

SUBJECT 1: PRESIDENTIAL INVITATION TO POPE

DATE: 29.12.78 JOURNAL: JERUSALEM POST (ENGLISH A.M. INDEPENDENT) NEWS ARTICLE
 HEADING: "POPE ASSURED OF WARM WELCOME HERE--NAVON" (PHOTO INSET: PRES NAVON GREETING
 BYLINE : Jerusalem Post Reporter (REPRESENTATIVES OF ISRAEL'S CHRISTIAN
 QUOTE : At a reception for leaders of the country' (COMMUNITIES AT BEIT HANASSI YESTERDAY)
 Christian communities at Beit Hanassi yesterday, President Yitzhak Navon said that Pope
 John Paul II would be a welcome guest in Israel. "I am certain that I am expressing the
 feelings of both the people and the government of Israel when I say that it would give us
 great pleasure to see His Holiness among us and to receive him with the respect and hon-
 our that is due to him," Navon said.

The President expressed sorrow at the death of the Pope's two predecessors this year, and said he had heard of the desire to visit the holy places which John Paul expressed at his Christmas Eve mass at the Vatican on Sunday. Sources in Beit Hanassi said last night that the President had not issued either a formal or informal invitation to the Pope to visit. Asked if the President had consulted with the Prime Minister before making his statement, a source close to Navon said that "of course, the Pres. is in constant touch with the Premier."

The Apostolic Delegate to Jerusalem, Msr. Wm. Carew, told AP that he doubted the Pope would visit here in the near future, because John Paul plans to tour Mexico next month, and may visit his native Poland in the spring. In addition, Carew said, the delicate nature of the peace negotiations also made this the wrong time for a visit. Were the current pope to come, he would be the 2nd to make a pilgrimage to the Holy Land. Pope Paul VI, who died this year, toured the country in 1964.

The Holy See does not have formal diplomatic ties with Israel. (Relig. Affairs Min. Aharon Abuhateira and officials of various ministries attended the reception.)
 END NEWS ARTICLE

DATE: 29.12.78 JOURNAL: HA'ARETZ (HEBREW A.M. INDEPENDENT) NEWS ARTICLE
 HEADING: "PRESIDENT HOLDS RECEPTION FOR CHRISTIAN COMMUNITIES TO GREET NEW YEAR: "WILL WELCOME POPE IF HE COMES TO VISIT HOLY SITES". (PHOTO INSET: PRES. AT RECEPTION)
 QUOTE : The President of the State, Mr. Yitzhak Navon, yesterday held a reception for the heads of the 26 Christian communities in honour of the New Year. In his greeting to the heads of the communities the President said that Israel regards it as a moral obligation to guarantee to the members of all peoples and all faiths freedom of worship and free access to the holy places. This policy, he stated, exists from the very beginning of the existence of the State of Israel, and has found its expression in the Declaration of Independence of the State of Israel. Peaceful co-existence among all faiths and communities in Israel exists in theory and in practice, and must be preserved and cultivated.

The President expressed his regret at the death of two Popes in the year past, and noted that he had heard of the desire of Pope John Paul II to visit the holy places. The President of the State expressed the opinion of the people and of the Government of Israel "that it would be pleasure to see him among us and to receive him cordially and respectfully." Min. of Relig. Affairs Mr. Aharon Abu-hateira, conveyed the greetings of his office, noting that the State of Israel guards the holy places and the existing status quo regarding them. The Patriarch Benedict, head of the Greek Orthodox community, responded with greetings in the name of the heads of the Christian communities, and pointed to the good relations existing between the State of Israel and the Christian communities and believing Christians. Taking part in the reception were also senior officials in the Min. of Relig. Affairs, the Foreign Ministry, the Interior Ministry, and the Police Department of Israel, as well as members of the Israel Interfaith Committee. END

DATE: 29.12.78 JOURNAL: DAVAR (HISTADRUT AM HEB) NEWS ARTICLE
 HEADING: "PRES. NAVON HAS INVITED THE POPE TO VISIT ISRAEL: INVITATION OFFICIAL WITH THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE PRIME MINISTER"

BYLINE : Danny Bloch and Tova Zinuki, Davar Correspondents.

QUOTE : The oral invitation which President Yitzhak Navon made to the Pope to visit Israel is an official one from the State of Israel. Authorized official circles have stated that the invitation was made with the knowledge of P.M. Menahem Begin. After the Pope had stated during the Christmas Mass in the Church of St. Peter that he is restrained from visiting the holy places in Israel, the President consulted with the Prime Minister about extending an invitation to the pope, and the Prime Minister proposed that the President extend an invitation orally at a suitable occasion, which occurred at the reception held for the heads of the Christian communities. Government sources have said that until

now there have been no contacts with the Vatican on this subject. At the reception for the heads of the Christian communities the President said: "Several days ago I heard of the desire of His Holiness Pope John Paul II to visit the holy places. I am confident that I am expressing the opinion of the people and Government of Israel if I should say that it would be a pleasure to see him among us and to welcome him cordially and respectfully." The President also said that Israel regards it as a moral obligation to guarantee freedom of worship and free access to the holy places for all peoples and faiths.

The guests were also greeted by the Min. of Relig. Affairs A. Abuhatzaira. On behalf of the guests Patriarch Benedictus of the Orthodox Church responded. Also present were Mayor of Jerusalem Teddy Kollek and the Deputy of the Greek Catholic Church Archimandrite Lutafi L'aham. As usual, the head of the Catholic Church, Archbishop Giacomo Beltriti, was absent. END ARTICLE.

DATE: 29.12.78 JOURNAL: AL HANISHIMAR (NAPAM AM HEB) NEWS ARTICLE

HEADING: "THE PRESIDENT INVITES THE POPE"

BYLINE: Gabriel Stern, AL HANISHIMAR Correspondent.

QUOTE: "I am confident that I am expressing the opinion....(as above)" This was stated yesterday by the President of the State of Israel, Yitzhak Navon, in reply to the wish expressed by the Pope several days ago to visit the holy places. (As will be recalled, the late Pope Paul VI visited Israel in 1964, and the same year the present Pope arrived here as a pilgrim when he was Archbishop of Cracow.) The President was speaking at the traditional annual reception for the heads of the Christian communities to mark the new civil year, and noted, among other things, that the meeting underscores anew the spiritual heritage, the biblical foundations, and the unifying role of this land in the moral life of mankind. He emphasized that peaceful co-existence among all faiths and communities exists in Israel both in theory and in practice in accordance with the undertakings of the Declaration of Independence of the State of Israel, and this is to be guarded and cultivated in order to deepen the constructive dialogue among them.

The President promised that in the future, as in the past, the heads of the communities (about twelve in number) will find a listening ear at the Presidential Residence as well as understanding for their high positions. He held up for praise the efforts of Christian groups to search for their roots in Israel by means of study and research.

In speaking about the peace efforts, the President noted, that not all the obstacles had been removed, but "the distance we had covered in the journey to peace was far greater than the distance remaining to overtake it, and when peace comes, it will be a message not only for the peoples of the region, but for all mankind."

To the right of the President sat the Patriarch of the Greek Orthodox Church, Benedictus the First, 87 years of age, who greeted the President in the name of his colleagues on the occasion of this first meeting with him, and praised the good relations existing between the churches and the Government of Israel, bringing good wishes for peace. To the left of the President sat the Armenian Patriarch, Elisha II Dardarian, and also the General Director of the Min. of Relig. Affairs, Israel Lippel. The Min. of Relig. Affairs, Aharon Abuhatzaira, also spoke, stressing the expansion of activities in the Department for Christian Affairs, whose Director, Daniel Rossing, was the moderator of the ceremony. END ARTICLE

DATE: 29.12.78 JOURNAL: YEDIOT AKHRONOT (HEB PM IND) NEWS ARTICLE

HEADING: "THE PRESIDENT HAS INVITED THE POPE TO VISIT ISRAEL" (PHOTO INSET: PRES NAVON YESTERDAY HELD A RECEPTION FOR HEADS OF CHRISTIAN COMMUNITIES AT THE ONSET OF THE NEW CIVIL YEAR.)

BYLINE: Menahem Barash, Correspondent of Yediot Akhronot.

QUOTE: An official invitation to Pope John Paul II to make a pilgrimage to Israel, to come to Jerusalem, and to visit the sacred places of Christianity was extended yesterday by the Pres. of the State of Israel, Yitzhak Navon, in the course of the New Year reception for the heads of the Christian communities at the Presidential Residence. "Several days ago," the President remarked to some 50 clergymen who stand at the head of 26 Christian communities in Israel, "I listened to the expression of the desire of His Holiness John Paul II to visit the holy places. I am confident....(as above). The President again repeated the assurance that the Govt of Israel would spare no effort to see to it that all the holy places would remain open to members of all faiths and beliefs. "We feel it is a moral obligation," he said, "to guarantee....(as above) (MOST OF THE BALANCE OF ARTICLE REPEATS INFORMATION AS ABOVE, AND CONCLUDES.) This is the first time that, at the President's request, the gathering was opened with the reading of a chapter of the Book of Psalms by Yosi Banai, Also heard were musical excerpts played on a harp. END ARTICLE.

SUBJECT 2: INTERFAITH

DATE: 29.12.78 JOURNAL: MAARIV (HEB PM IND) NEWS ITEM
 HEADING: "MEMBERS OF INTERFAITH COMMITTEE PROPOSE: CONFERENCE IN CAIRO"
 BYLINE : Yosef Zuriel

QUOTE : Clergymen and public figures, Jews, Christians, and Muslims, working in Israel within the framework of the Interfaith Committee, are seeking to cultivate contacts with persons and clerical leaders in Egypt for the purpose of holding an interfaith conference in Cairo. These efforts were made known yesterday in the course of a one-day conference sponsored by the Interfaith Committee to mark the occasion of 30 years of activity. This Committee operates under the aegis of various organization, and active in it are clergy of the three faiths as well as public figures. END

DATE: 15.12.78 JOURNAL: ISRAEL NACHRICHTEN (GERMAN LANGUAGE) BOOK REVIEW
 HEADING: "SIMON SCHOON & HEINZ KREMMERS: NES AMIM--A CHRISTIAN EXPERIMENT IN ISRAEL"
 BYLINE : Erich M. Lehmann

SUMMARY: This is a brief book review of a work written by the Pastor of Nes Amim, a Dutchman, and Prof. Dr. Heinz Kremers, a German, dealing with the founding and development of the first Christian settlement village in Israel since its inception 16 years ago by "Christian Zionists". The reviewer discusses the contrasting church backgrounds of the founders, the attitudes towards missions among them, their churches, among Jews. The reviewer finds the story inspiring... "a Christian settlement in Israel today which enjoys friendly relations with its Jewish and Arab neighbours... a golden mean towards the successful achievement of its goal, namely, taking part in the work of building up Israel." END

DATE: 29.12.78 JOURNAL: JERUSALEM POST (ENGL AM IND) MUSIC REVIEW
 HEADING: "IT WAS WORTH STAYING"
 BYLINE : Dora Sowden

EXCERPTS: "ANNUAL CHRISTMAS DAY CHORAL CONCERT (Binyanei Ha'Ooma) Dec. 25th. Soloists from Israel (Jewish), Belgium, Spain, South Africa, USA, Sweden. Singers of Praise" (Israel) Five well-filled hours truly made a marathon at the Binyanei Ha'Ooma (Dec. 25th), ten choirs, totaling more than 300 singers... Most of the songs by the visiting choirs were, of course, of Christian and Christmas content. (There follows a description of the various choirs and some of their music.)

Finally, the Singers of Praise Chamber Choir (a Baptist group in Israel) combined with the Swedish singers and the Netanya Orchestra for the "Messiah". Conductor Samuel Lewis kept a firm hand over singers and players, getting fine tone from the strings. Though allowing few variations of tempo, he was sympathetic to the soloists, three of whom were from America: Mel Wilson, a clearringing soprano, Gabriel McMullin, a pleasing tenor... and David Baker, a fine bass... Esther Choresch (of Israel), despite much vibrato in her alto, sang well, too. Choirmaster Martha Murphey took over the baton for the Hallelujah Chorus. It was well worth staying till near midnight for it all. END ARTICLE.

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