

DATE: 31.12.77 JOURNAL: THE TIMES, LONDON NEWS ARTICLE
SUMMARY: REPORT FROM TIMES CORRESPONDENT IN TELAVIV CONCERNING UCCI REPRESENTATIONS AGAINST NEW LAW. REFERENCES TO UCCI TELEGRAM TO PM BEGIN, EXPLANATORY REMARKS IN GAZETTED LAW BY ABRAMOWITZ, PRESS CONFERENCE IN WHICH CANON NA'EM ATEEK QUOTED: "TOURISTS MIGHT FIND A JEW AND TALK TO HIM ABOUT FAITH IN JESUS AND MIGHT GIVE MORE INCENTIVES." ALSO HENRY KNIGHT ~~EDITORIAL~~ REFERENCE: THE REV. HENRY KNIGHT, AN ANGLICAN, SAID THAT THE LOOSE WORDING OF THE LAW WOULD MAKE IT POSSIBLE FOR A PERSON TO BE BROUGHT TO COURT FOR AN INNOCENT ACT OF CHARITY BY WHICH HE HELPED SOMEONE WHO WAS INTERESTED IN LEARNING MORE ABOUT ANOTHER FAITH. HE ALSO FEARED THAT ANTIMISSIONARY ORGANIZATIONS MIGHT SEND PEOPLE TO TRY TO INDUCE CHRISTIAN CHURCHES TO OFFER ENTICEMENTS & THEN COMPLAIN TO THE AUTHORITIES." REFERENCE TO "SOME 500 CHRISTIANS CONVERTED TO JUDAISM & ONLY A HANDFUL OF JEWS TURN TO CHRISTIANITY." REFERENCE TO MK HALEVI WHO "SAID THE LAW WOULD MAKE IT A CRIME TO ENCOURAGE A CHRISTIAN TO BECOME A JEW JUST AS IT BARRED A PERSON FROM ENCOURAGING A JEW TO BECOME A CHRISTIAN."

DATE: 2.1.78 JOURNAL: HA'AREZ (JERUSALEM) EDITORIAL
THE CLAIM MADE BY THE UCCI AGAINST THE LAW PROHIBITING MATERIAL ENTICEMENTS FOR CHANGE OF RELIGION, AS IF IT CONSTITUTED A VIOLATION OF CIVIL RIGHTS IS PURELY IMAGINARY, A FAULT FAULTS HIMSELF" (A HEBREW SAYING ROUGHLY EQUIVALENT TO "WHY BEHOLDEST THOU THE MOTE IN THY BROTHER'S EYE...?")

AND THERE IS NOTHING LIKE IT TO REINFORCE AND VERIFY THE ESSENTIAL NEED THAT EXISTED FOR THE PASSAGE OF THE LAW. THE OUTCRY BEING MADE BY THE CHURCH LEADERS AGAINST THE LAW PROVES THAT THERE IS INDEED IN THIS LAW SOMETHING TO IMPAIR WHAT IN THEIR EYES SEEMS LIKE FREEDOM OF OPERATION BUT WHAT IN OUR EYES IS ACTIVITY WHICH IS UTTERLY DISQUALIFIED (OR ILLEGITIMATE). WE DO NOT HAVE TO CONCEAL THE FACT THAT THE LAW AS PASSED IS NOT IDEAL. THE FAITHFUL OF ISRAEL TREMBLING

FOR THE SOULS OF THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL WERE DESIROUS OF A LAW WHICH WOULD TOTALLY PROHIBIT ALL ACTIVITY OR PREACHING TO CHANGE OF RELIGION OF JEWS EVEN IF THIS WERE DONE WITHOUT MATERIAL ENTICEMENT. THE JEWISH PEOPLE HAVE A RIGHT TO REQUEST THIS OF THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH, THAT IT SHOULD NOT COME TO CONQUER THE QUEEN OF JUDAISM IN HER VERY HOME (apparently ref. Esther 7:8). THE JEWISH PEOPLE HAS A LONG ACCOUNT WITH THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH, BUT THIS IS NOT THE PLACE TO REVIEW IT. THIS ACCOUNT IS IMPRINTED WITH REVERS OF JEWISH BLOOD. AND WHOEVER COMES TO ACCUSE THE JEWS WITH IMPAIRMENT OF CIVIL RIGHTS DOES NOT COME WITH CLEAN HANDS. WE ARE NOT HERE MAKING PERSONAL ACCUSATIONS AGAINST MEMBERS WHO COMPOSE THE CHRISTIAN COUNCIL IN ISRAEL, WE ARE NOT DESIROUS OF EXAMINING THEIR CREDENTIALS. BUT THEY DO REPRESENT THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH, WHICH CANNOT WASH ITS HANDS IN INNOCENCY. YET EVEN WITHOUT THAT HISTORIC ACCOUNT, WHICH JUSTIFIES THE RIGHT OF THE JEWISH PEOPLE TO DEFEND ITSELF AGAINST THOSE WHO ARROGANTLY PROFESS "TO DO GOOD" TO ITS SONS, IT IS HARD TO UNDERSTAND THE MEASURE OF HUZPA AND ARROGANCE BEHIND THIS OPPOSITION. THE LAW WHICH WAS PASSED DOES NOT LIMIT THE FREEDOM OF OPERATION OF THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH, AND NOT ONLY IN THOSE MATTERS WITH WHICH IT IS CONNECTED, THE FREEDOM OF WORSHIP WHICH EXISTS IN ISRAEL CAN SERVE AS A MODEL. NO ONE IS IMPAIRING OR DENYING THE RIGHT OF CHRISTIANS TO MAINTAIN A MANNER OF LIFE & TO MAINTAIN INSTITUTIONS OF ITS OWN, AND EVEN MORE THAN THIS, THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH ENJOYS PRIVILEGES THAT ARE NOT GRANTED TO ANY OTHER COMMUNITY IN ISRAEL.....THE LAW PASSED IN THE KNESSET HAS AS ITS PURPOSE TO PREVENT CONVERSIONARY ACTIVITY BY MEANS OF ENTICEMENT. IS THERE ANY MATTER MORE PERVERSE THAN THE ATTEMPT TO WIN SOULS TO CHRISTIANITY BY MEANS OF MATERIAL ENTICEMENT? IF THESE PEOPLE WERE HONEST WITH THEMSELVES, THEY WOULD HAVE TO BE PARTNERS TO THIS SAME PURPOSE. ~~for~~ THE MISSIONARY SECTS IN ISRAEL ARE USING ILLEGITIMATE MEANS FOR YEARS. THERE ARE POWERFUL PROOFS CONCERNING ACTIVITIES OF THIS TYPE. WHAT THEN IS THERE OF IMPAIRMENT OF CIVIL RIGHTS? TO US IT SEEMS THAT MISSIONARY ACTIVITY BY MEANS OF MATERIAL ENTICEMENTS IS HARMFUL ~~to~~ TO CIVIL RIGHTS. AND WHOEVER COMES TO DEFEND THE FREEDOM OF ACTIVITY, OR MORE PRECISELY THE FREEDOM FOR LICENTIOUSNESS, ACTUALLY INCLUDES HIMSELF IN THIS RULE. THOSE WHO HAVE RALLIED TO DEFEND SUCH LIBERTY OF ACTION VERIFY THAT THEY INDEED ARE LIKELY TO BE INJURED IF THEY DO NOT HAVE THE RIGHT TO OPERATE WITH THE AID OF MATERIAL ENTICEMENTS. THIS IS NOT MERELY A RELIGIOUS LAW WHICH IS BEING DISCUSSED. WE HAVE HERE AN IMPORTANT SOCIAL REFORM. IT IS FOR SOME TIME NOW THAT THE WELFARE AGENCIES SUFFER HARDSHIPS BECAUSE OF THE COMPETITION OF MISSIONARY SOURCES IN ISRAEL. THEY SERVE AS A TARGET FOR BLACKMAILERS. AT TIMES WE ENCOUNTER THREATS FROM JEWS THAT SHOULD THEIR DEMANDS NOT BE MET, DEMANDS AT TIMES COMPLETELY EXAGGERATED THEY WILL TURN TO THE MISSION AND BECOME CHRISTIANS. THERE IS ALSO INFORMATION ABOUT PROPOSITIONS OF THIS TYPE. WHAT SOCIAL SERVICE AND WELFARE BUDGET CAN COMPETE WITH THE POTENTIAL OF MISSION

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SECTS WHOSE NUMBER IN ISRAEL IS SO DISPROPORTIONATELY LARGE IN RELATION TO THE CHRISTIAN POPULACE? IT MUST BE STRESSED AGAIN AND AGAIN THAT THE LEGAL RESTRICTION CONTAINED IN THE LAW PASSED A WEEK AGO IS THE MINIMUM THAT COULD BE OBTAINED BY GENERAL CONSENSUS. WHOEVER OBJECTS TO THIS MINIMUM REVEALS THAT HE COMES WITH UNCLEAN HANDS AND HIS WORDS ARE NOT BEING HEARD. THERE IS HERE NO IMPAIRMENT OF FREEDOM OF WORSHIP AGAINST BORN CHRISTIANS AND CERTAINLY NOT AGAINST CIVIL RIGHTS. THOSE WHO DISQUALIFY (OR FAULT) THE LAW BY THEIR OWN FAULTS DISQUALIFY THEMSELVES"

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DATE: 12.1.78

JOURNAL: MAARIV (IND PM HEB)

FEATURE ARTICLE BY GUEST WRITER

HEADING: "THE LAW AGAINST MISSION ACTIVITIES"

BYLINE: RABBI Y.M. ABRAMOWITZ DEPUTY CHAIRMAN

EXTRACTS: "IN A DEMOCRATIC VOTE, WITH THE SUPPORT OF MK'S REPRESENTING

KNESSET

PARTIES OF ALL SHADES OF THE ISRAELI PARLIAMENTARY GAMUT, THE LAW (ENTICEMENT TO CONVERSION)

WAS PASSED. RECENTLY, ARTICLES HAVE BEEN PUBLISHED ALONG WITH LETTERS TO THE EDITOR & OTHER

REACTIONS IN SEVERAL NEWSPAPERS CONCERNING THIS LAW SPONSORED BY ME, AND THEREFORE I HAVE FOUND

IT RIGHT TO SET THE RECORD STRAIGHT, TO SET THE STRESS ON MATTERS OF SUBSTANCE, & TO RELATE TO

ALL THE REMARKS OF MEN OF FEAR AND APPREHENSION WHO SEE THE SHADOW OF A MAN AS IF IT WERE A MAN

BETWEEN THE LINES OF THE ARTICLE OF MR. IDOV COHEN (MAARIV, 3 TEVET THIS YEAR, I.E. 13.12.77)

THERE IS THE CONCERN LEST THE NEW LAW IS PRESUMPTUOUSLY DESIGNED TO HURT CHRISTIANS IN ISRAEL.

MAY THE WRITER FORGIVE ME, AND OTHERS WHO RAISED SIMILAR CHARGES, BUT THIS IS A CHARGE TO

BLIND THE EYES, VERY EASY TO RAISE IT, BUT VERY FAR FROM THE TRUTH, IF I MAY USE THE LANGUAGE

OF DELICACY. THE NEW LAW DETERMINES THAT CHRISTIANS OR CHRISTIAN ORGANIZATIONS, JEWS OR MEMBERS

OF OTHER RELIGIONS, WHO WILL ATTEMPT TO ENTICE JEWS TO CHANGE THEIR RELIGION IN EXCHANGE FOR

GRANTS OF MONEY, ITS EQUIVALENT, HOUSING, FOOD PACKAGES, TRIPS ABROAD, RELEASE FROM THE ARMY,

AND THE LIKE, SHALL BE PUNISHED....DO WE WISH TO IMPAIR THE RIGHT OF CHRISTIANS TO LIVE HERE

AND TO MAINTAIN THEIR FAITH IN THEIR HOUSES OF WORSHIP? OUR ONLY REQUEST IS THIS: LET US ALONE.

WE ARE A SMALL PEOPLE, THE REMNANTS OF MILLIONS WHO WERE HURT BY RELIGIOUS PERSECUTIONS WHICH

PREVENTED US FROM EXISTING LIKE ALL THE PEOPLES. NOW THAT WE HAVE ARRIVED HERE AND SET UP OUR

COUNTRY, OUR RIGHT IS TO LIVE IN A MANNER OF LIFE OF OUR OWN AND WITH OUR OWN RELIGION. MR.

IDOV COHEN IN HIS MAARIV ARTICLE FEARS THAT THE NEW LAW WILL CONVERT JUDAISM TO "MARKET MER-

CHANDISE". HE IGNORES THE FACT THAT MISSIONARY ORGANIZATIONS WORKING IN OUR COUNTRY HAVE

CONVERTED UNFORTUNATE PEOPLE TO "MERCHANDISE" IN FACT. THE LAW OF THE KIND I SPONSORED AND WHICH

THE KNESSET PASSED BY A LARGE MAJORITY IS NOT A LAW WHICH WAS DESIGNED TO CREATE A SPECIFIC

SITUATION. IT IS A LAW WHICH WAS DESIGNED TO DEAL WITH AN EXISTING SITUATION WHICH IS INTOLERABLE

AND HARMFUL TO ISRAELI CITIZENS. THE JEWISH PEOPLE WERE ALWAYS DIRECTED BY THE RULE WHICH FINDS

ITS EXPRESSION IN THE WORDS OF THE PROPHET MICAH: "ALL THE PEOPLES SHALL GO EACH IN THE NAME OF

HIS GOD, BUT WE WILL WALK IN THE NAME OF JHWH OUR GOD FOREVER AND EVER." THIS IS OUR ANCIENT

APPROACH. NOT ONLY DO WE NOT SEEK TO FORCE OUR RELIGION ON OTHERS, BUT WE DO EVERYTHING TO

DISCOURAGE THOSE WHO COME TO THE THRESHOLD OF OUR RELIGION. WE DO NOT LIGHTLY RECEIVE PROSE-

LYTES. WHEN ANYONE FROM THE NATIONS OF THE WORLD COMES TO US WITH THE DESIRE TO CONVERT TO

JUDAISM, WE TRY TO DISSUADE HIM, TO CONVINCE HIM OF THE DIFFICULTIES INHERENT IN BEING A JEW.

THIS APPROACH IS FUNDAMENTAL TO OUR POSITION VIS-A-VIS THE GENTILES DEALING IN THE WORK OF CON-

VERSION. JUST AS WE RESPECT THE RELIGION OF OTHERS AND DO NOT FORCE ON OTHERS THE RELIGION OF

ISRAEL, SO WE HAVE THE FULL RIGHT TO DEMAND OF OTHERS THAT THEY DO NO DEEDS WHICH FORCE UPON US

THEIR RELIGION, WHETHER BY MEANS OF FINANCIAL ENTICEMENTS OR BY OTHER MEANS....THE LAW PASSED

IS ACTUALLY TOO LATE AND TOO LITTLE. TOO LATE, BECAUSE IT SHOULD HAVE BEEN PASSED YEARS AGO

AND WOULD HAVE SAVED MANY SOULS. TOO SOON, BECAUSE THE JEWISH STATE SHOULD HAVE ENACTED A

COMPREHENSIVE LAW AGAINST ALL MISSIONARY ACTIVITY OF ANY KIND. WHOEVER HAS FOLLOWED THE DIS-

CUSSIONS IN THE KNESSET & ITS COMMITTEES IN THE VARIOUS FORMS THRO' WHICH THE LAW PASSED CAN

REVEAL AN INTERESTING & UNUSUAL PHENOMENON. THE GAMUT OF OPINIONS & SUPPORTERS OF THE LAW WAS

NOT DIVIDED ACCORDING TO PARTIES OR POLITICAL VIEWS. THE LAW WAS SUPPORTED BY MK'S OF 95%

OF ALL THE PARTIES IN THE KNESSET....ALL WERE UNITED & DETERMINED TOGETHER: THIS IS A GOOD LAW

AND IT MUST BE PASSED AT ONCE."....VARIOUS WRITERS HAVE CHARACTERIZED THE LAW AS "AGGRESSIVE".

ALLOW ME TO ASK: "AGAINST WHOM?" DO NOT THESE SPOKESMEN FEEL THE TRUE SUBSTANCE OF THE LAW

WHICH IS CLEARLY DEFENSIVE? IN THE DIASPORA WE HAD NO POWER TO ENACT LAWS OF THIS TYPE TO

DEFEND OURSELVES, BUT WHEN WE WERE PRIVILEGED TO LIVE IN OUR OWN SOVEREIGN STATE, WE HAVE THE

RIGHT TO ENACT LEGISLATION TO DEFEND OUR CONTINUED EXISTENCE AS JEWS.

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OTHER SPOKESMEN & COMMENTATORS SEE IN THE LAW SOME KIND OF "VENGEANCE" AS IT WERE AGAINST THE GENTILES FOR ALL THEY HAD DONE TO THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL DURING TWO THOUSAND YEARS. I AM AMAZED AT THEM. WHAT KIND OF VENGEANCE IS THIS IF I COME TO ASK OF THEM TO LET US ALONE AND NOT TO STEAL OUR SONS FROM US, THOSE WHO ARE ON THE FRINGES OF SOCIETY & THEY HAVE NO POWER TO DEFEND THEMSELVES. THERE ARE THOSE WHO SAY THAT THE NEW LAW WILL AROUSE ANTISEMITISM. I DO NOT THINK THAT A SERIOUS CHRISTIAN WILL BE ANGRY ABOUT THIS LAW AND IN REACTION WILL BE STIRRED UP BY ANTISEMITIC FEELINGS. HE WILL WELL UNDERSTAND THE WILL OF A SMALL PEOPLE TO PRESERVE ITS CHILDREN. I AM HAPPY THE LAW WAS PASSED. THE TRUTH IS THAT I WANTED TO PROPOSE THAT IN OUR SOVEREIGN STATE ALL MISSIONARY PROPAGANDA SHALL BE PROHIBITED....I LEARNED TOMY SORROW THAT I WOULD NOT OBTAIN THE NECESSARY SUPPORT. THEY CLAIMED INOPPOSITION TO ME: WE ARE A DEMOCRATIC STATE WHICH HAS "FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION"....I WAS DISAPPOINTED. I WAS FORCED THEREFORE TO GO THE WAY OF COMPROMISE, AND THUS WAS BORN THE LAW TO FORBID ONLY THE PURCHASE OF SOULS IN EXCHANGE FOR MONEY, AND ALL MATERIAL BENEFITS. AT ALL LEVELS OF THE PROPOSED LAW AND THE DISCUSSIONS HELD IN COMMITTEES AND IN THE PLENUM OF THE KNESSET I PROVED WITH MUCH DETAIL THE EXAMPLES OF WIDESPREAD MISSIONARY ACTIVITY. FROM MY PERSONAL EXPERIENCE AS HEAD OF THE SOCIAL WELFARE BRANCH IN THE TELAVIV JAFFO MUNICIPALITY I KNOW OF THE GREAT INFLUENCE AND ACTIVITIES OF THE MISSIONARIES, OF PROMISES OF APARTMENTS, FOOD PACKAGES, TRAVEL TICKETS FOR EMIGRATION, RELEASE FROM THE ARMY & MANY MORE THINGS. THE LAW PASSED WILL NOT STOP MISSIONARY PROPAGANDA BUT IT WILL DETER THE ENTICERS. THEY CAN NOW EXPECT A PENALTY OF FIVE YEARS JAIL AND 50,000 IL FINE. IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO KNOW HOW MANY JEWS WILL BE RESCUED FROM THE CLAWS OF THE ENTICERS IN THE WAKE OF THIS LAW. THERE ARE THOSE WHO CLAIM AGAINST ME THAT ONLY FEW HAVE BEEN ENTICED UNTIL NOW. NO ONE HAS EXACT FIGURES. BUT THE APPROACH OF JUDAISM HAS EVER BEEN THAT EVEN ONE SOUL IS DEAR TO US, TO THIS SMALL PEOPLE. "ANYONE WHO SUSTAINS ONE SOUL IN ISRAEL IT IS AS IF HE HAD SUSTAINED THE ENTIRE WORLD," OUR SAGES SAY. THE LAW WHICH HAS BEEN PASSED ADDS ANOTHER LAYER OF DEFENCE SO IMPORTANT TO OUR PEOPLE. MEN WILL ESTEEM US MUCH MORE NOW. IN MANY OF THE ENLIGHTENED NATIONS OF THE WORLD LAWS LIKE THIS NOW EXIST, AND THE TIME HAS NOW COME FOR US TO DEFEND OURSELVES FOR THE SAKE OF OUR CHILDREN AND OUR FUTURE, AND TO THIS OPINION THE MAJORITY OF THE MEMBERS OF THE KNESSET WERE PARTY.

DATE: 12.1.78 JOURNAL: YEDIOT AKHRONOT (IND PM HEB) FEATURE ARTICLE

HEADING: "LIKE THIEVES IN THE NIGHT: THE KNESSET MUST REPEAL THE MISSION LAW EVEN BEFORE IT IS TESTED IN THE COURTS" BYLINE: BOAZ EVRON

EXTRACTS: "IT IS A BIT GROTESQUE TO READ THE REPORTS ON THE MISSION LAW PASSED IN SUCH SUSPICIOUS HASTE, LIKE A KIND OF QUICK TRICK, LIKE THIEVES IN THE NIGHT, NOT AT ALL LIKE A LEGISLATIVE BODY WHICH RESPECTS ITSELF WHICH STUDIES ANY SUBJECT IN OPEN MANNER, BALANCED & SYSTEMATIC. IT WAS AS IF THE KNESSET ITSELF WAS ASHAMED OF WHAT IT WAS DOING. HOW MANY JEWS BECOME CHRISTIANS EACH YEAR? FIVE? TEN? AND ON THE OTHER SIDE: HOW MANY CHRISTIANS CONVERT TO JUDAISM EACH YEAR? FIVE HUNDRED? A THOUSAND? AND THIS IS "THE DANGER TO THE JEWISH PEOPLE"? THE ENTIRE AFFAIR REEKS OF INTOLERANCE WHICH IS UNWORTHY OF A STATE THAT BOASTS OF THE LIBERTY OF CONSCIENCE PREVAILING AS IT WERE IN HER BORDERS. IN THE ~~EXXEXXEXXEXX~~ STEALTHY MANNER BY WHICH THE LAW WAS PASSED DOES NOT TESTIFY AT ALL TO THE "REGAL SPLENDOR" OF THE NEW REGIME, BUT RATHER IT BEARS THE DEAFENING RATTLE OF FRIGHTENED BARGAINING, AN A TMOSPHERE OF SECRECY FOR FEAR OF THE EVIL EYE SO CHARACTERISTIC OF KATRIALIVKA (a fictional small town in East Europe of Ghetto Jews created by Sholem Aleichem). THIS IS NOT A REACTION TO A NONEXISTENT "DANGER" BUT A PROVINCIAL REFLEX WHICH SEES DEMONS WHERE THERE ARE NOT AT ALL PRESENT. THIS IS A REACTION NOT TO REALITY BUT TO MENTAL AND CULTURAL COMPLEXES. WE THOUGHT WE HAD ESTABLISHED HERE A FREE STATE, BUT ALL THAT WE HAVE ACHIEVED IS NOTHING BUT A COPY OF THE OLD GHETTO AND ITS COMPLEXES TRANSFERRED TO ISRAEL AFTER IT HAS DISAPPEARED EVERYWHERE ELSE IN THE WORLD. INDEED, ISRAEL REMAINS THE LAST GHETTO. AND GROTESQUE ABOVE ALL IS THE FACT THAT THE LAW WILL BRING NO ADVANTAGE (IN THE SENSE OF PREVENTING CONVERSION TO CHRISTIANITY) AS HOPED FOR. ON THE CONTRARY, IT WILL CAUSE MAXIMAL DAMAGE BY PUTTING THE NAME OF ISRAEL IN BAD ODOR AMONG MANY WHO WILL SEE IT AS A CLERICALIST STATE RULED OVER BY THE DARKEST & MOST BACKWARD VERSION OF JUDAISM. AND HOW DO WE KNOW THE LAW WILL NOT BE ENFORCED? IMAGINE WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF SOME "MISSIONARY" WILL BE TRIED. THE CHRISTIAN CHURCHES HAVE GIGANTIC PROPAGANDA & PUBLICITY APPARATUS, POLITICAL INFLUENCE INESTIMABLE,

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IN ADDITION TO ^{THE} MOST WELLDEVELOPED APPARATUS FOR INFLUENCING THE MASSES. THIS IS MANNED BY RELIGIOUS MINISTERS, PREACHERS AND PASTORS OF VARIOUS SECTS, BEGINNING WITH THE MOST POWERFUL OF THEM, THE CATHOLIC, AND FINISHING WITH ALL KINDS OF GROUPS LIKE THE METHODISTS, THE EPISCOPALIANS, THE ADVENTISTS, ETC. JUST A CLEAR INTIMATION ON THEIR PART THAT THEY SHOULD DIRECT THE SPOTLIGHT & INFLUENCE THEY HAVE ON THE TRIAL WOULD BE SUFFICIENT TO DETER ANY MAN WITH A SENSE OF POLITICAL RESPONSIBILITY FROM PRESSING SUCH A COURT CASE. THE RESPONSES MAY REACH US in a thousand ways: NEGATIVE PUBLICITY...DRASTIC DECLINE IN CHRISTIAN PILGRIMAGE...SERIOUS DAMAGE IN TOURISM, ANGRY INQUIRIES BY JEWS ABROAD: WHY MUST THEY STAND LIKE AN EMPTY VESSEL WHEN THEIR CHRISTIAN NEIGHBOURS EXPRESS ASTONISHMENT ON QUEER LAWS THAT THEIR BRETHREN IN THE HOLY LAND PASS! AND THEY ASK: DO THEY ACT THUS TOWARDS JEWISH CONGREGATIONS & RABBIS? THIS PROVES AGAIN HOW THE INTERESTS OF THE ESTABLISHED RELIGION ARE INCOMPATIBLE WITH ISRAELI STATESMANSHIP....THE MOST SENSIBLE THING THE KNESSET CAN DO BEFORE ANY SERIOUS CAMPAIGN BEGINS ABROAD AGAINST THIS LAW, AND BEFORE IT IS SUBJECT TO ANY JUDICIAL TEST, WOULD BE TO REPEAL IT. IT IS INSUFFICIENT THAT IT SHOULD BE A DEAD LETTER. DEAD LETTERS MAY ALWAYS COME TO LIFE AND BITE. THE LAW MUST BE KILLED FINALLY."

DATE: 15.1.78 JOURNAL: HA'ARETZ (IND) NEWS ARTICLE
 HEADING: "FUNCTIONARIES OF THE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITIES: USA AMBASSADOR WILL RAISE ISSUE OF MISSION
 BYLINE: ATALLAH MANTSUR, HAARETZ CORRESPONDENT. LAW IN MEETINGS WITH BEGIN AND DAYAN"
 EXTRACTS: "SIX AMERICAN CITIZENS, AMONG CHRISTIAN FUNCTIONARIES IN ISRAEL, MET ON THURSDAY WITH USA AMBASSADOR, MR. SAMUEL LEWIS, IN ORDER TO EXPRESS THEIR CONCERN TO HIM OF THE LAW (ENTICEMENT TO CHANGE OF RELIGION) PASSED IN THE KNESSET TWO WEEKS AGO, WHOSE DECLARED PURPOSE ACCORDING TO MK ABRAKOWITZ (AGUDAT ISRAEL), SPONSOR OF THE LAW, IS "TO CURB THE ACTIVITIES OF MISSIONARY ORGANIZATIONS BY PROHIBITING ALL MISSIONARY ACTIVITY ACCOMPANIED BY MATERIAL ENTICEMENT." AT THE MEETING THE SIX CONVEYED THEIR REASONS IN WRITING FOR OPPOSING THE LAW AND THE HARSH WORDS HEARD IN THE KNESSET AGAINST "THE MISSIONARIES WHO INCITE TO EMIGRATION FROM ISRAEL AND DESERTION FROM THE ARMED FORCES." THEY SAID THAT THESE WORDS ARE INCITEMENT AND LIBEL LACKING ANY FOUNDATION IN TRUTH. THEY ALSO CHARGED THAT THE LAW....ENABLES PROVOCATEURS TO EMPLOY BLACKMAIL AGAINST CHRISTIANS WHO RESPOND TO THEIR "PLEAS" FOR HELP WHO MIGHT GRANT THEM OR PROMISE THEM ANYKIND OF ASSISTANCE. THEY ALSO COMPLAINED THAT LETTERS OF PROTEST TO THE KNESSET CHAIRMAN, TO THE PM, TO THE MINISTER OF RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS WENT UNANSWERED, AND THUS "THOSE WHO LEFT AN EXPLOSIVE CHARGE AT THE ENTRANCE TO THE BAPTIST HOUSE IN JERUSALEM AND THOSE WHO ATTACKED IN THE LIGHT OF DAY THE MESSIANIC JEWS FROM ROSH PINA, REMAINED ANONYMOUS." THE AMBASSADOR REPLIED, ACCORDING TO THE DELEGATION, WITH WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT AND SOLIDARITY WHILE NOTING THAT THIS WAS THE SECOND TIME IN HIS DIPLOMATIC CAREER THAT HE ENCOUNTERED LEGISLATION OF THIS KIND--THE FIRST TIME BEING AN ENCOUNTER WITH LEGISLATION AGAINST THE FREE EXERCISE OF CHRISTIAN RELIGION IN AFGHANISTAN. HE ALSO PROMISED TO RAISE THE SUBJECT IN HIS CONVERSATIONS WITH THE PRIME MINISTER & FOREIGN MINISTER AND TO REPORT ON THE SUBJECT TO THE USA GOVERNMENT. IT WAS ALSO MADE KNOWN THAT IN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE STRUGGLE OF CHRISTIAN CHURCH LEADERS IN ISRAEL AGAINST THE LAW, A SHARP REPORT AGAINST THE NEW LAW WAS FORWARDED BY BISHOP WILLIAM CAREW, THE APOSTOLIC REPRESENTATIVE IN JERUSALEM, TO THE VATICAN. ACCORDING TO CHRISTIAN SOURCES IT WAS PROMISED THEM THAT THE SUBJECT WOULD BE RAISED IN CONVERSATIONS WITH FOREIGN MINISTER MOSHE DAYAN DURING HIS RECENT VISIT TO ROME. THE ACTIVITIES OF LEADERS OF THE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITIES IN ISRAEL AGAINST THE MISSION LAW WILL CONCENTRATE ON EXPLANATIONS ABROAD, ESPECIALLY AMONG THOSE CLERGY & STATESMEN IDENTIFIED AS HAVING CLOSE TIES WITH ISRAELI & ZIONIST CIRCLES, ITS PURPOSE BEING TO INFLUENCE THE GOVERNMENT TO REPEAL THE LAW."

16.1.78 JOURNAL: YEDIOT AKHARONOT (IND PM HEB) EDITORIAL "BY WHAT RIGHT?"
 TS: "THE MISSION LAW...MAY BE JUDGED A GOOD LAW OR A BAD LAW, EVERYONE ACCORDING TO HIS PERSONAL OPINION, AND IF THERE ARE THOSE AMONG US WHO ARE CONVINCED THAT THE LAW IS NOT GOOD, THEIR RIGHT, EVEN THEIR DUTY, TO BATTLE AGAINST IT & DEMAND ITS REPEAL. HOWEVER, WHAT IS ORDER--AND THIS IS A UNIVERSAL OPINION--IS THAT A FOREIGN EMBASSY SHOULD SEE ITSELF PRIVILEGED TO INTERVENE IN THIS MATTER, AS THE US EMBASSY HAS, IN DECIDING TO RAISE THE MATTER WITH GOVERNMENT LEADERS. WITH ALL DUE RESPECT TO THIS EMBASSY & ITS CHIEF, THIS IS INTERFERENCE IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS THAT IS UNACCEPTABLE. THE USA IS INDEED OUR FRIEND, BUT FRIENDSHIP ASIDE INTERVENTION ASIDE, AND AS IT IS FORBIDDEN TO OUR AMBASSADOR IN WASHINGTON TO INTERVENE IN ISRAELI LEGISLATION, SO IT IS FORBIDDEN TO US EMBASSY TO INTERFERE IN ISRAELI LEGISLATION."

SUBJECT 2: MISSIONS (NOT SPECIFICALLY RELATED TO THE NEW LAW)

DATE: 16.1.78 JOURNAL: HAARETZ (IND HEBREW AM) LETTER TO EDITOR

HEADING: THE MISSION SCHOOL IN HAIFA SIGNED: ALFRED DELMA, JAFFA

~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ IN TOTO: "ILAN SHEHORI RELATED IN HAARETZ (9.12) ABOUT A FAMILY BY NAME OF HEZEKIAH AT THE FRENCH MISSION SCHOOL IN JAFFA WHICH ACCEPTED FIVE OF THEIR CHILDREN & PROMISED TO CARE FOR THEIR NEEDS ON CONDITION THAT THEY CONVERT TO CHRISTIANITY. I CHECKED ~~WHEN~~ WITH THE PRINCIPAL & SECRETARY OF THE SCHOOL ALL THE REGISTRATION CARDS OF RECENT YEARS, INCLUDING THIS YEAR, AND WE DID NOT FIND ANY STUDENT BY NAME OF HEZEKIAH. AT NO TIME DID ANY WOMAN OR FAMILY BY THIS NAME APPROACH THE SCHOOL WITH A REQUEST FOR AID. THE MANAGEMENT OF THE SCHOOL NOR THE TEACHERS HAVE NEVER PROPOSED NOR REQUIRED THAT ANY ADULT OR CHILD SHOULD CONVERT TO CHRISTIANITY. ELAN SHEHORI REPLIES: ACCORDING TO THE FAMILY, A MISSIONARY WHO IS NOT A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE SCHOOL DEALT WITH THEIR MATTER, AND IT WAS HE THAT CONDITIONED HIS ASSISTANCE FOR REGISTRATION AT THE SCHOOL ON THE CONVERSION OF THEIR CHILDREN TO CHRISTIANITY."

DATE: 17.1.78 JOURNAL: HAMODIA (AGUDAT AM HEB) EDITORIAL: "RIDICULE TO THE POOR"

EXTRACTS: THIS WEEK WE CHANCED TO PASS BY THE BAPTIST CENTRE ON REHOV HAMAALOT, IN THE FRONT WINDOW FACING THE STREET WE SAW THE PICTURES OF THE TWO MISSING CHILDREN, AND THE MATTER STIRRED IN OUR HEARTS CURIOSITY AND UNPLEASANT MEMORIES. WE TRIED TO RECALL AN INCIDENT CONNECTED WITH THE KIDNAPING OF A CHILD AND A BAPTIST MINISTER. WHILE WE WERE GRINNING, WE FOUND ~~ONE~~ STANDING TO ONE SIDE ONE OF THE LEARNED MEN, FOR WHOM THE MISSION IS A CONCERN OF HIS HEART, AND HE WAS THIRSTING TO KNOW WHY WE WERE WONDERING. WE RELATED TO HIM THE HARD FEELING WHICH HAD STRUCK US. WE SAID THAT WE WERE NOT SUSPICIOUS, BUT WE HAD THIS STRANGE FEELING. AND IT WAS HE WHO REMINDED US THAT IT WAS THE BAPTIST MINISTER LINDSEY WHOSE LEG WAS AMPUTATED WHEN HE TRIED MANY YEARS AGO TO SMUGGLE AN ARAB LAD ^{FROM} OVER THE BORDER FOR HUMANITARIAN REASONS, AND WAS STRUCK BY A MINE. THE MAN TOLD US THAT IT IS VERY POSSIBLE THAT THE SMUGGLING AFFAIR OF THE ARAB LAD ^{WE FEEL} WOULD NEVER HAVE BEEN KNOWN HAD NOT THE MINISTER BEEN STRUCK BY THE MINE. IT WAS ONLY THEN ^{WE FEEL} THAT THE NOTICE IN THE SHOW WINDOW OF THE BAPTIST MISSION DIRECTED TO JEWS ONLY WAS NOTHING BUT "RIDICULE TO THE POOR" (a reference to Proverbs 17:5 "he who ridicules or mocks the poor reproaches his maker" BY THE WAY, OUR ATTENTION WAS DIRECTED TO ANOTHER DETAIL: THE BAPTIST CHURCH IS EXPANDING ITS BOUNDARIES. BETWEEN TWO STRUCTURES A WOODEN BUNGALOW HAS BEEN RAISED UP, WITH ONE OF ITS WALLS TRANSPARENT LOOKING OUT TO THE STREET AS IF IT SEEKS TO WINK AT PASSERSBY. HAS THE MUNICIPALITY INDEED GRANTED PERMISSION FOR THIS STRUCTURE, WHICH BY ALLO PINIONS IS CONTRARY TO PLANNING RULES? OR IS IT THAT THE CHURCH BENEFITS FROM THE ECCLESIASTICAL STATUS QUO AND FROM THOSE EXTRA PRIVILEGES GRANTED THEM. WE HAVE NO BASIS TO CAST ANY SUSPICION, BUT THE MATTER CERTAINLY LOOKS ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ RATHER RIDICULOUS."

SUBJECT 3: JEHOVA WITNESSES

DATE: 15.1.78 JOURNAL: HAARETZ (HEB IND AM) NEWS EXPOSE OF ATTACKS ON JW

HEADING: "HOLY WAR AGAINST JEHOVA WITNESSES" BYLINE: YIPAT NEBO

SUBHEADING: EXTREMIST RELIGIOUS CIRCLES SCHEMING AGAINST MEMBERS OF SMALL SECT OF PACIFISTS & CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTORS. (PHOTOGRAPH OF MEETING HALL WITH CAPTION: HOW THE WRECKED HOUSE OF WORSHIP LOOKED. WRITTEN ON THE BLACKBOARD: "WHORES AND SONS OF WHORES")

EXTRACTS: "TORN BOOKS, SPASHED FURNITURE & ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES, GREETED WORSHIPPERS OF THE JEHOVA WITNESSES AT THEIR PRAYER HOUSE ON REHOV LEVANDA 36, TELAVIV. THE INCIDENT WHICH TOOK PLACE SEVERAL WEEKS AGO WAS THE FIRST PHASE OF EXECUTING THE THREATS MADE BY HOODLUMS SENT OUT BY EXTREMIST RELIGIOUS CIRCLES, WHO DID NOT FEAR TO THREATEN MEMBERS OF THE HATED ORGANIZATION THAT THE ACCOUNT WITH THEM IS NOT YET SETTLED, "AND THE HAND IS YET OUTSTRETCHED." JEHOVA WITNESSES IS A SMALL SECT NUMBERING IN ALL 130 ACTIVISTS IN THE TELAVIV AREA AND ABOUT 260 THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY. IN THE WORLD THEY NUMBER 2.5 MILLION. MEMBERS OF THIS MOVEMENT DELVE INTO STUDY OF SCRIPTURE AND THEY ARE PACIFISTS AND CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTORS. MOST OF THE MEMBERS OF THE MOVEMENT IN ISRAEL ARE FORMER JEWS WHO JOINED THE MOVEMENT FOR REASONS OF BELIEF. MEMBERS OF THE MOVEMENT IN OTHER LANDS ALSO COME FROM FAMILIES BELONGING TO THE ACCEPTED RELIGION OF THE LAND. UNTIL THE LAST ELECTIONS MEMBERS OF THE MOVEMENT ENJOYED FULL FREEDOM...AND IN THEIR OWN WORDS. THEY HAVE NO MORE COMPLAINTS AGAINST THE STATE THAN ANY OTHER CITIZEN. "WE ARE CONVINCED," SAYS DAVID GAMAR, A MOVEMENT REPRESENTATIVE, "THAT THE AUTHORITIES PROMISE FREEDOM OF RELIGION TO ALL CITIZENS OF THE STATE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THEIR CONSCIENCE ON THE BASIS OF THE (ISRAELI) DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE." THE YOUNG MAN, BORN & RAISED AS A JEW, CANNOT UNDERSTAND HOW IN THE 20TH CENTU

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AFTER THE HOLOCAUST, THERE CAN BE SUCH VANDALISM, THE DESPATCH OF LETTERS OF INCITEMENT THREATENING IN A STYLE REMINISCENT OF THE MOB INCITEMENT TO POGROMS AGAINST THE JEWISH MINORITY IN THEIR MIDST. "NEIGHBOURS, DEAR JEWS: CAST OUT FROM YOUR MIDST MONA & YOSEF LEVI, FROM REHOV BAR YEHUDA. DO NOT PERMIT THEM TO OPERATE IN YOUR MIDST WITH A FREE HAND OR TO ENTERTAIN THOSE WHO FALL INTO THEIR NET UNDER THE MASK OF LESSONS AND LECTURES." THIS WAS WRITTEN ON A PRINTED PAGE WHICH WAS PRESENTED BY A NEIGHBOUR TO MONA LEVI, A YOUNG WOMAN WHO MOVED TO THE PLACE WITH HER HUSBAND AND TWO CHILDREN ONLY A SHORT TIME EARLIER. OTHER COPIES OF THE LETTER WERE IN POSTBOXES OF ALL THE NEIGHBOURS OF THE AREA. "JEWS: IN THE VICINITY OF YOUR HOME THERE IS A DEN OF SEDUCERS, MISSIONARIES PROMULGATING FALSE OPINIONS WHICH MISLEAD THE PUBLIC. THESE SUBVERSIVES PREACH THEIR POISON TO YOUNG HEARTS..." FIVE DAYS LATER ABOUT THIRTY RELIGIOUS YOUTH WITH SIDELOCKS AND BEARDS STOOD UNDER THE BUILDING WHERE MONA & YOSEF LEVI LIVE. THEY PRAYED, CALLED OUT AND SHOUTED, ASSEMBLED THE NEIGHBOURS, AND TRIED TO INCITE THEM AGAINST THE YOUNG FAMILY. THE STORY BEGINS ON THE EVENING WHEN RAFAEL TURJEMAN AND HIS SISTER ARRIVED AT THEIR FLAT IN BAT YAM. THE SISTER (OF TURJEMAN) SOUGHT TO BUY THE FLAT FROM THE LEVI COUPLE. TURJEMAN & HIS SISTER CHANCED TO COME TO THE FLAT WHILE A WEEKLY LESSON IN BIBLE WAS IN PROGRESS, IN WHICH THE FAMILY OF MONA AND ONE OF THE NEIGHBOURS TOOK PART. RAFAEL TURJEMAN ASKED YOSEF IF HE BELONGED TO "JERHOVA WITNESSES", AND IT WAS EVEN TOLD HIM THAT HIS COUSIN SHELMO TURJEMAN WAS A MEMBER IN THIS RELIGIOUS MOVEMENT. SEVERAL DAYS LATER YOSEF FOUND A MESSAGE IN THE POSTBOXES SAYING: "WARNING: HUNTERS OF SOULS." YOSEF DID NOT SEE IT AS SIGNIFICANT. IN THE MEANTIME THE FLAT WAS SOLD TO THE SISTER OF RAFAEL TURJEMAN. THE MATTER WAS SETTLED AND THE DEAL WENT THROUGH PEACEFULLY. AND THEN, FRIDAY ABOUT THREE MONTHS AGO, THE WOMAN FOUND THE LETTER OF INCITEMENT. "I INVITED RAFAEL TURJEMAN," JOSEF LEVI RELATES. "WE HAD A HARSH DEBATE. HE THREATENED ME AND MY CHILDREN THAT HE WOULD KILL US AND WARNED ME THAT THEY WERE A STRONG AND LARGE GROUP." ACCORDING TO THE HUSBAND, TURJEMAN TRIED TO INFLUENCE THEM TO ABANDON THEIR BELIEF IN THE WAYS OF J.W., AND EVEN PROPOSED FINANCIAL AID. "IN THAT CONVERSATION HE WARNED ME THAT THEY WOULD COME AND PRAY UNDER MY HOUSE AND THAT WOULD BE ONLY THE BEGINNING. I THOUGHT HE WAS ONLY BRAGGING," JOSEF RELATES. JOSEF LEVI FILED A COMPLAINT WITH THE POLICE OF BATYAM AGAINST RAFAEL TURJEMAN ON THE DAY THAT THE RELIGIOUS YOUTH GATHERED IN THE YARD OF HIS HOUSE. IN HIS COMPLAINT HE INDICATED THE ACTS AND ~~ROCKS~~ THREATS AGAINST HIM. TURJEMAN WAS INVESTIGATED BY THE POLICE AFTERWARD. A FEW DAYS AGO THE REPLY OF THE POLICE REACHED YOSEF LEVI IN WHICH HE WAS NOTIFIED THAT THEIR ACT ABOUT WHICH HE COMPLAINED WAS INDEED AN OFFENCE ACCORDING TO PARAGRAPH 100 OF THE CRIMINAL LAW, BUT IT WAS DECIDED BECAUSE OF THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE INCIDENT THAT A FORMAL LEGAL CHARGE WAS NOT JUSTIFIED. IT WAS EXPLAINED TO THE COMPLAINANT THAT HE WAS ENTITLED TO SUBMIT A PRIVATE CRIMINAL COMPLAINT. RAFAEL TURJEMAN ADMITTED TO ME IN A CONVERSATION THAT THE STYLE OF THE LIBELOUS LETTER WAS COMPATIBLE WITH HIS OWN IDEAS, BUT HE DENIED HAVING WRITTEN IT....."I SAID TO THE POLICE THAT WE WOULD FIGHT THEM TO THE END, AND THAT IT COULD RESULT LATER IN DEMONSTRATIONS THAT WILL TAKE ON A VIOLENT CHARACTER IN THE END." I ASKED TURJEMAN: WHO ARE "WE"? HE RELATED THAT HE BELONGS TO "PENITENTS" STUDYING WITH RABBI DAVID COHEN, THE LECTURER AT THE MEIR INSTITUTE. RAFAEL TURJEMAN HAS BITTER CHARGES AGAINST THE "WITNESSES OF THE NAME" (AS HE CALLS THEM) BUT HE ~~REPLIES~~ THAT HE THREATENED YOSEF'S CHILDREN. "I'M READY TO CRUSH HIS FACE TO A PULP BUT I WILL NOT TOUCH HIS CHILD. I SAID I WOULD SEE TO IT THAT HIS CHILD WOULD NOT ENTER INTO A JEWISH KINDERGARTEN. AND THAT I WILL DO. I HAVE NOTHING TO FEAR." THE LAW (AGAINST MISSIONS)...PASSED THE SECOND & THIRD READINGS TWO WEEKS AGO. (FIRST PARAGRAPH OF LAW QUOTED) RAFAEL TURJEMAN ADMITS THAT HE PROPOSED TO JOSEF LEVI & HIS WIFE A TICKET ABROAD. "WE DON'T NEED PEOPLE LIKE THAT IN ISRAEL," HE SAYS. THE JW'S HAVE BEEN GATHERING AT THEIR HOUSE OF WORSHIP FOR FOURTEEN YEARS, AND NEVER HAD ANY PROBLEMS. "SINCE THE LAST ELECTIONS THE RELIGIOUS YOUTH HAVE BEGUN TO GATHER IN THE BUILDING & STAIRWELL AND TO ENTER INTO LECTURES," DAVID GAMAR STATES...."THESE FELLOWS HAVE THREATENED OUR MEMBERS, THEY'VE SAID THEY WOULD DRIVE THEM OUT OF ISRAEL, AND IF NOT, MURDER US ONE BY ONE....WE FILED A COMPLAINT TO THE POLICE AFTER THE WRECKAGE OF THE PLACE ON 19.11.77. THREE WEEKS AFTER REFURBISHING THE HOUSE OF WORSHIP THE SECOND WRECKING TOOK PLACE. THEY AGAIN COMPLAINED TO THE POLICE. THIS TIME THEY WROTE ALSO TO MK SHULAMIT ALONI REQUESTING HER AID. THEY ALSO ASKED HER TO BRING TO THE ATTENTION OF THE PARTIES CONCERNED THAT THERE ARE 20,000 JW'S FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD WHO HAVE PLANNED TO VISIT ISRAEL IN SUMMER 1978 IN A COMMON PROJECT WITH THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM....THE POLICE COMMANDER OF THE YARKON REGION ADMITS THAT THE POLICE HAVE DECIDED TO DEVOTE SPECIAL ATTENTION TO THE MATTER...BUT CANNOT POINT TO ANY SUSPECT. "PEOPLE HAVE BEEN INVESTIGATED, BUT THE SUBJECT IS SENSITIVE AND COMPLEX," COMMANDER MOSHE BARHAYIM SAYS. END

SUBJECT 4: CATHOLIC ISSUES

DATE: 8.1.78 JOURNAL: JERUSALEM POST (IND ENG AM) LETTER TO EDITOR
 HEADING: "SYMBOL--NOT A DOLL" BY: REV. IGNAZIO MANCINI OPM, DIRECTOR CHRISTIAN INFO. CTRE.
 QUOTE: I REFER TO YOUR REPORT OF DEC 25, ACCORDING TO WHICH "THE PATRIARCH CEREMONIALLY CARRIED A SMALL WOODEN DOLL TO THE GROTTA." ACCORDING TO WEBSTER'S SEVENTH NEW COLLEGIATE DICTIONARY: DOLL IS DEFINED AS "A SMALL SCALE FIGURE OF A HUMAN BEING USED ESPECIALLY AS A CHILD'S PLAYTHING." CERTAINLY, THIS IS HARDLY APPLICABLE HERE FOR THE IMAGE THE PATRIARCH CARRIED WAS THAT OF THE CHRIST CHILD WHOM CHRISTIANS WORSHIP AS THEIR SAVIOUR THE HOLY ONE, "THE WORD THROUGH WHOM ALL THINGS WERE MADE--AND WHO WAS MADE FLESH & DWELT AMONG US." (JN 1:1-3, WORDS MEAN DIFFERENT THINGS & AT TIMES PERHAPS UNINTENTIONALLY THEY STING. IN THIS CASE A RELIGIOUS SYMBOL WAS REDUCED TO A CHILD'S TOY." JERUSALEM.

DATE: 12.1.78 JOURNAL: DAVAR (LABOUR HEB AM) NEWS ARTICLE
 HEADING: "CONCERN AMONG CHURCHES IN JERUSALEM: ANXIETIES ABOUT PAUL I CONTROL OVER ALL CHRISTIAN HOLY PLACES"
 BYLINE: TUVYA MENDELSON, DAVAR CORRESPONDENT IN JERUSALEM.
 EXTRACTS: "THE SCHEDULED MEETING TODAY BETWEEN POPE PAUL SIXTH & FOREIGN MINISTER MOSHE DAYAN AT THE VATICAN STANDS AT THE CENTRE OF INTEREST OF THE CHRISTIAN CHURCHES IN J'LM, WHO ARE FOLLOWING THE MEETINGS OF DAYAN IN ROME WITH A CERTAIN DEGREE OF CONCERN IN A BACKGROUND OF ANXIETY THAT THE VATICAN MAY TRY TO BE THE DOMINANT FACTOR IN ALL MATTERS CONCERNING THE HOLY PLACES IN JERUSALEM....ESPECIALLY THIS IS SO IN CIRCLES OF THE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH WHOSE POWER IS GREATER IN JERUSALEM THAN THE CATHOLIC CHURCH...IT IS TO BE NOTED THAT IN RECENT YEARS THE VATICAN HAS MODERATED ITS POSITIONS CONCERNING JERUSALEM & IN JERUSALEM IT IS ESTIMATED THAT ONE OF THE REASONS STEMS FROM THE RELATIONSHIP WHICH THE CATHOLIC CHURCH HAS ENJOYED FROM WITH OFFICIAL STATE BODIES AND THE JERUSALEM MUNICIPALITY. AMONG THE PROMINENT ACTIVITIES IN THIS AREA STAND OUT THE AID THAT THE JERUSALEM MUNICIPALITY GAVE IN RETURNING & REFURBISHING NOTRE DAME MONASTERY...MK GEULA COHEN YESTERDAY EXPRESSED ANXIOUSNESS CONCERNING THE MEETING WITH THE VATICAN & IN THE INTRODUCTION OF THE VATICAN TO CONTACTS OVER JERUSALEM HOLY PLACES... WHICH IN ITSELF HAS DIMINISHED THE STATUS OF JERUSALEM. IN A PRESS CONFERENCE ~~W/~~ ^{OF} OPPONENTS OF THE BEGIN PEACE PLAN IN THE SQUARE FACING THE PM'S OFFICE, GEULA COHEN STATED IN THIS MATTER THAT UNTIL NOW THE VATICAN WAS NOT INCLUDED IN THESE MK TOPICS & IT IS IRONIC THAT THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT SHOULD GRANT THE VATICAN STANDING IN NEGOTIATIONS CONCERNING JERUSALEM."

SUBJECT:5: US REFORM JEWS & MISSIONS

DATE: 18.1.78 JOURNAL: HAMODIYA (AGUDA HEB AM) EXPOSE ARTICLE
 HEADING: "THE REFORMERS AND THE MISSION"
 BYLINE: RABBI MOSHE SHARAR, NEW YORK.
 SUMMARY: A VERY LENGTHY & BITTER ATTACK BY A US ORTHODOX RABBI ON THE JEWISH REFORM MOVEMENT IN THE WAKE OF A SAN FRANCISCO MEETING AT WHICH REFORM JEWS CALLED FOR (AMONG OTHER THINGS) A CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE INROADS OF ^{CHRISTIAN} MISSIONS AMONG THE JEWS. THE WRITER IS CONVINCED THAT THIS CAMPAIGN IS ONLY A SMOKE SCREEN TO OBTAIN LEGITIMACY FOR THE REFORM MOVEMENT IN JUDAISM AND ESPECIALLY IN ISRAEL. THERE ARE BITTER ATTACKS UPON THE LATE RABBI STEPHEN ~~WIKSE~~ WISE AND VARIOUS REFORM PRACTICES "WHICH IN FACT PROVIDE A CORRIDOR FOR THE ENTRANCE OF MANY JEWS INTO THE CHURCH". THE WRITER ACCUSES THEM OF BEING LIKE THIEVES WHO CRY "STOP THEIF!" "BY THEIR OWN DOINGS THEY HAVE HELPED BRING MANY JEWS INTO APOSTASY MORE THAN ALL THE GENTILE MISSIONARIES TOGETHER." THEY ARE CHARGED WITH HAVING EMPTIED JUDAISM OF ALL CONTENT & PREPARED THE WAY FOR THE RECEPTIVITY OF JEWISH YOUTH FOR CHRISTIAN TEACHINGS. THEY HAVE ALSO OPPOSED INTENSIVE JEWISH EDUCATION & ADDITIONALLY HAVE WAGED "AN AGGRESSIVE & VIGOROUS CAMPAIGN AGAINST GOV'T AID TO RELIGIOUS SCHOOLS." HE CHARGES THEM WITH ENCOURAGING MIXED MARRIAGES, WITH ENCOURAGING JEWS TO VISIT CHURCHES & SHARING OF PULPITS BETWEEN JEWS AND CHRISTIAN CLERGY & EVEN MORE ASTONISHING THE DEMAND BY LEADERS LIKE ^{STEPHEN} WISE TO RECOGNIZE "YESHU" AS A JEWISH PROPHET. A VERY PRESENT DANGER IS THEIR PURPOSE TO BE RECOGNIZED IN ISRAEL. "WE TORA JEWS IN AMERICAN CANNOT REMAIN EQUANIMOUS IN THE FACE OF THIS. WE HAVE HAD ENOUGH JEWISH VICTIMS OF THEIRS IN USA. THEIR ATTEMPTS TO SPREAD THEIR WINGS OVER THE HOLY LAND MUST BE STOPPED IN TIME...ANY INFLUENTIAL CAMPAIGN AGAINST MISSIONARIES MUST FIRST BEGIN AGAINST THOSE WHO DIRECTLY & INDIRECTLY DRIVE MANY JEWS INTO THE ARMS OF THE MISSION--THAT IS, AGAINST THE REFORMERS." CLOSE QUOTE
 END DIGEST THIS WEEK 18.1.78.