

DATE: 24.7.78 JOURNAL: MAARIV (HEBREW P.M. INDEPENDENT) FEATURE ARTICLE (SERIES)

1. SUBJECT: EMMA BERGER ZICRON YAACOV SECT

HEADING: "GERMAN STRANGULATION-RING AROUND ZICRON YAACOV"

BYLINE : YOSEF VALTER (PHOTOGRAPHS: RABBI YEKUTIEL EZRIELI⁽¹⁾)
 EXTRACTS: EMMA BERGER, THE GERMAN WOMAN HEADING UP ' A ING THE ENTRANCE
 RELIGIOUS SECT, HAS DONE IT AGAIN. SHE RECENTLY PURCHASED 8 DUNAMS IN THE HEART OF
 ZICRON YAACOV. THERE ARE THOSE WHO SAY THAT SHE PAID FOR THE PROPERTY 2 MILLION LIR.
 RESIDENTS OF ZICRON ARE ANXIOUS AND STIRRED UP. THE SETTLEMENT, NOW APPROACHING
 CELEBRATION OF THE CENTENNIAL OF ITS FOUNDING, IS THREATENED BY THE DANGER OF THE
 EXPANSIONISM OF GERMAN SETTLERS. EMMA BERGER HAS ENCIRCLED THE SETTLEMENT WITH A
 RING OF STRANGULATION. SHE OWNS PROPERTIES REGISTERED ALL IN HER NAME TENS OF
 DUNAMS OF FARMING LAND, HOUSES OF AN OVERALL AREA OF ABOUT 4,000 SQ MTR,....IF WE
 MAY FOR A MOMENT COMPARE ZICRON YAACOV TO A STOCK COMPANY, THEN EMMA BERGER IS AT
 PRESENT THE LARGEST STOCKHOLDER IN THE SETTLEMENT. THERE IS NO PLACE WHERE YOU WILL
 NOT ENCOUNTER PROPERTY BELONGING TO HER....EMMA BERGER BEGAN HER PURCHASES IN ZICRON
 AT THE BEGINNING OF THE 1960'S. AFTER AN INTENSIVE CAMPAIGN OF PROPERTY BUYING SHE
 TOOK A DIFFERENT TACK OF "KILL ONE TURKEY AND REST AWHILE". EVERY TIME SHE WOULD BUY
 THIS OR THAT PIECE OF PROPERTY, SHE WOULD LET A TIME GO BY, AND THEN BOUGHT SOME MORE
 AND SOME MORE. SHE TOOK THIS COURSE IN THE FACE OF A WAVE OF PUBLIC PROTESTS WHICH
 DEVELOPED IN THE SETTLEMENT. RECENTLY, RUMOURS HAVE BEEN CIRCULATING THAT IN ADDITION
 TO BUYING THE EIGHT DUNAMS, SHE IS CONDUCTING NEGOTIATIONS WITH A BELGIAN RESIDENT FOR
 THE PURCHASE OF TEN MORE DUNAMS. THE MEANS AT HER DISPOSAL ARE UNLIMITED--AT LEAST
 SO IT WOULD APPEAR ON THE SURFACE. THE SOURCES OF THE MONEY ARE NOT CLEAR. THE RABBI
 OF YEKUTIEL EZRIELI, RELATES THAT THE WEST GERMAN GOV'T DOES NOT SUPPORT THIS SECT
 WHEREAS OTHER SECTS DO OBTAIN FINANCIAL SUPPORT. EMMA BERGER ONCE RELATED THAT HER
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 WITH HER HANDS HOLDING BAGS OVERFLOWING WITH GERMAN MARKS. ANOTHER STORY IS MAKING
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 HAD BEEN DEPOSITED TO HIS NAME, MISTAKENLY HE LATER LEARNED, IT WAS FOR EMMA BERGER).
 THE SECT HEADED UP BY EMMA BERGER HAS NO OFFICIAL NAME. IN ISRAEL THE GROUP IS CALLED
 "BETHEL SECT" AFTER THE NAME OF THEIR CENTRE WHICH IS THE HEADQUARTERS FOR ITS ACTIV-
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 ALL THE VISITORS ENGAGE IN RELIGIOUS WORSHIP, TOUR THE LAND, AND ENGAGE IN VARIOUS
 CRAFTS IN THE WORKSHOPS AND RESIDENCES OF MS. BERGER. WHAT MOTIVATES THIS WOMAN?
 WHEN SHE WAS ONCE ASKED THIS QUESTION, SHE REPLIED THAT SHE AND HER PEOPLE PASSIONATELY
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PETS. THE RELIGIOUS SETTLERS...

THESE WERE CHRISTIAN RELIGIOUS SONGS AND THAT THE MARCHERS WERE ENGAGED IN MISSIONARY PROPAGANDA. THE FOLLOWING DAY THE COUNCIL HEAD SENT A LETTER TO THE GERMANS REQUESTING THAT THEY REFRAIN FROM SUCH ACTS IN THE FUTURE. IN RESPONSE, THE DIRECTOR OF THE HOSTEL CAME TO THE COUNCIL AND PROMISED THAT THERE WOULD BE NO REPETITION. RAV EZRIELI SAYS: "IF AT THE OUTSET WE THOUGHT THAT THIS WAS A MISSIONARY SECT, THEN LITTLE BY LITTLE WE SENSED THAT SOMETHING WAS BEING COOKED UP THAT WAS BEYOND THE PROMULGATION OF CHRISTIANITY. EMMA BERGER CEASED FROM HER MISSIONARY ACTIVITIES, BUT RUMOURS REACHED US THAT A BUDGET OF HUNDREDS OF MILLIONS OF LIROT WERE AT HER DISPOSAL EACH YEAR. SHE BEGAN HER GRADUAL BUT STUBBORN EXPANSION.....THEY EVEN HAD THE HUTZPA TO COME AND ASK ME TO GRANT PERMISSION TO MARKET THEIR GRAPES AT THE (LOCAL) WINEPRESS. I OPPOSED IT, AND THEY ARE PRESENTLY MARKETING THEIR PRODUCE AT THE LATHUN TRAPPIST WINEPRESS." EMMA BERGER ALSO CONTRIBUTED TO VARIOUS INSTITUTIONS, INCLUDING YOUTH ALIYA AND THE SOLDIERS WELFARE ORGANIZATION. WHEN THE SIX DAYS WAR BROKE OUT, EMMA BERGER WENT UP TO RAMAT HAGOLAN (GOLAN HEIGHTS) WITH THE "AUNTIES" OF THE SOLDIERS WELFARE ORGANIZATION REACHING THE FRONT LINES AND DISTRIBUTING GIFTS TO THE SOLDIERS. BUT VERY SWIFTLY THE FRIENDLY RELATIONS VANISHED AND THE ZICRON SETTLERS, EXCEPT FOR ISOLATED FEW, BECAME HOSTILE TO THE GERMANS. THEY SAW A THREAT IN THEM, A CONTINUALLY DEVELOPING MALADY. DEMONSTRATIONS AND HARASSMENTS BEGAN AND EMMA BERGER BEGAN TO ISOLATE HERSELF. USUALLY THE SHUTTERS ARE CLOSED IN HER MANY HOUSES. THEY DON'T CONVERSE WITH STRANGERS, ESPECIALLY NOT WITH JOURNALISTS. THE SECTARIANS CHARGE THAT THESE HAVE BLACKENED THEIR IMAGE. (END FIRST IN THE SERIES)

DATE: 25.7.78 (SECOND PART OF SERIES)

HEADING: "IF THE BUYING PACE OF EMMA BERGER CONTINUES, ZICRON YAACOV WILL BE GERMAN PROPERTY IN ONE GENERATION" (PHOTOGRAPH: EMMA BERGER: "GOD IS WITH US")

EXTRACTS: IN THE OFFICE OF JESSE SHIBOVSKY, HEAD OF THE LOCAL COUNCIL OF ZICRON, THERE IS A THICK FILE BEARING THE NAME OF EMMA BERGER. SINCE ENTERING INTO HIS DUTIES SHIBOVSKY HAS WORKED MUCH AND ANXIOUSLY DEALING WITH THE EXPANSION OF THE GERMAN SECT "BETHIEL" IN THE SETTLEMENT. UNTIL A MONTH AGO IT WAS QUIET IN THE SETTLEMENT. FROM TIME TO TIME EMMA BERGER WOULD SUBMIT PLANS TO THE TOWN COUNCIL FOR SETTING UP INDUSTRIAL PLANTS AND RESIDENCES. SHIBOVSKY APPEALED TO THE PRIME MINISTER, MK'S, INSTITUTIONS AND PUBLIC FIGURES WITH THE REQUEST TO LIQUIDATE THIS PHENOMENON, BUT FOR THE MOST PART WAS UNANSWERED. AT THE MOST HE WOULD OBTAIN A PROMISE THAT THE MATTER WOULD BE INVESTIGATED AND AN EFFORT MADE TO FIND A SOLUTION. HOWEVER IT SEEMS THAT THE SUBJECT HAD ALREADY BEEN INVESTIGATED BY FORMER GOV'TS AND THE PRESENT GOV'T, AND IT APPEARS THAT THE HANDS OF THE AUTHORITIES ARE TIED AND IT IS NOT WITHIN ITS POWER TO ACT OR TO INTERVENE. FIRST OF ALL, EMMA BERGER IS OPERATING WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE LAW. SHE CONSULTS WITH JURISTS AND HER BUSINESS DEALS ARE PROPER. THIS IS A SENSITIVE PROBLEM AND IT IS DIFFICULT TO ACT AGAINST STRANGERS WHO WISH TO INVEST MONEY IN ISRAEL. THERE ARE THOSE WHO CLAIM THAT SHOULD EMMA BERGER BE PREVENTED FROM PURCHASING PROPERTY IN ISRAEL, IT IS LIABLE TO LEAD TO EMBARRASSING SITUATIONS ON THE INTERNATIONAL LEVEL. THERE WERE THOSE WHO PROPOSED ENACTMENT OF A LAW WHICH WOULD PREVENT STRANGERS AND THOSE WHO HAD NOT SERVED IN THE I.D.F. FROM PURCHASING PROPERTY IN ISRAEL. AS OPPOSED TO THIS, THE COUNTERCHARGE HAS BEEN MADE THAT SHOULD THIS BE EFFECTED, IT WOULD RESULT IN THE NEED TO BAR JEWS FROM THE DIASPORA TO PURCHASE PROPERTY, AND WHAT THEN WOULD OCCUR TO THE GOVT POLICY OF ENCOURAGING FOREIGN INVESTMENTS? WHEN SHIBOVSKY LEARNED OF THE RECENT BUSINESS DEALS OF EMMA BERGER, HE DECIDED TO RESIGN HIS OFFICE IN PROTEST AGAINST WHAT HE CALLS "THE APATHY OF THE AUTHORITIES IN THE FACE OF THIS DISTURBING PHENOMENON," HE STATES: "WE ARE ENGAGED IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE SETTLEMENT AND ALONG COMES MADAME BERGER BUYING UP PROPERTY IN DEVELOPMENT AREAS.....FOR WHOM ARE WE LABOURING (IN MUNICIPAL DEVELOPMENT), FOR EMMA BERGER? THIS WOMAN LABOURS SYSTEMATICALLY AND AT A PACE, SHE IS A FANATICAL WOMAN AND IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO TALK TO HER. AGAIN AND AGAIN SHE CLAIMS THAT SHE RECEIVES HER INSTRUCTIONS DIRECT FROM GOD. ACCORDING TO THE DEVELOPMENTS TILL NOW IT IS CLEAR TO ME THAT THE AIM HERE IS BUY UP ZICRON YAACOV. AT THIS PACE THE SETTLEMENT WILL BE GERMAN PROPERTY IN ONE GENERATION." (THERE FOLLOWS A DESCRIPTION OF THE POLITICAL MANEUVERINGS OF THE LOCAL COUNCIL IN ZICRON YAACOV AND NATIONALLY, AS PREVIOUSLY REPORTED IN SELECTIONS No. 31) (ALSO A DESCRIPTION OF THE ATTEMPTS OF THE PREVIOUS COUNCIL HEAD, YAACOV LEVY, TO RESTRICT THE EXPANSION OF THE SECT, AND THE REFUSAL OF THE ISRAELI COURTS TO COUNTENANCE LOCAL TACTICS TO VOID LEGAL SALES MADE TO EMMA BERGER.) BE THAT AS IT MAY, EMMA BERGER NOW OWNS MANY HOLDINGS IN ZICRON YAACOV, BINYAMINA, AND PARDES HANNA. THE PROPERTY, ALL OF IT, IS WORTH MILLIONS, REGISTERED IN THE NAME OF EMMA BERGER. SHE HAS VIRTUALLY NO CONTACT WITH HER ENVIRONS. USUALLY, THE BUILDINGS ARE SHUTTERED WHERE SHE REIGNS. THE GUESTS SHE BRINGS TO ISRAEL WORK QUIETLY IN THE WORKSHOPS, IN THE ORCHARDS AND IN THE ONGOING MAINTENANCE WORK OF HER PROPERTIES. EVERYTHING IS SPIC & SPAN THE

GERMANS VIEW WITH SUSPICION OUTSIDERS AND DO NOT SPEAK WITH THEM. WE TRIED TO MEET WITH MS BERGER BUT ALL OUR EFFORTS WERE IN VAIN. AFTER AN EXTENDED TALK WITH ONE OF HER PEOPLE SHE DID AGREE TO SPEAK ON THE TELEPHONE. SHE UNDERLINED QUITE EMPHATICALLY THAT SHE DOES NOT GRANT INTERVIEWS TO JOURNALISTS. "THEY'VE WRITTEN BAD THINGS ABOUT US. THEY'VE SLANDERED US FOR NO WRONG THAT WE HAVE DONE. WE'VE NEVER DONE ANY EVIL TO ANYONE. WE ARE HONEST AND GOD IS WITH US," SHE SAID, AND CUT OFF THE CONVERSATION. IN RECENT YEARS EMMA BERGER DOES NOT ENGAGE IN MISSIONARY ACTIVITIES. SHE CONTENTS HERSELF WITH BRINGING GUESTS TO ISRAEL AND TO CONDUCT TOURS TO VARIOUS PLACES. IT IS KNOWN THAT HER HEADQUARTERS ARE LOCATED IN THE TOWN OF KORNTAL NEAR STUTTGART IN GERMANY. THERE SHE CONDUCTS HER ACTIVITIES FROM A HOUSE CALLED "BEIT TITANIA". IN ISRAEL HER PROPERTIES BEAR BIBLICAL TITLES. NO ONE HAS SUCCEEDED IN FINDING A FLAW IN HER ACTIVITIES OR DEEDS IN ISRAEL OR ABROAD, SAVE FOR THE CONCERN THAT HER MANY PURCHASES IN THE AREA HAVE AROUSED. ACCORDING TO HER, SHE HAS MANY BELIEVERS WITH HER, AND THE SMALL LOCAL COUNCIL OF ZICRON YAACOV IS POWERLESS AGAINST HER. JESSE SHIBOVSKY HOPES THAT THE RECENT APPEALS TO CABINET MINISTERS AS WELL AS TO THE PRIME MINISTER AND OTHER SOURCES WILL BEAR FRUIT AND BRING AN END TO THE EXPANSIONISM. OTHERWISE, HE IS DETERMINED TO RESIGN. "THERE IS NOTHING MORE FOR ME TO DO HERE IF I DON'T SUCCEED," HE STRESSES. (SECOND & LAST PART OF SERIES) UNQUOTE

SUBJECT 2: MISSION LAW (FOREIGN PRESS)

DATE: 7.1.78 JOURNAL: DIE PRESSE (BUENOS AIRES ARGENTINA) SPANISH LANGUAGE NEWS ITEM
HEADING: "CHRISTIAN PROTEST"

QUOTE : THE UCCI HAS VIGOROUSLY PROTESTED AGAINST THE LAW PROVIDING PENALTIES OF IMPRISONMENT AND FINES FOR CERTAIN TYPE OF MISSIONARY ACTIVITIES. A DELEGATION COMPRISING REPRESENTATIVES OF ALL CHRISTIAN STREAMS HAS MET WITH ISRAEL LIPPEL, DIRECTOR OF THE MIN OF RELIG AFFAIRS, TO DENOUNCE THE FORMULATION OF THE LAW WITHOUT CONSULTATION WITH THE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY. THEY ALSO ASSERTED THAT ITS EFFECT WAS TO CREATE A "SENTIMENT OF HATRED AND SUSPICION AGAINST CHRISTIAN CLERGY." THE LAW STIPULATES PENALTIES UP TO FIVE YEARS JAIL OR FINES UP TO IL 50,000 FOR ANYONE ATTEMPTING TO CONVERT ANOTHER TO HIS RELIGION IN EXCHANGE FOR BENEFITS. NOTWITHSTANDING THE PROTESTS, THE LAW MAKES NO MENTION OF THE WORD "MISSIONARY" NOR THE TERM "CHRISTIAN."

DATE: 17.2.78 JOURNAL: HERITAGE (LOS ANGELES CALIF) ENGLISH FEATURE ARTICLE
HEADING: "INSIDE ISRAEL: PAID CONVERSIONS BANNED BY ISRAEL"

BYLINE: CARL ALPERT

QUOTE : HAIFA--AS OF APRIL 1 IT WILL BE A CRIMINAL OFFENCE IN ISRAEL FOR ANYONE....
(AS ALREADY TRANSCRIBED IN PREVIOUS SELECTIONS)

MISCELLANEOUS

DATE: 20.7.78 JOURNAL: HAARETZ (HEB AM IND) NEWS ITEM
HEADING: "THE TRIAL OF ANATOLE FILIA TOV"

QUOTE : THERE WAS SOMEONE WHO ONCE RECALLED THAT THE ROMANS ALSO CRUCIFIED JESUS TOGETHER WITH COMMON CRIMINALS. WHAT WAS THE INTENTION OF THE ROMANS? WAS IT TO ATTACH TO JESUS ESCORTS, OR WAS IT TO REDUCE HIM TO THE RANK OF THE CRIMINALS CRUCIFIED BESIDE HIM? WHATEVER THE CASE, THUS WAS THE NEWS RECEIVED CONCERNING THE OPENING OF THE TRIAL OF THE SPY ANATOLE FILIA TOV ON THE SAME DAY THAT THE TRIAL OF SCHARANSKY BEGAN. THE TWO WERE ACCUSED ON THE BASIS OF THE SAME LEGAL CLAUSE--NUMBER 60 OF THE SOVIET CONSTITUTION WHICH DEALS WITH TREASON..... UNQUOTE

END TRANSCRIPT 27.7.78/mb