

"THE MESSIAH"

A group of several hundred students from the right-wing religious-nationalist Yeshiva (Jewish religious seminary) "MERKAZ HARAV KOOK" sought to prevent or hamper the performance of the Handel oratorio "THE MESSIAH" at the national auditorium ("BINYANEI HA'UMIA") in Jerusalem on the evening of 10 Jun 1983. At first conducting a non-violent demonstration outside the auditorium, the objectors distributed leaflets condemning the performance of what they termed a "missionary" enterprise designed to "poison" the minds of Jewish youth; they sought to persuade concertgoers to forego the performance. Once the concert had begun, however, over a dozen demonstrators infiltrated the concert hall (removing their Orthodox headgear to avoid recognition by the police forewarned about a possible disturbance), and interrupted the concert several times with cries of "Shame," and organized chanting. The police removed the protesters, but not before several were roughed up and beaten by angry concertgoers. One of the zealots threw down the national flag from the platform and was immediately arrested and ejected. In all, 13 of the group were arrested and charged. The oratorio was resumed following each disturbance to the cheers of the audience; and the "HALELEUYAH" Chorus was sung twice to the enthusiastic response of the audience.

The performance was the work of the Utah Oratorio Society (not to be confused with the Mormon Tabernacle Choir) combined with the Kibbutz Chamber Orchestra of Israel. It was held under the auspices of the Israeli Ministry of Tourism despite attempts by Jewish Orthodox elements to have the concert venue removed from the national auditorium to a church setting. While Yeshiva Merkaz Harav authorities assumed responsibility for the demonstration outside the concert hall, they denied knowledge or approval of the disturbances within the hall.

(MAARIV: 12.6)

A strong negative reaction to the Orthodox protest was noted in the press. Three Knesset Members submitted urgent motions to denounce ultra-orthodox zealotry at the concert. Tourism Minister Sharir told an interviewer from "HAARETZ" (10.6): "I denounce this act with all my heart. The culprits must be brought to justice and dealt with severely." Feature writer Dov Ganhovsky of YEDIOT AKHRONOT (12.6) expressed a certain satisfaction that the incident had "shattered a legend, cultivated so persistently," that the "Merkaz Harav Yeshiva" is somehow "different from the ultra-orthodox yeshivas," and as a result the students "enjoyed a special status" among religious students for their alleged broadmindedness. "On Friday it was proven that the difference is only one of sophistication," he concludes, with a talent for press relations...and hypocrisy.

Several papers printed a letter by and an interview with Yeshiva students from Merkaz Harav denying that the concert disruption was approved by the yeshiva authorities; however, after citing New Testament texts sung in the oratorio ("NOW IS CHRIST RISEN, THE FIRST FRUITS OF THE DEAD...") they justified the principle of the protest against the allegedly un-Jewish character of the event. "The battle against the Mission will continue. If such things as took place (namely, the oratorio) are repeated, we will find suitable ways of acting," Rabbi Zuckerman of the yeshiva told an interviewer, but admitted that the intrusion in the concert hall was "tactically an error." (HAARETZ:15.6; HATSOFEH 20.6; KOL YERUSHALAYIM 14.6; YEDIOT AKHRONOT & MAARIV: 21.6)

The following week the choir was received at the Presidential Residence by Israeli Pres. Haym Herzog, who expressed his appreciation for their support of Israel, which he himself had experienced during a visit to Utah. Meanwhile, the 13 arrested zealots were released on bail pending trial. In an analysis of the "Merkaz Harav" connection to the incident, Yizhar Beha. of "KAVL HA'IR JERUSALEM" (17.6) claimed that a power struggle was going on within the Yeshiva following the death of its leader last year. He noted that one of the contending parties for the leadership, Rabbi Zvi Israel Tau, and his followers were the instigators of the protest. In an editorial, DAVAR (15.6) denounced the zealot for the "disgrace" they had brought on Israel by their "mindlessness", and also expressed disappointment that the perpetrators came from a "Zionist yeshiva" succumbing to "Houmeineism". Most of the oratorio texts, the writer noted, came "from our own prophetic books and only four from the New Testament." Rabbi David Hartman, a senior lecturer in philosophy at the Hebrew University and Director of the Shalom Hartman Institute for Advanced Jewish Studies in J'lm asked in an article headed "A VIOLATION OF LOVE" (JLM POST 17.6): "What meaning does the preaching of love of Israel have, if we can only love those Jews who act and feel the way we do?" He termed the oratorio incident a "cruel and cynical act of disturbing an audience during the concert." The ultra-orthodox HAMODIYA (29.6) charged that "a number of yeshiva students were beaten by Mormons in the audience," and that the Mormons had as their main purpose "to convert Jews and even to cause them to leave Israel."

Fines ranging from I S.30,000 to 50,000 were imposed on the 13 yeshiva students plus a 9-month suspended sentence for three years with the requirement of a bond to be posted

in the amount of IS. 150,000. (JLM POST 22.7.83) An additional fine of IS 50,000 was imposed on ~~one~~ of the zealots for insulting the national flag. (32 clippings)

### BETH SHALOM

The plan to build a hotel in the Gilo neighbourhood of Jerusalem for Christian pilgrims of the pro-Israel "BETH SHALOM" movement has met with stiff opposition by Orthodox Jewish groups in the Holy City who are charging that it is a coverup for a mission operation. The Jerusalem Municipality, which approved the plan, has categorically rejected the charges. "We are angry and stunned," the municipal spokesman stated, noting the vast sums the movement has contributed to the Jerusalem Foundation, the Soldiers Welfare Fund, Rabbi Samuel Golding, who claims to have been a former Protestant evangelist and missionary (SEE SELECTIONS #106, page 1), claimed that he had infiltrated the BETH SHALOM centre in Haifa and found incriminating material about the planned Gilo hotel. (KAHL HA'IR 15.7.83). The BETH SHALOM monthly was said to have a clear link to a missionary goal for the proposed hotel.

In an interview with the Jerusalem weekly KOL YERUSHALAYIM (22.7) Wim Malgo, the leader of the movement, denied any missionary intentions while conceding that the movement does engage in missionary activity in India and in Latin America. "The Israeli people are chosen by God, and we have no intention of engaging in missionary work in their midst," he stated following a meeting with Jerusalem Mayor Kollek with 400 visiting members of his movement. The local reporter noted that at that very moment a missionary tract entitled "CALLUP ORDERS" was being placed in the postboxes of Gilo residents advertising a correspondence course of the Emmaus Bible School in Haifa. The tract called for "preparation for the War of Gog and Magog, for love of God, and for promulgation of the Gospel of peace with God in order that our people may be ready to receive the victorious king when he returns..." The reporter noted a similarity in the tract to remarks made by Malgo to him. "Is there a link between the two or is this merely a coincidence?" he asks in conclusion of his article.

In an anti-mission article, HAMODIYA (Ultra-orthodox) linked "grave and destructive missionary activity" in Gilo to the Beth Shalom movement and their plan to build a hotel in the area. (14.6) It was also reported that a meeting between a delegation of Gilo citizens and the municipality to discuss the issue was being arranged. Two additional clippings, unrelated to the Gilo hotel-missionary issue, reported meetings of Beth Shalom with Israelis. (DAVAR 20.7; AL HAMISHMAR 24.7) (10 clippings)

### AMERICAN ARRESTED FOR MISSIONIZING IN ISRAELI ORPHANAGE

An American national, Heinz Sylvester, age 44, entered a Jewish orphanage in central Jerusalem on Jaffa Road and tried by various means to persuade the youngsters to convert to Christianity. The authorities at the orphanage overheard the conversation and called the police, who arrested the man and charged him with unlawful trespass. In Court he was sentenced to one week's imprisonment, but the police agreed to release him so that he might leave the country, as he had previously planned. (HATSOFEH, YEDIOT AKHRONOT:26.6; HAMODIYA: 27.6; MAARIV:29.6)

### "THE MISSION"

"SIMHA PERLMUTTER OF IR OVOT A MISSIONARY" The Jerusalem Ultra-Orthodox "judiciary" has ruled that Simha Perlmutter of Ir Ovot in the Arava, whose lifestyle is as ultra-orthodox as Neturei Karta, is nothing but a missionary disguised as an ultra-orthodox Jew. Founded in 1967, the kibbutz members dress like residents of Meah Shearim, the children even studying in the traditional Heder in Yiddish. They do not recognize the State of Israel, take no part in Knesset elections, have boycotted the census, and do not serve in the I.D.F. nor celebrate national holidays. Most of them are American "penitents," and they submit to the authority of the Satmar Rebbe of the ultra-Orthodox community in Jerusalem. They originally came in 1966 from Miami, Florida, as a small group of believers in Jesus, but most of the original settlers have dispersed.

Thanks to the activities of the PEILIM YAD L'AKHIM, and aided by an expert in missionary matters, it was learned that Perlmutter's book "THE TENTS OF SHEM" is filled with propaganda for Christianity and Jesus. As a result, a grave warning was issued by the ultra-orthodox judiciary: "In the wake of reliable testimonies...we declare that this place (IR OVOT) is a frightful menace to every Jew; that he (Simha Perlmutter) is an extremely dangerous person who under cover of an ultra-orthodox mantle seeks to persuade Jews to believe in that man (Jesus), Heaven Fofbid! We therefore warn each and every Israelite not to set foot in that place nor to be in the presence of this man at all... Also Mr. Ami Katz, the External Secretary of the Kibbutz has agreed before us to leave the place. In the hope of the abundant mercies of Heaven, signed....." The secretary referred to is a Tel-Aviv man, 26, married and the father of four children, whose late

father was Dr. Emil Katz, director of a Hadassah Hospital department. Ami Katz was formerly a leftist before joining the ultra-orthodox community; and following the above ruling, he will be leaving the kibbutz. (DAVAR 8.6.83)

"MISSIONARY MENACE": A series of clippings about the "missionary menace" in various areas of Israel appeared in several papers: "THE MISSION RIDES AGAIN" (KOL-BO 4/83);- Moshe Abutbol of Haifa wrote about the missionary menace while a high school student in 1934...and 49 years later in 1983 he must continue to take up his pen to warn of the same danger. "Nothing has changed," he laments. "BEGIN PROMISES ACTION ON MISSIONARY MENACE" (JEWISH TRIBUNE, LONDON 28.5);-The Prime Minister has contacted Rabbi Golding of the PEILIM in Rehovot and promised to act against missionary activity. Rabbi Golding told the P.M. of the tremendous influence the missionaries have on the surrounding area. The P.M. heard Rabbi Golding being interviewed on the radio and took the initiative to phone him. "MATERNITY CASES IN JEZREEL VALLEY SENT TO MISSION HOSPITAL IN NAZARETH" (MAARIV 26.6);- The director of the Kupat Holim hospital in the Jezreel Valley in Afula stated that the hospital has ceased to serve its purpose when even maternity cases are being referred to the Mission Hospital in Nazareth. He has decided to join hunger strikers in protest of the situation. "THE MISSION AGAIN RUNNING WILD IN PET AH TIKVA" (HATSOFEH 15.7);- ONE of the missionary sects, "SCIENTOLOGY," has made an agreement with a hotel in the Dead Sea area to arrange weekends at reduced rates. In the Petah Tikva area they are advertising a "combination of spiritual attainments with health and recreation" along with quotations from Psalms. "MISSIONARY ACTIVITY INCREASING" (YEDIOT AKHRONOT 28.6);- The anti-mission organization YAD L'AKHIM is warning against increased promotion of Christianity in Jerusalem. The activity is focused especially in the neighbourhoods of Gilo, East Talpiot, Shmuel HaNavi and Neve Yaacov. "Recently, missionary house groups have been expanding in private homes," Moshe Porush, head of YAD L'AKIM in the Holy City stated; "and it is our intention to locate them and to put a stop to this activity."

From a formal standpoint, there is no need for any licence to engage in missionary activity. "RAMAT GAN FIGHTING THE MISSIONARIES" (MAARIV, LOCAL EDITION: 29.6);- The Ramat Gan Municipality has decided to combat the missionary sects such as the "Guru Maharashi," "Anda Marga," and "The Jewish Christians," which have begun to operate in various places in town. A special committee has been set up chaired by the Deputy Mayor, Menahem Gilad. Their job will be to take suitable steps, in consultation with juridical authorities, in order "to liquidate the missionary plague in Ramat Gan." "THE MISSION IS 'LAYING INTO' THE RELIGIOUS NEIGHBOURHOOD OF KIRYAT ELIYAHU IN HAIFA" (HATSOFEH 6.7.83);- Recently, residents of the Poah HaMizrahi (Religious Zionist) neighbourhood have been bothered by the emissaries of the Mission. From time to time the postboxes are stuffed with blatant missionary material. They invite the "dear" reader to come to their office, the Emmaus Bible School, and to receive a copy of the New Testament.

EXCERPTS FROM A KNESSET SPEECH OF RABBI SAMUEL HALPERT (AGUDAT YISRAEL, ULTRA-ORTHODOX PARTY): Recently, the missionary sects in Israel and abroad have been intensifying their activities by many and various ways and means...sophisticated literature...appeals to the financially distressed...with one aim; to systematically lead to conversion of Jews and their emigration from Israel. While the law forbids the use of financial means (for effecting these aims)...they disguise their activities in order to comply with the present law. Without a doubt, if we wish to purge out the plague of mission and to put a stop to repeated incidents of conversion and emigration from Israel, there must be a complete prohibition of mission activities in Israel. I understand the political difficulties Israel has in this matter, but it seems to me with a little good will a way can be found to deal with this problem also.

(There follow examples of alleged ongoing missionary activity:- The Mormon choir and other activities, BETH SHALOM Movement, Emma Berger sectarians, some 300 Roman Catholic orders with 800 monks and nuns, Adventist sects and Protestant sects.) Other missionary groups working in Israel are the Messianic apostates and the Baptists. They have an extremely great impact, and some of them belong to sects trying to set up in Israel Jewish-Christian churches as at the beginning of Christianity. Most of these converts are the fruit of American Jewish missionary organizations composed of Jews, and their main propaganda is directed at Jews. Some of them are supported and funded by large Christian churches and some are independent. The various churches, especially the Baptists, relate these converts with great sympathy, hoping that they will be the bridge that will lead Judaism to Christianity, Heaven forbid. For this reason, these churches seek to gain legal and official recognition by the State of Israel for the convert of Jewish origin so that he will be recognized as a member of the Israeli people and of Jewish nationality, and as a full partner in the building and settling of the Land. (There follows a discourse on various other sects:

Hare Krishna, TM, the Messianic Jews, Jehova h's Witnesses ...) There are groups which come to the kibbu tzim under the guise of societies which love Israel, but their real purpose is the reverse....The Government should initiate legislation that would put an end to the intensifying missionary activity in Israel and once and for all remove this scandal from the State of Israel....The missionary societies working in Israel should be obliged to maintain an open registry of the children studying in their institutions...the Christian sects and individual missionaries should expose their identities...and be registered as "amutot" (nonprofit societies); also they should be required to keep accounts and there should be supervision of the tremendous capital pouring in from various worldwide missionary organizations to their emissaries in Israel, sometimes coming from countries even hostile to Israel. The Gov't should see the enactment of such legislation as a top priority...(HAMODIYA 22.7.83)

"YULETIDE MISSIONARIES" (THE JEWISH NEWS, DETROIT MICHIGAN) A warning about the exploitation of "the coincidence of Hanuka with the Christmas season" by JEMS FOR JESUS and "so-called Hebrew - Christian missionaries" was carried by the paper on 10.12.82.

MISSIONARY ACTIVITY OF A DIFFERENT KIND: The Satmar Hassidim in the ultra-orthodox suburbs of New York are in a quandary since an earthy businessman took the crown of leadership of their sect, and several of them have found their way into competing sects. It is said that crossing the line from the (antizionist) Satmar to (the pro-Israel) Habad is almost like converting to Christianity, which accounts for the violence and sidecurl-shearing of the Habad rabbi (in Brooklyn) recently. (HAARETZ 10.6.83.) A Satmar spokesman said in an interview...that the LUBAVITCHER group had provoked the Satmar by what he called their "proselytizing" techniques. "We resent the missionary activities of the LUBAVITCH as much as we would resent the Hare Krishna or Rev. Moon," he said. (NEW YORK TIMES 17.6) An ultra-orthodox public notice was signed "BELIEVERS GATHERING"--a phrase usually used by the missionaries. After the matter was discovered, functionaries of the ultra-orthodox community went through their neighbourhoods and covered up the notices. (KAWL HA'IR 29.7.83)

#### HEBR EW CHRISIANS

HEBREW CATHOLICS: A two-page illustrated feature article was published in the weekend supplement of HAARETZ (3.6.83) about Carmelite monastery Stella Maris and its environs on Mt. Carmel, with much information provided by the Hebrew monk Elias Friedman, and about the Marrano Jewish origins of the Carmelite order's founder, St. Theresa.

CARDINAL LUSTIGER: Several brief articles appeared in the Hebrew press about the Hebrew Catholic Cardinal of Paris who was invited by the Pope to accompany him on his visit to Poland, the birthplace of Lustiger's parents, and the site of Auschwitz where his mother died among the millions of Jews killed there. (YEDIOT AHRONOT 14.6) In an article headed "LOVE OF ISRAEL", DAVAR (14.6) reported that Mother Superior of a Catholic order in France, the daughter of the Jewish secretary of the Swedish diplomat Raoul Wallenberg, had asked Cardinal Lustiger to convey a letter requesting the Pope to grant diplomatic recognition by the Vatican to the State of Israel, to which the Cardinal was said to have agreed. (DAVAR 29.6) also reported the Cardinal's visit to the Warsaw Ghetto, Auschwitz, and other Polish sites, accompanied by other Catholic dignitaries. HAARETZ (3.7) reported that the Hebrew Cardinal was frustrated by the Polish authorities in his request to visit and pray at a monument to the Jewish victims of Auschwitz.

HEBREW ANGLICANS: In a feature article about the South African Oppenheims of diamond fame which appeared in HAARETZ (10.6), there is a section devoted to "the Jewish problem," the conversion of Sir Ernest Oppenheimer and his Jewish wife to Anglicanism and their son Harry's continued membership in the Anglican Church.

#### CHRISTIANS IN ISRAEL

"M.K. GRANOT: THE MINISTRY OF RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS DISCRIMINATES AGAINST NON-JEWS" (AL HANISHMAR 8.6.83) Mapam MK Eliezer Granot, in a Knesset debate of the annual report of the Religious Affairs Ministry, charged that the ministry was dealing only with Orthodox Jewry, was indifferent to non-Orthodox Jewish streams, and was discriminatory towards non-Jewish communities in Israel; also it was doing nothing to stem the tide of "messianic chauvinism" expressed by recent attacks upon non-Jewish institutions, nor to provide aid to the institutions DAMAGED.

THE BELLS OF THE YMCA: A feature story about Mary Ghansian, an English Christian woman who has lived in Israel 33 years and has raised children in Israel, who plays the musical bells from the YMCA tower. (MAARIV 10.6.83)

**BATTLE OF THE SHRINES:** A feature article in the J'LM POST (8.7.83) described the on-going conflict between various churches over rights and privileges at the churches of the Holy Sepulchre and of the Nativity. Meanwhile, the sites are in need of major repair which is neglected because of the disputes. "If this land is yours forever, as your prime minister says, you should have the courage to make lasting decisions (and not) to repeat the decision of a previous government," the Greek Orthodox Patriarch Diodoros I told the Israeli interviewer.

**NES AMIM:** Two feature articles about NES AMIM in the Galilee, the first in the WALL STREET JOURNAL EUROPE (14.4.83) headlined: "SUSPICION OF CHRISTIAN KIBBUTZ IN ISRAEL PERSISTS AS RESIDENTS ADOPT JEWISH WAYS". The second in "TSAFON AKKO" (27.5) detailed the origins of the settlement in the mind of its founder, Johan Pilon, who (notwithstanding a strong missionary family background) disavowed all missionary intentions in Christian-Jewish relations.

**SOVIET PENTECOSTALS IN ISRAEL:** "We want to thank all those who made possible our emigration to the Land of Israel, which is the fulfilment of a 22-year-old dream, years of hope and prayers." So spoke the family of the Pentecostal community who found asylum for five years in the U.S. Embassy in Moscow and were now permitted to leave the USSR and to emigrate to Israel. The arrivals were the parents, their daughter-in-law and twelve of their children. (AL HAMISHMAR 29.6) Lydia Vaschenko (who arrived some 3 months ago following a hunger strike) was permitted to return to her Soviet home and then granted an exit visa to Israel, which convinced other members of the family to do likewise and to request exit visas, which were finally granted. Asked why they had chosen Israel, they replied that their faith gives them a particular link to the Bible and to the Land of the Bible, and in Russia they also had contact with a Jewish "refusenik" who told them much about Israel and the Old Testament. The family were very excited at the reception they had at the airport and said that a flat had been rented for them near Tel-Aviv, but they refused to divulge the location. They were also accompanied by their Siberian dog Vulcan. All the children bear biblical names, such as Abraham, Sarah, Jacob, Abel, Dina...and three are called Faith, Hope and Charity. (DAVAR 29.6)

The parents are aged 55 and 54, and their 13 children range from 30 (Lydia who was the first to arrive three months ago) to age 9 (Abraham the youngest). What will they do in Israel? First they will tour the land and then try to remain here, to work, and of the older children even spoke about the possibility of converting to Judaism and becoming completely Jewish. (MAARIV 29.6) They family claim they were persecuted in the USSR because of their faith. The decision of the Soviet Gov't to permit their emigration was seen as a good-will gesture towards Washington. There remain two Pentecostals in the U.S. Embassy in Moscow, but their plans are not known to Mr. Vaschenko. (HAARETZ 29.6)

**JOHN HAGEE** Texan Pastor John Hagee (whose church openly proclaims "ISRAEL YOU ARE NOT ALONE" in banner streamers) has arrived with an 80-voice choir and a symphony orchestra to entertain Israeli soldiers and to raise money for Hadassah Hospital. He advocates a change in Christian theology about the Jews and also opposes Christian missionary efforts among Jews. (JLM POST 9.6) Rev. Hagee presented a check of \$200,000 to Hadassah and is being escorted around Israel with his 193-person entourage (including the 80-voice choir) by an Orthodox Jewish Texan, Chrley Levine. He also maintains ties with Congressmen, governors and other decision-makers to work up support for Israel. His motivation is thoroughly religious: "The entire Land of Israel belongs to the Jewish people as promised to Abraham," he declares. He will be meeting with P.M. Begin... "whom millions of Americans loves."

"I am no missionary," he says. "Judaism has no need of Christianity in order to explain itself, but Christianity does need Judaism to understand what she is and why. We visit synagogues to learn more about Judaism, and to break the wall of estrangement between Judaism and Christianity," he states. (There was also a brief feature article on Hagee in NEWS VIEW JERUSALEM 21.6.83)

**"JEMS FOR JEMS":** Reform Rabbi Reuven R. Dubin, chairman of "JEMS FOR JEMS," and an adviser to "CONCERNED PARENTS" (of children in the cults) works also with concerned Christians. The percentage of Jews in the cults is 20% in the USA, although Jews comprise only 2.9% of the total USA population. Dubin fights not only the cults but also missionizing. "It happens that in my war against missionaries I find myself fighting those same Christian organizations with whom I cooperate in the fight against the cults," he says. Asked which are more dangerous, he replied: "They are equally dangerous, but they cannot be fought with the same tactics...The missionaries say: Remain a Jew, but become a better Jew if you accept Christian dogmas; then you'll be a completed Jew." Rabbi Dubin claims that even in Israel there are 20,000 Jews for Jesus (sic!) and another

6,000 deeply entrenched in the cults. He has also warned Begin against the practice of welcoming every contributor as though he were the Messiah. "Respect him and suspect him," he says. "There are too many instances where these Israel-lovers invite Jews to celebrations of Israel Independence Day and begin influencing them towards conversion. The largest organization, which works also in Israel, is the Christian Embassy. I have testimonies and documents proving that the main objective is to convert Jews." He also knows Rev. John Hagee, "a good friend of mine (who) does wonderful work (for Israel), but I know his church in San Antonio and its missionary endeavours. I told him, 'I love your money but do me a favour, leave my Jews in peace. You want to help Israel; then help...but enough with Christian propaganda!'" (KAWL HA'IR 17.6.83)

**PILGRIM PROMOTION:** Some 300 Christian participants from four continents in a pilgrimage promotion conference sponsored by Israeli Tourist Ministry and EA-Al Airlines heard Professor Zvi Werblovsky and Rev. Robert Lindsey of Jerusalem's Baptist church speak. Rev. Lindsey stressed the importance of Evangelical Christianity in Third World countries and said that a link between Israel and these Christians "could make it possible for you to preserve your national home." (JLM POST 3.6.83) A complaint was published by a Jerusalem reader about the alleged neglect of Christian tourists by the Israeli Gov't while the tourists are heavily influenced by Arab tourist guides and other Arab personnel and services, providing no "meaningful contact with Jews." (JLM POST : 5.7 Sh.Klein)

### CHRISTIANS AND JEWS

**INTERFAITH:** A cover story in the ISRAEL ECONOMIST (May 1983) dealt with Christian-Jewish Dialogue. A survey of the main participants in it, people like Joseph Emanuel of Israel Interfaith, Ake Skoog of Swedish Theological Institute, Franciscan Anthony Peresio, Fr. Bruno Hussar of Neve Shalom, Don Nicholl of Tantur, Rabbi Pinhas Pelli of Beersheva University, Professor Hava Lazarus-Yafeh (expert in Islamics), Dr. Geoffrey Wiggoder, writer and scholar. Also a feature about the late Peter Schneider, "Architect of Dialogue" (1931-1982).

**CENSUS:** A protest against the designation of citizens on the basis of religious affiliation--Jewish, Christian, Muslim, Druze--by Prof. Michael Hersgorin in contradistinction of the basic modern Zionist position that Jews are first of all a people. (YEDIOT AKHRON. 12.6) In response, a reader of HAARETZ (12.6) argued that Judaism is a national religion and not a universal one existing among many peoples and it is right to classify Jews by religion. (Y.D. Benor)

**SAINT FRANCIS & FRANCISCANS:** A feature article by OIKOUMENIKOS (CHRISTIAN COMMENT) commemorates the 800th birthday of St. Francis of Assisi and Jewish affinities to Francis (as with the founder of Hassidism, the Baal Shem Tov). It also surveyed the history and work of the Franciscans in the Holy Land. (JERUSALEM POST 10.6.83)

### MISCELLANEOUS

- A. **JERUSALEM.** In the year 2,000, Jerusalem will be the scene of great festivities marking the 2,000th birthday of Jesus and the 3,000th year since the conquest of the city by King David, Mayer Koller, of Jerusalem told an audience of Christians. (DAVAR 20.7)
- B. **"LITTLE CHILDREN."** The word "repentance" was uttered only once in the whole course of the interrogation (Adolph Eichmann), who said in astonishment: "But Herr Hauptmann, repentance is something for little children." (BOOK REVIEW SECTION JLM POST 17.6.83)
- C. **THE JESUS CONNECTION:** "Our West German escort was a nice fellow of aristocratic origins who was especially interested in Africa where he had spent his childhood and youth....Every time that there is something in the HERALD TRIBUNE about recent events in the Mideast the young count gets interested in the news from Africa. About Israel and the Jews he has heard something, and even asked us during a cruise on the Rhine whether we have a connection with Jesus. Yes, we said. Jesus was a Jew. No, that I know, he said, but do you regard him as a prophet together with Moses and Mohammed? No, we said. That is in Islam, not in Judaism. Oh, he said, and continued to gaze at the Rhine." (KAWL HA'IR 3.6.83)

==== END TRANSCRIPTION ====

3.8.83/mb