH. IN NAHARIYA THERE ARE TWO MISSIONARY WOMEN, ONE WORKING AS A SOCIAL WORKER AND THE SECOND AS A SCHOOL NURSE. THIS INFORMATION IS AN EXTRACT WITHOUT DETAILS WHICH IDENTIFY THE PERSONS AND WITHOUT GIVING DETAILS ABOUT THE COUNTERACTIVITIES OF OURS, FOR UNDERSTANDABLE REASONS. ALL CASES HAVE BEEN ATTENDED TO OR ARE IN THE PROCESS OF BEING ATTENDED TO. (THERE FOLLOWS A LISTING OF "POSITIVE" ACTIVITIES OF A RELIGIOUS NATURE UNDER THE FOLLOWING HEADINGS: "WIDESPREAD ACTIVITIES TO DISSEMINATE TORAH IN REHOVOT", "EVENING SEMINARS", "DAYTIME YESHIVAS", "SYNAGOGUE ACTIVITIES", "CHILDREN'S PRAYERBOOKS", "A SIMPLE TALE OF SOULSAVING", THE LATTER DESCRIBING A WOMAN "WHO IS A DIVORCEE AND SUFFERS FROM PSYCHOLOGICAL DISTURBANCES" WITH TWO CHILDREN, AND THE ASSISTANCE GIVEN TO BRING THEM UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF RELIGIOUS CLUB AND RELIGIOUS WAY OF LIFE, ALSO MEDICAL AND OTHER AID PROVIDED.) END ARTICLE

DATE: 26.1.78 JOURNAL: DAVAR (LABOUR AM HEB)

SUMMARY OF ANTIMISSION PAMPHLET

HEADING: "THE MISSIONARIES ARE UPON US"

BYLINE: MOSHE ZADOK

QUOTE: "YAD L'AKHIM", ACTIVISTS OF THE TORAH CAMP IN ISRAEL, HAVE PUBLISHED A PAMPHLET UNDER THE NAME OF "IN THE SHADOW OF APOSTACY", WHEREIN THERE IS RELATED THE ACTIVITIES OF DOZENS OF MISSION ORGANIZATIONS IN ISRAEL, AND FOLLOWING ARE SEVERAL EXAMPLES: THE LATIN CATHOLIC CHURCH OPERATES AMONG DISTRESSED ELEMENTS, INCITES TO EMIGRATION FROM ISRAEL, PROMISES MONETARY AID AND ARRANGEMENT OF EMPLOYMENT ABROAD, AND EVEN ASSISTS THE EMIGRES TO SELL THEIR PROPERTY. THE FRENCH CHURCH, WHICH MAINTAINS A SCHOOL IN JAFFA, CONDUCTS "EDUCATIONAL" ACTIVITY AND AMONG ITS STUDENTS THERE ARE 300 JEWS. THE SCOTTISH CHURCH OPERATES IN THE TEL AVIV AREA, AND HAS BEGUN TO EXTEND ITS ACTIVITIES ALSO TO THE TIBERIAS AREA ESPECIALLY AMONG NEW IMMIGRANTS. THIS CHURCH INCITES TO EMIGRATION FROM ISRAEL IN EXCHANGE FOR LIVING ARRANGEMENTS ABROAD, INCLUDING EXPENSES FOR TRAVEL ABROAD. THE GROUP OF "MESSIANIC CONVERTS" IS SUCCEEDING TO BRING NEAR TO IT JEWS FROM EUROPE AND THE U.S.A. IMMIGRANTS AND EVEN FROM AMONG YEMENITE IMMIGRANTS JEWS FOR JESUS TRIED VAINLY TO SET UP A RADIO STATION IN ISRAEL FOR THE PURPOSES OF THEIR PROPAGANDA. "THE MESSIANIC CONGREGATION" IN ISRAEL, WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF THE "MESSIANIC CONGREGATION" IN ISRAEL, HAS LED TO THE EMIGRATION OF A NUMBER OF FAMILIES FROM ISRAEL. ALSO THE INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR THE DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY SCRIPTURE ENGAGES IN EXTENSIVE MISSIONARY ACTIVITY. OF ESPECIAL INTEREST IS THE GROUP "HEBREW CHRISTIANS". ITS COORDINATOR IS A GENTILE NAMED ARTHUR GOLDBERG WHO UPON EMIGRATING TO ISRAEL PRESENTED HIMSELF AS A JEW, OBTAINED AN APARTMENT FROM THE JEWISH AGENCY, AND HE ENGAGES IN ACTIVITIES ESPECIALLY AMONG CHILDREN. THROUGH HIM JEWISH CHILDREN HAVE BEEN TRANSFERRED FROM BAT YAM SCHOOLS TO THE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL "TABITHA" IN JAFFA. "THE CHILDREN OF GOD" IS A FANATICAL, HOSTILE ORGANIZATION OF MISSIONARIES WHICH RECEIVES MONEY FROM KADAFI THE RULER OF LIBYA. THIS ORGANIZATION HAS SUCCEEDED IN CAUSING THE APOSTACY OF



7.  
A NUMBER OF YOUNG PEOPLE WHO EMIGRATED WITH THEIR AID FROM ISRAEL. THE ORGANIZATION OF EMMA BERGER THE GERMAN WOMAN HAS BOUGHT MANY BUILDINGS AND HUNDREDS OF DUNAMS OF LAND IN SEVEN CITIES OF THE LAND WHICH SERVE AS HOSTELS FOR JEWS WHERE THEY ARE OFFERED CONVERSION TO CHRISTIANITY AND EMIGRATION FROM ISRAEL. EMMA BERGER ALSO MAINTAINS A REST HOME BY NAME OF BETHEL IN NAHARIYA WHICH IS DESIGNED TO SERVE VICTIMS OF THE NAZIS, AND ALSO THERE MISSIONARY ACTIVITY IS CONDUCTED. UNQUOTE

SUBJECT 4: MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

DATE: 9.6.78 JOURNAL: JERUSALEM POST (ENGL AM IND) FEATURE ARTICLE  
HEADING: "MORMON ROOTS IN JERUSALEM" PHOTOGRAPH: JAN K. TURNER, A MORMON DAIRY  
BYLINE: ALEXANDER ZVIELLI FARMER FROM UTAH & A RELATIVE OF  
EXTRACTS: THE MORMONS ARE ISRAEL'S DEVOTED ORSON HYDE, PLANTS A TREE MT OLIVES.  
FRIENDS AND WE MAY RELY ON THEIR SUPPORT, RALPH MONTGOMERY, A DISTINGUISHED UTAH ROTAR-  
IAN, TOLD THE JERUSALEM ROTARY CLUB LAST WED. HE WAS HERE AS ONE OF SIX MEMBERS OF A  
ROTARY EXCHANGE GROUP. THE VISITORS PLANTED TREES IN THE ORSON HYDE MEMORIAL GARDENS  
IN THE MT OF OLIVES. THE GARDENS...WERE DEDICATED BY US.MORMON LEADERS LAST JANUARY.  
THE 21-DUNAM TRACT IS NAMED IN MEMORY OF ONE OF THE QUORUM OF THE 12 APOSTLES OF THE  
CHURCH OF LATTER DAY SAINTS, KNOWN AS THE MORMON CHURCH. HYDE CAME TO JERUSALEM ON  
OCT 24, 1841, DEDICATED THE COUNTRY "TO THE INGATHERING OF THE JEWS" AND OFFERED A  
PRAYER ON THE MT OF OLIVES CALLING FOR THE REBUILDING OF JERUSALEM. THE GARDENS WILL  
INCLUDE OBSERVATION POINTS AND A SMALL AMPHITHEATRE WHERE HYDE'S PRAYER WILL BE INSCRIBED  
ON A PLAQUE IN ARABIC, ENGLISH AND HEBREW. THE VISITORS STRESSED THAT THE 3.5 MILLION  
AMERICAN MORMONS SHARE NUMEROUS DEEP HISTORICAL, RELIGIOUS AND EMOTIONAL TIES WITH  
ISRAEL. (THERE FOLLOWS SOME BACKGROUND HISTORY OF MORMONISM.) THE VISITORS PRAISED  
ISRAELI HOSPITALITY AND ITS PEOPLE'S DESIRE FOR PEACE,...REGULAR MORMON PILGRIMAGES  
TO JERUSALEM, THE COMPLETION OF THE ORSON HYDE GARDENS, AND SPREADING THE GOOD WORD  
ABOUT ISRAEL ARE SOME OF THEIR PLANS FOR THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE. UNQUOTE

DATE: 9.6.78 JOURNAL: JERUSALEM POST (ENGL AM IND) FEATURE ARTICLE "OIKOUMENIKOS"  
HEADING: "A QUIET PRESENCE" (CHRISTIAN COMMENT)  
SUMMARY: THIS IS A FEATURE ABOUT "THE ETHIOPIAN PRESENCE", THE ONLY BLACK AFRICAN  
CHURCH IN JERUSALEM AND ITS ANTIQUITY. "IT IS A QUIET CONTEMPLATIVE PRESENCE. EVERY  
DAY 60 MONKS & NUNS RISE AT 4 a.m. (2 a.m. ON FEAST DAYS) FOR PRAYER AND GATHER AGAIN  
IN SMALL GROUPS AT 4 p.m. TO RECITE PSALMS AND PARTS OF AN ANCIENT HYMN TO THE VIRGIN,  
THE "THEOTOKARIA" OF EPHRAIM THE SYRIAN, AND SONGS WRITTEN BY THE SIXTH CENTURY ETHIOPI-  
AN MUSICIAN YARED." (THERE FOLLOWS A DESCRIPTIVE SECTION ABOUT HOLY WEEK CELEBRATIONS  
AND A REFERENCE TO THE 150-YEAR DISPUTE WITH THE NEIGHBOURING COPTS OVER PROPERTY  
OWNERSHIP.) THE ETHIOPIAN CHURCH SHOWS AN ASTONISHING FAMILIARITY WITH THE HEBREW  
SCRIPTURES & BIBLICAL JUDAISM. (SOME REFERENCES TO ETHIOPIAN TERMINOLOGY RESEMBLING  
HEBRAIC TERMINOLOGY--"TABOT", "QEDDUSA QEDDUSAN", "ORIT" (TORA). AROUND THE CORNER  
FROM THE 8TH STATION ON EL KANQA STREET IS THE DYNAMIC CENTRE OF THE ETHIOPIAN CHURCH  
IN JERUSALEM. THE RESIDENCE OF THE ARCHBISHOP, HIS GRACE ABUNA MATTHEWOS, IS A HUB OF  
ACTIVITY. (A DESCRIPTION OF INTELLECTUAL ACTIVITY IN VARIOUS FIELDS AND MEETING OF  
SCHOLARS AT ARCHBISHOPS RESIDENCE TO DISCUSS "INSTITUTE FOR ETHIOPIAN RELIGIOUS STU-  
DIES" OPENED OCTOBER 1977, INCLUDING EFAHOY KRESTOS SAMRA PEDERSON, A DANISH WOMAN  
WHO JOINED THE ETHIOPIAN CHURCH 8 YEARS AGO AND IS A MEMBER OF ITS ORDER OF RELIGIOUS  
WOMEN, DEVOTED TO HELPING SET UP EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM FOR ETHIOPIAN COMMUNITY.) ANOTHER  
UNIQUE PERSONALITY INVOLVED IN THE QUIET REVOLUTION STARTED BY ARCHBISHOP MATTHEWOS  
IS DR EPHRAIM ISAAC, AN ETHIOPIAN LIVING IN JEWISH QUARTER WITH WIFE & 2 CHILDREN &  
A VISITING PROFESSOR OF AFRICAN STUDIES AT HEBREW U....WHY ARE ETHIOPIAN STUDIES  
SO IMPORTANT? PROF ISAAC EXPLAINS...THAT SEVERAL ASPECTS OF THE HISTORY OF EARLY  
CHRISTIANITY AND OF ITS JEWISH ORIGINS ARE BROUGHT TO LIGHT IN THE SO CALLED PSEUDO-  
EPIGRAPHICAL LITERATURE. TWO IMPORTANT BOOKS OF THIS CATEGORY, BOOK OF ENOCH & BOOK  
OF JUBILEES, ARE FOUND IN THEIR ENTIRETY ONLY IN ETHIOPIC TRANSLATION. A WEALTH OF  
OTHER WRITINGS, HAGIOGRAPHIES, CHRONICLES, HOMILIES & THEOLOGICAL TREATISES, ALSO  
PROVIDE AN INVALUABLE SOURCE OF INFORMATION ABOUT CHRISTIAN ORIGINS IN AFRICA  
AND THE HISTORY OF ETHIOPIA. PROF ISAAC MAINTAINS THAT A KNOWLEDGE OF THIS ETHIOPIAN  
LITERATURE "GREATLY CONTRIBUTES TO OUR UNDERSTANDING OF THE SPREAD OF ISLAM INTO  
ETHIOPIA AND THE HORN OF AFRICA." FOR THE MANY ETHIOPIANS IN JERUSALEM, THE INSTITUTE  
LOCATED IN THE DABRA GANAT MONASTERY WILL PROVIDE A SOLID BASIS FOR FUTURE DEVELOP-  
MENT NOT ONLY HERE BUT IN ETHIOPIA TOO. UNQUOTE

END TRANSCRIPTION 3.7.78/mb

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