

SUBJECT NUMBER ONE: ANTICHRISTIAN ZEALOTRY (SEE ALSO Select. No. 73)

DATE: 25.1.80 JOURNAL: THE TIMES (LONDON) NEWSPAPER ARTICLE

HEADING: "VIOLENCE GROWS AGAINST JERUSALEM CHRISTIANS"

BYLINE: Christopher Walker, Jerusalem, Jan. 24th.

QUOTE: Last Monday when Mr. Chas. Cope arrived to open Zion House, his modest but popular Bible shop near the centre of Jerusalem, he found the premises daubed from top to bottom in red and black paint. Among the swastikas and abusive Hebrew scrawlings, was one slogan which stated angrily, "Missionary pigs go home." The incident was the latest in a recent string of attacks on Christian institutions in the Holy City which is causing growing concern to Mr. Teddy Kollek, the Jewish Mayor, and a number of opposition Labour politicians, who claim that Israel's reputation abroad is being badly damaged.

The attacks are all believed to be the work of members of extreme right-wing Jewish Orthodox groups. In addition to attacks on Bible shops and historic buildings, such as the Russian Orthodox church and the Mt. Zion monastery, the antichristian campaign has also taken other more disturbing forms. Priests have been spat on and cursed by young religious Jews, the secretary of the Russian Orthodox Church and his 6-year-old son have been sent threatening letters and, last month, a youth wearing a skull cap burst into the Christian Information Centre in East Jerusalem and began destroying a special Christmas display.

Over the last two months the Jerusalem municipality has spent over 2,000 Pounds Sterling repairing vandalized Christian institutions under its declared policy of paying for any damage caused by "inter-ethnic violence." Earlier this week Mr. Kollek wrote to Mr. Menachem Begin, the Israeli Prime Minister, warning him of the deteriorating situation and appealing to him to intervene personally and speak out against the campaign of anti-Christian violence by Jewish extremists. As yet he has received no reply. The appeal was prompted by the suspicion, shared by many senior municipal officials, that local police were deliberately soft-peddalling their response to the upsurge of Jewish vandalism because of the political power of some of Israel's most extreme Orthodox groupings.

Complaining that the wave of attacks was seriously damaging the city's reputation for tolerance, Mr. Kollek told reporters: "The police should deal with the perpetrators of these acts in the way that they deal with the perpetrators of terrorist outrages." No organization has claimed responsibility for the attacks, but the similarity of the targets and methods suggests a strong degree of coordination. In a recent letter Mr. David Jeager, liaison secretary of the UCCI, commented on "the mounting anxiety within the Christian community... caused by the recently stepped up activities of anti-Christian fanatics." The disturbing new campaign against Christian churchmen and buildings comes at a time when the Jerusalem authorities are already anxious about the growing violence between secular and religious Jews, particularly over the emotive issue of Sabbath observance. END ARTICLE.

DATE: 6.2.80 JOURNAL: "JOURNAL D'ISRAEL" (TELAVIV) FRENCH LANGUAGE NEWS ARTICLE

HEADING: "ISRAEL DOES NOT TOLERATE ACTS OF VANDALISM IN THE HOLY PLACES"

QUOTE: The Prime Minister, Menachem Begin, has issued an official declaration in which he declares that Israel does not tolerate acts of vandalism and attacks against the churches of Jerusalem. In the wake of the increase of incidents of this kind, the Israeli authorities have taken steps designed to reinforce the protection of the Holy Places in the capital, it has been learned. Mr. Begin underscored in this connection that according to Israeli laws, all faiths enjoy freedom of worship completely and the government assures their well-being. Israel has again declared that it is faithful to these principles, as it has proven in the past, and intends to respect all the religions represented in Jerusalem.

Some 20 ^{Christian} ecclesiastical directors of the Holy Places were invited to meet with David Ephrati, the liaison officer with the Foreign Office, who read to them Mr. Begin's declaration. It is reported that the church leaders expressed their satisfaction with the position adopted by the Israeli Govt, and at the steps taken to protect the churches. END ARTICLE

(MORE)

DATE: 11.2.80 JOURNAL: "JOURNAL D'ISRAEL" (TELAVIV) NEWS ARTICLE

HEADING: "ACTS OF ANTICHRISTIAN VANDALISM"

QUOTE : JERUSALEM.- Twenty representatives of Christian churches (Catholic, Protestant and Orthodox) of Jerusalem last week expressed their satisfaction at the communiqué published by the P.M. of Israel, Menahem Begin in Jerusalem concerning the protection of the churches and Christian institutions. (See Previous News Article on this subject, Page 1 herein.) Noting that "the lines of communication between Jews and Christian must be preserved," they emphasized that the acts of vandalism recently committed "were the work of a small group of extremists." (END ARTICLE)

DATE: 12.2.80 JOURNAL: "SHAAR LA'MATKIL" (BEGINNER'S HEBREW) NEWS BRIEF

HEADING: "BEGIN DENOUNCES VANDALISM IN JERUSALEM CHURCHES"

QUOTE : P.M. Menahem Begin has announced that the Israeli authorities will not tolerate acts of vandalism against churches in Jerusalem, and will do everything possible to prevent them in the future. Begin stressed that according to the law of the State of Israel all religions enjoy freedom of worship, protection of property, and free access to the Holy Places. (END ARTICLE)

DATE: 13.2.80 JOURNAL: "YEDIOT AKHRONOT" (HEBREW PM INDEPENDENT) NEWS ARTICLE

HEADING: "SUSPECT ARRESTED IN ATTACK ON CHRISTIAN RELIGIOUS INSTITUTIONS"

SUBHEAD: SEIZED BY EMPLOYEE OF MIN. RELIG. AFFAIRS & POLICE WHO HAD SET UP AMBUSH AND CAUGHT HIM IN THE ACT" BYLINE: GAD IZOR

QUOTE : A man, aged 39, who in the past was subject to psychiatric treatment, is the suspect in the attacks upon Christian religious institutions in Jerusalem in recent months. The commander of the Jerusalem Region of the Police Dept, Lt. Cdr. Menashe Golan, yesterday announced that their endeavour which included ambushes, area combing, patrols, lead last night to the arrest of the man. The suspect was seized by an employee of the Min. of Relig. Affairs and policemen who were in the ambush near one of the Christian institutions of the capital, which had been attacked and damaged recently by unknown persons. The investigators believe that the suspect is the one who executed the recent attacks as well: The smashing of the window and attempted arson at the shop for Christian religious articles at the centre of town, as well as the drawing of anti-Christian graffiti on the walls of houses in Jerusalem. The police report that the suspect is cooperating and will be brought today before a judge for remand. END NEWS ARTICLE.

DATE: 13.2.80 JOURNAL: "MAARIV" (HEB PM IND) NEWS BRIEF

HEADING: "SUSPECTED OF ARSON AT BIBIE SHOP"

HEADING: A Jerusalem resident, aged 39, was arrested ~~last night~~ ^{last} night by police in the capital on suspicion of attempted arson at a store for the sale of Christian Scriptures on ^{Queen} Shlomzion Street. From the investigation of the suspect it was learned that he underwent psychiatric treatment recently. (END NEWS BRIEF)

DATE: 14.2.80 JOURNAL: "HAMODIYA" (AGUDAT YISRAEL AM HEBREW) NEWS BRIEF

HEADING: "ARREST OF SUSPECT IN CHRISTIAN STORE ARSON"

QUOTE : The Jerusalem citizen who was arrested on Monday on suspicion of attempted arson at a shop for the sale of religious articles and Christian religious book on Queen Shlomzion Street was brought on Wednesday to the court in the Capital, and the judge issued an arrest order for 15 days. The suspect is in possession of a doctorate, his name being Dr. Falk, Louis Mazai, age 39. The police investigator stated in court that the suspect admitted the charges pressed against him, and that he was now being investigated relative to similar acts committed in the past. According to the police investigators ^{had} he told them that the attempted arson and sabotage were committed from an ideological background. The investigation is continuing. (END NEWS BRIEF)

DATE: 14.2.80 JOURNAL: "HATSOEH" (NRP AM HEB) NEWS BRIEF

(SAME AS ABOVE BUT SHORTENED CONSIDERABLY TO THE OPENING SENTENCE)

DATE: 14.2.80 JOURNAL: "HAHETZ" (IND. AM HEB) NEWS BRIEF

HEADING: "ARREST OF SUSPECT IN CHRISTIAN STORE ARSON"

(SAME AS PREVIOUS "HAMODIYA" ITEM)

DATE: 14.2.80 JOURNAL: "AL HAMISHMAR" (MAPAM AM HEB)
 HEADING: "FOR STRENGTHENING RELIGIOUS FREEDOM AND INTERFAITH UNDERSTANDING"
 (SAME COMMUNICATED NOTICE WHICH APPEARED IN JERUSALEM POST ON
 4 FEB 1980. FOR CONVENIENT SEE UCCI SELECTIONS 73, PAGE 7, BOTTOM)

DATE: 14.2.80 JOURNAL: "MAARIV" (IND. PM HEB)
 (SAME COMMUNICATED NOTICE AS ABOVE)

DATE: 14.2.80 JOURNAL: "HATSOIEH" (NRP AM IND) FEATURE ARTICLE ("DIARY")
 HEADING: "COMPLICATIONS WITH THE CHRISTIAN INSTITUTIONS"
 BYLINE: Yaacov Edelstein
 QUOTE: The attacks by irresponsible elements upon Christian institutions have led to wide reverberations in the world. There is great sensitivity to subjects of this kind. Even though criminal attacks are involved here, the PLO is interested to represent Israel as a state which cannot guard the holy places, and there are those amongst us who assist them by means of irresponsible acts. The PLO also attempted to impair the Christmas rite in Bethlehem, and only at the last moment was a terrorist sabotage prevented. This was in order to impede the movement of Christian tourism, and the act of desecration does not of course concern them.

A month and a half ago PLO men murdered a monk by name of Philomenus in the church called Miriam's Well in Nablus. It was a frightful murder inasmuch as the monk lived there alone, and they murdered him with an axe and a knife on a rainy night when no one could hear what was going on. Before the murder the terrorists hurled a grenade of IDF make into the church. The metropolitan Vasilios, a contender for the seat of the Patriarch, claimed at the Presidential reception, that extremist Jewish circles are responsible for the murder. This declaration was not made when a man from the Border Guard was murdered at the same place. At least six times PLO men have tried to make attacks on this place.

This accusation snowballed, and when a delegation of correspondents from Greece visited the country, their first question was whether it was true that Jews had murdered the Greek priest in Nablus. The Israeli envoy in Rome was called to the Vatican in order to hear a protest about attacks on the holy places of Christendom. The Patriarch Pimen from Moscow appealed to the Council of Churches in Geneva with a complaint about attacks upon Russian institutions in Israel. It would be worth noting that the Christian institutions have a special status in Israel, to an extent that even Jewish institutions enjoy. Christian education is absolutely independent, and state bodies do not interfere in its affairs. Also in matters of personal status they enjoy independence, and Christian clergy officiating do not have to make any declarations of allegiance to the State, whereas the State recognizes their marital and divorce proceedings. Christian institutions which erect churches receive tax rebates, a privilege which no other community has--notwithstanding the fact that the churches in Israel have recently been going through the process of "Arabization", and most of the clergy are Arabs.

The law passed in the Knesset which prohibits conversion by means of benefits, as is customary among the missions, caused wide and disproportionate reverberations, even though to date not one has been prosecuted under the terms of this law. Israeli representatives in the world received protests because of this law, which is in itself a just law. Yet every stone cast here upon a church causes international reverberations. The Russian Church, which is actually managed by the regime, also desires to be a factor in the region. During the time of the Russian Czar, Russia had an important role in the Holy Land in the Christian religious sphere, and as a result also received a political status. Communism, even though it is antireligious, is ready to exploit religion in order to keep its influence in the region. When diplomatic relations between Israel and Russia were severed after the Six Days War, we permitted the Russian religious delegation to remain in its place without their even asking this. This was an error, since it would have been possible to request a consideration for this privilege, that Russia should permit a Jewish religious delegation to remain in Russia. Now Moscow uses this delegation to stir up strife in the Christian world against the State of Israel with the charge that we are hurting the Russian church institutions.

MORE

In several Communist countries the churches have discovered the religious "Renaissance" in our era, and several churches are very active there, while the regime exploits the status of the church for its own political requirements. At a time when the PLO is ~~making~~ ^{making} efforts to attack churches in order to accuse the State of Israel, we have among us elements which are doing the very same things without any understanding of the ^{international} reverberations these acts are having. To fight against the Mission we must, but not by means of criminal acts.

(END ART.)

DATE: 15.2.80 JOURNAL: "YIDDISHE ZEITUNG" (TELAVIV) YIDDISH NEWS ARTICLE
 HEADING: "AGAIN ACTS OF VANDALISM AGAINST CHRISTIAN BOOK SHOPS IN JERUSALEM"
 QUOTE : Anonymous Jewish fanatical circles have in the course of this week again conducted vandal attacks against Christian institutions in Jerusalem. From a moving automobile stones were cast on the show window of a shop which sells Christian holy books, and the window panes were smashed. An attempt to set fire to another Christian book shop in Jerusalem failed. The police quickly arrived on the site and the vandals fled, leaving behind rags dipped in fuel.

In the editorial offices of Jerusalem newspapers a new group calling itself "Rak Kach" ("Only Thus") telephoned, identifying itself as the ones responsible for the acts of vandalism. The police have reinforced their patrols in the vicinity of Christian institutions. Meanwhile, a legal antimission organization, "Yad L'Akherim" (sic. probably meaning "Yad L'Akhir") has posted bills throughout the country warning against "increased missionary activity." P.M. Begin has again published a sharp denunciation against fanatical vandalism. He did this during a conversation with the delegation of the American Jewish Committee which is visiting the country. (END NEWS ART.)

DATE: 15.2.80 (? UNCLEAR DATE) JOURNAL: "YE DIOT AKHRONOT" (IND PM HEB) NEWS
 HEADING: "ANOTHER ATTEMPT TO SET FIRE TO CHRISTIAN SHOP IN CAPITAL"
 BYLINE : Gad Leor, Our Correspondent in Jerusalem.

(THIS IS BASICALLY THE SAME NOTICE AS THE PREVIOUS ONE IN THE ABOVE YIDDISH JOURNAL, BUT ADDS THE IDENTIFICATION OF THE SHOP ADDRESS ON QUEEN SHLOMTSION STREET.)

DATE: 17.2.80 JOURNAL: "MAARIV" (IND PM HEB) LETTER TO EDITOR
 HEADING: "ATTACKS UPON HOLY PLACES TO CHRISTENDOM AROUSES EVERYONE"
 BYLINE : Michael Taliatcio NOTE: THIS IS A SLIGHTLY SHORTENED VERSION OF THE IDENTICAL LETTER WHICH APPEARED IN "HAARETZ", 8.2.80, FOR TRANSLATION OF WHICH, SEE SELECTIONS No. 73, page 10, Bottom Item, under heading: "UGLY DEEDS".

DATE: 18.2.80 JOURNAL: JERUSALEM POST (IND AM ENGLISH) LETTER TO EDITOR
 HEADING: "RELIGIOUS BLINDNESS" BY: {Dr. Claude Durvernoy, Director, }
 QUOTE : As far as I know, the Prophets (Christian Action for Israel, J'm.) never called on Israel to settle in Nablus nor in its vicinity. Isaiah, in chapter 35 of his book, calls for the Messianic resurrection of the Arava Valley. Yet there is not one single religious settlement in the Arava. Is it because settling there would not cause difficulties, scandals, violence? Is it because it would not attract international TV? Is it because it would not place the religious settlers in the light of "heroes"? Or is it because religious people all over the world are always the last to understand Divine Will, and often even obstruct it? (Most of them opposed Herzl and Zionism for not being pious enough.) We have an obvious Christian parallel to this blindness: Recently, some Jerusalem church leaders issued a (justified) protest, but did not know to whom to address it, as they do not recognize the Israeli reunification of Jerusalem, in spite of the fact that Jesus himself prophesied it. (LK 21:24)

Just as these Christian leaders refuse to hear the voice of Jesus, the Gush Emunim people refuse to hear the call of Isaiah. They prefer their religious tradition, their various "halachic precepts" to the Word of God. I have no hope whatsoever, after 18 years in Jerusalem, that its Christian churches, most of them contaminated by antizionism, will ever understand and take seriously biblical prophecy. But, who knows, maybe some Gush Emunim settlers may take Isaiah's call seriously and leave the unhealthy suburbs of Nablus for the beautiful Messianic valley of the Arava before it is too late. (END LETTER)

(MORE)

DATE: 19.2.80 JOURNAL: "MAARIV" (IND PM HEB) NEWS ARTICLE

HEADING: "DAMAGE CAUSED TO BAPTIST CHURCH IN CAPITAL"

BYLINE : Tsvi Zinger

QUOTE : Anonymous persons broke into the church of the Baptist Congregation on Narkis Street the night before last, destroyed holy books and left a trail of ruin in the place. This is an additional attack in a chain of incidents recently against Christian religious institutions in Jerusalem. The anonymous persons who broke in penetrated into the church behind one of the windows after uprooting the grille from its place. They stayed in the church for a long time, destroyed tens of hymnals and stole books, and left the place by way of the church door.

Criminal investigators on the police force were on the spot later to gather evidence, and the police are giving priority to the solution of the affair. It will be noted that last week a Jerusalem resident, age 39, was arrested while trying to set fire to a ^{Christian} bookshop. In the course of the investigation it appeared that he was mentally disturbed. It is surmised that the recent attacks are the work of extremists. (END ART.)

SUBJECT NUMBER TWO: "THE MISSION"

DATE: 8.2.80 JOURNAL: "KAWL HA'IR" (HEBREW JERUSALEM WEEKLY) LETTER TO EDITOR

HEADING: "CONFESSION FOR THE SICK AT THE FRENCH HOSPITAL" BY: Eitan D. Hacoher

QUOTE : Jerusalem is blessed with many Torah institutions, as well as charity institutions, but to our regret the chronically ill and cancer patients are hospitalized only in the French Hospital where they receive attention at the hands of nuns. Besides the problem of kashrut, concerning which a patient who has observed the dietary laws all his life must in his last days lie in a place like this, under the care of nuns, under the spirit of the cross, and to eat food that no one in all the city can testify to its kashrut, all these patients want an attentive ear to their spiritual pain, to recite in a clear voice the confession "Hear O Israel"---and there is none to hear them....Therefore we ask the rabbis and Yeshiva heads to contribute a day or two of the week to hear the confession of the sick. Please apply to: JONATHAN D. HACHOEN, Reh. Knesset A' No. 6, or to BENJAMIN HACHOEN, Rehov Sonefeld, 22. (END LETTER.)

DATE: 8.2.80 JOURNAL: "JERUSALEM POST" (IND AM ENGL) EXCERPTED ARTICLE

HEADING: "COEXISTENCE IN GALILEE"

BYLINE : Helga Dudman

EXCERPT: The YMCA has never been accused of being a missionary movement; and even if it were, we would do well to recall the words of Rabbi Abulafia who, a century ago, defied the rabbinical ban on the Scottish Mission Church here, which did have a clear missionary purpose but succeeded, in all the years, in converting exactly one Tiberian soul. As Rav Abulafia said, "If somebody wishes to convert, nothing on earth will stop him. And if he does not, nothing on earth will make him." (END EXCERPT)

DATE: 9.12.80 JOURNAL: "HATSOHAR" (AGUDAT YISRAEL WEEKLY HEBREW) NEWS BRIEF

HEADING: "REDUCTION IN ACTIVITIES OF THE MISSION"

QUOTE : The Director-General of the Ministry of Religious Affairs, Yisrael Lippel, visited several months ago a number of European countries on a mission, in the framework of which he met with heads of Christian organizations and set before them the deep concern about increasing missionary activity of the Christian Mission in Israel. Mr. Lippel, in cooperation with "Hever Hapeilim--Yad L'Akhir" (antimission society) has worked out a detailed plan which will lead to a significant reduction in the activity of the Mission. It should be noted that this activity is being implemented in an open and official fashion and apparently will bear positive fruit. (END NEWS BRIEF)

DATE: 11.2.80 JOURNAL: "YE DIOT AKHRONOT" (IND PM HEB) NEWS BRIEF

HEADING: "MISSION WORKER SUSPECTED OF 3 MILLION IL THEFT"

QUOTE : The bookkeeper of the missionary society "Lema'an Zion" ("For the Sake of Zion") is suspected of a theft of more than 3 million from his place of employment. A police representative yesterday claimed in court in Jerusalem that the suspect, Hanna Hish, age 27, from Beit Sahur, had in the course of two years stolen checks from the society and cashed them in under false names. He has been arrested for a period of ten days. (END NEWS BRIEF)

(MORE)

DATE: 12.2.80 JOURNAL: JERUSALEM POST (IND AM ENGL) NEWS BRIEF

HEADING: "KATZ WELCOMES GERMAN CHURCH STAND"

BYLINE: JERUSALEM POST STAFF

QUOTE: A series of resolutions passed by the synod of the Evangelical Church in the Rhineland was greeted with acclaim yesterday by Labour and Social Affairs Minister Israel Katz when he met with the North Rhine-Westphalia head of the state, Johannes Rau. Among the resolutions is one acknowledging the church's responsibility for the existence ^{and peace} of the State of Israel. Another states that missionary activities should not be pursued among the people of Israel, and a third that God's choice of the church in no way lessens the status of the people of Israel as the chosen of God. Rau also called on Knesset Speaker Yitzhak Shamir.

(END NEWSBRIEF)

DATE: 14.2.80 JOURNAL: JERUSALEM POST FEATURE ARTICLE

HEADING: "CONCERN OVER MISSIONARIES"

BYLINE: Hyam Corney, Post London Correspondent.

QUOTE: The recent death in Britain of a young Jewish boy who had been subjected to pressure from Christian missionaries has led to growing concern among the Jewish community about the extent of such activity, particularly among teenagers and students. The boy who died, Benjamin Lesser, was killed by a train. He came from what can be described as "a good Jewish home" and his parents claim that his death was caused by his mind having become desperately confused by persistent attempts to convert him. The boy had spent a year on a kibbutz in Israel with Habonim. On his return to Britain, and before going to university, he had come into contact with a man who tried to convert him to Christianity. At university he was approached by members of the "Hebrew Christian Organization," who tried to tell him that while maintaining his Judaism, he was to accept Jesus as the Messiah.

Say his parents: "Our son was halfway between Judaism and Christianity, with a terrific conflict going on inside him." He came home on vacation from university "quite ill with religious obsession." Numerous efforts by rabbis and others failed to solve his problem. "Our son was a sensitive caring boy, unable to tolerate the wrongs done to others, and this very sensitivity was played upon by people who tried to make him a Christian, while at heart he loved being Jewish." The parents, who have been interviewed extensively in the media, say they want every parent "to understand what can await their boy or girl and do what we can to forewarn and forearm them with knowledge."

How widespread is missionary activity in Britain? No one really knows, but the tragedy of Benjamin Lesser, which has brought a longstanding problem to the fore, has sparked off a flurry of activity as well as concern. Clive Lawton, education officer of the Board of Deputies of British Jews, admits that at the moment, "the facts and figures are not very clear, but we are trying to find out more." Until the information is available, "we should be on our guard, but we should not assume that we are facing a great new threat."

The Rev. Peter Jennings, a Methodist minister, as well as joint chief executive of the Council of Christians and Jews, also tends to play down the threat: "It's not that serious," he says. "I don't think it is a real threat, though I know that it is easy for me to say so. For the parents of the Lesser boy, I cannot say how much I share their grief. He was grabbed by unscrupulous sectarians."

Christian missionary activity among British Jews is not a new phenomenon. It has been going on for decades, though it does have its peaks of activity. Much of the literature that the missionaries use comes from America. It suggests that one can be a good Jew and a good Christian at the same time, and it contains Hebrew words such as "mitzvah," "Mashiach," "Tanach," etc., to drive home the point. Their approach is emotional rather than intellectual, and it is for this reason that their "victims" are often young people, like university students who are living away from home and away from the stability of parental care. Says Lawton: "They are particularly successful with people who are feeling lonely or insecure, and so one of their most fertile hunting grounds is the university campus."

What, if anything, can the Jewish community do to combat this activity? Clive Lawton believes that it has "to develop the kind of warmth, zeal and enthusiastic reception for the uncommitted or alienated Jew ^{that is} to be found among the missionary (MORE)

groups. At this moment this is to be found in the Jewish community only among the Lubavitch." What, if anything, is the non-Jewish community doing to combat it? Rev. Peter Jennings says that the Council of Christians and Jews is "trying to lobby and to educate." It reminds its members at grassroots level of the conclusion of the Second Vatican Council declaration on the Jews, known as "nostra aetate," and also the statement published by the International Catholic-Jewish Liaison Committee in 1977, which made it clear that the church "rejects in a clear way every form of proselytism. This means the exclusion of any sort of witness and preaching which in any way constitutes a physical, moral, psychological or cultural restraint on Jews..."

Jennings himself says he believes he is part of "the church mission to the Jews, but not in a proselytizing sense." He sees his mission rather as one of reconciliation between Christians and Jews. "There is an authentic and proper witness to the Jews, but proselytization is no part of it. Missions to Jews are upsetting to Jews because they impugn the integrity of Jewish belief. And they are disturbing to Jews and Christians because they undermine the basis of mutual respect, which it has taken so long for us to establish. Most respectable church authorities regard the missionaries to the Jews as eccentric splinter groups of the Christian underworld."

Strong language, indeed. But Peter Jennings, because of his post with the Council of Christians and Jews, is in a unique position. When I asked him how an archbishop would react to these people, Jennings replied: "He would probably shrug his shoulders and say, 'We've all got our extremists.'" (END ART.)

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

HEADING: "PLANTING OF AGENTS AND INFORMERS--IN THE WAR OF THE YESHIVAS AGAINST THE MISSION"

SUBHEAD: "YAD L'AKHIN, THE ORGANIZATION WARRING AGAINST MISSIONARY ACTIVITY, ACTUALLY EMPLOYS TWO PERMANENT EMPLOYEES AND AN ARMY OF YESHIVA STUDENTS, READY FOR ONE-TIME/UNCONVENTIONAL ACTIVITIES."

PHOTOS: 1) Chas. Kopp, manager for 14 years of a Bible Shop on Prophets Street at the corner of Munbaz, a shop whose windows were again smashed this week. 2) A "Yad L'Akhir" activist in a patrol car of the organization. Large material resources are at the disposal of the organization.

QUOTE : This week the windows of two shops dealing in the distribution of Christian scriptures were again smashed. On Monday in the early hours of the morning, heavy concrete blocks shattered the show window of the "Beith Zion" shop on Prophets Street not far from the police headquarters in the Russian Compound, and the Scripture distribution centre on Queen Shlomzion St. The managers of both shops called the police, which began its investigation. It appears that the police also have begun to take this manifestation with the utmost seriousness because of the multiplication of violent attacks against Christian institutions recently. The escalation of antichristian activity of late is an additional stage in the ongoing battle which is waged between Jewish ultraorthodox organizations and various Christian institutions. Those involved are ^{principally} ~~especially~~ Jewish organizations which have set themselves the target of what they characterize the "purging out of the Mission plague." This battle was preceded with verbal violence before the physical violence. Expressions such as "soul hunters," "medieval darkness," "malignant plague," and "monsters who drive their claws in," have for many years been the daily bread of those who follow the activities of these organizations.

The Israeli law prohibits missionary activity--or, more precisely, prohibits the giving of financial benefits in exchange for conversion. This law was passed in the present Knesset at the proposal of the Agudat Yisrael party, but has yet to be activated. According to the leaders of the ultra-orthodox organizations fighting the Mission, the law is inoperable. "Conversion according to this law," the ultra-orthodox opponents explain, "is a bureaucratic act of registry in the Ministry of Religious Affairs, but the problem is that the activities of the Christian organizations among the Jewish population and the promulgation of the ideas of Christianity are wrapped in cellophane."

(NOTE)

"The Mission operates among Jews in distress, mostly real financial distress," the heads of the ultra-orthodox organization "Yad L'Akhir" warring against the activities of the Mission in Israel, explain. "They even approach people who have only just ~~come~~^{come} out of the courtrooms facing fines, or they lie in wait for Jews embittered upon leaving the Employment Offices or Welfare Offices. They offer them financial aid, sometimes arrange work for them in plants or institutions under their management in various places in the country, especially in the north. In exchange for their aid, Jews are obliged to commit their children to be educated at the schools of the Mission which work undisturbed." Listening to the remarks of the Yad L'Akhir activists, one has the picture of the Mission as an octopus with its many arms threatening to take over the entire state. "We also have information," the activists state, "about Jews whom the Mission compelled to leave Israel in exchange for its financial aid."

The heads of the Christian organizations explain, on the other hand, that this law was unnecessary inasmuch as it has never occurred to them to offer financial benefits in exchange for membership in their ranks. Charles Kopp, a member of the "Messianic Congregation in Israel", explains: "There can be no spiritual persuasion by means of material aid. We in any case are not at all interested in this kind of spiritual persuasion."

Not all the violent activities recently against Christian institutions can be attributed to the organizations working against the Mission. In recent months, for example, the Russian Church in the Russian Compound was attacked a number of times. Even the most extremist among the anti-missionary ultra-orthodox organizations admit that this church does not engage in missionary activity. The motive behind the attacks and the graffiti drawing on the walls of the building must be searched for in an entirely different sphere.

Avigdor Arskin came to Israel from the USSR about a year and a half ago, and since that time has managed to spend seven months in prison for breaking in unlawfully into private homes in Hebron. Immediately upon his arrival in Israel he joined the ranks of the "Jewish Defence League" at whose head is Rabbi Meir Cahana. Upon joining the organization, Arskin was made responsible for the activities of the League among Soviet immigrants and head of the "department" which engaged in protest activities against Soviet policies towards its Jewish citizens. Immediately upon entering into his position, Arskin announced that as long as the government of the Soviet Union hurts any of its Jewish citizens, the JDL would strike at the interests of the USSR in Israel. At the same time, Rabbi Cahana and Yossi Dayan, the General Secy of the movement, declared that the Russian Church in Jerusalem serves as a centre for the activities of the KGB within the bounds of the State of Israel. Inasmuch as the recent attacks upon the Russian Church were numerous, the Jerusalem police also recalled the pronouncements of the heads of the League. But while the Jerusalem police began to investigate, the Nablus police arrested Arskin as a suspect in the resistance to the evacuation of Elon Moreh. It appears that the arrest is delaying the investigation in this other matter.

The antichristian activities with a "national-political" background, according to all opinions, is only a small part of the total activities. The principle ^{antichristian} activities in Jerusalem are being executed on a purely religious background, although the heads of the Jewish organizations will stress, of course, the national importance of their activity. The most important of these organizations working in this field is the organization "Yad L'Akhir," or the ^{Torah} Activists in Israel. The organization and its personnel are known better by their abbreviated name, "Ha'Peilim" ("The Activists"). This organization, which was set up close to 30 years ago, does not engage only in the struggle against the Mission. It is also subdivided from an organizational standpoint into several wings (Education, Promulgation of Torah, Absorption of New Immigrants) and the department for the Battle against the Mission is only one of them. Nevertheless, it appears that it is the most important among the departments of the organization, or at any rate, the most prominent among them. At the head of the "Division for the Battle Against the Mission" of the Yad L'Akhir Organization there are two young men, vigorous and energetic who are absolutely familiar, so one gets the impression, with the ultra-orthodox world and the secular

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world. The two, Uri Lubianski and Efraim Ben-Aharon, manage from their small and unimpressive office in the Geula neighbourhood, an extensive operation which, according to them, reaches throughout the land and even abroad. The Division of the Battle Against the Mission works at the same time in two ways, openly and under cover. The overt activity is the exertion of continuous pressure upon ^{various} governmental institutions for the purpose of expediting measures against what they characterize as "the poison penetrating our body by the activists of the Mission." The heads of the division also conduct an extensive correspondence with governmental institutions as well as municipal, public and private bodies, for the purpose of settling the problems of people who are about to fall into the net of the Mission, and this is the overt activity of Yad L'Akhir.

Avi Weinberg (a pseudonym; his true name is filed with the Editor) has known at close hand the organization "Yad L'Akhir" and those who head it. During the course of his studies at one of the yeshivot in Meah Shearim, he even took part in several of the actions of the organization. "The overt action of the Division for the Struggle Against the Mission," Weinberg says, "is nothing but a cover-up for its ^{comprehensive} covert activity, and for this purpose there is at the disposal of the organization a ^{disciplined} army of yeshiva students who respond to every call. "Yad L'Akhir" has a most limited staff of regular employees. In addition to the office work, most of which is done by Uri and Efraim, they are engaged in the gathering of information about Christian and missionary activity throughout the city and the country. It is an open secret, says the former activist, that "Yad L'Akhir" was wont to infiltrate its men into the ranks of Christian organizations in order to gather information, especially concerning Jews who turn to Christian organizations seeking to participate in their activities or to join their ranks. The leaders of Christian organizations are also aware of the infiltration of the "Activists" into their ranks. They inform journalists that they are not at all troubled by this since they have nothing to conceal.

In conversation with the leaders of "The Division for the War Against the Mission" in "Yad L'Akhir" the ^{Activists} deny any link with the violence which has taken place in recent weeks against Christian institutions and shops in the city. According to them, the activity of the organization is variegated, but it does not include illegal actions, as described by a former Activist. A portion of the operations are covert, and the activists of "Yad L'Akhir" are not prepared to give details about what they define with pride as "James Bond" operations of "Yad L'Akhir". Most of their effort, they explain, is invested in infiltrating people into the ranks of the Mission, and these report from within the activities of the Mission, about Jews who make contact with the Mission, in order to obstruct it.

Thus, for example, "Yad L'Akhir" is proud of the fact that several years ago at a conference of Anglican Churches from various places in the world which took place in London, the Israeli representative, the "Yad L'Akhir" people claim, was a woman "plant" of theirs, who had climbed to a senior status in the Anglican Church. The Activists are interested most of all in the names and addresses of Jews who turn to Christian organizations. Avi Weinberg is also prepared to relate that the men of "Yad L'Akhir" do not disdain any means in order to remove these Jews from the ranks of the Christian organizations. One of the more innocent modes of operation, relatively speaking, but especially liked by the Activists, is the delivrance of the names of these people to the Internal Revenue authorities, with "information" attached thereto, of course, concerning their financial deals. This informing action is accompanied by nocturnal telephone harassments in the homes of Jews who are "liable to fall into the net of the Mission." This, in any case, is what those close to "Yad L'Akhir" know about.

Not all the actions against Jews drawing near to Christian institutions are "legitimate." In December 1977, for example, the automobile of one of the members active in the "Messianic Assembly" which was parked near his home in Talpiot, was sabotaged. On the car of another there was glued with non-removable glue a notice upon which was written with giant letters: "CAUTION! A MISSIONARY BEFORE YOU." These jobs are for the most part assigned to volunteers who are enlisted for one-time operations. They are "called to the flag" from their

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place in several well-known yeshivas in Geula and Meah Shearim, to which they return after completion of their assignment. There are also operations which do not require volunteers, but only an acquaintance with the use of the telephone. "Towards the end of 1978," Avi relates, "there took place at a Baptist institution in East Jerusalem the showing of a film with a Christian message by the name of "THE CROSS AND THE SWORD" (sic: probably the "Cross & Switchblade"). After it was known to Uri Luviansky that a number of Jews were seeing the film, one of his men phoned the police and notified them that a drug party was going on within the walls of that Baptist institution. The police arrived at the place and stopped the film for a good while."

The activists of "Yad L'Akhir" know ^{well} how to take advantage of the disputes among the various Christian sects. They are also, of course, familiar with the mysteries of the debates which go on among them. By means of more sophisticated and less sophisticated systems they are wont to inflame the disputes or to create new ones. More than once, so we were told, Christian organizations in Israel have received letters from their headquarters in Europe containing instructions for operation. These letters were composed, more than once, from a distance not very far from the addressees to whom they were sent.

It appears however, that these methods are not employed against "Gentiles" only. Recently there was distributed among the newspapers a notice stating: "If the Government remains indifferent to the situation, and it will not act accordingly and as it is obliged to, then there will be no alternative, and we, all religious Jewry, will take the sharpest measures to curb and restrain the steps of the missionaries, come what may! If necessary, we will also employ force." A brief investigation indicates that the notice was composed in 1973 by a group of ultra-orthodox immigrants from the U.S.A. which broke out of the organization "Yad L'Akhir" at the time and set up a competitive organization by name of "Yad L'Olim" ("A Hand to New Immigrants"). Someone was interested for us to think that that organization "Yad L'Olim" stood for violent actions precisely at this time. (BY: ARYE DAYAN PHOTOS: RAHAMIM YISRAELI)

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

HEADING: "KING SAUL IN THE AUSTRALIAN EXILE"

SUBHEAD: 'The Appeals of the ^{Football} ~~Football~~ King of the 1960s' for Help in Buying a Flat were Rejected. His Appeal to the Mission Also did not Help, and Saul "The King" Mizrahi Emigrated 3 Weeks ago to Australia"

EXCERPTS:The decision to leave for Australia was a hard one, and ripened over a long period...At a certain stage, after despairing of the attention paid to his problem, Mizrahi decided to appeal for the help of the Mission. Here he was promised financial aid in exchange for certain undertakings after he emigrated from Israel. The organization "Yad L'Akhir", which had heard of his appeal to the Mission, succeeded in convincing Mizrahi to abandon his plans, and an aide to the Director of the Division for the War Against the Mission, Efraim Ben-Aharon, even took upon himself the handling of this affair, and for more than a year engaged in extensive correspondence with public figures, Members of the Knesset and "Prazot" (a public housing body), but these efforts also did not succeed. The help sought failed to arrive, and almost secretly the Mizrahi family left Jerusalem and landed about three weeks ago in Australia. According to Ruby Riblin, the departing chairman of the Beitar (Football Assn), Mizrahi himself is to blame for his situation, inasmuch as he did not try to take care of himself, but always hoped that his problems would be solved by others, and when aid did not come quickly, he took the easiest way out from his standpoint and left the country...."During the years that Mizrahi played football there were other players in Beitar whose economic situation was no better than his, nor were they more successful or well-known; nevertheless, they managed to get on, they didn't need the help of the (Football) Society, they didn't turn to the Mission, and they didn't leave the country clandestinely." END EXCERPTS.

DATE: 22.8.80 JOURNAL: "KAUL HA'IR" (HEBREW JERUSALEM WEEKLY) LETTER TO EDITOR

HEADING: "THE MISSION APPROACHED SHAUL MIZRAHI" BY: Efraim Ben-Aharon, Aide to the Chief of the Division of the Struggle Against the Mission of the Organization of "Yad L'Akhir"

PHOTO: Shaul Mizrahi and Ruby Riblin in an Honour Game Organized by Beitar 4 Years Ago.

I wish to relate to the article about "King Saul in the Australian Exile" (Kaul Ha'Ir 15.2.80) in order to set the record straight and to avoid offence (or harm) to Mr. Shaul Mizrahi. (1) In the subheading and in the article it was written that also his appeal to the Mission did not help. Mr. Mizrahi did not appeal to the Mission at all, but a missionary sect in Jerusalem, upon learning of the distress of Mr. Mizrahi, turned to him with proposals for aid. When the organization "Yad L'Akhir" began to attend to the matter, Mr. Mizrahi severed all his ties with the Mission. (2) It was not written that the Mizrahi couple had five children; and it was this that made it so difficult for him to obtain a flat--either from the standpoint of his financial situation or because of the refusal of landlords to let a flat to a large family. The undersigned attended to Mr. Mizrahi for a year and took part in the efforts of the family to obtain a flat, and it is not so that Mr. Mizrahi did not try to take care of himself. The matter of Mr. Mizrahi was raised in many forums, and there were many people who sought to come to his aid, but Saul did not want to be obliged to them. END LETTER (SEE ADDITIONAL ITEM BELOW FOLLOWING ITEM)

DATE: 24.2.80 JOURNAL: "HAMODIYA" (HEB AM AGUDAT YISRAEL) NEWS ARTICLE
 HEADING: "PARLIAMENTARY QUERY OF RABBI ABRAMOWITZ CONCERNING MISSIONARY PROPAGANDA"
 QUOTE : The subject of missionary propaganda on TV was raised in a Parliamentary Query of MK Rabbi Abramowitz to the Minister of Education, Zevulun Hammer. Rabbi Abramowitz noted that the program "A Good Week" on Saturday night several weeks ago was devoted entirely to the choir of the Christian sect "Faith in the Bible", from Degudar (probably "Denver") Colorado in the USA. The moderator of the program related that the people of this church favour a common church for Jews and Christians, its people appear before IDF soldiers and in universities, and the church funds the appearances of the choir. The "tale" of the choir and the church and its character are comparable to the missionary choir of the Christian sect, "Jews for Jesus" (Jay for Jay), but even if this be not so, it is clear that an unequivocal missionary choir is involved here.

Rabbi Abramowitz demands of the Minister that he alert the attention of the parties concerned that there is no place for the presentation of choirs and churches of this type, inasmuch as the missionaries are thus being given legitimization in Israel, which is so lacking to them. He also demands that the concerned parties should in the future investigate thoroughly those who are to appear in these programs and to expose in time their true intentions and purposes, as in this instance, when missionaries have appeared under the mask of men of good will seeking to bring Jews and Christians closer. END

DATE: 21.2.80 JOURNAL: SPORTS NEWS (TELAVIV) NEWS ARTICLE
 HEADING: "KING OF BETAR JERUSALEM EMIGRATED TO AUSTRALIA WITH HELP OF MISSION"
 BYLINE : Our Correspondent in Jerusalem
 EXCERPTS: ...Mizrahi, father of five children, found it difficult to establish himself from an economic standpoint...and in despair turned for help to the Mission, which promised him financial aid in exchange for certain undertakings on his part. The "Yad L'Akhir" society, which is warring against the Mission and tries to rescue families which are being enticed, from the claws of the Mission, tried to provide aid, but all its efforts failed. About a month ago, almost clandestinely, Mizrai bundled his belongings, took his wife and five offspring, and emigrated to far-off Australia. END EXCERPT.

DATE: 17.2.80 JOURNAL: "YE DIOT AKHRONOT" (HEB END PM) FEATURE ARTICLE
 HEADING: "JEWS FOR JESUS GOING OUT TO HUNT SOULS"
 BYLINE : Eli Wiesel
 SUBHEAD: In the United States & Britain a large number of Jewish Missionaries Are Meeting at Present Especially with Students with the aim of leading to their assimilation. Their success is far greater than is recognized.
 QUOTE : The Jewish community in Britain is alert at present to the danger lurking its youth, or at least certain elements among its youth. It appears that also in England the missionaries are revealing diligence and talent in their efforts to draw Jewish youth to them, in order to convert them. As usual, the beginning of this fashion is in the USA, and to our great regret it hasn't disappeared yet. These "Jews for Jesus" one meets everywhere, and especially on campuses, in Long Island (N.Y.) as in the Midwest. Their centres are humming

with activity. Their soul hunters succeed quite often, more often than we are inclined to think. It is no longer a secret that the percentage of Jews among the "Moonies", one of these sects, is quite high. And it isn't different among the other sects. The Jew serves for them a target of the first grade. He is the prey which they prefer above all else.

What do these missionaries do, how do they operate in order to take ^{young} Jew or Jewess into their nets? First of all, they learn well where it is worthwhile for them to operate: In ^{isolated} student circles, among those wandering about, thirsting for love, attention, friendship. "Come with us," they say to these students. "Be like us, one of us; after all, we are also Jews like you, and more than that, when you are Jewish Christians or Christian Jews, you will become true Jews." It appears then that the missionaries entice them and trap them by promising to reveal to them the mysteries of Judaism, and when they have trapped them they hold on to them. They organize festivities, ceremonies, public prayers. Hundreds of Jewish students are present at their "Havdalah" (Post-Sabbath ceremony) near the Long Island campus. Firstly, they go there as they would go to watch a play or to participate in a social event, ^{ix} spending a pleasant evening, to get away from boredom, monotony, to see something different. Some of them are amused--and remain; others are frightened, and go away.

Do I have to state that these methods arouse my ire? The word is not strong enough. Jews have always removed themselves from the vicinity of the missionaries. They believe that they are saving souls, they alone, irrevocably. It would seem, then, that they are working as it were from altruistic premises in their attempt to cut you off from your faith and your people. But the Christian missionaries stir in me less revulsion than their Jewish partners. The former at least are upright, declaring openly that their aim is to add as many Jews as possible to their church, which is to say, to sever them from their God, their sources, and in one word: To slay the Jew within them by causing their assimilation. Their course is clear: The Jew must choose between Judaism and Christianity, and they do their best to influence the choice.

But their Jewish colleagues, "Jews for Jesus", for example, are not upright people, for they are hypocrites. They do not have the courage to state sincerely that they have decided to abandon their people and its memory. When they repeat to their victims who are being enticed that a Jew can be at one and the same time a Jew and a Christian--as if the history of Christendom is not exposed before our eyes to refute this completely--they set a trap for them, whose webs are deceit and lies. This is a particularly invalid method inasmuch as the approach is to the same factor (or element) in the victim which makes him vulnerable; they exploit his weakness, always his ignorance, and sometimes his nerves. They exploit his vulnerability in the realm of love or socially. They offer him a "family" which will replace his family far away or nonexistent, and they offer him "friendship" which is lacking, and they offer him a religious atmosphere, as it were. Afterwards, when the candidate for conversion wakes up to the way he has taken, it is already too late for him to try to retrace his steps. "Operation Enticement" is crowned with success.

I have met desperate ^{weeping} parents who no longer know how they may bring their children back home. I will not quickly forget that Holocaust survivor, of Polish background, who refused to understand it: "Have I indeed remained alive in order that I might fail where my father's succeeded; that I might bring into the world a traitor?" He wept bitterly, and I was unable to comfort him. He rebuked himself, as did other ^{it} parents. The same rebukes: They should have done so, to speak so, to sense/earlier, to act in a different manner. In truth, we are all of us guilty in a considerable degree. When they leave us, these young people accuse us that we let them leave, or worse, that we didn't even sense their estrangement. It may be that this is one of the effects of the ecumenical spirit which was too much celebrated in too many Jewish circles. And perhaps we haven't done enough for these wandering youths, perhaps we didn't understand their spiritual needs, we didn't do enough to guide them in their religious quests. If a young Jew or Jewess turns their back upon us and turns up somewhere else, it is because we haven't done enough to keep them with us. Since religion is what interests and moves them, why didn't we know how to show them the character and richness of our

religion--their religion? Notwithstanding what their parents think, it is still not too late. END FEATURE ARTICLE

SUBJECT NUMBER THREE: EMMA BERGER SECT

DATE: 7.2.80 JOURNAL: "MAARIV" (HEB PM IND) NEWS ARTICLE
 HEADING: "THE GERMANS OF EMMA BERGER HAVE SET UP PLANTS IN ZICRON YAACOV"
 SUBHEAD: "NO ONE KNOWS WHAT THEY ARE PRODUCING IN THESE PLANTS"

BYLINE: Amos Levav

QUOTE : The enactment of legislation against the purchase of land in Israel by foreigners is very close, and in the Ministry of Justice its preparation is being completed. The legislation stems mainly from the massive purchases of land by the Zicron Yaacov Germans, in Benjamina and in other settlements of the Sharon for the religious sect of Emma Berger. The Zicron Yaacov local council confirmed yesterday these details, and it is reported that the Council head, Jesse Shibovsky, is alert to the problem and is in close contact with those who are linked to the enactment of legislation.

The presence of the sect of Emma Berger, "Bethel", in the Sharon region is being felt more and more of late. In Zicron Yaacov the Germans have set up four mysterious plants, and an additional one is in the process of being established. The plants are shut tight and surrounded by a fence. No one knows what is being manufactured inside, and only the Germans are seen in the morning entering and leaving each evening. They have recently purchased buses and trucks on which are inscribed "Bethel--Zicron Yaacov", and are transporting their people in them. They bake the bread they eat and work in the many fields they have bought. Recently many children who are studying in the schools the Germans set up have been seen marching in pairs in the streets of Zicron Yaacov escorted by ^{School} teachers and kindergarten teachers. Discipline in the sect is very strict, and their people have no contact with the local residents. They politely refuse to open a conversation. Recently a local committee has been set up to war against the purchases of land by the Germans, and in the near future an Ottoman Society will be established with its main aim to prevent such land purchases. (END ART.)

DATE: 11.2.80 JOURNAL: "MAARIV" (HEB PM IND) FEATURE ARTICLE
 HEADING: "CONCERN GROWING OVER EXPANSIONISM OF EMMA BERGER SECT: THE GERMANS HAVE ESTABLISHED A 'KIBBUTZ' NEAR ZICRON"

BYLINE : Amos Levav PHOTOS: (1) One of the five plants set up by the sect in the Zicron Yaacov region. (2) "It's forbidden to photograph here, I'll call the police," this young man shouted, and shut the gate of the German farm.

EXCERPTS: The Ministry of Interior recently rejected the petition of the German sect of Emma Berger to permit several groups of their people to settle permanently in Israel. The "Bethel" sect has recently set up a kibbutz in the area of Zicron Yaacov, Banyamina, and Pardes Hanna. The Asst. Gen. Dir. of the Ministry, Judith Hubner, replying to a question, stated: "We answered them negatively, and with capital letters. We do not look with favour upon someone about whom it is not at all clear why he has come to settle in Israel." The Emma Berger^{sect} is the largest property owner in the region...A check by MAARIV reveals that in their plants the Germans are producing bread, noodles and aluminium shutters....

Mrs. Hubner stated that the Interior Ministry does not permit the Germans to stay permanently in the country. "There are groups who from time to time come in cycles and remain in Israel for six weeks," she stated. She confirmed that a man by name of Ulmer Gunter, a central figure in the sect, has been in the country for more than ten years, but he has no permanent residence status--he is a temporary resident--and his children were born in the country, and for more than ten years he has not been in Germany.

A neighbour of the sect in Binyamina said: "These are my only neighbours. They are lovely people. We don't exchange words beyond "Shalom Shalom." They also have among them families from the USA and Canada. They are clean, orderly, with many children. They shut themselves up in their homes, and when my little daughter wants to play with their children, they won't open the gate to them. This is actually rather upsetting. I'm surrounded by neighbours, but actually I don't have any neighbours." ...The neighbour relates that the Germans came

to Israel for religious reasons. They once said to another neighbour: "When the Messiah comes, we will live here and not the Jews." The German sectarians work with great dedication and are known as expert craftsmen in all fields. In the meantime, so it is said, they are producing only for their own needs, but it is hard to understand why a ^{relatively} small group requires the productivity of hundreds of ^{cultivated} dunams of land and up-to-date factories...

Recently, the Agricultural Committee in Zichron Yaacov approved the participation of the Germans in the regional water plan, which led to the resignation of several committeemen and harsh debates. Many people claim that it is not the function of the Agricultural Dept to furnish water to the German fields. Meanwhile, Mrs. Hubner of the Interior Ministry stated last week that they know that the Germans have set up a school and kindergarten. She said she had been invited to visit the Germans, saw the classes and the kindergartens and checked their papers. She reached the conclusion that the Germans are very orderly and that their stay in the country is not illegal. Nevertheless, she agreed that there is no intensive supervision of them. "We don't send inspectors week after week," she stated. In the near future a new law prohibiting the sale of land to foreigners will be prepared. "I have my opinion on this subject," Mrs. Hubner stated, "but I cannot in my position express it," and she again stressed that the Germans would not receive permission to stay permanently in Israel. END EXCERPTS

DATE: 13.2.80 JOURNAL: "YE DIOT AKHRONOT" (HEB PM IND) FEATURE ARTICLE

HEADING: "WHO'S AFRAID OF EMMA BERGER?"

BYLINE: Shlomo Shangar

QUOTE: From the day that our land went onto the map of history, she has been swarming with curious types according to their kind. The pioneer among these strange characters, seeking in Canaan peace of mind and freedom of worship, was an Iraqi from the Land of the Chaldees, to whom it was promised that his seed should multiply here like gravel. Since then our bones have been pierced, it would appear, by a fear of founders of isolationist religious sects. The suspicion that they are liable to be "competitors" to the land which is the delight of the patriarchs, does not give us rest. This exercise is familiar to us from the days of Abram son of Terah, and besides this, we have more than enough troubles with the Palestinians who have suddenly become a people... In the midst of this exclusivist nationalist-clericalist sense ingrained in our blood, we are inclined to ignore sometimes an accepted principle, which we render lip service; namely, that the State of Israel is an integral part of the Whole Land of Israel, and that the Land of Israel is sacred to the three great monotheistic religions. If our acknowledgement of this fact were not entirely fictitious, then we would not periodically become obsessed with a few dozens of ^{Gentile} Germans who have settled in Zichron Yaacov and are living there as an exclusive sect cut off from all contact with its surroundings.

At first we suspected that Emma Berger and "her children" were plotting to ^{hysterical} convert the entire colony of the Baron (Rothschild) from Judaism. When this outcry was proved false—"The missionaries are upon thee, O Samaria!"—then we were somewhat reassured. We saw that there was no danger that "the strange planting" would drag along with it massive strange worship (or idolatry). But the panic over the hunter of tender Jewish souls was soon replaced by the cry to save the holy soil: Why are they buying up so much land, these Christians? Perhaps they are plotting to set up a state within a state? The truth is that without a doubt they are more fearful of us than we of them, and are trying to reduce all suspicion of "German takeover" on portions of the Land of Israel. When they had any contact with their Jewish neighbours, we pointed them out knowingly and cried, "Aha!" And when they retired to their holdings and surrounded them with walls and barbed wire, we ^{exclaimed} "See, see, who knows what they are doing among themselves there..." and we conjured up visions of Doctor Faustus taking shape in their mysterious farm.

As far as we know, they are in the land for the same reason we are; namely, waiting for the coming of the Redeemer. And this, of course, makes them suspect sevenfold, inasmuch as they are Christians, and their Messiah already came 2,000 years ago, so what are they doing here? Do they not know that the rebuilding of the Land is the ^{legitimate} ~~exclusive~~ right of the children of Israel?

Mrs. Hubner, Asst. Director-General of the Ministry of Interior, is not suspect of excessive affection for Christianity, and she indeed arranged a patrol of the area and found only signs of orderliness and cleanliness, typically German. That was the only un-Israeli evidence she elicited. Apart from that, everything was in order, and there were no uncircumcised "illegals" located. All that is left to do now is to enact a law against the purchase of land in the State of Israel by foreigners, and that will be done. We can count on our cabinet ministers Burg, Tamir and Sharon, that on this point they will be in agreement. But the people that dwell in Zion will be very angered when in Germany a regulation is issued forbidding the sale of plots to observant Jews and to Israeli citizens. (END ARTICLE)

DATE: 21.2.80 JOURNAL: "YEDIOT AKHRONOT" (HEB PM IND) LETTER TO EDITOR
HEADING: "RESTRICTION ON ALIENS FROM LAND PURCHASES"

BY : Hayim Stenger, Faculty of Law, Bar Ilan University

QUOTE : It seems that Shlomo Shangar in his column "WHO'S AFRAID OF EMMA BERGER?" (13.2.80 SEE ABOVE BEGINNING PAGE 14 MIDDIE) has performed a very light task when he attacked the intent of a law to be enacted against the purchase of land in the State of Israel by foreigners. The writer remarks that he is completely certain that Messrs. Burg, Tamir and Shamir will do so, but according to him, "The people which dwell in Zion will be very angered when Germany will issue a regulation prohibiting the sale of plots to observant Jews and citizens of Israel." It seems to have escaped the esteemed writer that for some time in Germany a law prohibiting the sale of land to aliens (not necessarily Jews) is in effect, and certain restrictions have been made upon the sale of German land to foreigners--and not only in Germany, but in some 25 countries, among them such as are reckoned to be enlightened (Switzerland, France, Japan, ~~xxx~~ ^{some} of the States in the USA, etc.), restrictions of this kind have been promulgated.

In the book of the American scholar Kivan, "Our Life Among Foreign Nations", we find the following citation: "International law recognizes the authority of every government to determine at its own discretion to what extent it will permit aliens to purchase rights in ~~assets~~ ^{assets within its boundaries.}" We must not make ourselves an object of derision ^{to ourselves} because of the intention to enact such a law, if only for the simple reason that land in general and state land in particular are an asset of the greatest economic importance and ~~in~~ extent, so that the limitation of its sale to noncitizens is only useful on the principle that "Where the interests of the poor of your city and the poor of another city converge, then the poor of your own city take precedence." END LETTER

SHLOMO SHANGAR REPLIES: To the esteemed reader Hayim Stenger, hats off to his wise and correct comments. However, a state and its citizenry which places the purchase of land from foreigners at the head of its priorities will find it difficult to justify morally at the same time to prohibit the sale of land in its territory. That is the point. Moreover, there is no possibility for discriminating in the law in favour of Jewish citizens of Germany who purchase land on Rehov Yarkon in Tel-Aviv, for example, as against other Germans who buy a plot in Zicron Yaacov. Or shall we act according to a "Lex Emma Berger", something which the writer himself does not define as 'self-derision'? END REPLY

DATE: 13.2.80 JOURNAL: "HATSOFEH" (NRP AM HEB) NEWS ARTICLE (KNESSET)
HEADING: "URGENT MOTION OF MK P. SHEINMAN: DISCUSSION OF GERMAN TAKEOVER OF ZICRON YAACOV AREAS"

BYLINE : Yona Cohen ("Yesterday in the Knesset")

QUOTE : MK Pinhas Scheinman, Deputy Chairman of the Knesset, yesterday submitted to the chairman an urgent motion to the agenda on the subject: "The activity of the German missionary sect of Emma Berger and her takeover of significant areas in Zicron Yaacov and the Actions of the Govt to Prevent the Takeover." In his explanatory remarks, Mr. Scheinman wrote: "From reports reaching me from Zicron Yaacov residents, as well as from news published in the media, it appears that the German sect headed by Emma Berger has extended its activity in Zicron Yaacov. There are grave implications to this which call for the raising of the issue for discussion as an urgent motion to the agenda. (END NEWS ITEM) (MORE)

DATE: 13.2.80 JOURNAL: "HAMODIYA" (AGUDAT YISRAEL HEB AM) NEWS BRIEF
 HEADING: "MK GROSS IN URGENT MOTION TO AGENDA: DEMANDS DISCUSSION OF EXPANSION
 OF MISSION IN ZICRON YAACOV"

(This is a similar motion and similar material to previous item by
 (rival NRP party, as noted page 15 SELECTIONS herein.)

DATE: 14.2.80 JOURNAL: JERUSALEM POST (ENGL AM IND) EXCERPT ARTICLE
 HEADING: "IL50m. APPROVED FOR WEST BANK LAND: GUSH EMUNIM BOUGHT 130 DUNAMS
 AT RUJEIB"

EXCERPTS: Gush Emunim supporters purchased 130 dunams of land in 1979 near Rujeib village, the former site of Eilon Moreh, and another 170 dunams elsewhere in the West Bank were bought during the year on behalf of the Israel Lands Administration, Agric. Min. Ariel Sharon revealed yesterday...Defending his actions, Sharon said that land purchasing was not his own private business, but pursued with the full knowledge and backing of the Govt...On the subject of land sales to the Emma Berger group of German Christians in Zicron Yaacov and the Sharon area, the agriculture minister said he intended to propose legislation which would make sales to foreigners more difficult, and thus block the Germans' efforts. The group has been said to have purchased land at four to five times its normal price. On this subject, the otherwise silent Grupper interjected that thanks to his efforts, the Berger group had not succeeded in buying any land in his home town of Atlit. (END EXCERPTS)

DATE: 21.2.80 JOURNAL: "HAHETZ" (HEB AM IND) NEWS BRIEF
 HEADING: "SEEK LAW AGAINST EMMA BERGER"

QUOTE : MK Dov Shilanski appealed to the Likud leadership in the Knesset to reverse its decision not to permit him to submit a private bill forbidding noncitizens from buying up Israeli land. Shilanski claims that during the past year missionary groups have increased their land purchases in Israel and at present there is no law in Israel which forbids this to them, and not only to them--there is no law which would prevent the purchase of "all of Telaviv." Shilanski claims that residents of Binyamina, Zicron Yaacov and the entire region expected that the Likud would display increased awareness of this subject. END NEWSBRIEF

MISCELLANEOUS:

DATE: 20.2.80 JOURNAL: JERUSALEM POST (ENGL AM IND) LETTERS TO EDITOR
 HEADING: "THE OLYMPICS" BY: PAUL FRIEND, ? HALLANDALE, FLA.

QUOTE : I am shocked by the statement of Yitzhak Ofek, President of the Israel Olympic Committee, that the decision as to whether Israel will boycott the Moscow Olympic Games will be made by the state's Olympic Committee without government interference. I trust that there is no problem with the final decision. American Jewry expects and demands a boycott. To attend the games would be an insult and a slap in the face to the U.S. and the American Jews. A decision to attend the games would undermine support for Israel in the U.S. by both Christians and Jews. END LETTER

DATE: 21.2.80 JERUSALEM POST BY: STEVE MORA (CWO-2) USS FORESTAL
 HEADING: "GREAT VISIT"

QUOTE : I would like to thank the people of Haifa and all of Israel because I feel blessed due to them and their country. It is a very rare opportunity for someone of my means to visit the Holy Land. I am thankful that He has seen fit to allow me this gift. I know that my own faith in Him has grown even more. I am so pleased to have seen a nation of people truly proud of their country. I pray that our nation and all the nations of the world remain at peace. END LETTER

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END TRANSCRIPTION/29.2.80
