

SUBJECT NUMBER ONE: "THE MISSION"

DATE: 8.2.80 JOURNAL: "JOURNAL D'ISRAEL" (TELAVIV) FRENCH NEWS ARTICLE
 HEADING: "JEWISH FANATICS AGAINST THE MISSIONARIES"

QUOTE : An organization of Jewish fanatics in Jerusalem has distributed tracts announcing that it intends to use force in order to combat the action of missionaries in Eretz Israel. This organization charges that the missionaries have recently redoubled their activities on the university campuses and in absorption centres (for new immigrants). In a letter addressed to officials, the organization announces that if the government does not take steps against the missionaries, its members will take the matter into their own hands. (END)

DATE: 19.2.80 JOURNAL: "LETZIE NIYES" (TEL AVIV) YIDDISH FEATURE ARTICLE
 HEADING: "MISSIONARIES IN PURSUIT OF JEWISH SOULS"

BYLINE : Eli Wiesel (SEE ALSO SELECTIONS No. 74, page 11, bottom, under heading "JEWS FOR JESUS GOING OUT TO HUNT SOULS", a parallel article)

EXCERPTS: A strange paradox: Jews are not usually very much loved in the Christian world, but the souls of Jews are sought after. There are missionaries in this world seeking souls, especially Jewish ones. And the seekers, the missionaries, are more often than not our brethren of the House of Israel, or of Jewish descent. There is a certain Christian religious sect called "JEWS FOR JESUS". This sect has recently been very active on its "holy mission" of snatching Jewish souls. The "Jews for Jesus" may be encountered especially on the campuses of Long Island and in the midwestern area of the United States. Their "soul-snatchers" often enjoy greater success than we imagine. The Jewish community in Britain... (as in Selections No. 74 page 11 from commencement there to the last paragraph, and concluding here, as follows:) But we have not understood that they (our children) have need of a bit of spiritual nourishment, some content, a spiritual aim in life. What have they done? They themselves began to seek it, and found it in the arms of the Christian missionaries, in the teachings of Jesus Christ. END

DATE: 18.3.80 JOURNAL: "HAMODIYA" (HEB AM AGUDAT YISRAEL) NEWS ARTICLE

HEADING: "MISSIONARY MATERIAL SENT BY MAIL"

QUOTE : Missionary material partially aimed at rabbis, with ~~material~~ a special tract about rabbis who had converted to Christianity, as well as a special tract for doctors about doctors who converted to Christianity, has been sent of late from Canada by Ms. Anna M.H. Gross, an aggressive missionary woman of the Messianic sect, in addition to missionary publications in Yiddish, English and Hebrew and New Testaments. Rabbis have approached the office of the "Yad L'Akhir" organization in Jerusalem after many packages were left in postal branches, asking that the public be notified to destroy the material and that the public not be caused to stumble by reading it. There have also been appeals from workers in various branches of the post office in Jerusalem where their branches are filled with this material, and "Yad L'Akhir" calls on the public to convey all missionary material which will be destroyed in a central action as part of a project of "Burning the Leaven." END

DATE: 21.3.80 JOURNAL: "YEDIOT AKHRONOT" (HEB PM IND) FEATURE ARTICLE

HEADING: "THE UGLY WAR AGAINST THE MISSION: NATIONALISTS OR ULTRA-ORTHODOX EXTREMISTS VIOLENTLY ATTACKING CHRISTIAN INSTITUTIONS IN CAPITAL AND CAUSING INCALCULABLE DAMAGE TO THE STATE AND TO UNITED JERUSALEM"

BYLINE : Hayim Shivi and Gad Leor PHOTOGRAPH: HERE PASSED THE WARRIORS
 AGAINST THE MISSION: (Zion House Bible Shop with Hebrew Graffiti)

QUOTE : It was a December night in 1979 when the sound of the smashing of broken glass was heard in the courtyard of the Baptist Church on Narkis Street in Jerusalem. Father (sic!) Lindsey, who heads the church, went out into the well-cared-for yard, and saw that the glass door had been smashed to bits by a stone shot. On the 5th of January this year unknown persons threw a large stone on the newly-repaired door and smashed it. On the 21st January again they were gathering up the pieces at the Baptist Church. On the 22nd of January the door was smashed another time.

"Teddy Kollek has shown an attitude of understanding and good will. All the damages have been paid for by the Municipality, and now we have sent an additional bill. He has been very generous," says Margaret Lindsey, the wife of the head of the Baptist congregation, and expresses astonishment: "For years there have been no incidents, but recently a wave of harassments suddenly (MORE)

began. Last month there was also a break in at our book warehouse. Drawers were opened and piles of books were overturned." Beside the prayer room of the small church there is a display room of Christian scriptures and various Protestant publications. It was these which apparently aroused the ire of the unknown attackers.

"They were also at our place," says David B. of Georgia, the volunteer manager of the book shop, "The Torch" on Shlomtsion Street. Last month the shop, which belongs to a Protestant organization "Kehilat Ha'Shem" ("Assembly of God") with headquarters in the U.S.A., was attacked. A large stone was hurled at the show window, and following that rags dipped in benzene were thrown in. The arson attempt was unsuccessful, and the damages were paid by the Municipality, but among Christian institutions, especially in West Jerusalem, the apprehension^{increased} that some organization had undertaken a frontal attack against institutions promulgating Christian missionary literature.

"Generally, there is a tendency to ~~give~~^{give} to the term 'missionaries' a significance which does not reflect our real activity," says Charles Kopp, who heads the book shop and the Protestant organization called "Zion House." "We are missionaries, and it is our duty as such to spread the Gospel, but we don't deal in propositions for travel tickets, or in giving gifts or enticements to people. The shop is open to those who wish to enter and to look over the publications we have." In recent weeks slogans have been painted a number of times on the front of "Zion House" on Prophets Street: "Dirty Dogs, Bloodsuckers, Get out of the Country." Kopp also praises the Municipality for its handling of the situation: "We have found understanding and consideration in the Mayor," he says.

Who stands behind the campaign against the missionaries? This the police would also like to know, and according to their investigators several of the vandals among those who have recently attacked^{in Jerusalem} Christian institutions are in their hands. One of them was hospitalized in a mental hospital, but the rest of them are nothing more than Jewish nationalist extremists, or such as belong to the antimission fighters, among them the ultra-orthodox.

"We regard all these incidents, and the campaign against Christian religious institutions, even when it is not expressed with naked violence, as a very serious matter," the police spokesman in Jerusalem told me this week, Lt.-Cdr. Yosef Tamir, Commander of the Southern District, Arye Izban, took a very serious view of these incidents and appointed Lt. Cdr. Yaacov Goldman to follow up closely the attacks and to see to it that the culprits were brought to justice.

A number of rabbis have denounced the attacks on Christian religious institutions lately, and even published notices in the press to that effect. In one such it was stated: "These are the deeds of hooligans. Every one has the freedom to believe in God according to his faith, and it is inconceivable that in the Diaspora a Jew should be attacked for praying to G-d." However, the activists of "Yad L'Akhir" are of a different opinion. They indeed refuse to justify violent acts against non-Jewish institutions, but the Secretary of the organization, Moshe Parush, also would not agree in conversation with our correspondent to express reservations about these deeds: "We do not express reservations about deeds for which we are not responsible," he said.

What is the "Yad L'Akhir" organization, which has of late been publishing throughout the city propaganda against the activists of the Mission, which publishes a journal by name of "B'Maavak" ("In the Struggle") through its department for the struggle against the Mission of the activists of the Torah camp in Israel, "Yad L'Akhir", and which openly works to destroy: Christian Holy Scriptures? The assistant to the head of the department for the struggle against the Mission, Efraim Ben-Aharon, presents the air of this organization as one of its fundamentals. The secretary of "Yad L'Akhir", Moshe Porush, claims otherwise: "We set up "Yad L'Akhir" 30 years ago in order to promulgate our people's Torah among the new immigrants in Israel. The first were the Yemenite immigrants. It was there that we encountered for the first time missionary activity among new immigrants, and we went out to fight this phenomenon." According to Porush, "Yad L'Akhir" does not only engage in the struggle against the Mission. "We work to spread the Torah, to educate for love of Israel, (MORE)

for the spiritual absorption of the new immigrants, by means of lectures in the neighbourhoods and in development towns, and by publication of Torah literature."

According to "Yad L'Akhir," there are at present working in Israel no less than about 7,000 missionaries, against whom only 300 activists of Yad L'Akhir are working at great self-sacrifice. Assimilation in Israel, and especially in Jerusalem, they say, will not be allowed. At the head of the organization is Rabbi Shalom Dov Lipschitz of Ramat Gan, and the activities are supported by contributions only. The attitude of the police to the organization is unclear: "If it is known to us that they are operating against the law, we will act," they say in the Jerusalem District. At the Municipality we were told that recently a senior figure in the Municipality paid a "visit" to the offices of the organization on Yona Street, No. 4, in G_eula, in order to learn what was doing there, "and we reported what we found to the police." What they found, the man refused to tell us.

Well, are these the ones who have set fire to Christian religious institutions, breakers of church windows, painters in black on their walls and insulting clergy? To this the police have no answer. Nevertheless, it is clear that at least three additional ~~elements~~ ^{elements} are partners to the ^{recent} acts of vandalism directed against what is termed "the missionaries." Activists of an extremist rightwing organization, whose leader was even recently imprisoned, a group of ultra-orthodox from Meah Shearim which publicly notified its intention to fight a last-ditch battle against anyone who destroyed one soul in Israel by conversion to Christianity, and a group of eccentrics who for the most part work alone, with every one of them responsible usually for an attack on only one Christian institution.

One who reacted with great earnestness to the attacks upon Christian religious institutions in Jerusalem was Mayor Teddy Kollek. He even appealed to the Prime Minister, Menahem Begin, to make a public appeal to the vandals that they cease from their deeds for the sake of religious liberty in the capital. The Municipal spokesman Rafi Lebra says: "We pressed for a strong reaction on the part of the Prime Minister and the Chief Rabbi. First of all, this involves acts that the Jewish spirit of tolerance abhors. Secondly, the matter is causing incalculable damage to the State of Israel and to United Jerusalem." The municipal spokesman explained further in a press release that every stone cast at a church or every personal attack upon a clergyman means giving ammunition to antisemites and enemies of United Jerusalem in creating an uproar in the world in opposition to Jewish rule in the city. "During 13 years we displayed a generous attitude vis-à-vis the rights of the various communities, which has brought us sympathy and positive responses throughout the world. Now, all these petty acts of recent months are wiping out the achievements we have made, and those tiny groups, who are absolutely unbalanced, claim that every church is a mission, and they are destroying what we have built up in the course of a dozen years," the spokesman says.

It appears, however, that the activities of the police, the increase of patrols and the setting of ambushes in areas of Christian institutions, the reaction of the municipality, the denunciations of public figures from all sectors, are none of them making any special impression among those who are working against the Christians in Jerusalem, and they continue their activity and even promise future activity. Only Monday this week some young people attacked the Christian monastery near the well in Ein Karem, made fun of the monks, which required the intervention of the police. Next week the activists of "Yad L'Akhir" are planning to set afire hundreds of Christian Holy Scriptures, among them the books of the "New Testament." The book-burning is planned in the framework of a public "burning of the leaven."

The municipal spokesman responded to this, as follows: "All that is left to us is to ask the sane public in Jerusalem and Israel to express its loathing of such acts which remind the world of those shocking acts such as the night of the book burning of Jewish books in Germany. This is a vile act which is inconceivably damaging, and the reverberations of it are liable to cause us much damage."

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Last month's issue of the "Yad L'Akhir" organ published a list of the missionary activities in Jerusalem neighbourhoods--in Ramot Sharat, Neve Yaacov, East Talpiot, French Hill, and in Ramot. It may be that there is indeed missionary activity in Jerusalem, and that--as this Torah organization claims--missionary tracts are being sent to rabbis, to physicians, and to the rest of the common people. We cannot deny the validity of a struggle against this phenomenon, but the question remains--without of course determining or suspecting that the "Yad L'Akhir" are violent (and it would appear that they are not such)--will the way of violence bring success to the campaign against missionaries, or will Jerusalem thereby lose its right to boast of ^{the} religious freedom it grants to the believers of the three religions ^{all of} for whom the city is sacred? END ARTICLE

DATE: 24.3.80 JOURNAL: "MAARIV" (HEB PM IND) FEATURE ARTICLE

HEADING: "INTO THE FIRE"

BYLINE : Moshe David

QUOTE : A religious body called "The Torah Camp 'Yad L'Akhir'" has decided to bring joy to our heart with the coming of the Passover Feast in the framework of the "burning of the leaven" which will take place on the evening of the festival when the activists of the "camp" will cast into the fire "missionary literature." They even call on everyone who has in his possession such material to send it to them "in order to intensify the bonfire." In a photograph published in the press we can see clearly that among the "missionary material" are the books of the New Testament. The New Testament, as is well known, is the Book of Books of the Christian religion. The photograph was published, and there is no reaction.

Historical memory is at times a characteristic that one may forego since it does not bring great pleasure to its possessor. The joyous plan of the Yad L'Akhir activists is like the blinking of an eye connected in my memory to other bookburnings in the course of history. First of all, I could not avoid pondering on a certain regime whose book foci provided well-liked points for burning "undesirable material" even before it conceived the plan for burning human beings. The "prohibited" literature that went up in flames in the Third Reich included the best of thinkers and creators in Germany, a significant part of them Jewish.

What Christianity did to us in the course of our history is among the most well-known. Among other things, faithful Christians not only beset the physical lives of the Jews, but also their spiritual lives. In the Middle Ages, for example, there were from time to time "trials" of Jewish Holy Scriptures, and the Talmud was an especially acceptable subject. In one famous "trial", conducted on orders of Louis IX, King of France, the Jews were accused for the Talmud's containing blasphemous remarks about Jesus, and for pouring forth hatred for the faith of the Christians. To no avail were the arguments of the four rabbis who represented Judaism. The Talmud was "convicted", and in the year 1242 C.E., on order of the king, 24 wagon loads filled with Talmudic and other books were carried into one of the streets of Paris and set afire. Two young men, one from Provence, and the second from Germany, Rabbi Avraham Bedarshi and Rabbi Meir of Rottenberg, composed lamentations over the Talmud burning, and the devout fasted each year on the anniversary of the event. This was of course not the only incident of setting ^{bloodthirsty} afire Jewish books. Those were dark days, hard days, days of blind/fanaticism.

Missionaries are not, as the English would say, "my cup of tea", whatever their faith may be. But I am a member of a people for whom ^{respect for} the written word is one of its fundamental attributes. The historian Ben-Sasson wrote in his book "History of the People of Israel in the Medieval Era" that "books were admired and respected throughout all the Jewish Diaspora in the period we are discussing," and he added, that "the pious Askenazim preached an attitude of special sanctity for books." That was in the Middle Ages. But in the new Middle Ages, which groups like "Yad L'Akhir" seek to bring upon us, bookburning is a joyful adornment to the Festival of our Freedom. In recent years we are witnesses to an increase of zealotry in the State of Israel, a fanaticism with clearly religious symptoms. The illegitimate festivity

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which is about to be celebrated in the coming days, an orgy of fire and smoke, will constitute an additional feather in the cap of narrow-mindedness and intolerance. END ARTICLE

DATE: 26.3.80 JOURNAL: "HAMODIYA" (HEB AM AGUDAT YISRAEL) NEWS ARTICLE
 HEADING: "RABBI SAULSON APPEALS FOR ACTION AGAINST THE MISSION IN MIAMI BEACH"
 QUOTE : An appeal for action against the sect of the Mission in the centre of town in Miami Beach was made by Rabbi Shmuel Saulson, Deputy Mayor of Jerusalem, in an urgent message that he sent to Rabbi Mordecai Shapiro and Rabbi Phineas Berman of that city. Rabbi Saulson notes in his message that on Collins Street in that city, near the Hotel Carbian, the sect "Ayin Zayin" (probably "Jehovah Witnesses"...TRANSL.) has located itself, and as he has been informed, many of the children of Israel have been trapped in their net. He calls on them to arouse public opinion by every means possible in order to stem this grave breach, while expressing hope that the ultra-orthodox public throughout the USA will lend a hand to assist in the purging out of this plague.

In a further appeal to Rabbi Moshe Sharar, the President of Agudat Yisrael in the USA, and Chairman of the World Steering Committee, Rabbi Saulson raises the matter and calls for the operation of every possible means at the disposal of the Agudat Yisrael in the USA in this matter. He writes in his letter: "While I was there, I saw with my own eyes the ruin and destruction this sect of JW, which has located itself in the heart of town, is liable to bring upon innocent children of Israel," and he appeals to Rabbi Sherar to do everything possible to assist in the purging of this dreadful pestilence.

It should be noted that Rabbi Saulson has recently visited for several weeks throughout the USA, and in that framework he also visited Miami Beach. When he arrived there, a number of ultra-orthodox functionaries locally appealed to him for aid in ^{working} ~~them~~ against the sect which had set up shop in their city. END

DATE: 28.3.80 JOURNAL: "AL HAMISHMAR" (HEB AM MAPAM) NEWS ARTICLE
 HEADING: "'LEAVEN BURNING' OF THE NEW TESTAMENT"
 BYLINE : Gavriel Stern, "Al Hamishmar" Correspondent
 QUOTE : Representatives of the Torah Camp "Yad L'Akhir" have claimed, in the hearing of senior officials of the Ministry of Religious Affairs, that the man who announced in their name on "The Voice of Israel" the intention to set on fire on the Eve of Passover not only "The New Testament" but also Hebrew Scriptures (Tenach) bound with it in Christian Bibles, in the framework of the project of "Leaven Burning" (or "Leaven Purging"), spoke for himself alone. Nevertheless, they refrained from stating clearly what they would do with New Testaments, which are "illegitimate" in their eyes, which have come into their hands. Neither has the Ministry of Religious Affairs published an official demurrer from this shocking idea, which is reminiscent of the burning of the Talmud in the Middle Ages and the bookburnings of the Nazis. The officials of the Ministry made inquiry of "Yad L'Akhir", which is supported by the Ministry in its activities, at the request of the General Secretary of the Interfaith Committee, Yosef Emanuel. END

DATE: 28.3.80 JOURNAL: "AL HAMISHMAR" (HEB AM MAPAM) NEWS ARTICLE
 HEADING: "RENEWED THREATS AGAINST 'MESSIANIC JEWS' IN RISHON LETSION"
 BYLINE : Gavriel Stern, "Al Hamishmar" Correspondent
 QUOTE : Delegations of ultra-orthodox extremists have turned to the Mayor of Rishon Letsion with the demand to put an end to the activity of the small "Messianic Jewish" congregation in town, at the head of which stands the clergyman Baruch Maoz; "otherwise, there will be a calamity and blood will be shed," they threatened. The Mayor, a Likud party member who is supported by the NRP (National Religious Party), asked Maoz if it would not be better if they moved to Nes Tsiona. According to what Maoz told me yesterday, threats of bombings were made by telephone to him and to the owners (of the store where the congregation meets) and where it worships on Sabbaths and Tuesdays. Maoz expressed his appreciation for the serious manner in which the police of Rishon Letsion have handled the matter. END (TRANS. NOTE: THE VENUE OF THE ABOVE ARTICLE SHOULD BE REHOVOT, AND NOT AS MISTAKENLY REPORTED.) (MORE)

DATE: 28.3.80 JOURNAL: "YE DIOT AKHRONOT" (HEB PM IND) FEATURE ARTICLE

HEADING: "BOOK BURNING--PLAYING WITH FIRE"

BYLINE : Yaacov Cruz

QUOTE : A most disturbing phenomenon has come up with the announcement of some two weeks ago by the organization called "Yad L'Akhir" regarding its intention of burning missionary publications. The burning is to be kindled on Passover Eve in the framework of the "burning (or purging) of the leaven". The activists of the organization, so it is stated, will set afire missionary literature, and for this purpose they have even made an appeal to the citizenry to send them such material, if it is in their possession, in order to magnify the bonfire. Although we do not seek logical reasons among those who are so enthusiastic to play with this kind of fire, it is hard for us to understand why they want to engage in it precisely as part of the leaven ceremony. Leaven is good and kosher, as is known, throughout the year. It may be assumed that they do not intend to intimate that only during the days of Passover it is, in their opinion, forbidden to look through the writings of the Mission, whereas the balance of the year it is permitted.

The idea of book burning has nothing whatever to do with the spirit of Judaism. As far as is known, the destruction of literary creations by this means was first accomplished in China in the year 213 B.C.E. At that time there arose a new emperor in the land who sought to introduce political and social changes and was of the opinion that the people must be severed from past tradition. To achieve this end he ordered, among other things, the burning of Chinese classics, and especially those which were of the teachings of Confucius. Since then, that emperor has been an object of derision for the sages of China of all generations.

There are those who connect the destruction of the famous Alexandrian library founded by King Ptolemy II in the 2nd Century BCE, and which contained apparently about 700,000 scrolls, to the Arabian commander Omar Ibn El-'Aaz, who conquered Alexandria in the middle of the 7th Century C.E. The claim is (notwithstanding ^{A LACK OF} conclusive evidence therefor) that he ^{fed} ~~kept~~ the books, upon order of the Calif Omar, to the ovens of the many bathhouses in the city for six months. One version states that he said: "If there is nothing in them different from what is written in the Koran, then they are not needed; and if there is in them things which are contrary to the Koran, then they should be burned." (This he was said to have stated before deciding to consign the scrolls to the flames.)

The true perfecters of the "doctrine of burning"--in addition to the burning of human beings as well--were the leaders of the Catholic Church. This Church saw, and apparently still sees, itself as obligated to protect men from the dangers lurking and which threaten his eternal salvation in the reading of books which in its opinion are to be counted as heretical literature. The ^{vested} practical result was the maintenance of an intolerant censorship, one of its ^{methods} having been book burning. Although the Christian Church engaged in this labour very early in its history, it turned to the burning of Jewish books for the first time, charging that they were hurtful to Christianity, only in the 13th Century. The event was a direct result of an internal Jewish division. Rabbinic opponents of Maimonides in the year 1233 presented his writings to monks in Montpellier in South France as containing heretical passages. The monks did not delay to report this ^{to} the papal representative locally, and the latter hastened to order the public burning of all copies of "Guide to the Perplexed" and the "Book of Knowledge" of Maimonides which were found in the region. A similar fate befell his books in Paris.

This was an ominous precedent. Seven years passed, and on the basis of complaints made by a converted Jew in Paris that the Talmud contained 35 serious attacks upon Christianity, Pope Gregory ordered a public debate, the first of its kind, between Jews and Christians concerning the accusations against the Talmud. There is no need to elaborate that in the debate (in which the prosecutors and the judges were representatives of the Church) the defeat of the Jews was "guaranteed" ahead of time. In 1242 24 wagon loads containing thousands of copies of the Talmud were cast into the huge fires that raged in the streets of Paris. Rabbi Meir of Rottenberg was an eye-witness to the event, and composed the well-known lament: "O THOU BURNT (MORE)

WITH FIRE, PRAY FOR THE PEACE OF THY MOURNERS" (which is one of the laments for the Ninth Day of Av). The kindling of fires for the burning of books of the Talmud continued another five centuries, the last being in Poland in 1757, and became a part of the Jewish martyrology.

Except for one incident, bookburning by Jews is unknown. The sole incident stemmed from the conflict between the Hassidim and their Opponents (Mitnagdim) toward the end of the 18th Century. In Vilna there was a public burning of Hassidic literature. As is well known, this did not stop the development and expansion of the Hassidic movement, even as the burning of the Talmud was unable to cripple the spirit of Judaism. It would appear that this way of book burning can destroy the material upon which human thought is inscribed, but is incapable of suppressing that thought.

Book burning--of Jews and others--was revived in the 20th century by the German Nazis. In his book, "The Rise and Fall of the Third Reich," William Shirer wrote: "On the evening of the 10th May 1933, some 4½ months after Hitler was made Chancellor, there took place in Berlin an event the like of which had not been seen in the Western world since the Middle Ages. Close to midnight a torchlight procession of thousands of students in the square of Unter Den Linden facing the University of Berlin came to a close. A huge pile of books which had been assembled there was set on fire by torches, and while the flames lapped them up, more and more books were thrown into the bonfire until some 20,000 books were consumed by the fire. Similar events took place in several other cities. The book burnings had begun." (There follows a quotation of Nazi justification of the event.)

As far as is known, Christian missionary activity does not win much support among the Jewish citizens of the country, and the prospects of its success among them cannot cause serious concern to any intelligent person. The associations stirred by the possibility that in Israel books will be set afire are so appalling that it is hard to believe that those who publicly announced this plan really were in earnest. If, nevertheless, there are among us hot-heads who really intend to implement such an idiotic idea, we can only hope that there is someone who can put a stop to it in time. END ARTICLE

DATE: 28.3.80 JOURNAL: "JERUSALEM POST" (ENGL AM IND) FEATURE ARTICLE

HEADING: "THE HIAS BOGEYMAN"

SUBHEAD: ZVI GITTELMAN thinks it is time we faced the realities behind the dropout phenomenon in Soviet Jewish Emigration.

EXCERPT:..."If Jewish aid to emigrés is cut off, not a few will choose to remain in the USSR, where everyone agrees there is no hope for a Jewish life. Those who do come out will be welcomed by Baptist organizations, the Tolstoy Foundation, and Christian missionary groups, as well as by Satmar's Rav Tov organization (the latter an antizionist ultra-orthodox Jewish group...TRANS), all of whom are already active in Rome. Surely, no friend of Israel wants that. Moreover, one can imagine what kind of feelings towards Israel will develop among those who come to see themselves as "stuck" in the USSR...(END EXCERPT)

DATE: 4.4.80 JOURNAL: "JERUSALEM POST" (ENGL AM IND) FEATURE ARTICLE

HEADING: "HIAS IS THE BOGEYMAN"

SUBHEAD: POST POLITICAL REPORTER SARAH HONIG TAKES ISSUE WITH PROF. ZVI GITTELMAN OVER HIS VIEW OF THE HIAS (HEBREW IMMIGRANT AID SOCIETY) ROLE IN THE SOVIET JEWISH DROP OUT PHENOMENON.

EXCERPT:...Were HIAS not in the picture, he warns, a host of missionary outfits or the Satmar's Rav Tov would quickly take its place. HIAS apologists indeed will almost always dangle such bogeys before our eyes. Yet the Rav Tov certainly has no more than nuisance value; it could not cope with the thousands of people per month handled by HIAS. The Christian groups are neither as benevolent or generous, nor are they geared to deal with mass migration. Jewish Agency personnel do not regard them as possible competitors; they do serve as convenient HIAS scarecrows. These organizations also do not have HIAS' powerful motive--self preservation. (END EXCERPT)

DATE: 14.2.80 JOURNAL: "DER AUSSCHNIFF" (DUSSELDORF W.GERMANY)

HEADING: "JERUSALEM SITES VANDALIZED"

SUMMARY: This is a brief news article about apprehension of ^{zealot} arsonist. (For details see SELECT. 73. pages 13 & 15 (Louis Mazai Falk) END SUBJECT. (MORE)

SUBJECT NUMBER TWO: SECTARIANS

DATE: 14.2.80 JOURNAL: "IETZIE NAYIS" (TELAM V) YIDDISH LANGUAGE NEWS FEATURE
HEADING: "THE SECT OF EMMA BERGER AROUND ZICRON YAACOV"

QUOTE : It is quite an old precept among us Jews: "AND THE LAND SHALL NOT BE SOLD IN PERPETUITY". Essentially this precept is based upon social foundations. The intent is quite simple. It was instituted in order to prevent land monopolies, to make it impossible the formation of a certain class of owners of large tracts of land who would be obliged to hire workers to cultivate them ~~since~~ since they will be unable to do it themselves. The workers in the course of time will become embroiled in a class of servitude and exploitation. On the other hand, the precept also bore a national character, the aim being the prevention of sale to foreigners who might thereby have control over the land of the state of Israel. The strangers may come with the best and holiest intentions, they may just be angels, even messengers from Messiah son of David, yet it is forbidden to sell them any land.

From of old our poor little country has held a kind of magnetism to alien eyes, always there was this desire to buy us up, or to take our land away, to rend it from us by force. It isn't necessary to present evidence from historical facts and to prove this proposition.

It is a matter of years now since a German woman by name of Emma Berger has bought up around Zicron Yaacov a considerable section of land upon which to set up structures and plants. She is not the proprietor, which means that she deals with the property for the benefit of a sect which calls itself "Beth-El." The name alone smells of evangelism. Residents from that area tell of seeing buses driving around of various sizes, including one bus which gathers students and workers to bring them to the colony, the workers to their work and the children to their studies. Inscribed on the vehicles is the name "BETH-EL". The language which is heard among them in the colony is for the most part German. The sect has at its disposal a large area of properties among hundreds of dunams land, and as it appears, buildings have been erected for industrial purposes. It is known that they produce noodles, bread and aluminium ware. The entrances are shut tight, the work carried out behind closed windows....

When journalists have tried to photograph these places, they have not been permitted. Recently, they have begun to put up additional buildings. Among the construction workers are members of the sect as well as hired hands. One of the Arab workers has said that they work like horses. While they work, they neither eat nor drink. A young man from Canada, dressed in the same work clothes as the others of the sect, stated: "We are building here Kibbutz Bethel." Immediately, someone called him urgently to return to the house. A neighbour has said that these are the only neighbours in the vicinity, they are nice people, but more than a greeting "Shalom" she hasn't heard from them. The woman relates that they are (orderly) people, conduct themselves according to a strict discipline and routine but they avoid any contact with the surrounding residents. Similarly, another neighbour related that someone told her: "When Messiah comes, we alone will be on the land and not the Jews."

The legal status of the members of the sect is that of temporary residents. The various groups which come there from time to time from abroad, including America and Canada, receive the same legal status from the Interior Ministry. As is known, Emma Berger recently applied for the rights of permanent residence, but the Interior Ministry rejected the application. A senior official of the Interior Ministry paid a visit to the school and kindergarten, examined all the documents of those present, and was satisfied that there was no illegality related to their presence in the country.

The municipality is also concerned over the expansion of the sect under the leadership of Emma Berger, but as long as they violate no law, nothing can be done. Recently, rumours spread that Arabs also were buying up property in Upper Nazareth, a Jewish settlement overlooking the Christian Arab town of Nazareth. It appears that the Arabs are acting as the Jewish National Fund did. It is not clear where the funds are coming from. Is there any lack of petrodollars? The same question is asked concerning Madame Emma Berger. From whence come her funds to expand her colony or Kibbutz Bethel? It's hard to get an answer

Perhaps if it was known, the aims of this German colony in the heart of the State of Israel would be better understood. END ARTICLE

DATE: 28.3.80 JOURNAL: "YEDIOT AKHRONOT" (HEB PM IND) FEATURE ARTICLE

HEADING: "THE 'AUTONOMY' OF EMMA BERGER"

SUBHEAD: AFTER 17 YEARS OF INTENSIVE ACTIVITY IN SAMARIA, IN THE COURSE OF WHICH EMMA BERGER ACCUMULATED LANDS AND PROPERTIES VALUED IN HUNDREDS OF MILLIONS OF ISRAELI POUNDS, HER 'MISSION' REMAINS WRAPPED IN A HEAVY MYSTICAL FOG. DESPITE THE OBSTACLES PLACED IN HER PATH, THE UNKNOWN GERMAN SISTER HAS ESTABLISHED, WITH MAXIMUM SECRECY AND SOPHISTICATED MANEUVERING WITHIN THE ISRAELI JUDICIAL SYSTEM, A FOREIGN AUTONOMOUS ESTABLISHMENT AT WORK IN THE HEART OF THE STATE OF ISRAEL ACCORDING TO ITS OWN IRON RULE.

PHOTOS: Ten photographs of Emma Berger, Bethel, the sectarians, various properties, schoolchildren, etc.

BYLINE: Ruth Schreiter PHOTOGRAPHER: Hanoeh Gutman

SUMMARY: This is a very lengthy ^{piece} of two full pages and two part-pages of a weekend supplement in the nature of an exposé of the enterprises of the Emma Berger sect. The reporter was unable to make any direct contact (except for a few moments) with any of the sectarians or to gain access to the properties and lands held by them. She did considerable research and interviewing of lawyers, local officials and government officials, and alleges that a number of their activities are either in violation of laws governing property and management of enterprises or need to be tested in the courts. She also charges that the sect has set up organizations which appear to be distinct from them but are actually coverups for sectarian activity. The reporter views the sect as basically run by shrewd manipulators of religious belief and compares it to similar cults which have sprung up in the wake of end-time anxiety.

DATE: 26.3.80 JOURNAL: "DAVAR" (HEB AM LABOUR) NEWS ARTICLE

HEADING: "WARSAW COMMUNITY ARCHIVES AT THE DISPOSAL OF JEWISH RESEARCHERS THANKS TO THE MORMONS"

BYLINE: "DAVAR" Correspondent

EXCERPT: The Jewish archives in Warsaw containing tens of thousands of details, birth registrations, marriages, deaths, of tens of communities in Poland in the 19th and beginning 20th centuries, will be placed at the disposal of Jewish investigators, who until now have had no access to this material, thanks to the Mormons. The Mormons ... set up in Salt Lake City giant genealogical archives...and some three years ago the directors of the archives were able to visit Poland and to film on microfilm the certificates of the Jewish archives in Warsaw. Following negotiations which ^{were} recently concluded the microfilms are to be placed at the disposal of the Institute for Jewish Family Research in Israel and the Diaspora and (another institute). It was also agreed that the Mormon archives will permit Israeli institutes to photograph additional documents which cast light on the genealogies of Jews in other countries. (The balance of the article deals with the aims of one of the Jewish institutes to deepen the links of modern Jews to their ancestors as an aid in stemming the tide of assimilation.)

DATE: 25.3.80 JOURNAL: "JERUSALEM POST" (ENGL AM IND) READERS' LETTERS

HEADING: "IR OVOT"

BY: SIMHA PEARLMUTTER, Secy Ovot, Kibbutz

QUOTE: I refer to Benny Morris' article "JEWISH CHRISTIAN 'KIBBUTZ' WANTS RECOGNITION" (MARCH 9th): THE headline and article are a misrepresentation of Kibbutz Ir Ovot. The term "JEWISH CHRISTIAN" is extremely offensive to me as well as to the members of the kibbutz. Ir Ovot is an Orthodox Jewish kibbutz. Tefillin are put on every morning. We keep the Mitzvot--the Kashrut laws, shnat shmita, etc. No one here holds a belief in Jesus Christ. Benny Morris' information concerning our application to the High Court of Justice is erroneous. We are not demanding government recognition of our "existence," since we have had this since 1977. We are only demanding recognition of the name "Ovot" which has been ours for 15 years. The Interior Ministry has not opposed acknowledgment of our name because of what Morris terms "beliefs," but only because the names committee raised a question as to the actual physical location of the ancient place called Ovot. (END LETTER) BENNY MORRIS COMMENTS: There are Jews ^{AND} Christians at Ir Ovot--so it is a "Jewish-Christian settlement." It is "Orthodox Jewish" only up to a limit: for example, Orthodox Judaism no longer endorses (MORE)

polygamy. Many, if not all, Ir Ovot settlers "believe"-- in some manner--in Jesus Christ. Pearlmutter, in his announcement of candidacy for the Knesset, stated that he, for one, does so. At the interview, Pearlmutter told me that, while the Jewish Agency had awarded Ir Ovot "recognition" in 1977, the government (i.e. the Ministry of the Interior) had not done so so far. In addition, the Names Committee of that ministry had refused the settlement the name "Ir Ovot"--and the settlement has applied to the High Court on both matters. I never quoted Pearlmutter as saying that it was because of the settlement's beliefs that the committee was withholding recognition, though I am not certain he can know for certain on what basis it has made that refusal. END

SUBJECT NUMBER THREE: CHRISTIANS IN ISRAEL

DATE: 21.3.80 JOURNAL: JERUSALEM POST (ENGL AM IND) FEATURE ARTICLE
 HEADING: "BENEDICTINE'S MARK BIRTH" (CHRISTIAN COMMENT/OIKOUMENIKOS)
 SUMMARY: This is a description of the Benedictines in Israel in commemoration of the 1500th anniversary of the order's founder, St. Benedict (480-547). There follows a brief description of the various Benedictine communities in the Holy Land...at Tantur, in Bethelhem, on the Mt. Olives, in Abu Gosh, Tel Gamliel, Tabgha, the Dormition Abey, Latrun. The article concludes: "While some Christians may question the necessity of celibacy, there is unquestioned admiration for the life of personal discipline, devotion and work that characterizes the Benedictines." (END SUMMARY)

DATE: 24.3.80 JOURNAL: "AL HAMISHMAR" (HEB AM . MAPAM) NEWS ARTICLE
 HEADING: "BIRTHDAY OF BENEDICTUS (1500th) MARKED"
 BYLINE: Gavriel Stern, Al Hamishmar correspondent
 EXCERPTS: A festive prayer for peace and cooperation between Jews, Christians and Muslims in this land was heard in a colourful ceremony to mark the 1500th year from the birth of Benedictus (Baruch) the saint, father of western monasticism, in Italy, and founder of the famous mother monastery of Monte Casino. He lived from 480 to 547 during a low period of history and the domination of the barbarians in Western Europe, and set his seal of the conjunction of prayer and manual labour (upon Christian life). His monks played an important role in preserving the heritage of the past and in the development of agriculture in central and northern Europe. (There follows a description of the rites of commemoration in the Dormition Monastery on Mt. Zion.)

DATE: 26.3.80 JOURNAL: "AL HAMISHMAR" (HEB AM MAPAM) NEWS ARTICLE
 HEADING: "INTERFAITH COMMITTEE HOSTS "NITZANEI HASHALOM" (BLOSSOMS OF PEACE) IN THE TRIANGLE"
 BYLINE: Gavriel Stern
 QUOTE: Some 65 members and friends of the Israeli Interfaith Committee headed by Joseph Emanuel, the day before yesterday conducted a one-day tour in the villages of Arara and Kera as guests of the "Nitsanei Shalom", a group of Jewish academics from the USA initiated by Rabbi Bruce Cohen, whose members work in their professions as physicians, social workers and educators for a specified period in these villages. The visitors, among them a veteran religious educator, Pinhas Rosenblit of Mikva Israel, Hillel Shenker of the editorial staff of "NEW OUTLOOK" and the new director of the "PROJECT ATONEMENT" the German Christian clergymen Neudhardt, and others, conversed for a long while in a congenial atmosphere with the villagers about their problems. Afterward they were received in Givat Haviva by the manager of the institution of the Kibbutz Arzi of Shomer Hatsair, Yitshak Patish, and met with staff of the institute for Arabic studies, Zvi Atkin, Moshe Gavai, and Mohammed Watad. (END)

DATE: 28.3.80 JOURNAL: "AL HAMISHMAR" (HEB AM IND) NEWS ARTICLE
 HEADING: "THE CHRISTIAN 'HOLY WEEK' BEGINS TOMORROW"
 BYLINE: Gavriel Stern
 QUOTE: With the onset of "Holy Week" for all the Christian communities, which concludes Sunday a week with Easter, the municipality of Jerusalem has temporarily halted the groundwork being done on the Via Dolorosa, a central pilgrims route, and has for the time being covered the excavations with gravel, with shopkeepers and church circles expressing their satisfaction to me for this seemly demonstration of considerateness, which is costing significant sums of money. (There follows a brief description of the coincidence of the festivals of the Eastern and Western churches and the Jewish Passover and a brief reference to Palm Sunday.) END
 (MORE)

DATE: 4.4.80 JOURNAL: JERUSALEM POST (ENGL AM IND) NEWS BRIEF

HEADING: "ETHIOPIAN COPTIC HEAD ARRIVES WITH PILGRIMS"

QUOTE : BENGURION AIRPORT.-The head of Ethiopia's Coptic community, Patriarch Abuna Tacla Haimanot, arrived here yesterday afternoon at the head of a group of 140 pilgrims. END

DATE: 4.4.80 JOURNAL: JERUSALEM POST

FEATURE ARTICLE "CHRISTIAN COMMENT"
OILLOUMENIKOS

HEADING: "MYSTERY OF THE 'SECOND' WALL"

QUOTE : As thousands of Christian pilgrims converged on Jerusalem for Holy Week, debate about the location of the events surrounding the death and resurrection of Jesus could again be heard. A new book by archaeologist and New Testament scholar Bruce E. Schein is bound to produce further intense discussion. In "FOLLOWING THE WAY" (Minneapolis: Augsburg Press, 1980) Schein reproduces an artist's conception of the area north and west of the Temple where the Crucifixion probably occurred. A crucial question has always been the location of the "second wall," while the "first wall" is generally believed to parallel the Old City's David Street, from Jaffa Gate to the Temple Mount. The place of execution by the Romans would be outside the wall, the "second wall", and Schein believes that he has evidence to support his proposal.

Dr. Schein, a longtime Jerusalem resident and a Lutheran, bases the drawing on evidence from the excavation below the Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Redeemer in the Old City. Dr. Ute Lux, director of the German School of Archaeology, directed the dig which revealed quarrying done during the Herodian period 14 metres below the present street level. In contrast, bedrock is reached just 1/2-metre below the surface under the adjoining market street on the east. Since the late Kathleen Kenyon's trench nearby also went down 11 metres before it reached ancient material and evidence of quarrying, it is proposed that an extensive quarry may have originally been in this quarter, with Josephus' "second wall" just above it.... Dr. Schein, who assisted Dr. Lux in the excavation under the Lutheran Church, is convinced that the evidence will withstand further investigation. Since his book is just being released this month in America, it will be interesting to note other scholars' responses. END

DATE: 4.4.80 JOURNAL: JERUSALEM POST

FEATURE ARTICLE

HEADING: "THE STUDENT PRINCESS"

PHOTO: Princess Dhlamini in Class 1980
(OF SWAZILAND, SOUTHERN AFRICA)

BYLINE : Yaacov Friedler, J.P. Reporter

EXCERPT: The majority of the Swazis are Christians, with a minority adhering to local traditional religions and faiths. The princess, who dresses simply in cotton dress, is a Christian and was also greatly interested in the "Holy Land" aspect of Israel: "Now I have seen the birthplace of Jesus Christ and his tomb. I have seen the River Jordan, and though I've seen mightier rivers, I was thrilled," she said. (END EXCERPT CONCERNING TWO-WEEKS COURSE AT MT CARMEL INTERNATIONAL TRAINING CENTRE IN HAIFA ON YOUTH PROGRAMS IN WHICH 15 PERSONS FROM 10 LANDS TOOK PART.)

SUBJECT NUMBER FOUR: CHRISTIANS IN THE NEWS ABROAD

DATE: 26.3.80 JOURNAL: JERUSALEM POST NEWS BRIEF

HEADING: "RUNCIE ENTHRONED AS NEW ANGLICAN PRIMATE"

QUOTE : CANTERBURY, ENGLAND (HEUER) With a fanfare of trumpets and to the applause of religious leaders from all over the world, Robt. Runcie was enthroned yesterday as the 102nd Archbishop of Canterbury. He begged the Christian churches to overcome their differences and unite. The 58-year old archbishop told the biggest and most representative congregation ever assembled in Canterbury Cathedral that Christianity was better expressed by the work done for the poor by Mother Teresa of Calcutta, the Roman Catholic nun who won the 1979 Nobel Peace Prize, than by pageantry. END

DATE: 4.4.80 JOURNAL: JERUSALEM POST NEWS ARTICLE

HEADING: "BOYCOTT BY GYPT'S COPTIC BISHOPS"

QUOTE : CAIRO (AP).- Bishops of Egypt's Coptic Christian Orthodox Church boycotted Easter Week services yesterday in a decision arising from recent Moslem-Christian friction here. An official of the church secretariat said the bishops, together with Coptic Pope Shenouda, remained cloistered at a desert monastery... Church officials decided last week they would stay away from official receptions and functions during Easter Week because of what a spokesman said was their "pain and sorrow" over recent clashes involving Moslem fundamentalists.... (END EXCERPTS)
(MORE)

DATE: 4.4.80 JOURNAL: JERUSALEM POST FEATURE ARTICLE

HEADING: "THE REAGAN CIRCLE"

SUBHEAD: WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT WOLF BLITZER LOOKS AT THE MEN AROUND THE
REPUBLICAN FRONT-RUNNER, WHO SHAPE HIS FOREIGN POLICY AND MIDEAST

EXCERPT:....(U.S. Representative) Jack Kemp insisted that Reagan's (THINKING, election would be very beneficial for U.S.-Israel relations. "First of all," he said, "It would be more consistent--more positively consistent. I think Reagan is a very straight, honest and decent individual who is upfront...He certainly understands the history of the region. He's a Bible-oriented Christian. You'll find, I think, that people who understand the Bible and have a fundamental type of view of the world tend to be better Friends of Israel." (END EXC.)

MISCELLANEOUS SUBJECTS

A. CONVERTS:- DATE 28.12.79 JOURNAL: "JEWISH ECHO" (GLASGOW SCOTLAND) ENGL

HEADING: "CONVERTS IN ISRAEL"

QUOTE: JERUSALEM.- Out of some 84,000 Christians living in Israel about 500 were converted to Judaism during the past 12 months, whereas fewer than ten Jews converted to Christianity out of a Jewish population of 3,194,000. This was stated by the Rev. Henry C. Knight of the United Christian Church (sic!) at a recent public meeting in Jerusalem organized by the Israel Inter-Faith Committee together with the UCCI and the AJC. The topic discussed at the meeting, "RELIGIOUS FREEDOM AND THE LAW," served as an introduction to a planned dialogue between various religious groups in Israel. Prof. Herbert Kerrigan of the University of South California, a member of the Church of Scotland, and the two Jewish speakers, Prof. Itzhak Englard and Dr. Shimon Shetreet, of the Hebrew University, emphasised the application of law, not necessarily religious law, to individual rights.-JCNS

B. ART:- DATE: 21.3.80 JOURNAL: "YE DIOT AKHROMOT" (HEB PM IND) REVIEW

HEADING: "FOR CHRISTIAN INFORMATION AT JAFFA GATE"

EXCERPTS: Joseph Yackerson arrived in Israel several years ago from USSR, held a large exhibition at the Jerusalem Theatre and several solo exhibitions additionally. At present he is a resident of Beersheva....Now he is presenting various paintings, six drawings and lithographs. There is no need to stress that a Jewish artist is "permitted" certainly to choose Jesus the Nazarene as a subject for painting. This is part of the freedom of art, even though we still have our complexes about everything connected with the Christian religion. Another matter is the choice of the place (a Catholic Christian institution perhaps of missionary character) and the style of the invitations to the exhibition. These were exclusively in the English language without a single Hebrew letter. Here there is certainly obsequiousness (or fawning), Levantinism and a vulgar and impudent belittling of the Hebrew language.

The paintings are "dry" and artificial, and suffer from the familiar defects of Yackerson's paintings. The drawings are excellent. Jesus is portrayed in very Jewish character, and various details of his agony are described as though they were continuing to take place in the Old City of today. He is surrounded by an apathetic public round about him, a woman in slacks, a crying child, and the cross is there with the wall in the background. The "message" is that the sufferings of Jesus continue--but we do not sense them. In one of the paintings Jerusalem appears ruined and desolate. (END)

C. PASTOR BOB LINDSEY.- DATE: 4.4.80 JOURNAL: JERUSALEM POST BOOK REVIEW

HEADING: "REMARKABLE VOICES"

BOOK: "BELONGING: CONVERSATIONS WITH MEN & WOMEN WHO HAVE CHOSEN TO MAKE ISRAEL THEIR HOME" (By James McNeish, N.Y. Holt Rinehard & Winston, \$9.95)

REVIEWED: S.T. Meravi

EXCERPT : ...Then there's Pastor Bob Lindsay, a preacher from Oklahoma who maintains he is a "Jewish Christian pastor," who is not a goy and who wants to be accepted here under the Law of Return so he can convert Jewish Jews to true Jewish Christianity. Confusing, but not amusing. The people in this book, like all Israelis, are simply too rich in human experience to be dismissed as lunatics. McNeish found them fascinating, and so will his readers. He has done his job wisely and well by letting his subjects reveal themselves, selecting and steering with an intelligent and sensitive hand..." (END EXCERPT)