

SUBJECT NUMBER ONE: ANTI-CHRISTIAN ZEALOTRY

DATE: 27.1.80 JOURNAL: "HATSOFEH" (HEBREW A.M. NATL RELIG. PARTY--NRP) NEWS ITEM  
 HEADING: "JERUSALEM MAYOR RENOUNCES HATE GRAFFITISTS"  
 QUOTE : The damage <sup>caused by</sup> ~~max~~ hoodligans drawing graffiti and swastikas on the walls of churches and religious book shops of Christians is more serious than the damage the PLO is causing Israel, and they are liable to arouse the Christian world against us," Jerusalem Mayor Teddy Kollek <sup>has</sup> stated in a JTA (Jewish Telegraphic Agency) correspondent. Teddy Kollek has already expressed his concern over these acts, and has repeatedly demanded of the parties concerned, including the police, to act forthrightly in preventing their continuance. The Jerusalem police have recently made significant efforts to seize the offenders, and it has been noted that several suspects have been arrested and interrogated in connection with the drawing of graffiti. END ITEM.

DATE: 27.1.80 JOURNAL: "AL HAMISHMAR" (HEB. AM. MAPAM) NEWS ITEM  
 HEADING: "JERUSALEM MAYOR RENOUNCES HATE GRAFFITISTS"  
 (SAME NEWS ITEM AS ABOVE)

DATE: 29.1.80 JOURNAL: JERUSALEM POST (ENGLISH A.M. INDEPENDENT) NEWS ARTICLE  
 HEADING: "BEGIN STAND ON VANDALISM 'DISAPPOINTS' J'LM OFFICIALS"  
 BYLINE : Robert Rosenberg, J.P. Reporter.  
 QUOTE : Jerusalem city officials are disappointed with a two-paragraph letter from P.M. Menahem Begin outlining the premier's stand on combating vandalism and violence aimed at Christian sites and clergymen in the capital. Begin's letter was a personal reply to Jerusalem Mayor Teddy Kollek, who had twice written the premier asking him to take an aggressive public stand on the situation. In his brief six-sentence letter to the mayor, Begin said he hopes "the police will prevent these terrible occurrences from being repeated."

Kollek's letter complained that a "lack of response from the highest levels of the government, and the lack of an aggressive and efficient police action against the vandals... could lead to hostile groups linking the actions of religious fanatics to government policy." Kollek sent two letters to the premier before getting the answer that city sources described yesterday as "very disappointing."

In his letter to Kollek the premier said he "uses every opportunity to express our pride in our guarantee of free access to the holy sites. I also emphasize the respectful attitude we feel toward these places... and that should be the attitude of every Israeli citizen. I hope the shameful attacks will end."

On January 2, Kollek had sent the premier a list of some two dozen incidents in which vandals attacked Christian buildings, or individuals threatened Christian clergymen. END ARTICLE.

DATE: 1.2.80 JOURNAL: JERUSALEM POST (ENGL AM IND) NEWS ARTICLE  
 HEADING: "DOCUMENT CITES RECENT WAVE OF VANDALISM: CLERGYMEN ASK INTERNATIONAL BACK-  
 ING FOR CHRISTIAN RIGHTS IN JERUSALEM"  
 BYLINE : Haim Shapiro, Jerusalem Post. Reporter.  
 QUOTE : Recent violent attacks on Christian institutions in Jerusalem and a lukewarm official response to the culprits have prompted local Christian groups to mention the vandalism in an appeal for international guarantees for the city's holy places and religious communities. The statement, signed by Rev. Roy Kreider of the predominantly Protestant UCCI, Fr. Ignazio Mancini of the Roman Catholic Christian Information Centre, and Fr. Bargil Pixner of the Dormition Abbey, refers to incidents in which young people, believed to be members of the right-wing extremist Kach group, smashed stained glass windows at the Dormition Abbey, damaged property at the Baptist House on Rehov Narkiss, and tried to destroy a Christmas display at the centre.

A spokesman said that this was the first time such a statement had been signed by Christian groups from both pre-1967 Israel and East Jerusalem and the West Bank. It is also the first statement by local churchmen relating anti-Christian vandalism to a demand for an "internationally guaranteed special statute concerning the rights and liberties of the three great monotheistic faiths in Jerusalem..." The attacks, it says, are motivated by "an exclusivist view of the character of the city of Jerusalem," and "it is therefore opportune to reaffirm that the Christian community, in all its <sup>rich</sup> diversity, is present in Jerusalem as of right, and on an equal footing with the other two great monotheistic faiths... The impression is persistent and pervasive

(MORE)

within the Christian community that the civil authorities have so far failed to exhaust all the possibilities open to them to curb such manifestations... It is not infrequently felt and said within the Christian community that the perpetrators of such acts enjoy a relative impunity." It adds that such an impression ought to constitute a singular motive to prove that the contrary is the case.

A spokesman for P.M. Menahem Begin, who in the past has been criticized by Kollek for not taking a firmer stand, said that any incident of vandalism against holy places would be punished with the full severity of the law. But, the spokesman added, many of the incidents were pure vandalism rather than anti-Christian fervour. Vandals have also hit at Jewish sites, he said, and added that international guarantees would not necessarily eliminate such incidents.

The recent incidents, it says in an obvious reference to Kach, seem to involve a new element "noted more for its racist agitation and cult of violence than for religious zeal," and it recalls "the horrendous impact of similar ideologies a generation ago." The statement even mentions the murder of a Greek Orthodox monk at Jacob's Well in Nablus last year, and points to the lack of information about the police investigation, or even an interim report. The spokesman for the signers said that the absence of information has given rise in some circles to rumours that Jewish zealots murdered the monk.

The "internationally guaranteed special statute," it says, "is desired by the churches as well as by the international community," and it adds that such a statute "could not and should not impinge on, or prejudice, questions of sovereignty and political boundaries." In the meantime, it asks the "civil authorities" to firmly put an end to "the present wave of anti-Christian fanaticism and vandalism..."

Despite its strong, if complex wording, the statement is not addressed to any particular person or government body. The spokesman explained that the signers, who represent churches which do not recognize the Israeli annexation of East Jerusalem (or for that matter, Israeli rule over West Jerusalem), were hesitant to address the government. An appeal to the Mayor was considered, but the spokesman said that Mayor Teddy Kollek is the one public official who has acted with complete propriety. The city even repaired damage to church property at its own expense, although it was legally not obliged to do so. According to the spokesman, the Orthodox and Uniate Churches were in agreement with the statement, although they did not sign it. If the present statement brings no results, the spokesman said, then the local churches would take their case abroad to the churches around the world.

In evaluating the statement, one expert on church affairs expressed the belief that in light of conflicting claims between Jews and Moslems, the Christians fear that their own case may become lost in the shuffle. According to this view, the churches want to press to establish their rights now, before there is any decision taken in the autonomy talks.

The Mayor's office said last night that it is to be lamented that a small number of people have been able to shake the framework of intercommunal relations in the capital. The police last night said that they will continue to do their best to stop such incidents, but find it extremely difficult to identify those specifically responsible. As for the case of the murdered Greek Orthodox monk, the police admitted that they have not yet solved the case, but said they have looked into all possibilities. Unofficially, however, police sources said it was "highly unlikely" that the murderer was a Jewish fanatic. END ARTICLE.

DATE: 1.2.80 JOURNAL: "HAARETZ" (HEB AM IND) FEATURE ARTICLE

HEADING: "TERROR AGAINST THE CROSS" BYLINE: Akiva Eldar

PHOTO: CHARLES KOPP, SHOPOWNER FOR NEW TESTAMENTS ON PROPHETS STREET IN JERUSALEM SURPRISED WHEN HE ARRIVED ONE MORNING AT HIS SHOP AND FOUND THAT UNKNOWN PERSONS HAD PAINTED RED GRAFFITI ON THE WALLS AND ADDED ROUND ABOUT THE BUILDING SWASTIKA "DECORATIONS"

QUOTE: "MISSIONARY SWINE," "GET OUT, BLOODSUCKERS,"--That's the style. The adornments for the red graffiti, the violence, on the walls of the Christian Bible bookshop "Zion House," are taken also, like the expressions "Swine" and "Bloodsuckers," from the same sordid chapter in Jewish history--swastikas now adorning the store at the corner of Prophets Street only a few metres from Jerusalem police (NOTE)

headquarters. On the other side is the Russian Church with its green gardens. The sentry at the police building gazes at the municipal workers scraping once again the white stones in order to remove the graffiti scrawled on during the night, something about the rotten Russians who aren't letting the Jews come to their homeland.

In a declaration issued this week by the Christian Information Centre in Jaffa Gate it is stated: "Among the Christian community the impression is taking hold that the Israeli authorities have thus far failed to exhaust all means to curtail antichristian expressions. There is sometimes the feeling that offences of this type enjoy a certain measure of tolerance," the church leaders conclude, which they express in carefully-chosen words. Mayor Teddy Kollek has written recently to the Prime Minister: "The absence of a government response on the highest level, as well as vigorous and efficient police action, is liable to lead to hostile elements exploiting the situation, and attempting to link these acts of religious zealotry to predetermined government policy...knowing as I do how important to you and to the people of Israel is the integrity of Jerusalem and its image, especially during this difficult period through which we are now passing, I appeal to you to exercise the full weight of your authority in making a public denunciation of these dangerous phenomena, and to bring them to an end." Teddy Kollek attached to his letter a long list of incidents covering attacks on Christian institutions which have taken place during the past two months: Four times-threatening/and defamatory letters were sent to the Church of the Dormition on Mt. Zion. This church in the past has suffered attacks by the Diaspora Yeshiva nearby, who broke into the Room of the Holy Spirit. Unknown persons have smashed stained glass windows in the church.

Three times the windows of the Baptist Church on Narkis Street in the Rehavya neighbourhood were smashed. This is the church which was visited by President Carter--he is a devout member of this church--when he visited Jerusalem. A young man from the Jewish Defence League was arrested after he had insulted church members in their book shop. The window panes of the Christian Information Centre were smashed on Christmas when a religious procession was taking place there. Ten times defamatory graffiti were scrawled on the walls of a Christian church, and on three Bible shops in the heart of Jerusalem there were "decorations" of swastikas.

The prime minister made haste to reply to the letter of the Mayor: "Without a doubt this is a shocking list. I express my hope that the police will in the future prevent the repetition of such horrible deeds..." Kollek was disappointed. Mr. Begin's hopes will not put an end to the dangerous deterioration of relations with the Christian churches--relations that he has worked to cultivate for 12 years. His concerns were reinforced after a conversation with Christian notables, and the most friendly among them, who came this week to his office in order to warn him that there are elements among the churches in Jerusalem who are pressing upon their colleagues to renew the topic of internationalization of Jerusalem. Also in the open letter of the Christian Information Centre we find a hint of the thinking about this; namely, that "legitimate international arrangements can and should serve as a cornerstone for a new set of harmonious relationships among the three religions..." Again the same cautious wording.

The church leaders standing behind these words (and they are not exactly the bishops and clerical leaders known for their love of Israel) know quite well that the wall-soilers and stone-throwers are not sent by the arms of the authorities. They have heard of Rabbi Cahana and his gang--a crowd that could be fitted into a Bible shop and there would still be room for the customers. The police, the heads of the Ministry of Religious Affairs and the Municipality are repairing the damages, making apologies, and explaining that "it is difficult to catch a youth who throws a stone, scrawls with paint and runs away."

The wife of Rev. Lindsey, the head of the Baptist Church, whose windows have been smashed three times, said to me in good Hebrew: "Maybe it's better if you don't write about the matter, it's liable to cause damage to Israel. We are here 35 years already, and this is the first time that someone is trying to hurt us." Likeable Mrs. Lindsey probably doesn't know that the Soviet News Agency Tass has already hastened to report to the entire world on the red graffiti at the Russian Church. (MORE)

The Russian Patriarch Pimen immediately wired the General Director of the Ministry of Religious Affairs, Israel Lippel, and afterward also the head of the Protestant World Council of Churches in Geneva. The Foreign Ministry and the Min. of Relig. Affairs are working hard now to reassure the Vatican which is demanding explanations for the "terror against Christians in Jerusalem." The Secretary to the Greek Orthodox Patriarchate, Metropolitan Vasilius, took advantage of the reception President Navon held in honour of the new year to protest the large number of violent incidents against Christians in the Holy City.

Teddy Kollek expressed himself sharply, stating that the hoodlums operating as it were against the Mission (most of the churches in Israel do not permit missionary activity) "are no better than the PLO." Perhaps Kollek sought to hint at new tendencies among some of the Christian churches--tendencies of "Arabization" and drawing near to the local population in East Jerusalem and the West Bank which find expression in the growing support for the PLO. Not long ago proclamations of the PLO were found in the home of one of the bishops. For the first time in the history of the Anglican Church an Arab bishop has been appointed as head of the church in Jerusalem... Bishop Faig Haddad does not always work to calm his flock. The Lutheran Church also has divided the office of bishop between a German cleric and an Arab churchman. On the other hand, the terrorist organizations continue to strike at Christian sites and persons.

The explosives placed at the Gethsemane Church in Jerusalem, the 15 explosives that were defused at the Tomb of Joseph in Nablus, and attempts to sabotage tourist sites for pilgrims, especially during Christmas--all of these are an expression of the PLO's desire to enlist the Christian world for the Israeli-Palestinian dispute. A million tourists arrive in Israel each year, many of them pilgrims who come to visit the holy places of Christendom. Their impression of the freedom of worship and the tolerance shown towards the 36 Christian sects does not contribute to the Palestinian cause!

The Israeli ineffectiveness which has been demonstrated <sup>at</sup> the recent happenings in the East Jerusalem and West Bank Christian churches, as well as the feebleness of response to the nationalist-Muslim revival in the territories, is liable to alienate Israel from a billion Christian believers. Matters have already reached such a pass that one of the Greek Orthodox church leaders competing for the seat of Patriarchate, spread the rumour recently that it was Jewish extremists who were involved in the murder of the monk Philemonus in the Bir Yaacov Monastery near Nablus. About two months ago on a stormy winter night the monk was cruelly stabbed to death, and his body was found beside the sacred well, around which were fragments of a hand grenade. The police investigation, which is still going on, points to the almost certain fact that the terrorists were behind the murder; nevertheless, among the pages of information of the Christian Centre, in connection with the violence of the men of Rabbi Kahana, <sup>is</sup> mention of the affair of the murdered monk: "The absence of official information about the results of the police investigation cannot fail to lead to rumours and speculations which are liable to cause damage to intercommunal relations..."

The General-Director of the Ministry of Religious Affairs, Israel Lippel, who maintains close contact with the heads of the churches in Israel, warns that the foolish acts of youths sent by extremists to harm our Christian neighbours is like "a match thrown into a barrel of inflammables." We're having enough trouble with the Muslim world, and now dominant elements in the Arab churches are awakening, seeking to contribute their share in the struggle against/autonomy plan, Lippel warns.

The mission law which was passed a year ago in the Knesset caused Israel much damage in the Christian world, while there has been no one to date that has made any use whatever of it. The absence of government policy and vigorous response in the face of marginal and as it were antichristian phenomena, is liable to ruin the efforts of years to establish Jewish-Christian co-existence in the holy sites for the two faiths. While discussion of the future of Jerusalem has commenced, and the Islamic lands eye Jerusalem, we need more than ever the support of Rev. Lindsey of the Baptist church, as he <sup>is</sup> shattered glass...END ARTICLE

DATE: 1.2.80 JOURNAL: "CON YERUSHALAYIM" (MAARIV-RELATED) (HEBREW WEEKLY J'LM) NEWS ARTICLE  
 HEADING: "CHURCH DESECRATIONS IN JERUSALEM AND OFFENCES AGAINST CLERGY CAUSING STORM IN THE WORLD"

BYLINE : Zvi Levy

QUOTE : Tens of incidents of desecrations of churches and offences against Christian clergy which have occurred in Jerusalem in recent months are raising a storm in the Christian world. Extremist circles in the Church are exploiting the incidents for renewed demands for the internationalization of Jerusalem. The artistic windows of the Dormition Church have thus far been smashed four times, the Russian Church in the Russian Compound has been covered ten times with offensive graffiti, at the Baptist Church on Rehov Narkiss the windows have been smashed and the door uprooted in three incidents, likewise the shops for the sale of religious books on Jaffa Street and Prophets Street have been damaged. The police have also received complaints from clergy and monks about insults and threats.

To date only a few suspects have been caught, who were identified as J.D.L. members, but the police have not succeeded in putting its hand on most of the perpetrators, and they suspect extremist ultra-orthodox circles. Special patrols near the churches have not proved effective. Among the church leaders in Jerusalem, especially those which maintain friendly relations with the Govt of Israel, there is an atmosphere of disappointment and murmuring, especially in view of the fact that to date no official State denunciation has been issued. The municipality, which has invested tens of thousands of Israeli pounds in repairs, has denounced the acts, and has appealed to the Prime Minister to do likewise. Nevertheless, the response of the Prime Minister Menhem Begin was not as anticipated. He expressed his hope that the police would prevent the repetition of "these horrible deeds," and repeated that Israel guarantees the free access to the holy places, underscoring "the respectful attitude which we maintain towards these places." In municipal circles warnings are being sounded about the deterioration of Israeli relations with the Christian world in the face of the indifference and ineffectiveness of the authorities vis-à-vis the desecration of the churches. END ARTICLE

DATE: 3.2.80 JOURNAL: "HAARETZ" (LEB AM IND) NEWS ARTICLE  
 HEADING: "CITY LEADERS PROTEST ATTACKS AGAINST CHRISTIAN INSTITUTIONS"

BYLINE : Akiva Eldar, "HAARETZ" Correspondent.

QUOTE : At a meeting with the Jerusalem police commander on Friday, the leaders of the municipality demanded that the police reinforce its watch over Christian institutions, and that it weigh the possibility of sending special patrols to churches and Bible shops which have recently been victims of extremist attacks. The municipal leaders protested the violent acts against Christians and noted the <sup>great</sup> damage being caused to our relations with the Christian world. A <sup>police</sup> spokesman stated that for about a month the Southern District of the Police Dept and in the Jerusalem region special steps have been taken to prevent damage to the property and sensitivities of Christian institutions in the city. This is in the wake of incidents of graffiti scrawls and attacks on these institutions. Among other steps, ambushes will be set up, and the informational effort will be stepped up for the purpose of catching the offenders. The Southern District Commander, Cdr. Ibzan, announced that he would make every effort to use special means in order to liquidate these occurrences. He has appointed Lt. Ddr. Yaacov Goldman, head of the Patrol Branch in the District, to follow up at close range the steps being taken. (BALANCE OF ARTICLE DEALS WITH ARAB-JEWISH INCIDENTS, 2 paragraphs.)

DATE: 3.2.80 JOURNAL: "MAARIV" (LEB PM IND) NEWS ITEM  
 HEADING: "WATCH OVER CHRISTIAN RELIGIOUS INSTITUTIONS TO BE INCREASED IN J'LM"

BYLINE : Baruch Meiri

QUOTE : The Southern District Commander has appointed as of last week a special officer to keep track at close hand of the steps taken to prevent attacks against Christian religious institutions in Jerusalem. In recent months the offences against Christian religious institutions have increased. About one of the incidents there is clear information (the graffiti on the Russian Church) that the Kach movement of Rabbi Calana is responsible. In the wake of the increased number of incidents, it was decided to have patrols and to set up police ambushes (MORE)

in the vicinity of Christian religious institutions. Likewise, efforts are being made to speed up the juridical processes in order to try the suspects who have been apprehended. The MAARIV Correspondent notes that the Christian religious institutions in Jerusalem have promulgated a letter abroad complaining of these offences, and it has had a wide diplomatic impact. END ITEM

DATE: 31.1.80 JOURNAL: "DAVAR" (HEB AM LABOUR) NEWS ARTICLE  
HEADING: "BEGIN RESPONDS TO OFFENCES AGAINST CHRISTIAN INSTITUTIONS IN CAPITAL!  
HOES THAT POLICE WILL PREVENT 'THESE HORRIBLE DEEDS'"

BYLINE : "DAVAR" Jerusalem Correspondent

QUOTE : Following two appeals by Jerusalem Mayor Teddy Kollek to the Prime Minister Menahem Begin that he publicly denounce the violent acts of Jewish extremists against Christian religious institutions, the Prime Minister replied that the list of violent acts is "shocking," and that he hopes that "the police will in the future prevent the repetition of these horrible deeds."

In the first letter that Kollek sent to Begin on the 2nd January it was stated that "the police are powerless to handle this matter," and he therefore requests the Prime Minister to publish a personal announcement. After he had not received any reply, Kollek sent another letter to the P.M. on the 20th January, and notified him: "xxxxx" <sup>in</sup> internal consultations of the Christian church heads in Jerusalem proposals were brought forward to make extreme declarations of protest, which have been prevented thus far as a result of the influence of our faithful friends among the Christians...The absence of a suitable government response on the highest level, and forceful, effective police action, are liable to lead to hostile elements exploiting the situation and trying to link religious zealotry to predetermined government policy." Kollek had requested the P.M. "to exercise all the weight of your authority to publicly denounce and to put an end to these dangerous manifestations."

In the reply that the P.M. sent to Kollek on the 24th of the month (Jan.), he expressed his shock at the hoodlum acts, but there is no direct relation to the request for a public denunciation of the acts. Begin writes: "At every opportunity I express our pride in guaranteeing free access to the members of all faiths to their holy sites. I also stress the respectful attitude which we maintain to these places without distinction of religion. This should be the approach of every citizen of Israel, and I hope that the disgrace of these attacks about which you have written me will be removed from us."

The DAVAR Correspondent reports: On the Bible Shop on Prophets Street there were scrawled twice this week offensive graffiti and swastikas. About a month ago the window panes were smashed in the Baptist Church. Before Christmas hoodlums damaged the Christian Information Centre in the Jaffa Gate. At the Russian Church in the Russian Compound this month graffiti have been scrawled three times. During the past year the Jerusalem municipality has paid IL 100,000 to religious institutions <sup>as</sup> compensation for damages for the destruction of property. The suspects in these acts are the followers of Rabbi Kahana and other extremists. The police are finding it difficult to locate the hoodlums.

The opinion has been heard in Christian circles in Jerusalem recently that Israel is incapable of dealing with these occurrences of violence and property damage, and that it might be desirable to again consider the old notion of internationalizing Jerusalem, including the holy places. END ARTICLE

DATE: 3.2.80 JOURNAL: JERUSALEM POST (ENGL AM IND) NEWS ITEM

HEADING: "DRIVE AGAINST ANTICHRURCH VANDALS"

BYLINE : JERUSALEM POST REPORTER

QUOTE : A special police officer has been put in charge of operations aimed at protecting the property of Christian organizations in Jerusalem. Nearly a month ago the patrol section of the Jerusalem police were ordered to pay particular attention to a number of Christian institutions which had been attacked by vandals. The police action follows a rash of violent anti-Christian attacks--many of them believed to be the work of young members of Rabbi Meir Kahane's Kach movement. END ITEM

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DATE: 3.2.80 JOURNAL: "DAVAR" (HEB AM IND) NEWS ARTICLE

HEADING: "SPECIAL MEASURES TO PREVENT PROPERTY DAMAGE OF CHRISTIAN INSTITUTIONS IN JERUSALEM"

BYLINE : Reuven Shapiro, DAVAR Correspondent

QUOTE : It is a month since the Southern District of the Police and the Jerusalem Region have been taking special measures to prevent damage to Christian property in the city. This is in the wake of several incidents of the writing of graffiti on the walls of Christian institutions and other attacks accompanied by vandalism such as the soiling of walls, the smashing of windows and stained glass in churches, and the attacks on shops selling Bibles and religious goods. The police have arrested for investigation several suspects. A file has been opened against <sup>one of</sup> them, and the police will expedite the trying of the matter. It is reported that the police have surmised which groups are behind these deeds.

Southern Commander Arye Izban announced yesterday that the police will make a maximum effort to bring this matter to an end, employing drastic measures, in order to catch the offenders. Among other things, ambushes will be set up, and overt and covert patrols near the Christian institutions will be made. An intensified intelligence effort will be effected also. The head of the Patrol Section in the Southern District, Lt. Cdr. Yaacov Nudelman has been appointed to keep track of the police operations in the Jerusalem Region in this matter.

M.K. Arbelia-Almoslino has demanded a discussion on the immediate measures to be taken to stop the attacks on the holy places of Christians. In her explanatory remarks to the urgent motion which she submitted, M.K. Almoslino notes that recently we have been witness to several shameful acts of damage to property belonging to Christian church institutions in Jerusalem. These incidents border on vandalism and are harmful to the image of the State of Israel, and are liable to arouse manifestations of antisemitism in various countries, and will be exploited by hostile elements against Israel. The Israeli Police Dept are obliged to prevent these attacks and to uncover the culprits and to bring them to trial. The citizens of Israel should be alerted and should cooperate with the police in order to uproot these shameful acts which are in opposition to Jewish tradition and to the fundamental values of the State of Israel.

DATE: 4.2.80 JOURNAL: JERUSALEM POST (ENGL AM IND) COMMUNICATED ANNOUNCEMENT  
HEADING: "A JOINT APPEAL FOR REAFFIRMATION OF RELIGIOUS FREEDOM AND INTER-FAITH UNDERSTANDING"

QUOTE : In recent months there has been an increasing number of violent attacks against the personnel and property of non-Jewish religious communities in Jerusalem and elsewhere in the country. These outrages, whether a matter of plain vandalism and even criminal or subversive activity or of religious fanaticism, contravene the laws of Israel and all standards of public morality, and would be a disgrace to any society. They not only cause grave concern and anxiety, but also seriously damage Israel's reputation as a trustworthy guardian and protector of the peace and safety of all religious communities and their holy places and institutions that are within its borders or under its jurisdiction. We urgently appeal to the authorities responsible for public order and safety to take the necessary steps to prevent the recurrence of such outrages, and to give adequate protection to all religious communities and re-affirm thereby Israel's declared commitment to religious freedom and to their peace and safety, as well as Israel's ability to implement this commitment. We also call on the leaders and members of the religious communities not to give way to over-reaction, which may only increase suspicion and tension. It is our task to work for the re-establishment of mutual confidence and cooperation between the religious communities in the country.

BY: THE ISRAEL INTERFAITH COMMITTEE, Prof. R.J. Zvi Werblowsky, Chairman  
Mr. Joseph Emanuel, Gen. Secy.

THE ECUMENICAL THEOLOGICAL RESEARCH FRATERNITY IN ISRAEL:

Rev. Dr. Wesley Brown, Chairman; Rev. Dr. C. Scheneveld, Exec. Secy.

THE JEWISH COUNCIL IN ISRAEL ON INTERRELIGIOUS CONSULTATIONS+

Prof. Shmaryahu Talmon, Chairman.

UCCI: Rev. Dr. Robt Lindsey, Chairman; Rev. Paul Swarr, Gen. Secy. (END)

DATE: 5.2.80 JOURNAL: "MAARIV" (HEB PM IND) NEWS ITEM  
 HEADING: "BEGIN PROTESTS VANDALISM AGAINST CHURCHES IN CAPITAL"

BYLINE : Joseph Waksman

QUOTE : The representatives of 20 Christian churches, from 20 denominations, yesterday expressed satisfaction at the determination of the Government to prevent attacks upon churches. The announcement was conveyed yesterday by the representatives of the churches at a meeting with the Church Liaison officer of the Foreign Ministry, David Efrati. Their announcement came in the wake of the publication of the Prime Minister's declaration that the Israeli authorities would not tolerate acts of vandalism against churches in Jerusalem, and would do everything possible to prevent them in the future. Begin stressed that, according to the laws of the State, all religions enjoy absolute freedom of worship, the protection of their property, and free access to the holy places. END ITEM

DATE: 6.2.80 JOURNAL: JERUSALEM POST (ENGL AM IND) NEWS ITEM

HEADING: "BEGIN: WE'LL FIGHT CHURCH VANDALISM"

QUOTE : P.M. Menahem Begin yesterday assured the heads of the Christian churches in Jerusalem that Israeli authorities will not tolerate vandalism against churches and will do its utmost to prevent recurrence of such incidents. The statement was a response to recent desecrations of churches, tombstones and a Christian bookshop, apparently by Jewish extremists. The heads of some 20 Christian denominations in Jerusalem were invited to the Foreign Ministry yesterday by the head of the ministry's Christian affairs section. The ministry spokesman said last night they had expressed satisfaction with the Begin statement, which was read to them. END ITEM.

DATE: 6.2.80 JOURNAL: JERUSALEM POST (ENGL AM IND) NEWS ARTICLE

HEADING: "CHURCH HEADS WANT RIGHTS GIVEN LEGAL BACKING"

BYLINE : Haim Shapiro, JERUSALEM POST Reporter

QUOTE : The country's Christian establishment yesterday welcomed P.M. Begin's condemnation of vandalism against churches, but continues to press for legal recognition of their rights in Jerusalem and Israel as a whole. Begin's statement, read to the heads of some 20 Christian denominations in a special meeting at the Foreign Ministry on Monday, followed repeated pleas for action from the churches and Jerusalem Mayor Teddy Kollek, and a statement by Christian leaders calling for international guarantees of the rights of all three monotheistic faiths in the Holy Land. Begin said Israel will not tolerate vandalism against churches and will do its utmost to prevent it.

The spokesman for the UCCI told "The Jerusalem Post" that Begin's statement paved the way for talks which would put into writing the "legitimate rights" of all three religious communities. Christian groups have been pressing, unofficially, and for some time now, to obtain such a formal agreement with the government. Church officials claim that, despite Israel's record of defending freedom of worship and protecting the holy places, they have only administrative privileges rather than legal rights. They cite, as an example, that rather than being granted formal tax exemption, the Religious Affairs Ministry "pays" their taxes in an arrangement which could be abrogated at any time.

With the autonomy talks underway, and rumours of possible Moslem rule over some of Jerusalem, the relatively small Christian community reportedly fears that it will be forgotten. Christian leaders are now quick to stress that they are in Jerusalem and the Holy Land by right, and not as guests. They point to their historical stake here, and the fact that they represent the world Christian community for whom Jerusalem is a holy city. END ARTICLE.

DATE: 6.2.80 JOURNAL: "SEMANA" (TELAVIV) SPANISH LANGUAGE WEEKLY (NEWS ART.)

HEADING: "IN WAKE OF CONTINUOUS ATTACKS: CHRISTIANS PROTEST"

QUOTE : The recent and continuous attacks upon buildings and Christian clergy in Jerusalem, probably by followers of Rabbi Kahana, has led Christian religious leaders to publish a joint announcement (signed by the Protestant UCCI, the Catholic Christian Information Centre, and the Abbot of the Dormition Abbey). "The attacks are motivated by an exclusivist view of the character of Jerusalem," the announcement states, "and it is opportune to reaffirm that the Christian community in its rich diversity, is present in Jerusalem on an equal

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footing with the other two faiths." The declaration also calls for the institution of a special statute, internationally guaranteed, which would encompass the rights and privileges of the three great religions which co-exist in the capital. Jerusalem Mayor Teddy Kollek has criticized the "indifference" of the responsible governmental authorities in the wake of the incidents, but the spokesman of the Office of the Prime Minister has alleged that we are not dealing with antichristian manifestations, but with vandalism "which also affects Jewish holy places." The facts nevertheless contradict these affirmations. / END ARTICLE.

DATE: 7.2.80 JOURNAL: DAVAR (HEB AM LABOUR) ("LOGORRHEA: A HARD DISEASE")  
FEATURE ARTICLE / (EXCERPT)

HEADING: "THE ATTACK ON THE CHRISTIAN RELIGIOUS INSTITUTIONS IN JERUSALEM"

BYLINE: Moshe Kol (Former Minister of Tourism and I.L.P. Leader)

QUOTE: We live in an open world, and everything that is said in Israel is published abroad on the same day by all the media. It is folly to try to shut the mouths of critics of the government, and even more so to defame them. It would be well if the Chairman of the Likud faction in the Knesset, M.K. Sharir, instead of joining the chorus of envoys would calm the atmosphere and the mouths of the Likud people, and most especially that of Cabinet Minister Ariel Sharon and M.K. Pesah Grupper. The logorrhoea of these last has reached new peaks, and who knows what more awaits us.

From the time that the State was established, we have prided ourselves in our attitude to ~~xxxxxx~~ the sites holy to Christianity and Islam. During the wars which took place in Jerusalem in 1948 and in 1967 we paid for this in blood in order that the sacred sites for all faiths would not be harmed. And here we are witnesses to the desecrations and vandalism of Jewish nationalists against Christian religious institutions. The demand of the Mayor of Jerusalem that the government take vigorous measures against the perpetrators of these crimes has not met with an adequate response. For the first time since the establishment of the State, all the Christian churches in Jerusalem have published an appeal for the defence of the holy places of Christendom in response to the desecrations. These criminals have succeeded in uniting for the first time all the churches in a common manifesto. Are we interested that the struggle over the issue of internationalization of Jerusalem shall begin anew? Where is the police intelligence department? Usually it is successful in turning up terrorists, but for some reason it fails in its obligation to turn up criminals who harm nonreligious Jews or non-Jews. And where are our honourable Chief Rabbis? Why have they not published a condemnation of the desecration of Christian holy places? Have we not demanded of Christian leaders in the world to condemn acts of vandalism against Jewish synagogues? It is also permissible to inquire of the religious parties and the Council of the Sages of the Torah of Agudat Yisrael: Why are you silent? END EXC.

DATE: 7.2.80 JOURNAL: "HAARETZ" (HEB AM IND) NEWS ARTICLE

HEADING: "RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATION IN JERUSALEM: 'WE WILL PURGE OUT THE MISSIONARIES--EVEN BY FORCE'"

BYLINE: Akiva Eldar, "HAARETZ" Correspondent in Jerusalem.

QUOTE: A religious organization operating in Jerusalem announced yesterday by means of a public notice and placards that it would not hesitate to employ force and even the sharpest measures in order to curb and restrict the missionaries operating in the State. In the announcement of the religious body it was stated that the missionary activity is increasing of late, and it was therefore decided to open a broad campaign to purge out the missionaries whose claws are stretched out in every place--in Absorption Centres and in the universities. In a letter to the Members of the Knesset the members of the organization announce that if the government remains indifferent to the situation, Orthodox Judaism will take all means to curb the missionaries "who hunt innocent souls and entice them with material benefits."

Senior officials in the Ministry of Religious Affairs yesterday told the correspondent of "HAARETZ" that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs made a grave mistake when the heads of the Christian communities were invited to a meeting at which regret was expressed for the violence against Christian institutions in Jerusalem. A source at the Min. of Relig. Aff. said that the expression of regret converts a local matter into a State political affair. END ART. (MORE)

DATE: 7.2.80 JOURNAL: "HATSOFEH" (HEB AM N.R.P.) EDITORIAL

HEADING: "THE ATTACK UPON CHRISTIAN INSTITUTIONS"

QUOTE : A criminal matter involving attacks by lawbreakers upon Christian institutions has been immediately conveyed to the political realm and has led to international involvement, precisely at a time of negotiations over the status of Jerusalem as the capital of Israel. A newspaper like the "NEW YORK TIMES" devoted a lead article to the matter. What has happened has been a series of coincidences of the kind which has happened before, except that this time they have come at the same time, and created the impression of a directed assault by concealed elements against Christian institutions. Circles which are hostile to Israel have exploited these incidents in order to bring about the defamation of Israel notwithstanding the fact that the State of Israel is known for its extreme care in maintaining free access and guarding of the holy places of all religions. The government did not expedite action in this matter, and the declaration of P.M. Menahem Begin condemning these acts came late. If it had come earlier, it is possible it would have prevented the harm <sup>done</sup> to the image of Israel.

Attacks by lawbreakers in Israel, to our regret, are being made in these days also against synagogues, sometimes involving thieves and robbers of sacred scrolls, all against the background of the wave of violence which has beset the country. The Christian churches, and the attacks upon them, are feeling the effects of this wave which is also not passing over synagogues. It is reasonable to assume that the activities of missionary institutions arouses <sup>the ire of</sup> people in Israel. Incidents of this kind occurred in previous years, but they learned to live with it. But this is only a one-time <sup>passing</sup> manifestation. In the past there were incidents involving expressions against clergymen against the background of the <sup>deed of the</sup> well-known Archbishop Hilary Capucci who worked as a hireling of the terrorists, but this too passed.

The PLO is not deterred from striking at churches and holy places either. Likewise, an explosive charge was found in the monastery at Gethsemane, and PLO men brutally murdered a Greek Orthodox priest at the site of Bir Yaacov in Nablus. Near this place there have been six attempted attacks. All of this is part of the effort to implicate the State of Israel in the responsibility for the attacks on Christian institutions. Moscow has also joined in with the chorus of protesters against the attacks upon her church out of political motivation notwithstanding the fact that the USSR continues to confiscate and to close synagogues and churches.

It was an error on the part of the Foreign Ministry for its representative on Church Affairs to give the matter political attention above and beyond the extent of the actual deeds. This should have been kept within the ordinary province of the Ministry of Religious Affairs. In any case, some of the churches do not recognize the State of Israel and do not maintain proper relations with her. END EDITORIAL.

DATE: 8.2.80 JOURNAL: HAARETZ (HEB AM IND) LETTER TO EDITOR

HEADING: "UGLY DEEDS"

BY: Michael Taliaku <sup>IRZ</sup> Nir Ezion.

QUOTE : The attacks against the holy places and institutions of the Christian church ("HAARETZ" 3.2) must stir the anger of every civilized person. Although these vile deeds are the work of marginal extremist elements, it is our duty to express our abhorrence of incidents unworthy of a cultured people. Let those zealots know that it is just in Jerusalem that one may find Christian clergymen who extended aid to Jews during the Holocaust. In Rome, clergy of every rank responded to the request of the then-Pope and tried to rescue Jews as much as possible. Many of our brethren, and especially old men, women and children, were received in monasteries which opened their doors to the persecuted, gave them aid, a refuge and shelter. In the framework of those <sup>rescue</sup> activities all the children of an orphanage were transferred to one of the monasteries. It was also in the Vatican that Jews found refuge from the fury of the Gestapo. Almost 5,000 Jews found shelter in Church institutions, among them some 4,238 were received in monasteries, churches and other institutions maintained by clergymen. About 277 were absorbed in the Vatican itself and in the other extraterritorial regions under Vatican control. On the day of the tragic action against the Jews of Rome (16.10.43) (MORE)

the Franciscan fathers concealed some 450 Jews in one of the churches adjacent to the Jewish Quarter. Let those hotheads striking their blows against the feelings of Christians remember well alloo this, and let them reconsider their irresponsible acts. END LETTER

DATE: 12.2.80 JOURNAL: JERUSALEM POST (ENGL AM IND) LETTERS TO EDITOR: J'lm  
 HEADING: "CHRISTIAN COMMON STATEMENT" BY: The Revd. R. Kreider,  
 QUOTE : While deeply appreciative of the generous (of Liaison Com.UCCI)  
 coverage given by THE POST to the common statement on the recent increase  
 in "anti-Christian violence in Jerusalem" (Feb. 1st), of which I am a co-  
 signatory, I would like to make the following clarifications:

As far as I am aware, it does not accurately describe the reason for not addressing the statement to a particular government body to say that "the signers...represent churches which do not recognize the Israeli annexation of East Jerusalem (or for that matter Israeli rule over West Jerusalem)." It would be much more accurate to say that, since opinion within the Christian community on these issues is not unanimous, and since the common statement was designed to express the common sentiments of Orthodox, Catholic <sup>AND</sup> Protestant Christians, as honestly perceived by the co-signatories, it was thought best to avoid giving any impression of prejudging any such delicate issue in any way. As regards the UCCI, I am not aware of any policy statement on its part concerning these questions. However, an examination of its practice reveals that it includes West Jerusalem bodies, but that, in at least one concrete case, it expressed itself as unable, because of its actual name, to include among the membership an East Jerusalem body. Ultimately, of course, the recognition, or otherwise, of political boundaries is not the task of the Christian church, but of the community of nations, which has evolved norms, criteria and procedures for this purpose.

The headline chosen for your article might have given the impression that the mention made in the statement of the internationally guaranteed special statute for Jerusalem was specifically related to the recent incidents. I do not myself regard the text of the statement as relating the two issues in this way. Rather, as I have understood it, the statement simply provided an occasion for what it terms a "reminder" of this quite distinct issue. END LETTER

DATE: AS ABOVE (DR.) R.L. Lindsey, Pastor, J'lm Bapt. Cong.  
 QUOTE: In the unhappy series of incidents involving deliberate vandalism of various Christian churches and institutions in Jerusalem, it is a matter of regret to many in the Baptist community and other evangelical groups in the city that the manner of reporting the incidents has given the impression that many Christian leaders have some political axe to grind in allowing publication of their grievances. One article suggested that the churches involved were opposed to the present unification of Jerusalem.

As far as the Baptists are concerned, I can assure you nothing is farther from the truth. We do not have any such political convictions. We do our best to minister to Israeli Christians of all kinds, and to a host of expatriate citizens, students and visitors, and we continue, as always, to try to help these people have a healthy and balanced attitude towards the culture, institutions and ideals of this land.

We consider the present annoyance which has involved among others the frequent smashing of our large open windows on Narkis street the work of absurd, teenage hooligans of foreign import who in no way represent the rank and file of normal, hard-working Israelis, many of whom have been firm friends of the Baptist community for some decades. The police have been more than cooperative with our requests for protection, and Mayor Kellek has, in our judgment, gone far beyond the call of duty in championing the health and happiness of the entire Christian community, ourselves included. God bless him! END LETTER

DATE: 12.2.80 JOURNAL: "YE DIOT AKHRONOT" (HEB PM IND) NEWS BRIEF  
 HEADING: "AGAIN AN ATTEMPT TO SET FIRE TO A CHRISTIAN STORE IN CAPITAL"  
 BYLINE : Gad Lior, Our Correspondent in Jerusalem.  
 QUOTE : Unknown persons again attacked a Christian institution in Jerusalem despite the warnings of the Prime Minister and the Mayor of Jerusalem, who  
 (MORE)

forcefully condemned, only a few days ago, this ever-increasing occurrence in the city. Yesterday afternoon unknown persons smashed the window pane of a Christian religious articles shop on Shlonzion Street in the centre of Jerusalem. A few minutes afterwards persons who identified themselves as members of the "Kach" movement of Rabbi Cahana gave out information that they were responsible for the deed, and that they would continue in this fashion. Later on unknown persons tried to set afire the same shop, but it appears that they were scared off by a police patrol set up in the vicinity.

In recent days hundreds of notices have been published throughout the city in the name of the "Yad L'Akhir" (antimission) organization, calling for a war to the bitter end against the Christian Mission. Last night the activists of the organization denied categorically any link to the criminal attacks against the Christian religious institutions in the city, because of which the police have increased their patrols in their vicinity. END ART.

DATE: 12.2.80 JOURNAL: "HAARETZ" (HEB AM I ND) FEATURE ARTICLE ("PROFANE MATTERS")  
 HEADING: "A GIFT FROM HEAVEN" BYLINE: Eliyahu Salpeter  
 SUBHEAD: "Nationalist-Religious Hooligans Attacking Christian Targets are Serving the Interests of the Muslim World, Which Stands at the Head of those Demanding the Removal of Jerusalem from Israeli Sovereignty."

QUOTE : There is something frightening in the efficiency of the intensified efforts of ultra-orthodox zealotry--with or without the ingredient of nationalist extremism--in making Israeli abhorrent to our neighbours, our friends, and the whole wide world. It is doubtful that the Israeli public is aware of the tremendous damage being caused by the attacks on the Christian churches in Jerusalem, whether on the informational level or the political, among believing Christian groups--because of their special relation to the Holy Land and to the people of the Bible--are among some of the most loyal friends and supporters of Israel in the West and even in African lands. These groups are following with interest the news from Israel, and of course especially the news concerning the church activities and the holy places. They receive the news of insults and attacks upon clergymen, including nuns, soiling of the walls of Christian institutions, the destruction of church property, etc., even much more quickly than the average Israeli hears the news--and it is not difficult to imagine their reaction.

To the extent that the target of the attacks is more well-known and important, the echo of the incident is that much greater abroad. The shattering of the expensive stained glass in the Dormition Church is almost an "ideal" project from this standpoint. The clergymen are convinced that the youths who belong to the "Kach" (Cahana) movement are behind the attacks. The inability of the police to locate them and to put an end to their deeds arouses the suspicion among them that the investigations are not being conducted very energetically. This feeling apparently led to the suspicions concerning the reasons for the lack of information about the police investigation in the matter of the murder of the Greek Orthodox monk near Bir Yaacov in Nablus last year. (There is the concern that the fact of the Police Dept being in the hands of a cabinet minister of a religious party is not adding credibility to the police activity in investigations of this kind.)

Matters have reached such a pass that last week Protestant and Catholic spokesmen published--and for the first time from both East and West Jerusalem--a joint appeal for international guarantees for all the holy places and religious communities in Jerusalem. The acts which are arousing an appeal of this type, besides causing severe damage to the image of Israel in the world, indicate also the power of a group of nationalist-religious hooligans to advance the raising of the status of Jerusalem for discussing in the international arena.

This is a gift from heaven to all those who desire to challenge the sovereignty of Israel over the city. There is a bitter irony in the fact that Jewish zealots attacking Christian targets are serving the interests of the Muslim world, which stands at the head of those demanding the removal of Jerusalem from the control of Israel...

(MORE)

The indifference with which the Israeli public relates to the vandalism against churches in Israel stands out especially against the tremendous sensitivity vis-à-vis every manifestation of hostility against a Jewish institution or structure abroad. It is not difficult to describe the outcries against a wave of antisemitism which would rise up if what zealots have been doing to several churches here were done against synagogues in Europe or in America. The indifference also gives prominence to the insensitivity that has infected us.

Mayor Teddy Kollek has been trying to becalm the heads of the Christian communities, and they have no doubt about his sincerity, but words are not enough. If we wish to avoid inestimable informational and political damage, the Govt. must act—and to show that it is acting—much more energetically for the liquidation of the zealot gangs. The Prime Minister must demonstrate greater concern and greater forcefulness in condemning these occurrences. END

DATE: 13.2.80 JOURNAL: JERUSALEM POST (ENGL AM IND) NEWS ARTICLE

HEADING: "MAN HELD FOR ATTACK ON CHRISTIAN SHOP" BY: J.P. Reporter

PHOTO: CHARLES COHE (sic.) THE OWNER OF ZION HOUSE, A STORE SELLING CHRISTIAN BOOKS, LOOKS THROUGH A WINDOW BROKEN BY VANDALS ON MONDAY NIGHT. THIS WAS THE SECOND TIME IN THE PAST MONTH THAT COHE'S STORE HAS BEEN DAMAGED.

QUOTE: In the midst of a spate of vandalism against Christian targets in the capital, police yesterday arrested a 35-year-old Jerusalem man on suspicion of trying to set fire to a store selling religious artifacts. They also stepped up their vigilance at likely further targets. Police acted on information to pick up the man, after "THE TORCH", a store selling Christian literature and souvenirs, was broken into on Monday night. The store's window was smashed and police found signs of suspected arson. The man was allegedly in possession of a can of kerosene and matches when arrested. Also on Monday night the display window of Zion House, a Christian souvenir shop in Rehov Haneviim, was smashed for the second time in a month, and the Baptist centre in Rehov Narkis was vandalized. The police have appointed a special officer to coordinate their campaign to stamp out vandalism against Christian targets. END NEWS ARTICLE

DATE: 13.2.80 JOURNAL: "HAARETZ" (HEB AM IND) PHOTO NEWS BRIEF

QUOTE: CHARLES KOPP, OWNER OF SHOP FOR SALE OF NEW TESTAMENTS, BEHIND SHOP WINDOW SMASHED YESTERDAY BY STONE THROWN BY UNKNOWN PERSON (Photo: Rahamin Israeli) END

DATE: 13.2.80 JOURNAL: "HATSOFEH" (HEB AM NRP) NEWS ARTICLE

HEADING: "SUSPECT IN SETTING FIRE TO RELIGIOUS ARTICLES SHOP"

QUOTE: A suspect in an attempt to set fire and cause damage to a shop for the sale of Christian worship articles and religious books was arrested yesterday in Jerusalem. The suspect is a resident of Jerusalem, 35 years old. Staff at the Dept of Investigations in the Jerusalem police reconstructed with the suspect his moves during the attempted arson and he was arrested and imprisoned for further investigation. The JTA correspondent in Jerusalem notes that the day before yesterday there was another <sup>arson</sup> attempt at the "Lapid" ("Torch") shop on <sup>Queen</sup> Shalomzion Street in Jerusalem. This shop has been the target several times of unknown arsonists and attackers seeking to damage this missionary institution. Yesterday, after tracking down and as a result of intelligence effort, the police succeeded in arresting the suspect. A container of fuel and boxes of matches were found in his possession.

The JTA correspondent adds that recently there has been an increase in the incidents of attacks on Christian institutions in Jerusalem and police investigators in the capital are making extra efforts to catch the offenders who have been attacking the Christian institutions and shops selling Christian ritual objects. The Commander of the Southern District, Cdr. Arye Ibzan has even appointed a team which will check out and investigate these incidents, and as a result the investigators have a number of finds to their credit. END ART.

DATE: 13.2.80 JOURNAL: "HAMODIYA" (HEB AM AGUDAT ISRAEL) NEWS ARTICLE

HEADING: "SUSPECT IN ATTEMPT TO SET FIRE TO CHRISTIAN SHOP"

QUOTE: (Same story as above)

DATE: 13.2.80 JOURNAL: "AL HAMISHMAR" (HEB AM MAPAM) NEWS ARTICLE

HEADING: "FANATICAL HOOLIGANISM"

SUBHEAD: "Manifesto against Wave of Outbursts and Attacks against Christian Institutions." BYLINE: GABRIEL STERN

QUOTE : In an unprecedented manifesto, Christian clergymen of high rank in Jerusalem expressed deep concern over a wave of <sup>zealot</sup> outbursts against Christian institutions and persons in the Holy City. The pronouncement is signed by the Menonite Revd. ~~Marxhanapudix~~ R. Kreider of the UCCI (representing 19 Protestant bodies, among them Anglicans, Lutherans, Baptists and others), Fr. Ignacio Mancini, Franciscan order, Director of Christian Information Centre (Catholic), Fr. Birgil Pixner in the name of the Benedictine Monastery "Dormition" on Mt. Zion. Although for ceremonial reasons the heads of the churches have not themselves signed the appeal, it is known that it was composed with their consent, and also the representative of the Pope in Jerusalem, Archbishop Wm. A. Carew, took part in the initiative and reported on it to the Vatican, and likewise the Greek Orthodox Patriarch Benedictus I supported the document, who was especially incensed over the murder of the monk in Bir Yaacov (and also mentioned it in his address at the Presidential Residence)... "The fact that there are no results or interim results of the investigation of the murder, gives place to speculations and rumours"--it is stated in the pronouncement, which indeed does not link the crime directly to Jewish zealots, but neither does it remove it from the realm of possibility.

The authors of the manifesto mentioned in a conversation with me a series of acts, such as the smashing of coloured windows in the church "Dormition" on Mt. Zion, the smashing of windows at the Baptist Church on Narkis Street in the centre of town, where the Rev. Lindsey pursued the suspects to the vicinity of the offices of the nationalist-zealot sect of the "Rabbi" Meir Cahana; attacks on the <sup>Catholic</sup> church on Mt. Zion, spitting and insulting remarks made against clergy. My sources extolled the excellent attitude of Mayor Teddy Kallek as well as his profound concern for the Christian communities notwithstanding the reservations many of them have to the unification of the city.

Kollek had made an urgent appeal to P.M. M. Begin, but to date has not received a satisfactory reply. Likewise, the Director of the Christian Affairs Dept., Daniel Rossing (recovering now from an illness) has laboured much (on their behalf). The behaviour of the police was commended, but they expressed their feelings that the authorities, especially on the highest level, were not doing everything in their power to put an end to the wanton behaviour/miniscule, unrepresentative elements, acting "without restraint", whose motivations are more racist than "religious", and who claim an exclusive right to Jews on the city and land, whereas Christian spokesmen stress that the Christian communities have full equal rights with the other two great monotheistic religions.

The manifesto sees in these incidents a reinforcement of the demand of Pope John Paul II following the late Paul VI for a special code in Jerusalem which would <sup>be maintained</sup> by means of international guarantees without touching on the question of sovereignty, as has been reported in "AL HAMISHMAR." It has been made known to me that for some seven months in the wake of the expressions of the <sup>former</sup> U.S. Ambassador for autonomy, Robt Strauss, the Vatican, in coordination with other churches concerned with the matter, has <sup>been</sup> ~~agreed~~ vigorous diplomatic contacts, in order to advance the matter of a special code for the purpose of keeping Christian interests in tact in the event of an Israeli-Muslim agreement on the status of Jerusalem.

Prof. R.Y. Werblowsky and Joseph Emanuel, Chairman and General Director of the Interfaith Committee, Prof. Shmaryahu Talmon, Chairman of the Jewish Council in Israel for Interreligious Consultations, and heads of the UCCI as well as well-known Christian theologians such as Dr. Robt Lindsey, Dr. E. Schoeneveld, have published a moving common appeal for assurance of freedom of religion and interreligious understanding in Israel in the face of the <sup>acts of</sup> fanatical and criminal hooliganism which have occurred recently and which constitute a desecration of the name of Israel in the world. They appealed to the authorities to do everything possible to put an end to this wantonness. At the same time they appealed to the Christian community to avoid "extreme responses which are liable to increase the suspicion and tension, ...but to work toward restoration of mutual confidence and cooperation." END ARTICLE (MORE)

DATE: 14.2.80 JOURNAL: JERUSALEM POST (AM ENGL IND) NEWS BRIEF

HEADING: "ANTI-CHRISTIAN ARSON SUSPECT REMANDED"

QUOTE : A 39-year-old Jerusalem man was yesterday remanded into 15-days' custody by the Magistrates Court on suspicion of setting fire to a Christian religious bookshop in Rehov Shlomo Zion Hamalka. According to the police, the suspect, whose name was given as Dr. Falk Louis Medai, said he had committed the arson "for ideological reasons." (ITIM)

DATE: 15.2.80 JOURNAL: "KAWL HA'IR" (HEBREW JERUSALEM WEEKLY) NEWS ARTICLE

HEADING: "WHO IS LOUIS MAZAI FALK, THE SABOTEUR OF THE MISSION?"

PHOTO : ZION HOUSE BIBLICAL SHOP (WITH GRAFFITI SCRAWLED ON WALLS)

QUOTE : This Monday a suspect in the attempted arson against two shops selling Christian religious articles in the centre of town was arrested. In the course of his investigation the suspect claimed that he was a mathematician employed by the Hebrew University and worked on Mt. Scopus. His name, as it was registered both in the police investigation and in the request for the extension of his arrest for 15 days which was submitted to the court, is Louis Mazai Falk. Since at the Hebrew University a mathematician by this name is unknown, suspicions were aroused about his true identity. Also the address which he reported to the investigators was not accurate. At his investigation the suspected arsonist claimed that he lives at No. 5 Rheims Street in the Kiryat Mo'she neighbourhood. "KAWL HA'IR" checked out the information and learned that at that address there once lived someone by name of Reuven Peleg. His former name before emigrating from Hungary was indeed Mazai, as he reported during his investigation. At the flat on Rheims Street, which is owned by him, three female students are in residence on a rental basis. Reuven Peleg himself has been living for a number of years in a flat which belongs to the parents of his wife on Radak Street, No. 21, a short distance from the Presidential Residence and near a well-known Christian school which is in operation for many years at the site.

The police are convinced at present that the man being held in the detention cell at the Russian Compound is indeed Reuven Peleg and not Louis Mazai Falk, as was registered in the request for the extension of arrest. Reuven Peleg was arrested on Monday evening after two incidents of attempted arson occurred at Christian shops on Prophets Street and Shlomo Zion Hamalka Street. During the first hours of his detention he expressed his opposition by means of burning the mattress in his cell, but afterwards began to cooperate with his investigators.

The police believe that the man was operating on his own and not at the behest of extremist organizations which have been operating recently against Christian institutions in the city. He told his investigators that he acted out of ideological motives. It is also believed by the police that the man they are holding has no practical connection with the many attacks that have recently occurred in Jerusalem on Christian institutions. The police suspect that Reuven Peleg was involved only in the most recent attack. END ART.

DATE: 15.2.80 JOURNAL: JERUSALEM POST (ENGL AM IND) LETTERS TO EDITOR

HEADING: "ISRAEL PROTECTS CHRISTIAN HOLY PLACES" BY: MARY R. CARSE

(Vermont Christians Committee for Israel & National Christian

Leadership Conference for Israel, Mo'shav Sho'eva (Hinesburg, Vt.)

QUOTE: As a Catholic Christian, spending my fourth winter in Israel, I am deeply grieved by the recent spate of articles regarding vandalism to various Christian sites--and even more so by overreaction of some of the Christian community. Certainly no one condones vandalism at any time; and it is well-known that the perpetrators of the recent incidents themselves do not represent either the people or the government of Israel. The price of a free democratic society, which Israel is, is the proliferation of small radical or fanatical fringe groups. In the present instance, unfortunately, what we are seeing surfacing are some of the pent-up fears and animosities which are the heritage of centuries of oppression and persecution of religious Jews by religious Christians. If the very religious Jews' idea of "persecuting us is to smear a little paint and to break a few windows--I say we're pretty well off. Other Christians have been held at gunpoint in Teheran for three months. Other religious Jews are being shot in the streets of Hebron. Other religious Moslems are being gunned down by Soviet atheists in Kabul.

(MORE)

Lebanese Christians are constantly being bombed and strafed by international terrorists. And so on and on.

To use any excuse to denigrate the excellent and sensitive job the government of Israel has been doing in maintaining the freedom and sanctity of the Holy Places is a disservice and a deception. There are always some who still flog the dead horse of "international guarantees" of the Holy Places, refusing to see that we are no longer in the era of Christendom when there were Christian nations who could be entrusted with such places (if there ever were!). Instead, we have a Jewish State which has proved itself... even though hard-pressed for its survival by enemies from within and without-- it has done more for the Holy Places in ten years than all of Christendom did in ten centuries. END LETTER

MISCELLANEOUS: "THE UNKNOWN CHAGALL AND OTHER STORIES"

FEATURE ARTICLE IN JERUSALEM POST BY ART CRITIC MEIR RONEN DATED 1.2.80.

EXCERPTS: (Chagall did) Works for the Paris Opera and the Knesset... as well as a whole series of stained glass windows, not only for the Hadassah Synagogue but for a number of churches and cathedrals, some of purely Christian iconography. Alexander, a New York Jewish art historian and writer, who has lived in Florence for the last quarter of a century, takes Chagall to task for allowing himself to be used by the Catholic Church and its theologians, who have turned even his Old Testament themes and his attempts to provide "universal" symbols into something seen as "prefigurations" of a gathering "at the foot of the Cross."

Alexander also points out that Chagall, now 93, has always despised assimilationists. While he has never ceased to be a proud if non-observant Jew, he has never ceased striving to be recognized as a "universal" artist; hence his willingness to make crucifixions for French cathedrals...END EXCERPTS.

DATE: 30.1.80 JOURNAL: JERUSALEM POST

HEADING: "PRAYERS FOR PRIESTS"

QUOTE: Special services were held in all churches of the Russian Ecclesiastical Mission in Jerusalem this week to pray for the church in the Soviet Union, for the recently arrested dissident priests Fr. Gleb Yakunin and Fr. Dimitri Dudko, and for other imprisoned and harassed Orthodox leaders. Fr. Dudko, an outspoken champion of religious freedom, became well-known as the author of several religious books published in the West and clandestinely circulated among believers. His sermons drew large crowds and the Soviet authorities eventually banned him from Moscow. Shortly before his arrest, Fr. Dudko sent a letter to the West in which he wrote: "The news is sad...a reshuffling of the clergy is taking place throughout Moscow. The newly appointed priests cause fear and dismay among the parishioners. No wonder the authorities had to do away with Fr. Gleb Yakunin to stem the tide of publicity."

Fr. Yakunin is well-known in Orthodox dissident circles. His open letter to the Patriarch of Moscow in the 1960s was the first samizdat document to describe the state of religious life in the Soviet Union. He is a co-founder of the Christian Committee for the Defence of Believers' Rights in the USSR. The Synod of Bishops of the Russian Orthodox Church Abroad in New York has appealed to its parishes throughout the world for similar prayers. END ARTICLE (IDENTICAL ITEM APPEARED UNDER HEADING OF "POSTSCRIPTS" FEATURE IN "POST" 1.2.80)

DATE: 23.1.80 JOURNAL: JERUSALEM POST NEWS ARTICLE

HEADING: "500,000 VISITORS TO ISRAEL IS 20 YEAR RECORD OF WHOLESALE INTL"

BYLINE: Haim Shapiro, J.Post Reporter

EXCERPTS: Belief in the Bible is more than a matter of faith. To Aris Dimopoulis, Genl Mgr of Wholesale Tours International, it is also a matter of business. Now celebrating its 20th anniversary, the New York-based company will this year bring its 500,000th visitor to Israel. Dimopoulis stressed that WTI clients, for the most part Christian pilgrims, keep coming in good times and bad, in season and out of season, with faith as their major motivation. END EXCERPTS