TO: 12.5.83 (50 Clippings)

BURIAL FURORE

When someone informed the Burial Society of Rishon LeZion that the bodies of two Gentiles had been interred in a Jewish plot IN THE LOCAL CEMETERY, ANOTHER ROUND OF secularist-religious tension commenced. On the basis of its investigation, the Burial Society (Hevra Kadisha) planned to exhume the bodies of two women and to re-inter them in another area of the graveyard despite the objections of the next-of-kin.

Teresa Englovitz, a Gentile woman wedded for some 50 years to a Jew, had to all purposes lived as a Jewess in Roumania and in Israel except for undergoing formal rabbinic conversion to Judaism. (A local religious authority denied this and claimed she had continued to visit the church in Israel.) In the eyes of traditional Jews, whether or not she identified with the Church, she was a Christian, as were her offspring, since according to Jewish religious law Judaism is transmitted only on the maternal side where there has been no formal conversion rite. (Some Orthodox Jews, however, did argue for the validity of her Jewish burial on the grounds of "assimilation" into Judaism.)

Teresa emigrated to Islael from Roumania with her husband and two daughters in 1964 and the family reportedly lived as Jews th roughout that time in Rishon LeZion. One of the daughters eventually underwent formal conversion to Judaism; another daughter who did not, died 14 ears ago and was buried in a Jewish family plot, while the mother died some four months ago and was interred in the same plot. A week after Teresa's death the family was visited by two rabbis who informed them that the bodies of the mot her and daughter must be removed from the cemetery. The family objected, and as a result of the intervention of various Government officials the exhumation was tempor arily stopped. However, when the next-of-kin approached the Burial Society for the purpose of arranging the erection of a tombstone over the mother's grave, the Society notified them that they intended to remove the bodies of mother and daughter and re-inter them elsewhere. Appeals by the family to the local religious authorities to forego the re-interment proved fruitless, and the family turned to the Ministry of Religious Affai s, which ordered a delay in the exhumation procedure.

Defenders of Jewish Orthodoxy denied that "racism" or "medievalism" were factors in the traditional Jewish view of death and burial. "Jewish believers give the highest priority to halachic (traditional) Judaism, not only in relation to laws and customs concerning life but also concerning death," Michael Shashar wrote in defence of the exhumation procedure. (YEDIOT ADHRONOT: 5.5.83) "The matter is related to belief in life after death and in the resurrection. None of this means a thing to the Jew who regards personal immortality and ressurrection as a relic of 'primitive religion'...but if there is no life after death and a corpose is nothing more than a home for dust and worms, why is (exhumation) such a calamity?" he asked.

HAARETZ (10.5.83) reported that the surviving daughter, Adina Harpaz, had engaged an attorney who would appeal to the High Court for the issuance of an order against the Burial Society's plans, The Ministry of Religious Affairs, reportedly upset about the way the affair was handled by the local religious authorities, meanwhile decided it could do nothing to prevent the Burial Society's plans. The attorney for the family was reported to be developing an argument from Israeli secular law which forbids disrespect to the dead and giving offence to the next-of-kin. (COMPILATION OF NEWS ARTICLES, FEATURE ARTICLES, EDITORIALS, BETWEEN 6.4.83 and 10.5.83 IN HAARETZ, AL HAMISHM, AR, DAVAR, MAARIV, YEDIOT AKHRONOT: A TOTAL OF 15 clippings.)

SOV IET PENTECOSTALIST IN ISRAEL

Lydia Vasachenko from Chernogorsk in Siberia, a member of the Christian Pentecostalist sect, yesterday fulfilled a 20-year-old dream when she arrived in Israel. The pale, spare Ypung woman last week was granted an exit permit from the USSR after spending more than five years at the U.S. Embassy in Moscow. At Ben-Gurion Airport she read a statement in English prepared for her, while her hands trembled and tears flowed from her

eyes. "I am happy to be in Israel; for me this is the fulfilment of a dream of my family for more than 20 years. I want to thank the Gov't of Israel for permitting me to enter the Holy Land and express my appreciation to the American and Israeli officials in Vienna who aided me in obtaining a visa. Once more I want to thank all those people, organizations and governments who enabled me to emig rate from the USSR. I look forward to the day when I shall again be reunited with members of my family," she stated.

Lydia was weary, frightened and perplexed, and she was unable to answer questions after reading her statement in a weak voice and in uneven English. Her escorts said she would spend a short time in Tiberias until she was recovered, and then she could answer press queries. Representatives of the international organization promised that the struggle for the release of the remaining members of her family in the U.S. Embassy in Moscow would continue. Meanwhile, Lydia has been furnished with a three-months tourist visa, but she is hopeful that the State of Israel will permit her to be absorbed in Israel, as she has dreamed all these years.

Some of the Christian groups who greeted her, and who have been working on her behalf and on behalf of her family were listed: "Campaigners for the Sibe: an Seven," "Voice of Hope" radio station, and the International Christian Embassy in Jerusalem. (DAVAR, AL HAMISHMAR, YEDIOT AKHRONOT, MAARIV: 11.4.83) On 13.4.83 MAARIV reported that six other Pentecostals who have found refuge in the U.S. Embassy in Moscow will now ask for visas to Israel, reportedly on the basis of signals from the Soviet authorities that they are ready to end the five-year-long affair.

"MISSION"

"MISSIONARIES 'INFILTRATING' ISRAEL IN THE GUISE OF KIBBUTZ VOLUNTEERS" (HAMODIYA 6.5.83) One Rabbi Eliyahu L. of the American "PEILIM" (an anti-mission society) who works among secularist Jews (to restore them to traditional "Torah" Judaism) reported that "among the thousands of volunteers in the kibbutzim there are also Gentiles, some of whom are missionaries. They work in the ulpanim, in workrooms and in the fields in order to influence young innocents to join them." Most of them are Pentecostalists, Jews who believe in Jesus, and they ceaselessly proclaim their support for the Jewish people and the State of Israel...(There follows a description of the "evangelistic" endeavours of the rabbi to win wayward J ewish souls to the world of ultra-orthodoxy...invitations to spend time in a yeshiva, a Sabbath in Meah Sheraim with a devout family, etc.)

Returning to the missionary theme, the article continues: The Israeli authorities are almost unaware of the missionary danger. The fact that at Kibbutz Dafna, for example, the one responsible for the volunt eers is himself a missionary who has become a kibbutz member speaks volumes about the penetration of the Church, sinking its claws into the youth of the kibbutzim and their surroundings....Accoring to reliable information in our possession, there are at least 100 missionaries at present in kibbutzim throughout Israel, where they conceal themselves as volunteers and do their work. The multiple efforts of the Mission to penetrate Ismael obliges the religious community in Israel to take counter-measures...and the way the PEILIM of the USA are operating, inviting the young people for the Sabbath at yeshivas and with ultra-orthodox families is bearing g ood fruit. Many of them have already become "penitents" and are now themselves studying in the yeshivas.

"INCREDIBLE": How dare you write about the Rebbe of Lubabovitch and his followers, that they are a "missionary sect" (KAWL HA'IR: 1.4.83) who are seeking converts among the secularist community? As in observant Jew I found it incredible that it would be possible to characterize thus such deeds which help the entire community of Israel. Neither is the jibe "parasites" which you tagged onto the Habad hassidim realistic since they serve in the I.D.F. and even reached Lebanon. SIGNED: Meir Yulis, J'lm (KAWL HA'IR:8.4)

"JEWS FOR JESUS": In the office of Petah Tikva Mayor Dov Tavori over a hundred postcards have piled up with a uniform handwriting, apparently photocopies. All the senders came from Skokie, Chicago, with a photograph of a clergyman on the reverse of the card. Dan Ben-Cana (who worked for many years as a Jewish Agency representative in the USA) tried to discover who and what was behind the mailing. He suspects that a group of "JEWS FOR JESUS" is behind it, which for some reason decided to converge on the Petah Tikva Mayor. (HAARETZ: 24.4.83)

"CHRIST IANIT Y IN PLEASANT WAYS": Under this heading, "HA'IR" TELAVIV (18.3.83) reviewed a radio lecture given by Dr. Marcel Dubois, Head of the Philosophy Dept at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, and also Head of the Dominican Monastery in Jerusalem, on the Sabbath of 12.3.83. The review begins: The people who set fire to the Baptist monastery (sic.) in Jerusalem several months ago would certainly have blown up the broadcasting studio had they been listening to the program of Fr. Marcel Dubois on the Sabbath. Missionary preaching on the Gov't radio, and on the Holy Sabbath yet? I

myself see in this program evidence of the openness of Israeli radio to people with views which are not accepted by the majority. Dr. Marcel Dubois is one of the most intelligent and compelling personalities living in Israel, and one who is quite familiar with the intricacies of secularist life even though he is a monk, speaks model Hebrew, and is able to get to the essentials and convey complex matters in a language which can be understood by everyone. (The review continues with Dr. Dubois's answers to questions about the monastic life, its motivations, theology, various orders, etc.)

CHRISTIANS PRO-ISRAEL

FRA HANSEN: At a State ceremony at Binyanei Ha'Uma in Jerusalem, President Yitzhak Navon will today (6.4.83) award 14 decorations to outstanding volunteers, chosen from among 400 volunteers recommended for the decoration. A special decoration will be given this year for service to the people and to the State to Pastor Per Fay Hansen, a Norwegian living in Israel more than 40 years, who has established churches for Scandinavian seamen. His main work was in behalf of Jews in Occupied Norway during World War TWo when he smuggled Jewish families from NOrway into neutral Sweden at personal risk to himself and his family. Pastor Hansen told the President at the ceremony that it was a "privilege" for him, as a NOrwegian-born clergyman settled in Israel, to promote aliya and work for the improvement of Israel's image around the world. (MAARIV: 6.4.83; JERUSALEM POST: 7.4.83) In a special feature article with a photograph of Pastor Hansen behind the pulpit decked with an intertwined Cross and Star of David MAARIV (6.4.83) headed its three-column story: "THE ZIONIST CLERGYMAN PERSUADED JEWS IN THE USA TO EMIGRATE TO ISRAEL." Sketching the 67-year-old "Number Ome Ch ristian Zionist^ms life," the feature writer describes Hansen's first visit to the Holy Land before World War Two, his activities during World War Two on behalf of Norwegian Jewry, his flight from Norway ahead of the Nazis, his return to the Holy Land during the last days of the British Mandate, his contacts with Israeli leaders from the early days of the State from Ben-Gurion to Begin, his journalistic and lecturing activities on behalf of Zionism and Israel, his Scandinvian seamen's missions in Haifa, Ashdod and Jerusalem, and his prophetic and theological views: "I decided to consecrate my life to the fulfilment of Zionism and the enhancement of the State of Israel according to my biblical b elif, but I oppose missionary activity in Israel and believe that the Jew must remain a Jew and live in his own land here."

BETH SHALOM: A centre for the activities of the Christian society BETH SHALOM is to be built in the Gilo neighbourhood in Jerusalem. It will be set up as a hotel of 177 rooms and suites in an area of 11,500 Sq.M., which the Municiapl Committee for Planning and Construction recently approved. Dr. Wim Malgo, the society's head, and the project manager Luther Mosiman, in a letter to Yehiel Kadishai of the Prime Mimister's Office, requested assistance. "We are interested in building a centre for our movement in the capital in the form of a hotel to accommodate many tourists, and the municipal authorities support this idea and see it as good for Israel," they wrote. There are some quartermillion activits in the Beth Shalom movement worldwide, and they annually bring thousands of Christians to Israel, as well as maintain solidarity societies with Israel in Europe and the USA. At present there are two of their centres located in Haifa, which will probably be closed down after the completion of the Gilo hotel. A municiapl official was quoted as saying: "There is no reason to prevent the society from setting up its centre in Gilo. It does not engaged and will not engage in missionary activity, does not favour it, and the society has helped much in the development of the City, and we are obliged to assist them." (KOL YERUSHALAYIM: 8.4.83)

FAITH BIBLE CHURCH, DENVER, COLORADO: A two-page feature article in "KOTERET ROSHEET" (21.4.83) is devoted to Dr. Robert Hooley of Faith Bible Church in Denver, excerpts and summary of which follow: "When the Messiah comes, says Dr. Robert Hooley with great earnestness, we'll find out who was really right, the Jews or the Christians. If the Messiah is David's son, then the Jews were right, but if the Messiah is Jesus the Naza= rene, then we were right. Meanwhile, there are no differences between Jews and Christians." The representative of the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) of B'nei Brit stands at h is side and nods in agreement, while those in the lavish guest room smile, some in embarrassment, and the attractive hostest hastens to offer coffee and hot cakes. At a meeting of the ADL the people know quite well who their grandparents were and from whence their ancestors came; it's not so easy for Jest forget, but it isn't quite as clear whether their children will remain Jews...As theRev. Hooley pats the heads of the (Jewish) children with his white hand, does he have pity on them that they were born Jews and that it has been determined that they go on in their erroneous ways until the coming of Messiah?"

(There follows a description of the organization of home meetings by the ADL against the backg round of Dr. Hooley's Christian Zionism. The writer, Amir Shaviv, time and again expresses his reservations and his perception of the reservations in the Jewish community after descriptions of the church's Zionism.) "I sensed mixed feelings among the guests. They are all smiling, expressing appreciation for the church; nevertheless, hidden reservations are concealed behind those smiles and praise for the reverend; nothing that one can identify clearly...Someone asks politely about missionary activity; Hooley quivers, 'God forbid!' Indeed, he doesn't engage in winning Jewish souls to his faith. He detests such strange sects like "JEWS FOR JESUS" and grumbles at the ignorance or malice behind the confusion of his group with them. He has a clinching argument! 'If I were a missionary, would General Raful (Eitan) have received us? And would we have been interviewed on/TV if we were missionaries?'" (The balance of the article contains more detailed descriptions about the kudos showered upon "Father Hooley" (sic.) by various top figures in the I.D.F. and the Israeli establishment, including the Israeli consul from Los Angeles, alongside repeated reservations of the writer, especially as he finds it hard to believe that Faith Bible Church, which he visited, has "not a single cross, not one painting of Jesus and the Virgin Mary...no icons, no images. A sense of irrational and inexplicable discomfort affects me." In another place he writes: "Christians are not supposed to to love Jews, and therefore a Christian who loves Jews and works in their behalf is a kind of 'man-bites-dog' news scoop.")

JEWS AND EVANG ELICALS MEET: The Jer ey City JEWISH STANDARD published (26.11.82) a report by David Friedman from Washington BC of a two-day meeting attended by Evangelical Christians and Jews sponsored by TAV Evangelical Ministries, a California-based pro-Israel group. At a press conference an eight-point Evangelical declaration was read which affirmed that Evangelicals "are committed to the security of Israel, abhor antisemitism, mourn the Holocaust and repent the Church's silence, support the U.S. Jewish community's efforts on behalf of Israel, denounce anti-Zionism and urge Arab leaders to unequivocally renounce the use of terror and embrance the legitimacy of the State of Israel." Several Rabbis who advocate stronger Evangelical-Jewish ties also spoke.

CHRISTIAN RALLY: "DIALOGUE" JERUSALEM (No. 1/83) gave a summary in English, French, panish of the Fourth Annucal Christian Celebration During the Feast of Tabernacles held in Jerusalem in October 1982.

"THE PANGS OF MESSIAH--TODAY?" A half-page message in HAARETZ (24.4.83) cites copiously from the prophetic scriptures in the Hebrew Bible to warn that srael is living in the end-times of the time of Jacob's trouble. It concludes: "Soon the time of Jacob's trouble will begin out of which he shall be saved...Pay heed to the stormy events taking place in our day throughout the world and in our land; and most important, do not neglect to identify King Messiah, David's son, when he comes, for he will save us. Let us all greet him with the cry from the depths of our heart: 'BLESSED BE HE WH O COMES IN THE NAME OF THE LORD.!" By Rick Davis.

THE TEMPLE MOUNT: Several articles appeared recently in the Hebrew press relating to ties between militant Orthodox Jews and Fundamentalist Christians against the background of sectarian plans to worship on the Temple Mount and to rebuild the Temple. In a lengthy feature article, HAARETZ writer Amos Ayalon described such connections and reprinted a plan of the Third Temple according to the Book of Ezekiel published by a U.S. Protestant sect "whose adherents believe that Jesus will return following the rebuilding of the Temple, at which time the Jews will accept Christianity and the dead will rise to life...Baptists from the U.S. South are also seeking to build a church in the vicinity of the Temple Mount and in the shadow of the Third Temple which, according to them, will speed the return of Jesus and the resurrection of the dead. (HAARETZ: 28.3.83)

In the Jerusalem weekly supplement KAWL HA'IR" Yehuda Litani (8.4.83) wrote about similar developments in some of the Orthodox Jewish community, noting: "Not only Jews, but also Fundamentalist Christians from the U.S. South are helping them along with money and deeds, as a sign of the fulfilment of the prophecies of Jesus. On the same date the other Jerusalem supplement KOL YERUSHALAYIM referred to the J.D.L. zealot Rabbi Kahana who "in his forthcoming trip to the U.S.A. will meet with a group of religious Christians who support the right of all faiths to pray on the Temple Mount. These Christians have promised Kahana that they will laise huge sums on the order of hundreds of thousands of dollars in order to help realize this objective. This money, Kahana claims, will grant legitimacy to going up to the Temple Mount."

JEWS AND CHRISTIANS

CARDINAL LUSTIGER: Jean-Marie Lustiger, Archbishop of Paris and a converted Jew, has been appointed a Cardinal and a Prince of the Roman Catholic Church. Vatican sources said that as far as they knew, he is the first Jew to achieve this rank...(JEWISH TELE-GRAPH 14.1.83) (Edwin Eytan.) The Chief Rabbi of French Jewry, Professor Shmuel Sira, and his predecessor Rabbi Yaacov Kaplan, have published a joint statement denying that they had taken part in the official reception of the Paris Archbishop Jean-Marie Lustiger which took place yesterday at the Archbishop's residence. (HAARETZ: 21.4.83) It should be noted that the two rabbis have in the past met separately with Lustiger, but their refusal to take part in the official reception attests to their desire to express reservations about their relation to the archbishop. They view him as one who blurs the distinctions betwen Judaism and Christianity by claiming that his baptism into Christianity is the fulfilment of his Judaism.

BISHOP LOHSE: Bishop Lohse, Chairman of the Council of the Lutheran Church in West Germany, has called on Religious Affairs Minister Burg. (JERUSALEM POST: 6.4.83)

GAVRIEL STERN: AL HAMISHMAR Editorial Board member Gavrie Stern was laid to rest yesterday in Jerusalem on Har Menuhet. Attending the funeral were the distinguished educator A.E. Simon, Mayor Teddy Kollek and former Jerusalem Mayor Ish Shalom, Mapan Gen-Secy Victor Shemtov, representatives of the Armenian Community, the Catholic and Protestant churches, Fr. Jorgen Verman of the Church of the Redeemer, a representative of the German organization "Sign of Atonement" and colleagues from AL HAMISHMAR & MAPAM, and many of his friends. (AL HAMISHMAR: 5.5.83)

CRYPTO-JEWSt "We have discovered thousands of 'underground' Jews in Portugal, a head-line in YEDIOT AKHRONOT screamed the other day, and underneath appeared the story of MK Aharon Nahamias and Rabbi Menahem Cohen who engaged in a 'secret mission' in Portugal among the remnants of congregations dating back to 'the period of the INquisition' who observe several of the Jewish festivals. The story detailed thedetective work of the MKs on the tracks of the crypto-Jewish congregations in a style that would not shame any thriller, were it not for the fact that the great 'discovery' was already made in 1979 by HAARETZ writer Avraham TAI while in Portugal when he detailed his meetings with the 'underground' Jews of that country. (HAARETZ: 11.5.83) In a subsequent item (HAARETZ: 12.5.83) it was noted that the existence of crypto-Jewish communities in Portugal, outwardly Christian but secretaly maintaining Jewish rites since the 15th century, was already known in 1917.

Meanwhile, the Jewish Agency in Israel announced that it had initiated visits to the crypto-Jews of north Portugal for the purpose of encouraging their emigration to Israel. Next month the first group of 20 will visit Israel as guests of the Absorption Dept. An estimated 500 descendants of Medieval Portuguese Jews live in northern Portugal, fome of whom continue to observe the Sabbath, Passover, the Day of Atonement, etc., and some are interested in a formal return to Judaism; also in the Isle of Majorca in Jpain some 30,000 descendants of Spanish Jewry forced to convert to Christianity remain unassimilated; also in other parts of the world. The Jewish Agency should make every effort to gather them back to their homeland, it was stated.

According to the General Director of the Absorption Department, in Afghanistan and in Pakistan there are some 15 million Pathans who observe Jewish traditions such as circumcision, dietary laws and the Sabbath, carry amulets with the words "SHEMA YISRAEL" (HEAR O ISRAEL) written in Hebrew, and they also bear names of the lost tribes of Israel. Other groups were also mentioned from the Indian subcontinent who retain traditional Jewish pretices. Meanwhile, the Chief Rabbis have been approached for a halachic ruling about the status of the Portuguese crypto-Jews and their reinstitution into Judaism. (HAARETZ: 9.5.83)

BOOK REVIEWS: Two books dealing with Israel for Christian readers were reviewed in CHRISTIAN COMMENT/OIKOUMENIKOS (JERUSALEM POST : 26.4.83): "ISRAEL FOR CHRISTIANS", UNDERSTANDING MODERN ISRAEL (By Rabbi A. James Rudin of the American Jewish Committee, published by Lutheran-owned Fortress Press) and "THIS YEAR IN JERUSALEM (By Kenneth Cragg, a former assistant to the Anglican Bistop in Jerusalem.

ASSORTED ITEMS

MOSAIC: The intact portion of the mosaic at the Church of the Beatitutdes near Bethlehem was displayed for the first time last week in the Archaeological Garden of the Israel Museum. (HAARE I : 2.5.83)

MUSIC: (Discussion about banned anti-s emitic composers or compositions) In my humble opinion the Jerusalem Orchestra and the Israel Radio must play good music, and whoever wishes to listen may do so, and the reverse is true...just as no one is ob liged to attend a performance of Shakespeare's MERCHANT OF VENICE with its more than a little antisemitism. In Bach's PASSIONS there are antisemitic portions. In St. J ohn's Bassion Pontius Pilate asks the Jews whom to release—Jesus or the thieves—and they reply! the thieves..." (KOL YERUSHALAYIM: 8.4.83 MUSIC COLUMN)

ANTISEMITISM: EXCERPT FROM A FEATURE ARTICLE BY JOEL MARCUS: We must not only seek the answer (to renewed antisemitism) in the narrow political sphere. First of all and above all, one must seek out the background to it in the abysmal hatred existing in the Arab world towards Israelis as Jews and in the deeply-rooted prejudices among many of the Christian peoples. We should remember that, concerning the Jews, in all ages everything was credible—from the Protocols of the Elders of Zion to the wicked myth that Jews pour out the blood of Christian children into the matzet. (8.4.83)

HARRETZ Soviet-Jewish Christians: Excerpt from an arcticle about the new leadership in the Soviet Union: It is interesting to note the generosity with which the journal SVAR (in the USBR) opens its pages to Jewish literary critics who are trying to stand in the front line of the Christian religious revival aiming at an accommodation with the Soviet system. A most interesting representative of this t rend is the Muscovite critic Ina Rodneanskaya who specializes in Russian religious philosophy. (MIKHAIL AGURSKY in HAARETZ: 9.5.83)

BIBLE READER CARTER: An old custom the Carters have to read each evening a chapter from the Holy Scriptures. Right now in their readings they have reached the Book of Jeremiah, Jimmy Carter related to Yitzhak Yaacovi, Director of the Department for the Development of East Jerusalem, during his traditional mourning jogging. Yaacovi is an Orthodox Jew, and in the course of their theological jogging, the two of them stopped opposte Christian churches and sites which decorate Jerusalem, quoted Scripture and continued on their way. The evening scripture reading, it would appear, was not a blessing in wain; when they reached a point opposite Mt. Zion, Yaacovi quoted the relevant passages to Carter, including Joshua 15:8 describing the boundaries of the tribe of Judah. From the heights of the wall the former president could view the peak on which the King David Hotel (where he was staying) stood, and behind it Yemin Moshe, which fit perfectly with the verse from Joshua. Moved to tears, he told his jogging companion that he would bring Roslyn there so that she could see with her own eyes the truth of the Holy Scriptures. (HAARETZ: 1123/83 Lilly Galilee)

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