

SUBJECT ONE: EILEEN DORFLINGER

DATE: 26.10.79 JOURNAL: "MAARIV" (HEBREW P.M. INDEPENDENT) NEWS ARTICLE

HEADING: "JEWESS WHO BELIEVES IN JESUS PERMITTED TO REMAIN IN ISRAEL: SHE HAD DEMANDED TO BE RECOGNIZED AS JEWISH UNDER THE LAW OF RETURN"

BYLINE: Baruch Meiri

QUOTE: The Ministry of Interior this week granted a Jewess, a U.S.A. resident, who believes in Jesus and who for this reason had not been given Israeli citizenship, the possibility of remaining in Israel for a year and a half. The Jewish woman, Eileen Dorflinger, yesterday announced--through her Jerusalem lawyer, Uri Huppert--that she will fight even before the expiration of the visa, for the right to obtain Israeli citizenship.

It was more than two years ago that Dorflinger presented a petition by means of her attorney Huppert to the High Court of Justice to be recognized as Jewish for the purpose of the Law of Return, notwithstanding the fact that she believes in Jesus. Her parents, incidentally, are Jewish Zionists, and her mother even Chairperson of an Hadassah branch in one of the States. In the High Court (which held five sessions in the matter) Dorflinger claimed that her actual belief in Jesus did not contradict her Judaism. The representative of the Government claimed that Dorflinger not only believed in Jesus but was even baptized, but she rejected this claim, averring that she attends the ritual baths ("mikva") often.

The High Court of Justice finally rejected her petition, asserting that it could not regard her as a Jewish woman for the purpose of the Law of Return. The law prescribes that a person may be regarded as Jewish if born to a Jewish mother and if not a member of another religion. This ruling was rendered about a year ago. In the wake of the ruling, she approached the Ministry of Interior (notwithstanding the ruling) with a request for residence status in Israel, "like any person." The reply to this request was negative, and she was told to leave the country without delay.

Attorney Uri Huppert again turned to the High Court of Justice, this time demanding an injunction against her deportation, but while negotiations were being carried on with the Ministry of Interior, Attorney Huppert canceled his petition (to the Court). This week the Ministry of Interior agreed to grant her resident status in Israel, but not as a (citizen. END

SUBJECT TWO: "THE MISSION"

DATE: 7.11.79 JOURNAL: "MAARIV" (HEB PM IND) NEWS ARTICLE

HEADING: "PARENTS CAME FROM U.S.A. TO SEEK PRODIGAL SON 'FALLEN CAPTIVE' TO MISSIONARY COUPLE: PAUL HEARD A VOICE, LEFT HIS WIFE, AND WENT OFF TO SERVE JESUS"

BYLINE: Nurith Dovrat PHOTO INSET: PAUL & ALLISON COHEN: ("GOD IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN (MY WIFE ")

QUOTE: A young American, Paul Cohen, disappeared five weeks ago from the ulpan at Kibbutz Revivim after having been profoundly influenced by a Christian couple he came to know at the ulpan. The couple succeeded in persuading him to abandon his wife and "to go off to serve Jesus." The parents of the young man, Freda and David Cohen, recently arrived in Israel in a desperate attempt to disclose his whereabouts.

The co-ordinators of the volunteers at the kibbutz had sought to prevent his leaving, which he described as a "call from God." When they learned of the influence of the Christian couple on the Jewish youth, they demanded that they leave the ulpan. On the same day Paul also left, but did not even disclose to his wife Allison where he was going. All that is known is that the couple belonged to the sect, "Jews for Jesus."

The parents of Paul, who were glad about his trip to Israel, for they were certain that here his ties to Judaism would be preserved, are "ploughing" the length and breadth of Israel in an effort to locate him. Says Father: "What has happened is a disaster, a tragedy, a sign and warning to the Jewish people in Israel." According to him, during his search he found Jews and part-Jews and many Christians in Israel who testify to belonging to this sect. Some of these people came to Israel in recent years as New Immigrants and are registered here as Jews, but they live as Christians in every sense, and are engaged in pure missionary work.

It was at the beginning of September that Paul and Allison arrived at the Ulpan of Kibbutz Revivim, and were at once integrated into the Hebrew studies and work in the poultry section. "When Paul proposed that we come to live in Israel, I was very happy. I had already been twice in Israel, and I had also studied at the Tel-Aviv University. My father was an enthusiastic Zionist, among the active leaders of the UJA (United Jewish Appeal) in the city of my birth, Memphis, Tennessee. I had hoped that the impact of the religious belief of "Jews for Jesus", which interested Paul very much when he was studying at a

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university in the U.S., would come to an end here, and that we would live like every other Jewish Israeli couple in Israel," Allison related. Things changed, however, that very day he met the Hapitchuk couple in the kibbutz dining room, who claimed that they had come to Israel on the basis of a "call from God." The change that came over Paul was almost instantaneous, and he spent most of his time with them. They also convinced him that it was forbidden for him to remain with a woman who doesn't believe as he does.

When the Hapitchuk couple were asked to leave the kibbutz, Paul explained to his wife that God was more important to him than she was, and that he had to listen to the voice of "the messengers" and to go on the way "ordained by God" in order "to serve Jesus." He refused to say where he was going and claimed that he did not intend to return. "Since then I haven't heard a thing about him, and if he doesn't return within a few weeks, I'll return to my home in the U.S.," Allison stated.

Barry Solomon, the co-ordinator of volunteers at Kibbutz Revivim, has told the "MAARIV" correspondent: "The Christian couple, likeable people about 30-years old, came here after they had worked as volunteers in the moshav of the "Bonim". They recommended them to us. Since we knew they were devout Christians, I spoke with them when they arrived, and told them straightaway that all missionary activity was prohibited."

The Hapitchuk couple returned to the moshav "Bonim", but Paul Cohen did not arrive with them, and after two days they left for Tel-Aviv, and nothing is known of them since.

The father of Paul, David Cohen, visited members of the sect of believers in, among other places, Jerusalem, Rehovot, and Tel-Aviv, in his search for his son, who is apparently in the company of the missionary couple. He was present at their worship services and took part in their religious assemblies, with the purpose of establishing ties that would assist in the location of his son. He also informed the police of the disappearance of his son, and requested the assistance of the American Embassy. Meanwhile, not the shadow of a hint of the whereabouts of Paul has turned up. END ARTICLE

DATE: 28.10.79 JOURNAL: "HAMODIAY" (IEB AM AGUDAT YISRAEL) NEWS ITEM
HEADING: "RABBI PORUSH SOUNDS ALARM ABOUT CHILDREN OF IRANIAN IMMIGRANTS IN THE MISSION"
"MINISTER OF EDUCATION: THE MATTER WILL BE EXAMINED ANEW"

QUOTE : MK Rabbi Menahem Porush again sounded the alarm in the presence of the Min. of Education and Culture, Z. Hammer, concerning the children of new immigrants from Iran, who have been directed by the Office of Education to a missionary institution, and the Minister of Education promised to investigate the matter and to take the necessary steps to have them removed. In the Parliamentary Query submitted to the Min. of Education, M.K. Rabbi Porush complained bitterly that children of new immigrants from Iran are studying at missionary institutions in Israel, and demanded vigorous action from the Office of Education.

In his reply the Minister of Education admitted to the fact of two girls of a family of Iranian immigrants studying at the Scottish School in Jaffa, and added that officials of the Ministry of Education had met with the family, and they promised that if they decide to remain in Israel, then their daughters will study at a Jewish school. In reply to an additional Parliamentary Query of Rabbi Porush, Minister Hammer promised to again investigate the matter. END

DATE: 29.10.79 JOURNAL: "JERUSALEM POST" (ENGLISH AM IND) FEATURE ARTICLE
HEADING: "ILLUSION & REALITY"
BYLINE : Herman Branover

EXCERPT: Suppose the HIAS (Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society...U.S. Jewish organization which provides aid to Soviet Jews who elect not to come to Israel) activities are completely stopped. Those Soviet Jews who are on their way to apply for an exit permit are astonished and shocked. "This shameless Israeli Govt is mocking us." Many decide to postpone their application and see how things work out. Those who have already received permission to leave are unhappy, but nevertheless most of them decide to go. In Rome, the Tolstoy Fund and various missionary organizations (which are already quite active and spend millions) become wildly excited: they are convinced their time has come at last. The number of Soviet Jews going to the U.S. drops. Some of those who do arrive there are already baptized. The number of "olim" remains the same as today.... (The author is an immigrant from the USSR, professor of mechanical engineering at Ben-Gurion University in Beersheva, and adherent to the Habad hassidic movement.) END EXCERPT.

SUBJECT THREE: THE NEW TESTAMENT

DATE: 25.10.79 JOURNAL: "HAARETZ" (HEB AM IND) NEWS BRIEF

HEADING: "THE NEW TESTAMENT"

QUOTE : After the Chief Rabbi Ovadia Yosef determined that "according to halacha (Jewish religious law) the New Testament is to be burned," but the "Tenach (Old Test.) which is bound with it is to be separated from it and it is then permitted to study from it, but only temporarily," M.K. Menahem Savidor queried the Minister of Religious Affairs, Aharon Abu-Hatzzeira: Does Chief Rabbi Shlomo Goren identify with this ruling? And is the Minister not of the opinion that the ruling of Rabbi Yosef, and its publication, is liable to cause damage to Israel? What is the Minister doing to correct the distortion?

END NEWSBRIEF

DATE: 30.10.79 JOURNAL: "HATSOFE" (HEB AM NRP) NEWS ITEM

HEADING: "FROM THE RULINGS OF THE CHIEF RABBI (SEPHARDI)"

EXCERPT: A Bible printed by missionaries, including the New Testament, may be used for the study of the Bible after the New Testament is removed from it, but the permission is only for Bible study on a temporary basis. This is the halachic ruling issued recently by Rabbi Ovadia Yosef, Chief Rabbi of Israel, in reply to a question on the "Halacha Corner" radio section. Rabbi Yosef based the ruling on the fact that notwithstanding the fact that it is stated in the Talmud that a Torah written by a heretic shall be burned, nevertheless this refers to handwritten books but this prohibition does not fall on printed books, inasmuch as the printers are not intending to do their work for the sake of idolatry. END ITEM

DATE: 2.11.79 JOURNAL: "HAARETZ" (HEB AM IND) LETTER TO EDITOR

HEADING: "IS IT INDEED TO BE BURNT?"

BYLINE : Dov Rubin, Omer

QUOTE : We were recently apprised of a collection of rulings issued by the Sephardic Chief Rabbi, Ovadia Yosef. This collection includes responses to "Questions to a Sage" which were directed to him, and among them the Honourable Rabbi replies to the question of an I.D.F. soldier who seeks to know what he is obliged to do should he be desirous of inspecting the Book of Books, and to his misfortune he finds only a Bible which is bound in one volume with the New Testament. Is he permitted to look through such a Bible?

The reply of the Chief Rabbi: Temporarily, it is permitted, but the New Testament must be excised and burnt in fire, in accordance with the words of the Talmud concerning "a book of Torah which a heretic has written shall be burnt."

I can only sigh in astonishment. Were these words written by a Jewish spiritual leader, the Chief Rabbi, in the year 1979? At the hands of a spiritual pastor who is also the son of an ancient people whose books and writings were set afire from the days of the auto-da-fé (Inquisition) to the days of Crystal Night in (Nazi) Germany? Is there no other remedy for the erring soul of the IDF soldier who chanced to come into possession of a Hebrew Bible dwelling in one binding with the New Testament except to excise it and burn it? We live in an age in which the efforts of Pope John Paul II to inspire an atmosphere of mutual tolerance among peoples and religions are of significance. And here comes the Chief Rabbi with a ruling about the burning of books, 1979-style, and for a change, this time by the People of the Book! END LETTER

DATE: 6.11.79 JOURNAL: "HAARETZ" (HEB AM IND) LETTER TO EDITOR

HEADING: "GRAVE RULING"

BY: MENAHEM SAVIDOR

QUOTE : [The ruling of the Chief Rabbi, Ovadia Yosef, according to which the halacha requires the burning of the New Testament and the excision of the Hebrew Scriptures with which it is bound, after which it is permitted to study from it temporarily, (HAARETZ 29.10) (is shocking) both as to its content and its timing, and is causing grave damage to the State of Israel. (There are hundreds of millions of people in the U.S.A. and in Western lands who believe in the Hebrew Scriptures and in the New Testament together,) and there is even a mass movement called "EVANGELICALS UNITED FOR ZION" doing much for Israel, inasmuch as they view the return of the Jewish people (to Zion) as fulfilment of the prophetic vision.

[And here comes the highest authority in the field of religion, slapping them in their faces, and also encouraging a lack of tolerance and understanding for the faith of others while we demand throughout the Diaspora equal status and tolerance towards Judaism.] Is (Ashkenazi) Chief Rabbi Shlomo Goren party to this grave ruling?

(END LETTER)

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SUBJECT FOUR: CHRISTIANS FOR ISRAEL

DATE: 19.10.79 JOURNAL: "HAARETZ" (HEBREW AM IND) WEEKEND FEATURE ARTICLE

HEADING: "GEORGE'S ANGELS"

PHOTOS: (1) George Otis: From Poverty to Wealth, From Drugs to G-D, From Los Angeles to the Christian Enclaves in South Lebanon, the Astonishing Path of George Otis who set up a Radio Station North of the Good Fence, and who promises to Operate soon also Coloured TV Broadcasts. (2) Jim of Dallas, Texas, One of the Dozen Workers at the Station under the Authority of Geo. Otis... (3) Station Staff Going Out to the Lanes of Marjayoun to Survey the Responses of Listeners.

BYLINE: Roman Priester

PHOTOS: Rahel Hirsch

QUOTE: Like all his staff, he is also dressed in a short field jacket with a blue-sky colour on the back of which there is written in large letters: HIGH ADVENTURE. When his people show up in the half-ruined lanes of South Lebanon villages, the local children point them out and call with no little astonishment: "Here come George's Angels!" no doubt, after the (TV) "Charlie's Angels". But George Otis, the man, has come an amazingly long way in life from poverty to riches, from drugs to God and from L.A. to the Christian enclave near Marjayoun. He doesn't pretend to activate gun-toting angels. His armoury is stronger sevenfold than guns, rifles and cannon. He operates a pirate radio station whose sound is heard, in his opinion, between Beirut in the north and Damascus in the East and until Eilat in the south. However, in distinction from other pirate stations, his little radio station called "THE VOICE OF HOPE", benefits from a threefold blessing: The Israeli authorities, Major Sa'ad Haddad, and from Him Who Dwells on High. It may well be that thanks to these united defence forces the terrorists who command the vicinity from their fortress Beaufort have failed to knock out the antennas and studios of Geo. Otis.

George Otis is a good-looking erect man of about 60, tanned face, with a carefully combed lock of hair, kept in place with a good supply of Nate-Spray. He sits down in the lobby of the Cedars Hotel ("Arazim") in Metulla in order to reinforce himself with a beef sandwich and mustard spread, but before he bites into it, he lowers his eyes, as blue as his jacket, lays his hand on the piece of bread, and recites an unusual grace: "Blessed art Thou, O LORD, for granting to us this food, and for giving us this beautiful day, with its lavish sunshine, fresh air which is so sweet to inhale, and blessed art Thou, O LORD, for spreading your protecting hand upon Mr. Begin, Mr. Haddad, and upon all men of good will. Amen."

At the same time the radio ^{is} standing on the reception desk of the hotel sounds forth with American country music, one of the programs much loved by him. His radio station broadcasts 18 hours of the day, and interwoven with the sounds of music are announcements, news (cooked up in part in the propaganda kitchen of Major Haddad) and mixed with select passages from the Bible on the broadcast. George Otis terms the latter "God's commercials." Inasmuch as the setting up of the station cost about a half-million dollars, and its running expenses consume 380,000 dollars monthly, he hopes to balance the budget with the aid of more material commercials. It is reasonable to assume that he will succeed, especially in view of his upcoming plans. As with many others, George Otis's appetite increased with the eating. Just now the man has purchased a ^{modern} colour TV transmitter of the model TT58 NCR, 15,000 watt power, and he intends to operate it in South Lebanon already in the summer of 1980. This sophisticated electronic apparatus will enable him to pick up entertainment programs and news direct from TV satellites circling the earth. Protestant church institutions in California are participating in the funding of the project, and they will certainly not agree to yield their right to influence the character of the transmissions—which will be possible to receive apparently also in Tel-Aviv and Jerusalem (and certainly in the north of Israel). This will lead to a kind of operation of a Channel 3 even before there has been a Channel 2 set up, and there can be no doubt that the matter will stir up tempests of no little significance. Those offices and persons who helped George Otis in his first steps—it is self-evident out of national interest—certainly did not think of all the political, social and commercial implications which are likely to be stirred up in the near future.

Who is George Otis and what brought him to Israel? He was born in an out-of-the-way small town somewhere in the State of Ohio, the son of an economically lower class family, which barely subsisted in the America of the Great Depression. Like most of his countrymen he too worshipped the Golden Calf. "In my life there was only one god, and his name was the Dollar," says Otis, describing his early dreams to reach the top of the heap. He traveled about the U.S. West, an ambitious young man, talented, uncompromising. He invested years in studies and hard work, used his brains and his brawn—until he found himself living in a luxurious villa in Bellaire, the elite section of Los Angeles. (MORE)

His private airplane was parked at the local airport, his limousine transported him daily to his place of business. At age 30 plus he rose to the position of president of the "Lear Helicopters Company", a major plant for the manufacture^{of} jet planes and sophisticated equipment for the conquest of space.

"I was standing on the last rung of the ladder of success; and nevertheless, I felt a bitter disappointment. I was surrounded by an empty vacuum of brilliant isolation. The wealth that I had amassed was inadequate to fill my existence with content and meaning. I lived the life of a bachelor of means in constant pursuit of new adventure which would provide thrills. Like so many people who have everything, and yet have nothing, I was given to hard liquor with my eye always on the bottle. I realized that I was beginning to go downhill, but I couldn't find the means to stop. I searched desperately for help from private psychiatric clinics, but neither did psychiatric treatment help. I continued to sink into the^{bottomless} abyss, and we certainly wouldn't be meeting here today except for the fact of my meeting up with Virginia. She was an ordinary American girl, nice-looking, who had been hired as my personal secretary. She was a devout Christian, which put me off at the beginning, since I had grown up and been educated in a home and in an environment which believed only in the existence of palpable things you could feel and touch. But in a short time something happened which sometimes does happen in novels...and in reality: I fell in love with her...and it came on me all of a sudden, at the peak of my seemingly hopeless struggle to get off drugs and drink. Virginia accomplished for me what the various psychiatrists had been unable to do, and more than that: She tore away the heavy veil which until then had separated me from the Almighty. Faith overwhelmed me contrary to all logic,^{and it was} like "thunder on a rainy day, and it still echoes in my ears, even though it's something which happened about 25 years ago..."

Under the influence of his wife, George Otis decided to visit the Christian holy places in Israel, and was surprised to see the labours that Jews had invested here in the blooming of the waste places, and was deeply affected by the very existence of the State of Israel. He confesses that, even though he was not numbered among the militant antisemites, he never had excelled in sympathy for Jewishness. "I rather despised them, and was turned off by their "hutzpa", he says, and adds: "The visit in Israel, and more than that, the growing involvement with the Book of Books, which had been written entirely by Jews, turned everything upside down..."

Otis quit his work and discovered that the Bible was more logical and important than any scientific books which had until then filled the shelves of his library. He devoted all his time and energy to the promulgation of Christianity and to bringing Christians and Jews closer to one another. He became a preacher without being a clergyman, assembling audiences in hotels, clubhouses, Presbyterian churches, and finally, set up a religious organization named "HIGH ADVENTURE" which daily broadcasts his^{personal} programs on 15 TV stations throughout America. On these programs Otis appears mainly as an interviewer of famous personalities in all fields, from sport and entertainment to politics and the sciences (Menahem Begin was also a guest on the program about a year ago), trying to stimulate conversation with the interviewees about their spiritual world and the relevance of the Bible to the age of the jet plane and ballistic rockets, even though written thousands of years ago. Once a year he appeals to his viewers to join him on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land, and for the past^{ten} years he has in this manner brought some 11,000 modern pilgrims here.

Why does he do it? He replies: "I do it so that Americans^{come to} may know firsthand the people whose ancestors wrote the Bible. I do it in order that Christians may come to know the Jews not of the Diaspora but in their own homeland, to which they belong, and where they can stand upright showing their best." A unique climax to these pilgrimages was reached in March of this year when George Otis and hundreds of his group encompassed the walls of the Old City of Jerusalem singing and praying for the peace of Israel.

In March of this year there occurred another important turning point in respect to his ties to the area. One of his friends, a resident of Kfar Saba, urged him to visit South Lebanon, to see first hand the plight of his Christian brethren in that region, victims of an endless war. An appointment with Major Haddad was set up for him in the lobby of the Cedars Hotel ("Arazim") in Metulla. Otis was impressed by the personality of the Commander of the enclaves, and two days later Haddad invited him to tour the villages and towns of the Maronites.

"I traveled with him in a jeep," George Otis recalls, "and my heart almost stopped beating...abandoned settlements, ruin everywhere, torn telephone lines, houses riddled

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by shellfire, unsmiling children, a world without the joy of life. I saw no happiness and I heard no music. For me it was a kind of geography of death, a lunar landscape.

At the conclusion of the tour the two returned to Metulla, and Haddad described to his American guest the desperate situation of the inhabitants of the enclaves, and the generous aid provided them by the Jews while the Christian world shut their ears to their cry. Otis listened attentively, and finally said: "I promise you that I will use every opportunity to tell my countrymen about your lives here and about this strange love affair between Christians and Jews. Now, beyond that: Is there something more concrete than what I can do for you?"

Haddad: "We live in a narrow long belt without any telephone link between our villages and towns, nor is there any phone connection between us and between Lebanon north of the Litani. There's no bus or regular transportation to connect us with the Christians in the north, and there is no possibility for our voice to be heard on the other side of the enemy's lines."

Otis: "I don't understand what you're driving at."

Haddad: "If we only had a small radio station, we would be able to solve many problems."

Otis: "What is the distance between Marjayoun and Beirut?"

Haddad: "About 80 kilometres."

Otis: "And to Damascus?"

Haddad: "I don't know exactly, maybe 70 km."

Otis: "And to Amman? How much to Amman?"

Haddad: "Oh, yes, more than 100 km."

Otis: "Then, my friend, what you need is not a small radio station, you need a large station. I don't know how much that would cost, but I suppose at least one million dollars. I will do everything possible to realize such a plan."

Israeli experts were of the opinion that there was no prospect of setting up a radio station in the foreseeable future. Nevertheless, they assured George Otis that they would permit him to transport the equipment by way of Haifa Port and its transportation through the Cool Boreas. The conversation with Sa'ad Haddad took place on the 8th March. At the beginning of August the ^{convoy of} lorries loaded with modern electronic equipment was rolling down the road from Metulla to the abandoned customs house on the old road from Marjayoun to Damascus. The battered building was designated to serve as a radio studio. Some distance from it a location was found on the stony ground to set up the antennas. While the convoy moved forward to its destination under cover of dusk, it was fired on from Beaufort Fortress. Even now, as we stand with George Otis near the antennas of his, Beaufort is clearly in view, a large and ancient fortress close to the edge of a steep precipice, mysterious and menacing; now it is quiet in the area. Otis remarks: "Then when we traveled here with the equipment, the guns of Beaufort were thundering, and suddenly I remembered the impressive scenes from the film 'The Guns of Navarone'. The shells were falling right and left, and all of them aimed their mark. I couldn't restrain myself, and I shouted, 'God loves Lebanon!'"

As noted previously, at the beginning of August they went up to the designated place with a crew of 25 experts, most of them Americans, and on the 23rd August the first experimental signal of "VOICE OF HOPE" was broadcast... "RADIO FREE LEBANON". Since that time the broadcasting facilities have been expanding. Little by little a staff of voluntary correspondents from the enclaves has been built up, the BBC news service has been bought, professional announcers have been hired. Jack Hall came, an American disc jockey enthusiast. Jim Sanders came, a radio technician from Dallas, Texas. Others came. Two Lebanese teachers from Marjayoun put together the local news, and Joseph, a Lebanese who wandered about from Beirut to Amman and from Amman to Jerusalem even before the Six Days War, keeps an eye open for outside work. Says George Otis:

"We're aware of the fact that 'VOICE OF HOPE' is operating within a political pressure cooker, perhaps one of the worst in the world, but it's for that reason we see our radio station as one of the important ones in the world. I'm doing my best to see to it that it doesn't develop into a propaganda outlet and that it should be used to stir up passions. I believe in the tranquilizing effect of music."

Just imagine Bach and Mozart in the middle of this pressure cooker and the Word of God floating over the ^{ruined}house-tops and penetrating the hearts of the people."

George Otis uses poetic language and speaks with the zeal of missionaries whose eyes have just been opened, and were it not for his sense of reality, his amazing familiarity with technical details, and his extraordinary devotion to the task, it might be possible to mistakenly regard him as a dreamer, but George Otis has proved his ability to raise funds ("I still owe 72 thousand dollars to suppliers") and to accomplish ambitious projects. As a result, the prospect that his plan to operate a colour TV station in South Lebanon will soon take shape, is also good. The transmitter is already lying in his warehouses in California. A well-known engineering company in America is engaged in setting up the antennas, and his efficient and well-oiled apparatus is gathering the necessary funds for completing the project.

What is the extent of the required investment? I ask. Otis replies: "About two million dollars." The operation of coloured TV is not similar to the operation of a small radio station. Do you know the technical difficulties, the personnel problems, the ongoing expenses, and the complex legal problems that are likely to be stirred up? I ask. George Otis is somewhat offended. "First of all, 'VOICE OF HOPE' is not a small radio station. We are one of the most modern and sophisticated stations in the area, with a potential for broadcasting power up to 30,000 watts. Colour TV is no longer in the realm of the mysterious, and there isn't any technical difficulty in it once suitable funding is behind it. I am convinced that with the help of God we shall begin to broadcast during the first half of 1980!"

And what about the legal aspects? Will you operate the TV also as a pirate station? George Otis replies: "I don't like that definition. In Beirut our radio is labelled 'an underground station.' Why? We're doing nothing underground. We're trying to keep to the rules and regulations of the international broadcasting treaty in the matter of power and frequencies. True, we have no official permit. But which authority is authorized to provide it? The Lebanese government in Beirut which has no authority whatsoever here? The PLO command? Or perhaps the Syrians? We are operating in the area of Free Lebanon, and its citizens receive us gladly. It's that permit which is most important. The Israelis were kind enough to permit us to transport the equipment, granting us free passage for our staff through the Good Fence for those who live in Kiryat Shmoneh, and that is all. The area isn't governed by the Israelis, so that it isn't possible for us to request the suitable permits from the government in Jerusalem. I don't see any violation of the law in what we are doing here. At the end of the month we're beginning to broadcast a special night-time program called 'Midnight Gospel Train', which will be a program for people with insomnia as a result of illness or emotional tension, for people who have quarreled and are seeking rest, for people who are awakened by the din of katusha rockets, for people who are dying but who want to live....Arthur Fiedler conducts the Boston Symphony Orchestra in the dead of night in an area smitten with pain and suffering, and soaked with hatred that must be eased...and the radio announcer who presents in Arabic the Gospel contained in the Bible...is that a crime?"

George Otis looks straight ahead and sums up things like a man who has leaped straight out of the age of the prophets into the advanced age of technology: "Now let's remember what is written in the Book of Isaiah, chapter 29: IS IT NOT YET A VERY LITTLE WHILE UNTIL LEBANON SHALL BE TURNED INTO A FRUITFUL FIELD, AND THE FRUITFUL FIELD SHALL BE REGARDED AS A FOREST? IN THAT DAY THE DEAF SHALL HEAR THE WORDS OF A BOOK, AND OUT OF THEIR GLOOM AND DARKNESS THE EYES OF THE BLIND SHALL SEE..." (Isa. 29:17-18)

A suitable conclusion to an article, is it not? Notwithstanding, besides the Boston Symphony Orchestra and the passages from the Bible, there broods over the fresh air of the finger of the Galilee a question demanding an answer as well: Are we not lending a hand to the setting up of a Golem creature which will not always play the music we have prepared for it? END FEATURE ARTICLE

DATE: 29.10.79 JOURNAL: JERUSALEM POST (ENGLISH A.M. ED.) LETTER TO EDITOR
HEADING: "THE CHRISTIAN WEST" BY: Christopher Ford, Ann Arbor, Michigan.

QUOTE: You have wondered in your pages recently why the nations of the West "would turn their backs on their Christian brethren in Lebanon." I must question your bewilderment. First of all, what makes you think the nations of the West can be considered "Christian"? Secondly, if they actually were, the wonder would not be why they
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don't support the Lebanese Christians, but why they turn their backs on the root itself, Israel. Christianity is not genetic. For upwards of 2,000 years though, it has been applied to many people who could be called "Christian" in name only. Equally, it is not mere good-deed doing. It is not some good-intentioned humanism naturally emanating from the West. Yet the mind boggles at the sights we see today: Members of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference talking non-violence with an all-smiles Yasser Arafat. In days and years to come, the indication of one's true Christianity and Bible-belief will be more and more the kind of stand taken for God's nation Israel. END

DATE: 8.11.79 JOURNAL: "HATSOEEH" (HEBREW A.M. N.R.P.) NEWS ARTICLE

HEADING: "JEWISH-CHRISTIAN MOVEMENT FOR THE RIGHT OF JEWISH SETTLEMENT IN JUDEA-SAMARIA IS FOUNDED IN THE U.S.A.: GENERAL HAIG--THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A PALESTINIAN STATE WILL CAUSE HARM TO THE ENTIRE WORLD."

QUOTE : NEW YORK, 5 (ETA)--A movement of Jewish and Christian persons who support the right of Jewish settlement in Judea and Samaria was founded here today, and has declared that "strong Jewish settlements which are flourishing and secure constitute the sole deterrent factor vis-a-vis other demands upon our country." Rabbi David Hill, Honorary President of "Young Israel", and chairman of the new movement, said at the founding session that the press has not filled an objective role in the question of the settlements in Judea and Samaria.

Shifra Hoffman, Directoress of the Aliya movement "Shuva" ("Return") submitted a declaration in the name of the National Christian Leaders Conference, a coalition of Catholic and other Christian leaders in the U.S.A., which, among other things, calls upon the Vatican to recognize Israel "in secure boundaries." Likewise, she pointed to the declaration of the International Council of Christian Churches in which it is stated that "the territories which Israel took in the Six Days War were liberated territories," and that Israel simply returned to herself "territories that had belonged to her."

Prof. Paul Ribenfeld of Columbia University, who was the Zionist representative to the Mandate Commission of the League of Nations from 1937 to 1939, stated that the legal rights of Israel to settle all the region west of the River Jordan were fixed by the British Mandate, but, he underscored, the press never mentions this at all.

TORONTO, 5 (UPI)--General Alexander Haig (Ret.), who is now checking the possibility of winning the presidential nomination of the Republican Party, has stated that the establishment of a Palestinian state would cause harm to the entire world.... (There is no reference in the article to any Christian connection...TRANS.)

SUBJECT FIVE: CHRISTIANS IN ISRAEL

DATE: 23.10.79 JOURNAL: JERUSALEM POST (ENGL AM IND) LETTER TO EDITOR

HEADING: "STUDENT CHRISTIAN FORUM" (BY: Sr. Gemma Del Duca, Director)

QUOTE : The Student Christian Forum (Mr. Henrik Alberius, Asst Director) would like to inform Christian students

and young people resident in Jerusalem and the surrounding areas that it is planning activities for the coming year. The basic aim of our group is to assist young people to make the most of their stay in Israel by becoming involved in the life of the country. We invite those who are interested and who wish to participate to send their names and mailing addresses, so that we may make information available to them. (POB 249, J'LM, TEL: 718308). The first event is planned for 29.10.79 at the Swedish Theological Inst. Rehov Haneviim 58 J'LM. (END LETTER)

DATE: 1.11.79 JOURNAL: JERUSALEM POST INTERVIEW ARTICLE

HEADING: "U.S. PRIEST FEARS RISE OF ANTISEMITISM"

BYLINE : Haim Shapiro, J.P. Reporter PHOTO INSET: Fr. Paul Ischi

EXCERPTS: A new wave of antisemitism, fed on the erroneous belief that Israel is responsible for America's oil crisis, is threatening to erupt in the U.S., an American Orthodox priest active in Christian-Jewish relations said yesterday. He warned against under-estimating the effect of Arab anti-Israel propaganda in the U.S. Fr. Paul Ischi, pastor of St. German's Eastern Orthodox Church of Setauket, N.Y., is no stranger to the spectre of antisemitism. For years he has conducted a campaign against another Orthodox cleric, Archbishop Valerian Trifa of the Rumanian Diocese, a man who Ischi says is responsible for the murder of some 3,000 Jews and Eastern Orthodox in Nazi-occupied Bucharest during World War II. According to Ischi, who belongs to the Bulgarian branch of the Orthodox Church, Trifa, then a leader in the Rumanian fascist Iron Guard, personally led a pogrom in the Rumanian capital. Of 45 priests now serving under Trifa, about 30

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were officers in the Iron Guard, Ischi asserts. At the height of his influence, Trifa represented his church in the U.S. National Council of Churches: But following publicity about his Nazi past, his church, a breakaway body known as the Orthodox Church in the U.S., withdrew from the interchurch organization, and Trifa himself is facing deportation proceedings.... Ischi is quick to point out that the Bulgarian hierarchy always stood behind him (Ischi). In fact, speaking with the assurance of one who has history on his side, he points out the singularly positive record of Bulgaria and the Bulgarian church in protecting Jews. Not one Bulgarian-born Jew was killed or deported, he affirms.

The 55-year old cleric, whose strong American accent... sounds strange with his flowing beard and copious robes, has been meeting public figures during his stay here, ranging from Chief Rabbi Shlomo Goren to Lebanese militia chief Major Sa'ad Haddad. He was specially interested in meeting the local Orthodox Christian community. The Orthodox he met have reacted very favourably to Israeli rule, Ischi said.... He is especially incensed at Pope John Paul's recent call for guaranteeing the holy places in Jerusalem, a move that he regards as a renewal of the old Vatican plan to internationalize the city. "There is no need for such guarantees," he says. "Israel has already given its guarantees." (Following is a brief news item re. Trifa on same page:)

U.S. JUDGE ORDERS TRIFA TO TRIAL: DETROIT (JTA)-- Federal Appeals Court Judge Ornelia Kennedy has dismissed several defence motions and ordered the U.S. Gov't's citizenship case against Rumanian Orthodox Archbishop Valerian Trifa of Grass Lake, Mich., to trial.

DATE: 1.11.79 JOURNAL: JERUSALEM POST (ENGL AM IND) FEATURE INTERVIEW ARTICLE
HEADING: "NOVELIST'S VISION"

BYLINE : Tamar Kaufman/Special to Jerusalem Post. PHOTO INSET: Taylor Caldwell
EXCERPTS: "A woman is naked without her lipstick," was the greeting I received from novelist Taylor Caldwell when I appeared at her Jerusalem Hilton suite. Pointing to my "naked" lips she hurried off to redden her own.... At 79, Caldwell is almost totally deaf and is recovering from a stroke (and the interview was largely conducted with the passing of notes).... Returning to the subject closest to her heart, she wrote: "I am here to write a book about Miriam bas Jochiam, wife of Josef ben David, mother of Yeshua ben Yosef." To explain her use of Hebrew names for these New Testament figures, she added orally, "I have decided to return Christ to the Jews. He was an orthodox Jew, you know." The Bible, Christianity, and the life of the spirit have all had a profound influence on the author. From her first novel, "Romance of Atlantis"--published 69 years after she wrote it at the age of 12--biblical themes and Christian morality have played a very important part, as does the idea of reincarnation...

Returning often to the subject of Israel and the Jews, with whom she feels a special affinity (this is her 8th visit to Israel), Caldwell is proud to point out that "at the age of 5, I was the youngest Catholic to become a Zionist." "All of Christ's prophecies are happening now in Israel. I have no fear of the Arabs taking over. He's protecting His homeland." Her response to my nervous question regarding Armageddon, however, was less than comforting: "It's imminent! I used to argue with priests and nuns about it. Christ said Israel would bloom like the rose. He said the Father would gather His children. In the Book of Daniel it says that all the armies of the world would gather here--and look at the UN forces!" I felt less enthusiastic....

In the land of the Bible to research a novel based on the life of Jesus, she is at the same time investigating the hotel scene for a second novel, a "contemporary Book of Job," the protagonist of which is a hotelier in Chicago. Her husband aptly summed up Caldwell's incredible stamina when he observed, "She lives to write." END EXCERPTS

DATE: 2.11.79 JOURNAL: JERUSALEM POST (ENG AM IND) FEATURE ARTICLE "CHRISTIAN COMMENT
HEADING: "THE FIRST LUTHERAN ARAB BISHOP" PHOTO: Daoud Haddad. OIKOUMENIKOS"

EXCERPTS: Lutheran bishops from Sweden, Finland, and Germany prayed as they laid hands upon the head of Rev. Daoud S. Haddad this week, thus consecrating the first Arab Lutheran bishop... which took place in the Lutheran Church of the Redeemer in the Old City. It had a unique ecumenical dimension: Episcopal Bishop Faik I, Haddad of Jerusalem (no relation to the new bishop) also participated in the imposition of hands. Some hailed this as a sign of common acceptance of a postolic succession in the Lutheran & Anglican churches locally... Bishop Haddad's consecration marks a major step for Lutherans in the Middle East, since the senior ecclesiastical leader had previously been the German propst. The newly-designated propst, Rev. Jurgen Wehrmann, will be installed as the spiritual leader of the German-speaking congregation this Sunday, but he will serve under the new bishop. The consecration came on Reformation Day (Martin Luther's posting of his 95 theses in 1517)... Locally the day was the 70th anniversary (of the founding

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of the Arab Lutheran Church of the Redeemer, whose towering spire has been a significant Old City landmark.

Bishop Haddad was born in Khirbet Kanafar in central Lebanon. His early years were spent in a Presbyterian school. (There are over 50,000 Presbyterians in Lebanon.) At age 10 he came to Jerusalem and attended the Schneller School where his uncle was headmaster. After World War II Haddad completed a teachers training course, and then went to study in Switzerland where he became acquainted with theologian Karl Barth. After 3 years of theological study in South Germany he returned to Jerusalem....

Jerusalem was a bitterly divided city when Haddad returned in October 1948. The Lutheran Church compound was crowded with refugees who slept in the church or chapel or anywhere. In the crisis people turned to God in prayer. Every afternoon at 5, large numbers of various Christians in Jerusalem gathered for a vespers service, and Haddad gave an extended series of studies in the book of Job. It was the beginning of his pastoral ministry here.

Bishop Haddad's wife Tamar also knew the life of a refugee. She had been the headmistress of St. John's School in Haifa until she moved to Beirut in 1948. She and Daoud Haddad were married a year and a half later. Their five children are scattered in Germany, South Africa and the U.S. The Haddad family is the oldest Christian family in the Middle East. It traces its ancestry back to the 4th Century. They were Christians in Yemen who finally fled persecution there and settled in southern Syria. With the Islamic invasion they took refuge in the mountains of Lebanon where they remained until this century.

Lutheran congregations which make up the new bishop's synod are located in Ramallah, Beit Jallah, Beit Sahour, Bethlehem, Amman and of course Jerusalem. The parishes are all led by Arab pastors with the exception of the English-speaking congregation led by Rev. John Lundblad, and the German-speaking parish. All these churches also have adjoining Lutheran schools with a total of 1700 boys and girls enrolled. 58% of the pupils are Greek Orthodox since that church does not have enough educational facilities for its own.

Bishop Haddad will continue to shepherd his Jerusalem flock as he has for over 30 years, in addition to his wider responsibilities. But Arab Lutherans are grateful that other Lutheran bodies have recognized their pastor's leadership abilities. An era of semi-colonialism is now at an end. END EXCERPTS

DATE: 7.11.79 JOURNAL: "AL HAMISHMAR" (IEB AM MAPAM) NEWS ARTICLE

HEADING: "LIGHTNING STRUCK CROSS OF LUTHERAN CHURCH"

BYLINE : G avriel Stern

QUOTE : During the night of the thunderstorm last Friday lightning struck the cross atop the belltower of the Church of the Redeemer (Lutheran) in the Old City--this was stated by the German clergyman, Jurgen Wehrmann, during his first sermon this week, after being installed ceremoniously as "propst". This position is as head of the church and pastor of the German-speaking congregation for the next six years, and he interpreted the incident (of the cross) as a symbol of the tempestuous problems facing Jerusalem. "More than walls and strongholds, Jerusalem requires people with a compassion in their hearts for everyone created in the image of God, without distinction of religion and nationality, and beyond the ceremonial nuances I rejoice that I have already met such people here," the 38-year-old cleric from Berlin (who had already served here at the beginning of the 70s) stated. The Government was represented at the ceremony by the Director-General of the Ministry of Religious Affairs, Y. Lippel, and the Director of the Dept of Christian Communities, Daniel Rossing, David Ephrati of the Foreign Ministry, and senior police officers and from the capital's municipality--Ambassador Yitzhak Ona and Naomi Tisdale.

At the ceremony and reception which followed the worship service, those who stayed away from the installation of the first Arab Lutheran bishop (except for Rossing) because of his title as "Bishop of Jordan", took the occasion to congratulate him as well, stressing that their absence from the ceremony was not directed against him personally. High-ranking guests from Germany conducted the ceremonies jointly with Haddad, and Rev. Dr. Michel Krupp read peace passages from the book of Ben-Sirach in Hebrew. The Israeli soprano Zeela Grossmeier sang several songs. Among the guests were the German Ambassador to Israel and senior representatives of the Christian communities and consuls. A witness to the installation of the Arab bishop was the ^{German} propst who had been responsible for the Arab congregation, which has now attained to full independence. END ARTICLE

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DATE: 5.11.79 JOURNAL: "MAARIV" (IEB FM IND) NEWS ARTICLE
 HEADING: "KIDNAPPING AFFAIR CONCLUDED: FATHER RETURNS DAUGHTER TO MOTHER"
 BYLINE: Dahlia Mazori

EXCERPTS: Lynn Katheran Dargon, a Christian woman from the U.S.A., who had appealed to the High Court of Justice for the return of her daughter who had been kidnapped, left/last weekend after her ex-husband, a Mathematics Lecturer at Bir Zeit University, complied with a court order to return their daughter to her mother.

Last weekend Dargon was ordered by the court to appear at the Ramalla police station where he was ordered to deliver the passport of his one and a half year old daughter. At the first he refused to do so, but after it was explained to him that he would be arrested if he continued to refuse, he agreed to turn over the passport. On the way home to fetch the passport, the father "broke down" and told the attorney of his ex-wife Aharon Perry and his assistant that he was prepared to give up the child and to come to an agreement with the mother on condition that she would cancel all her complaints against him....The father did not believe that he would lose out in his battle to keep the baby, and remarked to the attorney for the mother of the child, that he had chosen to smuggle the child into "the West Bank" because he had thought that there was no legal authority constituted, and he was surprised to learn that the rule of law was so efficient in the State of Israel. END EXCERPTS

SUBJECT SIX: CHRISTIANS IN THE NEWS (ASSORTED ITEMS)

DATE: 21.10.79 JOURNAL: JERUSALEM POST (ENGL AM IND) LETTER TO EDITOR
 HEADING: "DANIEL BOMBERG" BY: Shlomo Shumani, Jerusalem.
 QUOTE: In your Rosh Hashona Supplement, Catherine Rosenheimer wrote about the Venetian Hebrew press "which was founded in 1511 by a Jew from Antwerp, Daniel Bomberg." This is not correct. Daniel Bomberg was a Christian and belonged to an old Christian family. END(EDITOR: Mr. Shumani is correct.)

DATE: 23.10.79 JOURNAL: JERUSALEM POST NEWS ARTICLE
 HEADING: "HAIFA WOMAN HAS REUNION WITH POPE"
 BYLINE: Yaacov Friedler, J.P. Reporter
 QUOTE: HAIFA.--A Haifa woman who was a neighbour of Pope John Paul II in pre-war Poland had an emotional reunion with him in the Vatican recently. Regina Riesenfeld said she lived in a 4-family house in Wadowice in which the Pope's family occupied one flat. The other residents were all Jewish. She said that their relations had been excellent and she had sometimes appeared with the pope in plays put on by the city's drama group. When she visited Italy recently, she attended a mass audience with the pope. Friends who knew the story placed her in the front row, where the pope recognized her after someone told him she was present. She said he greeted her warmly and asked where she lived. He was "very gratified" to hear that both she and her sister lived in Israel and expressed his sorrow when she told him that her parents had been murdered in Auschwitz. The pope blessed her and said a prayer for her parents before moving on. END ARTICLE

DATE: 2.11.79 JOURNAL: JERUSALEM POST NEWS ITEM
 HEADING: "NOBEL WINNER WILL PRAY, NOT TALK"
 QUOTE: CALCUTTA (UPI).--Mother Teresa, winner of the 1979 Nobel Peace Prize and angel of mercy to the poorest of the poor said yesterday she will observe a month of silence before traveling to Oslo to accept her award. "PEACE BE TO ALL WHO ENTER HERE," reads the cross on the door to the Society of the Missionaries of Charity, a Roman Catholic order she founded in 1950 to minister to the sick and lonely among Calcutta's 250,000 street dwellers. But the 69-year-old Catholic said with a tired smile that since she was announced winner of the award "there has been no peace. People cry here all day long. In that way it brought a big change." Beginning tomorrow, the Yugoslavia-born woman and the nuns in her Calcutta headquarters, including 308 novitiates, "will have nothing to do with the outside," she said. "I will see no one. I will talk to no one. It is necessary for us to pray together." END ARTICLE

DATE: 21.10.79 JOURNAL: JERUSALEM POST FEATURE ARTICLE
 HEADING: "NO MATCH FOR THE PROFESSIONALS" BYLINE: MOSIE SHARON
 EXCERPTS: "...The Arabs have succeeded in sowing doubts about the Holocaust, or at least propagating successfully the idea that the Arabs have had to pay for the crime committed by the Western world. By hammering in this idea they have managed to blur a fact which every Christian, including Andrew Young, has always known, that the Jews and Palestine are attached to each other through divine providence. This knowledge played a considerable role in modern antisemitism being expressed in the cry, "Jews go to Palestine...."
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...the Arabs have almost reversed this famous antisemitic slogan to "Jews get out of Palestine (and let Arab oil flow)." ...There are important objective elements that make the Arab task much easier. First, there is the world's need for oil, combined with its unexplained hesitation to use its power to ensure a regular flow. Second, the Christian world wishes to forget the Holocaust. 30 years after the extermination of one-third of the Jewish nation before the eyes of the so-called civilized world, this world does not want to be reminded of that crime or to go on feeling indebted to the Jews. END EXCERPTS

DATE: 2.11.79 JOURNAL: JERUSALEM POST FEATURE ARTICLE

HEADING: "JERUSALEM--FACING THE CHALLENGE" BYLINE: MOSHE SHARON

EXCERPTS:..The question, therefore, is not one of right and wrong in historical terms. 700 years ago Christian warriors were still engaged in trying to reconquer Jerusalem, and only 100 years ago every single European Christian power was endeavouring to strengthen its grip on one part of Jerusalem or another. In those pre-petrol days the Christian world did not hesitate to base its claim to political prerogatives in Jerusalem on the Judeo-Christian heritage....2,000 years of "IF I FORGET THEE O JERUSALEM LET MY RIGHT HAND FORGET ITS CUNNING" is too much to overcome. But words and enthusiastic speeches cannot take the place of activity. The winner in the battle over Jerusalem will be the one who builds it. END EXCERPTS

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS:

A. ART: DATE: 21.10.79 JOURNAL: JERUSALEM POST NEWS ITEM

HEADING: "MICHELANGELO CARVING FOUND IN LEBANON"

QUOTE : BEIRUT (AP)--Greek Catholic Church officials said yesterday they have discovered a 38 cm. by 12.7 cm. wooden carving of Jesus Christ, believed by Michelangelo... The carving was found earlier this year in a drawer at the Ain Trez Monastery east of Beirut. The figure is unusual because it represents Christ with his hands stretched out above his head instead of to the side as he is usually depicted on the Cross. END ITEM

B. LITERATURE: DATE: 2.11.79 JOURNAL: JERUSALEM POST BOOK REVIEW

HEADING: "DISSECTING THE HERO" BYLINE: GABRIEL SIVAN

EXCERPTS: "SAMSON: A SECRET BETRAYED, A VOW IGNORED" By James L. Crenshaw, SPCK London An analysis of the biblical story of Samson "in terms of its aesthetic-literary dimensions" this is a penetrating and well-written study. The author, professor of Old Testament at the Divinity School of Vanderbilt University (Nashville, Tenn.) makes no secret of his theological position. He regards the Samson story as a legend of uncertain date...while concluding that the Supreme Judge, God, is the real hero of this saga, Dr. Crenshaw devotes his last chapter to matters of intrinsic comedy, tragic destiny and theological exegesis.. Why then does the author so strenuously insist on the lack of historicity? Would a Christian Bible scholar make similar claims in respect of certain well-known figures and episodes in the New Testament?

DATE: 2.11.79 JOURNAL: JERUSALEM POST BOOK SECTION

HEADING: "ALLEGRO TO ZEITLIN" BYLINE: Magen Broshi, Archaeologist & Curator

EXCERPTS: ...Gresham's Law (that bad money in circulation drives out good money) ought to be applied also to the world of scholarship...which asserts that false, sensational and "light" pseudo-information tends to drive genuine, serious and good information out of circulation...Example one: For every 100 persons who know and quote Erich von Deniken, there are barely 10 who know who Wm. F. Albright, the Nestor of Biblical Archaeology, was...certainly a sad fact because von Deniken is...a silly unscrupulous ignoramus...convicted twice for fraud...The list of the scholars who issued "bad currency" is quite long, and to discuss all of them and their theories would require a bulky booklength treatise. So I shall here deal with only two--the one that opens the alphabetical list, John Allegro, and the one that closes it, Solomon Zeitlin...Allegro spreads wild hypotheses and pernicious rumours...and gained immense popularity in the 1950s and 1960s owing to sensational broadcasts he made over the BBC and interviews he gave to the press (about the Teacher of Righteousness of the Dead Sea Scrolls sect allegedly crucified)...Allegro's attempt to discredit the originality of Christianity by making the Teacher a precursor of Jesus Christ found many credulous listeners. One of his more recent productions is his book "The Sacred Mushroom & the Cross". One of its basic theses is that the Semites always worshipped the mushroom as a symbol of male and female fertility. Of this book Prof. Strugnell said: (Allegro), once a promising young scholar, has been turned into a babler of scio-
lotic bawdry by an overdose of the hallucinogenic mushroom amanita muscaria. END EXCERPT

END TRANSCRIPTION/mb

(11.11.79)