

DATE: 9.6.78 JOURNAL: MAARIV (HEBREW PM INDEPENDENT) FEATURE ARTICLE

HEADING: "THE REVIVAL OF ISRAEL AND THE CHRISTIAN IDENTITY CRISIS"

BYLINE: PROFESSOR A. HARAL-FISCH

QUOTE: I AM REMINDED OF A CONVERSATION WITH A CATHOLIC FRIEND, A PROFESSOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN AN ENGLISH UNIVERSITY WHERE I STUDIED. THE YEAR WAS 1953, AND IN THE BACKGROUND WAS THE KIDNAPPING OF TWO CHILDREN, THE FINALY BROTHERS, BY ONE OF THE CHURCH INSTITUTIONS AND THEIR TRANSFER TO SPAIN. THE CATHOLIC SCHOLAR SAID TO ME AT THAT TIME: "HOW CAN YOU ACCUSE ME OF ANTISEMITISM? LOOK, MY REDEEMER WAS A JEW, ALL HIS FAMILY WERE JEWS, HIS DISCIPLES AND FOLLOWERS, AND AMONG THEM THE FOUNDER OF MY CHURCH WERE ALSO JEWS!" WHEN WE COME TO CONSIDER THE ATTITUDE OF THE CHURCH TO THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL, WE MUST ALSO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE DEPENDENCE WHICH IS UNBREAKABLE THAT THE CHRISTIAN SENSES WITH REGARD TO THE OLD TESTAMENT. THE APOSTLE PAUL INSISTED ON THIS DEPENDENCE: "AND I SAY, HAS GOD INDEED CAST OFF HIS PEOPLE FROM BEFORE HIM? BY NO MEANS! I ALSO AM OF THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL, OF THE SEED OF ABRAHAM, OF THE TRIBE OF BENJAMIN. GOD HAS NOT CAST OFF HIS PEOPLE WHOM HE KNEW." (TO THE ROMANS, XI) NOR IS THIS A MATTER OF ANCIENT TIMES ALONE. THE LINK TO THE JEWS CONTINUES INTO THE PRESENT AND ITS FULL SIGNIFICANCE WILL BE REVEALED ONLY IN THE FUTURE—THE SAME PAUL EXPRESSED THIS IN A FAMOUS PARABLE: ISRAEL IS THE GOOD OLIVE TREE UPON WHICH WILD OLIVE BRANCHES WERE GRAFTED. THE CHURCH IS NOTHING ELSE THAN A BRANCH GRAFTED UPON A JEWISH TRUNK. BEHIND THIS SAYING THERE LURKS A JEWISH EXEGESIS OF THE PASSAGE "AND IN THEE SHALL ALL THE FAMILIES OF THE EARTH BE BLESSED" (GENESIS 12:3). "THE HOLY ONE BLESSED BE HE SAID TO ABRAHAM: 'THERE ARE TWO GOOD BLESSINGS I HAVE WHEREWITH TO BLESS THEE: RUTH THE MOABITESS AND NAAMA THE AMMONITESS.'" (YEBAMOTH 63) PAUL DEVELOPS THE IDEA IN THE MANNER OF "FROM MINOR TO MAJOR" (A MINORI AD MAJUS): "IF YOU (READ "THE CHRISTIAN") WHO ARE PLUCKED FROM A WILD OLIVE TREE AND GRAFTED ONTO THE TRUNK OF A GOOD OLIVE TREE, WHICH IS NOT ACCORDING TO YOUR NATURE, HOW MUCH MORE SO WILL THERE BE A REVIVAL AMONG THE BRANCHES OF THE GOOD OLIVE TREE THEMSELVES!" (Ibid) IN THE MESSIANIC ERA THE GOOD OLIVE TREE WILL BEAR ITS TRUE FRUITS AND THEN THE SCRIPTURE WILL BE FULFILLED: "AND IN THEE SHALL ALL THE FAMILIES OF THE EARTH BE BLESSED." OF COURSE, THERE IS ANOTHER FACE TO CHRISTIANITY, WHICH IS REFLECTED IN THE WORDS OF PAUL IN ANOTHER PLACE CONCERNING THE ANNULMENT OF THE VALIDITY OF THE COMMANDMENTS OF THE TORAH—"CIRCUMCISION IS NOTHING, AND UNCIRCUMCISION IS NOTHING," AND "FOR ALL WHO RELY ON THE COMMANDMENTS OF THE TORAH WILL FIND A CURSE WITH IT." (GALATIANS 3) SALVATION WILL COME ONLY TO THOSE WHO RECEIVE THE NEW GOSPEL. THE STIFFNECKEDNESS OF THE JEWS LEAD TO THEIR OPPOSING THE NEW GOSPEL, AND THEREFORE THEIR OWN BLOOD IS UPON THEIR HEAD, NOT ONLY BECAUSE OF THEIR PART IN THE CRUCIFIXION OF THE SAVIOUR, BUT ALSO BECAUSE OF THE BLOOD OF STEPHEN WHOM THEY SLEW. (ACTS 30:58 SIC. Translator: This probably should be Acts 7:58) THIS IS ALSO THE BACKGROUND TO THE DEPRESSING BLOOD LIBEL WHICH HAS BEEN PURSUING US SINCE THE TWELFTH CENTURY. ACCORDING TO THIS, IT IS NOT ONLY THAT THERE IS NO PORTION FOR THE JEW IN THE REDEMPTION, BUT IN A PARADOXICAL MANNER HE STANDS IN THE WAY AS AN OBSTACLE TO THE FUTURE REDEMPTION. IN THE ATTITUDE OF THE CHURCH TO THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL THERE IS THEREFORE AN ADMIXTURE OF LOVE AND HATE. THIS IS AN AMBIVALENT ATTITUDE. IT IS IMPOSSIBLE WITHOUT THE JEWS, AND AT THE SAME TIME IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO SETTLE WITH THEM. ACCORDING TO FREUD THERE IS SOMETHING HERE OF THE RELATIONSHIP TO A FATHER WHOM ONE HATES AND LOVES AT ONE AND THE SAME TIME. THE FATHER IS THE JEW, HE BEGOT US, BUT HE HAS ALSO LAID UPON US UNBEARABLE OBLIGATIONS. AND THEREFORE, ONE MUST GET RID OF HIM—BUT THIS IS IMPOSSIBLE. THE FATHER REMAINS THE FATHER, SINCE APART FROM HIM, WE CANNOT EXPLAIN OUR VERY EXISTENCE. WHAT CHARACTERIZES THE RELATIONS OF THE CHURCH AND JUDAISM THROUGHOUT THE AGES IS THEOLOGICAL TENSION. THE JEW APPEARS IN GENTILE LITERATURE AS AN ANGEL (NATHAN THE WISE, DANIEL DERONDA, JUDAS MACABBEUS) OR AS SATAN (JUDAS ISCARIOT, FEIGIN, SHYLOCK) OR AS BOTH TOGETHER. HE ENJOYS NO NEUTRAL STATUS. ONE CANNOT RELATE TO HIM AS A NORMAL CREATURE. THE POET S.T. COLERIDGE TRIED TO DEFINE THE JEWISH BEGGAR HE SAW IN LONDON AT THE BEGINNING OF THE 19TH CENTURY. WHO IS THIS? A PROPHET OR A WORM OF A MAN? A SAINT OR A CHURL? THE JEW IS A RIDDLE. IT IS TOLD OF ABBA EBAN THAT HE ONCE MET THE BRITISH DELEGATE TO THE U.N., SIR ALEXANDER CADOGAN, WHEN THE TWO OF THEM SAILED ON A SHIP FROM NEW YORK TO EUROPE AFTER ONE OF THE DEBATES ABOUT THE LAND OF ISRAEL IN THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY. THIS WAS IN THE YEAR 1948, WHEN BRITAIN STILL HAD NOT RECOGNIZED THE STATE OF ISRAEL AND PREFERRED TO SPEAK ABOUT "THE JEWISH AUTHORITIES IN TELAVIV." EBAN MET CADOGAN AS HE WAS LEAVING THE SHIP'S CHAPEL ON A SUNDAY MORNING, AND AFTER INQUIRING ABOUT HIS HEALTH, HE ADDED: "I PRESUME, SIR ALEXANDER, THAT YOU HAVE JUST CONCLUDED YOUR PRAYERS TO THE GOD OF ABRAHAM, THE GOD OF ISAAC, AND THE GOD OF THE JEWISH AUTHORITIES IN TELAVIV."

SELECTIONS No. 30 (To 4 July 78)



2

SIGNIFICANCE, AND IT IS THEREFORE DIFFICULT TO RELATE TO THE STATE OF ISRAEL AS TO JUST ANOTHER STATE. IT IS VIEWED AS A SATANIC IMAGE (WE RECALL DEGAULLE, THE GOOD CATHOLIC, WHO CHARACTERIZED US AS AN "ELITE PEOPLE, SELF-CONFIDENT, AND DOMINEERING") OR IT IS VIEWED AS THE IMAGE OF A REDEEMING ANGEL ("THE SOLE DIVINE OPPORTUNITY OF OUR DAYS IS THE STATE OF ISRAEL," DECLARED ROY ECKHARDT, AN AMERICAN PROTESTANT LEADER). ON ONE SIDE, MESSIANIC EXPECTATIONS—ON THE OTHER SIDE, INDIGNATION. WE PERHAPS FEEL MORE OF THE INDIGNATION, BECAUSE IT IS NOISIER. IN THE EYES OF THE ARCHBISHOP CYRIL GRIVIT OF YORK IN THE 1940s, ISRAEL IS "AN UNRIGHTEOUS PEOPLE." IT BEARS A PRIMAL SIN FROM THE DAY IT WAS CONSTITUTED A PEOPLE ON ITS LAND. FOR SUCH A PEOPLE AND FOR SUCH A STATE THERE IS SIMPLY NO JUSTIFICATION. ON THE SUNDAY BEFORE EASTER IN 1972 (THE TRADITIONAL PALM SUNDAY) DEACON FRANCIS SAYRE PREACHED IN THE CATHEDRAL IN WASHINGTON. ACCORDING TO AN ANCIENT CHRISTIAN TRADITION ONE PREACHES ON THIS SUNDAY ON THE SUBJECT OF JERUSALEM, AND FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE THE HOLOCAUST THERE WERE HEARD FROM THIS DISTINGUISHED PULPIT HOSTILE REMARKS AGAINST THE JEWS. ACCORDING TO DR. SAYRE, THE JEWS ARE THE "DESTROYERS OF JERUSALEM"—HIS REFERENCE WAS TO GOVERNMENT POLICY AT THAT TIME VIS-A-VIS EAST JERUSALEM AND ITS ARAB INHABITANTS (THE PREACHER RELYING ON THE ANTI-ZIONIST REPORTS OF DR. SHAHAK). IN THIS SERMON HE ALSO HINTED ABOUT THE BLOOD LIBEL. "WHEN THEY PRAISE THEIR GOD FOR THE GOOD THAT HE HAS WROUGHT FOR THEM," IT WAS STATED, "THEY BEGIN AGAIN TO EXECUTE HIM." THIS SERMON ASTONISHED THE AUDIENCE, AND OF COURSE ALSO THE JEWISH COMMUNITY OF THE U.S.A., BUT IT IS IMPORTANT TO NOTE THE FACT THAT THE CLERGYMAN DID NOT HAVE REFERENCE AT ALL TO DIASPORA JEWS. HE COULD SAY IN ALL SINCERITY THAT AMONG THEM HE NUMBERED HIS BEST FRIENDS. HIS PROBLEM WAS THE JEWISH STATE, CONCERNING WHICH THE THEOLOGICAL TENSION WAS FELT. THIS IS A NEW TURNING POINT. THE PROBLEMATICS OF JEWISH EXISTENCE NOW FOCUSES ON THE STATE OF ISRAEL. THE CITIZENS OF THE STATE DELUDE THEMSELVES IN THINKING THAT THEY ARE LIKE EVERY OTHER PEOPLE AND THAT ONE SHOULD RELATE TO THEM AS ONE DOES TO NICARAGUA OR TO ALBANIA. THE CHURCH UNDERSTANDS OTHERWISE. OUR EXISTENCE IS A SPECIAL EXISTENCE, AS IT ALWAYS WAS. YET NOT EXACTLY AS IT ALWAYS WAS. WITH THE TRANSFER OF THE TENSION FROM DIASPORA JEWS TO ISRAELI JEWS, THERE HAVE TAKEN PLACE SIGNIFICANT CHANGES. THE FOCUS OF THE PROBLEM IS NO LONGER IN THE AREA OF FAITH, BUT IN THE POLITICO-HISTORICAL AREA. LET US TAKE FOR EXAMPLE THE ECUMENICAL MOVEMENT. AS WILL BE RECALLED, THE SECOND VATICAN COUNCIL WAS ASSEMBLED IN THE YEARS 1962-1965 TO DISCUSS OUTSTANDING ISSUES BETWEEN CHRISTIANITY AND JUDAISM. WHOEVER WILL INSPECT THE DOCUMENT "NOSTRA AETATE" ("IN OUR ERA") WHICH IS A SUMMARY OF THE COUNCIL DISCUSSIONS, WILL BE AMAZED TO DISCOVER THAT ALL THE RELIGIOUS ISSUES HAVE, AS IT WERE, BEEN DROPPED FROM THE AGENDA. JUDAISM OF COURSE REMAINS EXTANT, AND LIKEWISE CHRISTIANITY. BUT FROM NOW ON THE CONFLICTS BETWEEN THEM SHALL NOT BE A SOURCE OF TENSION AND HATRED. IT IS EMPHASIZED THAT THE TWO RELIGIONS HAVE ONE SPIRITUAL SOURCE. "WE HAVE ONE FATHER." WHEN A NUMBER OF JEWISH LEADERS A FEW YEARS LATER WERE GUESTS IN ROME IN ORDER TO FORMULATE GUIDELINES FOR COOPERATION BETWEEN TWO RELIGIONS WITH ONE SPIRITUAL SOURCE ("OUR COMMON FATHER"), THEY FELT NO HOSTILITY WHATSOEVER. IN THE FESTIVE MEALS THAT WERE ARRANGED FOR THEM AND THE CARDINALS TOGETHER, KOSHER FOOD WAS SERVED, AND EVERY CHRISTIAN SYMBOL WHICH MIGHT BE OFFENSIVE TO JEWISH SENSITIVITIES WAS REMOVED FROM THE HALL. REALLY THE DAYS OF THE MESSIAH! THE GUIDELINES SPEAK OF THE NEED TO UNDERSTAND THE JEWISH FAITH "AS THE JEWS THEMSELVES UNDERSTAND IT," AND TO UNDERSTAND THE JEWS "AS THE JEWS THEMSELVES DEFINE THEMSELVES." THROUGHOUT THE AGES THE JEWS WERE SEEN AS AN OBJECT FROM OUTSIDE, NOW THIS WOULD CHANGE. NOTWITHSTANDING THIS, THERE IS A NEW PROBLEM, AND IT IS A POLITICAL PROBLEM. A SIGN OF THIS: THE ABSENCE OF ANY MENTION OF JERUSALEM, ZION, THE LAND OF ISRAEL, IN THESE DOCUMENTS, AS IF IT WERE POSSIBLE IN THE YEAR 1974 "TO UNDERSTAND THE JEWS IN THE WAY THE JEWS DEFINE THEMSELVES," WITHOUT TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE NEW REALITY IN THE LAND OF ISRAEL, WHICH HAS ALTERED FROM THE VERY FOUNDATION THE MANNER OF "SELF-DEFINITION" OF THE JEWS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD. THE THUNDEROUS SILENCE OF THE VATICAN ON THE TOPIC OF ZIONISM, AND THE VERY REFUSAL OF THE VATICAN TO THIS DAY TO RECOGNIZE THE STATE OF ISRAEL, DECLARES THAT HERE IS THE STING OF THE PROBLEM FOR THEIR PART. THE CHRISTIANS ALWAYS SAW THE EXILE OF THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL AS A PUNISHMENT FOR WHAT WAS DONE IN THE PAST. THE JEW IS USUALLY PORTRAYED AS AHAUERUS "THE WANDERING JEW", LADEN WITH MEMORIES. IN HIS HEART WITHIN THE JEW ALSO KNEW HOPE FOR THE FUTURE, BUT NOW THERE HAS OCCURRED A DRAMATIC CHANGE--THE HOPE HAS BURST FORTH AND DEMANDS ITS REALIZATION. THE JEW HAS LEAPED INTO HISTORY, AND THE LEAP INTO HISTORY SIGNIFIES A POWERFUL UPSETTING OF THE SPIRITUAL-POLITICAL BALANCE BETWEEN THE CHURCH AND JUDAISM. THIS THE CHURCH UNDERSTANDS, EVEN THOUGH THE LEADERS OF THE STATE OF ISRAEL MAY NOT WANT TO UNDERSTAND IT. THE STATE OF ISRAEL BEARS UPON ITS BACK THE MESSIANIC RESPONSIBILITY CONTAINED IN THE TERM "COVENANT OF THE PEOPLE". "I THE LORD HAVE CALLED THEE IN



3

RIGHTEOUSNESS...AND WILL GIVE THEE FOR A COVENANT OF THE PEOPLE, FOR A LIGHT OF THE GENTILES...BEHOLD THE FORMER THINGS ARE COME TO PASS, AND NEW THINGS DO I DECLARE, BEFORE THEY SPRING FORTH, I PROCLAIM THEM TO YOU." (ISAIAH - 42)

WELL, THEN, WHOSE IS THE FUTURE? THERE IS NO LONGER AN ESCAPE FROM THIS QUESTION. AND INASMUCH AS THIS QUESTION FOCUSES UPON THE STATE OF ISRAEL AND ITS DESTINY, THE JEW IN THE DIASPORA NO LONGER INTERESTS THE MEN OF THE CHURCH, SINCE HE IS NOT PARTICIPATING IN THE NEW HISTORICAL ASSIGNMENT FROM WHENCE STEMS THE QUESTION OF THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL. IN THE TRUEST SENSE, THE PROBLEM OF PROBLEMS IS NOT THE LAND OF ISRAEL, AND NOT EVEN THE JEWISH PEOPLE, BUT ITS PLACE IN CHRISTIANITY OF WHAT IS TERMED "HEILSGESCHICHTE", THAT IS, "THE PERFECTION OF THE WORLD IN THE KINGDOM OF THE ALMIGHTY". THE IDENTITY CRISIS OF THE CHRISTIANS IN OUR DAY IS ACTUALLY FOCUSED ON THIS ISSUE. IS THERE A NEED TO DEAL WITH THE REAL ISSUES OF TIME AND SOCIETY? A PART OF THE CHRISTIAN WORLD ANSWERS AFFIRMATIVELY. THE ANGLICAN MINISTER, JAMES PARKES, BELOVED BY ALL OF US, IS ONE OF ISRAEL'S STAUNCEST FRIENDS. BUT IN ORDER TO UNDERSTAND HIM ARIGHT, IT MUST BE REMEMBERED THAT FROM THE VERY BEGINNING HE DEMANDED OF THE CHURCH THAT IT ADOPT A CLEAR SOCIO-POLITICAL PROGRAM. HE WAS AMONG THE FIRST OF THE CHRISTIAN LEADERS WHO ROSE UP AGAINST NAZISM, ALREADY IN THE 1920s, AND SAW IT AS A THREAT AGAINST HUMANITY. HIS SLOGAN WAS: "JUSTICE, JUSTICE, SHALT THOU PURSUE." THIS TRADITION IS STRONG IN THE ANGLICAN CHURCH, BUT ACTUALLY ITS ADHERENTS ARE FOUND IN ALL CHURCHES. IN EVERY CAMP THERE ARE CHRISTIANS WHO SENSE A RESPONSIBILITY TOWARDS HISTORY. BUT EXTREMIST EVANGELISTIC CHRISTIANITY LEADS IN THE OPPOSITE DIRECTION. THE SCHOOL OF RUDOLPH BULTMANN, FOR EXAMPLE, FOCUSES ON THE KERYGMA, THAT IS, THE CHRISTIAN GOSPEL, IN AN ABSTRACT INTERNAL VACUUM. IT IS A PURE SPIRITUAL PHENOMENON, FREE OF ANY PARTICLE OF HISTORY OR GEOGRAPHY. THESE TWO CAMPS HAVE ALWAYS FOUND A PLACE IN VARIOUS FORMS IN CLASSICAL CHRISTIANITY, AND USUALLY COMPROMISES WERE FOUND THAT ENABLED BELIEVERS FROM BOTH SIDES TO DWELL UNDER ONE ROOF, WHETHER IN "THE CITY OF GOD" OR IN THIS WORLD. BUT IN THE DEEP CRISIS WHICH HAS TOUCHED THE CHURCH TODAY, IT WOULD APPEAR THAT THE TRADITIONAL COMPROMISES ARE NO LONGER HOLDING. ONE MUST CHOOSE. ONE REASON IS THE STATE OF ISRAEL, WHICH IN ITS MATERIALIZATION AND IN ITS EARTHLINESS, PRESENTS A CHALLENGE TO THE CHURCH. BUT YET ANOTHER REASON IS THE NAZI HOLOCAUST IN EUROPE. FOR VERY MANY CHRISTIANS IT SUDDENLY BECAME CLEAR THAT THE RETREAT FROM HISTORY (IN THE FORMULATION "MY KINGDOM IS NOT OF THIS WORLD") LEAVES A VACUUM WHICH IS FILLED BY SATAN. IN THE VERY HEART OF CHRISTIAN EUROPE SOMETHING TOOK PLACE WHICH CASTS DOUBT UPON THE VERY CREDIBILITY OF THE GOSPEL WHICH SPEAKS OF A WORLD REDEEMED. TODAY NEW RADICAL VOICES ARE BEING HEARD. ROSEMARY REUTHER FROM THE CATHOLIC CAMP SPEAKS OF THE NEED TO MAKE A BASIC REVISION OF CHRISTIANITY. FOR HER THE HOLOCAUST SYMBOLIZES "THE END OF CHRISTIANITY" IN ITS ACCEPTED FORM. "AND THE END OF CHRISTIANITY HAS COME AT THE MOMENT WHEN THE STATE OF ISRAEL WAS BORN ANEW." THE TABLES ARE TURNED. FRANKLIN LYTTEL ON THE PROTESTANT SIDE HAS DETERMINED THAT THERE IS NO LONGER A POSSIBILITY TO ESCAPE FROM THE RESPONSIBILITY TO HISTORY. "THE REVIVAL OF ISRAEL SIGNIFIES A CHALLENGE TO CHRISTIANITY TO ONCE AGAIN TAKE SERIOUSLY THE WORLD AND HISTORY." IN A DARING AND UNPARALLELED FORMULATION HE SPEAKS OF THE NEW KERYGMA FOR OUR TIME. AT ITS CENTRE THERE WILL BE TWO NEW ELEMENTS: "THE CRUCIFIXION OF THE JEWS" AND "THEIR RESURRECTION IN THEIR LAND". THIS IS THE HUB OF THE TRUE CHRISTIAN GOSPEL FOR THE PEOPLE OF OUR TIME! THE VERY TITLE OF HIS BOOK "CRUCIFIXION OF THE JEWS" (1975) ATTESTS TO THE REVOLUTIONARY NOVELTY HE IS PROPOSING. IN SHORT, THE BREAK THROUGH OF THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL INTO THE CENTRE OF HISTORY OF OUR DAYS DEMANDS A PARALLEL BREAK THROUGH ON THE PART OF THE CHRISTIAN WORLD. THESE VOICES DO NOT REPRESENT THE OFFICIAL LINE OF THE VARIOUS CHURCHES, BUT ON THE OTHER HAND THEY ARE NOT THE ECCENTRIC VOICES OF INSIGNIFICANT SECTS. INVOLVED ARE PERSONS BELONGING TO A CENTRAL INTELLECTUAL STREAM WHO ARE REPRESENTATIVE OF IMPORTANT AND WIDESPREAD MOODS. THEIR GREATEST SPOKESMAN WAS A MAN LIKE REINHOLD NIEBUHR, ONE OF THE GREATEST OF PROTESTANT THEOLOGIANS OF THE CENTURY, WHO WAS ALSO THE TEACHER OF LYTTEL AND ECKHARDT, AND WHO STOOD BESIDE ISRAEL IN ALL ITS CRISES, INCLUDING THE SIX DAYS WAR. IN THE CATHOLIC CAMP THERE IS ALSO A MAN LIKE JACQUES MARITAIN, THE GREATEST OF THE FRENCH THEOLOGIANS, WHO HAS CLEARLY EXPRESSED HIS OPINION CONCERNING THE RELIGIOUS SIGNIFICANCE OF THE RISE OF THE STATE OF ISRAEL: "I HAVE NO DOUBT THAT THIS EVENT, SO FILLED WITH MYSTERY FOR BOTH JEWS AND CHRISTIANS, TESTIFIES TO THE FAITHFUL MERCIES OF THE LORD TO HIS ETERNAL PEOPLE, AND IT THEREFORE APPEARS TO ME THAT FROM THE MOMENT THE JEWISH PEOPLE AGAIN TROD THE LAND WHICH GOD HAD GIVEN THEM, NO MAN CAN REMOVE IT FROM THENCE." THE CRISIS IN CHRISTIANITY IS STILL IN FORCE, AT TIMES IT SEEMS TO ISRAELIS THAT "THE WORLD IS AGAINST US". BUT HE WHO HAS AN ATTENTIVE EAR TO THE "NEW" CHRISTIANS WILL LEARN THAT THEY NOT ONLY VIEW EVENTS IN THE LAND OF ISRAEL AS THE OUTSTRETCHED ARM OF THE SAVING GOD, BUT ALSO AS A CHALLENGE TO THE CHURCH.



4  
PEOPLE AS AT THE EXODUS FROM EGYPT, BUT ALSO AS A SPARK OF HOPE FOR ALL MANKIND IN THE DARKNESS OF OUR DAYS. "THE HOPE OF ISRAEL", SAYS ROY ECKHARDT, "IS NOT SOLELY THE HOPE OF ISRAEL—IT IS THE SOLE HOPE FOR ALL OF US." END QUOTE

DATE: 25.6.78 JOURNAL: JERUSALEM POST (ENGL AM IND) LETTER TO EDITOR

HEADING: "THE ASSISI UNDERGROUND"

BYLINE: ALEXANDER RAMATI, RAMAT GAN

QUOTE: UPON MY RETURN FROM THE UNITED STATES, I FOUND YOUR ISSUE OF JUNE 5 CONTAINING A LETTER FROM REV IGNAZIO MANCINI OFM, DIRECTOR OF THE CHRISTIAN INFORMATION CENTRE, REGARDING THE ARTICLE ABOUT MY FORTHCOMING BOOK, "THE ASSISI UNDERGROUND." PARTICULAR OBJECTION WAS RAISED BY REV MANCINI REGARDING THE ENGLISH EDITION TITLE, "WHILE THE POPE KEPT SILENT," TO BE PUBLISHED IN SEPTEMBER BY GEORGE ALLEN & UNWIN LTD. I WOULD LIKE TO STATE HERE THAT THE BOOK IS NOT YET ANOTHER INDICTMENT OF POPE PIUS. ON THE CONTRARY, IT MAKES IT CLEAR, IN THE LIGHT OF NEW RESEARCH MATERIAL, THAT WHILE THE POPE FOR A NUMBER OF REASONS HAD TO KEEP SILENT AND MADE NO OFFICIAL PRONOUNCEMENT, HE HAD PASSED ON THE MESSAGE TO HIS CLERGY CONCERNING THE JEWS—"SALVARA LA VITA"—SAVE THEIR LIVES. LET THE OTHERS SAY WHAT MY BOOK IS ALL ABOUT. ON THE BLURB OF THE ENGLISH EDITION, THE FOLLOWING APPEARS: "THE POPE MAY HAVE HAD TO KEEP SILENT, BUT HIS BISHOPS AND PRIESTS, EVEN THE NUNS IN CLOSED ORDERS, KNEW WHAT THEY HAD TO DO." IRWIN SHAW, IN HIS ENDORSEMENT OF MY BOOK WHICH APPEARS ON THE JACKET OF THE BRITISH, AMERICAN AND BOOK-OF-THE-MONTH CLUB EDITIONS, WRITES: "WHILE THE BOOK IS IN NOVEL FORM, IT IS BASED FIRMLY ON FACT AND IS A MUCH NEEDED REBUTTAL TO HOCHHUT'S 'THE DEPUTY' AS IT TELLS THE STORY OF HOW PRIESTS AND NUNS OF ASSISI DURING WORLD WAR II SAVED A MULTITUDE OF JEWS AND ANTI-FASCISTS FROM EXECUTION BY THE GERMANS. THE RECONSTRUCTION OF THOSE PERILOUS TIMES IS VIVID AND BELIEVABLE, THE TRIBUTE TO THE GENEROSITY, PITY AND DARING OF THOSE DEDICATED RELIGIOUS MEN AND WOMEN AND TO THE ORDINARY PEOPLE OF ITALY, DEEPLY MOVING AND LONG OVERDUE." AS FOR MYSELF, LET ME ADD THAT THE BOOK, WHICH TOOK ME FIVE YEARS TO RESEARCH AND WRITE, GREW OUT OF MY NEED AS A JEW TO PAY THE MUCH DESERVED TRIBUTE, ALMOST FORGOTTEN BY NOW, TO THE ITALIAN CLERGY WHICH MANAGED TO SAVE 80 PERCENT OF ITALIAN JEWRY, THE VERY OPPOSITE OF WHAT HAPPENED IN THE REST OF EUROPE, WHERE, EXCEPT FOR DENMARK, 80 PERCENT OF JEWS HAVE PERISHED. UNQUOTE

DATE: 30.6.78 JOURNAL: HAARETZ (HEBREW AM IND) FEATURE ARTICLE

HEADING: "BEFORE AND AFTER THE DELUGE"

BYLINE: HAVIV CANAAN

SUMMARY & EXTRACTS: (THIS IS THE STORY OF AN EAST EUROPEAN RABBINIC LEADER DURING THE HOLOCAUST AND AFTERWARDS IN ISRAEL, THE PORTION EXCERPTED DEALS WITH HIS RELATIONSHIPS WITH A UKRAINIAN ARCHBISHOP WHO LABOURED ON BEHALF OF THE JEWS) DURING ONE OF THE NIGHTS IN JUNE 1943 THE BELL RANG IN THE RESIDENCE OF THE METROPOLITAN (ARCHBISHOP) SHPTITSKY, HEAD OF THE GREEK CATHOLIC CHURCH AND THE GREATLY ADMIRER OF THE UKRAINIANS IN EAST GALICIA. A MAN IN RAGS STOOD IN THE GATEWAY. THE STREETS OF LVOV WERE DESOLATE, ONLY PATROLS OF THE GERMAN S.S. AND THE UKRAINIAN POLICE MOVED ABOUT THE CITY. THERE WAS A LARGE PACKAGE IN THE HANDS OF THE ANONYMOUS WAYFARER, AND IT WAS AFTER MIDNIGHT... "TELL HIS HOLINESS THAT RABBI CAHANA SEEKS HIS AID," THE CALLER SAID.... THE RABBI HAD JUST ESCAPED FROM THE DYING GHETTO." (THE REPORTER THEN DESCRIBES HIS INTERVIEW WITH RABBI CAHANA, HIS EVENTUAL ESCAPE TO THE SOVIET ZONE, THE DISTORTION OF HIS REPORTS ABOUT NAZI TERROR AND THE AID GIVEN TO HIM AND OTHER JEWS BY THE ARCHBISHOP AT THE HANDS OF SOVIET PROPAGANDISTS) "THE WRATH OF THE SOVIETS, IN THE OPINION OF RABBI CAHANA, WAS BASED ON THE FACT THAT HE RETAINED HONOUR FOR THE MEMORY OF THE UKRAINIAN LEADER WHO HAD LABOURED IN LVOV MORE THAN ANY OTHER PERSON AMONG HIS PEOPLE AND AMONG THE POLES FOR THE RESCUE OF JEWS AND ESPECIALLY JEWISH CHILDREN. THE ARCHBISHOP HAD STUDIED HEBREW BEFORE THE WAR WITH A JEWISH STOREKEEPER... HE OPENED THE GATES OF ALL THE MONASTERIES UNDER HIS AUTHORITY TO SHELTER JEWS AND HE WAS THE ONLY CHURCH LEADER THROUGHOUT CONQUERED POLAND WHO DARED TO PUBLISH A PASTORAL LETTER TO THE CLERGY UNDER HIM, EVEN ISSUING INSTRUCTIONS TO READ THE LETTER DURING CHRISTIAN WORSHIP, WHEREIN HE CALLED UPON THE FAITHFUL: "THOU SHALT NOT MURDER"... "I WILL NEVER FORGET THE OLD ARCHBISHOP," SAYS RABBI CAHANA, "WHO APPEARS TO ME IN THE FIGURE OF A SAINT WHO IN THE DARKEST DAYS OF THE HISTORY OF THE JEWISH PEOPLE LABOURED FOR THEIR RESCUE UNDER CONDITIONS OF ACTUAL PERSONAL DANGER." (BACKGROUND OF THE ARCHBISHOP'S FAMILY HISTORY, ARISTOCRATIC, WAS 76 WHEN GERMAN TAKEOVER OF POLISH UKRAINE, CONFINED TO WHEELCHAIR, NEVERTHELESS TOOK ACTION WHEN LEARNING FROM A JEWISH LEADER ABOUT POGROMS GOING ON IN THE AREA, OPENING MONASTERIES, CONCEALING JEWS IN HIS OWN RESIDENCE ALSO, INCLUDING ABOVE MENTIONED RABBI DAVID CAHANA FOUR MONTHS. HE REPORTS THAT YAD V'SHEM IS STILL RELUCTANT TO RENDER OFFICIAL HONOUR TO THE UKRAINIAN BISHOP BECAUSE OF THE INVOLVEMENT OF THE UKRAINIAN MASSES IN THE DESTRUCTION OF THE JEWS.) "IS IT NOT MY DUTY TO VIEW THE ARCHBISHOP AS A HOLY MAN?" (SAYS RABBI CAHANA) "CAN I IGNORE HIS



POSTSCRIPT TO PREVIOUS ARTICLE ON UKRAINIAN ARCHBISHOP: RABBI CAHANA ALSO RECORDS THAT THE ARCHBISHOP HAD ALSO GIVEN AN INTERVIEW TO HIM WHEN HE WAS A YOUNG JOURNALIST FOR THE ZIONIST MOVEMENT IN WHICH THE CLERGYMAN SUPPORTED THE RETURN OF THE JEWS TO THEIR HOMELAND, NOTWITHSTANDING FIERCE OPPOSITION BY FELLOW-CLERGYMEN. "MAY THE LORD BLESS YOUR DOINGS AND ACCOMPANY YOU IN YOUR PATHS," HE HAD TOLD HIM ON PARTING.)

DATE: 3.7.78 JOURNAL: JERUSALEM POST (ENGL AM IND) FEATURE ARTICLE

HEADING: "BROTHER BRENHAM'S DISCIPLES"

BYLINE : CATHERINE ROSENHEIMER, J. POST REPORTER

SUMMARY & EXTRACTS: AN ARTICLE ABOUT THE BRANHAMITES OF NETANYA AND THE <sup>20-minute</sup> DOCUMENTARY FILM PRODUCED BY AN ISRAELI TEAM ("CHILDREN OF GOD") WHICH WON A PRIZE FROM THE ISRAEL INTERFAITH COMMITTEE AS "A FILM WHICH DEALS WITH THE RELATIONS BETWEEN FAITHS, COMMUNITIES AND NATIONS AND WHICH MAKES A SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTION TOWARDS ENCOURAGING THE ADVANCEMENT OF UNDERSTANDING AND BROTHERHOOD BETWEEN ALL THE COMMUNITIES IN ISRAEL." A COPY OF THE FILM WAS ALSO PURCHASED BY THE ISRAEL FILM INSTITUTE AND IT IS HOPED THAT THE FILM WILL BE SCREENED ON TV IN THE NEAR FUTURE. THE COMMUNITY IS LIVING IN THE ULTRAORTHODOX KIRYAT SANZ QUARTER OF NETANYA. "THE PICTURE THAT EMERGES IS ON THE WHOLE ... ONE OF UNUSUAL TOLERANCE AND RESPECT ON THE PART OF THE RELIGIOUS JEWS TOWARDS THEIR NEW NEIGHBOURS, PERHAPS BECAUSE THE KIRYAT SANZ CHRISTIANS, OR CHILDREN OF GOD, AS THEY CALL THEMSELVES, CLEARLY HAVE NO MISSIONARY INTENTIONS. AS ONE OF THEM PUTS IT: WE WOULD NEVER ALLOW OUR CHILDREN TO INTERMARRY, NOT BECAUSE WE, FOR OUR PART, WOULD NOT BE HONOURED, BUT BECAUSE GOD NEVER FORGAVE THE JEWS FOR MARRYING INTO OUTSIDE TRIBES, AND WE COULD NEVER FORCE ANYTHING CLEARLY AGAINST GOD'S WILL. THE GROUP, FIVE FAMILIES, TODAY NUMBERING SIXTY SOULS, CAME HERE SHORTLY AFTER THE YOM KIPPUR WAR. PART OF A LARGE COMMUNITY IN TUCSON, ARIZONA, THEY ARE ALL DISCIPLES OF THEIR PROPHET OF GOD, BROTHER BRENHAM, AND ARE WAITING FOR THE SECOND COMING OF THE MESSIAH AS DESCRIBED IN THE BOOK OF DANIEL. (THERE FOLLOWS A DESCRIPTION OF THE APPEARANCE OF THE MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY... "VERY CLEAN, NEAT & ORDERLY... THE CHILDREN HAVE THE PICTURE RESEMBLANCE OF VICTORIAN TIMES AND THEY RADIATE SERENITY AND TRANQUILITY") THEY EXPLAIN THAT THEIR COMING HERE WAS A "CALL TO ISRAEL, A RESPONSIBLE DECISION. WE FEEL THE SECOND COMING WILL BE VERY SHORTLY, THO' WE CAN'T PUT A DAY ON IT." THEY ARE, THEY SAY, BIBLICAL CHRISTIANS, FUNDAMENTALISTS WHO CELEBRATE THE THREE BIBLICAL FESTIVALS (PESAH, SHAVUOT, SUKKOT) AND CONSIDER CHRISTMAS & EASTER AS PAGAN PRACTICES. (COMMON WITH JEWISH NEIGHBOURS, THEY HAVE LARGE FAMILIES.) EXTRACTS FROM COMMENTS IN JEWISH COMMUNITY: "THEY ARE WAITING FOR OUR MESSIAH. OUR BELIEFS DO COINCIDE AT CERTAIN POINTS." "WE DO NOT BELIEVE THEY HAVE ANY MISSIONARY INTENTIONS." "THEY ARE OBVIOUSLY NOT JEWISH, BUT WE ACCEPT EACH OTHER AND LIVE HARMONIOUSLY, ALBEIT SEPARATELY." (SOME COMMENTS WERE LESS TOLERANT, THE REPORTER NOTES, BUT ARE NOT QUOTED.) THERE IS A SECTION WRITTEN ABOUT THE CHILDREN AND THEIR EDUCATION, WHICH IS ONLY PRIMARY GRADES. "HIGHER EDUCATION DOES NOT BRING US CLOSER TO GOD," EXPLAINS ONE OF THE FATHERS. "WE ARE NOT INTERESTED IN INTENSE EDUCATION, BEYOND KNOWLEDGE OF THE BIBLE, AND TEACHING OUR GIRLS TO BE GOOD, HONEST MOTHERS. THE MESSIAH DIDN'T LOOK FOR EDUCATION THE FIRST TIME--HE CAME TO THE COMMON PEOPLE. GOD GAVE US OUR HANDS IN ORDER FOR US TO BE NEAR THE EARTH, NEAR WHAT HE HAD CREATED." THE CHILDREN ATTEND THEIR OWN SCHOOL AND SPEAK HEBREW AMONG THEMSELVES. THEY ARE ALL OFFICIALLY TEMPORARY RESIDENTS. THE <sup>ISRAELI</sup> FILM MAKERS REPORTED THAT THE AMERICANS WERE VERY "NATURAL, MADE HER FEEL COSY." THE REACTIONS OF THE JEWISH COMMUNITY WERE LESS WELCOMING, SOME BEING VIOLENTLY OPPOSED. A BEARDED HASSID STATED: "WE HAVE A COMMON WAY OF LIFE DEVOTED TO DIFFERING BELIEFS." THE FILM HAS PROVOKED INTEREST ABROAD AND WILL BE SCREENED ON DUTCH TV. END

DATE: 3.7.78 JOURNAL: JERUSALEM POST FEATURE ARTICLE

HEADING: "IMAGES & REALITY IN THE MIDDLE EAST"

BYLINE : SRAYA SHAPIRO (DESCRIBES MAIN IDEAS ON ARAB-ISRAELI CONFLICT EXPLORED AT THIS YEAR'S INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF THE LEONARD DAVIS INSTITUTE)

EXTRACT: ATTENTION WAS ALSO DRAWN AT THE SYMPOSIUM TO A FORGOTTEN FACTOR IN THE AREA: THE VATICAN. DR JM SCHNEIDER OF THE SOCIETY OF JESUS (SPEAKING "ENTIRELY FOR MYSELF") NOTED THAT THE VATICAN HAS PRACTICALLY STOPPED REFERRING TO THE INTERNATIONALIZATION OF JERUSALEM, A COURSE IT ADVOCATED IN THE PAST. (A REFERENCE TO TOLERANT ATTITUDE OF BOTH JORDANIAN AND ISRAELI AUTHORITIES TOWARDS CHRISTIAN PILGRIMS & OBSERVANCES "ALLAYING VATICAN FEARS (OF) INTOLERANCE TOWARDS CHRISTIANS.") "THE GOAL OF VATICAN DIPLOMACY IS TO SECURE A FIRM AND UNALTERABLE BASIS FOR THIS RELIGIOUS GENEROSITY," SAID SCHNEIDER. ANOTHER CAUSE OF WORRY IS THE STEADY SHRINKING OF THE CHRISTIAN POPULATION OF JERUSALEM... AS FOR ISRAEL AS A STATE, THE VATICAN SEEMS TO HAVE RECOGNIZED IT FOR ALL PRACTICAL PURPOSES AS THE ACTUAL HOLDER OF THE TERRITORY. "I PRESUME THAT THE VATICAN INTENDS TO CREATE A MORE PROPITIOUS ATMOSPHERE THAT WOULD ALLOW FULL NORMALIZATION IN ITS RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL." (SO IT COULD PURSUE OTHER DUTIES...)



6.  
DATE: 26.6.78 JOURNAL: JERUSALEM POST MUSIC REVIEW

HEADED: "BETHSEDA SINGERS (U.S.A.)"

BYLINE: ESTHER REUTER

QUOTE : THE BETHSEDA SINGERS (AND DANCERS AND ORCHESTRA) ARE GRADUATES FROM AND COLLEGE STUDENTS AT BETHSEDA CHRISTIAN COLLEGE, WASHINGTON. THEY PERFORM ON A VOLUNTARY BASIS. AFTER THE MUNICH OLYMPICS MASSACRE IN 1972, THEY DECIDED TO DEDICATE THEMSELVES TO TELLING THE STORY OF ISRAEL ALL OVER THE WORLD. THIS IS THEIR THIRD VISIT TO ISRAEL AND THEIR NEXT PERFORMANCE OF THIS MUSICAL WRITTEN ESPECIALLY FOR ISRAEL'S 30TH ANNIVERSARY WILL BE IN WEST GERMANY. (THE SUBJECT IS ISRAEL'S FLIGHT FROM EGYPTIAN OPPRESSORS.) THE CHOIR SANG WITH GREAT ENTHUSIASM, CLEAN INTONATION & FEELING, AND THE SOLOISTS RENDERED THEIR PARTS WELL. MARCH SHAW (AS MOSES)...GAVE AN IMPRESSIVE PERFORMANCE. THE SAME CAN BE SAID ABOUT TROY SHAW (AS AARON). THE FIRST & LAST CHORUSES WERE MOST IMPRESSIVE. AS FOR THE MUSIC, IT WAS NOT ALWAYS APPROPRIATE. IT SEEMED TOO MILD FOR THE DANCING OF THE TERRIBLE PLAGUES... THE MUSICAL WAS WELL RECEIVED BY THE AUDIENCE WHO (AS REQUESTED BY THE CHOIRMASTER) FIRST APPLAUDED THE LORD (LOOKING UP) AND THEN THE BETHSEDA GROUP FOR THIS VARIED AND INTERESTING EVENING. UNQUOTE

SUBJECT 2: TRIAL OF ZEALOTS

DATE: 4.7.78 JOURNAL: YEDIOT AKHRONOT (HEB PM IND) NEWS ARTICLE

HEADING: "SUSPENDED SENTENCE AND FINE FOR "PENITENTS" WHO VANDALIZED HOUSE OF WORSHIP"

QUOTE : YITZHAK AND ELIEZER YOM TOV, TWO YOUNG MEN, WHO HAD CONFESSED TO FOUR INCIDENTS OF VANDALIZING THE HOUSE OF WORSHIP OF THE J.W. SECT ON REHOV LEVANDA, 36, IN TELAVIV, WERE GIVEN A ONE-YEAR SUSPENDED SENTENCE AND FINES OF IL 2,000 EACH. THE TWO, AGE 25, (WHO ARE NOT BROTHERS) IN RECENT YEARS HAD BECOME PENITENTS, AND HAD BEGUN TO STUDY IN A YESHIVA UNDER THE DIRECTION OF RABBI HAYIM MAZOT. ELIEZER YOM TOV BECAME A PENITENT AFTER HE WAS WOUNDED IN THE YOM KIPPUR WAR WHEN HE SERVED AS A PARATROOPER AND WAS, ACCORDING TO HIM, SAVED MIRACULOUSLY DURING A ROCKET ATTACK ON HIS UNIT. YITZHAK YOM TOV BECAME A PENITENT IN THE WAKE OF HIS FATHER'S DEATH. THE DEFENCE ATTORNEY, ADVOCATE ZVI LIDSKY, INVITED RABBI HAYIM MAZOT TO THE COURT, HE BEING THE SPIRITUAL GUIDE OF THE TWO DEFENDANTS. THE RABBI RELATED THAT IN RECENT YEARS YITZHAK YOMTOV WAS WONT TO MEET WITH MARGINAL YOUTH IN SHEKUNAT HATIKVA, AND TO INSTILL IN THE YOUNG MEN THE FEAR OF HEAVEN. HIS COMPANION, ELIEZER YOM TOV, IS ALSO ENGAGED IN THE EFFORT TO RESTORE STRAYING YOUTH TO THE RIGHT PATH. THE POLICE PROSECUTOR, YERAHMIEL HALPERIN, CLAIMED THAT THE DEFENDANTS DID NOT UNDERSTAND THAT EVERY RELIGIOUS SECT IS PERMITTED TO CONDUCT ITS WORSHIP AS IT SEES FIT. HE RECALLED THAT THREE TIMES IN RECENT MONTHS THEY HAD ENTERED INTO THE HOUSE OF WORSHIP OF THE SMALL SECT, DESTROYED ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT, MICROPHONES, PHONOGRAPH RECORDS, BIBLES, CLOCKS, CURTAINS AND AIRCONDITIONERS WHICH WERE IN THE PLACE. THE TWO DEFENDANTS BROKE THE DOORS AND DISLODGED THE ELECTRICAL APPARATUS FROM ITS PLACE. THE FOURTH TIME THAT THEY ATTEMPTED TO ENTER THE HOUSE OF WORSHIP AT NIGHT, THEY WERE SEIZED BY AN AMBUSH OF THE POLICE. THE DEFENCE ATTORNEY LIDSKY CLAIMED THAT AT PRESENT THEY UNDERSTAND THAT THEY HAD ERRED IN THEIR DECISION TO EMPLOY VIOLENCE. HE REQUESTED THAT A SUSPENDED SENTENCE ONLY BE RENDERED. THE HEAD JUSTICE OF THE PEACE COMPLIED WITH HIS REQUEST. UNQUOTE

SUBJECT 3: MISSIONARY ACTIVITY

DATE: 30.6.78 JOURNAL: HAMODIYA (AGUDAT ISRAEL AM HEBREW) FEATURE ARTICLE

HEADING: "YAD L'AKHIM BULLETIN" (WEEKLY GLEANINGS FROM THE ACTIVITIES OF THE ACTIVISTS)

SUMMARY & EXTRACTS: A LIST OF MORE "POSITIVE" ACTIVITIES OF A RELIGIOUS NATURE IN SYNAGOGUES, CLUBHOUSES, HOME GROUPS, SCHOOL ACTIVITIES, ETC., IN VARIOUS PARTS OF THE COUNTRY. THIS IS FOLLOWED BY "THE STORY OF NAOMI (FROM THE ACTIVE FILE OF THE DIVISION FOR THE WAR AGAINST THE MISSION)": THE NOTICE WHICH WAS DELIVERED WAS SIMILAR TO DOZENS OF OTHER NOTICES WHICH REACH THE DIVISION: THE MISSION IS IN CONTACT WITH A YOUNG WOMAN BY NAME OF NAOMI...OF REHOV...IN JERUSALEM, THE MATTER IS VERY URGENT, PLEASE ATTEND TO SOON." THE PRIMARY ATTENTION IN SUCH A CASE IS ALSO ROUTINE. ONE OF THE ACTIVISTS IN THE DIVISION WAS ASSIGNED TO INVESTIGATE THE INCIDENT TO LEARN WHETHER IT WAS INDEED A PROBLEM REQUIRING ATTENTION, OR WHETHER THIS IS NOT JUST ANOTHER INCIDENT OF BLACKMAIL, THE ROUTINE THREAT: "IF YOU DON'T HELP ME, I'LL TURN TO THE MISSION." THE FIRST DIFFICULTY THE ACTIVIST ENCOUNTERED WAS IN LOCATING THE ADDRESS. IN HIS REPORT HE NOTES: "I WANDERED ABOUT A LONG TIME IN THE STREETS OF A JERUSALEM SLUM, ASKING NEIGHBOURS, CHILDREN, STOREKEEPERS, AND ALL OF THEM SHRUGGED THEIR SHOULDERS, UNTIL ONE OF THE NEIGHBOURS SURMISED THAT IT WAS AN UNFORTUNATE YOUNG WOMAN AT THE END OF THE STREET WHO WAS INVOLVED. WE ARRIVED AT THE PLACE AND I SHUDDERED AS I ENTERED A PLACE THAT WAS HALF-APARTMENT HALF CRYPT, A MISERABLE BED, A FEW PLASTIC DISHES AND LEAD CUPS WERE ALL THE FURNITURE. THE YOUNG WOMAN ANSWERED TO THE NAME "NAOMI" (PSEUDONYM) IN A LOW DEPRESSED TONE OF VOICE, AND LITTLE BY LITTLE UNFOLDED BEFORE ME THE STORY OF HER LIFE A BATTLE FOR SURVIVAL OF



28 YEARS DURATION. FOR MANY YEARS SHE HAD BEEN TOSSED ABOUT AMONG FOSTER FAMILIES UNDER THE PROTECTION OF THE WELFARE DEPARTMENT AFTER THE DEATH OF HER FATHER AND HER MOTHER TREATED HER MOST CRUELLY. WHEN SHE HAD GROWN UP AND WAS ON HER OWN, SHE RECEIVED THIS DARK CRYPT AS A LIVING PLACE WHICH HAD CAUSED HER RHEUMATIC AILMENTS, THIS AFTER A PERIOD OF SLEEPING ON STREET BENCHES AS A RESULT OF REFUSING TO BE IN CONTACT WITH HER SURROUNDINGS OUT OF MOTIVATIONS WHICH WERE UNCLEAR TO ME....(THE PRINT IS HERE ILLEGIBLE) THUS SHE LIVED HER UNFORTUNATE LIFE IN A SMALL ROOM WITHOUT KITCHEN OR ELEMENTARY SERVICES UNTIL... "THE GOOD UNCLES" OF THE MISSION REACHED HER, SEEING IN HER AN EXCELLENT OBJECT FOR THEIR VILE AIMS. SHE WAS PROMISED THAT SHE WOULD RECEIVE A COMFORTABLE APARTMENT, IMPROVED LIVING CONDITIONS, BUT OF COURSE UNDER "CERTAIN CONDITIONS"... NAOMI WHOSE ISOLATION LEAD HER TO A DREADFUL IGNORANCE CONCERNING ALL THAT WAS GOING ON AROUND HER, SAW IN THIS AN OPENING TO DELIVERANCE AND RELATED THIS JOYFULLY TO ONE OF THE NEIGHBOURS WHO HURRIED TO REPORT IT TO THE DIVISION (OF THE WAR AGAINST THE MISSION). IMMEDIATELY THE<sub>1</sub> COMMENCED VIGOROUS ACTIVITIES TO HELP NAOMI. THE WELFARE BUREAU WHICH WELL KNOWS THE STORY OF NAOMI CONGRATULATED . . OUR ACTIVISTS FOR THEIR RESCUE WORK, BUT EXCEPT FOR WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT THEY WERE UNABLE TO COME TO OUR AID. THE STANDARDS OF THE BUREAU DO NOT PERMIT THEM TO GRANT AID IN HOUSING TO PERSONS UNDER AGE 31. AFTER SEVERAL DAYS OF RACING ABOUT IN OFFICES, THE PERSONNEL OF THE DIVISION OF THE WAR AGAINST THE MISSION<sup>REALIZED</sup> THAT THE ONLY WAY OPEN WAS FOR THEM TO DO THE WORK THEMSELVES. AN APARTMENT WITH SERVICES WAS FOUND IN THE SAME NEIGHBOURHOOD AFFORDING ADEQUATE HOUSING, THE LANDLORD WHO KNEW NAOMI EVEN LOWERED THE RENT CONSIDERABLY AS HIS PERSONAL CONTRIBUTION TO THE RESCUE PROJECT. AN ATTORNEY WHO FORMULATED THE RENTAL CONTRACT ALSO FORWENT HIS COMMISSION, WHILE THE PERSONNEL OF THE DIVISION TOOK IT UPON THEMSELVES TO RAISE THE SUM OF IL 15,000 FOR THE FLAT. A CONSIDERABLE SUM WAS RASIED AMONG THE MEMBERS OF YAD L'AKHIM, AND THE REMAINDER RAISED THROUGH THE FREE LOAN SOCIETIES. AT PRESENT ACTION IS BEING TAKEN TO REHABILITATE HER BY MEANS OF PRIVATE LESSONS, AND THE LIKE, . . .

WHILE IT IS HOPED THAT AT THE NEXT STAGE A FOSTER FAMILY CAN BE FOUND TO CARE FOR HER FUTURE. (PRESENTED BY THE PEILIM ORGANIZATION) UNQUOTE

DATE: 17.2.78 JOURNAL: INTERMOUNTAIN JEWISH NEWS (DENVER COLO) FEATURE ARTICLE  
 HEADING: DATELINE: HAIFA  
 BYLINE : CARL ALPERT

QUOTE: "AS OF APRIL 1 IT WILL BE CRIMINAL OFFENCE IN ISRAEL FOR ANYONE TO OFFER MONEY OR ANY OTHER MATERIAL BENEFIT TO INDUCE A PERSON TO CHANGE HIS RELIGION...."  
 (AS PREVIOUSLY TRANSCRIBED IN SELECTIONS VARIOUS ISSUES)

END TRANSCRIPT 7.7.78/ mb