

SUBJECT NUMBER ONE: ANTICHRISTIAN ZEALOTRY

DATE: 1.2.80 JOURNAL: "JEWISH CHRONICLE" (LONDON ENGL) NEWS STORY

HEADING: "'SHAMEFUL ATTACKS' ON CHRISTIANS"

BYLINE : From Our Correspondent , Jerusalem

QUOTE : Jerusalem city council has called for greater police protection for Christian institutions and clergymen in the city, following a rash of attacks on their property by extremist Right-wing elements believed to be linked with Rabbi Meir Kahane's Kach movement. Slogans have been daubed repeatedly on the walls of the Russian Orthodox Church and bookshops run by church groups, and church windows have been smashed. In a recent attack, Mr. Charles Cope found his Bible shop daubed with black and red paint, and with swastikas and slogans, including the words: "Missionary pigs go home."

The secretary of the Russian Orthodox Church has reported that he and his six-year-old son have been sent threatening letters, and a number of priests have complained of being spat at and cursed by young religious Jews.

Mr. Teddy Kollek, the Mayor of Jerusalem, who is supported by the Ministry of Religious Affairs, has roundly deplored this violence, and urged the police to "deal with the perpetrators of these acts in the way they deal with the perpetrators of terrorist outrages." Mr. Menahem Begin, the Premier, said on Monday that he hoped that "these shameful attacks will end," and added that he felt sure "the police will prevent these terrible acts from being repeated."

In a letter to Mr. Kollek, Mr. David Jaeger, the liaison secretary of the UCCI, stressed the "mounting anxiety within the Christian community...caused by recently stepped up activities of anti-Christian fanatics." Mr. Jaeger specifically cited Rabbi Kahane's group, but he also mentioned other "anti-Christian" groups, believed to be a reference to anti-mission activists in the ultra-Orthodox Mea Shearim area.

DATE: 2.2.80 JOURNAL: "THE TIMES" (LONDON ENGL) NEWS STORY END

HEADING: "CHRISTIAN PROTEST OVER VANDALISM"

QUOTE : Jerusalem, Feb.1.- Leaders of the Christian community in Jerusalem today protested against a spate of vandalism against Christian holy sites and accused the Israeli Govt of failing to act against perpetrators. The protest, presented to Mr. Menahem Begin, the P.M., and foreign consuls in Jerusalem, as well as to the news media, said: "The impression is persistent and pervasive 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 went on: "It is not infrequently said within the Christian community that the perpetrators of such acts enjoy a relative immunity."

The vandals, believed to be Jewish religious extremists who accuse the Christians of missionary activity and of profaning the Jewish character of Jerusalem, have smashed windows in a monastery, painted obscene slogans on a Christian bookshop and anti-Christian slogans on church walls, sometimes with swastika emblems, and damaged property.

The protest was signed by the Rev. Roy Kreider of the UCCI, Fr. Ignazio Mancini, of the Christian Info. Ctr, and Fr. Bargil Pixner of the Dormition Abbey. They represent the Roman Catholic and most of the Protestant denominations in Jerusalem. Mr. Teddy Kollek, the Mayor of Jerusalem, ordered that the city should repair all the damage at its own expense, and the police and officials of the Min. of Relig. Aff. have cooperated in a search for the perpetrators of the damage. But, despite a number of arrests, the attacks have not been stopped.

"We have discussed the possibility of providing a special police guard for the holy sites, but so far, for reasons of budgets and manpower, we have been unable to carry this out," Mrs. Rachel Drori of the Min. Relig. Aff., said. "But we reject the view that this is a sudden wave of vandalism. There have been attacks like these over the past year and before." The clergymen called for an "internationally guaranteed special statute concerning the rights and liberties of the three great monotheistic faiths in Jerusalem," Fr. Mancini said in a phone interview.

Among those detained by the police in connexion with the vandalism were members of the Kach movement led by Mr. Meir Kahane, an American-born rabbi. A spokesman for Kach, Mr. Yossi Dayan, denied that his group had carried out the vandalism, but said he supported attacks on Christian sites in Jerusalem. "It is a Jewish

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obligation to destroy graven images," he said. "The Christians have no place in Jerusalem, which is the Jewish capital."--AP END NEWS STORY.

DATE: 6.2.80 JOURNAL: "THE TIMES" (LONDON ENGL) NEWS STORIES

HEADING: "CHURCHES STRUGGLE FOR RIGHTS IN JERUSALEM"

BYLINE: Christopher Walker, Jerusalem, Feb. 5th.

QUOTE: A campaign is being waged by leaders of many of the main Christian churches represented in Jerusalem to secure new international guarantees for their position inside the city, in the rest of Israel and the occupied territories. Because of complex inter-church rivalries and fierce jealousies over access to the Holy Places, many months have been spent in private consultations aimed at securing unanimity on what type of guarantees to seek. Already private feelers have been put out to win the support of leading R.C. and Prot. churchmen in Britain. A confidential document has also been circulated to interested governments with embassies and consulates in Israel.

A copy of the document, believed to have been Vatican-inspired, reached the "TIMES" today. In a key passage about the controversial possibility of securing international guarantees for Jerusalem, it stated: "The optimal form would be a conjunction for this purpose of several Western states with a traditional interest in (Christianity in) the Holy Land, such as Greece (for Greek Orthodox), Italy, France, Britain and the U.S., as overall guarantor of agreements in the area." The six-page document declared: "The present situation of the Christian churches and communities in the Holy Land is also in large part anomalous, and moreover uncertain and insecure. The whole network of treaties, agreements, concessions, and status quo type arrangements which assure these institutions a whole range of necessary liberties, rights, exemptions, etc...has no firm foundation in statutory or equivalent arrangements recognized as binding on themselves by the civil power, or powers, in the land."

Although the Vatican is known to have played a strong part behind the scenes in the new campaign to secure diplomatic initiative, it has not yet declared its hand publicly. One reason is understood to be fear of upsetting the sensibilities of the influential Greek Orthodox church which traditionally holds primacy in Jerusalem. Explaining the position, one leading R.C. churchman told me: "The whole subject is a minefield of protocol. All the main churches are anxious to be seen acting in concert and not unilaterally. Also, we are determined to see that this becomes a negotiating process rather than a reversion to the 19th Century when churches here appealed to the Christian nations to impose their wills on Jews & Arabs." The churchman, who did not wish his name to be published, denied that the Christian churches were indulging in diplomatic intrigue: "There is a possibility that the Middle East peace process will soon normalize the whole politico-judicial situation in the area," he said. "It is essential that the Christian churches stake their claim before that happens."

The first public pointer to the new campaign came in a single paragraph of a 3-page interchurch statement issued here last week condemning the recent upsurge of anti-Christian violence by right-wing Jewish extremists. The signatories, who represented the R.C. and most Prot. denominations in Israel, demanded "an internationally guaranteed special statute concerning the rights and liberties of the three great monotheistic faiths in Jerusalem and throughout the Holy Land." The Israel Foreign Ministry reacted angrily, accusing the clergymen of "trying to climb on the vandalism bandwagon" in seeking international intervention on the Jerusalem issue. The city is regarded by the present Govt. as the "indivisible" capital of Israel, a point which has been made strongly to Egyptian ministers over recent weeks. A senior F.M. official responsible for dealings with the Christian churches explained: "The position of the Israel Govt. was and is clear. A special statute could be guaranteed not to Jerusalem, but to the various holy institutions and holy shrines in it. In practice I would say that this already exists because the churches have almost complete autonomy in their affairs. END REPORT

HEADING: (TIMES LONDON) "MR. BEGIN PROMISES ISRAEL WILL PROTECT CHRISTIANS"

BYLINE: From Our Own Correspondent, Jerusalem, Feb. 5th.

QUOTE: Mr. Menachem Begin, the Israeli P.M., has attempted to defuse the growing international controversy over the recent upsurge of violent attacks against Christian institutions, worshippers and holy sites in Jerusalem. In a short statement yesterday which was later relayed to church leaders by an official, (MOA)

Mr. Begin said: "The authorities will not tolerate acts of this kind. By the laws of Israel all faiths enjoy absolute freedom of worship, protection of their properties and freedom of access to their shrines. The Govt of Israel upholds these principles in the fullest measure just as it has always done in the past in the spirit of respect of all the faiths represented in Jerusalem. Indeed, we take pride that since the reunification of our capital city, Jerusalem has enjoyed the harmony of co-existence and mutual toleration. The authorities, therefore, will do their utmost to prevent the recurrence of such intolerable criminal acts."

No details of specific measures are being given. Among the targets have been historical buildings such as the Russian Orth. church and the Mt. Zion monastery, and bible shops which have been daubed with slogans and swastikas. The attacks are believed to be the work of extreme rightwing orthodox Jewish groups. Mr. Begin's intervention followed a well-publicized claim last week by leaders of the normally reticent Christian community that the Israeli authorities were not taking sufficient action to curb the Jewish extremists. A spokesman for the UCCI described the P.M.'s statement as reassuring. He added that its implementation would be followed "very closely." END

DATE: 9.2.80 JOURNAL: "LE MONDE" (PARIS FRANCE) FRENCH NEWS ARTICLE

HEADING: "THE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY DENOUNCES THE INCREASE OF HOSTILE ACTS AGAINST IT"

BYLINE: Our Correspondent (Jerusalem) Francis Cornu.

EXCERPTS: After the "reunification" of Jerusalem following the 1967 war, the Israeli authorities were always careful to demonstrate that under their sovereignty the interests of the three great religions were equally and fully guaranteed. This image was designed to dispute any assaults upon the annexation of East Jerusalem, but has become a little tarnished in the wake of several incidents. A series of acts of vandalism have been committed during the course of the past two weeks against institutions of the Christian churches. Considered by themselves, the incidents would appear of little importance, but their increase and their possible significance in the eyes of many representatives of Catholic and Protestant institutions justified the publication on the 31st January a communiqué concerning a state of "unease" among the Christian community of Jerusalem at the "intensification of antichristian violence." (There follows a description of a number of the incidents...on Mt. Zion Abbey, the Russ.Orth. Church, Bible Bookshops, Christian Info. Ctr....followed by several lines about Meir Kahane and his activities.)

The communiqué, published in the name of the Christian community, was signed by representatives of the UCCI (which comprises Protestant movements) and the Christian Info. Ctr (R.C.). It was also submitted to the three patriarchs--Latin, Greek Orthodox and Armenian. This appeal takes a particular character because, besides the facts in question, it denounces a climate. Choosing their words with care, the signatories underlined the fact that their unease was aggravated by an "impression", according to which the authors of the aggressive acts were able to enjoy a "relative impunity," and that the attacks might be provoked by an "exclusivist conception" of the character of Jerusalem. This is certainly a way of expressing discreetly a certain disquiet (? "remise") because of the ~~antichristian~~ ^{Jewish} rule over Jerusalem, and more generally, of the Israeli Govt. policy.

To date there has not yet been any official reaction. The Minister of Relig. Affairs has minimized the importance of the affair. It seems anyway that in gov't circles the communiqué has caused embarrassment, if not irritation....The text suggests that the recent events have been the occasion for recalling the project "hoped for by the churches and the international community" of a "special international statute guaranteeing the rights and liberties of the three great monotheistic religions in Jerusalem."...a project proposed a long time ago by the Vatican, which the Pope John Paul II again mentioned in October in New York before (the UN. END

DATE: 27.2.80 JOURNAL: "YEDIOT AKHRONOT" (HEBREW A.M. INDEPENDENT) NEWS STORY

HEADING: "'MISSION WARRIOR' CONTINUED HIS WAR IN PRISON CELL: AFTER BEING ARRESTED ON CHARGE OF ARSON AT CHRISTIAN BIBLE SHOPS IN JERUSALEM, REUVEN PELEG BURNED HIS MATHESIS, TOOK OUT TAP, AND INJURED OFFICER."

BYLINE: "YEDIOT AKHRONOT" Correspondent. (F.)

QUOTE: Yesterday at the District Court in Jerusalem a charge sheet was submitted against Reuven Peleg for setting fire to Christian Bible shops. The prosecution charges that Mr. Peleg, who is now undergoing observation at the Psychiatric Hospital in K'far Shaul, attempted to damage two shops, "BETH ZION" and "LAFID". (MORE)

The first part of the report deals with the general situation of the country. It is noted that the population is increasing rapidly, and that the government is making every effort to improve the conditions of the people. The report also mentions the progress of the various departments of the government, and the state of the economy.

In the second part of the report, the author discusses the various reforms that have been introduced. These include the establishment of a new system of taxation, the improvement of the judicial system, and the reorganization of the administrative departments. The author also mentions the progress of the various public works projects, and the state of the education system.

The third part of the report deals with the financial situation of the country. It is noted that the government has managed to reduce its debt, and that the budget is in surplus. The report also mentions the progress of the various public works projects, and the state of the education system.

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In one of the incidents he broke the shop window and threw into it cotton wool and straw soaked in kerosene. When he was arrested, Peleg confessed to the charges made against him and claimed that "these are shops of missionaries trying to convert Jews, and the refore I'm fighting against them." In his cell at the Russian Compound Peleg continued his fight. He set fire to the mattress in his cell and a fter the fire was extinguished and he was removed to another cell, tore out the water tap there and tried to flood the place. A police officer who tried to calm the prisoner took some blows on his face which broke his nose, so that the prisoner was also charged with assault and battery. Reuven Peleg will be brought today to court for the purpose of extending his detention until the completion of legal processes against him. END

DATE: 27.2.80 JOURNAL: JERUSALEM POST (ENGLISH AMIND.) LETTER TO EDITOR

HEADING: "SHOCKING STATEMENT"

(BY: The Rev. Dr. G. Douglas Young,

QUOTE : I am shocked by the appeal made (Director, Bridges for Peace, J'lm) by representatives of the Jerusalem Christian community in your edition of Feb. 1st. As a Christian, I wish to state that I have had no part in the statement and wish to disassociate myself from it completely. It is particularly upsetting when representatives of religious groups and countries complain today on relatively minor issues when they were silent when that which was far worse than vandalism was being perpetrated against Jews in Europe (1932-1945), or when vandalism against synagogues occurs in their countries.

Since "international guarantees for the religious holy places" in one country by representatives of another country could never be made workable--there being absolutely no way they could be implemented--attacks by these and other Christian groups must be seen as no more than attempts to make Israel look bad in the eyes of the world. Vandals are everywhere and no country's government can be held responsible for their actions. Vandalism here is always by minority irresponsible groups. In the cases cited by the church groups, the government naturally agreed to put their curbing on their unusually heavy agenda in dealing with terrorists, possible war, peace, economics and other items. The "offended" should use the legal options open to them in a free society, if they wish. The better way is the way of appeal to law and quiet order, and not the way of protesting by threatening.

DATE: 2 Mar 1980

(END LETTER)

HEADING: "CHRISTIAN FAILURE"

BY: Grant Booth Livingstone, J'lm

QUOTE : When covering vandalism against Christian property, you were not at fault (as Revd. Kreider's letter complained) in reporting that some parties making an international fuss about a few broken windows were reflecting their own hostilities against Israel. Though not personally sharing this hostility, treating it as a legitimate variation of Christian opinion, he associates with an attitude heretical against the Bible and opposed to Christian duty towards Israel. The vandals themselves do enough harm to Israel, attacking not hostile elements, but some of Israel's best Christian friends. In Israel's present peril, for either Jew or Christian to weaken her abroad undermines peace itself.

Both Jewish and Christian faiths stand on one foundation: the divine inspiration of the Bible, or they stand on nothing. In 300 explicit passages, the Bible confers unconditional ownership of the Holy Land "for ever" on the Jewish people and foretells their long bitter exile and the miracle of their return. Jeremiah prophesied 25 centuries ago that Israel's regathering in our day would eclipse the miracles of the original Exodus as a proof that God lives and is shaping history precisely according to His plan.

In his letter, Revd. Kreider's chief fallacy is his statement that boundary questions are no concern of the Christian church. Acts 17:26 says boundaries are directly God's business. Is that none of the Christian church's business? The boundaries of Israel are of specific concern, because of their prophetic significance and because the accuracy and authority of the Scriptures (on which the Christian hope depends) is directly at stake in fulfilment of God's promises to Israel. Should the Bible fail towards Israel, how should it stand for the Christians? God will not fail either! He will be faithful to His two witnesses, Jews & Christians. By the fallacy of shunning Israel's problems as "politics," instead of sharing their burden as PROPHECY, Christians have deeply failed this blind and perverse generation. Christians loyal to the Bible need urgently to repent for not making it clear to the Arab peoples that it is not just the Jews, but God Himself they are opposing in claiming His land for their possession & pride, which can only bring on them (MORE)

the severities foretold in the Bible. END LETTER.

SUBJECT NUMBER TWO: "THE MISSION"

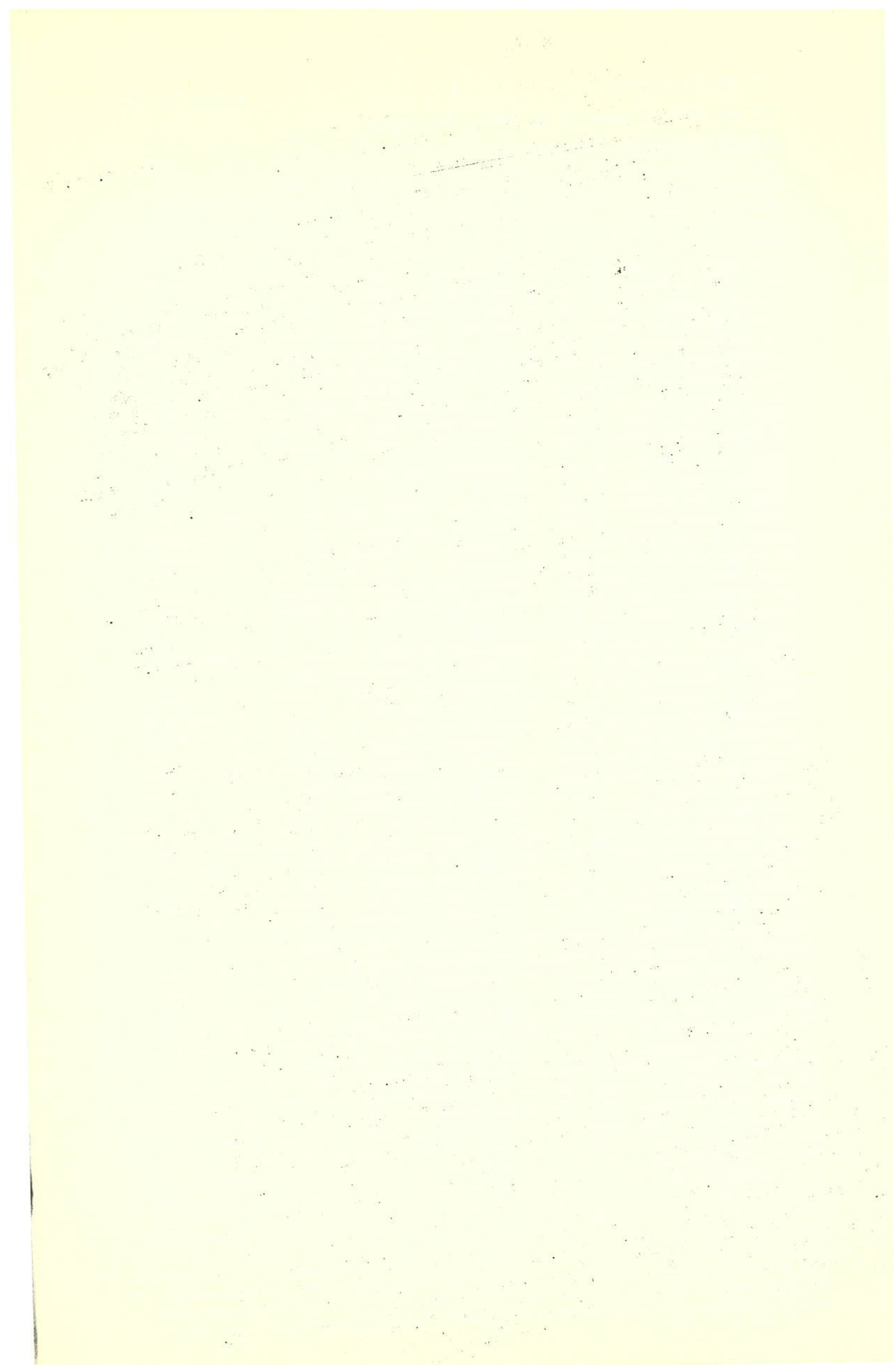
DATE: 20.2.80 JOURNAL: "HATSOBEH" (HEB AM N.R.P.) NEWS STORY
 HEADING: "'NEST' OF MISSIONARY ACTIVITY UNCOVERED IN PETAH TIKVA"
 BYLINE: Moshe Levy, Our Petah Tikva Correspondent
 QUOTE: In the home of a Jewish family which lived at the centre of Petah Tikva there has recently been uncovered a "nest" of missionary activity. In the home there is a store of material belonging to the Mission, such as books, tracts, and ~~other~~ material. The family lived alternately at Petah Tikva and at the Baptist Village (a Christian village near Petah Tikva). The Chairman of the "YAD L'AKHIM" organization in Petah Tikva, Rabbi Shlomo Schwartz, has informed our correspondent that neighbours of this family reported suspicious activity in this home. The activists of "Yad L'Akhim" made contact with the family, and the activity of the "nest" was liquidated. Rabbi Shlomo Schwartz asks the public to report similar activities. In the wake of the swift handling of the situation by "Yad L'Akhim" workers in Petah Tikva, the head of the family has begun to attend Jewish Studies circles at the "Yad L'Akhim" centre in town. END

DATE: 29.2.80 JOURNAL: "YEDIOT AKHRONOT" (HEB PM IAD) NEWS BRIEF
 HEADING: "WAR AGAINST THE MISSION"
 QUOTE: The activists organization "YAD L'AKHIM" published this week in the (Geula) neighbourhood notices in giant letters warning the public of the Mission, which it claims has "recently taken advantage of the severe material situation as a base for its activities, and especially in the new neighbourhoods of Jerusalem where new and old-time immigrants are in serious economic condition." The organization asks that all missionary activity which turns up in Jerusalem be reported to them. END

DATE: 29.2.80 JOURNAL: "KON YERUSHALAYIM" (HEBREW "MAARIV-RELATED"/^{JLM}WEEKLY)
 HEADING: "MISSIONARIES SETTING UP 'BASES' IN NEIGHBOURHOODS"
 QUOTE: Missionary activity is spreading into the new neighbourhoods in Jerusalem. Complaints have reached the Dept for the War Against the Mission in Jerusalem concerning the distribution of "Messianic" tracts in the homes of residents, the renting of flats for mission activities among children and adults. This was reported by the organization "Yad L'Akhim." Two missionaries, Geoffrey (Zif?) Ulrich and Nancy Wiffel, rented a flat in Ramat Sharat for use as a base for their activity in the neighbourhood. In Neve Yaacov a missionary couple made house visits, while teachers have reported that the children are bringing "explanatory" material in the form of tracts to school. It has been disclosed that the source of the missionary activities is in Shivtei Yisrael Street. In East Talpiot two German women are preaching in the course of house visits. They rented a flat locally. In Ramot a flat was let to a missionary belonging to the sect "Jews for Jesus" who has also begun an information campaign. END

DATE: 29.2.80 JOURNAL: "SPORT NEWS" (TEL AVIV) HEBREW NEWS STORY
 HEADING: "MI ZRAHI DID NOT EMIGRATE TO AUSTRALIA WITH THE HELP OF THE MISSION-- HIS BROTHER STATES." (SEE SELECTIONS No. 74, page 10, Date: 15.2.80)
 BYLINE: Meir Gabai (" " 74 page 10 bottom & p.11 bot.)
 QUOTE: "I don't know where you got the item headlined "SHAUL MI ZRAHI KING OF HETAR EMIGRATED TO AUSTRALIA WITH HELP OF MISSION" (21.2.80), the older brother of Shaul Mizrahi, Eli Alon, a senior officer in the Israeli Police, told me yesterday. Saul's brother responded angrily yesterday, "This wierd irresponsible report is without foundation and has greatly harmed the family and his many friends causing real distress. It's strange how hurriedly such a grave charge is published when Saul isn't in the country and can't react himself." Eli Alon added: "As his brother, in close touch with him and knowing his hesitations, I cannot justify his trip to Australia, but Saul was the father of five children, and decided to go abroad for a period of a few years in order to set himself up financially and then return to Israel. He asked for leave from Egged (Bus Co.). He needed no one, and certainly not ~~the~~ Mission. He traveled with the aid of his brother-in-law, Eli Zohar, who lives in Perth, Australia, who financed the voyage, and helped him open a restaurant partnership with him, and also found him a 5-room flat. I'm certain that Saul will return once he's established himself. It just seems his luck wasn't with him here and he couldn't make it. Saul's children are studying at a Jewish school in Australia and wearing "kippot" (skullcaps), something

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which they didn't do while they were in Israel. Saul also respects Jewish tradition always." An additional detail that Mizrahi's brother sought to clear up: "In the same news report there was a detail which is liable to be misleading, about Beitar Jerusalem having a game in honor of Saul, "the returns of which were dedicated to Saul." His brother adds: "Allow me to comment that that game of honor was a friendly derby in Katamon (J'lm neighbourhood) attended by a very small crowd and the income was divided with another player of Beitar (compensation for Hayim Azoulai who had to retire because of injury). Saul's portion was about IL 4,000 only. Then I said to my brother: 'Saul, keep your self-respect and don't touch any of this money.'"

In a conversation with the Secy of the organization "Yad L'Akhir" in Jerusalem Mr. Moshe Porush stated: "The Mission indeed tried to mix in, but Saul did not respond to them at all. Anyway, Saul's voyage came about a half year later."

DATE: 29.2.80 JOURNAL: "HATSOE'EH" (HEB AM NRP) COMMUNICATED ARTICLE (END)

HEADING: "A DAY WITH THE WARRIORS AGAINST THE MISSION: "YAD L'AKHIM"

BYLINE: P. Shoham THE ORGANIZATION OF ACTIVISTS (HEILIM)

QUOTE: The slightly tense/effervescent atmosphere reigning in the Dept for the War Against the Mission of the Activists Organization of "Yad L'Akhir", is mingled with a restrained quiet, alongside the complex and variegated activities of the Dept, which creates a strange combination of opposites which characterize this special department which we traced one day as observers from outside watching the course of action. The personnel of the Jerusalem dept. are a small restricted team but skilled in its work and familiar with its task. Notwithstanding the abundance of work they do not lose their cool. With satisfaction and poise they deal with the many appeals, whether phoned in or made personally, which reach them unceasingly.

A telephone call from one of the neighbourhoods in Jerusalem. The resident relates that in one of the buildings a flat has been let to two non-Jewish women who are studying at an ulpan. Their purpose in the new neighbourhood is unclear. The call is transferred to the division for preventive action. A detailed and precise investigation is made, and the conversation is recorded in the minutes. At the conclusion of the conversation, we inquire about the need for so many details. In reply, L., the head of the dept., pulls out an up-to-date cross-reference card file. He compares the number of the automobile of the women who were referred to only now with the list of auto numbers of the personnel of the Mission in Jerusalem. Additional comparisons are made, and it becomes clear that the women belong to a certain sect. The auto appears on the list, and it is identified as a car belonging to the Messianic sect in Jerusalem. The division will see to it very soon that the residents of the area will be warned of the danger lurking for them in their neighbourhood--L. explains to us.

An elderly man appears in the humble office of the department. He asks to speak face to face with someone of the staff. It is a personal matter, he explains. He is turned over to the care of A., the division man for attention to families. There is a lengthy conversation, quiet but tense, and again details are recorded. At the conclusion of the conversation, the man rises, warmly shakes hands, and it looks as if a stone has rolled off his heart. "I hope you will do something," he remarks in parting. A. relates: "This man who not too long ago was a man of means sustained economic losses, but he was not discouraged and hopes to rehabilitate himself. The problem is that his wife was accustomed to a high standard of living, and is unable to adjust to the lower standard of living, and thus she arrives home one day and out of the blue brings out a passport, telling her husband that they are emigrating to one of the lands in the West, where she has been promised help. "We will again rehabilitate our lives," she says. Her husband was astonished, for he had already sensed strange and incomprehensible activity on the part of his wife, and asked her: "Where did you get the money for the trip, and how come you're so sure it will work out 'there'." "There is someone looking out for us," she answers smiling. The husband at once suspected the source of money. He sees suspicious signs, and he asks directly: "Are you in touch with the Mission?" "What does it matter where the money comes from, the main thing is that we can live again like human beings," she answers. The husband, born of a notable family, is unwilling to reconcile himself to the idea, whatever the cost. He slams the door and looks for help, whereupon a friend directs him to YAD L'AKHIM. (MORE)

"What is it possible to do to help out in such a case?" I asked A. "There are several stages of operation," he replies. First of all, we must encourage the husband, and suggest to him how to act with regard to his wife's plans. It is necessary to find a way to have a serious talk with the wife and to make her understand the high price she may have to pay if her plan takes effect. What interests us is also the source of the enticing proposition. They also have to be put in their place... Another point requiring investigation is how the woman got the passport in the Interior Ministry. There are several suspicious points here, and everything has to be investigated soon and fundamentally. A file was opened. "It won't be closed," A. promises, "until with God's help, the contact with the Mission is severed, and all the problems on the periphery of the case are handled."

We glanced at the file relating to families. The recent economic distress makes it swell daily. There are much harder cases than what has just been told. At least in that instance one side was cooperating. In most of the other instances people who are at the brink of despair are involved, for it must be understood that a Jew who has reconciled himself to the fact that he make contact with the Mission does so for the most part after he has exhausted all other means, and what is especially difficult, of course, is the fact that department does not give financial support to those who turn to it, for the simple reason that it doesn't have the means, especially inasmuch as in most of the instances housing problems are the largest portion of the problems being handled, or also when great financial distress is involved. Indeed there are extra-ordinary instances when a tiny bit of support or not-too-large loan is sufficient to "cool" the fever of despair, but also to avoid situations of blackmail or in order to prove that "it is impossible to sell one's soul", as A. stresses, it is a principle almost always not to enter into financial negotiations. How else, then, can help be given? A. explains to us that there are cases when a quiet hearty conversation, exhibiting concern and interest together with good counsel, in many cases leads to second thoughts among such persons, especially when added to the remarks are words of admonition concerning the sin of planning to leave Judaism for filthy lucre. But in many other instances this is insufficient, and it is necessary to act with persistence unceasingly by means of ties with Govt and Municipal bureaus. "We have cultivated a set of excellent connections with some of the institutions," A. tells us, And indeed, in the ~~xxxxxx~~ ^{diary} we find a closely written calendar of meetings with various clerks at "Perazoth" and in the rehabilitation department of the municipality, with Members of Knesset from various parties, with social workers and lawyers. In Israel, of course, it is impossible without an extensive directory with almost all government and municipal offices. Even if there is not always a successful result, the energetic and dedicated attention to every problem convinces the person turning to them that they are in good hands. This fact alone is sufficient to reassure them and lead to the severance of ties with the Mission.

In the course of the conversation with the division man for family cases, we overhear additional conversations which come to the department. There are reports and consultations with the staff of the department working in the branches of "YAD L'AKHIM" in the centre and north of the country. From the centre there is a report about the missionary school in Jaffa which has taken in that very day two more Jewish children. There is also the joyful news about the removal of the "Krishna" sect from their centre in Herzliya. From the north there comes a report about the activity of the "Guru" sect which, after being removed from its centre in Ramat Gan, transferred its activity to Haifa, and also about the extremist sect "Jehova's Witnesses" ("Ayday Ha'shen"), among whom everyone who is trapped in its net is obliged to serve as a missionary activist to recruit other souls to the sect. A news item which appears in a local paper in Haifa, relating ^{shocking family} the tragedy caused by this sect, stirs reverberations and crystallizes public activity against this sect. A significant portion of the activities of the staff in the north is directed toward the curbing of the activity of the missionary Emma Berger who is taking over large areas in the Zicron Yaacov, Binyamina and Pardess Hanna. The staff of the department organize local committees to fight this grave phenomenon.

Someone enters the office and in his hand is a thick envelope containing mostly missionary material which was sent by a well-known Yeshiva head who had received it direct from Canada. The Yeshiva head was shocked to find among the material

a tract directed to rabbis, in which it is related how a long list of "rabbis" converted to Christianity...yes, this problem of missionary propaganda distribution is most serious, L. complains. The post offices are full of packages of books and tracts directed to tens of thousands of homes in Israel. A simple calculation proves that the financial problem does not weigh heavily on the organizations of the Mission. The package just arrived is worth at least IL500...

It's hard to understand how the department staff manage to handle such a huge variety of problems. True, there is a dedicated and talented staff at their side, activists who do their work faithfully and humbly. But the news that reaches them demands attention besides the guidance for the continuation of operations. L. avoids elaborating on this topic. "You can get from ~~the~~ stories that might well take up a significant place in the newspaper headlines, but it is an iron rule among us," L. explains, "despite the need to publish in order to expand the public base for the war against the mission, we do not report for publication any detail which is liable to harm, even in the slightest degree, the rescue and preventive operation. There is also a special sensitivity to avoid hurting the families which are involved." We heard this explanation also beforehand in a reply to a journalist who wanted to publish a story about the activities of the department. True, this is a limitation which blocks many possibilities of advertising the struggle, but the rescue of souls is of course prior to any other interest.

This day of activity which, according to L., is most routine, and in which there were no especially astounding occurrences, taught us much about the activities of the department which in a persistent and stubborn battle going on for many years has worked wonders in secret ways of rescue, for the curbing of the criminal phenomenon of soul trapping in Israel, which but for the activity of that handful of enthusiasts with its meagre means in the face of the vast sums poured into the various mission organizations, resembles the war of little David against Goliath. But were it not for this warfare, in which most of its operations are secretive, who knows how many victims would have fallen, Heaven forbid, and to what extent there would have been success, Heaven forbid, in spreading their net? On this Sabbath ^{on which} we read the portion (of the Torah) "Remember what Amalek did unto you," which is dedicated to the war against the Mission, let us express our appreciation by word and deed for the dedicated activity of those young people, unknown soldiers in the war against apostasy. (SUBMITTED BY THE ORGANIZATION OF ACTIVISTS OF "YAD L'AKHIM") END

DATE: 29.2.80 JOURNAL: "HAMODIYA" (HEB AM AGUDAT YISRAEL) COMMUNICATED

HEADING: "ONE DAY WITH THE WARRIORS AGAINST THE MISSION"

(SAME AS ABOVE: "SUBMITTED BY IRGUN PEILIM YAD L'AKHIM")

SUBJECT NUMBER THREE: SECTARIANS IN ISRAEL

A. EMMA BERGER. DATE: 4.3.80 JOURNAL: "HAARETZ" (HEB AM IND) NEWS ITEM

HEADING: "GRAFFITI SCRAWLED ON WALLS OF GERMAN NEIGHBOURHOOD IN BINYAMINA"

BYLINE : Asher Kiszner, "Haaretz" Correspondent in Sharon

QUOTE : Graffiti "Nazis" and large swastikas were recently scrawled on the wall of the German neighbourhood in Binyamina which belongs to the Emma Berger sect. The graffiti were written in Hebrew and with red paint near the group of houses adjacent to the local railway station. They were erased by the sectarians after a few days. One of the sectarians, Siegfried Seibold, complained about the incident to the police of Zicron Yaacov, which opened an investigation. The local council head, Mr. Moshe Lauer, visited the site and said that he would send workers to erase the inscriptions, but the sectarians did it first. One of the sectarians said that the graffiti were drawn again several times after they were erased, and therefore the sectarians decided to let them remain. The police also report that this is not the first time that pejorative slogans are scrawled in that place, and in the past the police succeeded in catching those responsible, as reported in the local regional paper, "Gefen." END

DATE: 4.3.80 JOURNAL: "MAARIV" (HEB PM IND) NEWS BRIEF

HEADING: "NAZIS, GO HOME" WRITTEN ON THE HOUSES OF THE GERMANS IN BINYAMINA"

BYLINE : Amos Levav. (This is about the same as the previous item, but also notes that the local Binyamina council discussed the possibility of denouncing the perpetrators, but the matter was apparently dropped.)

MORE

DATE: 5.3.80 JOURNAL: "YE DIOT AKHRONOT" (HEB PM IND) EDITORIAL

HEADING: "LET THEM RISE UP AND EXPLAIN IT!"

BYLINE: Dr. H. Rosenbloom (Editor)

QUOTE: For some time there is a feeling of discomfort among the public concerning the extensive operations of the German sect "Bethel" of Ms. Emma Berger in Zicron and in Binyimina, whose aims have not been clarified nor what exactly is her object among us. The thing has become a riddle. As a result, there has been a wave of violence directed against her, including the affixing of offensive inscriptions on her houses, and there is no certainty that this will be the end of the dispute. For at a time when many Jews are angered and others are trying to respond with force, the sect makes not the slightest response for the purpose of explaining its position. Now, this cannot continue in this manner, for although the violence is not right, notwithstanding all the accusations against the sect, since it casts a shadow over us far more than it does over it; nevertheless, in order to eliminate it, the sect must arise and speak out. Ms. Emma Berger, the leader of the sect "Bethel, must leave aside her reserve, and explain to the public what exactly are her aims and for what purpose she is accumulating lands and houses among us, and perhaps this will help to quiet and calm things among us and diminish the hostility towards her.

DATE: 22.2.80 JOURNAL: "MAARIV" (HEB PM IND) ARTICLE SUBJ. 3-B "IR OVOT"

HEADING: "EXTREMISTS FROM THE RIGHT AND FROM THE LEFT EMIGRATED FROM AMERICA"

SUBHEAD: "The Common Denominator--and the Distinctiveness--among Meir Cahana, Marcia Friedman, Rav Moshe Hirsch, Dr. Naomi Kiss, and Simha Perlmutter, Their Bringing to us an Extremist Enthusiasm and Uncompromising Position, Each One in his Sphere and his Circle."

PHOTOS: Marcia Friedman: Feminist Movement; Dr. Naomi Kiss, "White Panther"; Moshe Hirsch: From Torah and Daat (Knowledge) to "Praises for Arafat"; Meir Cahana: Presence in Brussels; Simha Perlmutter: Among the Followers of "Rabbi Yeshua". BYLINE: Yaacov Ha'Elyon

EXCERPTS: They have positions of leadership in every extremist group. Some of them rule over what may be characterized "the lunatic fringe" of society, while about others it might be said that their behaviour is governed by characteristics of "aggressive citizenship." All of them are graced with unbounded zeal and some of them require disreputable means, if only to attain their ends. What is equally common to all of them is this: They have all returned their U.S. passport, or have supplemented it with an Israeli one, motivated by an ideal and an ideology. Each one with his ideology: Rabbi Meir Cahana--and Dr. Marcia Friedman, Moshe Hirsch of Neturei Karta (ultra-orthodox antizionist Jewish sect), Dr. Naomi Kiss, who in her day tried to reorganize the Panthers movement--and Simha Perlmutter, who established the city of Ovot in the Negev; and many others. (The article goes on to describe the background and activities of Cahana, Hirsch, and continues under the heading: "IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF JESUS AND SHOEM ASCH...")

In time there settled in Ir Ovot in the Negev an "eccentric" ^(OR "BIZARRE") American whose feet led him here from Miami, Florida. Simha Perlmutter, now age 49, married to two wives, father of eight, grandfather of four, an Orthodox Jew who is strict on both minor and major observances of the commandments--and believes...in Jesus. But not as the Christians is his faith. He is attracted to "Rabbi Yeshua" as an historical figure, and supports his teaching "in the manner of the faith of Shoem Asch..." He was a journalist in Miami, propagandized on behalf of aliya, but met with hostility when he sought assistance for arranging his own emigration to Israel, because of his "deviation" in the matter of Yeshua. In 1966 he arrived in Israel. In the empty desert near Ein Yahav, with two other families that had accompanied him, he found his future. They said about him: "The man is mad!" And indeed, they looked at him as "a strange critter", someone you do n't know "how to digest." He had to fight an exhausting campaign, also in the courts, in order to be recognized as a Jew, and to be entitled to live in a place altogether isolated, ^{vast} and desolate, to make a livelihood from a humble kiosk for wayfarers and from primitive "agriculture." His slogan was "stubbornness", and this was the second title he bestowed upon his tiny settlement. His troubles multiplied, until ^{General} Yeshayahu Gavish, former Southern Commander, had pity on him and those with him, and moved them over near to Hatseba, where there was more water and better conditions. It was only in 1977 that the authorities deigned to recognize Ir Ovot as a settlement. Its members chose the kibbutz lifestyle "in order that no one among us would ask for himself a portion in the general property," (MORE)

as he told me this week. Ir Ovot, which was a mirage in the desert, yielded the fruit of "stubbornness". Today there are 15 families living on the site, 55 persons living from a toy plant, from a trucking company, and from winter vegetables. "But not this year. We are not working the soil during the year of sh'mita" (Sabbatical year). Has Perlmutter come into his inheritance? Not quite. "I am now weighing seriously entry into politics. What for? Is it necessary to say that the State is crying for change? Look, it's impossible just to sit quietly..." (END EXCERPTS)

DATE: 9.3.80 JOURNAL: JERUSALEM POST (ENGL AM IND) NEWS ARTICLE

HEADING: "JEWISH-CHRISTIAN 'KIBBUTZ' WANTS RECOGNITION"

BYLINE : Benny Morris, J.Post Reporter

QUOTE : Ir Ovot, the "Jewish-Christian" settlement near Hatzeva in the Arava, has applied to the High Court of Justice demanding government recognition of its existence and its name. The Interior Ministry has opposed such acknowledgment because of the beliefs of the 15-family kibbutz, founded in 1966 and granted Jewish Agency recognition in 1977. Its members call "Rabbi" Jesus the last and greatest prophet. The ministry's committee on settlement names has for years opposed the name Ir Ovot, arguing that the Biblical site of that description was in Sinai. "They have suggested that we call our settlement Sheizaf Hatzeva, Shezaf or Ohalim," says Ir Ovot founder Simha Pearlmutter, who last week announced his candidacy for the Knesset as leader of the AyeKa party.

In their application to the High Court, the settlers point out that the Ariel Encyclopedia and the Biblical Encyclopaedia (Encyclopaedia Mikra'it) both refer to the location as a possible site of the Biblical Ir Ovot, as does Zv Vilnay in his "Sinai: Past and Present." As one of Pearlmutter's two wives, interviewed in Jerusalem, put it: "Why should we change our baby's name when he is 15 years old because some committee says so?"

The kibbutz, which was founded as a moshav shitufi and is a member of the Ihud Hakl'ai moshav association rather than one of the kibbutz movements, is based on agriculture, trucking and an arts and crafts industry. Pearlmutter says that Ir Ovot is in fact a member of the Arava Regional Council, but because of the withholding of rightful recognition, it has been denied various forms of government and council assistance.

Pearlmutter describes his book, "The Tents of Shem," which he says will soon be published by Vantage Press in New York, as dealing "with the kidnapping of Rabbi Yeshua (Jesus) by the Christians and his eventual release from captivity by the Jews." Pearlmutter's AyeKa party derives its name from "Eretz Yisrael Kalat Hashem," meaning "The Land of Israel is the bride of the Creator." The initials in Hebrew also spell God's first question to Adam after the fall: "AyeKa?" or "Where art thou?"

The settlement is populated mostly by former Americans, both Jews who believe in the divinity of Jesus and Christians who have an affinity for the Jews and the holy land. The 45-year-old Pearlmutter, who lives in Ir Ovot with his two wives, Judy and Jan, two parents, eight children, and three grandchildren, is the sect's Jewish-born leader. END

SUBJECT NUMBER FOUR: CHRISTIANS IN ISRAEL

A: U.S. NATIONAL COUNCIL OF CHURCHES MISSION TO MIDEAST:

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

HEADING: "AJC WON'T BACK ISRAEL ON RESETTLEMENT IN HEBRON"

BYLINE : Judy Siegel, J.P. Reporter

EXCERPTS: The American Jewish Committee "will not defend" the Begin Govt if it resettles Jews in Hebron, AJC exec. vice-pres. Bertram Gold said yesterday.... A National Council of Churches in the U.S. mission will visit the Middle East next month to prepare recommendations on whether to support a proposal for the cutting off of all U.S. Govt aid to Israel, the AJC leaders said. The mainstream Protestant organization, which claims to represent one-quarter of U.S. Christians, "has taken an increasingly anti-Israel stand since the Six Day War despite earlier support for Israel," Gold said. Following pressure from the Eastern churches, a proposal has been made to demand ending aid to Israel for "denial of human rights" in the territories. The churchmen will spend a few days in Israel and also tour some Arab countries. But Maass said they should be questioned (MORE)

about not visiting Lebanon to see for themselves the plight of the Christian minority. "It's a fairly serious delegation, not a Jesse Jackson-type group, and relatively unbiased," said Gold. (END EXCERPTS)

DATE: 4.3.80 JOURNAL: JERUSALEM POST (ENGL AM IND) FEATURE ARTICLE

HEADING: "JOURNEY OF DISCOVERY"

SUBHEAD: "THE NCC IN THE U.S. HAS SET UP A 'STUDY GROUP' NOW TRAVELLING THRO' THE MIDEAST. PHL CONSIDERS THE ORIGINS OF THE PROJECT AND LIKELY RESULTS"

BYLINE : FRANKLIN H. LITTELL (Rev. Dr. Littell is professor of Bible at Temple University, Philadelphia. He is a visiting lecturer at the Hebrew University this year.

EXCERPTS: The event that led to the creation of the Middle East "study group" of the NCC in the U.S. was a resolution brought before the council's board by the representatives of the Antiochian Orthodox Church, Frank Maria, who has a long record of active support for the PLO. His tiny denomination consists of only 22 congregations, but like some representatives of mini-states at the UN, Maria has, by working tirelessly, managed to influence major policy statements... The Middle East Panel consists of 17 churchmen and five staff members. At least six of them have long records of antisemitic, anti-Israel and pro-PLO activity. A few, like Archbishop Manoogian of the Armenian Church of America, and Bishop Chester Kirkendoll of the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church, are leaders of stature and compassion. (The article continues with an estimate of the tensions which are said to be at work between the two elements in the Panel, as well as a political interpretation of the situation in the area, past and present. The author makes reference to Dr. Chas. Malik and the need to confer with him "about what is happening to the Christian communities in Lebanon... Malik, no friend of Israel or the Jewish people, but for many years a figure of world stature in the ecumenical movement, could help the panel to be clearheaded about what the rejectionists mean by the catchwords "democratic" and "secular" and "pluralistic" in their propaganda." The writer concludes:)

The Middle East Panel of churchmen, in spite of its ambiguous beginnings, has a chance to cast a vote for peace in its final report. Many Christians, as well as Jews, will be watching with interest to see whether it serves that purpose well--or confines itself to taking potshots at Israel, ignoring the total picture, and perhaps further weakening the Camp David Agreements. (END EXCERPTS)

DATE: 7.3.80 JOURNAL: JERUSALEM POST (ENGL AM IND) NEWS ARTICLE

HEADING: "U.S. CHURCH GROUP HERE ON STUDY MISSION"

BYLINE : Haim Shapiro, J.P. Reporter

QUOTE : A top-level delegation of the U.S. NCC which represents 40-50 million American Christians, arrived in Israel yesterday for four days of talks with Jewish and Arab leaders. No meetings with government officials have been scheduled. The members of the NCC Mideast panel were due to arrive on Monday from Jordan, where they were received by King Hussein, but they were delayed by snow and flooding at the Allenby Bridge. They finally arrived by air via Athens. The panel is studying five "issues": the right of the Palestinian Arabs to self-determination; security in the region, human rights, settlements in the West Bank, and religious topics. Israeli officials and Jewish leaders are particularly irritated by the fact that the study of human rights involves only Israel. The group's earlier hearings in Washington were boycotted by all major Jewish organizations, which insisted that any discussions between the two faiths must be between equals. They also objected to the group's terms of reference, which, they said, deal only with alleged Israeli misdeeds. But the AJC, which boycotted the hearings, did offer to host the group during its visit to "Jewish" Jerusalem. The "Arab" side of the tour is being arranged by the Middle East Council of Churches, based in East Jerusalem.

The panel, headed by Rev. Tracey Jones, Jr., chairman and general-secretary of the United Methodist Board of Global Ministries, is due to see members of "Peace Now" and meet with a wide range of MKs. The group will also visit Yad Vashem and the "Good Fence" on the Lebanese border. Members of the panel include: Bishop Maximos Aghiorgoussis of the Gk. Orth., Archbishop Manoogian of the Armenian Chur, Dr. Dorothy Marple, V.P. of the NCC of Lutheran Ch, Dr. Oscar McCloud of the Presby Ch, Rev. Robt Neff, Ch. of Brethren, Rev. A. Post, Pres. United Ch. of Christ, Rev. Jeanne A. Powers, Meth. Ch., and Wm. Thompson of Presby. Church.

(END ARTICLE)

(MORE)

DATE: 9.3.80 JOURNAL: "MAARIV" (HEB PM IND) NEWS ARTICLE

HEADING: "U.S. COUNCIL OF CHURCHES 'OPPOSES SETTLEMENTS'"

BYLINE : Yosef Zurieli

QUOTE : A delegation of the Council of Churches in the U.S. on its own initiative yesterday toured the West Bank in Judea and Samaria, and in conversations with four mayors expressed its opposition to Jewish settlements in the region, and also to the Israeli interpretation of the autonomy plan. This is the first time that a delegation of this kind has visited the territories. The members of the delegation rejected the plan of tours and visits which government sources proposed to them, and insisted that they be free of any official Israeli escort. In the course of the tour the delegation met with mayors of Hebron, Nablus, Al-Bira and Bethlehem. Arab sources reported ^{last night} that most of the members of the delegation surprised their hosts in exhibiting sympathy for the Palestinian problem and in their opposition to the policy of Israel in the territories. There were those who declared that they had especially come into the area in order to prove whether or not there was substance to the charges being raised against Israel. Bethlehem Mayor Elias Freiji said last night that the visit of the delegation in his office was gratifying: "They exhibited sympathy for our just causes, and I had the impression that they were persuaded that in the present situation the Israeli government is not seeking peace, but only speaking about peace. END

DATE: 9.3.80 JOURNAL: "AL HAMISHMAR" (HEB AM MAPAM) NEWS ARTICLE

HEADING: "AMERICAN CHURCH DELEGATION INVESTIGATING PROBLEMS OF PALESTINIANS"

BYLINE : Gavriel Stern, "Al Hamishmar" Correspondent

QUOTE : A top-level delegation of the N.C.C. in the U.S. arrived this weekend for a visit of four days in Israel and the occupied territories. This influential council, representing about 40-50 million Christians, mainly Protestants, most of them members of progressive and liberal congregations considered in recent years to be generally Pro-Arab in distinction from the Conservatives who are supporters of Israel. The aim of the delegation is to explore five principal issues: The right of the Palestinians to self-determination, security in the region, human rights, settlements in the West Bank, and religious issues. Knowledgeable sources attribute great significance to the evaluations of the group.

The delegation numbers 16 persons, among ^{Greek} the Archbishop Maximos and the Armenian Archbishop Manoogian, which of course permits access to the patriarchates of these ancient communities, and also three black well-known clergymen. They have also held meetings in the U.S., which were boycotted by Jewish organizations, which has charged that "the delegation is one-sided," but the director of the American Jewish Committee in Jerusalem, Dr. Bernard Resnikoff, is giving assistance to the ~~delegation~~ ^{delegation} in arranging meetings in Israel, and they will meet with Mayor Teddy Kollek, with MKs Shulamit Aloni, David Glass, and others, as well as with jurists and journalists (among them David Krivine, Sokolow laureate in journalism for his investigation of the charges of torture which he sought to refute), and "Peace Now" members and members of the Interfaith Association. They were also scheduled to meet with Supreme Court Vice President Hayam Cohen, but the snowfall caused a disruption in their calendar of meetings and the meeting was not held, and it is still unclear whether administration officials will agree to meet with them. They will also visit at "Yad Vashem" and "The Good Fence" on the Lebanon border. Their journey began in Egypt and Syria, and proceeded to Rabbat-Ammon, where they were received by King Hussein, but because of the closing of the Jordan bridges in the wake of the snowstorms they were unable to to arrive ^{directly} as scheduled at the beginning of last week, and were compelled to fly here via Athens.

"The fact that notwithstanding the large expenses, the loss of time, and the complications of travel involved in the change of course, proves our strong determination to know at close hand the Israeli side," delegation members explained. The head of the delegation is clergyman Tracy Jones, one of the Methodist Church leaders. At the end of the week they toured for two days in the West Bank, where the representative of the "Quakers", Jim Pine, hosted them in behalf of the Middle East Council of Churches. They also visited Bir Zait University, met with mayors

about not visiting Lebanon to see for themselves the plight of the Christian minority. "It's a fairly serious delegation, not a Jesse Jackson-type group, and relatively unbiased," said Gold. (END EXCERPTS)

DATE: 4.3.80 JOURNAL: JERUSALEM POST (ENGL AM IND) FEATURE ARTICLE

HEADING: "JOURNEY OF DISCOVERY"

SUBHEAD: "THE NCC IN THE U.S. HAS SET UP A 'STUDY GROUP' NOW TRAVELLING THRO' THE MIDEAST. FHL CONSIDERS THE ORIGINS OF THE PROJECT AND LIKELY RESULTS"

BYLINE: FRANKLIN H. LITTELL (Rev. Dr. Littell is professor of Bible at Temple University, Philadelphia. He is a visiting lecturer at the Hebrew University this year.)

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DATE: 7.3.80 JOURNAL: JERUSALEM POST (ENGL AM IND) NEWS ARTICLE

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BYLINE: Haim Shapiro, J.P. Reporter

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DATE: 10.3.80 JOURNAL: "AL HAMISHMAR" (HEB AM MAPAM) NEWS ARTICLE

HEADING: "DELEGATION OF U.S. CHURCHES WILL TODAY MEET WITH M.K.s & PEACE NOW MEMBERS"

BYLINE: Gavriel Stern

QUOTE : A top-level delegation on behalf of the NCC in the USA yesterday went to the Galilee and visited at the "Good Fence" in order to observe at close hand the situation of the Christians in South Lebanon. The delegation also visited at Kibbutz Gonen and the Golan Heights, where they received explanations of the security situation. Today the delegation begins its fourth and last full day of meetings, with a talk with representatives of "PEACE NOW", and will conclude it after a round of meetings with MKs and various persons-- with a reception sponsored by the Interfaith Association. It is learned that the mayors of Bethlehem, and of Al Bira, Elias Freij and Ibrahim Tawill, stressed in their meetings on Saturday with members of the delegation that they aspire to an independent Palestinian state in a peace framework, and view the PLO as the sole representative of the Palestinian people. END

DATE: 10.3.80 JOURNAL: "AL HAMISHMAR" (HEB AM MAP AM) NEWS ARTICLE

HEADING: "DELEGATION OF AMERICAN CHURCHES MET WITH PALESTINIAN FIGURES"

BYLINE : Gavriel Stern

QUOTE : S. Tamir, Minister of Justice, yesterday received the top-level delegation sponsored by the NCC in the USA, headed by Rev. Tracy Jones. Last night the group, numbering 16 senior figures, met with State Attorney Gavriel Bach, among others, at a dinner arranged by the Director of the Israel Office of the American Jewish Committee, Dr. B. Resnikoff. The delegation met with Mayor Teddy Kollek also, who underscored the importance of maintaining the unity of Jerusalem with the maintenance to the utmost of the national and religious character of all its inhabitants. They also met with representatives of "Peace Now", Members of the Knesset, and others, and were especially interested in the problems of human rights among the Palestinians.

Among the Palestinian figures that the delegation met with were the Chairman of the Board of Directors of the East Jerusalem Electric Company, the former Jordanian cabinet minister Anwar Nousseibah, the Mayor of Hebron, the agronomist Fahad Kuwassama, who expressed sharp criticism about the policy of the U.S.A. and declared that the way to true peace was not via Washington and Cairo but via the PLO, "the sole representative of the Palestinian people."

At first the inclination of official (Israeli) circles was to ignore the visit of the delegation inasmuch as Jewish organizations in the USA had boycotted the group, most of whose members are considered pro-Palestinian, something which was reflected in the definition of the aims of the tour, but finally it was felt that it would be better to maintain direct contact with the delegation. Dr. Claire Kendle, the secretary of the delegation, told me that the tours and the meetings in Israel were "very tiring but most useful." She avoided entering into specific details. END

DATE: 12.3.80 JOURNAL: "AL HAMISHMAR" (HEB AM IND) NEWS ARTICLE

HEADING: "AMERICAN CHURCH DELEGATION: SECURITY FOR ISRAEL, SELF-DETERMINATION FOR THE PALESTINIANS"

BYLINE : Gavriel Stern,

QUOTE : "The NCC in the U.S. supports the right of existence of the State of Israel and its security needs as it recognizes the basic right of the Palestinian people to self-determination," ^{SAID} Tracy Jones, Jr., the Methodist clergyman, and head of the top-level delegation which concluded yesterday its journey of two weeks in Beirut, Cairo, Damascus, Rabat-Amman, and Jerusalem. The clergyman spoke at a reception sponsored by the Interfaith Association which was held yesterday at the Pontifical Biblical Institute under the direction of the Institute director, the Jesuit Fr. Francis Furlong. Jones extolled the candour and wide range of opinions that he had found among Israelis. They have now learned to a greater extent the complexity of the problems on the Mideast agenda, and they still required time to "digest" conflicting impressions. The delegation members especially were impressed by the 1½ hour conversation they had with Jerusalem Mayor Teddy Kollek concerning the problems of intercommunal and inter-religious relations in the Holy City, as well as with their dialogue with Justice Minister Shmuel Tamir and State Attorney Gavriel Bach on the subject of Palestinian human rights. This group, which is one of the arms of the council, will together with other committees--for Christian-Jewish relations,

(MORE)

Christian-Muslim relations and international issues, to formulate a general policy statement which will be presented for a first reading in May, and which will be approved finally by the council plenum in November 1980. The group plans to hold talks upon its return to the USA with representatives of the Jewish community and the Palestinian community there. The Council comprises 32 Protestant and Eastern Churches with some 43 million believers. Its recommendations will be of considerable weight in the shaping of American policy. END

SUBJECT FOUR-B: CHRISTIANS IN ISRAEL (VARIED)

DATE: 24.2.80 JOURNAL: "AL HAMISHMAR" (HEB AM MAPAM) NEWS ARTICLE
 HEADING: "BIZARRE PREACHER WHO WANDERS ON FOOT FROM COUNTRY TO COUNTRY ARRIVES"
 QUOTE : A bizarre Christian preacher, who for 11 years has been making journeys on foot from country to country preaching love for Jesus and peace among the nations, recently arrived in Israel, in the wake of the signing of the Israeli-Egyptian Peace Treaty. On Friday he made his way from Askelon to Gaza, from whence he will continue via Naot Sinai onto Egypt. The man, Arthur Blessit, 39 years of age, is a resident of Los Angeles in California, married and the father of six children, among them a 2-months old baby. His first journey was undertaken in 1969 after a serious illness. Throughout the journey he drags along a large wooden cross furnished with a wheel at its lower edge, which enables him to carry it more easily. The length of the vertical beam of the cross is 4 metres and its horizontal beam is 3 metres. He also ties on to the cross a knapsack with his personal belongings. JTA Correspondent David Appel met with him along the way between Askelon and Gaza near Erez. The man related that to date he has managed to pass through six countries carrying the word of Jesus for the love of man and for peace among the nations. According to him, he has already marched some 28,000 KM. END

DATE: 24.2.80 JOURNAL: "HAARETZ" (HEB AM IND) NEWS ARTICLE
 HEADING: (AS ABOVE) SAME ARTICLE, BUT THE FIGURE RELATING TO NUMBER OF COUNTRIES VISITED BY BLESSIT IS GIVEN AS FORTY-SIX.

DATE: 25.2.80 JOURNAL: "HAARETZ" (HEB AM IND) FEATURE ARTICLE
 HEADING: "ARAB UNIT FACING EXPROPRIATION OF LANDS:"
 BYLINE : Atalla Mansour
 EXCERPTS: The decision of the Govt of Israel headed by Mr. Yitzhak Rabin four years ago to expropriate some 18,000 dunams of land in the region of Nazareth, Carmiel, Safed and the village of Machir (near Akko) led Rakah (New Communist Party) to initiate the additional front organization. "The Committee for the Defence of Arab Lands in Israel." At the head of the organization, as is customary in such instances, a non-party personality was set, one with a title commanding respect. In this instance the man heading the committee was the Rev. (Read: "Protestant clergyman") Shehada Shehada of Shefar Am. The fact that young Mr. Shehada has a tiny congregation whose membership does not exceed a few families did not disturb either him or the leaders of Rakah who were interested in the man and his title only...and all the more since he is able to devote himself almost entirely to the work of the "Committee for the Defence of the Lands." (The balance of the article deals with the political, social and ethnic aspects of the issues, and the success of the committee which has allegedly united a wide range of Arab groups to a great extent as a result of Israeli Govt failures.) END

DATE: 25.2.80 JOURNAL: "YE DIOT AKHRONOT" (HEB PM IND) NEWS BRIEF
 HEADING: "WOMAN SUICIDE ATTEMPT BECAUSE OF DAUGHTER'S MARRIAGE TO CHRISTIAN"
 BYLINE : Shabtai Portnoy, "Y.A. Correspondent"
 SUMMARY: A 50-year old woman attempted to leap from the Shalom Tower 27th floor window in Tel-Aviv but was prevented from doing so by an adjacent bank security officer. The reason given was her daughter's imminent marriage to a Christian in a church. END

SUBJECT NUMBER FIVE: CHRISTIANS IN THE NEWS
RELATIVE TO JEWS/ISRAEL

DATE: 2.11.79 JOURNAL: JEWISH STANDARD (JERSEY CITY NJ) ARTICLE
 HEADING: "THE BISHOP SPEAKS OUT ON JUDAISM"
 BYLINE : Rabbi Samuel M. Silver
 EXCERPTS: Dr. John Shelby Spong is the Episcopal bishop of Newark. While the Pope was in the USA, he said some nice things about Judaism, but about the same time Bishop Spong said some nicer things in an article appearing in the Christian Century's (MORE)

issue of Sept. 26th....In his article, "THE CHRISTIAN NEED FOR JERUSALEM," which appeared when Jews were beating their breasts and acknowledging their faults on Yom Kippur, Bishop Spong's readers were perusing these words: "Nothing is quite as evil as fanatical religious people who in the name of God carry out inquisitions, pogroms, heresy trials, witchhunts, holy wars and crusades...." Christians need Judaism, writes the bishop...Without its mother Judaism, the daughter Christianity would "be poorer, more open to distortion," writes the clergyman....Also ask your rabbi to get you a copy of an article by Rabbi Robt Gordis...entitled "The Rejudaization of Christianity." The Gordis article points up the way mainstream Christianity is reaching back to Jewish ideas for its advancement. END EXCERPTS

DATE: 2.11.79 JOURNAL: JEWISH JOURNAL (BKLYN NY) NEWS ARTICLE
 HEADING: "CHRISTIANS JOIN JEWS IN UPHOLDING ISRAEL'S RIGHT TO RETAIN OCCUPIED TERRITORIES"
 EXCERPTS: A coalition of spokesmen representing views held by Christians as well as Jews on the right of Israel to settle Judea, Samaria and Gaza, was held this week at the Summit Hotel in New York City. Stressing the biblical, moral and legal precedents for these settlements were (various Jewish speakers). Shifra Hoffman (Exec. Director "Shuva", member North American Alaya Movement) read a statement issued by the International Council of Christian Churches, who declare that "the territories secured in the Six Day War were liberated...." She also referred to a recent statement by the Natl Christian Leadership Conference which calls upon the Vatican to recognize Israel "within secure boundaries." (END EXCERPTS)

DATE: 9.11.79 JOURNAL: "JEWISH JOURNAL" (BKLYN NY) NEWS ARTICLE
 HEADING: "INTERFAITH LEADERS URGE VATICAN TO RECOGNIZE ISRAEL"
 EXCERPT: A panel of interfaith leaders, authors and academicians meeting for 3 days in New Orleans issued a statement urging "recognition of the State of Israel by the Vatican, the posthumous excommunication of Adolf Hitler by the Catholic Church, and the emphasis on the essential Jewishness of Christianity by the Christian Church," it was reported here by Jacques Torczyner, chairman of the Herzl Institute, who was a member of the panel. "Our group of Protestant, Catholic and Jewish authorities on relations between Christians and Jews in the U.S. discussed the Holocaust and its impact on both Jews and Christians," Torczyner added. He said the speakers agreed that Israel "must not be regarded as a result of the Holocaust but rather as a response to that tragedy...." Sister Katherine Hargrove of Manhattanville College in N.Y. said that an annual "interfaith think-tank dialogue" would be established, Torczyner reported. END

DATE: 24.12.79 JOURNAL: "ESSLINGER ZEITUNG (GERMAN LANGUAGE) LETTER/ARTICLE
 HEADING: "FOR US JERUSALEM, DESPITE EVERYTHING, IS THE MOST BEAUTIFUL CITY IN THE WORLD" (PHOTO: Jerusalem--Redeemer Church & Holy Sepulchre)
 SUMMARY: A letter-article by Ruth & Gunther Kempka, Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Redeemer, POB 140 76, Jerusalem, Old City, describing their life and work, some background about Jerusalem, the tourists, a personal experience with a bombing terror incident on Sunday 5.8.79 in the Old City, a welcome to tourists. END SUMMARY

DATE: Dec.79 JOURNAL: "PI HA'ATON" (FROM THE MOUTH OF THE ASS) STUDENTS
 HEADING: "FOR OUT OF ZION SHALL GO FORTH A SHOUT: MUSICA SACRA FROM THE HOLY CITY" JOURNAL (J'LM)
 SUMMARY: A brief three-column description of the scheduled Musica Sacra (Sacred Music) festival held in Jerusalem during the Christmas-Hanuka season. END

DATE: 25.1.80 JOURNAL: JEWISH CHRONICLE (LONDON) NEWS ARTICLE
 HEADING: "PROTESTANT COUPLE ALLOWED TO ADOPT JEWISH CHILD"
 BYLINE: Our Correspondent in New York
 EXCERPTS: Judge Leonard Yoswein of Bklyn Supreme Court in N.Y. has ruled that there is no reason to delay the adoption of an 18-month old Jewish handicapped child by a Protestant minister and his wife. A Jewish couple...were unsuccessful in their application for custody of the child...members of the Lubavitch movement... Mr. Hy Dechter, Exec.Direc. of Jewish Civil Liberties Union, said that there were dozens of cases pending in N.Y. adoption agencies in which Jewish children would be given to Christian parents unless Jewish parents come forward. He charged that "upwards of 100 children from Jewish parents have been placed in Christian homes during the past year." END SUMMARY

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DATE: 1.2.80 JOURNAL: JEWISH CHRONICLE (LONDON) NEWS ARTICLE
 HEADING: "HOME NEWS: PRIEST'S ANTI-ISRAEL BOOK" BYLINE: Jenni Frazer
 EXCERPTS: The launching of the book "PALESTINE COMES FIRST" by the Dominican priest, Fr. Lucas Grollenberg, was remarkable chiefly for the large number of CAABU (Council for the Advancement of Arab-British Understanding) personnel packed into the room at the London Press Centre on Monday. The Dutch priest's book is published by SCM Press, the publishing house of the Student Christian Movement....(The book) has been attacked for its superficiality, its lack of evidence in both text and notes, of assertions made with confidence in the text. One sentence reads: "I began to make a spontaneous distinction in my thinking and speaking between real Jews and Zionist Jews." The press conference also included the surprising spectacle of Dr. Mohammed Mehdi speaking up for the Jewish extremist religious group, the Neturei Karta...The author claimed that every reference to the "return to Zion" in Jewish liturgy meant only by "spiritual means and not by means of arms. A return to Zion meant the end of history."...Also present(at the press conference) were representatives of the UK Palestine Solidarity, the new "broad-based" group formed last year. END

DATE: 8.2.80 JOURNAL: JERUSALEM POST (ENGL AM IND) FEATURE ARTICLE
 HEADING: "DUTCH FRIENDS (CHRISTIAN COMMENT/OIKOUMENIKOS)
 PHOTO : Members of a Dutch dance troupe at Moshav Nes Amim.
 SUMMARY: A survey article about Dutch Christian involvement with Israel and Israelis in areas such as theology, volunteering in hospitals, nursing homes, kibbutzim, Bible study, contributions to projects for education, immigrant aid, children's centre, ^{interfaith and intercommunal activities} Lebanese War Victims, a leading role in Nes Amim, the Christian moshav in Galilee, etc. The three major streams of the Reformed Churches in Holland are involved. "What makes the Dutch give so much and so willingly to projects in Israel? Dr. Schoneveld responds: "At least in part it is a growing awareness that Christian responsibility does not end at one's doorstep, but is rather worldwide." Rev. Hans Boertjens remarks: "We have a special relationship to Jewish people...The Holocaust made a deep impact upon Dutch Christians...We see here the people of the Covenant...We reject the theory held by some Christians that the Church replaced the Jewish people in the plan of God."..Some Dutch Christians, such as Rev. Jan Willem van der Hoeven, identify themselves as Christian Zionists. VanderHoeven has traveled and spoken widely in support of Israel." END SUMMARY & EXTRACTS

DATE: 10.2.80 JOURNAL: MAARIV (HEB PM IND) NEWS ARTICLE
 HEADING: "JEWISH-PROTESTANT SPLIT BREAKS OUT IN USA"
 BYLINE : Razi Guteran, "Maariv" Correspondent in New York
 EXCERPT: A study on the Mideast dispute conducted by the NCC in the USA is threatening to cause a severe breach (the most severe) in decades between the Jewish community in the USA and the Protestant Community, which is the largest in the USA. The representatives of 17 ^{Jewish} organizations in an unusual demonstration of solidarity refused to appear before a special team of Protestant churchmen investigating the Mideast (Israel-Palestinian) dispute, the purpose of which is "to develop a new ^{comprehensive} policy statement of the Protestant churches concerning the Mideast." (Jewish organizations protested the ^{allegedly} accusatory approach of the body.) (END)

DATE: 10.2.80 JOURNAL: "EL AL" (LOD) PHOTO STORY
 SUMMARY: Picture story relating to baptism of three children in a South African church which through the courtesy of El-Al ^{received} a special Galilean ^{new} font. END

DATE: 18.2.80 JOURNAL: JERUSALEM POST (ENGL AM IND) FEATURE ARTICLE
 HEADING: "EXCISING THE ANTISEMITISM"
 BYLINE : John Dornberg/Munich
 SUMMARY: A feature article about the Oberammergau "Passion Play" and the conflict over the text to be used in the 1980 performance. A compromise has apparently been worked out between "reformers" and "anti-reformers" of the traditional text of the play with the ^{co-operation} of Jewish and Catholic leaders.

DATE: 11.3.80 JOURNAL: "JERUSALEM POST" NEWS ARTICLE
 HEADING: "YAD VASHEM TO HONOUR FRENCH NUN"
 SUMMARY: Sister Denise Bergon of France honoured as one of "Righteous of the Nations" during World War II for saving some eighty Jewish children from Nazi deportations during the Occupation of France. END SUMMARY

issue of Sept. 26th...In his article, "THE CHRISTIAN NEED FOR JERUSALEM," which appeared when Jews were beating their breasts and acknowledging their faults on Yom Kippur, Bishop Spong's readers were perusing these words: "Nothing is quite as evil as fanatical religious people who in the name of God carry out inquisitions, pogroms, heresy trials, witchhunts, holy wars and crusades...." Christians need Judaism, writes the bishop...Without its mother Judaism, the daughter Christianity would "be poorer, more open to distortion," writes the clergyman...Also ask your rabbi to get you a copy of an article by Rabbi Robt Gordis...entitled "The Rejudaization of Christianity." The Gordis article points up the way mainstream Christianity is reaching back to Jewish ideas for its advancement. END EXCERPTS

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