

SUBJECT 1: THE EILEEN DORFLINGER CASE SELECTIONS NO. 45

DATE : 29.11.78 JOURNAL: "YEDIOT AKHRONOT" (HEBREW P.M. INDEPENDENT) NEWS ARTICLE
 HEADING: "NEW IMMIGRANT FROM U.S.A. HAS INVOLVED HIGH COURT IN DISCUSSION OF ISSUE OF
 'WHO IS A CHRISTIAN?': A Member of the Sect 'JEWESS FOR JESUS' Seeking Citizenship
 By Virtue of Law of Return"

BYLINE : T. RIVI, YEDIOT CORRESPONDENT

QUOTE : Who is a Christian? This question was raised yesterday in the High Court which, during the course of many hours was engaged in a theological discussion reminiscent of the famous Medieval debates between Jews and Christians. It was before the Justices Alfred Witkon, Shlomo Asher, and Meir Shamgar, that the petition of Eileen Dorflinger, a new immigrant from the U.S.A., who defines herself as a "Jewess for Jesus", and is demanding Israeli citizenship under the Law of Return as a Jewess in every respect, was heard yesterday.

Eileen Dorflinger was born a Jewess. In 1976 she came to Israel as a new immigrant from the U.S.A. with her son, after having divorced her husband. At the Absorption Centre where she stayed during the first months that she was in Israel it became known that she had undergone the ceremony of baptism, and had joined a church, and that she believes, according to her definition, "also in Jesus." These facts were revealed after she had conversed with new immigrants at the hostel on the subject of her religious belief, and these persons reported to the manager of the hostel that "there is a missionary woman in their midst." The manager of the hostel reported it to his superiors, and the story spread around until it reached the Ministry of Interior. When Eileen Dorflinger approached the Ministry of the Interior with a request for a New Immigrants Certificate by virtue of the Law of Return, she received a negative response inasmuch as the Minister of the Interior did not regard her as a Jewess. Mrs. Dorflinger, therefore, appealed to the High Court of Justice by means of Attorney Uri Huppert, and claimed: "I am a Jewess."

In place of statute books the judicial desk was laden with volumes of the Hebrew Encyclopedia, the writings of Maimonides and Ahad Haam, by which means the State representative, a senior aide to the State Attorney, the attorney Renato Yarak sought to prove that Eileen Dorflinger is not a Jewess. "The petitioner believes in Jesus," the State argued, "and is therefore not a Jewess." But Justice Alfred Vitkon pressed him: "I believe in my dentist. Am I therefore not a Jew?" The State representative continued: "The petitioner believes in the Messiahship of Jesus, and she has so declared." The State attorney added that she had indeed declared that she believes in the God of Israel and in his Unity, but he cited an article in the Hebrew Encyclopedia: "Christianity is a monotheistic religion which also believes in the God of Israel." That is to say: "The fact that the petitioner believes in the Messiahship of Jesus; even if not in his divinity—proves that she is a Christian by religion. Maimonides was also cited: "Whoever believes in Jesus cannot be a Jew."

In the course of his arguments the State representative brought forth a document proving that the petitioner had been baptized in a church in the U.S.A. In response to the baptismal document the petitioner claimed: "I was baptized for purification purposes." Again the Encyclopedia was whipped out, and under the topic "Baptism" it was found written: "Baptism is for purification purposes which enables one to accept the Christian religion." The question which has not been decided yet—Does belief in Jesus prevent a person from being Jewish—will be decided in the weeks to come. END ARTICLE

DATE: 29.11.78 JOURNAL: "MAARIV" (HEB PM IND) NEWS ARTICLE

HEADING: "DELIBERATIONS BEGUN ON PETITION OF JEWESS WHO BELIEVES IN JESUS--TO OBTAIN
 CITIZENSHIP UNDER LAW OF RETURN: According to Min.Int. Eileen Dorflinger from
 U.S.A. is not Jewish. Her Attorney Denies that she Participated in Christian Rites"

BYLINE: AMOS LEVAV

QUOTE: Is a Jewess who believes in Jesus to be considered Jewish, and to be entitled to Israeli citizenship by virtue of the Law of Return? Supreme Court Justices Alfred Vitkon, Meir Shamgar, and Shlomo Asher, began deliberations yesterday on this issue. Eileen Dorflinger, age 30, born to a Jewish father and mother in the U.S.A., in her petition to the High Court of Justice states that she had experienced a "divine revelation" following which she began to believe in Jesus. She later came to Israel and requested citizenship by virtue of the Law of Return. The Minister of Interior gave instructions to issue her a Temporary Identity Certificate for two years in the status of Temporary Resident. In this certificate Eileen was registered as a Jewess. At the opening of the deliberations yesterday her attorney Uri Huppert denied that she had participated in Christian rites, as claimed by the State Attorney's office.

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The Senior Aide to the State Attorney, Renato Yarak, stated that Eileen Dorflinger is not Jewish in the opinion of the Minister of the Interior. According to Mr. Yarak, the Minister has based his decision not to grant her citizenship because of her belief and because of the fact that she has been baptized into Christianity. "Religion is one of the crucial items in faith. Her religion is not the Jewish religion. And the fact that she believes in Jesus as Messiah is not in dispute," he said. In a courtroom filled with persons sharing the petitioner's faith, the State representative made a comprehensive review of Christianity in its various shades, basing it on the authority of encyclopedias and scientific literature. "On the basis of these authorities, Christianity is a religion which believes in Jesus as Messiah," attorney Yarak determined.

Justice Vitkon remarked: "We have to refresh our knowledge in this area."

Attorney Yarak remarked: "Maimonides has already decreed that whosoever believes in Jesus cannot be a Jew." The State representative also said that U.S. Judaism in all its streams is fighting the phenomenon of "Jews for Jesus". He added: "This is a case concerning which many, many persons are looking for the Court's pronouncement. The ruling will have the character of a precedent."

Justice Shlomo Asher remarked: "The question is whether we should enter here into a theological debate, or whether to deliberate only on the judicial question."

Renato Yarak: "According to the petitioner's view, she is a Jewess. But in our eyes she is not a Jewess."

Finally, the State representative said that there was evidence (including the verification of a clergyman) that Eileen Dorflinger was baptized into Christianity, and that she had been accepted into the church. Attorney Uri Huppert stated that it was the Minister of Interior himself who had registered the petitioner as Jewish in the Temporary Identity Certificate that he had granted her. Continuation of the deliberations was postponed (to an as yet unspecified date). END ARTICLE

SUBJECT 2: MISSIONS IN ISRAEL

DATE: 18.8.78 JOURNAL: JEWISH TRIBUNE (LONDON, ENGLAND) FEATURE ARTICLE
HEADING: "MISSIONARY SLANDER" ("HERE AND THERE")
BYLINE: Ben Yitzchok

QUOTE: When I read Marion Woolfson's feature article in THE TIMES of last Wednesday (SEE SELECTIONS No. 39, page 1 top), I was taken aback on several counts. Firstly, the heading "CHRISTIANS IN ISRAEL: Persecution with the makings of a pogrom", seemed wrong. Surely, Christians are not persecuted, harassed and slaughtered in Israel but in Lebanon, and it is THEIR plight which a responsible paper like THE TIMES should highlight rather than a fringe problem in Israel. Secondly, I was struck by the terminological inexactitudes, gross exaggerations, and sharp language used in the article. And finally, the writer, a Jewess, wrote with undisguised anti-Jewish and anti-Israel prejudice, belonging as she does to CAABU, an organization known to be hostile to Israel.

The author "describes" how groups of Orthodox Jews, "have been vandalizing property belonging to various Christian sects and how periodically Christians are attacked so that now they are employing Arab guards to protect them. Slander campaign...religious hoodlums... secret files...attacks on Christian churches...blackmail...arson" these are some of Marion Woolfson's wild charges. She relates an incident of a "bombing attack when a hand grenade was thrown at a Baptist house in Jerusalem...but the police found no suspects." She quotes a Jewish student who participated in Christian prayers as saying: "They threaten that if I don't finish with the Baptist, someone will kill me." And to top this cynical sob story, she says that things were not so bad in the good old days of Mapai rule but have deteriorated since Menahem Begin has become Prime Minister as he thinks along similar lines as the militant Orthodox elements. Well, what is the truth?

It would be foolhardy to deny that occasional skirmishes of a minor character take place from time to time between religious youngsters who object to the missionary activities being carried on in a JEWISH STATE and those who engage in such missionary activities. The scale of these skirmishes is beyond doubt far below the scale of synagogue incidents and anti-semitic manifestations in Britain, yet no one would in his wildest dreams speak or write of anti-Jewish pogroms and persecutions in the U.K. Menahem Begin is as much involved in or responsible for these odd confrontations as is Britain's P.M. responsible for the recent burning down of a synagogue in Manchester, and to claim or infer the contrary is a falsification of the facts. For THE TIMES to open its pages to such subterfuge is provocative and offensive to its readers. A bold move towards indulging in anti-Christian pogroms and persecutions when

in fact Jews have been persecuted by Christians throughout the ages--is as vicious as it is untrue. The writer quotes John Lindsey of the Baptist Church in Israel as complaining: "What do they want from us? We have never converted anyone. We are not interested in buying souls as they claim." So what are they doing in Israel altogether? Eating falafel? Their scope to help their own brethren in Lebanon and scores of other countries where Christians live in conditions of extreme material and spiritual deprivation--indeed persecution--is enormous. So why do they spread their wings and teachings in Israel where there are ample religious and social agencies to look after the needs of the local population?

Fist-fights and stone-throwing is not the Jewish way of asserting our identity. On the other hand, the missionaries must be made to understand in no uncertain terms that we resent and reject their interference with the remnant of our People who have survived the Holocaust and centuries of Christian pogroms and persecutions. END ARTICLE.

DATE: 29.11.78 JOURNAL: JERUSALEM POST (ENGLISH AM IND.) LETTER TO EDITOR
HEADING: "TAINTED VERSION OF DEMOCRACY"

QUOTE : Mr. Blumberg's version of democracy excludes the idea of people with different religious orientations from his own from attending Hebrew ulpans ("LUDICROUS SITUATION"--Nov.12: SEE ALSO SELECTIONS No. 44, page 1 top). I presume this could be extended to countries other than Israel. He would not, I suppose, object should any Christian country stop Jewish students from attending any subsidized schools or universities. He also seems to feel that he alone in his 1 1/2 years in Israel has paid taxes, and that Christians and other non-Jewish religious denominations are exempt from this burden.

Mr. Blumberg also shows very little faith in the Jewish people if he feels that the wife of a Jewish Christian missionary, learning Hebrew threatens in any way a religion that has remained intact under the onslaught of centuries of torture and persecution. I sincerely hope that Israel never becomes the type of country it has rescued the majority of its people from screening those who are eligible to speak the language they live with by political or religious criteria. SIGNED: K. GOULD, KIBBUTZ AYELET HASHAHAR.

SUBJECT 2: CHRISTIANS PRO-ISRAEL

DATE: 24.11.78 JOURNAL: JERUSALEM POST FEATURE ARTICLE
HEADING: "HARD PITCH FOR ISRAEL" (PHOTO INSET: JERRY FALWELL)

BYLINE : Haim Shapiro, J.P. Reporter

QUOTE : Some 16,000 people come to hear him every Sunday, hundreds of thousands--perhaps even millions--watch him on TV every week. He tells them to love Israel. Dr. Jerry Falwell, who is now leading a group of 500 born-again American Christians on a tour of Israel, started his ministry 22 years ago with a congregation of 35. Now over 25% of the 60,000 people living in Lynchburg, Virginia, go to the Thomas Road Baptist Church every Sunday. The service is shown over 327 TV stations in the U.S. and Canada.

Dr. Falwell has been bringing groups to Israel since the late 1960s. They want to see where Jesus lived, ministered and died. Falwell believes that "Bible-believing" Christians are the best friends Israel has today. He stresses "BIBLE BELIEVING." There are others, he says, "who call themselves Christians," and who belong to the World Council of Churches, who are less friendly to Israel. He sees himself and his fellow-fundamentalists as the Orthodox Jews of Christianity. "We believe that God gave the land to Israel," he says simply.

A large man with carefully-combed silver-grey hair which he pats in place every so often he wears a well-cut dark suit and a conservative striped tie. In a rich, deep voice he explains that he loves the Jews for three reasons: "God gave us our Scriptures through the Jews, God gave us our Saviour through the Jews, and we believe the promise God gave to Abraham--that he would bless those who bless Israel and curse those who curse Israel." This has happened, he says. God has blessed America and cursed Hitler and Spain. Russia is in for real trouble, he believes.

Falwell denies that he comes to Israel to convert the Jewish people: "I come as a witness for Christ. Obviously, I do all I can to lead people to Christ, but I don't pressure people." Meanwhile, he has met with P.M. Menachem Begin, "a good friend." Begin has recorded a message for a TV show to be shown in January. The message has to do with the Camp David peace agreements, but Falwell will not say what it is.

Falwell himself was converted by listening to a radio church program. He switched from his engineering studies to a Bible college, and soon after assuming a pulpit he began his own 30-minute TV show. Over the years, he slowly enlarged the production from 30 to 60 minutes, with TV stations joining one by one. He also broadcasts a daily radio show over some 300 stations.

MORE

Falwell says he respects Pres. Carter, "as I do all heads of state," but disagrees with him, especially about Israel. The president has bad advisers who don't give him all the facts, he says. "A lot of people think if you're pro-Israel you're anti-Arab. I love the Arabs like I love all people. I have compassionate pity for the Arabs." He also does business with a number of Arab tour companies, and has "a very good relation" with them. And he has friends in the Arab community in America. The Middle East is often a subject of Falwell's broadcasts: "I am very sympathetic to the Arab problem, and believe there somehow has to be a solution to the Palestine refugee problem," he says, "but I don't know what it is." He adds, "I'm sure a solution will be found." Falwell is also convinced that Begin's only interest is to bring peace to the Middle East. For his part, he is trying to present to the American people a positive picture of what Israel is trying to do. END ARTICLE

DATE: 26.11.78 JOURNAL: MAARIV (HEB PM IND) FEATURE ARTICLE
HEADING: "ZIONIST CLERGYMAN FROM SWEDEN WHO BRINGS 5,000 TOURISTS EACH YEAR TO ISRAEL"
BYLINE: Thomas Carlson (PHOTO INSET: The Clergyman Gesta Lindhall: "Israel will gain additional areas")
QUOTE: Gesta Lindhall, age 72, is a Protestant clergyman of the Pentecostal sect who is famous in Sweden not only because of his preaching but also by virtue of his lectures on Israel, a land which he sees as his second homeland. He serves as a kind of "One-Man Travel Agency", traveling to Israel six to eight times a year, and has already brought more than 5,000 Swedish tourists to the Holy Land. "I love Israel, and know it better than I do Sweden," says Mr. Lindhall, adding: "From my reading of the Bible I learnt very much. People whom I've brought to Israel have seemed to find my guiding interesting, and they asked me to write a book about Israel. The first edition is already exhausted, and the second is selling well. Incidentally, I learned that all the Swedish troops in the UN force receive my book before they go on holiday to Israel."

Mr. Lindhall is of the opinion that the love of Swedish tourists for Israel and its inhabitants has grown stronger, and he stresses: "I have never preached hatred against the Arabs. My policy has always been to speak well of the Arabs in the hearing of Jews and to speak well of the Jews in the hearing of the Arabs." Afterward he told me how he had arranged for cooperation between a Jewish tourist agent in Israel and an Arab tourist agent in East Jerusalem after supplying each one with the address of his colleague. "This was one day after the end of the Six Days War. My agent Reuben stopped his car at the door of a house in East Jerusalem, which was opened by Joseph, an Arab tourist agent. Reuben invited Joseph and his family to come to his home in Galilee far from the fighting. (There were still shots heard in the area from gunfire) From that time on they have been cooperating not only in business but they have become good friends," Gesta Lindhall relates enthusiastically.

The Swedish clergyman is not apprehensive about terrorist activity, and he relates: Once I was visiting with my group at the Western Wall, and suddenly there was a burst of gunfire. Another tour guide—I won't tell you which—shouted to his group to return quickly to their hotel. I said to my group quietly that they should sit down somewhere in the shade and wait. I said that the God who defends Israel would also defend Israel's guests. And indeed nothing happened to us, and we continued on our tour."

The present situation (our conversation took place before the Camp David talks) he compares to the days of our Master Moses. Pharaoh was prepared to come to an agreement, but the conditions were very hard that he made, and Moses refused to compromise, and his tough stance proved worthwhile. Calamities befell the enemies of Israel. Relying upon the prophet Ezekiel, Mr. Lindhall says that Israel need not fear the military might of the USSR. Lindhall is completely convinced—also on the authority of the prophets—that Israel will not return any territories. On the contrary: Additional territories will "actually be pressed into her hands."

Before we parted he asks me to convey greetings to all his friends in Israel... "because if I had to send greetings to each one of them by mail the stamps and envelopes would cost me a fortune." And so I herewith comply with his request. END ARTICLE.

SUBJECT 3: CHRISTIANS (GENERAL CLIPPINGS ABOUT CHRISTIANS IN ISRAELI PRESS)

DATE: 24.11.78 JOURNAL: JOURNAL D'ISRAEL (TELAVIV) FRENCH LANGUAGE NEWS ARTICLE
HEADING: "VICTORIOUS FAITH": THEME OF INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF J.L. HOVAH WITNESSES IN MONTREAL
BYLINE: Antoine Khalil Char (PHOTO INSET: BAPTISM BY IMMERSION AT MONTREAL OLYMPIC POOL)
SUMMARY: The article describes the JW congress last summer attended by 100,000 at the Olympic stadium in Montreal, proceedings, mass baptism of 1,000, background information about Jews, history and distinctives vis-à-vis Christendom, and statements by several leaders at the time. The article was reportorial without any personal comment by journalist, supplying much statistical material about the sect worldwide without any specific mention of Israel. END
MORE

DATE: 28.11.78 JOURNAL: JERUSALEM POST FEATURE ARTICLE
HEADING: "CELLULOID SALVATION"

BYLINE: Wm. Scobie, Observer Foreign News Service.

QUOTE: "The Lord is my coproducer, and He doesn't sponsor flops," says Hollywood film mogul Robt Munger. "Besides, there are 70 million born-again Christians out there waiting for this film." The film which opened in mid-Nov. around the US. is BORN AGAIN, a lavish screen version of Chas. Colson's Watergate bestseller. It tells how Richard Nixon's former top hatchet man was transformed from (as producer Munger puts it) "a rat into a Christian."

BORN AGAIN was still able to excite filmland. That's because many see it igniting a new trend of profitable movies aimed at the largely untapped religious market. BORN AGAIN has broken new ground. It is the most costly (\$3 million-plus) film with a hard-sell evangelistic message yet made, and the first of its genre ever released with the full promotional fanfare of a major distributor, Avco-Embassy.

Critics have been cruel, but to Munger it is Christians that count. "Callup Poll shows 98% of all college students believe in God. If only half the born-again Christians in this nation see the film, it'll make money," says Munger, who made a fortune in advertising before turning to film. "I saved 20th Century Fox from bankruptcy with THE OREN," he adds modestly. "It made \$100 million." What's more, he claims, that horror film about the coming of the Anti-Christ "sent people back to their Bibles. Now BORN AGAIN will change the lives of millions."

But the thrust of the film is not political. It concentrates on Colson's rise from the mire, his conversion by businessman Tom Phillips (Dana Andrews) and his subsequent prison ministry. "I don't care about the vote on me," says Colson, "only whether people hear my message." It appears that almost everyone working on the film already has. Munger is a born-again Christian. So are Dean Jones (Colson), the Mr. Nice Guy of many Disney films, Chris Conrad as Colson's son, scriptwriter Ernest Bloch, and a dozen others. The film was financed by fundamentalist churches and born-again captains of industry, and for months past special prayer meetings have been held in churches around the country to invite the Deity's blessings on the film. In one Oregon township prayers for its success have been backed by a regular Friday fast. Only director Irving Rapper, a Jew, has not been re-born, but confesses that he did "weep four times" while reading Colson's book.

Colson says he will plough all personal profit back into his Prison Fellowship, a group that works to bring inmates to Christ. Started by Colson and Senator Harold Hughes of Iowa (who appears in the film as himself), the Fellowship already benefits from the earnings of the book. Munger is keeping his share, but tithes his income to his church. "God gave me a good year when I tithed 10%, a great year when I tithed 15%," he says. "So next time it'll be 20%." He advises atheists who want to make money to invest promptly in the coming religious-movie boom. He himself is following up with a new multimillion dollar epic, THE ANGEL—"a serious look at the guardian angels in our lives." END ARTICLE

DATE: 23.11.78 JOURNAL: JERUSALEM POST "POSTSCRIPTS"

QUOTE: Danish film director Jens Joergen Thogsen is suing the government for withdrawing financial support from his planned film on the sex life of Jesus Christ, his lawyer, Joergen Jacobsen, told Reuters recently. Denmark normally provides govt funds to back Danish film productions. But it withdrew its support after an international uproar over the planned film, which many Christians considered blasphemous. The film would show Jesus nude in several sex scenes. Govt legal experts said the film was a "breach of copyright and would offend . . . society's interests." Offensive we can understand. But "breach of copyright?" Of what? The Gospels? END

DATE: 24.11.78 YERUSHALTON (Heb Weekly In) MISCELLANEOUS ITEM

QUOTE: During my long fruitless search for a rented apartment passing through streets whose names were known to none...and still carrying my legs from one real estate broker to the next... perhaps it was of this that it was once said: "THE FOXES HAVE HOLES AND THE BERDS OF THE AIR HAVE THEIR NESTS BUT THE SON OF MAN HAS NO PLACE TO REST HIS HEAD." CITED FROM MATTHEW 23:34

8:21 END