

1. SUBJECT: RENEWAL AMONG COPTIC CHRISTIANS

DATE: 4.1.78 JOURNAL: JERUSALEM POST FEATURE ARTICLE "CHRISTIAN COMMENT"/OIKOUMENIKOS

HEADING: "A RENEWAL AMONG COPTIC CHRISTIANS"

SUMMARY: COPTIC ORTHODOX CHURCH LARGEST CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY IN MIDEAST, 500,000 IN CAIRO ALONE. SPIRITUAL LEADER POPE SHENOUDA III OF ALEXANDRIA & PATRIARCH OF SEE OF ST MARK IN CAIRO, RENOWNED THEOLOGIAN, BIBLICAL SCHOLAR, JOURNALIST & PREACHER, WEEKLY BIBLE STUDIES IN CAIRO DRAW FIVE TO SEVEN THOUSAND, ALSO EDITS CHURCH WEEKLY MAGAZINE "AL KIRAZA". SOME BACKGROUND INFORMATION GIVEN OF COPTIC ORTHODOXY & SHENOUDA. (COPTS IS CORRUPTION OF THE GREEK WORD EGYPTOS SINCE AD 641 AFTER MOSLEM CONQUEST OF EGYPT.) SOME INFORMATION ABOUT SMALL JERUSALEM COPTIC PRESENCE & DR ANBA BASILIOS JERUSALEM PATRIARCHATE, AN HISTORIAN WITH PH.D. & SUMMARY OF INTERVIEW GIVEN TO ARTHUR GLASSER OF FULLER THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY IN USA BY SHENOUDA: "OUR CENTRAL TASK IS THE EXTENSION OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD...MY CONCERN MUST BE FOR THE KINGDOM OF GOD THROUGHOUT ALL AFRICA--NOT FOR CATHOLICISM OR PROTESTANTISM OR EVEN FOR THE COPTIC CHURCH...WHAT REALLY MATTERS IS THE KINGDOM OF GOD." JERUSALEM PATRIARCH ALSO EXPRESSED HOPE THAT THE NEW DEVELOPING RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN ISRAEL & EGYPT MAY RESULT IN MORE CONTACTS WITH REVITALIZED COPTIC ORTHODOX CHURCH & HER LEADER.

2. ANTIMMISSION LAW

DATE: 9.1.78 JOURNAL: HAARETZ FEATURE ARTICLE

HEADING: "A LAW STOLEN IN BY THE BACK DOOR" (With the Support of the Likud &amp; the Religious Parties

BYLINE: Yehudit Winkler (the Mission Law was Approved Which is Liable to  
EXTRACTS: "WHILE THE KNESSET & THE GENERAL (Injure the Credibility of Israel in the World, and  
PUBLIC WERE DEEP INTO THE PUBLIC DEBATE ON (to Subvert her Relationships with the Gentile Minority)

THE HEELS OF THE PM'S VISIT TO EGYPT, THE SECOND & THIRD READING...OF THE PROPOSED LAW "ENTICEMENT TO CHANGE OF RELIGION" (THE MISSION LAW) AS IF BY CHANCE WAS PASSED THROUGH THE FULL KNESSET WITHOUT ITS BEING INCLUDED ON THE DAILY AGENDA. WITH MASSIVE SUPPORT OF THE LIKUD & RELIGIOUS PARTIES THE LAW WAS PASSED WHICH IN A PERIOD OF ROUTINE LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITY & QUIET TIMES WOULD ALMOST CERTAINLY HAVE TURNED INTO A PIERCING DEBATE. IN THE SHADOW OF ISMAYILA THE MATTER WAS DOWNGRADED, ROLLED THROUGH THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS & WENT UNNOTICED BY MANY MK'S. THE IMMEDIATE RESULT...IS AN OPEN & UNPRECEDENTED CONFRONTATION BETWEEN THE ISRAELI CHRISTIAN CHURCH & THE GOVERNMENT & LEGISLATURE. THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH WITH ITS MORE THAN THIRTY SECTS IN ISRAEL SEEKS FEW OCCASIONS FOR MAKING NEWS. AS A GENERAL PRINCIPLE SHE DECREES FOR HER REPRESENTATIVES: MINIMAL CONTACTS WITH THE MEDIA & MAXIMAL AVOIDANCE OF PUBLIC EXPRESSIONS ON STATE TOPICS. "THE DELICATE BALANCE" IN THE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE CHURCH & THE GOVERNMENT ESTABLISHMENT WAS NOW DISTURBED WITHOUT THE MATTER DISTURBING THE TRANQUILITY OF THE GOVERNMENT SOURCES DIRECTLY INVOLVED IN THE RUNNING CONNECTIONS WITH THE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITIES & THEIR LEADERS, OR THOSE SENIOR GOVT OFFICIALS WHOSE EARS ARE SUPPOSEDLY TUNED TO THE DEVELOPMENTS WITHIN THE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY. THE INITIATOR OF THE LAW IS MK RABBI Y.M. ABRAMOWITZ OF AGUDAT ISRAEL. IN HIS EXPLANATORY REMARKS TO THE PROPOSAL OF LAW HE LISTED ARGUMENTS WHICH HAVE BEEN DEFINED BY CHURCH SOURCES AS "LIBELOUS & SLANDER". MK SHULAMIT ALONI RELATED THIS WEEK THAT THE PROPOSED LAW WAS STOLEN ONTO THE AGENDA OF THE KNESSET WITHOUT THE TOPIC HAVING BEEN PREVIOUSLY ENTERED. WHEN SHE WAS MADE AWARE OF WHAT WAS TAKING PLACE, SHE APPEALED TO THE SPEAKER TO POSTPONE THE SECOND & THIRD READINGS. LIKEWISE MK ADVOCATE MORDECAI WORSHOVSKY, MEIR PEIL & MOSHE SHAHAL. AT THE SAME TIME THE DEPUTY PREMIER YIGAL YADIN WAS ASKED TO EXERCISE HIS INFLUENCE ON HIS PARTY COLLEAGUE MK BENYAMIN HALEVY, DEPUTY CHAIRMAN OF THE LAW COMMITTEE, IN ORDER TO WORK FOR THE POSTPONEMENT OF THE DEBATE IN THE PLENUM OF THE KNESSET. MK HALEVY REFUSED AS DID THE SPEAKER. MOST OF THE ALIGNMENT MK'S WERE ABSENT FROM THE PLENUM WHEN THE PROPOSED LAW WAS PRESENTED. BEFORE THERE WAS ENOUGH TIME FOR OTHER PARTY LEADERS TO ORGANIZE IN ORDER TO RESTRAIN THE STEAMROLLER TACTICS, THE LAW WAS APPROVED. THUS A NEW CHAPTER WAS BEGUN IN THE RELATIONSHIP OF THE GOVT WITH THE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITIES WITHOUT AFFORDING THE KNESSET OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS IT FUNDAMENTALLY & AT LENGTH AND WITH MAXIMAL THOUGHTFULNESS. THE LEGISLATURE WAS PREVENTED FROM EVALUATING THE IMPLICATIONS OF THE LAW AS IT RELATED TO THE COMPLEX STRUCTURE OF COEXISTENCE BETWEEN THE JEWISH MAJORITY & GENTILE MINORITIES, & THE POSSIBLE EFFECTS ON THE CREDIBILITY OF ISRAEL WHEN SHE COMES TO DEMAND OF WORLD PUBLIC OPINION POLITICAL CREDIT FOR THE AUTONOMY PLAN AND THE STATUS OF MINORITIES. UPON LEARNING OF THE ENACTMENT OF THE LAW IN THE KNESSET, CHRISTIAN CHURCH REPRESENTATIVES DEFINED THEIR FEELINGS AS OF "DECEIVED

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MISSION LAW & APPARENTLY WAS SURPRISED BY THE SHARP REACTION OF CHURCH CIRCLES. BETWEEN ISRAEL AND THE VATICAN THERE IS AN ONGOING DIALOG OF YEARS IN CONNECTION WITH THE ISRAELI DEMAND FOR VATICAN RECOGNITION & ITS EFFORTS TO ARRIVE AT A BASIC SETTLEMENT WITH RESPECT TO THE STATUS OF THE HOLY PLACES IN JERUSALEM AND ESPECIALLY NOW WITH THE ISRAELI PEACE PROPOSALS IN THE BACKGROUND. A SOURCE CLOSE TO THE VATICAN ~~TEXT~~ STRESSED THAT MEMBERS OF THE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY IN ISRAEL ARE FOUND FOR THE MOST PART AMONG THE ARAB MINORITY WHICH HAS CLEAR POLITICAL IMPLICATIONS. ...ANYONE SEEKING TO OBTAIN A SETTLEMENT ACCEPTABLE TO ALL SIDES CANNOT IGNORE THE CHURCH AS A FACTOR TO DIALOG WITH, THESE CIRCLES STRESS...IT WOULD SEEM THAT LONGSTANDING BITTERNESS HAS BROKEN OUT NOW AMONG CIRCLES OF THE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY IN ISRAEL AND THE QUESTION WHICH IS RAISED ON THE HEELS OF THE PASSAGE OF THE AMENDMENT TO THE CRIMINAL LAW (i.e. Mission Law) IS THIS A MATTER OF CAREFUL GOVERNMENTAL CONSIDERATION & DELIBERATE POLICY, OR IS IT RATHER EXPLOITATION OF THE PROPER MOMENT BY CHANCE IN THE PLENUM OF THE KNESSET? FROM ALL THE SIGNS THIS CAMPAIGN WILL NOT ADD TO THE IMAGE OF ISRAEL AND IT IS DOUBTFUL THAT IT WILL BROVE VERY HELPFUL TO US PRECISELY NOW. END.

DATE: 9.1.78 JOURNAL: YEDIOT AKHRONOT (HEB PM IND) ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ FEATURE A RTICLE  
HEADING: WHO IS THE PERSECUTOR AND WHO IS THE PERSECUTED?

THE PROPOSED LAW AGAINST ENTICEMENT TO CHANGE OF RELIGION HAS COME TO DEFEND JEWS IN ISRAEL AND NOT TO HARM CHRISTIANS.

BYLINE: RABBI Y.M. Abramowitz (MK)

EXTRACTS: THE PLENUM OF THE KNESSET APPROVED IN THE FIRST READING A SHORT TIME AGO THE LAW AGAINST ENTICEMENT TO CHANGE OF RELIGION THAT I SPONSORED IN THE PREVIOUS SESSION. THE PROPOSAL WAS CARRIED BY A LARGE MAJORITY. IT WON THE SUPPORT OF MK'S FROM THE WHOLE <sup>PARLIAMENTARY</sup> GAMUT. NOTWITHSTANDING THIS REPRESENTATIVES OF THE EXTREME LEFT WING CONTINUE TO BREACH AGAINST THE FINAL APPROVAL OF THE LAW IN ITS SECOND AND THIRD READINGS. IN YEDIOT AKHRONOT OF 16 DEC 77 MK SHULAMIT ALONI PUBLISHED AN ARTICLE AGAINST THE PROPOSED LAW AND IT IS UPON HER REMARKS THAT I WISH TO RESPOND. THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL WERE EVER TAUGHT BY THE PRINCIPLE NOT TO HARM THE FAITH OR RELIGION OF OTHERS. EVEN AFTER MY PROPOSED LAW IS PASSED, THERE WILL BE NO CHANGE IN THIS ATTITUDE. THIS IS A LAW TO DEFEND OURSELVES AND NOT TO HARM OTHERS. AT THE FOUNDATION OF THE LAW LIES THE DETERMINATION THAT IN ISRAEL IT SHALL BE FORBIDDEN TO ENGAGE IN ANY ACTIVITY WHOSE AIM IS TO ENTICE ANOTHER PERSON BY MEANS OF MONEY OR ITS EQUIVALENT TO CHANGE HIS RELIGION. WHOSEVER SHALL OFFER MONEY OR ITS EQUIVALENT SHALL BE PUNISHED. THAT IS THE PROPOSAL IN ITS SIMPLICITY AND ANYONE ATTEMPTING TO DESCRIBE IT OTHERWISE EITHER DOES NOT UNDERSTAND THE PROPOSAL OR IS TRYING TO BLIND THE EYES. THE PROPOSED LAW WILL NOT HARM CHRISTIANS LIVING IN ISRAEL, NOT IN THE EXERCISE OF THEIR RELIGIOUS FREEDOM NOR IN THEIR CHURCHES NOR IN THEIR HOMES. BUT IT WILL PREVENT--HOPEFULLY--MISSIONARIES FROM CAUSING JEWS WHO ARE UNDERPRIVILEGED AND LESS FORTUNATE TO CHANGE THEIR RELIGION IN EXCHANGE FOR MONEY. THE LAW COMES TO DEFEND OUR CHILDREN AND CITIZENS OF ISRAEL FROM CROOKS, FROM UNCONSCIONABLE PERSONS, WHO FOR GREEDY GAIN ARE WILLING TO ENTICE OTHERS TO CHANGE THEIR RELIGION. ALL OUR REQUEST TO THE CHRISTIANS IS THIS: LET US ALONE. WE DO NOT INTERFERE WITH WHAT IS DONE BY OTHERS AND IT IS REASONABLE TO REQUEST THAT OTHERS WILL NOT INTERFERE WITH US. THE PRINCIPLE IS EXPRESSED IN THE WORDS OF THE PROPHET MICAH: ALL THE PEOPLES SHALL GO EACH IN THE NAME OF THEIR GOD AND WE SHALL WALK IN THE NAME OF THE LORD OUR GOD FOREVER & EVER. THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL PRACTICE WHAT THEY PREACH. EVEN THOUGH THERE IS A COSMIC DIVINE DESTINY FOR THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL TO PERFECT THE WORLD IN THE KINGDOM OF THE ALMIGHTY, OUR PEOPLE DOES NOT CARRY ON ANY PROPAGANDA AMONG THE CHRISTIANS OR AMONG OTHER RELIGIONS TO CONVERT TO JUDAISM. ON THE CONTRARY, THOSE GENTILES WHO APPROACH US TO CONVERT TO JUDAISM ENCOUNTER VERY GREAT DIFFICULTIES. THE GENERAL APPROACH IS AGAINST THE CONVERSION OF GENTILES TO JUDAISM, AND CERTAINLY <sup>NOT</sup> TO PROPAGANDIZE FOR THAT PURPOSE. FROM THIS EVERY INTELLIGENT PERSON MUST UNDERSTAND AND ACCEPT THE FACT THAT <sup>A people unity</sup> LIVES BY SUCH A RULE CANNOT AGREE TO BELIEVERS OF OTHER FAITHS DRAWING OUT THE WEAKONES IN OUR MIDST BY THE CHARM OF MATERIAL ENTICEMENTS, LYING IN WAIT FOR THEIR CALAMITIES AND DOING VIOLENCE TO THEIR SOULS IN EXCHANGE FOR ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ DELIVERANCE FROM TEMPORARY DISTRESS. EVERY OUTSIDER IN THE ENLIGHTENED WORLD WILL UNDERSTAND THAT THE LAW PROPOSED IS NOT A LAW AGAINST CHRISTIANS BUT A LAW AGAINST THOSE UNCONSCIONABLE CHRISTIANS WHO FOR GREEDY GAIN PURSUE WEAK STRAGGLERS IN A MISSION OF SOUL CONQUEST.

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MK SHILAMIT ALONI RAISES A STRANGE ARGUMENT THAT THE PROPOSED LAW WILL HARM JEWS LIVING IN CHRISTIAN COUNTRIES. "BY THE NATURE OF THINGS," MRS ALONI WRITES, "IF THE MAJORITY OF THE POPULATION IS CHRISTIAN THEN THE CHRISTIANS & THE CHRISTIAN ESTABLISHMENT HAS A SAYSO IN THOSE STATES." SINCE THE MAJORITY IN HER OPINION DETERMINES THE DIRECTION WHY THEN SHOULD NOT THE MAJORITY IN OUR ~~JEWISH~~ LAND DETERMINE THE ISRAELI DIRECTION? IN THE DIASPORA IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE FOR US TO ENACT A LAW FORBIDDING THE ENTICEMENT OF JEWS IN EXCHANGE FOR MONEY, BUT AFTER WE HAVE WON OUR OWN HOMELAND WHY SHOULD WE NOT DO THIS? AND CAN THIS BE CALLED HARMFUL TO ANYONE? AND SHOULD A LAW WHOSE AIM IS CLEAR BE LIABLE TO CAUSE EXTREME REACTIONS? ON THE CONTRARY, WE FULLY RESPECT EVERY BELIEVER. THE TALE IS WELL KNOWN CONCERNING RABBI YISRAEL BAAL SHEMTOV, MAY THE MEMORY OF THE RIGHTEOUS BE BLESSED, WHO JOURNEYED ONCE WITH A ~~XARRINKE~~ COACH FROM TOWN TO TOWN. WHEN THEY WENT OUTSIDE OF THE TOWN THEY PASSED A CHURCH. THE BESHT SAW THAT THE GENTILE COACHMAN DID NOT MAKE THE SIGN OF THE CROSS AS REQUIRED UPON PASSING THE CHURCH AND COMMANDED HIM TO STOP. DESCENDING FROM THE COACH, HE SAID: "I WILL NOT TRAVEL WITH A MAN WHO DOES NOT BELIEVE IN HIS OWN RELIGION." THUS WE WHO CONTINUE IN THE WAY OF THE BESHT HONOR EVERY BELIEVER. THAT IS OUR APPROACH. WE DO NOT CONDUCT PROPAGANDA FOR CHRISTIANS TO CONVERT TO JUDAISM AND WE ASK THEM THAT THEY REPAY US IN KIND. MK DR GIDEON HAUSNER, ONE OF THE MOST ENTHUSIASTIC SUPPORTERS OF THE PROPOSED LAW, DISCLOSED FROM THE KNESSET PLATFORM THAT HE HAS A SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH WHICH RECENTLY APPEARED. THE STUDY PROVES... THAT IF WE HAD BEEN PERMITTED TO DEVELOP WITHOUT ATTACKS AND PERSECUTIONS IN ALL THE DIASPORAS FOR THE LAST TWO THOUSAND YEARS, WE WOULD TODAY NUMBER CLOSE TO SEVEN HUNDRED MILLION SOULS. WHO THEN IS THE PERSECUTOR AND WHO THE PERSECUTED? A GOOD PART OF MK ALONI'S ARGUMENTS ARE BASED ON THE ALLEGATION THAT THE PROPOSED LAW HAS COME TO WORK VENGEANCE UPON THE GENTILES. WHAT KIND OF VENGEANCE IS THIS? THIS IS ONLY A DEFENCE OF WHAT REMAINS, OF THAT LITTLE REMNANT. EVERY GENTILE WILL UNDERSTAND OUR FIERCE DESIRE TO PRESERVE OUR FRAMEWORK. EVERYONE OF THEM WILL BE ASHAMED IF WE PRESENT TO HIM THE FACTS. I AM SURE THAT MOST CHRISTIANS WILL BE THOROUGHLY SHAMED OF THE PART OF THEIR SO CALLED REPRESENTATIVES WHO WANT TO BUY WITH MONEY BELIEVERS IN THEIR RELIGIONS. THE PROPOSED LAW IS A LAW OF COMPROMISE. THE TRUTH IS THAT I WANTED TO PROPOSE THAT IN OUR STATE WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO DEFEND OURSELVES AGAINST THE THEFT OF SOULS IN ANY WAY. I WANTED TO PROPOSE A LAW WHICH WOULD PROHIBIT PROPAGANDA FOR CHRISTIANITY OF EVERY TYPE. BUT WHEN ~~IT~~ BEGAN TO SPEAK WITH GOVT MINISTERS, WITH MK'S, WITH FRIENDS AND ACQUAINTANCES OF ALL CIRCLES, I LEARN'T TO MY SORROW THAT I COULD NOT WIN THE NECESSARY SUPPORT. I WAS VERY MUCH DISAPPOINTED BY THE REACTIONS OF MEN OF THE "NATIONALIST LINE" WHO STRESSED AGAIN AND AGAIN THAT "THE DEFINITION OF FREE EXPRESSION" ACCEPTED WITH THE RISE OF THE STATE, WAS ALSO OPERATIVE IN THIS AREA. THEREFORE I WAS COMPELLED TO SUBMIT A COMPROMISE PROPOSAL.... I SEE VALUE IN THIS LAW EVEN THO' IT IS NOT PERFECT & DOES NOT PROHIBIT PROPAGANDA FOR CHRISTIANITY. MY HOPE IS THAT THE SEVERE PUNISHMENT OF FIVE YEARS IMPRISONMENT AND 50,000 IL FINE WILL DETER THE ENTICERS AND THE ONES ENTICED. MK ALONI CONTENDS IN HER ARTICLE THAT THE NUMBER OF CONVERTS IN OUR LAND IS SMALL AND IT ISN'T WORTHWHILE TO ENACT A LAW AGAINST A LIMITED NUMBER OF CHRISTIAN CONVERTS TO THIS I OFFER TWO REPLIES: FIRST OF ALL, IT IS POSSIBLE THAT THE NUMBER OF CHRISTIAN CONVERTS KNOWN IS SMALL, BUT THE TRUE NUMBER OF JEWS ENTICED TO EMIGRATE, ENTICED TO ABANDON JUDAISM UPON EMIGRATION OR WHILE ABROAD, EVEN WITHOUT THE ABILITY OF STATISTICS TO KEEP TRACK, IS GREAT AND INVOLVES HUNDREDS OF FAMILIES. SECONDLY, SINCE WHEN IS A LAW DETERMINED BY THE NUMBER OF PERSONS AFFECTED? JUDAISM DECLARES: "EVERYONE WHO SUSTAINS ONE SOUL IN ISRAEL IS AS IF HE SUSTAINED ~~THE~~ A WHOLE WORLD." FOR US, FOR A SMALL PEOPLE, EVERY SOUL IS DEAR. FOR A JEW WHO TURNED CHRISTIAN MEMBERS OF HIS FAMILY HAVE SAT "SHIVA" (MOURNING RITES) AS FOR ~~A~~ <sup>ONE</sup> DECEASED.

END.

DATE: 9.1.73 JOURNAL: AL HAMISHMAR (AM HEB MAPAM) NEWS ARTICLE

HEADING: "THE POPE LIKELY TO RAISE MATTER OF "MISSION LAW" IN HIS MEETING WITH DAYAN

THE LAW RAISES STORM IN CHRISTIAN CIRCLES. BYLINE: Gabriel Stern

EXTRACTS: ~~THE~~ POPE PAUL VI IS LIKELY TO RAISE THE MATTER OF THE ENTICEMENT LAW-CONVERSION OF RELIGION, IN THE INTERVIEW HE WILL GRANT THIS WEEK TO FOREIGN MINISTER MOSHE DAYAN... WHICH (LAW) HAS AROUSED A STORM IN CHRISTIAN CIRCLES. AS IS KNOWN, AT WEEK'S END THE LEADERS OF THE UCCI ~~MEET~~ (THE ROOF ORGANIZATION OF CHURCHES & PROTESTANT BODIES IN ISRAEL) MET IN AN URGENT MANNER WITH THE APOSTOLIC REPRESENTATIVE IN JERUSALEM, THE ARCHBISHOP WILLIAM CAREW, REQUESTING HIM TO WIRE THE VATICAN THE TEXT OF THEIR SHARP PROTEST TO THE PM & OTHERS IN CONNECTION WITH THE LAW WHICH

MORE



THEY CONSIDER AN INSULT AND A DANGER TO FREEDOM OF RELIGION. THE LATIN BISHOP DR HANNA KHALADANI (BELONGING TO THE CATHOLIC CHURCH) HAS EXPRESSED HIS OPPOSITION TO THE LAW. IT APPEARS THAT THE MINISTRIES OF RELIGIONS AFFAIRS AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS WERE FACED WITH A FAIT ACCOMPLI BY THE SWIFT PASSAGE OF THE LAW. AND DAYAN WILL HAVE TO BE ARMED WITH EXPLANATORY MATERIAL FOR HIS MEETING IN ROME FOR THIS MATTER AS WELL AS THE MATTERS OF THE HOLY PLACES AND THE PALESTINIAN PROBLEM WHICH THE POPE IS EXPECTED TO RAISE. MEANWHILE THE OTHER CHRISTIAN COMMUNITIES (ESPECIALLY THE GREEK AND ARMENIAN PATRIARCHATES WHO HAVE PRIOR RIGHTS TO THE HOLY PLACES) CONTINUE TO FOLLOW CAREFULLY THE CONTACTS WITH THE VATICAN WHICH IS ONLY ONE FACTOR CONCERNED.

DATE: 11.1.78 JOURNAL: DAVAR (AM HEB LABOUR) LETTER TO EDITOR  
 HEADING: "MISSIONARY <sup>Tel Aviv</sup> ~~PRE-JEWISH~~ INITIATIVE"

BYLINE: Judy Carr

EXTRACTS: DO MISSIONARIES SEARCH FOR JEWS OR IS IT RATHER JEWS WHO TURN TO THE MISSIONARIES? A GROUP OF WOMEN FROM A SLUM AREA IN TELAVIV ANNOUNCED THAT IF THEIR DEMANDS ARE NOT MET BY THE SUITABLE AUTHORITIES, THEY WILL ACCEPT LARGE SUMS OF MONEY WHICH THE MISSIONARIES OFFER THEM AND CHANGE THEIR RELIGION. THEY ~~COM~~ CHARGE THAT THE SHIKUN IN WHICH THEY LIVE ~~IN THE~~ (GIVAT AMAL AT THE CORNER OF DERECH HAIFA & REHOV BABLI) IS NEGLECTED, THEIR CHILDREN DISADVANTAGED COMPARED TO CHILDREN IN THE BABLI SECTION, AND THEY HAVE NOT RECEIVED SUITABLE COMPENSATION FOR NEW FLATS. WHEN THEY WERE ASKED IF INDEED MONEY HAD BEEN OFFERED THEM BY CHRISTIANS, THEY ADMITTED THEY HAD NOT, BUT THEY SAID THAT PERSONS KNOWN TO THEM HAD CHANGED THEIR RELIGION AND HAD RECEIVED LARGE SUMS OF MONEY. THEY REVEALED NO INTEREST IN THE PRINCIPLES OF CHRISTIANITY. ONE WOMAN SAID: "IF I CHANGE MY RELIGION I WILL BE LIKE EVERYONE ELSE." ALTHOUGH RABBIS WILL NOT AGREE, THIS OUTLOOK TO THE FOUNDER OF CHRISTIANITY SEEMS IMPROPER. WHEN THE WOMEN WERE ASKED IF THEY HAVE JEWISH BOOKS AT HOME AND IF THEY VISIT THE SYNAGOGUE THEY SAID THAT THEY KEEP THE SABBATH AND HOLIDAYS....ONE WOMAN WORKED AS A COOK AND HER HUSBAND WAS A LABOURER. SHE SAID THEY WOULD NEVER HAVE ENOUGH MONEY TO BUY A <sup>NEW</sup> FLAT OR TO SUPPLY THEIR CHILDREN'S NEEDS. I MET WITH THE CLERGYMAN OF THE LUTHERAN CHURCH IN HAIFA, AND HE EXPRESSED SURPRISE THAT CHRISTIANS SHOULD PAY JEWS TO CONVERT TO CHRISTIANITY, AND SAID THAT TO HIS KNOWLEDGE THE CHURCHES DO NOT ENGAGE IN SUCH ACTIVITY. THE RABBI OF SHIKUN BABLI SAID THAT TO THE BEST OF HIS KNOWLEDGE THE CHILDREN OF GIVAT AMAL ARE NOT DISCRIMINATED AGAINST, AND THEY COME TO HIS HOME AND PLAY WITH HIS CHILDREN. IN HIS OPINION IT IS NECESSARY TO IMPROVE THE LIVING CONDITIONS OF THE THE GIVAL AMAL RESIDENTS BEFORE ATTENDING TO THEIR SPIRITUAL EDUCATION. HE SAID HE WOULD VISIT THE RESIDENTS/ <sup>REFERRED TO</sup> IMMEDIATELY AND WILL TRY TO HELP THEM SOLVE THEIR PROBLEMS. THE QUESTION IS THEREFORE: WHO IS IT THAT REQUIRES A LAW AGAINST BRIBERY, THE CHRISTIANS OR THE JEWS?"

3. SUBJECT: CHRISTIAN HOLY PLACES

DATE: 11.1.78 JOURNAL: DAVAR (AM HEB LABOUR) LETTER TO EDITOR

EXTRACTS: ~~RIN~~ ~~THE~~ ~~PROTESTANT~~ ~~PREPARATION~~ ~~FOR~~ ~~THE~~ ~~BY~~ ~~LINE~~ ~~Yisrael Zifer, T.A.~~ ~~DAVAR 9.1.78~~ YEHOSSUA TADMOR WRITES THAT "THE PROTESTANTS HOLD ABOUT EIGHTY PERCENT OF THE HOLY PLACES OF CHRISTIANS." THIS STATEMENT IS WITHOUT ANY BASIS SINCE PROTESTANTS HAVE NO <sup>PROPRIETARY</sup> RIGHTS IN CHRISTIAN HOLY PLACES. THEY ARRIVED IN THE HOLY LAND ONLY 150 YEARS AGO ABOUT WHEREAS THE STATUS QUO IN CHRISTIAN HOLY PLACES DERIVES FROM THE YEAR 1757....(THERE FOLLOWS A BRIEF HISTORICAL REVIEW OF THE HOLY SITES, THE SENSITIVITY OF THE ISSUE & THE FACT THAT ENGLAND A POWERFUL PROTESTANT COUNTRY DID NOT DURING MANDATORY TIMES TRY TO CHANGE THE STATUS QUO IN CHRISTIAN SITES TO FAVOUR PROTESTANTS.)

4. SUBJECT: CLOSE OF BUBER CONFERENCE

DATE: 8.1.78 JOURNAL: DAVAR (AM HEB LABOUR) NEWS ARTICLE

HEADING: "CONFERENCE ON BUBER TEACHING CLOSES" BYLINE: Davar Correspondent in Negev  
 SUMMARY: THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON BUBER TEACHING CLOSED AT BENGURION U. IN A GOOD SPIRIT NOTWITHSTANDING REPORTS IN THE PRESS WHICH ACCORDING TO THE MODERATOR EXAGGERATED SOME POLITICAL OVERTONES OF BUBER'S TEACHING. THE CLOSING SESSION DEALT WITH JEWISH-CHRISTIAN RELATIONS IN BUBER'S PHILOSOPHY. HE WAS RECKONED AS "COMFORTABLE FOR CHRISTIANS, AND ESPECIALLY PROTESTANTS, BUT HE WAS ROOTED IN JUDAISM & HAD RESERVATIONS ABOUT THE ~~ESTABLISHMENT~~ CHURCHES/AS AN ESTABLISHMENT. PROF. YOCHANAN BLOCH SAID THAT THERE WAS HOSTILITY ON BOTH SIDES BUT THE HOSTILITY OF THE CHRISTIANS

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WAS MORE COMPREHENSIVE. NEVERTHELESS BOTH JEWS AND CHRISTIANS SHARE THE HOPE OF REDEMPTION. THERE IS A DIFFERENCE IN THE BASIC PREMISES OF CHRISTIANITY AND THOSE OF JUDAISM AND THERE IS NO TOUCHING THIS DIFFERENCE. WE CANNOT TELL CHRISTIANS WHAT THEIR DOGMA SHOULD BE, AND THE CHRISTIANS SHOULD BE CAUTIOUS AND NOT TELL US HOW TO BEHAVE AS A PEOPLE. PROF. WISHOGRAD SAID THAT PAUL WAS CLOSER TO JUDAISM THAN APPEARS IN THE WRITINGS OF BUBER, AND THAT BUBER, WHO SHARPLY OPPOSED PAUL, WAS CLOSER TO HIM IN HIS RESERVATIONS ABOUT THE TORAH...ONE OF THE SPEAKERS NOTED THAT BUBER COULD NOT "UNDERSTAND THE SENSE OF GUILT OF PAUL" BECAUSE HE HAD NO SUCH SENSE (OF GUILT)..." THE 23 LECTURES HEARD AT THE CONFERENCE WILL APPEAR IN A HEBREW COLLECTION AS WELL AS IN ENGLISH AND GERMAN.

DATE: 8.1.78 JOURNAL: HAARETZ (AM IND HEB) SUMMARY ARTICLE ON BUBER CONFERENCE  
HEADING: BUBER CONFERENCE: CONCLUSION JEWISH-CHRISTIAN RELATIONS

BYLINE: Mordecai Artzieli

BRIEF SUMMARY: THIS IS A LENGTHY ARTICLE SUMMARIZING THE COMMENTS OF VARIOUS SPEAKERS AT THE CLOSING SESSION OF THE CENTENNIAL OBSERVANCE OF MARTIN BUBER'S BIRTH AT A ONE & ONE HALF HOUR SYMPOSIUM ON THE QUESTION OF JEWISH-CHRISTIAN RELATIONS IN BUBER'S PHILOSOPHY. THERE WERE JEWISH, PROTESTANT AND CATHOLIC SPEAKERS WITH REFERENCES TO JESUS, PAUL, CHRISTIAN AND JEWISH HISTORY, DOCTRINES, AS WELL AS PERSONAL ASPECTS OF SPEAKERS. REGRET/THAT THE LAST SESSION WAS SHORTENED BECAUSE OF APPROACHING SABBATH & NEED TO HAVE HAD TIME FOR AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION IN A QUESTION/ANSWER PERIOD.

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