

UCCI NEWS CLIPPINGS DIGEST

MISSIONARIES ARE ALLEGEDLY INCITING THE ETHIOPIAN JEWS IN ISRAEL

Some of the Ethiopian Jews are being incited by emissaries of missionary institutions, immigration absorption officials have charged. The charge is supported lately by reports from New Immigrant Absorption Centres in the north and centre of Israel where a number of dark-skinned outside "guests" were mingling with the new immigrants and allegedly inciting them against Jewish religious institutions in Israel. One of them even claimed that he was a "messenger of the true God." (YEDIOT AKHRONOT 22.7.85)

For several months a councilor and crafts teacher, Jean Cruz, age 30 plus, a divorcee and mother of a child, was employed at the Immigrant Absorption Centre for Ethiopian Jews in Netanya. The woman has now been dismissed on suspicion that she engaged in missionary activity within the bounds of the centre. She arrived in Israel about two years ago from the U.S.A. For a while she worked at the Netanya centre as a volunteer, and later as a paid employee. She apparently belongs to the sect of "Messianic Jews" and reportedly invited young Ethiopian Jews to prayer meetings where they knelt and crossed themselves. A copy of the "New Testament" was also found in the centre but she was not suspected of being a missionary by the director who found her "very likeable and effective." Among her close friends in Netanya are the Lodens, active missionaries, who were also involved with Ethiopian Jewish immigrants in the home of Jean Cruz. After her dismissal, she offered to continue as a volunteer, which she did for several days, but then stopped coming. (YEDIOT AKHRONOT 13.8.85 Noah Kliger)

The foregoing sparked a series of "exposes" about missionary activity in the Netanya area involving the Lodens and the Hoaldrigges in cooperation with Ms. Cruz, which were published in Jewish Orthodox journals (HAMODIYA 14.8; 15.8 and YETAID NEEMAN 14.8; 25.8) and local Netanya weeklies (HADASHOT NETANYA 16.8.85 & NETANYA HADERA 23.8.85). The papers noted the activity of the anti-mission society YAD L'AHIM in the "exposures."

The management of the Youth Aliya division of the Jewish Agency has decided, despite pressure from "various rabbis", not to send Ethiopian youngsters who are the children of mixed marriages between Jews and Christians, or who are entirely Gentile, to seminars for full conversion to Judaism. "After the experience of Jews with Christian missionaries, it would be wrong for us to convert these children," Uri Gordon, the Youth Aliya chairman stated. The Gentile children would not be returned to Ethiopia, but sent to Israeli Christian institutions. Gordon compared their situation to that of Jewish children hidden in Christian institutions during the Holocaust. (JERUSALEM POST 22.8.85; 31.8.85 & HAMODIYA 21.8.85)

BUILDING BY THE GRACE OF THE DEVOUT

The Planning Law permits the Minister of the Interior to grant public bodies official standing for the purpose of submitting objections to city planning and building projects, which affords considerable influence to such bodies, such as the Society for Conservation and the Society for a Beautiful Land of Israel. The

ministry has recently been discussing granting such status to several ultra-orthodox societies, such as "The Holy Site", an extremist group specializing in the campaign over ancient sites, and "YAD L'AHIM", an ultra-orthodox society combatting the Mission. A critic on the district planning committee commented this week: "If these organizations gain official status, they will make the committee's work impossible." The legal aspects of this proposal are being studied, but the Ministry of Interior headed by Rabbi Yitzhak Peretz regards the proposal very favourably. If the proposal is carried, it will be the first time that the Planning Committee will have to deal with issues irrelevant to its function, such as the location of ancient burial sites, the possibility that a particular plan might serve a missionary body, or the possibility of Sabbath desecration or the sale of unkosher meat. Granting such status to YAD L'AHIM will lead also to very sharp criticism from Christian communities in Israel and throughout the world. (KWAL HA'IR: 2 Aug 85)

NEWS BRIEFS FROM THE MISSION FRONT:

RISHON LETZION: A lad of 13 who was removed from his school following an incident in which he hurled a chair at his teacher was assigned to a "special education" framework. His parents have refused to comply and recently threatened to send him and their other children to a mission school. (MAARIV 2 Sept 85)

B'NEI BRAK: Hundreds of complaints by angry residents have reached the local offices of YAD L'AHIM following the receipt of missionary propaganda in letter boxes offering correspondence courses on "how to know who the Messiah is." The literature bore a Haifa postal address known as a Messianic publishing house well-known to YAD L'AHIM. Recipients were advised to destroy the material. (HATSOFEH & HAMODIYA: 14.8.85) The local Civil Guard have been asked to keep an eye open for missionary propagandists stuffing mailboxes. (SHEARIM)

HAIFA SUBURBS: Missionary tracts are being distributed in homes telling of the "Messiah" Jesus and advocating conversion to Christianity. Groups studying Christianity in the guise of Bible Study circles are attracting idle youth during the summer holidays. "We can do nothing against these groups since the law does not forbid such circles from forming but we are trying the method of persuasion," the anti-mission group YAD L'AHIM states. (HAID HAKIRIOT 2 Aug 85)

LOWER GALILEE: Residents of Lower Galilee, especially in Kfar Tavor, are being flooded with mission propaganda, via the mail as well as by phone, promising all kinds of material aid. The local rabbi has issued a warning to the people to beware of the danger of missionary activity and mission promises. (HATSOFEH 22.8.85)

TIBERIAS: Some 50 Jewish employees of Galtronics in Tiberias owned by the missionary sect "JEWS FOR JESUS" are obliged to listen to daily missionary lectures during their afternoon work break, according to Rabbi Machluf Eden, a local council member. Recently the sect has been active in developing a special "Holy Land" wine for overseas clientele. YAD L'AHIM has been seeking the intervention of Minister of Commerce & Industry Ariel Sharon and the Tiberias Mayor Bibi to forestall the opening of the winepress and are awaiting the minister's response. The Mayor reportedly dismissed the complaint as "not pressing". (YETAID NEEMAN: 11 Sept 85)

BEERSHEVA: The Mission of Beersheva has announced the opening of two kindergartens on Rehov Shalom 43, run by two nuns. The activities of the ultra-orthodox community in Beersheva have thus far met with no success in putting a stop to local mission activity, but they now intend to take vigorous action and to initiate a comprehensive information campaign directed at the wider public concerning the vile motives behind these "kindergartens". (YETAID NEEMAN: 21.8.85)

TEL AVIV: Missionaries are distributing tracts on the Tel-Aviv streets which, from their outward appearance, are likely to deceive uninformed people. The outside page (photographed below) is headed "I TOLD THE RABBI" under the drawing of an Orthodox Jew. Inside the tract are heretical teachings promulgated by the "Messianic Jews". Two young Jewish women have recently been visiting homes in central Tel Aviv in order to present "the Good News" from the Mission. They speak fluent Hebrew, appear to be innocent enough, and come to "converse" with the family, after which they invite them to participate in missionary activity. (SHEARIM: 24.7.85)

EILAT: The Israeli Police HQ have appealed to Interpol to detain the yacht "Or-yonia", which stole away from Eilat with 20 members of a Christian missionary sect leaving behind an estimated USD 200,000 in debts. The yacht itself had been sold by them to an English hotelier for a quarter-million dollars in order to cover some of their debts. The group had arrived in Eilat some two years ago reportedly claiming to be Jewish but were later discovered to be members of a Christian missionary sect. They lived as a commune under the leadership of one Dr. Ampal who allegedly forbade his followers to engage in sexual activity. (HAARETZ/HADASHOT/MAARIV 1 Sept 1985)

I.D.F.: Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin has confirmed in a letter to M.K. Yossi Sarid that an Army chaplain several months ago ordered the burning of copies of the New Testament. "This regrettable error was caused by a misunderstanding and the chaplain concerned has been censured." In response, Sarid stated that a clergyman who desecrates the religious books of others deserves more than a censure and is certainly unfit as an army chaplain. (AL HAMISHMAR: 21.8.85; SEE ALSO SELECTIONS 133 page 2 "BOOK BURNING")

"PENPALS": Missionary organizations in Switzerland & Germany, using Israeli phone directories, have been flooding Israel with letters for the ostensible purpose of learning Hebrew and establishing "penpal" relationships. The letters include a portion of the New Testament. YAD L'AHIM has appealed to postal workers to return the letters to their source and to those who have received the letters to write to these anonymous "friends" to desist from this perverse practice. (EREV SHABAT: 6 Sept 85)

"DOUBLE AGENTS": The Haifa Branch of YAD L'AHIM (director Bezalel Ben-Pinhas) at the corner of Hermon and Beitar in the Hadar-Carmel section boasts of having "liquidated" the Haifa branches of the Hare Krishna and Ananda Marga sects and having led most of their members into Orthodox Judaism. His recruits from Orthodox Jewish seminaries pose as members of the sects and try to work from within the sects to deliver Jewish members from them. They also penetrate the Messianic sects (which regard Jesus as their Messiah), such as Beit Emanuel, which creates an atmosphere of mutual suspicion, Ben-Pinhas alleges. "Everyone now suspects his companion of being an agent, and this had led to the liquidation of several organizations," he claims. Although

they would prefer to see the sectarians become Orthodox Jews, they are satisfied if they return to secular life. According to the YAD L'AHIM leaders, the Christian and Messianic sects are more dangerous than the Eastern sects. (KOL-BO 23.8.85)

"JEWS FOR ISLAM": Some 650 Jews, mostly women, have converted to Islam since the establishment of the State of Israel. At the same time at least 130 instances of conversion to Christianity by Jews have taken place since 1948. These figures were provided by the Minister of Religious Affairs, Joseph Burg, in response to a parliamentary query. The minister noted that the information on conversions to Christianity is fragmentary since many converts do not report their conversion to the ministry. Following the Six Days War, he noted, there had been a certain increase in Jewish converts to Islam, but during the past two years there has been a very significant decline in this phenomenon. (YETAID NEEMAN 31.7.85) In a signed article by A. Nehama (HAMODIYA 2 Aug 85) the Minister's data was contested as NOT reflecting the true picture of conversions. According to unnamed sources in the ministry and the rabbinate, a large number of conversions and interfaith marriages go unreported.

FROM MISSION TO ORTHODOX KINDERGARTEN: A settler in a moshav (farming co-op) who was on the verge of selling a house to a foreign missionary sect was dissuaded by ultra-orthodox functionaries to cancel the agreement with the buyers and sustained heavy financial loss. He then approached the ultra-orthodox asking them to open a kindergarten in the settlement and cooperated in recruiting children for same. (YETAID NEEMAN: 22.7.85)

MISSION EXPANSION IN ISRAEL: A long feature article by N. Golan in the National Religious Party (NRP) daily HATSOFEH (12 Jul. 85) provided an insight into the Mission as viewed by the Orthodox Jewish community. Going back to the 1950's the writer surveys contemporary missionary activity in Haifa (coffee club on Allenby St.), Rehovot (tract distribution and the Messianic sect led by Baruch Maoz), the Messianic congregations in Jerusalem (Prophets Street, "Netivya", the Finnish group on Shivtei Yisrael). Considerable attention is directed to the Mormon complex and Jewish attendance at mission schools.

The writer takes exception to violent reactions to the mission "menace", citing various authorities who reject violence as "illegitimate in itself and a source of encouragement to the missionaries in their vocation." Persistent public pressure and educational and informational campaigns among Jews are the best methods to deal with the matter. The anti-bribery law is "without teeth and unrealistic," according to YAD L'AHIM head Rabbi Moshe Porush, since in our day the persuasion (by the missionaries) is spiritual and not material. Israeli youth without proper Jewish education seeking a meaning to life and thirsting for a spiritual message either become Orthodox Jewish "penitents" or end up with the mystical sects or the Christian Mission, he claims.

M.K. Professor Avner Shaki is now formulating a law which would prohibit all persuasion, enticement or propaganda aimed at conversion, and not only when accompanied by material inducements. He believes it has a chance of being passed, but this has been disputed. In any case, every effort should be exerted to reclaim Jews for proper Judaism, even among those who have converted to Christianity in their search for a solution to spiritual distress, but who have been disappointed by Christianity and are ashamed to return to Judaism.

"OLD WINE": The ultra-orthodox Aguda daily HAMODIYA (2 Aug 85) reprinted an excerpt from its paper in 1955 about the missionary problem. It concerned reactions of the Church of Scotland in Israel to alleged intolerance towards Jewish Christians and Christian missionaries. In a memorandum to the Home Board, opposition was expressed to emigration by Jewish Christians from Israel but recognition of their difficult plight and non-acceptance was noted.

HEBREW CATHOLIC & IRAQI JEWISH EMIGRATION TO ISRAEL: In his memoirs about the transfer of Iraqi Jews to Israel in the early days of the State, M.K. Shlomo Hilel, who was a leader of the movement records an incident, involving a Hebrew Catholic priest, Alexander Glassberg from East Europe, who encouraged him in his plan to affect the emigration transfer (aliya) via Iran (YEDIOT AHRONOT 6 Sep. 85)

"WHO ARE YOU, SIMHA PEARLMUTTER?"

EREV SHABBAT, the ultra-orthodox weekly (19.7.85) published a full-page expose on Simha Pearlmutter, leader of the Arava settlement "IR OVOT", which has been a subject of controversy and media interest for nearly two decades. Most of Pearlmutter's followers, including his first wife Judith and nearly all of the children of his two wives, have abandoned the settlement. Most of them have also scuttled their Messianic faith and undergone Orthodox conversion (the Gentiles among them) or entered the "penitents" movement (the born Jews among them). Pearlmutter was once patronized by top Army brass, including Arik Sharon and Ezer Weizman, as well as major Jewish Religious leaders. Former Chief Rabbi Shlomo Goren performed a wholesale conversion to Judaism of some dozen of his Gentile followers. The leader of the ultra-orthodox and anti-zionist Satmar hassidic sect was also involved with IR OVOT. Pearlmutter has now been "adopted" by a Michigan Evangelical Christian college with a strong eschatological interest in Israel.

In an interview he granted the ultra-orthodox journal, Pearlmutter continued to claim that "I am an Orthodox Jew" and was photographed with beard, sidecurls and headcovering in the Orthodox style. He nevertheless maintains that his Orthodoxy is not in conflict with his belief in Yeshua (Jesus). "We are a stream in Judaism," he states. Meanwhile, Pearlmutter and Ir Ovot have been pronounced anathema and off limits for all Jews by the ultra-orthodox camp, in a recent statement which proclaimed him "a menace in that, covered by an ultra-orthodox mantle, he wishes to influence Jews to believe in that Man (Jesus), Heaven forbid"

Two other items dealt with the alleged links of Pearlmutter with the Messianic movement. "Some 2,500 Jewish apostates belong to Messianic congregations scattered throughout the Land," relates Moshe Porush, of YAD L'AHIM. "By means of IR OVOT they are engaged in a struggle for legal recognition of their 'Judaism'....among whom are centres like NETIVYA and the MESSIANIC ASSEMBLY in Jerusalem, BEIT EMANUEL in Tel-Aviv, BETHESDA of Haifa, GRACE & TRUTH of Rehovot, MAOZ of Ramat HaSharon; also in Netanya, Tiberias and elsewhere. There is no doubt that the aim of IR OVOT is to become the centre for evangelism in the south", says Rabbi Porush. (19.7.85)

A report linking the Messianic Jews and IR OVOT with Christian pilgrims advertised in an EL-AL promotion brochure was published in EREV SHABBAT (26.7.85) A statement by Ami Katz, former secretary of IR OVOT, in the same paper (9 Aug 85) claimed that all those who had abandoned the settlement were now living in Jerusalem & Bnei Brak "Jewish God-fearing" lives. Katz states that Pearlmutter "is neither

mad nor deranged, nor does he regard himself as the Messiah. He is sane and cunning, a missionary disguising himself as an ultra-orthodox Jew in order to fulfill his mission".

CHRISTIANS IN ISRAEL

MARCEL DUBOIS: "ISRAEL SCENE" (Aug 85) published a feature story on Fr. Dubois, the Dominican priest and French-born Israeli citizen who is Chairman of the Philosophy Dept of Jerusalem's Hebrew University. "God's program cannot be invented; we must have patience.... I am ready to suffer within the Church the same loneliness and contempt that Jews have suffered throughout their history," he states.

EMINENT FRANCISCAN: A sympathetic portrait of the noted Italian Franciscan scholar, Fr. Bellarmino Bagatti, who has worked in the Holy Land since 1935, was drawn by Haim Shapiro (JLM POST 19.7.85). Bagatti is best known for his writing and excavations relating to the primitive Church, especially the Jewish Christian section. "His book 'THE CHURCH OF THE CIRCUMCISION', is regarded as a definitive text", Shapiro wrote.

SCOTTISH ECUMENIST: OIKOUMENIKOS/CHRISTIAN COMMENT (JLM POST 28.6) published a parting vignette on Rev. Prof. Robert Craig of St. Andrew's Church of Scotland upon his completion of a five-year term of service in Jerusalem. He was active in ecumenical and interfaith relations.

COPTIC CHURCH: Following opposition by Israel's Defence Forces and a Likud M.K. to the planned construction of a Coptic Church near a military installation, approval was held up for both security reasons as well as the alleged impact of church building on the construction of the "missionary Mormon institution on Mt. Scopus." The IDF subsequently withdrew its opposition and the matter was referred to a Knesset committee for further review. There have been charges that the issue is related to Israeli ties with Egypt, which has a large Coptic population. (HAMODIYA: 24.6.85; 18.7.85)

LUTHERAN HOSPICE: The Jerusalem municipality has rejected an application by the East Jerusalem Lutheran Church to build an extension to its hospice because of the decrepit state of the 19th century structure. The municipal planning & construction committee, however, authorized a new construction. In April 1985 Mayor Kolleck rejected Lutheran charges that municipal reluctance to approve changes in the Hospice structure were in violation of the religious status quo in Jerusalem. (DAVAR: 24.4.85; MAARIV: 15.7.85)

INTERFAITH HOSTEL FOR ARTISTS: The Tel-Aviv Development Fund will soon set up a hostel for artists in order to encourage meetings between Christians, Moslems and Jews. It will have 15 rooms, a restaurant and lecture halls. (YETAID NEEMAN 4 Sept 85)

EMANUEL HOUSE/HOSTEL: In a review of hostels in the Tel-Aviv area, Emanuel House in Jaffa (Phone: 821459) is listed as a "good buy". (MAARIV TEL-AVIV SUPPLEMENT: 28.6.85)

CHRISTIANS & JEWS

ROME & JERUSALEM: In a carefully-worded article, Henry Siegman, executive director of the American Jewish Congress, takes exception to

the criticism directed by Jewish authorities against the recent Vatican document entitled "Notes on the Correct Way to Present Jews & Judaism" (SEE SELECTION No. 133, page 2 "VATICAN DOCUMENT"). The suggestion "that Catholics view the State of Israel in the perspective of common principles of international law (and not in a religious perspective) is precisely correct," Siegman argues, since most Jews, including many who are Orthodox, do not view the State from a religious perspective (2 Sept 85) Rafael Rupin in DAVAR (12 Sept 85) suggests that Israel learn from Rome in its Church-State relations by proposing that a "Jerusalem Concordat", on the order of that existing between the Vatican in Rome and the secular authorities, be concluded with the monotheistic religions, granting them similar autonomy over their holy sites in Jerusalem as the Vatican enjoys in Rome.

"CHRISTIAN ZIONISM" (NEWS BRIEFS)

SHEEP DONATION: A donation of 27 sheep raised by devout U.S. Christian supporters of Israel was reported on 4 Jun 85 (JLM POST G.F. Cashman). The "ecumenical flock", the result of a cross-country campaign by the pro-Israel "Daughters of Truth" founded by Texan Valerie Waller (now residing in Jerusalem), was despatched to Moshav Yattir, a Jewish religious cooperative in the Negev. An international campaign is under way to provide additional "sheep offerings" for Israel by Christians who believe "that now is the time for the Church to come forward and bless this nation (Israel)."

SOVIET JEWS: A 54-minute film by Canadian Christians Jay & Meridel Rawlings was premiered in Jerusalem to intensify the campaign on behalf of the exodus of Soviet Jewry. Called "GATES OF BRASS", the film features clandestine interviews with Soviet Jews refused exit visas from the USSR. (JLM POST & KAWL HA'IR)

BIBLICAL OIL RUSH: A somewhat sarcastic article about oil exploration in Israel on the basis of biblical texts (Gen.49:20; Deut.33:24), as interpreted by some Evangelical Christians appeared in DAVAR (30.8.85). It noted the huge investments made by Gilman Hill, Andrew Sorelle, Pat Robertson, and others, which have so far failed to produce any concrete (or oily) results. The blame was alternately attributed to faulty geology or faulty biblical exegesis.

ISRAEL TIES: Separate book reviews in Jewish periodicals dealt with the issue of U.S. and general Christian ties to Jewish national restoration. The Orthodox "YOUNG ISRAEL VIEWPOINT" OF N.Y.C. (Mar 1985) reviewed books and articles by David A. Rausch, Professor of history and Judaic studies at Ashland College. He is faulted for "overlooking" the missionary tendencies of pro-Zionist Evangelical groups. In a book review of "FAITH & FULFILMENT: CHRISTIANS & THE RETURN TO THE PROMISED LAND" by Michael J. Pragai, Geoffrey Wigoder of the JERUSALEM POST (16.9.85) outlined this selective survey of Christian supporters of the restoration from the 17th century onward, written by an Israeli diplomat. "This book can be the antithesis of 'the whole world is against us' school of thought (and) it is fitting that this popular and uncomplicated record has been made of our friends," the reviewer concludes. Aviva Bar-Am of the JERUSALEM POST (26.7.85) reported the 25th anniversary ceremony at the American Institute of Holy Land Studies on Mt. Zion, which has a strong commitment to U.S.-Israel ties.

LETTERS TO EDITOR: Letters by Christian Evangelical supporters of

Israel appeared in JLM POST (7.6.85; 27.7; 9.9) JEWISH CHRONICLE (London 30.8)

CHRISTIAN ZIONIST CONGRESS: Some 15 clippings were culled from the Israeli press concerning the First International Christian Zionist Leadership Conference in Basel, Switzerland (site of the First Zionist Congress convened by Theodore Herzl in 1897). Nearly 600 delegates from 27 countries participated in the three day conference (27-29 August 1985), sponsored by the International Christian Embassy in Jerusalem, the pro-Israel body founded five years ago to channel Christian support for Israel. A special fund was established at Basel for investing \$100 million in industrial projects in Israel, with part designated for Judaea and Samaria (West Bank). An ultra-orthodox journal (YETAID NEEMAN 27.8) reported that anti-mission activists were concerned that the congress would lead to an increase in missionary activity. The Israeli cabinet twice refused to permit Minister Moshe Arens to address the conference because of a curb on ministerial overseas trip until October. The P.M.'s office reported that the P.M. has "great esteem" for the Embassy Christians, but emergency measures required strict adherence to the rule. The mass circulation YEDIOT AKHRONOT (5.9.85) carried an editorial headed "KOL HAKAVOD" (HATS OFFÉ) in praise of the congress and the Christian Zionists behind it.

"PALESTINIAN CHRISTIANS": Under the heading "TIME FOR CHURCHES TO LINK UP WITH PALESTINIAN CHRISTIANS," the English-language Jerusalem Arab weekly AL FAJR (12 Jul 85) published lengthy excerpts from a speech given to a group of Protestant bishops and ministers at the Lutheran Church of the Redeemer in February 1985 by Glen Bowman, a social anthropologist from Oxford University. He bitterly attacked the "foreign churches" and their alleged indifference to the plight of "Palestinian Christians" and their frequent support of Zionism and Israel.

VOICE OF HOPE: In response to a plea by the anti-mission society YAD L'AHIM that the transmission of the Christian radio station VOICE OF HOPE & MIDDLE EAST TV be curtailed because of its alleged missionary nature, the Ministry of Education replied that it was not within its province to curtail such broadcasts because they were beamed from outside Israel (South Lebanon) even though they were received well throughout northern Israel. The ministry spokesman added that, although these stations have received some aid from the Ministry of Defence, it would not intervene. The anti-mission activists have renewed their campaign to close the stations down and, alternatively, to set up a "VOICE OF JUDAISM" or "VOICE OF TORAH" station to counteract alleged missionary propaganda of the Christian stations. (COMPILED Jul-Aug 85) Meanwhile, the Min. of Defence acknowledged that assistance was provided to the Christian stations because of the pro-Israel stance of the broadcasts and of their U.S. supporters.

SECTARIANS

JEWISH MEMBERSHIP: Asher Wolman of HAMODIYA (26.4.85) reports that a leader in the Scientology cult is a former Israeli, while one-third of the membership of the Indian sect Guru Rangish are allegedly former Jewish Israelis, and "the most dangerous sect, the Moonies," have an alleged Jewish membership of 30% with most of the leaders "Jewish apostates."

EMIN: A campaign has been mounted by the municipality and YAD L'AHIM in Safed to remove the Emin sectarians from the town, a local Gallean journal reported. (3 May 85)

EMMA BERGER: The Binyamina local council has decided to work for the removal of the Beth-El sect founded by Emma Berger from the town because of alleged trespassing on public grounds. (VARIOUS 22-20.5.85)

"MOONIES": 25 young Israelis were among the 130 participants from 39 countries and 15 religions at the "Youth Seminar of the World Religions" in Jerusalem. The "dancing Rabbi", Shlomo Carlebach, sang and lectured, too, and told HAARETZ reporter that the U.S. Jewish establishment was bankrupt, which explained the attraction of non-Jewish sects to Jewish youth. (16.7.85)

JEHOVAH WITNESSES: The Tel-Aviv branch of the J.W. sect on 23 Shefer Street was the target of demonstrations and attacks throughout the summer. (A total of 62 clippings was culled from the Hebrew press.) Windows were smashed, sectarians were abused, several arrests were made of anti-mission activists. Arson has also been attempted but the fire brigade was able to prevent major damage. Sectarians complained of death threats, and constant harassments, but sect leaders insist that they will not be deterred from their activities by the campaign against them. At one point a hand grenade was left outside the premises, but the police claim it could not have caused any damage since it was neutralized and apparently was left as a warning.

The anti-mission society YAD L'AHIM disclaimed any connection to the violence directed against the sect, but sect leaders charge that their constant incitement against them, especially spreading tales of their alleged bribery, supposed cooperation with the Nazis (whereas they themselves were persecuted by the Nazis), and other hostile acts prepared the ground for violence against them.

MORMONS: The extension of Utah's Brigham Young University on Mt. Scopus in Jerusalem continues to arouse strong media reaction. Since the previous issue (SELECTIONS 133, pages 5-7 "ANTI-MORMON CAMPAIGN IN HIGH GEAR") 235 clippings have been collected from Israeli and Diaspora Jewish media, including radio and TV transcripts, in Hebrew and other languages, concerning the controversial project. There have also been several instances of Christian involvement, as noted previously, such as the ecumenical press conference in Jerusalem, which was generally viewed favorably by the Jewish anti-missionaries. A joint letter of protest was, however, published in the JERUSALEM POST (28.8.85) by five participants in the press conference, in which the signers disclaimed any intention to oppose the Mormon project or condemn the municipality, as they claimed was reflected in the POST's coverage of the press conference. "Our main purpose, shared over and over, was to point out that Orthodox, Catholic and Protestant groups all agree that Mormonism is a non-Christian cult," the writers asserted.

Professor Jeffrey Hollander, B.Y.U. President, who was in Israel to provide reassurance to Jewish religious and civil authorities of the non-missionary character of the project, announced his willingness to include Israeli representatives on the Board of Management of the Mormon centre "in order to ascertain that we do not engage in missionary activity." Hollander also presented a written undertaking to the authorities that they would abstain from all conversionist activity in Israel. Jerusalem Mayor Kollek, responding to the

assurances, declared defiantly: "Now the YAD L'AHIM people can demonstrate another 100 years." (DAVAR 6 Aug 85; MAARIV 8 Aug 85). Meanwhile, hundreds of demonstrators dogged the steps of Hollander from the time of his arrival. (YAD L'AHIM sources claimed that they have an "under cover" agent among the Mormons, as among other "sects", who provided them with a complete itinerary of the professor's Israeli visit.) Hollander also spoke with demonstrators and met with Jewish Orthodox leaders and politicians, but refused to consider cessation of the project or removal to another site in response to demands.

A demonstration in front of the U.S. Embassy in Tel-Aviv resulted in injury to four police personnel and several arrests. Verbal attacks were made on Jerusalem Mayor Teddy Kollek in the religious press because of his alleged "conflict of interests" in supporting the Mormon project while allegedly having links with a Mormon corporation through the Jerusalem Foundation he had established for improving the city. The charges were vehemently denied by the the Jerusalem municipality and termed "incitement to violence".

The ultra-orthodox daily HAMODIYA (9.9.85) reported that from reliable sources they had learned that Mormon leaders have conveyed to the anti-mission society YAD L'AHIM that "if an official appeal by the State of Israel were made to Mormon leaders requesting the closing down of the project on Mt. Scopus, the Mormons would agree to negotiate for sale of the structure." Meanwhile, Mayor Kollek's backers, the "ONE JERUSALEM" party, have expressed public support for the Mayor.

JUDEO-CHRISTIANS: A mixed population of pagans, Jews and a large number of Judeo-Christians shared the lower Galilee town of Sepphoris (Zippori) during the Roman period. Jews and Judeo-Christians were preoccupied with ritual bathing at the site, which had a large concentration of water installations. Five kilometres north of Nazareth, the site is regarded by some Christians as the birthplace of Mary, the mother of Jesus. (JLM POST 17.9.85)

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END TRANSCRIPT

24.9.85/mb

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