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1. SUBJECT: NEW MISSION LAW

DATE: 22.1.78 JOURNAL: JERUSALEM POST (ENGLISH AM IND) LETTER TO EDITOR

HEADING: "CONVERTS LAW 'IS NOT A GOOD ONE'"

BYLINE: THE REV. DR. G. DOUGLAS YOUNG, PRESIDENT, AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF HOLY LAND STUDIES

QUOTE: WITH REFERENCE TO SARAH HONIG'S REPORT OF JANUARY 4, "CHRISTIANS PLAN WIDE PROTEST AGAINST CONVERTS LAW," I WOULD LIKE IT TO BE KNOWN THAT I AM NOT ASSOCIATED WITH THIS "PROTEST". HOWEVER, I MUST FIRST SAY THAT, FOR SEVERAL REASONS, I DO NOT THINK THE LAW AS WRITTEN IS A GOOD ONE OR IN ISRAEL'S BEST INTERESTS. AS AN INTERNAL POLITICAL PLOY, IT MAY SERVE A PURPOSE, BUT IT OVERLOOKS OTHER THINGS: IT IS AIMED AT AN ISSUE THAT IS NOW DEAD IN THIS COUNTRY. IT IS AIMED AT THE WRONG PROBLEM IN ISRAEL. IT DOES NOT DEFINE CLEARLY THE FULL NATURE OF THE "BRIBERY" TO WHICH IT REFERS. AND IT WILL DO AN INFINITE AMOUNT OF UNNECESSARY DAMAGE TO ISRAEL'S IMAGE ABROAD AS A DEMOCRATIC SOCIETY AT A TIME WHEN A 45-MILLION EVANGELICAL CONSTITUENCY IS BLOSSOMING OUT WITH POLITICAL (NON NON-MISSIONARY) ACTIVITY IN ISRAEL'S SUPPORT. THOSE WITH NO BIBLICAL REASON TO SUPPORT ISRAEL WILL USE IT TO HER DISADVANTAGE. BE ALL THAT AS IT MAY, I AM STILL NOT ASSOCIATED WITH THE "PROTEST" AND FOR SEVERAL REASONS: 1. I BELIEVE BRIBERY IN RELIGION IS JUST AS ILLEGAL AS ANY OTHER TYPE OF BRIBERY. 2. FOR THOSE WHO BEAR FALSE ACCUSATIONS, OR IN CASES OF MISUNDERSTANDINGS, THERE IS ALWAYS RESORT TO ISRAEL'S INDEPENDENT COURTS (WHICH ARE APPOINTED NEITHER BY POLITICAL NOR RELIGIOUS PARTIES). JUSTICE HERE IS FOR ALL, AND ANY OTHER VIEW EVIDENCES THE SAME KIND OF NEGATIVE ATTITUDE TOWARDS "THE JEWS" AS CHRISTIANS HAVE BEEN SHOWING FOR CENTURIES. CHRISTIANS SHOULD REMEMBER THE WAY CHRISTENDOM TREATED JEWS FOR 1900 YEARS WITH FORCED BAPTISMS, SLANDER & MURDER. FURTHERMORE, THEY HAD NO COURTS TO WHICH THEY COULD HAVE APPEALED. 3. IN THE SOURCE BOOK OF THE CHRISTIAN FAITH, WRITING NOT TO A CHRISTIAN COUNTRY BUT TO ROME, THE APOSTLE PAUL STATES: EVERYONE MUST OBEY THE STATE AUTHORITIES...WHOEVER OPPOSES THE EXISTING AUTHORITY OPPOSES WHAT GOD HAS ORDERED...FOR THIS REASON YOU MUST OBEY THE AUTHORITIES...ALSO AS A MATTER OF CONSCIENCE." (ROMANS 13:1-5 CONDENSED) IF ONE FEELS HE CANNOT GO ALONG WITH THE "STATE AUTHORITIES" (ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD) FOR REASONS OF CONSCIENCE ("TO OBEY GOD RATHER THAN MEN"—IN NEW TESTAMENT PARLANCE), HE MUST BE PREPARED GRACEFULLY TO SUFFER THE CONSEQUENCES. IN SUCH OPPOSITION, HOWEVER, HE SHOULD, WITHOUT PASSION, USE LEGAL EFFORTS TO GET THE LAW HE OPPOSES CHANGED. CLOSE QUOTE. JERUSALEM.

DATE: 23.1.78 JOURNAL: JERUSALEM POST INTERVIEW ARTICLE

HEADING: "TALKING TO THE AUTHOR OF A CONTROVERSIAL LAW" (RABBI YEHUDA MEIR ABRAMOWITZ)

BYLINE: ARYEH RUBINSTEIN, JERUSALEM POST REPORTER

EXTRACTS: "ON JANUARY 1, THE UCCI SENT A TELEGRAM TO PM BEGIN PROTESTING AGAINST THE "HASTY PASSING BY THE KNESSET OF THE BILL MAKING IT ILLEGAL TO ENTICE ANYONE TO CHANGE HIS RELIGION....THE TELEGRAM CLAIMED...THE BILL HAD BEEN PUSHED THROUGH THE KNESSET DURING THE CHRISTMAS PERIOD WHEN CHRISTIANS WERE BUSY PREPARING FOR & CELEBRATING THEIR HOLIDAY. A FEW DAYS LATER THE COUNCIL'S PRESS OFFICER J. DAVID ANNOUNCED THAT ISRAEL CHRISTIANS WOULD LAUNCH A CAMPAIGN FOR THE LAW'S REPEAL. THE HELP OF THE VATICAN & OF CHURCH MEMBERS OF OTHER DENOMINATIONS WOULD BE SOUGHT, HE SAID. ONE NEWSPAPER COMMENTATOR ASSERTED THAT THE LAW PASSED ITS SECOND & THIRD READINGS "ALMOST ACCIDENTALLY" WITHOUT HAVING BEEN LISTED ON THE KNESSET AGENDA FOR THE DAY. "NOT TRUE," SAYS RABBI ABRAMOWITZ, MK OF AGUDAT YISRAEL, FATHER OF THE LAW. "MY PRIVATE MEMBER'S BILL WAS ORIGINALLY SUBMITTED IN THE 8TH KNESSET OVER A YEAR AGO. EVEN THO' MY PARTY WAS THEN IN THE OPPOSITION, THE THEN JUSTICE MINISTER HAYIM ZADOK AGREED THAT IT GO TO THE LAW COMMITTEE TO BE PREPARED FOR ITS FIRST READING. BUT BECAUSE OF THE KNESSET'S DISSOLUTION THE BILL DIED IN THE COMMITTEE. IN THE PRESENT KNESSET I RESUBMITTED MY BILL ON JULY 11. IT PASSED ITS PRELIMINARY READING ON OCT 26. THE LAW COMMITTEE DEVOTED TWO SESSIONS TO IT, AND IT PASSED ITS FIRST READING ON DEC. 5. IT THEN WENT BACK TO THE COMMITTEE WHICH PREPARED IT FOR ITS SECOND & THIRD READINGS. THESE TOOK PLACE ON DEC 27. THE BILL APPEARED ON THE REGULAR WEEKLY AGENDA IN ACCORDANCE WITH STANDARD PROCEDURE. THIS TALK ABOUT UNDUE HASTE IS JUST TALK..." I QUOTE TO RABBI ABRAMOWITZ FROM THE UCCI STATEMENT IN ITS TELEGRAM TO THE PM THAT NONE OF ITS MEMBERX BODIES USES IMPROPER INDUCEMENTS TO PERSUADE ANYONE TO CHANGE/HIS RELIGION. "FINE!" COUNTERS RABBI A. "THEN THEY HAVE NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT. THE LAW DOES NOT PROHIBIT MISSIONARY ACTIVITY AS SUCH, ONLY THE USE OF MATERIAL INDUCEMENTS TO CONVERSION. IT DOESN'T EVEN MENTION THE WORD "CHRISTIAN" IF A JEW OR A MOSLEM TRIEST TO PAY SOMEONE TO CHANGE HIS RELIGION HE IS LIABLE TO THE SAME PENALTIES AS A CHRISTIAN." BUT I INSIST: EVERYONE KNOWS THE BILL IS AIMED AT CHRISTIAN MISSIONARIES. THE PRESS OFFICER OF THE UCCI CHARACTERIZED THE EXPLANATORY REMARKS APPEN TO THE BILL AS "SLANDEROUS TO ALL CHRISTIANS." "FIRST OF ALL, THE EXPLANATORY REMARKS ARE NOT

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PART OF THE LAW. ONCE A BILL PASSES THEY'RE THROWN IN THE WASTE BASKET. THE KNESSET DIDN'T VOTE FOR THE EXPLANATORY REMARKS BUT FOR THE TWO PARAGRAPHS OF THE BILL. BUT EVEN IN THE EXPLANATORY REMARKS, I DIDN'T MENTION "CHRISTIAN"—ONLY MISSIONARIES. I'M SURE THAT ANY TRUE CHRISTIAN DIS-SOCIATES HIMSELF FROM MISSIONARIES WHO TRY TO CONVINCE MEN'S POCKETS RATHER THAN THEIR MINDS." I CITE AN ARGUMENT RAISED BY MK SHULAMIT ALONI THAT THE STATISTICS SHOW THAT IN THE THREE YEAR PERIOD 1974-76 ONLY 17 JEWS IN ISRAEL WERE CONVERTED TO CHRISTIANITY. WAS IT WORTH STIRRING UP CHRISTIAN RESSENTMENT WHEN SUCH SMALL NUMBERS WERE INVOLVED? "WE ARE A SMALL NATION," ABRAMOWITZ SAYS, "AND EVERY INDIVIDUAL IS IMPORTANT FOR US. FURTHERMORE THE STATISTICS TELL ONLY PART OF THE STORY. THEY DON'T TELL US HOW MANY JEWS ARE INDUCED AND HELPED TO EMIGRATE BY THE MISSIONARIES AND ARE CONVERTED TO CHRISTIANITY AFTER THEY ARE ABROAD." DID ABRAMOWITZ APPROVE OF MISSIONARY ACTIVITY IF IT IS NOT ACCOMPANIED BY MATERIAL INDUCEMENTS? "NO, I DO NOT THINK THAT MEMBERS OF ONE RELIGION SHOULD TRY TO CONVERT MEMBERS OF ANOTHER. IN FACT I WOULD HAVE PREFERRED A LAW BAN-NING MISSIONARY ACTIVITY AS SUCH. BUT OTHER PARLIAMENTARIANS CONVINCED ME THAT SUCH A BILL WOULD NEVER MUSTER A MAJORITY."

DATE: 24.1.78 JOURNAL: HATSOFE (HEB NKP AM) BRIEF NEWS ARTICLE

HEADING: "BECAUSE OF SUICIDE THREAT—TESTIMONY IN TV PROGRAM ON MISSIONS RECORDED IN ANONYMITY"

BYLINE: SHAUL MEISELISH

QUOTE: THE SUPPORTING TESTIMONY FOR THE SIDE DEFENDING THE MISSION LAW ON YESTERDAY'S TV PROGRAM "LEHEM HOKE" ("DAILY LAW") WAS HEARD ANONYMOUSLY BECAUSE OF A SUICIDE THREAT OF THE DAUGHTER OF ONE OF THE WITNESSES. AT FIRST THE MAN & HIS DAUGHTER AGREED TO TESTIFY AND TO RELATE OF THE MATERIAL ENTICEMENT OFFERED THEM IN ORDER TO RELEASE THE FATHER FROM JAIL IN EXCHANGE FOR HIS CONVERSION. FATHER & DAUGHTER APPEARED ON THE PROGRAM AND OPENLY PROVIDED FULL DETAILS TO THE SIDE FAVOURING THE LAW OF RABBI Y.M. LAU. BUT ON THE MORROW OF THE RECORDING, THE DAUGHTER OF THE WITNESS CALLED AND THREATENED THAT IF THE PROGRAM WAS BROADCAST WITH THE NAME OF THE FAMILY MENTIONED AND THE IDENTITY OF THE WITNESSES NOT CONCEALED, THEN SHE WOULD COMMIT SUICIDE. IN THE LIGHT OF A SIMILAR INCIDENT WHICH ENDED TRAGICALLY, THE PRODUCERS HASTILY REDID THE PROGRAM, THIS TIME BLURRING THE IDENTITY OF THE WITNESSES. INCIDENTALLY, BEFORE THE TELECAST WAS SHOWN, ANONYMOUS PERSONS CONTACTED THE WITNESS AND ASKED: "HOW MUCH MONEY HAVE THE RELIGIOUS OFFERED YOU FOR AGREEING TO TESTIFY..." CLOSE QUOTE

DATE: 25.1.78 JOURNAL: HA'ARETZ (HEB IND AM) THREE-COLUMN NEWS ARTICLE

HEADING: "THE MISSION LAW AFFAIR: UCCI APPREHENSIVE ABOUT ACTIVITIES OF EXTREMIST JEWISH BODIES—TELEGRAM FROM JEWISH DEFENCE LEAGUE: "NO MISSIONARY ACTIVITY WILL BE TOLERATED IN ISRAEL OR ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD."

BYLINE: YEHUDIT WINKLER, HAARETZ CORRESPONDENT

QUOTE: THE JEWISH DEFENCE LEAGUE AND A BODY CALLING ITSELF "ANTI-MISSIONARY UNIT" IN USA NOTIFIED THE UCCI: "NO MISSIONARY WORK WILL BE TOLERATED IN ISRAEL OR ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD." THE MESSAGE REACHED THE UCCI TO WHICH THE TELEGRAM WAS SENT FROM BROOKLYN. IT WAS STATED THEREIN THAT ITS CONTENT IS FURTHER TO THE OPPOSITION OF THE UCCI TO THE MISSION LAW PASSED RECENTLY IN KNESSET. SIGNATORIES TO THE TELEGRAM WERE ELLIOT SOLOMON, MOSHE BRAUN, JERRY EISENBERG, HIESCH STEIN. THE NAMES ARE NOT KNOWN TO RECIPIENTS OF THE WIRE WHO VIEW WITH DEEP CONCERN THE PRESENCE OF THE JDL IN THE FRONT OF SUPPORTERS OF THE MISSION LAW. THE ADDITIONAL BODY MENTIONED IN THE WIRE IS NOT KNOWN BUT IT IS ASSUMED THAT IT IS A PART OF THE JDL AND INTENDS TO CONCENTRATE ON ANTI-MISSION ACTIVITIES. THE UCCI CONTINUES XX IN ITS ACTIVITIES AGAINST THE MISSION LAW BOTH IN ISRAEL & ABROAD. THE RESULTS OF THIS ACTIVITY ARE APPARENTLY BEING EVIDENCED BY THE WIDESPREAD PUBLICITY ON THE SUBJECT AFFORDED IN WORLDWIDE PRESS. IN REACTION TO THIS AND IN THE WAKE OF PUBLICITY ABOUT THE AFFAIR IN "HAARETZ", SPONSOR OF THE LAW MK RABBI ABRAMOWITZ CLAIMED THAT THE PROCEDURES FOR PASSAGE OF THE LAW IN THE KNESSET WERE OPEN AND LEGITIMATE AND THERE IS NO IMPORTANCE TO BE ATTACHED TO THE EXPLANATORY REMARKS WHICH ACCOMPANIED THE PROPOSAL OF THE LAW AND WHICH STIRRED UP NO LESS DISTRESS AMONG CHRISTIANS THAN THE LAW ITSELF. IN THE EXPLANATORY REMARKS WHICH WAS CHARACTERIZED BY CLERGY AS LIBELOUS AGAINST CHRISTIANS, MK ABRAMOWITZ CLAIMED THAT MISSIONARIES PERSUADE SOLDIERS OF THE IDF TO CONVERT TO CHRISTIANITY AND TO DESERT THEIR UNITS. HE STATED RECENTLY THAT ACTUALLY HE WANTED TO HAVE A LAW PASSED THAT WOULD FORBID PROPAGANDA FOR CHRISTIANITY IN ANY FORM BUT PARLIAMENTARY REALITY MADE IT IMPRACTICAL. HE ALSO CLAIMED THAT THE LAW AS APPROVED PROHIBITS ALL MATERIAL ENTICEMENTS WHETHER ON THE PART OF CHRISTIANS OR JEWS, AND THEREFORE IN HIS OPINION THERE IS NO JUSTIFICATION FOR CHRISTIAN PROTESTS. THE UCCI & CLERGY VIGOROUSLY PROTEST THE VERY INCLUSION OF A RELIGIOUS MATTER IN CRIMINAL LAW & THINK THAT THE ATTEMPT TO CANCEL THE WEIGHT AND IMPORTANCE OF THE EXPLANATORY REMARKS BY WHICH THE LAW WAS PRESENTED TO THE KNESSET BORDERS ON HYPOCRISY.

NOTE

HYPOCRISY. THESE SOURCES EXPRESS CONCERN THAT IN THE WAKE OF THE LAW'S PASSAGE JEWISH EXTREMISTS WILL BE STIRRED UP IN ISRAEL AND ABROAD, SUCH AS THE JDL, AND WILL EFFECT PROVOCATIONS AGAINST CHRISTIANS IN ORDER TO ENSNARE THEM AND TO LIBEL THEM WITH ACCUSATIONS FOR WHICH THEY WILL BE MADE TO STAND TRIAL UNDER THE NEW LAW. IN VARIOUS ISRAELI CIRCLES MUCH DOUBT HAS BEEN EXPRESSED THAT THE LAW WILL BE ~~KNOWLEDGE~~ INVOKED BY THE JUDICIARY, NEVERTHELESS ITS VERY EXISTENCE IS OF SIGNIFICANCE UNDENIABLY. IN A CONVERSATION WITH MK ABRAMOWITZ I ASKED HIM TO ^{GIVE} FACTUAL EVIDENCE OF MISSION ACTIVITY INCLUDING THOSE DONE ACCORDING TO HIS CLAIM FOR THE PURPOSE OF ENTICEMENT TO CONVERSION OF JEWS IN EXCHANGE FOR MATERIAL BENEFITS, WHICH FORMED THE BASIS OF HIS CLAIM FOR PROPOSING THE LAW. "THERE'S NOTHING SIMPLER THAN THAT. THERE WERE ENDLESS STORIES IN THE NEWSPAPERS. I REGRET THAT I HAVEN'T GOT THE MATERIAL AT HAND." WHEN I PERSISTED IN MY REQUEST FOR THE FACTS, HE DIRECTED ME TO TWO ADDRESSES: "HEVER PEILIM" IN JERUSALEM AND TELAVIV. IN MK ABRAMOWITZ'S OPINION, THE GOVERNMENT STATISTICS ON THE EXTENT OF CONVERSION TO CHRISTIANITY (ARRIVING AT AN AVERAGE TOTAL OF NO MORE THAN TEN ANNUALLY) DOES NOT REFLECT THE REAL SITUATION BECAUSE IT DOES NOT INCLUDE THOSE WHO CONVERTED AND EMIGRATED WITH THE MISSION'S ASSISTANCE. FURTHERMORE, AS HEAD OF THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT IN TELAVIV MUNICIPALITY, HE WAS CONSTANTLY ENCOUNTERING THREATS TO CONVERT TO CHRISTIANITY FROM NEEDY PERSONS IF THEY WERE NOT GRANTED THEIR REQUESTS (FOR WELFARE AID). THIS IS A FURTHER PROOF OF MISSIONARY ACTIVITY OF THE KIND HE MEANT. WHEN I COMMENTED THAT PERHAPS THIS WAS ONLY A ~~MATTER~~ ^{METHOD} OF PRESSURE EXERTING, HE REPLIED: "I DON'T KNOW, BUT SO VERY MANY PEOPLE DO THIS, I'M AFRAID THERE MUST BE SOMETHING TO IT." CLOSE QUOTE.

SUBJECT 2: "MISSIONARY ACTIVITIES"

DATE: 23.1.78 JOURNAL: DAVAR (HEB AM LABOUR) BRIEF NEWS ARTICLE ??
 HEADING: "PRESIDENT REJECTS AMNESTY FOR TEL AVIV PEDDLAR: THE MISSION PROMISES HIM HELP"
 BYLINE: DANKA HARNISH, CORRESPONDENT OF DAVAR, TELAVIV
 QUOTE: PRES OF THE STATE PROFESSOR EPHRAIM KATZIR DENIED YESTERDAY THE PETITION FOR AMNESTY ON BEHALF OF THE TELAVIV PEDLAR PINHAS GOLAN WHO HAD ACCUMULATED FINES IN THE SUM OF IL 40,000 WHICH IF NOT PAID WILL REQUIRE HIM TO SERVE TWO YEARS IN JAIL. PINHAS GOLAN IS AN ICE CREAM PEDLAR WHO WAS ATTACKED THREE MONTHS AGO BY ROBBERS IN STREETS OF TELAVIV AND WAS SEVERELY INJURED IN HIS EYES. FOR SEVERAL YEARS HE SUPPORTS HIMSELF BY PEDLING AND HAS CONDUCTED A CAMPAIGN AGAINST MAYOR SHLOMO LAHAT WHO REFUSES TO ISSUE HIM A PEDDLING LICENCE. DURING THIS PERIOD HE ACCUMULATED FINES AMOUNT TO IL 40,000 AND WAS ON THIS ACCOUNT ARRESTED BUT RELEASED AFTER FILING A PETITION FOR AMNESTY TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE STATE. THE LEGAL ADVISER OF THE PRESIDENT'S OFFICE, ATTORNEY AVIVA GATHAI, YESTERDAY INFORMED GOLAN BY LETTER THAT "THERE HAS BEEN NO JUSTIFICATION FOUND TO RESPOND TO YOUR REQUEST." GOLAN ^{HAD} APPEALED TO VARIOUS PUBLIC SOURCES IN A PLEA TO SUPPORT HIS REQUEST FOR A PEDDLING LICENCE. ON THE NINTH OF THIS MONTH HE WAS ALSO RECEIVED BY DR BURG, MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR, WHO PROMISED TO LOOK INTO THE MATTER WITHIN A FEW DAYS IN AN EFFORT TO HELP GOLAN, BUT TO THIS DAY NO REPLY HAS BEEN RECEIVED. LAST FRIDAY GOLAN SUCCEEDED IN MAKING A TELEPHONE CONNECTION WITH THE MINISTER, IN THE COURSE OF WHICH DR. BURG TOLD HIM THAT HE HAD NOT YET DEALT WITH HIS MATTER BECAUSE OF THE POLITICAL PROBLEMS WITH WHICH HE IS BURDENED AT PRESENT. "I DON'T OWE YOU ANY HELP, BUT I WANT TO HELP YOU," DR. BURG STATED. YESTERDAY GOLAN RECEIVED THE REPLY OF THE PRESIDENT AND IN A CONVERSATION WITH THE DAVAR CORRESPONDENT HE CLAIMED THAT THERE ARE TWO POSSIBILITIES SINCE HE CANNOT PAY THE FINES: EITHER HE WILL HAVE TO GO TO JAIL, OR THE SECOND ALTERNATIVE IS, IN HIS WORDS, TO ACCEPT THE HELP OF THE MISSION. RECENTLY A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE MISSION VISITED HIS HOME SEVERAL TIMES, SOMEONE WHO HAD READ ABOUT HIS PROBLEM IN THE PAPERS, AND PROMISED TO PAY THE FINES TO THE TELAVIV MUNICIPALITY AND TO ARRANGE FOR HIS EMIGRATION FROM ISRAEL, OBTAINING NEW CITIZENSHIP IN A NEW PLACE, AND ASSURANCE OF SUBSISTENCE. CLOSE QUOTE

DATE: 24.1.78 JOURNAL: HATSOFE (HEB AM NRP) BRIEF NEWS ARTICLE
 HEADING: "MISSIONARY MATERIAL DISTRIBUTED RECENTLY IN BNEI BRAK SCHOOLS"
 BYLINE: Our Correspondent BENUSH DAN
 QUOTE: MISSIONARY MATERIAL IS BEING DISTRIBUTED IN THE NEIGHBOURHOODS OF PARDES KATZ & KIRYAT HERZOG IN BNEI BRAK. MAYOR Y. GOTTILIEB OF BNEI BRAK HAS APPEALED TO POLICE IN A PLEA TO CHECK THE POSSIBILITY OF COUNTERACTING THE DISTRIBUTION OF THE MISSIONARY MATERIAL...IN RECENT DAYS STUDENTS OF UZZIEL SCHOOL IN KIRYAT HERZOG HAVE PASSED ON TO THE MUNICIPALITY MISSIONARY MATERIAL DISTRIBUTED IN THEIR NEIGHBOURHOOD & IN NEARBY PARDES KATZ. THE MATERIAL IS IN THE FORM OF AN ENVELOPE WITH THE ADDRESS: "A LETTER FOR YOU." AFTER A FEW PAGES DEALING WITH VARIOUS SOCIAL PROBLEMS IN GENERAL & ~~GENERAL~~ INDIVIDUAL PROBLEMS, THE PAMPHLET INTRODUCES MANY QUOTATIONS FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT ABOUT JESUS AND CHRISTIANITY. THE EDITORS OF THE PAMPHLET OFFER THE RECIPIENTS WHO HAVE

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NO COPY OF THE HOLY SCRIPTURES IN THEIR HOME, MATERIAL IN THE DESIRED LANGUAGE, WHICH THEY WILL BE HAPPY TO SEND THEM, AND ALSO TO REGISTER THEM IN A HOME COURSE WITHOUT CHARGE AND WITHOUT OBLIGATION. ON THE PAMPHLET IT IS INSCRIBED THAT IT IS PRESENTED BY THE MESSIANIC MOVEMENT IN ISRAEL AND THEIR ADDRESS IS THE BIBLE SCHOOL IN HAIFA. CLOSE QUOTE.

DATE: 24.1.78 JOURNAL: SHEARIM (HEB AM ULTRAORTHODOX) NEWS ARTICLE
 HEADING: "MISSIONARY MATERIAL DISTRIBUTED IN BNEI BRAK"
 NOTE: THE SAME ARTICLE AS ABOVE WITH THE ADDITION OF THE NAME OF THE SCHOOL OF BIBLE GIVEN AS "EMMAUS".

SUBJECT 3: EXTREMIST POACHING ON CHRISTIAN SITE

DATE: 20.1.78 JOURNAL: HAMISHMAR (HEB AM MAPAM) NEWS ARTICLE
 HEADING: "NATIONALIST CIRCLES SETTLE IN CHRISTIAN HOLY SITE"

BYLINE: GABRIEL STERN, AL HAMISHMAR CORRESPONDENT

QUOTE: ATTEMPTS BY EXTREMIST NATIONALIST CIRCLES TO TAKE OVER MOUNT ZION HAVE RECENTLY REACHED A NEW SERIOUS PEAK WITH THE FORCIBLE BREAKIN AND SETTLING IN ONE OF THE MOST HOLY SITES OF CHRISTIANITY, NAMELY "THE HALL OF THE HOLY SPIRIT" ADJACENT TO THE "HALL OF THE LAST SUPPER, WHICH IS ABOVE DAVID'S TOMB, FOLLOWED BY THE SETTING UP OF A MENORA AT THE ENTRANCE TO THE LAST SUPPER HALL ITSELF. THE CHIEF OF THE OFFICE OF ~~THE~~ RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS, ISRAEL LIPPEL, ^{AND} MAYOR TEDDY KOLLEK, HAVE EXPRESSED SHOCK AT THE RECENT VIOLENCE BY GROUPS WORKING, IT IS SUSPECTED, IN CONTACT WITH THE DIASPORA YESHIVA WHOSE CHARACTER IS CONTROVERSIAL. IT IS BELIEVED THAT THESE GROUPS (WHO WERE ALSO INVOLVED IN "PRAYERS" ON THE TEMPLE MOUNT AND SIMILAR PROVOCATIVE ACTS) HOPE THAT "M'KARKAY YISRAEL", WHO ARE ACCORDING TO THE PRESENT ~~INEXISTANT~~ LEGAL STATUS THE OWNERS OF THE PROPERTY, WILL BE MORE SYMPATHETIC TO THEIR ACTIONS SINCE AGRICULTURE MINISTER ERIK SHARON IS THE RESPONSIBLE PERSON OVER THIS ~~AMTX~~ STATE AUTHORITY. THE TWO SITES HAVE BELONGED SINCE THE 14TH CENTURY TO THE FRANCISCAN ORDER, BUT THEY WERE EXPELLED BY THE TURKS IN THE 16TH CENTURY WHO CONVEYED THE SANCTUARY TO THE FAMILY DEGANI (ALSO CALLED DAUDI AFTER THE NAME OF KING DAVID) WHO IN TURN CONVERTED IT TO A MOSQUE. NEVERTHELESS THE FRANCISCANS HAVE THE RIGHT TO CONDUCT PRAYERS THERE TWICE A YEAR, AND FROM THE TIME THAT MOUNT ZION BECAME PART OF ISRAEL, PILGRIMAGES AND PRAYERS OF CHRISTIANS ARE CONDUCTED FREQUENTLY ALSO. ONLY LAST YEAR THE MINISTRY OF RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS RENOVATED THE LA ST SUPPER HALL AS WAS STRESSED BY MINISTER OF RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS AHARON ABUHATZEIRA IN HIS ADDRESS AT THE TRADITIONAL RECEPTION FOR THE HEADS OF THE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY. THE SUBJECT IS SENSITIVE AND DELICATE IN THE CHRISTIAN WORLD AND IT IS ANTICIPATED THAT THERE WILL BE DIPLOMATIC INTERVENTION IF THE SITUATION WILL NOT BE SOON CORRECTED. UNQUOTE

SUBJECT 4: INTERFAITH DIALOGUE

DATE: 20.1.78 JOURNAL: JERUSALEM POST (ENGL AM IND) CHRISTIAN COMMENT (OIKOUMENIKOS)
 HEADING: "INTERFAITH DIALOGUE"

SUMMARY: INTERFAITH DIALOGUE SWINGS LIKE A PENDULUM BETWEEN FRUSTRATION & PROGRESS WITH MANY HURDLES TO OVERCOME BECAUSE OF PAST RELIGIOUS HISTORY, LINGUISTIC BARRIERS, POLITICAL FACTORS. REPORT IS BASED ON SPECIAL ISSUE OF INTERRELIGIOUS BULLETIN PUBLISHED BY THE ANTIDEFAMATION LEAGUE OF BMAI BRITH "FACE TO FACE". PRIORITY SHOULD BE GIVEN TO INTRAFATH DIALOGUE BECAUSE OF TENSION BETWEEN VARIOUS CHURCHES AND SECTS. REFERENCE TO SOME GRASS ROOTS ECUMENISM, SUCH AS MULTIDENOMINATIONAL & MULTINATIONAL GATHERINGS (IN JERUSALEM EVERY THURSDAY AT 6.00 AM, WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY). DR. COOS SCHONEVELD OF ECUMENICAL THEOLOGICAL RESEARCH FRATERNITY IN ISRAEL: "JEWS & CHRISTIANS...HOPE TO BLUNT THE TENDENCY TO INTOLERANCE INHERENT IN THEIR RESPECTIVE RELIGIONS BASED AS THEY ARE ON AN ABSOLUTE REVELATION." PROF. TALMON OF HEBREW U. UNDERLINES THE NEED "TO WORK OUT A SYSTEM OF LIVABLE COEXISTENCE." THE FEAR OF MISSIONIZING REMAINS STRONG EVEN IN ISRAEL WHERE ONLY 2.7% CHRISTIAN POPULATION BECAUSE "CHRISTIAN & MOSLEM MINORITIES IN ISRAEL ARE STILL REPRESENT OVERWHELMING MAJORITIES ON INTERNATIONAL LEVEL." DIFFICULTIES OF JEW MOSLEM DIALOGUE OVERSHADOWED BY POLITICAL SITUATION & LACK OF "ECUMENISM" IN ISLAM. ARAB CHRISTIANS RESENT THE FACT THAT WESTERN CHRISTIANS SPEAK IN NAME OF ISRAEL'S CHRISTIANS, ESPECIALLY THEIR "COMPLEXES" BECAUSE OF HOLOCAUST, SAYS FATHER ELIAS CHACOUR, GREEK CATHOLIC PRIEST. L STUDY GROUPS DISCUSSIONS, CONFERENCES, ETC., CONTINUE EFFORTS TO INCREASE COMMUNICATION BETWEEN PEOPLE OF DIFFERENT FAITHS, AMONG VARIOUS GROUPS (RAINBOW GROUP, TANTUR, ISRAEL INTERFAITH). THE LATTER GROUP HAS TAKEN A PUBLIC STAND WHEN ITS MEMBERS FELT AN ISSUE OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AT STAKE. ITS VARIED ACTIVITIES INDICATE, THE ARTICLE CONCLUDES, THAT DIALOG MUST BE LINKED TO PRACTICAL REALITIES OF DAILY STRUGGLES.

END DIGEST 25.1.78