

SUBJECT NUMBER ONE: "THE MISSION"

DATE: 5.9.80 JOURNAL: "KOL HAMEKAZ" (SUPPLEMENT YE DIOT: HEBREW P.M. IND.) PHOTO STORY
 QUOTE: The ^{ultra-orthodox} residents of Rehovot have lately ^{EXHIBITED} extended public activity against several manifestations which are provoking them. In this framework last week was held a large public prayer assembly in the synagogue plaza at the centre of town. In the photo can be seen a proclamation calling upon the religious residents to take part in the assembly. Among other things, the assembly is directed against the Mission, against the sale of swineflesh in 14 shops in town, and against Sabbath desecration as a result of early departure of buses and the opening ^{the} cafes and/cinemas at the close of Sabbath, but while it is still daylight. (END)

DATE: 12.10.80 JOURNAL: "JERUSALEM POST" (ENGL AM IND) FEATURE ARTICLE
 HEADING: "NOBODY TO FILL THE VACUUM" (A POLITICAL ANALYSIS)
 BYLINE: DAVID KRIVINE

EXCERPT: He (S. Z. Abramov, former Liberal MK) recites their (Liberal Party) most recent derelictions. "They supported the Likud's anti-mission law. That's not liberal. The government abolished extradition....The party has done nothing in the last three years to which one can affix the tab 'liberal'." (END EXCERPT)

DATE: Oct. 1980 JOURNAL: "KAWL HAIR" (JERUSALEM HEBREW WEEKLY) FEATURE ARTICLE
 HEADING: "I SAY UNTO YOU, TALITA KUMI" BYLINE: Dan Omer

EXCERPT: All that is left today is to forego that wonderful structure "Talita Kumi" at the centre of Jerusalem...all that is left are excerpts from Hebrew literature....The building was erected by a German missionary society as a girls school and the name is taken from Aramaic, appearing first in the Book of Mark in the New Testament, wherein is recounted one of the miracles worked by Yeshua. (There follows an extended quotation from Mark's Gospel, beginning with 5:36: 'WHEN YESHUA HEARD WHAT WAS SAID, HE SPOKE TO THE CHIEF OF THE SYNAGOGUE...' to the end of the chapter, verse 43: 'AND HE COMMANDED THAT SHE BE GIVEN SOMETHING TO EAT.' The balance of the article deals with the references to the structure named "Talita Kumi" in modern Hebrew literature.)

DATE: 16.10.80 JOURNAL: JERUSALEM POST (ENGL AM IND) NEWS ARTICLE
 HEADING: "BILL RESTRICTS LANDBUYING BY ALIENS"

EXCERPT: Sale of land to foreigners would be subject to gov't approval under a bill that passed its first reading in the Knesset yesterday. By a vote of 22-2 the Lands Bill (Transfer of Rights to Foreigners) presented by Justice Minister Moshe Nissin, was referred to the Law Committee...The impetus for the submission of the bill, it is generally thought, was the continuing purchase of tracts of land in Zichron Ya'acov and Binyamina by a group of German Christians headed by Emma Berger. The bill says anyone who intends to sell his land to a foreigner must first submit all the details to the director of the Israel Lands Administration (ILA), and offer the sale to him. If the director is willing to buy the property, the seller will be barred from selling it to a foreigner. He can then decide not to sell at all, or to sell it to the director—either at the price offered by the foreigner or at the price determined by the gov't assessor, whichever is lower.

The presentation of the government bill was a triumph for Dov Shilansky (Herut) who has been campaigning against Emma Berger's land purchases for two years...Shilansky said in the debate that in the past ten years missionaries and other groups hostile to Israel have acquired "tremendous tracts" that could serve as bases for hostile activities....Shlomo Gross (Agudat Yisrael) claimed the bill does not go far enough. There might well be people in Emma Berger's group who have acquired Israel citizenship and are buying up land in Galilee. (END EXCERPTS)

SUBJECT NUMBER TWO: "CHRISTIANS PRO ISRAEL"

HEADING: "CHURCH CHOIR FROM BRITISH COLOMBIA COMING ON VISIT"

DATE: 23.9.80 JOURNAL: "HAARETZ" (HEB AM IND) NEWS BRIEF

QUOTE: A group of 52 from Glad Tidings Temple in British Columbia will arrive next week to appear in concerts in the Galilee and elsewhere in Israel. Joining the group will be the ^{Negro} soul singer Lilly Nolls of the USA. They will meet the President and the Prime Minister and tour the country. This church of 1500 members is known in their country as pro-Israel. They promote visits to Israel, the development of commercial and economic ties and the contribution of money for the upbuilding of the land. Pastor Maureen Galgardi heads the church. They have also undertaken to contribute to the Jewish National Fund for the development (MORE)

of new settlements in the Galilee. (END)

DATE: 26.9.80 JOURNAL: "HAAHETZ" (HEB AM IND) NEWSBRIEF

QUOTE: A group of 60 musicians and singers, Christians from Canada, joined by the Negro soul-singer Lillie Knawls, are coming to Israel as guests of the JNF. On the eve of Simhat Torah they will give a special performance in the Liberty Bell Park in Jerusalem in the presence of Mayor Kollek. This is a Christian group whose aim is to aid Israel. (END)

DATE: 26.9.80 JOURNAL: "AL HAMISHMAR" (HEB AM MAPAM) NEWSBRIEF

HEADING: "CHRISTIAN SINGERS GUESTS OF JEWISH NATIONAL FUND"
(SAME AS ABOVE)

DATE: 1.10.80 JOURNAL: "EHEV EHEV B'EILAT" (EILAT HEBREW WEEKLY) NEWS ARTICLE
HEADING: "GLAD TIDINGS FROM CANADA WILL APPEAR IN EILAT"

SUMMARY: An extended two-column article describing the above-mentioned group, who scheduled a performance in Eilat for 6.10.80, the composition of the group, its theological background (based on the Old Testament, the Tenach, which is why it is called an Evangelistic Pentecostal Church. They believe in our prophets and their prophecies...according to their belief, there will be a World War, Gog and Magog, after which the Messiah Jesus will appear....What distinguishes them from many similar churches is that there is not a particle of missionary interest among them. They are interested that we remain Jews and that we live in a secure and flourishing Israel.") There follows additional description of their activities on behalf of Israel, including their musical offerings, and the article concludes: "The organizers are aware of the sensitivity of the Jewish people in any subject connected with Christianity, and this has found expression in the songs they have chosen to perform in Israel." (END)

DATE: 1.10.80 JOURNAL: "AL HAMISHMAR" (HEB AM MAPAM) NEWS ARTICLE

HEADING: "CHRISTIANS FROM BRITISH COLUMBIA GUESTS OF JNF WILL MET WITH PRESIDENT
(AS ABOVE) /AND PRIME MINISTER"

DATE: 5.10.80 JOURNAL: "HATSOEH" (HEB AM NRP) NEWSBRIEF

HEADING: "CHRISTIANS FROM VANCOUVER CONTRIBUTING TO NEW SETTLEMENT IN UPPER GALILEE"
(AS FOREGOING, BUT MENTIONS "approximately one million dollar" sum)

DATE: 6.10.80 JOURNAL: "HATSOEH" (HEB AM NRP) NEWS ARTICLE

HEADING: "CHRISTIAN FRIENDS OF ISRAEL: 'THE JERUSALEM LAW EXPRESSES GOD'S WILL'"

QUOTE: "United Jerusalem is the eternal capital of Israel, and the Jerusalem Law is a just law which expresses God's will, and our support for it is complete and unshakeable," a group of Canadian citizens, members of a Christian delegation, lovers of Israel, declared yesterday to Mr. Yitzhak Navon, at the Presidential Residence. In the most emotional terms the members of the group expressed their love for Israel which is based on a profound faith and on "the sense of a tremendous moral obligation to the ancient Jewish people who bestowed to us faith in G-d." The President in his response referred to the sufferings of the Jewish people in the Diaspora, and related a legend about ^{a family of} Jewish exiles from Spain... When the father alone remained alive, he lifted his hands heavenwards and cried: "My G-d, your efforts to estrange me from you will not avail!"...

The President thanked his guests for the constructive ways they have found for expressing their support for Israel. "We are only at the beginning of our way," he said. "Sixty percent of our country is still wasteland. Large areas in the Negev and in the North await youth with vision and action to come and cause it to blossom. With the establishment of the State of Israel the Jewish people took its own destiny in its hands...." (END)

DATE: 5.10.80 JOURNAL: "MAARIV" (HEB PM IND) NEWS BRIEF

HEADING: "CHRISTIANS IN CANADA CONTRIBUTED TO ESTABLISHING SETTLEMENT IN GALILEE"

EXCERPT: A group of 50 Christians pro-Israel from Vancouver in Western Canada presented a check day before yesterday in the sum of ^{1/4} quarter-million dollars to the Prime Minister for the purpose of funding the establishment of a new settlement in Mt. Ravid in Upper Galilee. (This was the first instalment of a promise to raise about a million dollars for settlements in Israel.) END

DATE: 5.10.80 JOURNAL: "YEDIOT AKHRONOT" (HEB PM IND) NEWS BRIEF

HEADING: "CHRISTIANS FROM CANADA CONTRIBUTED TO ESTABLISHING SETTLEMENT IN GALILEE"
(AS ABOVE) MORE

DATE: 5.10.80 JOURNAL: "YEDIOT AKHRONOT" (HEB PM IND) PHOTO STORY
 CAPTION: P.M. MENACHEM BEGIN KISSING THE HAND OF A PILGRIM WOMAN WHO HAD
 COME TO HIS OFFICE WITH A GROUP OF CANADIAN PILGRIMS, PART OF A
 SECT WHICH SUPPORTS ISRAEL'S CLAIM TO JERUSALEM.

DATE: 6.10.80 JOURNAL: "HAARETZ" (HEB AM IND) NEWSBRIEF
 HEADING: "CHRISTIAN FRIENDS OF ISRAEL: 'JERUSALEM LAW EXPRESSES GOD'S WILL'"
 (Shortened version/^{See} Hatsofeh Article of 5.10.80 on page 2 herein)

DATE: 5.10.80 JOURNAL: "JERUSALEM POST" (ENGL AM IND) NEWS ARTICLE
 HEADING: "CHRISTIAN CHOIR RAISING \$1m. FOR KIBBUTZ"
 BYLINE : Judy Siegel, J.P. Reporter
 QUOTE : The 52 members of the Canadian Glad Tidings Temple Choir are not only singing the praises of Israel in Hebrew and English, but also raising one million dollars to help build a Galilee kibbutz they have "adopted." "We have loved Israel for over 30 years, but we didn't know how to express it," said Pastor Maureen Galgardi, founder of the 1,500-member evangelical Pentecostal church in British Columbia, at a reception at Beit Hanassi yesterday. "We want you to know that we love Israel very dearly and owe you a great debt, because out of Judaism our faith emerged."

"We aren't Jews but we are Zionists," added her deputy Father Jacoba Hurst. "We believe in the Bible and the right of the Jewish people to this land. We symbolically repent for the silence of the churches during the Holocaust... and express our support for the Jerusalem Law." (Balance of the article as in foregoing items.)

DATE: 15.10.80 JOURNAL: "HAARETZ" (HEB AM IND) NEWS ARTICLE
 HEADING: "CANADIAN CHOIR PRESENTS 'THRILLING EVENING' IN GESHER HAZIV"

BYLINE : Yehuda Ariel
 EXCERPT: A choir of 30 singers and musicians, including the famous ^{Negro}/Soul-singer Nellie Knawls, from Vancouver, Canada, performed last Thursday in the dining hall of Kibbutz Gesher Haziv. It was a thrilling performance which expressed faith in the people of Israel, in the Land of Israel, and in the Torah of Israel. Accompanying them was a group of 50 tourists who came to plant faith in the midst of the Israelis and also to draw encouragement from their own faith. (There follows similar background information as above and more on audience reaction to them, "stirring", and concludes:) The guests announced that additional groups from the church will be visiting Israel. They have no interest or thought of the Christian Mission, but only the fulfilment of Israel's purpose in its land and the redemption of the world by the people of Israel as foretold by the prophets of Israel in the Hebrew Scriptures. (END)

DATE: 16.10.80 JOURNAL: JERUSALEM POST NEWSBRIEF
 QUOTE: Some 200 Christians from Switzerland, Austria, Germany and Holland were welcomed at Hebrew Univ. yesterday by Vice-Pres. Michael Schlesinger at the inauguration of a scholarship fund sponsored by the Beth Shalom Society for Bible Study in Israel (END)

DATE: 16.10.80 JOURNAL: "JERUSALEM POST" NEWSBRIEF
 HEADING: "TORONTO CHRISTIAN GROUP SETS UP FUND"
 QUOTE : A group of pro-Israel Christians from Toronto have decided to donate ten percent of their gross profits from a film they made to establish a fund for innocent victims of terrorism in Israel. The group, CROSSROADS CHRISTIAN COMMUNICATIONS, who assert that Israel belongs to the Jews and who recognize Jerusalem as its capital, produced a film called "APPLES OF GOLD," whose theme is Israel. The fund will help terror victims in Israel and the territories, regardless of race, faith, or nationality. (END)

DATE: 19.10.80 JOURNAL: "AL HAMISHMAR" (HEB AM MAPAM) NEWSBRIEF
 HEADING: "CHRISTIANS FOR STUDENTS"
 QUOTE : "In contrast to the ^{rising} waves of antisemitism and the manifestations of Islamic extremism, the silent majority of the world supports the Jewish State and believes in its future and in the justice of its existence," said the president of the Christian "Society for Bible Study in Israel," Dr. Wim Malgo of Switzerland at a ceremony establishing a fund for students at the Hebrew Univ. in Jerusalem. The society was set up about a decade ago by some 200 Christians to work for the benefit of Israel (in various spheres voluntarily). END (MORE)

DATE: 19.10.80 JOURNAL: "HAARETZ" (HEB AM IND) NEWSBRIEF
 HEADING: "THE SILENT MAJORITY IN THE CHRISTIAN WORLD SUPPORTS ISRAEL"
 (SAME AS FOREGOING ARTICLE)

DATE: 21-27/10/80 JOURNAL: JERUSALEM POST (INTERNATIONAL EDITION)
 EXCERPT: Joining Israelis in the celebration of Succot will be some 800 Christians from around the world. They have come especially for the holiday on a pilgrimage organized by evangelical Christians who support Israel. Christian supporters are also encouraged to buy Israel bonds, subscribe to the Jerusalem Post International Edition, come to Israel as volunteers and encourage Jews to emigrate to Israel. (END EXC)

DATE: OCT 1980 JOURNAL: ISRAEL SCENE (J'LM) WZD PERIODICAL NEWSBRIEF
 QUOTE 800 Christians from 20 countries joined Israelis in celebrating the festival of Succot last month. They came on a pilgrimage organized by evangelical Christians who support Israel, and the festival was chosen, said one of the organizers, because, according to the prophet Zacharia, Succot is the holiday on which all the nations of the world will one day be called upon to come up to Jerusalem. "Bible-believing Christians," the organizer added, are encouraged to buy Israel Bonds, subscribe to the Jerusalem Post, come to Israel as volunteers and encourage Jews to make aliya. (END)

DATE: 10.10.80 JOURNAL: JERUSALEM POST "CHRISTIAN COMMENT/OIKOUMENIKOS"
 HEADING: "DOUBLE CELEBRATION" PHOTO: MAYOR KOLIEK UNVEILS PLAQUE AT NEW EMBASSY
 EXCERPT: "THOU SHALT OBSERVE THE FEAST OF TABERNACLES SEVEN DAYS...AND THOU SHALT REJOICE IN THY FEAST." (LEUT.16:13-14) The Festival of Succot has been kept by the Jewish people for over 3,000 years, but this year was different. For the first time Christians--1,000 of them from 23 countries--came to Jerusalem to celebrate the festival with the Jewish people, and to show their solidarity with the State of Israel at this critical moment, following the departure of so many embassies from Israel's capital. This deep desire reflects that of the "Almond Branch" association in Jerusalem, whose aim is to promote love and understanding between Jews and Christians. It was crystalized in the idea of an international Christian celebration during the Feast of Tabernacles...from Sept. 23 to Oct. 2nd.... Pres. Yitzhak Navon told the delegates, "Your presence had caused us to be comforted." Gifts to Israel from some of the delegations included the sum of over IS 10,000 from the Near East Ministry of Voorthuizen, Holland. This donation will be shared by two community service projects: the Rotary Foundation Fund which provides scholarships for Arab and Jewish youngsters, and Lifeline for the Old. Sha-are Zedek Hospital is richer today by \$20,000 given by Norwegian Christians....

Jan Willem van der Hoeven who, with his wife Widad, was involved in the program from its inception, announced: "The feast will culminate in a prayer march to the Knesset. We will then walk to our new Christian Embassy to be officially opened by Jerusalem Mayor Teddy Kollek." During the festival Widad made a statement profound in its perception of relative values: "I am a Christian Arab, NOT an Arab Christian. Spiritual values must take precedence over national loyalties." Opening the Embassy at 22 Rehov Rashba, Mayor Kollek confessed that he found it one of the most moving ceremonies of his life and sealed the official acceptance of the embassy with the gracious words, "There is only one Jerusalem--ours and yours..." Said Jay Rawlings: "As a direct result of this Feast of Tabernacles celebration, including Christian leaders and representatives from 23 nations, we have gone ahead to establish a Christian Embassy in Jerusalem. This will not be an embassy in the political sense of the word, but in the biblical sense, in that we will be ambassadors for Israel and for the principles of G-d that Israel represents. This embassy will be a focal point for Christians all over the world, a place they can relate to in Israel." Numerous telegrams were received from Christian leaders throughout the world....

Meeting with Chief Rabbi Shlomo Goren...was for many of the delegates the supreme moment of the week. Rabbi Goren told them: "Your sympathy, solidarity, and belief in the future of Israel--this to us is tremendous. We consider you part of the fulfilment of the prophetic vision expressed by Zechariah in chapter 14. Your presence here will always remain a golden page in the book of eternity in heaven. May the Lord bless you out of Zion." The hope and prayer of both participants and planners for Succot 1981 is NEXT YEAR IN JERUSALEM. (END)

INTERNATIONAL EDITION: "AMBASSADORS OF FRIENDSHIP" (same article as above) (MORE)

SUBJECT NUMBER THREE: CHRISTIANS AND ISRAEL/JEWS

DATE: 29.8.80 JOURNAL: "JEWISH CHRONICLE" (LONDON ENGLAND) NEWS ARTICLE
 HEADING: "ANTI-ISRAEL RESOLUTION BY CHURCHES"

BYLINE : Joseph Alpern, Geneva

QUOTE : A strong anti-Israeli resolution was adopted by the central committee of the WCC at its conference in Geneva, which ended last Friday. The WCC resolution described Israel's recently enacted Jerusalem Law as a "threat to peace," which "most dangerously undermines all efforts towards a just solution of the Middle East problem." The WCC resolution also urged member churches to "exert pressure on Israel through their respective governments to withhold any action on Jerusalem, the future of which should be included in negotiations on self-determination involving Israel and the Palestinian people." The central committee suggested consultations with member churches in the area and with the Vatican, to explore possibilities of finding the best solution to the problem of Jerusalem. Israeli sources in Geneva said privately that the resolution reflected the increasing politicisation of the Geneva-based WCC, and the anti-Israel line of its general secretary, the Rev. Philip Potter, of the West Indies. (END)

DATE: SEPT 1980 JOURNAL: "ISRAEL ECONOMIST" (JERUSALEM) FEATURE ARTICLE
 HEADING: "REFUSING CHURCH-GOVT TENSIONS"

BYLINE : Robert Kaplan

EXCERPT: In the midst of Jerusalem's rebuilt Jewish Quarter, among the synagogues and yeshivot, are two things which give Father Bergil Pixner of Domation Abbey "great hope" for the future relationship between Christians and Jews in Israel. One is the still-standing 15th century minaret near the Ramban synagogue, built by the mother of a beadle (synagogue official) who converted to Islam after a quarrel with his neighbors. The other is an archaeological garden preserving the remains of St. Mary's Crusader Church. "The fact that Israelis would not only excavate a church used by German knights, but then go on to rehabilitate its remains in the middle of the Jewish Quarter is something I find extraordinary," remarks Father Pixner, a Benedictine monk who is the moderator for the Circle of Ecumenical Friends, an umbrella organization for various churches in Jerusalem. "It is proof of the great respect the Jewish people have for the religious feelings of others."

It is commonplace knowledge that the Jews' long and bitter experience as a minority has begot a sensitive and constructive policy towards Israel's minorities, who are free to worship as they wish in protected holy places. What is not well-known is that partly on account of the political support these Christian minorities receive from outside the borders of the State of Israel, they are also accorded many tax and other privileges which not even Jewish immigrants receive. Lately, though, relations between the church communities and the Israel government have become somewhat tense. Even Father Pixner has expressed the need for "written, internationally-anchored guarantees" to safeguard the status of Christians in Jerusalem. FACTORS: The strain in relations is a product of two factors: a recent spate of vandalism against Christian institutions in Jerusalem which Israeli officials themselves describe as "very severe and without precedent," and growing realization among all parties that the status of the Holy City might soon become a real negotiating topic. Christian notables freely admit they are using the vandalism as an issue, and taking advantage of the state's democratic nature, in order to stake their claim now to a share in Jerusalem's future. "We think it's the right time to speak up," says Father Ignazio Mancini, director of Jerusalem's Christian Information Center who has been here as a Franciscan monk since 1935. A similar view is expressed by Christian officials specializing in church-government relations. "We need to consolidate our rights and improve on them, and now is the optimal time to do it," he says.

The rights and privileges that the 122,000 Christians in Israel and the administered territories receive from the government is a direct result of their dual personality. On the one hand, the sects are representatives of powerful forces outside the country. The 70,000 Catholics under Israel's jurisdiction (Latins, Greeks, Maronites, Syrians and Armenians) have to put it mildly a friend at the Vatican. The area's 2,800 Anglicans can turn to Canterbury. And the 42,000 Greek Orthodox (the largest and most powerful Christian group in Israel) can seriously affect the state of relations between Israel and nearby Greece. These are only a few examples....On the other hand, these groups are "minorities three-times-over," explains Dr. Daniel Rossing, director of the Christian Commu-

(MORE)

nities' Department in the Ministry of Religious Affairs. First, most local Christians are Arabs, a people who are themselves a minority vis-a-vis the Jews. Second, as Christians they are a minority within a predominantly Moslem Arab society. And third, since there are 35 different Christian groups in Israel, they are also a minority within the Christian population itself--unless they belong to a dominant group like the Greek Orthodox. "The Ministry's job is extremely delicate," notes Dr. Rossing. "We must compensate for the Christians' minority status, while at the same time act as though conducting diplomatic relations with foreign powers."...In addition, Christians enjoy almost total autonomy here. For instance, their 16 different courts are operated and financed by their own communities. In the Moslem and Druze courts, officials are appointed and paid by the government. Summing up the relationship, Dr. Rossing observes: "There is among Christians a growing trust in the Israel government's ability to protect and administer the Holy Places. This is something the years themselves have had to prove."...The Israel government believes that its support of the Lebanese Christians is another example of its good intentions. But the majority of this country's Christians do not see it that way. As one church official puts it: "In Lebanon, Israel is aiding the Maronites. Now, how is a rival group--such as the Greek Orthodox--supposed to relate to that?" Another official used the example of Iqrit and Bir'am in an attempt to show how Israel's assistance to the Christians in Lebanon is purely politically motivated....Iqrit and Bir'am were not the only sore points existing between local Christians and the government prior to the recent outbreak of vandalism. There have been frequent complaints over the difficulty that Arab Christians supposedly have in returning to Israel after living overseas. Then, in early 1978, the Knesset passed the so-called anti-missionary law, making it a legal offense to give or accept any kind of material benefit in return for a change of religion. Despite the fact that to this day, no one has been arrested and files have not been opened on account of the statute, many clergymen were outraged by the mere passage of the bill, authored by a member of the ultra-orthodox Agudat Israel party. Later in the year, the temporary occupation of the Coenaculum (the Last Supper room) on Mount Zion by students of the Diaspora Yeshiva caused further strain in church-state relations....SPORADIC: The "vandalism," as Israeli officials refer to it, or "anti-Christian violence," as it is called by some church personages, continued sporadically throughout the past winter. In most of the incidents, though, the authorities have been quick to react. Elsewhere, windows were smashed and slogans scrawled at the following places in Jerusalem, all of which have a "missionary" orientation: Baptist House on Hanarkis Street, the Zion Bookshop on the Street of the Prophets, the World Bible Society Bookshop on Jaffa Road and the Torch Bookshop on Shlomo Zion Hamalka Street. One adult has been arrested, and investigations are continuing in the few other cases. Meanwhile, the Jerusalem Municipality and the Religious Affairs Ministry have repaired all the damaged property at their own expense. This "wave" of incidents, as Dr. Rossing calls it, resulted in a common public statement signed by Father Fixner, Father Mancini, and the Rev. R. Kraider of Israel's United Christian Council. They wrote that "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 of anti-Christian fanaticism." After prodding from Mayor Kollek, Prime Minister Menahem Begin issued his own statement, in which he said that "the authorities will not tolerate acts of this kind. By the laws of Israel, all faiths enjoy absolute freedom to their shrines....The authorities, therefore, will do their utmost to prevent the recurrence of such intolerable criminal acts." A second statement was then issued by the three clergy, expressing deep satisfaction with the Prime Minister's reply. So much for the official record.

CONCERN: Unofficially, the affair ^{has} ~~was~~ caused a number of clergy and well-informed Jewish observers to voice concern about the direction in which Israeli society is going. It has also awakened the deep-rooted suspicion the Christian clergy have for the religious factions within the present government. One person in the Israeli establishment expressed the feeling in these words: "There has emerged a certain disrespect for law and order in this country, a feeling among extremist groups that with this government you can get away with perhaps more than you could with the Ma'arach. I therefore see a connection between the stone throwing by orthodox Jews on the Babot Road, the illegal settlements and the (MORE)

vandalism." Many Christians also recall that Jews, too, have been harassed by Jewish religious extremists. Says Father Pixner: "We are aware of what has occurred in Lebanon and what is now taking place in Iran. I am afraid the society is going in the same direction in this land." Despite the favorable remarks about the former Labor administration, the consensus among Christians seems to be that Israel governments will come and go, some will be better than others, and that the only permanent safeguard against what Father Pixner calls "the fear of Jewish Khomeinism" is an internationally guaranteed statute obeyed by whatever power controls Jerusalem in the future. "It is a question of principle, not a matter of the performance of any particular Israel government; we are fighting not against Israel, but for something," remarks one top Christian official.... These frustrations are not likely to be appeased. Christian officials point out that they are in the business of improving their position in the area and the way to do this is by trying to act from a position of strength. As one cleric says: "If we are retaking advantage of Israel's democracy, that's something Israel must point out to the world. It's certainly not our job to do so." Though Dr. Rossing's department has registered moderate success in the field of public relations—largely by arranging tours for Christian leaders to places like museums of Jewish history and by the quarterly publication of Christian News From Israel—the Israel government as a whole has been markedly deficient in this area.... Still, despite all these unfortunate incidents, it can be said that the government's policy of dispensing privileges to the Christian minorities, along with the general attitude of tolerance that exists among most Israelis, has wrought a mood of goodwill between the faiths. This was made plain to me during an interview with a Christian official in Jerusalem, a man who was more critical than most about the state of affairs between the government and the churches. After making a number of accusations against Israeli policy towards the Christians—accusations not supported by other clerics with whom I spoke—he added "that despite everything, Israel is by far the most agreeable place in the Middle East for Christians."

DATE: 28.9.80 JOURNAL: "AL HAMISHMAR" (HEB AM MAPAM) NEWS ARTICLE

HEADING: "PRESIDENT OF U.S.A. COUNCIL OF CHURCHES ON VISIT TO ISRAEL"

BYLINE: Gavriel Stern, "Al Hamishmar" Correspondent

QUOTE: Dr. William Howard, the president of the U.S. NCC (Prot. and Orthodox) is due to arrive today for a visit of seven days as guest of the American Jewish Committee. The Director of the Israel Office of the AJC, Dr. Yaacov Dov Resnikoff, explained that it was the desire of the visitor to see first-hand the problems of the region in preparation for the resolutions on the subject which are anticipated at the organizations's conference, which is of the highest importance in this field in the USA, although conservative circles are not found among them.

As will be recalled, a top-level delegation of the NCC toured Israel some time ago and prepared draft resolutions, but the president was unable to join the delegation at that time. Howard will meet, among others, with P.M. Begin, the acting Chairman of the High Court of Justice Haym Cohen, and the State Attorney Gavriel Bach (with whom he will discuss especially the problems of human rights in the Occupied Territories). He will also meet with the US Ambassador Samuel Lewis, with the Secy-Gen of Mapam, Victor Shontov, with the Chairman of the Labour Party, Shimon Peres, with Mayor Teddy Kollek and senior officials, with the writer Ibrahim Shabat, with representatives of the Interfaith Committee, "Peace Now," and the "Black Panthers." It appears that he will be permitted also to meet with Palestinian personalities notwithstanding the restrictions of movement and speech imposed upon them. The visitor will also tour Yad V'shem (Holocaust Museum), in Ramat Golan, in Kiryat Shmone and in the Triangle. Before coming to Israel, he had met with President Anwar Sadat, in Jordan with King Hussein, and according to plan, met for a talk with PLO head Yasser Arafat in Beirut.

(Balance of the article deals with several political resolutions proposed by the NCC draft resolution vis-à-vis Israel-Egyptian peace treaty ("an important step..."), the need for mutual recognition between Israel and PLO and stopping "hostile acts" toward one another, the Jerusalem problem to be resolved in a comprehensive settlement, and compensation for losses (MORE)

sustained by both Arab refugees from Mandatory Palestine and Jewish refugees from Arab lands.)

DATE: 29.9.80 JOURNAL: JERUSALEM POST NEWS ARTICLE
 HEADING: "HEAD OF U.S. CHURCH GROUP ARRIVES ON MIDEAST TOUR"
 BYLINE: HAIM SHA PIRO

QUOTE: The president of the U.S. National Council of Churches, which several months ago called for an "open dialogue" between the U.S. and the Palestine Liberation Organization, arrived yesterday in Israel for a four-day visit. The Rev. William Howard arrived from Egypt accompanied by two NCC officials, Joan Campbell and Richard Butler. Their trip follows a visit in March of an NCC Middle East panel, boycotted by most Jewish organizations and Israeli officials because of what was felt to be one-sided approach. The panel later called for a dialogue between the U.S. and the PLO. Rev. Howard was met at the airport by David Efrati, the Foreign Ministry official in charge of Christian Affairs, and he is due to meet with Prime Minister Menahem Begin tomorrow. He will also meet with Christians in East Jerusalem and the West Bank. The three are due to visit Jordan, Syria and Lebanon as well.

Meanwhile, another group of Christians from around the world, representing a number of evangelical sects, has come to open a n "International Christian Embassy" in Jerusalem tomorrow to compensate the capital for the loss of 13 foreign embassies. They are taking part in a special Succot gathering, and will first publicize their cause in a demonstration at the Knesset.

DATE: 5-11/10/80 JOURNAL: JERUSALEM POST (INTERNATIONAL EDITION) NEWS ART.
 HEADING: "U.S. CHURCH HEAD HAS TALKS HERE"

QUOTE : The president of the U.S. NCC, which several months ago called for "an open dialogue" between the U.S. and the PLO, visited Israel last week for a round of talks. Dr. Howard was one of the three American Christian clergymen to visit the U.S. hostages in Iran. The 34-year-old Baptist minister is the youngest person and the second black to head the body which includes all major American Christian denominations, except the Roman Catholics and the Southern Baptists, and claims a membership of 40 million. In an interview with the JERUSALEM POST in Jerusalem, he expressed his full backing of the NCC panel which visited the Mideast in March and recommended that the US negotiate with the PLO. The panel also called on Israel to recognize "Palestinian national rights and undertake to establish no more settlements in the West Bank or Gaza, while calling on the PLO to cease all acts of violence and renounce its rejection of Israel." (END)

DATE: 29.9.80 JOURNAL: "SHEARIM" (HEB AM POALEI AG.ISR.) NEWSBRIEF
 HEADING: "THREE HEADS OF CHURCH COUNCIL IN USA ARRIVE"

QUOTE : The president of the NCC, Rev. Wm. Howard, and two other leaders of the Council, arrived yesterday afternoon in a plane of the Nefrititi Company from Cairo for a visit of four days in Israel. During their stay here they will meet with the Prime Minister, with interfaith representatives, with Christian Arabs in the territories and with clergy in East Jerusalem. (END)

DATE: 29.9.80 JOURNAL: "HATSOFEH" (HEB AM NRP) NEWSBRIEF
 HEADING: "DELEGATION OF CHURCH COUNCIL IN USA ARRIVES"
 (AS ABOVE)

DATE: 29.9.80 JOURNAL: "AL HAMISHMAR" (HEB AM MAPAM) NEWS ARTICLE
 HEADING: "U.S. CHURCH COUNCIL HEADS ARRIVE"

SUBHEAD: "PURPOSE: TO STUDY REGIONAL PROBLEMS"
 (SEE FOREGOING; also previous article dated 28.9.80 headed:
 (PRESIDENT OF USA COUNCIL ON VISIT TO ISRAEL)

DATE: 3.10.80 JOURNAL: JERUSALEM POST (ENGL AM IND) NEWS ARTICLE
 HEADING: "AMERICAN CHURCH LEADER 'EXPLORES' U.S.-ISRAEL TIES"

BYLINE : Haim Shapiro

QUOTE : The president of the U.S. NCC said yesterday that, as an American group, his organization feels a responsibility to "explore" its country's longstanding alliance with Israel. Dr. Wm Howard Jr., who was one of the three American Christian clergymen to visit the U.S. hostages in Iran, said that he tried to convey to the American people the essence of Islam as a faith and to lessen the blind hatred which many Americans felt against the Iranian people. The 34-year-old-Baptist minister (SEE ITEM 5-11/10/80) MORE

He termed the Jerusalem Law "not helpful," because one party should not make a unilateral decision about something all the parties to a dispute were considering. Howard, who was in Beirut, Amman and Cairo, before coming to Jerusalem, denied that the tradition of Protestant missionary activity in Arab lands has played a major role in the present NCC statements on the Mideast. He said none of the panel members had served as missionaries in the Mideast.

(END)

DATE: 8.10.80 JOURNAL: "AL HANASHMAR" (HEB AM MAPAM) NEWS ARTICLE

HEADING: "I. SHABAT INVITED BY PRESIDENT OF CHURCH COUNCIL IN USA"

BYLINE: Gavriel Stern

QUOTE: The writer and journalist, Ibrahim Shabat, who was once a candidate of Mapam on the Alignment List for the Knesset, has been invited by Dr. Wm. Howard, President of the NCC, to give a series of lectures to church groups throughout America, and he will be departing soon. He will also be attending to the publication of his book in the English language.

^{34-year-old}
The ~~Black~~ Protestant leader, whose organization numbers some 40 million believers of various denominations, concluded this weekend a visit of seven days in Israel, together with two senior delegates. He was received by Prime Minister, M. Begin, by the leaders of the Opposition, Shimon Peress and Victor Shentov, and by Mayor Teddy Kollek of Jerusalem. One of my confidants has informed me that the visitor, "a personality of great stature," was clearly impressed by the hospitality extended to him, and particularly by the reception provided with the despatch of David Efrati, a senior official in the Foreign Ministry in Ecclesiastical Affairs, to the airport upon their arrival. He was especially interested in the fact that persons like Shentov and Kollek as well as circles such as "Peace Now" and the Interfaith Committee display openness and maximal understanding of the Palestinian problem. Shabat, who received the visitors at their request in his home in Nazareth, told them that the mistake of the PLO and the ^(alien element) "rejectionist" states was that they related to Israel as a ~~strange~~ "strange planting" in the region, while the mistake of the Govt of Israel was its denial of the right of self-determination for the Palestinian people. (END)

DATE: 10.9.80 JOURNAL: JERUSALEM POST (ENGL AM IND) MUSIC FEATURE

HEADING: "PERFORMING AUDIENCE"

BYLINE: Haim Shapiro

EXCERPT: The MESSIAH is coming to Jerusalem--the oratorio by Handel, that is, It will be sung on Christmas Day in the capital's "Binyanei Ha'uma" by an expected 1,000 tourists and perhaps twice that number of Israelis, U.S. conductor Margaret Hillis told a press conference in Jerusalem recently. A volunteer orchestra will perform, and all those attending will be expected to sing. Hillis, conductor of the Chicago Symphony Chorus, said tickets will be free, but they will have to be collected in advance. A ticket and a copy of the score will be the prerequisites for entry....Arrangements for some thousand expected singers are being made by Unitours in Tel Aviv. ^(organizer of the event) Booth/said most will be Christians who want to spend Christmas in the Holy Land, but he added that a few Jews have already signed up. In the Chicago performance last year, he recalled, the bassoon player wore a "kippa" (Orthodox Jewish skullcap). (END EXC)

DATE: OCTOBER 1980 JOURNAL: "ISRAEL SCENE" (WZO MONTHLY) FEATURE (RELIGION)

HEADING: "A LIFE OF DIALOGUE"

BYLINE: Dulcy Liebler

QUOTE (EXC.): When news of the Holocaust began filtering through to Britain in 1941, a group of religious and lay leaders felt compelled to do something to counter antisemitism, in Britain. And so the British Council of Christians & Jews was born. "The object of the council was obviously to do what it could about the problem of antisemitism. But we defined our purpose in the broadest possible terms," says one of its founders, Rev. Wm. Simpson. "We aimed to promote understanding and cooperation between Christians and Jews in dealing with any problems of prejudice and intolerance." Rev. Simpson is now working on a book about the development of Christian-Jewish understanding, an activity to which he has devoted most of his life. That, indeed, is what he was doing during the 3 months he spent as guest of the city of Jerusalem at...Mishkenot Sha'ananim...Rev. Simpson has always maintained that the problems facing Christians and Jews together are closely linked to current world problems. "I believe that together we should be able to create a peaceful solution in the long run to world problems in general," he says. "The mere fact that Christians and Jews meet and talk to each other--let alone

work together on committees, social and community projects, study groups, summer camp programs and the like--has gone a long way toward overcoming prejudice at the grass-roots level. And it has certainly promoted considerable understanding."

One of the most encouraging developments has been the proliferation of such councils and committees in Europe and in North & South America. The Interfaith Committee in Israel also includes Muslims. In 1976 the International Council held its conference in Jerusalem. The Theme was "ISRAEL: SIGNIFICANCE & REALITY." "Prior to the conference," he said, "a state of confusion existed in a good many Christian minds. The problem revolved around seeing Israel in a traditional, theological light in contrast to the contemporary political reality. We were able to resolve a good deal of misunderstanding..." In spite of the difficulties ahead, Rev. Simpson is optimistic both with regard to Christian-Jewish understanding and to international relations generally. "I can't surrender the belief that all that has happened down through the ages has had a creative and redemptive purpose," he /says.(END)

DATE: 27.10.80 JOURNAL: JERUSALEM POST (ENGL AM IND) NEWS ARTICLE

HEADING: "JIMMY CARTER: GOD HEARS EVERYONE"

EXCERPT: Pres. Jimmy Carter stepped into an election-year religious controversy on Wednesday by assuring a teenaged Jewish boy that God heard his prayers as well as those of Christians. The youth told the president, a devout Southern Baptist, that he had been shocked when two fundamentalist Christian ministers apparently supporting Republican Ronald Reagan said God did not hear prayers from Jews. "I pray three times a day," the youth said at a town meeting conducted by the president. "Do you think that God is not listening?" Carter replied: "There is no doubt in my mind that God listens to your prayers as He does mine." (The president referred to a common prayer offered by Sadat, Begin, and himself at the Camp David summit in 1978, and the article concludes:) "I think that proves that God heard all our prayers," Carter said (referring to the successful conclusion of the summit with a basis for the subsequent peace treaty.) (END EXC)

DATE: 20.10.80 JOURNAL: "YE DIOT AKHRONOT" (HEB PM IND) EDITORIAL

HEADING: "SACRED OBLIGATION"

BY: Dr. H. Rosenbloom, Editor.

QUOTE : The number of Christians who worked for the rescue of Jews in the Nazi inferno is not great, but those who did so at risk of their lives are saints. Such a saint is now in Israel, Ms. Eugenia Renot of Poland, who rescued 13 of our children during the Holocaust under conditions which make the heart tremble. And if it is her desire to remain with us in Israel, and those whom she rescued are unable to assist her in this matter, such obligation falls upon the State, indeed upon all of us, to assist Ms. Renot and to enable her to realize her dream of remaining with the survivors in their liberated land. (END)

DATE: 14.10.80 JOURNAL: JERUSALEM POST (ENGL AM IND) LETTER TO EDITOR

HEADING: "STUDENT CHRISTIAN FORUM"

BYLINE : Sr. Gemma Del Duca, Director, Student Christian Forum

QUOTE : The Student Christian Forum would like to inform Christian students and young people resident in Jerusalem and the surrounding areas that it is planning activities for the coming year. The basic aim of our group is to assist young people to make the most of their stay in Israel by becoming involved in the life of the country. We invite those who are interested, and who wish to participate, to send in their names and mailing addresses so that we may make information available to them. (STUDENT CHRISTIAN FORUM, POB 249, JERUSALEM--TELEPHONE 223822) The first event is planned for Thurs, Oct 30th at the Swedish Theological Institute, Jerusalem. (END)

DATE: 14.10.80 JOURNAL: JERUSALEM POST FEATURE ARTICLE "TODAY GARDENING"

HEADING: "A MEETING PLACE OF EAST AND WEST" BYLINE: Yehonathan Tommer

PHOTO : The thriving cactus patch at the entrance to the institute

SUMMARY: A feature article about the Swedish Theological Institute with "the perfect garden in the centre of town", giving some background information, history, present activities, and its physical attractiveness.

END TRANSCRIPTION (29.10.98) MB
