

SUBJECT (1) ANTI-MISSION LAW: (REACTION TO TV DEBATE)

JOURNAL: YEDIOT AKHARONOT (HEB IND PM) DATE: 26.1.78 FEATURE ARTICLE

HEADING: "SOUL HUNTING AND WITCH HUNTING"

BYLINE: AHARON BECKER

EXTRACTS: "THE PROGRAM 'LEHEM HOKE' (MON.) THIS TIME TOOK HOLD OF ANTI-MISSION LEGISLATION IN ORDER TO INVADE THE DELICATE AREA OF THE RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN A SECULAR WAY OF LIFE AND RELIGIOUS LAWS WHICH AFFECT THEM. THIS CONTRADICTION INDEED MAKES A CONSIDERABLE IMPRESS UPON ISRAELI REALITY. AS AN ATHEIST, THE SOUL HUNTING OF THE MISSION CERTAINLY AROUSES IN ME DISGUST AND CONTEMPT. CHRISTIAN DENOMINATIONS EMPLOY DOUBTFUL MEANS OF THIS WORLD IN ORDER TO ASSURE BLUNDERING SOULS THEIR PLACE IN THE WORLD TO COME. THEY EXPLOIT MENTAL OR FINANCIAL DISTRESS BY INTERTPWINING SUPERSTITION AND OTHER FALSE CHARMS. EVEN THO' I GENERALLY AGREE WITH THE VIEWS OF MK SHULAMIT ALONI IN MATTERS OF RELIGION AND STATE, IT IS HARD FOR ME TO SEE WHY THE LAW RECENTLY PASSED IN THE KNESSET CONTRADICTS DEMOCRATIC PRINCIPLES. IT DOES NOT PROHIBIT MISSIONARY ACTIVITY, OR OF PREACHING AMONG NONCHRISTIANS, BUT MERELY PROHIBITS THE GIVING (OR RECEIVING) OF BENEFITS IN EXCHANGE FOR CHANGE OF RELIGION. THIS IS CERTAINLY A REASONABLE PROTECTION AGAINST CHARLATANS WHO EXPLOIT THEIR NEIGHBOURS DISTRESS FOR PURPOSES WHICH ARE BEYOND MY COMPREHENSION. NEVERTHELESS, I CERTAINLY ACCEPT THE PHILOSOPHY OF MRS. ALONI FROM WHICH HER OPPOSITION TO THE LAW STEMS. RABBI ISRAEL LAU, IN HIS OPPOSITION TO THE LAW IN ITS PRESENT FORM--A MINIMAL FORM IN HIS EYES--STRENGTHENED THE ARGUMENTS OF MRS. ALONI. THE RELIGIOUS CIRCLES WOULD LIKE TO FORBID MISSIONARY ACTIVITY ENTIRELY IN ISRAEL. AND THAT OF COURSE IS A COARSE BLOW NOT ONLY TO DEMOCRACY BUT ALSO TO RELIGIOUS FREEDOM. IN MY OPINION, EVERY MAN IS ENTITLED TO PREACH WHATEVER HE WANTS, EXCLUDING OF COURSE PREACHMENTS TO MURDER, GENOCIDE & THE LIKE. IN MY EYES, SOUL HUNTERS AND WITCH HUNTERS BELONG TO THIS UNCONGENIAL FAMILY. THE APPEARANCE OF RABBI BEN RAVITZ AS AN EXPERT WITNESS LEFT A VERY SORRY IMPRESSION. OF ALL THAT I KNOW ABOUT RABBI RAVITZ, I HAVE THE IMPRESSION HE IS A VERY INTERESTING PERSON, WITH A VERY ORIGINAL VIEWPOINT. THEY SAY HE IS AN ENLIGHTENED & OPEN PERSON, BUT BY HIS TESTIMONY ON THE PROGRAM I COULD HAVE A DIFFERENT IMPRESSION. RABBI RAVITZ DID NOT AT ALL GET SHOCKED BY THE POGROM THAT EXTREMISTS PULLED OFF IN THE HOUSE OF WORSHIP OF A CHRISTIAN SECT. HE SAW THE PHOTOGRAPHED EVIDENCE, AND ALL THAT HE COULD SAY ABOUT THE VANDALS WAS SUMMED UP IN A FEW NONCOMMITTING REMARKS AS HE TRIED (VAINLY) TO MINIMIZE THE SERIOUSNESS OF THE MATTER. AS A JEW, I FELT MYSELF PERPLEXED AND HUMILIATED THAT A RABBI IN ISRAEL WOULD NOT RAISE HIS VOICE AGAINST SUCH HAPPENINGS WHICH ONLY A FEW YEARS AGO WERE DIRECTED AGAINST JEWS. THE TESTIMONY OF PROF. VERBLOWSKY, IN MY OPINION, WAS BRILLIANT, INCISIVE & COMPELLING. THE PROF., A WORLD RENOWNED EXPERT IN THE SOCIOLOGY OF RELIGION, COMPARED THE CHRISTIAN MISSIONARY ACTIVITY TO THE MISSIONARY ACTIVITY OF POLITICAL PARTIES ON THE EVE OF ELECTIONS....AT THE SAME TIME THE SCHOLAR FROM HEBREW UNIVERSITY IN JERUSALEM WAS HELPFUL IN EXPLAINING SEVERAL PREJUDICES AND TRUTHS CONCERNING CHRISTIANITY. WITH REGARD TO THE DOCUMENTARY PORTIONS IN WHICH EACH SIDE TRIED TO BOLSTER HIS ARGUMENTS, IT IS DIFFICULT FOR ME TRUTHFULLY TO EXPRESS AN OPINION. RELIGIOUS TALK DOES NOT CONVEY ANYTHING TO ME...CERTAINLY NOT THE KIND THAT PROMISES REDEMPTION OR THAT REVOLVES ABOUT THE MESSIAHSHIP OF JESUS ('YESHUA'). IN MY EYES, 'THAT MAN' (AS THE RABBIS REFER TO HIM) REPRESENTS A SIGNIFICANT HISTORICAL PHENOMENON ~~WHICH~~ WHICH HAS MADE ITS IMPRESS ON WESTERN CIVILIZATION--AND NO MORE....THERE WERE SOME IRRELEVANT PORTIONS, LIKE THOSE THAT DEALT WITH THE SUFFERING OF MIXED MARRIAGES IN ISRAEL. THIS IS INDEED AN INSUFFERABLE REALITY--BUT WHAT DOES IT HAVE TO DO WITH THE LAW AGAINST THE MISSION? "

DATE: 31.1.78 JOURNAL: MAARIV (HEB IND PM) LETTER TO EDITOR

HEADING: "ADVOCATUS DIABOLI" BYLINE: MOSHE HERZOG, TELAVIV

EXTRACTS: "I WATCHED THE TELECAST IN THE MATTER OF THE MISSION & IT STIRRED UP MY REACTION: BOTH SIDES OPPOSE THE NEW LAW...IN THE MIDDLE AGES THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH WAS ACUSTOMED TO ARRANGE DEBATES ON RELIGIOUS SUBJECTS. BESIDES DEBATES WITH RABBIS, THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE MOSAIC FAITH, THERE WERE ALSO DEBATES WITH SATAN. AND HERE THE CHURCH APPARENTLY DID NOT EARN DIPLOMATIC RECOGNITION FROM THE DEVIL AND HE WOULD NOT APPEAR FOR THE DEBATE. IN ORDER THAT THE GAME WOULD BE COMPLETE, AN ADVOCATE WOULD BE APPOINTED, WHO WOULD BE TERMED IN LATIN 'ADVOCATUS DIABOLI'. INASMUCH AS THE MISSION DOES NOT DISCLOSE ITS ADDRESS, IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE TO INVITE IT TO THE DISCUSSION, BUT HE WAS REPRESENTED BY HIS ADVOCATE MRS. ALONI. SHE EVEN WENT BEYOND HER ROLE...TURNING THE ADVOCATE INTO PROSECUTOR NOT ONLY OF THE LAW BUT OF ALL ~~THE~~ THE NORMS OF ISRAEL, WHICH AS IS WELL-KNOWN OPPOSE PERSUASION TO CONVERT TO JUDAISM & MAKE IT DIFFICULT FOR PROSPECTIVE CONVERTS.... MRS ALONI ARGUED ALSO ABOUT INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL ASPECTS OUT OF CONCERN FOR 'WHAT WILL THE GENTILES SAY?' LET US CONSIDER WHO THESE GENTILES ARE. THE CATHOLIC WORLD IS NOT INTERESTED IN MISSION. ~~THE~~ THE DISTINGUISHED PROFESSOR TESTIFIED TO THIS, RELYING ON THE TESTIMONY OF THE VATICAN ITSELF. THE SECOND CHURCH, THE PRAVOSLAVIC, IS CENTERED IN RUSSIA. AND INDEED THE RUSSIANS AS WELL AS THE CHINESE & THEIR SATELLITES ESPECIALLY IN SOUTHEAST ASIA, ARE MISSIONARIES, BUT FOR

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A DIFFERENT JEW, NAMELY KARL MARX. THESE STATES REPRESENT MORE THAN A BILLION PERSONS. THE INDIANS ARE THE THIRD WORLD. THE BUDDHISTS, THE MOSLEMS AND OTHERS COMPLETE THE MAJORITY OF THE WORLD'S POPULATION. THEN OF WHOM IS MRS ALONI AFRAID? NOW SEVERAL COMMENTS ABOUT THE SUBJECT ITSELF: THERE ARE MATTERS WHICH DO NOT REQUIRE PROOF. EVERY ATTEMPT TO PROVE THEM ONLY DIMINISHES THEM. OF THIS ORDER IS THE AXIOM THAT A JEW CANNOT BE A MEMBER OF ANOTHER RELIGION EXCEPT THE MOSAIC RELIGION. EVERY JEW WHO CHANGES HIS RELIGION MUST FINALLY LOSE HIS NATIONALITY. AND IN CONNECTION WITH THE MISSION: THE BROAD MATERIAL BASE OF ITS ANONYMOUS ACTIVITY, ITS ~~XXXXXXXX~~ UNDERGROUND ACTIVITY, ITS HIRED WORKERS (IN THE MAJORITY OF CASES), ITS SUBTLE AND DECEPTIVE METHODS, NOT ONE OF WHICH ENTITLES IT TO ANY PROTECTIVE RIGHTS."

DATE: 31.1.78 JOURNAL: MAARIVE LETTER TO EDITOR (YAACOV SHIEBER)

HEADING: "BELITTLING THE HONOR OF A RABBI"

QUOTE: "IN THE COURSE OF THE TELEVISED DEBATE BETWEEN SHULAMIT ALONI & RABBI IAU, A CLERGYMAN WAS BROUGHT INTO THE STUDIO TO TAKE PART IN THE PROGRAM. WHEN MRS SHULAMIT ALONI ADDRESSED HIM, SHE CALLED HIM "FATHER SEBASTIAN", BUT WHEN SHE ADDRESSED RABBI IAU, SHE CALLED HIM "MR. LAU". I DON'T KNOW WHETHER THIS WAS DONE DELIBERATELY OR NOT, BUT ON A PROGRAM THAT SO MANY IN ISRAEL ARE WATCHING, ONE MUST PAY ATTENTION AND GIVE RESPECT WHICH IS DUE A RABBI, AND NO LESS THAN IS GIVEN TO A CHRISTIAN CLERGYMAN."

DATE: 1.2.78 JOURNAL: HAARETZ (HEB AM IND) NEWS ARTICLE

HEADING: "THE SECULAR MOVEMENT PROTESTS IN A LETTER TO THE TV (AUTHORITIES):

"THE TELECAST CONCERNING THE LAW AGAINST ENTICEMENTS TO CHANGE RELIGION--WAS NOT BALANCED EXTRACTS: "THE ISRAELI SECULAR MOVEMENT ON 27.1. ADDRESSED THE CHIEF OF TV, MR ARNON ZUCKERMAN, IN A LETTER OF SHARP PROTEST OVER THE PROGRAM "LEHEM KHOKE" WHICH WAS TELEVISED ON 23.1. THE PROGRAM WAS DEVOTED TO THE LAW PROHIBITING ENTICEMENTS TO CHANGE OF RELIGION. IN ITS LETTER THE MOVEMENT CLAIMS THAT THE PROGRAM WAS NOT BALANCED AND THAT THE RELIGIOUS SIDE OVERSTEPPED THE BOUNDS OF THE DISCUSSION AND OPENLY PREACHED FOR THE ACCEPTANCE OF AN EVEN MORE SEVERE LAW, WHEREAS THE SECULAR SIDE WAS NOT PERMITTED TO ARGUE THAT THE LAW DOES NOT COVER THE ENTIRE FIELD. THE MOVEMENT ARGUES IN ITS LETTER THAT ACCORDING TO THE RELIGIOUS THE LAW IS TOO LIMITED AND THAT THEY DEMAND THE COMPLETE BANNING OF ~~XXXXXXXX~~ NON-JEWISH ~~XXXX~~ RELIGIOUS IDEAS AMONG JEWS. FOR THE PURPOSE OF THIS ARGUMENT THE RELIGIOUS SIDE WAS ALLOWED TO PRESENT TESTIMONIES WHICH DO NOT CONCERN THE MATTER, SUCH AS THE FILM OF THE YOUNG MAN WHO HAD DECIDED TO CHOOSE THE FAITH OF THE JEHOVA WITNESSES OF HIS OWN FREE WILL AND WITHOUT ENTICEMENTS. ON THE OTHER HAND, THE SECULAR SIDE WAS NOT PERMITTED TO ARGUE THAT THE LAW WAS TOO LIMITED AND THAT ONE MUST PROHIBIT PRESSURES TO CHANGE RELIGION, SUCH AS OF A NONJEWISH SPOUSE, SO THAT HE WILL CHANGE HIS RELIGIOUS REGISTRY TO JEWISH....ALSO THE LAW PROHIBITS ENTICEMENTS ONLY TO CHANGE OF RELIGION, BUT DOES NOT PROHIBIT THE GRANTING OF MATERIAL ENTICEMENTS IN ORDER TO INFLUENCE A PERSON TO CHANGE HIS WAY OF LIFE AND HIS BEHAVIOUR AND TO CHANGE FROM A SECULAR TO A RELIGIOUS PERSON....NO MENTION WAS MADE AT ALL OF THE MISSIONARY MOVEMENT HARAD (HASSIDIC) WHICH OPENLY OFFERS ENTICEMENTS TO PERSONS WHO DO NOT SHARE ITS VALUES AND GRANTS THEM MONEY AND BENEFITS IN ORDER THAT THEY SHOULD OBSERVE KASHRUT OR IN ORDER TO INFLUENCE THEM TO SEND THEIR CHILDREN TO YESHIVAS ABROAD, AMONG OTHER THINGS IN ORDER TO SHINK THEIR MILITARY OBLIGATIONS IN THE IDF. ACCORDING TO THE WRITERS, NO WITNESSES WERE PRESENTED WHATEVER WHICH WOULD DEMONSTRATE THE ENTICEMENT PUBLICLY PROPOSED TO A SECULAR PERSON TO BECOME A RELIGIOUS PERSON AND TO EARN THEREBY A CHEAP RESIDENCE, HEAVY MORTGAGE LOANS OR A PROMISING POSITION."

DATE: 1.1.78 JOURNAL: HATSOFE (HEB NRP AM) LETTER TO EDITOR

HEADING: "CITIZENS RIGHTS & THE RIGHTS OF THE MISSION" (MORDECAI KORNBLUM, PETAH TIKVA)

QUOTE: MK SHULAMIT ALONI EXPANDS HER ACTIVITIES AND GOES OUT TO DEFEND THE RIGHTS OF THE MISSION AND TRIES TO PROVE THAT THIS LAW IS AGAINST CHRISTIANITY--WHEREAS IT IS KNOWN TO ALL THAT IN ISRAEL THERE IS NOT ONE JEW WHO IS THINKING OF DENYING THE RIGHTS OF ANY OTHER RELIGION. THE LAW IS AGAIN THOSE WHO ARE HIRED BY THE MISSION WHO APPEAR EVERY TIME UNDER ANOTHER NAME AND CONTINUE IN SOUL HUNTING BY IMPROPER WAYS AND MEANS AND SOMETIMES SUCCEED IN TRAPPING SOME LOST SOUL DURING A TEMPORARY MENTAL CRISIS. IT'S INTERESTING HOW CERTAIN PERSONS CAN USE PRETTY WORDS LIKE INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS, DEMOCRACY & OTHERS, IN ORDER TO MASK THEIR HOSTILITY TOWARD THE RELIGION OF ISRAEL. THEY EXPLOIT EVERYTHING IN ORDER TO ATTACK THE JEWISH RELIGION EVEN TO THE EXTENT OF TRYING TO AROUSE CHRISTIAN CIRCLES AGAINST ISRAEL IN CONNECTION WITH THE LAW AGAINST BRIBERY BY EMISSARIES OF THE MISSION. I ASK: WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF THERE WERE A JEWISH "MISSION" IN THE USA OPERATING TO CONVERT CHRISTIANS?..."

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DATE: 2.2.78 JOURNAL: MAARIV (HEB IND PM) LETTER TO EDITOR  
 HEADING: "EVEN IN OUR HOMELAND THE MISSIONARIES ENTER OUR HOMES" (HELLA RAHEL SAPIR, TELAVIV)  
 QUOTE: "CHEERS FOR THE FINE PERFORMANCE OF HIS HONOR RABBI LAU IN THE PROGRAM "LEHEM HOKE" ON TV MON 23.1.78. WERE IT NOT FOR THIS, I WOULD NOT HAVE NOTED WHAT TOOK PLACE WITH ME. A FEW WEEKS AGO THERE APPEARED IN MY HOME A WOMAN OF RUSSIAN ORIGIN ABOUT 50-55 AND A BLONDE GIRL OF 15-17, AND ASKED TO TALK WITH ME. I ADMITTED THEM TO MY FLAT AND THEN THEY TRIED TO ENTICE ME AND TO CONVINCE ME IN EVERY WHICH WAY TO JOIN THEIR RELIGION. I EXPRESSED MY VIGOROUS OPPOSITION TO THIS AND ALSO REFUSED TO ACCEPT LITERATURE THAT THEY WANTED TO LEAVE FOR STUDY. AFTER WATCHING THE ABOVE TV PROGRAM I FELT OBLIGED TO BRING THE MATTER TO THE PUBLIC ATTENTION IN ORDER THAT IT BE UNDERSTOOD TO WHAT A PASS WE HAVE COME. EVEN IN OUR LITTLE HOMELAND TO WHICH WE HAVE RETURNED FROM OUR EXILE THEY DARE TO ENTER OUR HOMES TO PERSHADE US TO CHANGE OUR RELIGION."

SUBJECT (2) THE ANTIMISSION LAW (GENERAL REFERENCES)

DATE: 31.1.78 JOURNAL: YEDIOT AKHARONOT (HEB PM IND) LETTERS TO EDITOR (TWO)  
 HEADING: "EXTERNAL AND INTERNAL ATTEMPTS AT ANNIHILATION"  
 A. QUOTE: RELATIVE TO THE DEBATE ABOUT THE MISSION LAW AN INTERESTING CONCLUSION ARISES: THOSE WHO CRY: "RETURN THE TERRITORIES TO THE MOSLEMS" ARE THE ONES PROCLAIMING: "ALLOW THE CHRISTIANS TO UNDERMINE THE FOUNDATIONS OF OUR PEOPLE AND OUR FAITH": ITS FOR PSYCHIATRISTS TO GIVE THEIR OPINION ABOUT THE MENTAL WEAKNESS OF ISRAELI JEWS WHO PASSIONATELY DEFEND THE ATTEMPTS TO ANNIHILATE US EXTERNALLY AND INTERNALLY."

B. QUOTE: "I OPPOSE THE MISSION LAW BECAUSE IT HAS A BAD ODOUR OF IGNORING THE ESSENTIALS. AND THE ESSENTIAL POINT IS THAT RADICAL TREATMENT ON THE PART OF THE STATE IN THE MATTER OF JEWISH EDUCATION AND PROPER ATTENTION TO THE CITIZEN IN GENERAL AND ESPECIALLY THE WEAK, ~~ALONE~~ WILL CAUSE THE MISSION TO DISAPPEAR WITHOUT THE AID OF SPECIAL LAWS." (YAACOV PARIS, KFAR SABA)

DATE: 1.2.78 JOURNAL: ISRAEL NACHRICHTEN (GERMAN AM IND) NEWS ARTICLE  
 HEADLINE: "CHRISTIANS PROTEST AGAINST NEW LAW"  
 QUOTE: THE UCCI PROTESTED AT A NEWS CONFERENCE AGAINST THE ANTIMISSION LAW AND AGAINST FURTHER LEGISLATION WHICH THE KNESSET IS ALLEGED TO BE PREPARING. THIS LEGISLATION WOULD FORBID PRESENTATION OF THE CHRISTIAN RELIGION TO NONCHRISTIANS. SPOKESMAN FOR THE COUNCIL STATED...WE FEAR THAT CHRISTIANS ~~WILL BE PERSECUTED~~ MAY BE PERSECUTED," NAMING RABBI ABRAMOWITZ AS THE SPONSOR OF THE LEGISLATION."

DATE: 1.2.78 JOURNAL: SHEARIM (AGUDAT YISRAEL HEB AM) NEWS ARTICLE  
 HEADING: "THE CHRISTIAN CHURCHES THREATEN ACTION AGAINST 'MISSION LAW'"  
 (DEMAND/COMMITTEE OF INVESTIGATION BE SET UP TO INVESTIGATE CHANGE OF RELIGION IN ISRAEL)  
 QUOTE: (ITIM) "HEADS OF THE CHRISTIAN CHURCHES IN ISRAEL AGAIN DEMANDED AT A PRESS CONFERENCE HELD YESTERDAY AT BET SOKOLOV IN TELAVIV REPEAL OF THE "MISSION LAW" PASSED RECENTLY IN THE KNESSET, A LAW WHICH SETS/PENALTIES OF IMPRISONMENT FOR ENTICEMENT TO CHANGE OF RELIGION. THEY ANNOUNCED THAT MANY CHRISTIAN CHURCHES IN THE WORLD HAVE EXPRESSED ANXIETY AT THE PASSAGE OF THIS LAW AND IDENTIFY WITH THE STRUGGLE OF THE CHURCHES IN ISRAEL. AT THE PRESS CONFERENCE CLERGYMEN ROY KREIDER, HENRY KNIGHT & OLE KVARME PARTICIPATED AS WELL AS THE PRESS OFFICER OF THE UCCI, JAY DAVID. ROY KREIDER READ A DECLARATION IN THE NAME OF THE UCCI CHAIRMAN NAIM ATEK IN WHICH THERE WAS A DEMAND FOR IMMEDIATE REPEAL OF THE LAW PASSED IN THE KNESSET. ACCORDING TO THIS LAW ANY PERSON ATTEMPTING TO ENTICE ANOTHER PERSON TO CHANGE HIS RELIGION FACES FIVE YEARS JAIL, AND THREE YEARS IMPRISONMENT FOR ONE WHO AGREES TO CHANGE HIS RELIGION AS A RESULT OF MONETARY ENTICEMENT OR BY ACCEPTING BENEFITS. THE OTHER SPOKESMEN ANNOUNCED THAT IN THE MEMORANDUM WHICH THEY CONVEYED TO THE LEGAL ADVISER OF THE GOVERNMENT WITH COPIES TO THE PRESIDENT AND TO THE PRIME MINISTER, THEY DEMAND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN INTERNATIONAL INVESTIGATIVE COMMISSION TO INVESTIGATE THE ENTIRE SUBJECT OF CHANGE OF RELIGION IN ISRAEL. IN THEIR WORDS, THERE IS NOTHING IN THEIR ACTIVITIES WHICH EXCEEDS THE BOUNDS OF ACCEPTABLE BEHAVIOUR IN A FREE AND DEMOCRATIC SOCIETY. THE PRESS OFFICER ANNOUNCED THAT IT IS PERSONALLY KNOWN TO HIM THAT ONE OF THE LARGE CHURCHES IN THE WORLD THROUGH ITS REPRESENTATIVES HAS MADE A FORMAL REPRESENTATIONS TO THE GOVERNMENT OF ISRAEL IN WHICH ANXIETY CONCERNING THE LAW WAS EXPRESSED, AND NOTIFIED THE GOVERNMENT OF STEPS TO BE TAKEN TOWARDS REPEAL OF THE LAW. HE FURTHER STATED THAT ISRAELI CHURCHES ARE RECEIVING MANY APPEALS FROM CHURCHES IN THE FREE WORLD EXPRESSING SOLIDARITY AND ANXIETY OVER DEVELOPMENTS IN ISRAEL. AN URGENT APPEAL HAS BEEN RECEIVED FROM THE WCC IN GENEVA IN WHICH/CONCERN WAS EXPRESSED ALONG WITH A REQUEST FOR UPTO DATE INFORMATION ON THE SUBJECT."

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DATE: 1.2.78 JOURNAL: JERUSALEM POST (ENGLISH AM IND) NEWS ARTICLE  
 HEADING: "CHRISTIAN COUNCIL WARNS OF NEW CONVERSION LAWS (CITES PRESSURE ON NONJEWS TO SWITCH)"  
 BYLINE: SARAH KONIG

EXTRACTS: TELAVIV--A SPOKESMAN FOR THE UCCI WARNED YESTERDAY THAT THE KNESSET IS ABOUT TO PASS WHAT HE CALLED "MORE AND WORSE" ANTICHRISTIAN LEGISLATION. HE URGED THAT AN INTERNATIONAL INQUIRY COMMISSION BE SET UP TO INVESTIGATE RELIGIOUS CONVERSIONS IN ISRAEL. J. DAVID, THE ROMAN CATHOLIC SPOKESMAN FOR THE LARGELY PROTESTANT COUNCIL, AND OTHER SPEAKERS SAID CONVERTS TO CHRISTIANITY HAVE NOT SWITCHED RELIGION AS A RESULT OF IMPROPER INDUCEMENTS. DAVID PREDICTED THAT AN INQUIRY WOULD PROBABLY BE "VERY PAINFUL TO THE CITIZENS OF THIS COUNTRY, BECAUSE THERE IS PRESSURE ON NON-JEWS HERE TO CONVERT TO JUDAISM." DAVID TOLD THE PRESS THAT WORD HAS REACHED HIS GROUP "THRO' A WELL-INFORMED KNESSET SOURCE" THAT CONCRETE PLANS ARE ALREADY BEING MADE FOR PUSHING THROUGH MUCH MORE COMPREHENSIVE LEGISLATION THAN THE RECENTLY ENACTED LAW MAKING IT ILLEGAL TO ENTICE ANYONE TO CHANGE HIS RELIGION BY OFFERING MATERIAL INDUCEMENTS. THE NEW LEGISLATION, HE ASSERTED, WILL PROHIBIT ALL FORMS OF COMMUNICATION OF THE CHRISTIAN FAITH IN ANY WAY...EXPLAINING THE CHRISTIAN FAITH TO NONCHRISTIANS WILL BECOME ILLEGAL." DAVID WOULD NOT IDENTIFY HIS KNESSET SOURCE BUT HE NAMED RABBI ABRAHAMOWITZ (AGUDAT YISRAEL) AS ONE OF THE ARCHITECTS OF THE NEW LAW. HE WENT ON TO ACCUSE SENIOR OFFICIALS OF THE MINISTRY OF RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS OF COMPLICITY IN ANTICHRISTIAN ACTIVITIES AND CITED "OPEN SUPPORT BY MINISTRY PERSONNEL FOR THE VERY VICIOUS ORGANIZATION MISLEADINGLY CALLED KEREN YALDENU (OUR CHILDREN'S FUND)" AS EXAMPLES OF ANTICHRISTIAN ACTIVITY....THE COUNCIL FURTHER DEMANDED AN APOLOGY FROM THE KNESSET FOR SLURS AGAINST CHRISTIANS AS WELL AS AN UNDERTAKING BY THE KNESSET SPEAKER THAT MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE WILL HENCEFORTH DESIST FROM "USING THE PERJURATIVE TITLE MISSION AS THO' IT REPRESENTS A PLOT AGAINST THE JEWISH PEOPLE." YISRAEL LIPPEL, DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE MINISTRY OF RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS, TOLD THE JERUSALEM POST THAT HIS MINISTRY'S PERSONNEL "IF ANYTHING HAVE LABOURED FOR YEARS TO ENSURE HARMONIOUS RELATIONS WITH THE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITIES IN THIS COUNTRY. MANY CHRISTIANS THEMSELVES DISAPPROVE OF MISSIONARY ACTIVITY HERE, AS DO MEMBERS OF THE UCCI, WHICH IS A RESPECTED ORGANIZATION. NOT ALL OF THE COUNCIL'S MEMBERS, WE BELIEVE, ASSOCIATE THEMSELVES WITH SOME OF THE IRRESPONSIBLE COMMENTS MADE IN THE COUNCIL'S NAME." HE CALLED THE WARNING AGAINST NEW ANTICHRISTIAN LAWS "A PURE FABRICATION," ADDING THAT HE WOULD BE MOST GRATEFUL IF THE COUNCIL REVEALED THE SOURCE OF THIS INFORMATION. LIPPEL WENT ON TO EXPRESS SURPRISE AT CHRISTIAN COMPLAINTS OF JEWISH MISSIONARY ACTIVITY. "IF ANYTHING, THERE ARE ALMOST DAILY COMPLAINTS AGAINST THE RABBINATE FOR MAKING CONVERSION SO DIFFICULT. ORTHODOX JUDAISM IS MOST RELUCTANT TO CONVERT NONJEWS, AND CONVERSIONS FOR PURPOSES OF MARRIAGE ALONE ARE FORBIDDEN BY HALACHA, TO SAY NOTHING OF CONVERSION FOR THE SAKE OF MATERIAL BENEFITS. THE ANALOGY BETWEEN CONVERSION TO JUDAISM AND THE ACTIONS OF CHRISTIAN MISSIONARIES IS INVALID & UNFAIR," HE SAID.

DATE: 1.2.78 JOURNAL: "AL HAMISHMAR" (HEB AM MAPAN) NEWS ARTICLE  
 HEADING: HEADS OF CHURCHES CALL FOR REPEAL OF MISSION LAW: ANXIETY IN WORLD ABOUT ATTITUDE TOWARDS CHRISTIANS IN ISRAEL

EXTRACTS: XX A FURTHER CALL TO THE GOVERNMENT AND KNESSET TO IMMEDIATELY REPEAL THE LAW WHICH FORBIDS THE WORK OF <sup>EMISSARIES</sup> ~~AGENTS~~ (lit. Shelihim) IN ISRAEL (THE MISSION LAW), WAS MADE BY THE UCCI IN A PRESS CONFERENCE HELD YESTERDAY IN TELAVIV...IN A LENGTHY AND DETAILED MEMORANDUM DIRECTED TO THE GOVT LEGAL ADVISER, AHARON BARAK, THE COUNCIL REVIEWED THE DEVELOPMENTS SURROUNDING THE PASSAGE OF THE LAW AGAINST THE MISSION RECENTLY PASSED IN THE KNESSET WHICH STANDS IN CLEAR CONTRADICTION TO THE SPIRIT OF DEMOCRACY AND THE SPIRIT OF INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION OF THE RIGHTS OF MAN. TO THIS DECLARATION ISRAEL IS ALSO SIGNATORY. THE MEMORANDUM WILL ALSO BE CONVEYED TO THE PRESIDENT EFRAIM KATZIR, TO THE PRIME MINISTER BEGIN, AND TO THE MINISTER OF JUSTICE S. TAMIR. THE UCCI COMPLAINED ABOUT THE VICIOUS INTERFERENCE OF THE MINISTRY OF RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS (WHICH IS SUPPOSED TO REPRESENT ALL RELIGIONS IN ISRAEL) AS WELL AS CHRISTIAN ACTIVITIES) WITH SUPPORT OF KEREN YALDENU (FUND OF OUR CHILDREN) WHOSE PURPOSE IS TO PREVENT THE EMISSARIES OF CHRISTIANITY FROM ACTING IN ACCORDANCE WITH THEIR FAITH AND RELIGION. THEY ALSO ATTACKED FORMER MINISTER OF RELIGION AFFAIRS Y. RAFAEL WHO SERVES AS CORRESPONDENT FOR "YEDIOT AKHRANOT", WHO PUBLISHED AN ARTICLE OF HATRED ACCORDING TO WHICH THERE ARE IN ISRAEL ABOUT 5,000 MISSIONARIES. THE UCCI EXPRESSED CONCERN BASED ON RELIABLE SOURCES ABOUT CONCRETE PLANS TO ENACT ADDITIONAL LEGISLATION WHICH WOULD FORBID CHRISTIAN ACTIVITY AND DISTURB THEIR OPEN AND DIRECT LIVES. AMONG OTHER THINGS, THE UCCI BASE THEIR REMARKS ON THE PUBLICATION OF ARTICLES BY RABBI MK ABRAHAMOWITZ AND HIS LIKE WHICH DO NOT CONCEAL THEIR DESIRE TO RESTRICT THE STEPS OF CHRISTIANS IN A LAND WHICH IS ALSO HOLY TO THEM. THE UCCI PLANS TO DEMAND INTERNATIONAL GUARANTEES FOR THE SECURITY OF THE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITIES IN ISRAEL AND THEY ALSO RAISE A PROPOSAL-DEMAND THAT AN INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION BE INVITED AND RECEIVE AUTHORITY TO INVESTIGATE THE GRAVE CHARGES MADE IN THE ISRAELI KNESSET AGAINST THE ACTIVITIES OF MISSIONARY ORGANIZATIONS IN ISRAEL. THE UCCI DEMANDS AN APOLOGY ON THE FLOOR OF THE KNESSET DIRECTED TO THE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY AS A RESULT OF THE GREAT DAMAGE DONE TO IT AS A RESULT OF BASELESS CHARGES AIMED AT IT. THE UCCI ALSO DEMANDS THAT STEPS BE TAKEN SO THAT THE KNESSET BE NO LONGER A PLATFORM FOR VULGAR ATTACKS SUCH AS RECENTLY HEARD, AND ALSO A DEMAND TO CEASE FROM NOW ON THE USE OF THE TERM MISSION AS THO' IT WERE A PLOT AGAINST THE JEWISH PEOPLE.



THE PRESS OFFICER STATED THAT IT WAS PERSONALLY KNOWN TO HIM THAT REPRESENTATIVES OF ONE OF THE LARGE CHURCHES IN THE WORLD HAS MADE FORMAL REPRESENTATIONS TO THE GOVERNMENT OF ISRAEL, IN WHICH ANXIETY WAS EXPRESSED

ABOUT THE LAW PASSED, AND NOTICE WAS GIVEN OF STEPS TO BE TAKEN BY THEM TO SECURE REPEAL OF THE LAW. HE FURTHER STATED THAT THE CHURCHES IN ISRAEL ARE RECEIVING MANY COMMUNICATIONS FROM CHURCHES IN THE FREE WORLD EXPRESSING SOLIDARITY AND ANXIETY ABOUT THE DEVELOPMENTS IN ISRAEL. AN URGENT APPEAL HAS BEEN RECEIVED FROM THE WCC IN GENEVA IN WHICH DEEP CONCERN IS EXPRESSED WITH A REQUEST FOR UPTODATE INFORMATION ABOUT THIS SUBJECT.

DATE: 1.2.78 JOURNAL: HAARETZ (HEB IND AM) NEWS ARTICLE

HEADING: CHURCH HEADS DEMAND REPEAL OF "LAW OF THE MISSION"

QUOTE: CHRISTIAN CHURCH LEADERS IN ISRAEL AGAIN DEMANDED REPEAL OF THE LAW OF THE MISSION AT A PRESS CONFERENCE HELD YESTERDAY AT BEIT SOKOLOV IN TELAVIV, A LAW WHICH FIXES PENALTIES OF IMPRISONMENT FOR ENTICEMENT FOR CHANGE OF RELIGION. THEY ANNOUNCED THAT MANY CHRISTIAN CHURCHES IN THE WORLD HAVE EXPRESSED ANXIETY ABOUT THE PASSAGE OF THIS LAW AND EXPRESSED SOLIDARITY WITH THE STRUGGLE OF THE CHURCHES IN ISRAEL. AT THE PRESS CONFERENCE CLERGYMEN ROY KREIDER, HENRY KNIGHT AND PRESS OFFICER FOR THE UCCI JAY DAVID PARTICIPATED. ROY KREIDER READ A DECLARATION IN THE NAME OF UCCI CHAIRMAN NAIM ATIEK OF HAIFA, WHICH CONTAINED A DEMAND FOR IMMEDIATE REPEAL OF THE LAW WHICH HAD BEEN PASSED IN THE KNESSET.

DATE: 1.2.78 JOURNAL: MAARIV (HEB IND PM) NEWS ARTICLE

HEADING: THE CHURCHES DEMAND REPEAL OF LAW AGAINST CHANGE OF RELIGION

QUOTE: CHRISTIAN CHURCH LEADERS IN ISRAEL AGAIN DEMANDED REPEAL OF THE LAW OF THE MISSION AT A PRESS CONFERENCE HELD YESTERDAY AT BEIT SOKOLOV IN TELAVIV, A LAW WHICH FIXES JAIL PENALTIES FOR ENTICEMENT FOR CHANGE OF RELIGION. THEY ANNOUNCED THAT MANY CHRISTIAN CHURCHES IN THE WORLD HAVE EXPRESSED ANXIETY ABOUT THE PASSAGE OF THIS LAW AND EXPRESSED SOLIDARITY WITH THE STRUGGLE OF THE CHURCHES IN ISRAEL. THE SPOKESMEN ANNOUNCED THAT IN A MEMORANDUM THEY HAD CONVEYED TO THE LEGAL ADVISER TO THE GOVERNMENT WITH COPIES TO THE PRESIDENT AND THE PRIME MINISTER THEY DEMAND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN INVESTIGATING COMMISSION (INTERNATIONAL) WHICH WOULD INVESTIGATE THE ENTIRE SUBJECT OF CHANGE OF RELIGION IN ISRAEL. ACCORDING TO THEM, THERE IS NOTHING WHATSOEVER IN THEIR ACTIVITIES WHICH OVERSTEPS THE BOUNDS OF PROPRIETY IN A FREE AND DEMOCRATIC SOCIETY.

SUBJECT (3) "CHRISTIANS AND ISRAELIS" CONFERENCE IN JERUSALEM:

PHOTOGRAPH OF MAYOR TEDDY KOLLEK OF JERUSALEM ON PODIUM, AND ISRAELI PROFESSOR TALMON & HEBREW U. DEAN AVRAHAM HARMAN, AND TWO ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ CONFERENCE LEADERS.

CAPTION: JERUSALEM MAYOR TEDDY KOLLEK YESTERDAY ADDRESSED THE OPENING MEETING OF THE SECOND JERUSALEM CONFERENCE OF CHRISTIANS AND ISRAELIS--FROM THE THREE CENTRAL RELIGIONS--WHICH ASSEMBLED FOR THREE DAYS OF DIALOGUE ON THE SUBJECT: "ISRAEL--MEETING PLACE OF RELIGIONS AND CULTURES." AT THE LEADERS' TABLE (FROM RIGHT TO LEFT): THE REV. JOSEPH GALLAGHER, HEBREW UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT AVRAHAM HARMAN, REV. LAWRENCE DURGIN, PROFESSOR SHEMARYAHU TALMON.

ABOVE DATED: 31.1.78 JOURNAL: DAVAR (HEB LABOUR AM) NEWS PHOTOGRAPH & CAPTION.

SUBJECT (4) INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE FOR THE PEACE OF JERUSALEM:

DATE: 30.1.78 JOURNAL: MAARIV (HEB IND PM) INTERVIEW ARTICLE

HEADING: "THE CHRISTIAN WORLD MUST DO MORE FOR THE JEWISH PEOPLE IN ITS LAND": CLERGYMAN DR. DOUGLAS YOUNG LABOURS FOR TWENTY YEARS FOR ISRAEL."

QUOTE: "THEY CALL HIM A 'GOY TSIONI' (GENTILE ZIONIST) AND EVEN CONNECT HIS NAME WITH THE RIGHTEOUS OF THE NATIONS OF THE WORLD ('HASIDY UMOY HAOLAM). BUT IN HIS OWN EYES, DR. DOUGLAS YOUNG IS A JERUSALEMITE BOUND BY ALL THE CORDS OF HIS SOUL TO ISRAEL, AND IT WAS AS SUCH THAT HE INITIATED THE PROTESTANT CONFERENCE BEING HELD THIS WEEK ~~IN THE CAPITAL TO MARK THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE STATE~~. THIS CONFERENCE IS THE FIRST OF ITS KIND HELD IN ISRAEL. DOZENS OF CLERGYMEN FROM TEN STATES WILL TOUR THROUGHOUT THE LAND, AND DURING THEIR STAY HERE THEY WILL HEAR LECTURES AND CONDUCT DISCUSSIONS ABOUT ISRAEL AND THE PLACE OF JERUSALEM IN THE HERITAGE OF THE JEWISH PEOPLE. THOSE ATTENDING THIS CONFERENCE WILL BE CONFRONTED WITH THE QUESTION: WHAT CAN WE DO TODAY FOR ISRAEL? DR DOUGLAS YOUNG IS PRESIDENT OF THE AMERICAN HOLY LAND INSTITUTE ON MOUNT ZION IN JERUSALEM. YOUNG CHRISTIANS FROM ALL PARTS OF THE WORLD ARE STUDYING AT THE INSTITUTE. DR YOUNG ARRIVED IN ISRAEL FOR THE FIRST TIME IN 1956. HE DECIDED TO REMAIN IN ISRAEL AND CHOSE JERUSALEM AS HIS PLACE OF RESIDENCE. HE DECIDED TO SET UP AN EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTE IN WHICH YOUNG CHRISTIANS WOULD LEARN THE HISTORY OF THE LAND OF ISRAEL AND IN WHICH THEY WOULD OBTAIN THE FUNDAMENTALS OF THE BIBLE. DR YOUNG IS INVOLVED IN THE PUBLIC LIFE OF JERUSALEM: ACTIVE IN ROTARY, A MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC COUNCIL OF THE SHEAREI TSEDEK, ACTIVE IN THE INTERRELIGIOUS COMMITTEE, AND A REGULAR PARTICIPANT IN THE VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES GOING ON IN THE CITY. DURING THE SIX DAYS WAR DR YOUNG & HIS WIFE JOINED IN

MORE



THE VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES OF JERUSALEM. FOR A FEW DAYS DR YOUNG EVEN SERVED AS AN AMBULANCE DRIVER OF MAGEN DAVID EDOM IN THE CITY. DURING THE PAST DECADE WITH THE INCREASE OF HOSTILE ACTIVITIES DIRECTED AGAINST ISRAEL, DR YOUNG DID NOT REMAIN SILENT. ON VARIOUS OCCASIONS HE EXPRESSED HIS OPINION PROTESTING TERRORISM AND DID SO IN THE PRESENCE OF CLERGYMEN WHO CAME TO VISIT. HE CHARGED THAT THE ARAB NATIONS WERE DRIVING ISRAEL INTO A CORNER SO THAT SHE HAD NO ALTERNATIVE BUT TO REMAIN CONTINUALLY ON GUARD. THE YOM KIPPUR SHOCKED DR YOUNG. DURING THE DAYS THAT BITTER FIGHTING WAS GOING ON IN THE NORTH AND THE SOUTH HE RACED ABOUT TO BE OF AID IN SOME WAY TO THE CITIZENS OF THE CITY, AND BEFORE THE FIGHTING ENDED PUBLISHED IN THE JERUSALEM POST AN OPEN LETTER IN WHICH HE DECLARED: "CAN ANY MAN GUIDED BY ETHICAL VALUES REMAIN SILENT IN THE FACE OF THE ATTACKS OF THE ARAB STATES UPON ISRAEL?" DR YOUNG IS OF THE OPINION THAT THE CHRISTIAN WORLD MUST DO MUCH MORE THAN IT HAS BEEN DOING TO STRENGTHEN THE JEWISH PEOPLE IN ITS LAND. HE BELIEVES THAT THERE IS A DISTORTION IN THE OUTLOOK AMONG PART OF THE CHRISTIAN WORLD REGARDING THE REVIVAL OF THE JEWISH PEOPLE IN ITS LAND, AND IT IS THIS WHICH HE SEEKS TO CORRECT. THE HOLY LAND INSTITUTE AT WHOM HEAD HE STANDS REPRESENTS FOR HIM A BASE FOR SECURING A LOVE OF THE LAND AND A LOVE OF ITS PEOPLE. THE MUNICIPALITY OF JERUSALEM WILL BE GRANTING DR YOUNG THIS YEAR THE TITLE OF "YAKIR YERUSHALAYIM" ("ONE WHO IS PRECIOUS TO JERUSALEM...presumably equivalent to "honorary citizen"). SEE STORY THIS P. (NOTE: THIS CLIPPING REFERRED TO ABOVE NOT INCLUDED IN BATCH TRANSLATED HEREIN)

DATE: 31.1.78 JOURNAL: DAVAR (HEB LABOUR AM) BRIEF NEWS ARTICLE  
HEADING: "BEGIN WILL OPEN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE FOR JERUSALEM"  
BYLINE: AVI-YOAV, DAVAR CORRESPONDENT

QUOTE: "PM M BEGIN WILL THIS EVENING OPEN IN JERUSALEM A UNIQUE CHRISTIAN CONFERENCE. ABOUT 400 PROTESTANT REPRESENTATIVES (EVANGELISTS) sic. FROM ALL PARTS OF THE USA AS WELL AS PARTICIPANTS FROM SOUTH AFRICA, BRITAIN, FRANCE, NORWAY, FINLAND, AND ITALY HAVE ARRIVED IN JERUSALEM OUT OF A DESIRE TO DEMONSTRATE SOLIDARITY WITH ISRAEL. THE CONGRESS IS ASSEMBLING IN HONOUR OF THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE STATE UNDER THE SLOGAN: "INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS FOR THE PEACE OF JERUSALEM". IN THE USA THERE ARE SOME 45 MILLION PERSONS. (presumably garbled, and should read "there are some 45 million persons said to be evangelicals.) IN A PUBLIC DECLARATION PUBLISHED IN THE USA ON THE EVE OF THEIR DEPARTURE ~~XXXXXX~~ FOR ISRAEL IT WAS CEREMONIOUSLY DECLARED THAT THE PURPOSE OF THE CONGRESS IS TWOFOLD: TO DEMONSTRATE EVANGELISTIC SOLIDARITY WITH ISRAEL AND ITS SUPPORT FOR HER, AND ALSO TO GUIDE AND ENCOURAGE THOSE ATTENDING TO TAKE PRO-ISRAEL STEPS WHEN THEY RETURN TO THE LANDS OF THEIR ORIGIN."

DATE: 2.2.78 JOURNAL: JERUSALEM POST (ENGL IND AM) NEWS ARTICLE  
HEADING: "BEGIN ON SADAT'S MAJOR DEMANDS: 'IMPOSSIBLE'"  
BYLINE: HAIM SHAPIRO, POST REPORTER

EXTRACTS: "SPEAKING TO ONE OF THE MOST ENTHUSIASTIC AUDIENCES HE HAS FACED RECENTLY, PM MENAHEM BEGIN LAST NIGHT TERMED 'IMPOSSIBLE' EGYPTIAN PRES ANWAR SADAT'S DEMANDS FOR A TOTAL ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL TO THE PRE-1967 BORDERS AND FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A PALESTINIAN STATE. AS DELEGATES TO THE CHRISTIAN EVANGELICAL INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS FOR THE PEACE OF JERUSALEM UTTERED AMEN AND BURST INTO FREQUENT APPLAUSE, THE PM SAID THAT ISRAEL AGAIN POSSESSED ITS LAND 'BY THE RIGHT OF DIVINE PROVIDENCE.' HE ADDED THAT THE PRE-SIX DAYS WAR DEMARCATION LINES WERE INDEFENSIBLE AND HAD RESULTED IN THE LOSS OF THOUSANDS OF LIVES THRO' TERROR ATTACKS....HE TOLD THE 500 PARTICIPANTS---CHRISTIANS WHO BELIEVE ISRAEL IS THE FULFILMENT OF BIBLICAL PROPHECY. "EVERYTHING IS NEGOTIABLE EXCEPT THE DESTRUCTION OF OF ISRAEL," BEGIN SAID. "NO MAN OR WOMAN WILL ADVISE US TO PUT OURSELVES IN DANGER."...HE CONCLUDED WITH A CALL FOR THE FREE WORLD TO REMAIN UNITED. BUT HIS APPEAL, "LET US STAND TOGETHER," WAS TAKEN LITERALLY BY THE PARTICIPANTS WHO IMMEDIATELY ROSE EN MASSE. HE REPEATED: "PLEASE BE SEATED, LET US STAND TOGETHER." TODAY THE CONGRESS DELEGATES ARE TO GO TO THE WESTERN WALL WHERE THEY WILL PUBLICLY AFFIRM THEIR BELIEF THAT JERUSALEM MUST NEVER AGAIN BE DIVIDED. TOMORROW THEY WILL PARTICIPATE IN A "CEREMONY OF AFFIRMATION" AT MASSADA."

DATE: 2.2.78 JOURNAL: HAMISHMAR (HEB MAPAM AM) NEWS ARTICLE  
HEADING: "PRO-ZIONIST CHRISTIAN CONFERENCE IN JERUSALEM"  
BYLINE: GABRIEL STERN, HAMISHMAR CORRESPONDENT

QUOTE: "THE CONGRESS FOR THE PEACE OF JERUSALEM HAS OPENED AT THE DIPLOMAT HOTEL IN JERUSALEM TO MARK THIRTY YEARS OF THE STATE ATTENDED BY SOME 350 EVANGELICALS, THAT IS DEVOUT PROTESTANTS WHO SEE IN THE STATE OF ISRAEL THE FULFILMENT OF BIBLICAL PROPHECY, MOST OF THEM COMING FROM THE USA AND SOME FROM SOUTH AFRICA, BRITAIN, FRANCE, NORWAY, FINLAND, AND ITALY. THE SPONSOR AND MODERATOR OF THE CONGRESS IS DR DOUGLAS YOUNG, PRESIDENT OF THE AMERICAN HOLY LAND INSTITUTE.

MORE



WITHIN THE PAST TWENTY YEARS THOUSANDS OF YOUNG PEOPLE HAVE COMPLETED STUDIES ON ISRAELI AND BIBLICAL SUBJECTS. MAYOR TEDDY KOLLEK HEARTILY GREETED DR YOUNG IN THE WAKE OF THE DECISION OF THE CITY COUNCIL TO INCLUDE HIM AMONG THE HONORED CITIZENS OF JERUSALEM. THERE WERE ALSO GREETINGS BY THE MINISTRY OF RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS AHARON ABUHATZEIRA. AFTER A SERIES OF SEMINARS CONCERNING THE PROBLEMS OF ISRAEL AND PEACE IN THE LIGHT OF THE BIBLE, THEY AWAITED TENSELY THE SPEECH OF PM MENAHEM BEGIN. ALL THE PARTICIPANTS HAD RECEIVED AN OPEN LETTER ON THE PART OF NETUREI KARTA CHARGING THAT THE REAL PURPOSE OF THESE PROTESTANT GROUPS WAS TO PREPARE THE GROUND BY MEANS OF THE STATE OF ISRAEL FOR THE MASS APOSTASY OF THE JEWS FOR THE SECOND COMING (ACCORDING TO THEIR BELIEF) OF THEIR MESSIAH, AND THEY ACCUSED BEGIN FOR LENDING A HAND TO THIS, LIKE THE ORIGINAL PLAN OF HERZL TO SOLVE THE JEWISH PROBLEM BY ORGANIZED CONVERSION TO CHRISTIANITY. BUT DEVOUT ORTHODOX JEWS BELIEVE IN THE COMING OF A MESSIAH OF FLESH AND BLOOD AND WILL NOT REST NOR BE QUIET UNTIL ALL THE WORLD'S INHABITANTS WILL RECEIVE THE YOKE OF THE KINGDOM OF THE ALMIGHTY.

(TRANSLATOR'S NOTE: THE FIRST PART OF THIS REPORT IS NOT ACCURATE AND MUST HAVE BEEN BASED ON INFORMATION GIVEN OUT BEFORE THE ACTUAL CONGRESS. ABU HAZEIRA DID NOT ATTEND DUE TO ILLNESS AND REPRESENTATIVE WAS MR LIPPEL WHO SPOKE IN HEBREW AND WAS TRANSLATED BY DONALD ROSSING OF THE CHRISTIAN AFFAIRS DIVISION. THE TALK STIRRED UP NO LITTLE INTEREST & EVEN DISQUIET BECAUSE OF MR LIPPEL'S ATTEMPT TO JUSTIFY THE NEW MISSION LAW AND TO CONGRATULATE THE MEMBERS OF THE CONGRESS FOR ABANDONING MISSIONARY ACTIVITY AND STATING THEY WERE THE FIRST TO ALLEGEDLY REJECT THE "TRADITIONAL CHRISTIAN" DOCTRINE OF THE REJECTION OF THE JEWS AS GOD'S CHOSEN PEOPLE! ALSO NO MENTION WAS MADE BY THE MAYOR OF THE FORTHCOMING HONOR TO DR YOUNG.)

CONTINUE TRANSCRIPTION OF ABOVE NEWS REPORT BY GABRIEL STERN:

(THIS TAKES UP ANOTHER CONFERENCE AS FOLLOWS:)

QUOTE: "THE DAY BEFORE YESTERDAY THERE CONCLUDED IN THE CAPITAL THE SECOND JERUSALEM CONFERENCE OF CHRISTIANS (ALMOST ALL AMERICANS) AND ISRAELIS, WHICH WAS ARRANGED IN COOPERATION WITH THE ISRAELI INTERFAITH COUNCIL AND WITH THE PARTICIPATION OF PROFESSORS, CHRISTIAN CLERGY AND THE QADI OF JAFFA, A-TAVORI. RABBI BALFOUR BRICKNER OF NEW YORK, AMONG CONFERENCE LEADERS, EXPRESSED TO ME HIS GREAT SATISFACTION AT THE SUCCESS OF THE DISCUSSIONS AND EVEN ADDED THAT THE RECENT ANTIMISSION LAW PASSED IN THE KNESSET GIVES AID TO THE OPPONENTS OF ISRAEL & JUDAISM. HE POINTED OUT THAT HE HAD SENT A CABLE IN THIS SPIRIT TO THE MINISTER OF RELIG AFFAIRS A ABUHAZEIRA. END

(TRANSCRIBER'S NOTE: THERE WAS A MINOR DISTURBANCE AT THE ABOVE CONFERENCE (WHICH WAS ENTIRELY LIBERAL ECUMENICAL IN CHARACTER) WHEN DR COOS SCHONEVELD OF JERUSALEM GAVE A TALK ON "THE STATE AND THE FULFILMENT OF PROPHECY." WHILE UPHOLDING ISRAEL'S RIGHT TO EXIST AND FLOURISH, HE DENIED ANY LINK TO BIBLICAL PROPHECY AND STRONGLY DEPLORED THE ENTIRE CONCEPT OF PROPHECY AS PREDICTIVE IN ANY SENSE. TO THIS VIEW HE APPENDED HIS BELIEF THAT THE NEW TESTAMENT WRITERS WHO APPLIED OLD TESTAMENT PROPHECY TO CHRIST WERE WRONG AND USED THE PROPHECIES OUT OF CONTEXT. DURING THE QUESTION AND ANSWER PERIOD A NUMBER OF LOCAL ISRAELI BELIEVERS AND EXPATRIATES TOOK VERY STRONG EXCEPTION TO THESE VIEWS AND THE CONFERENCE LEADERS CHARGED THAT THEY HAD COME DELIBERATELY TO BREAK UP THE MEETING BECAUSE THEY WERE "BIBLE POUNDING FUNDAMENTALISTS.")

END OF DIGEST