

SUBJECT: 1. NEW ANTI-MISSION LAW

DATE: 28.12.77

JOURNAL: MAARIV (IND. P.M.) NEWS ITEM

HEADING: LAW APPROVED BY WHICH RECIPIENTS OF BENEFITS FOR CONVERSION TO BE PUNISHED

CHARACTER: BRIEF FOUR-PARAGRAPH NEWS ITEM ABOUT PASSAGE OF LAW

SUMMARY: KNESSET PASSES BY LARGE VOTE NEW LAW (SUMMARIZED) GIVING ITS PURPOSE TO COMBAT CHRISTIAN MISSIONS IN ACCORDANCE WITH COALITION AGREEMENT. VOTING AGAINST: SHULAMIT ALONI, (CRM) MEIR PEIL, MORDECAI WIRSHOVSKY (DMC). ABSTENTIONS: MOSHE SHAHAL (ALIGN), M. AMAR (MAPAM) MORDECAI ALGRBLI (DMC) ZALMAN SHOVAL (LICUD) ANNON RUBINSTEIN (DMC).

DATE: 28.12.77 JOURNAL: HAMODIYA (ORTH. AM)

HEADING: ANTI-MISSION LAW APPROVED FINALLY IN FULL KNESSET SESSION: LAW'S SPONSOR RABBI ABRAMOWITZ HOPES FOR AMENDMENT AGAINST ALL (MISSIONARY) PROPAGANDA

CHARACTER: NEWS ITEM WITH QUOTATION OF LAW'S SPONSOR

EXTRACTS: "THE FULL KNESSET APPROVED BY A MAJORITY OF 34 AGAINST 7 THE PROPOSED LAW FORBIDDING ENTICEMENT TO CONVERSION AS PRESENTED BY MK RABBI A. M. ABRAMOWITZ, DEPUTY CHAIRMAN OF KNESSET, WHICH HAD BEEN PRESENTED BY THE CONSTITUTIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE KNESSET FOR SECOND & THIRD READINGS. (THERE FOLLOWS OUTLINE OF NEW LAW & SOME PARLIAMENTARY ACTIVITY IN RELATION TO ITS PASSAGE) "OUR PARLIAMENTARY CORRESPONDENT ADDS THAT THIS LAW IS ONE OF THE FEW LAWS IN THE STATE THAT ESTABLISHES HEAVY PUNISHMENT UP TO FIVE YEARS IMPRISONMENT OR IL 50,000 FINE FOR MISSIONARY ENTICEMENT. AFTER THE VOTING OUR CORRESPONDENT SPOKE TO MK ABRAMOWITZ REQUESTING HIS REACTION TO THE LAW'S PASSAGE IN FINAL READING. "THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT THIS IS AN IMPORTANT DAY FOR ME," RABBI ABRAMOWITZ INDICATED, "SINCE I HAVE STRUGGLED FOR OVER TWO YEARS FOR THE PASSAGE OF THIS LAW. I HOPE THAT THE LAW WILL BRING THE REQUIRED RESULTS IN STOPPING MISSIONARY INCITEMENT. IT IS AN APPRECIABLE ACCOMPLISHMENT THAT THIRTY YEARS AFTER ITS ESTABLISHMENT THE KNESSET HAS DECIDED TO OUTLAW THE MISSION, SOMETHING WHICH WE HAVE FAILED TO DO DURING THIRTY YEARS." RABBI ABRAMOWITZ INDICATED TO OUR CORRESPONDENT THAT THE LAW IS STILL DEFECTIVE IN THAT IT FAILS TO PROHIBIT PROPAGANDA BUT FORBIDS ENTICEMENT TO CONVERSION FOR MONEY. OPPONENTS OF SUCH A PROHIBITION OF PROPAGANDA RELY ON THE RIGHT OF FREE EXPRESSION IN A DEMOCRATIC STATE, NEVERTHELESS RABBI ABRAMOWITZ HOPES THAT A SUITABLE AMENDMENT WILL BE INSERTED IN THIS LAW PROHIBITING MISSIONARY PROPAGANDA. RABBI ABRAMOWITZ CONTINUES: "NOW THAT THE LAW PROHIBITING THE MISSION HAS BEEN PASSED WE HAVE BREACHED THE BLOCKED WALL THAT FORBODE HARMING THE MISSIONARY INCITERS OUT OF FEAR OF WHAT THE GENTILES WOULD SAY," RABBI ABRAMOWITZ HOPES, IN DUE TIME AND IN AN ACCEPTABLE TIME WE WILL SUCCEED TO PASS AN AMENDMENT TO THE LAW WHICH WILL FORBID ABSOLUTELY PROPAGANDA (OF MISSIONS).

DATE: 29.12.77 JOURNAL: YEDIOT AKHARONOT (IND. PM) LETTER TO EDITOR

HEADING: EXPLOITING WEAKNESS OF DEPRESSED SOCIAL STRATA

BYLINE EXTRACT: "IN HER CRITICISM AGAINST THE MISSION LAW MK SHULAMIT ALONI CLAIMS THAT THE LAW IS DESIGNED TO COMBAT CHRISTIANITY & FURTHERMORE INVITES IN HER OPINION A WAVE OF ANTI SEMITISM IN THE WORLD. IT IS NOT SO THAT THE LAW IS DESIGNED TO ~~HELP AGAINST~~ CHRISTIANITY ALONE BUT AGAINST ANYONE WHO DEALS IN MISSIONIZING TO ANY RELIGION. ACTUALLY MADAME MK IS INVITING BY HER ARTICLE WAVES OF ANTISEMITISM. IT IS SUFFICIENT FOR ANY MISSIONARY TO COPY OUT HER ARTICLE IN TRANSLATION AND DISTRIBUTE IT AMONG EXTREMIST CHRISTIANS IN ORDER TO AROUSE HOSTILE FEELINGS AGAINST JEWS. CONCERNING THE LAW ITSELF IT IS INCONTROVERTIBLE THAT WERE JEWISH EDUCATION MORE ROOTED IN OUR STATE AND THE YOUTH FELT HIS JEWISH IDENTITY TRULY THERE WOULD BE NO NEED FOR SUCH A LAW. HOWEVER IN VIEW OF RECENT SURVEYS PROVING HOW GREAT THE IGNORANCE OF JUDAISM IS AMONG YOUTH THERE IS NO DOUBT IT IS NECESSARY TO PREVENT MISSIONARIES FROM EXPLOITING THE WEAKNESS OF DPRESSED SOCIAL STRATA WHO ARE NOT YET STRONG ENOUGH TO RESIST MATERIAL ALLUREMENTS," HAYIM SHAULI, TELAVIV.

DATE: 30.12.77 JOURNAL: HAARETZ (AM IND.)

HEADING: UNITED CHRISTIAN COUNCIL IN TELEGRAM TO BEGIN PROTESTS MISSION LAW:

APPEAL TO PM NOT REPLIED TO * COMPLAIN: "LAW PASSED HASTILY WITHOUT CONSULTING US" * "SERIOUS HARM CAUSED TO INTERCOMMUNAL RELATIONSHIPS"

BYLINE: YEHUDIT WINKLER (HAARETZ CORRESPONDENT)

EXTRACT: "THE UCCI YESTERDAY SHARPLY PROTESTED (IN A TELEGRAM TO THE PRIME MINISTER MR MENAHEM BEGIN) AGAINST THE MISSION STATUTE (ENTICEMENT TO CONVERSION) & CALLED UPON HIM TO WORK TOWARD ITS ANNULMENT INASMUCH AS IT IS "A DANGER TO FREEDOM OF RELIGION WORSHIP IN GENERAL AND AN INSTRUMENT IN THE HANDS OF THOSE WORKING FOR YEARS (AND NOW WITH GREATER INTENSITY) AGAINST ISRAELI CHRISTIANS IN PARTICULAR." AT A PRESS CONFERENCE HELD AT BEIT SOKOLOV IN TELAVIV LAST NIGHT THE CONTENTS OF THE TELEGRAM WERE PUBLISHED BY THE WORKING COMMITTEE OF THE UCCI. THE SPOKESMEN THAT THE SECOND & THIRD READINGS OF THE LAW (INITIATED BY MK YM ABRAMOWITZ OF AGUDAT YISRAEL) WAS DONE IN HASTE WITHOUT PROVIDING THE MK'S TO STUDY IT AND WITHOUT ARRANGING FOR CONSULTATION BY GOVERNMENT SOURCES WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY IN ISRAEL.

THE COMMITTEE FURTHER PROTESTED THE FACT THAT THEIR APPEAL TO THE PRIME MINISTER OF 13.12.77 HAD NOT BEEN REPLIED TO. (A BRIEF OUTLINE OF LAW FOLLOWS) LAST NIGHT THE SPOKESMEN STRESSED (WHAT WAS ALSO INCLUDED IN THE TELEGRAM TO THE PM) THAT NO BODY WHATSOEVER IN THE UCCI NOR ANY OTHER CHURCH BODIES ARE KNOWN TO THEM WHICH EMPLOY MK ALLUREMENTS TO CONVERT OTHERS. IT IS NOT CONCEIVABLE THAT JUST AT A TIME OF RECONCILIATION TOWARDS PEACE THAT SUCH A LAW SHOULD BE PROPOSED, THEY SAID. IN THEIR OPINION THE INITIATIVE FOR THE LAW DID NOT COME FROM THE GOVERNMENT BUT FROM RELIGIOUS EXTREMISTS. IT INVOLVES AN ATTEMPT TO PERSECUTE A RELIGIOUS MINORITY WHICH CONSTITUTES 2.5 PERCENT OF THE POPULATION, AND THOSE BEHIND THE MK PROGRAM HAVE THEIR AIM TO PERSECUTE THE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY IN ISRAEL. REV. DR. ROBT. LINDSEY (BAPT) DISCLOSED THAT MK SHULAMIT ALONI REQUESTED THE KNESSET CHAIRMAN TO POSTPONE THE SECOND & THIRD READINGS OF THE LAW AND WAS JOINED BY MK HAYIM KORFU & WIRSHOVSKY & SHANAL BUT ALL THEIR EFFORTS FAILED.... "SERIOUS HARM HAS BEEN DONE TO INTERCOMMUNAL RELATIONSHIPS IN ISRAEL. NEVERTHELESS THERE IS HOPE YET FOR A CHANGE INASMUCH AS THE LAW IS ALSO CONTRARY TO THE RIGHTS OF MAN & TO DEMOCRATIC FREEDOM," THEY CLAIMED. IN REPLY TO A QUESTION THEY MADE IT CLEAR THAT THEY HAVE NOT YET APPEALED TO THE VATICAN IN THIS MATTER BUT INTERNAL CONSULTATIONS ARE BEING HELD IN ISRAEL AND THEY WILL PREPARE THE APPROPRIATE DOCUMENTATION FOR STUDY BY SOURCES ABROAD.

DATE: 30.12.77 JOURNAL: AL HAMISHMAR (MAPAM AM) NEWS ARTICLE

HEADING: CHRISTIAN LEADERS DENOUNCE LAW AGAINST CONVERSION: A SERIOUS DANGER TO FREEDOM OF RELIGION CONTAINED IN IT

EXTRACTS: UCCI LEADERS CAME OUT YESTERDAY WITH SHARP CRITICISM AGAINST THE LAW PASSED THIS WEEK IN THE KNESSET IN CONNECTION WITH "ENTICEMENTS TO CONVERSION", A LAW WHICH IN THEIR WORDS WAS PASSED WITH INTENTIONAL HASTE AND WHICH THEY CHARGE WILL IMPAIR THE RIGHTS OF ISRAELI CITIZENS. IN A PRESS CONFERENCE AT BEIT SOKOLOV IN TA THE FOLLOWING, AMONG OTHERS, PARTICIPATED: HEAD OF THE UCCI THE PRIEST NAIM ATIK OF THE EVANGELICAL CHURCH OF HAIFA, HIS DEPUTY THE PRIEST ROY KREIDER OF THE MARONITE CHURCH IN TELAVIV-JAFFA, SECRETARY OF THE UCCI REV. PAUL SWARR OF BEIT EMMAUEL IN JAFFA, DR. ROBERT LINDSEY, JAY DAVID, AND OTHERS. THE UCCI CHAIRMAN READ A TELEGRAM SENT YESTERDAY TO THE PM MENAHEM BEGIN IN THE WAKE OF AN EMERGENCY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL IN WHICH CHRISTIAN LEADERS IN ISRAEL EXPRESSED "FEELINGS OF SHOCK AND DISMAY IN VIEW OF THE SWIFT PASSAGE OF THE AMENDMENT TO THE CRIMINAL LAW IN CONNECTION WITH ENTICEMENTS TO CONVERSION 1977" (PASSED ON TUES THIS WEEK IN KNESSET). "WE SEE THE MOST SERIOUS IMPLICATION IN THIS LAW FOR THE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY IN ISRAEL AS WELL AS FOR THE RIGHTS OF CITIZENS IN ISRAEL INASMUCH AS THERE IS A DANGER OF RESTRICTION TO FREE EXERCISE OF RELIGION CONTAINED IN IT." (AN OUTLINE OF THE LAW FOLLOWS) THE SPOKESMEN ESPECIALLY PROTESTED THE EXPLANATORY REMARKS ACCOMPANYING THE LAW'S PASSAGE (BY MK ABRAMOWITZ) ACCORDING TO WHICH "THE MISSIONARY ORGANIZATIONS TAKE MANY STEPS TO ENSNARE SOULS AND TO LEAD TO THE CHANGE OF THEIR RELIGION OF THOSE WHO FALL INTO THEIR NETS....." THE SPOKESMEN CHARGED THAT THE LAW AND ITS EXPLANATORY REMARKS CONTAIN SLANDEROUS STATEMENTS AGAINST CHRISTIANS, AND THE LAW WAS PASSED WITH HASTE AND SWIFTNES WITHOUT EVEN THE MOST ELEMENTARY CONSIDERATION OF CONSULTING WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY IN ISRAEL. LIKEWISE A MOST SERIOUS FACT WAS THAT THE KNESSET (A PROTECTED AND PRIVILEGED BODY) "WAS CONVERTED TO A PLATFORM OF ATTACK AND SLANDER AGAINST A TINY MINORITY WHICH COULD NOT DEFEND ITSELF."

DATE: 30.12.77 JOURNAL: DAVAR (LABOUR AM) NEWS ITEM

HEADING: UCCI IN STRUGGLE AGAINST ANTI-MISSION LAW

EXTRACTS: "IN SHARP PROTEST AGAINST THE PASSAGE OF THE ANTI-MISSION LAW "ENTICEMENT TO CONVERSION" MEMBERS OF THE UCCI DENOUNCED ESPECIALLY THE SWIFT MANNER IN WHICH THE LAW WAS PASSED EVEN THOUGH THE MAJORITY OF THE MK'S FAILED TO TAKE A STAND ON THE LAW. THEY ALSO UNDERSCORED THE SERIOUS NATURE OF THE PENALTIES UNDER CRIMINAL LAW. IN A PRESS CONFERENCE IN TELAVIV REV CANON ATIK READ OUT A TELEGRAPH TO THE PM IN WHICH THE CHRISTIAN ORGANIZATIONS POINT OUT THAT THE LAW IMPAIRS FREEDOM OF RELIGION AND CIVIL LIBERTIES IN ISRAEL. REV. ATIK ALSO POINTED OUT THAT A SIMILAR TELEGRAM WAS SENT TO THE PM AND TO THE KNESSET PRESIDENT BEFORE THE LAW'S PASSAGE BUT THE TWO HAD NOT TROUBLED TO REPLY. THE SPOKESMAN STATED THAT HE AND HIS COLLEAGUES WERE MISLED BY THE LACK OF PUBLICITY GIVEN TO THE PUBLICATION OF LEGISLATIVE PROCEDURES. BECAUSE OF LACK OF KNOWLEDGE THEY DID NOT SUFFICE TO SPEAK WITH MK'S WHO MIGHT HAVE OPPOSED THE PROPOSED LAW... THE PRIEST NAIM AND HIS COLLEAGUES IN THE CHURCH ORGANIZATIONS STRESSED THAT THEY OPPOSE COMPLETELY THE GIVING OF MATERIAL BENEFITS FOR PROMISES TO CONVERT. IF INDEED SUCH DEEDS WERE DONE IN THE PAST THEY WERE DONE BY INDIVIDUALS AND NOT BY ANY CHURCH ORGANIZATIONS. THEY EXPRESS CONCERN THAT THE LAW IS LIABLE TO ENCOURAGE PROVOCATEURS WHO WILL DISGUISE THEMSELVES AS AGENTS OF CHURCH ORGANIZATIONS TO CONVINCE PEOPLE TO CONVERT. THE PRIEST HENRY KNIGHT COMPLAINED ABOUT THE EXPLANATORY REMARKS TO THE LAW ACCORDING TO WHICH SIMILAR LAWS ARE ACCEPTED IN OTHER LANDS. HE STATED THAT

(HENRY KNIGHT STATED THAT) SUCH COUNTRIES AS HAVE ADOPTED SUCH LAWS ARE COUNTRIES ~~IN~~ WHICH ISRAEL HAS NO DESIRE TO RESEMBLE. THE THEOLOGICAN ROBT LINDSEY COMPLAINED OF THE DISTORTION OF THE CONCEPT "MISSION" IN ISRAEL. HOSTILE PUBLICATION IN THE PRESS HAVE LED THE PUBLIC TO BELIEVE THAT THE MISSIONARY IS A PERSON SEEKING TO ENTICE BY MATERIAL MEANS MEMBERS OF ANOTHER FAITH TO BE BAPTIZED AS CHRISTIANS. LINDSEY AND THE OTHER SPOKESMEN EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT THE PURPOSE IS TO SUPPRESS THE CHRISTIAN MINORITY & TO DENY FREEDOM OF FAITH AND WORSHIP. THEY POINTED OUT THE FACT THAT IN CONTRAST TO THE LESS THAN THIRTY JEWS RECENTLY BAPTIZED SOME FIVE HUNDRED CHRISTIANS ACCEPTED JUDAISM. THIS DOES NOT INDICATE ALLUREMENTS OR AGGRESSIVE CONVERSIONARY ACTIVITIES...THEY POINTED OUT THAT HITHERTO THEY HAD REFRAINED FROM A PUBLIC STRUGGLE BUT NOW....(LAST SENTENCE IN STORY GARBLED) BUT IMPLIES THAT HENCEFORTH THEY WOULD PUBLICLY RESIST)

DATE: 1.1.78 JOURNAL: HAMODIYA (AGUDA AM) NEWS STORE (FROM ULTRAORTHODOX PERSPECTIVE)
HEADING: IN THE WAKE OF THE LAW PASSED THIS WEEK IN KNESSET: "THE CHRISTIAN COUNCIL" BEGINS CAMPAIGN AGAINST RESTRICTIONS OF "ENTICEMENTS TO CHANGE OF RELIGION"

EXTRACTS: "LEADERS OF THE UCCI HAVE COME OUT WITH SHARP CRITICISM AGAINST THE LAW AGAINST ENTICEMENT TO CHANGE OF RELIGION, A LAW WHICH THEY CLAIM WAS PASSED IN PURPOSEFUL HASTE AND WHICH THEY CLAIM WILL "IMPAIR ~~THE~~ CIVIL RIGHTS IN ISRAEL", STATED AT A PRESS CONFERENCE HELD AT TELAVIV. THE SPOKESMEN CLAIMED THAT THEY REPRESENT CHURCHES, SCHOOLS, HOSPITALS AND CHRISTIAN INSTITUTIONS IN ISRAEL. CHAIRMAN OF THE UCCI READ A TELEGRAM SENT TO THE PM IN THE WAKE OF AN EMERGENCY SESSION OF THE COUNCIL IN WHICH THEY EXPRESSED "SHOCK & DISMAY" AT THE SWIFT PASSAGE OF THE AMENDMENT TO THE CRIMINAL LAW....THE SPOKESMEN ESPECIALLY PROTESTED THE EXPLANATORY REMARKS ACCOMPANYING THE LAW (OUTLINED) WHICH THEY CLAIMED WERE SLANDEROUS AGAINST CHRISTIANS....THEIR CHIEF INDIGNATION WAS DIRECTED AT THE EXPLANATORY REMARKS ACCOMPANYING THE LAW WHICH "ARE ENCITEMENT AND INDICATE WHAT IS BEHIND THE AIMS OF THOSE WHO PROPOSED THE LAW. ACCORDING TO THEM THE AMENDMENT WAS PRESSED UPON THE KNESSET BY "EXTREMIST ELEMENTS" AND THEY ARE CONVINCED THAT HAD THE GOVT AND MOST OF THE PUBLIC UNDERSTOOD THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE LAW THEY WOULD NOT HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO ITS PASSAGE. OUR CORRESPONDENT POINTS OUT THAT THE OUTCRY OF THE CHURCHMEN ACTUALLY PROVES HOW URGENT WAS THE AMENDMENT TO THE PRESENT LAW. (SEE "FROM DAY TO DAY" PAGE 2)

DATE: 1.1.78 JOURNAL: HAMODIYA (AGUDA AM) EDITORIAL (REFERRED TO IN NEWS STORY CONCLUSION)
HEADING: "ON THE HEAD OF THE THIEF..."

EXTRACTS: "THE CHRISTIAN COUNCIL IN ISRAEL HAS SUDDENLY AWAKENED AFTER PASSAGE OF THE LAW FORBIDDING ENTICEMENT TO CHANGE OF RELIGION (MISSION) IN ORDER TO ATTACK THE PASSAGE OF THE LAW WITH VERY STRANGE CHARGES THAT THE LAW ALLEGEDLY INJURES CHRISTIANS AND DENIES THEM RIGHTS, SOMETHING WHICH IS PURE FANTASY, OR THAT THE LAW IS DESIGNED TO IMPAIR CIVIL RIGHTS OR RELIGIOUS LIBERTY...THE LAW INITIATED BY MK ABRAMOWITZ WAS DESIGNED ACTUALLY TO ASSURE FREEDOM OF RELIGION, THAT IS TO PREVENT DARK ELEMENTS FROM EXPLOITING THE HUMAN WEAKNESSES BY DEPRIVING THEM OF THEIR CONSCIENCE, THEIR INTELLIGENCE, AND THEIR TIES TO THEIR ANCESTRAL FAITH. [IS ANYONE SUGGESTING THAT MEMBERS OF OTHER FAITHS SHALL BE DISTURBED IN THEIR FAITH? IS ANYONE DENYING THEM ANYTHING, OR IS THERE NOT RATHER HERE IN THE NEW LAW A DERENCE ALONE OF MEMBERS OF THE JEWISH RELIGION IN THEIR OWN LAND? WHAT THEN THE OUTCRY? AND IF THEY HAVE ALREADY MADE AN OUTCRY--THERE MUST BE SOMETHING BEHIND IT. THE ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ LAW IS NOT AGAINST CHRISTIANS BUT AGAINST MISSIONARIES AND IF THEY, THE MEN OF THE "CHRISTIAN COUNCIL", HAVE ARISEN TO EXPRESS A CRITICISM IT IS A SIGN THAT THERE IS SOMETHING BEHIND IT, A MATTER OF "ON THE HEAD OF THE THIEF THE HAT BURNS"...

DATE: 3.1.78 JOURNAL: HAARETZ (IND. AM) NEWS STORY

HEADING: CHURCH REPRESENTATIVES AGAIN PROTEST MISSION LAW: AT A MEETING WITH HEAD OF RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS DIVISION...POINT OUT THAT UP TO TWO THOUSAND CONVERTS TO JUDAISM EACH YEAR CONVERTS TO CHRISTIANITY LESS THAN TEN.

BYLINE: Yehudit Winkler EXTRACTS: A DELEGATION FROM UCCI YESTERDAY PROTESTED SHARPLY TO THE CHIEF OF THE MINISTRY OF RELIG AFFAIRS MR ISRAEL LIPPEL AGAINST THE MISSION LAW & CHARACTERIZED THE EXPLAN REMARKS ACCOMPANYING IT AS "SLANDER & LIBEL AGAINST CHRISTIANS". THE DELEGATION STRESSED THAT THE GENERALIZATION OF THE TERM MISSION AS A KEY WORD TO JUSTIFY THE LAW WAS DESIGNED TO CREATE "A FEELING OF SUSPICION & HATRED AGAINST THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH" IT WAS MADE KNOWN THAT THE DELEGATION VISITED YESTERDAY WITH ARCHBISHOP WM CAREW, VATICAN REP. IN JERUSALEM, & AT THE END OF THE CONVERSATION PARTICIPANTS STATED IT WAS MOST ENCOURAGING. REPRESENTATIVES OF THE CHURCHES (MAINLY PROTESTANT) STRESSED IN CONVERSATIONS WITH MR LIPPEL AND WITH MR ROSSING (CHIEF OF THE CHRISTIAN AFFAIRS DEPT)...THAT THE UCCI CANNOT PASS OVER SILENTLY (THE EVENTS RELATED TO THE LAW'S PASSAGE). CHRISTIAN MINISTERS POINTED OUT THAT WHILE GENTILES CONVERTING TO JUDAISM RUNS FROM 500 TO 1000 AND SOMETIMES REACHES 2000 PER YEAR, THE NUMBER OF JEWS CHANGING THEIR RELIGION IS USUALLY LESS THAN TEN PER YEAR....IT APPEARS THAT THE CHURCH WITH ALL ITS SECTS INTENDS TO WAGE A SHARP & OPEN STRUGGLE AMONG

Council & Gov't factors in Israel to annual the law

DATE: 3.1.78 JOURNAL: HATZOFE (NRP AM) FEATURE ARTICLE IN "AGAV" ("BY THE WAY") COLUMN
 HEADING: FOR HUNTERS OF SOULS

EXTRACTS: "THE LAW...IS IN ESSENCE A SOCIAL-ETHICAL LAW. AS IT IS FORBIDDEN TO COMPEL ~~YOUR~~ ^{YOUR NEIGHBOUR} TO YOUR FORM OF WORSHIP, SO IT IS FORBIDDEN TO ENTICE YOUR NEIGHBOUR WITH BENEFITS TO DRAW HIM INTO YOUR FORM OF WORSHIP....IN MANY COUNTRIES IN THE WORLD THE MISSION IS PROHIBITED BY LAW BECAUSE IT DISTURBS THE SOCIAL ORDER FOR A MAN SHOULD LEVE BY HIS OWN FAITH WITHOUT INTERFERENCE OF STRANGERS. IN THE JEWISH STATE...IT IS CERTAIN THAT THE MISSION IS AN EVIL AFFLICTION ENTIRELY INTOLERABLE. THE HISTORICAL TENSION BETWEEN PERSECUTED JUDAISM AND THE PERSECUTING CHURCH ~~KEEE~~ ^{MAKES} EVEN MORE ~~DEETK~~ ^{DETESTABLE} THE CONNIVING OF THE MISSION IN OUR OWN HOME. THE ISRAELI AUTHORITIES TREAT WITH GREAT RESPECT MINORITY RELIGIONS... A PEOPLE PERSECUTED THROUGHOUT ALL THE YEARS OF ITS EXILE AND ESPECIALLY BY THE CHURCH'S INQUISITION TOTALLY REJECTS PERSECUTION OF MEMBERS OF OTHER FAITHS AND IN ITS STATE SUPPLIES ALL THE IMPLEMENTS OF WORSHIP FOR MOSQUES & CHURCHES & RESPECT FOR EVERY BELIEVER ACCORDING TO HIS TRADITION...BUT MUST MAKE WAR AGAINST SOUL-HUNTERS, THE MISSION, WHO ARE PURSUING US EVEN IN ISRAEL. THEY ARE ^{MORTAL} ENEMIES ENCOURAGING APOSTASY, TREACHEROUS FLIGHT FROM OUR FAITH & NATION....ISRAELI LEFTISTS WHO CARE NOTHING FOR JEWS APOSTASIZING HAVE BEGUN AN OUTCRY THAT "THE LAW UNDERMINES DEMOCRACY" AND THAT "BECAUSE OF A FEW DOZEN CONVERTS," THERE IS NO NEED TO ENACT A LAW....IN THEIR HATRED FOR THEIR PEOPLE'S HERITAGE THEY ARE EVEN WILLING TO ENDURE THE MISSION IF ONLY TO HURT JEWISH TRADITION & ITS UPHOLDERS. IT HAS BEEN REPORTED THAT SOME TIME AGO THERE WERE CONTACTS BETWEEN ANTIRELIGIOUS CIRCLES & MISSION CIRCLES IN ORDER TO ATTACK JEWISH ORTHODOXY....THE LEADERS OF THE UCCI HAVE SAID AT THEIR PRESS CONFERENCE THAT THE LAW AGAINST THE MISSION IMPAIRS "RELIGIOUS FREEDOM & AND CIVIL RIGHTS IN ISRAEL." THEY EVEN SAID THEY COMPLETELY OPPOSE THE USE OF MATERIAL MEANS TO ENTICE CONVERSION. IN THEIR OPINION THE LAW HAS AN ELEMENT OF PERSECUTION FOR A RELIGIOUS MINORITY OF 2.5 PERCENT OF THE GENERAL POPULATION. NEVERTHELESS, THE MISSION IS AN ORGANIC PART OF THE CHURCHES, ESPECIALLY THE PROTESTANT CHURCHES, AND THOSE WHO ENGAGE IN IT ARE DILIGENT TO FULFIL THEIR CHARGE WITH EVERY MEANS AT HAND. NOT ALL OF THEM EMPLOY MATERIAL ENTICEMENTS IN A BLATANT MANNER, BUT MANY FACTS TESTIFY THAT THE MISSION IN ALL ITS VARIATIONS VIEW SOUL-HUNTING OF JEWS AS THE SUPREME AIM JUSTIFYING EVERY MEANS. THERE IS NOTHING IN THE LAW IMPAIRING FREEDOM OF RELIGION, ONLY SELF DEFENCE AGAINST ENTICEMENT THAT WEAK CHARACTERS IN DISTRESS CANNOT WITHSTAND....LET THE MISSION CEASE TO OPERATE AND LET THE CHURCHES DEAL WITH THEIR OWN AFFAIRS WITHOUT ATTEMPTS TO BAPTIZE JEWS INTO CHRISTIANITY, AND THERE WILL BE NO NEED TO ACTIVATE THE LAW. THERE IS NO BASIS WHATSOEVER TO SAY THAT ANYONE HAS AN INTEREST TO PERSECUTE THE CHRISTIANS IN ISRAEL. OBSERVANT JEWS ARE CAREFUL TO MAINTAIN THE PARTITION BETWEEN THEM & OTHER RELIGIONS BUT WITHOUT ANY HATRED WHEN THE OTHER SIDE HAS NO MISSIONARY INTENT....BUT THE MISSION IS AN INSEPARABLE PART OF THE CHURCH, AND ITS AGGRESSIVENESS IN ALL ITS FORMS COMPELS US TO DEFEND OURSELVES AGAINST IT...JEWS WHO UTTERLY DENY MISSION IN MATTERS OF FAITH SHARE THE OPINION EXPRESSED IN PROPHECY: "FOR ALL THE PEOPLES MAY WALK EACH MAN IN THE NAME OF HIS GOD, BUT WE WILL WALK IN THE NAME OF OUR GOD FOR EVER & EVER."

2. SUBJECT: EVANGELICAL CONGRESS IN JERUSALEM

DATE: 3.1.78 JOURNAL: MAARIV (IND PM) NEWS ITEM

HEADING: THE EVANGELISTS WILL HOLD A CONGRESS FOR THE SAKE OF JERUSALEM

EXTRACT: "A DEMONSTRATION OF SOLIDARITY BY TENS OF MILLIONS OF MEMBERS OF THE CHRISTIAN EVANGELISTIC COMMUNITY THROUGHOUT THE WORLD WITH THE STATE OF ISRAEL ON THE THIRTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF ITS INDEPENDENCE WILL BE MANIFESTED AT AN INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS FOR THE PEACE OF JERUSALEM TO TAKE PLACE AT THE BEGINNING OF FEBRUARY IN JERUSALEM WITH THE PARTICIPATION OF PRIME MINISTER MENAHEM BEGIN. DR DOUGLAS YOUNG...ANNOUNCED THIS AT A PRESS CONFERENCE HELD YESTERDAY IN THE CAPITAL....DURING THE COURSE OF THE CONGRESS THERE WILL BE DISCUSSIONS ON THE BONDS BETWEEN CHRISTIANS & JEWS IN THE LIGHT OF THE TENACH, & ON THE RIGHT OF THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL TO THE LAND OF ISRAEL ACCORDING TO THE TENACH."

DATE: 3.1.78 JOURNAL: HAARETZ (IND AM) NEWS ITEM

HEADING: INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS FOR THE SAKE OF JERUSALEM WILL TAKE PLACE IN FEBRUARY

EXTRACTS: (AS ABOVE PLUS:) IT WAS REPORTED THAT HUNDREDS OF THE EVANGELISTIC COMMUNITY WILL BE COMING TO ISRAEL FROM THE USA, SOUTH AFRICA, MOST WEST EUROPEAN LANDS IN ORDER TO TAKE PART.

DATE: 3.1.78 JOURNAL: DAVAR (LABOUR AM) NEWS ITEM (AS ABOVE)

HEADING: THE EVANGELISTS WILL DEMONSTRATE SOLIDARITY WITH ISRAEL.

DATE: 3.1.78 JOURNAL: JERUSALEM POST NEWS ITEM

HEADING: EVANGELICALS TO GATHER IN CAPITAL TO SUPPORT ISRAEL

BYLINE: ABRAHAM RABINOVICH

EXTRACTS: AS ABOVE PLUS: "DR YOUNG NOTED THAT AMERICAN EVANGELICALS CONSTITUTE A PRO-ISRAEL BODY FAR GREATER IN SIZE THAN THE JEWISH COMMUNITY IN THE USA. HE SAID THEY WERE INCREASINGLY TRANSFORMING THEIR SUPPORT OF ISRAEL INTO OVERT POLITICAL ACTION. (A REFERENCE TO TIME MAG² STORY ON US EVANGELICALS) SOME 350 EVANGELICAL LEADERS EXPECTED

DATE: 4.1.78 JOURNAL: HAMISHMAR (MAPAM AM) NEWS FEATURE ARTICLE
 HEADING: SUPPORTERS OF THE INTEGRITY OF THE JEWISH HOMELAND: PRO-ISRAEL EVANGELICAL CIRCLES CLAIM THAT THE PROMISE OF THE EXISTENCE & INTEGRITY OF ISRAEL IS A UNIQUE INSTANCE OF RELIGION & POLITICS UNITED

BYLINE: GABRIEL STERN

EXTRACTS: "AT THE GENERAL^{US} CONSULAR OFFICE IN JERUSALEM DISPLEASURE WAS EXPRESSED TO DR. YOUNG PRESIDENT OF THE AMERICAN HOLY LAND INSTITUTE & INITIATOR OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS FOR THE PEACE OF JERUSALEM ON THE PART OF PROISRAEL EVANGELICAL CIRCLES BECAUSE OF "THE EXPLOITATION OF RELIGION FOR THE SAKE OF POLITICAL PRESSURE." YOUNG'S REPLY WAS THAT THE MATTER OF THE PROMISE OF THE EXISTENCE & INTEGRITY OF THE STATEMENT OF ISRAEL IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE SCRIPTURAL PROMISES IS A UNIQUE INSTANCE OF RELIGION & POLITICS UNITED LINKED BY A COMMON STANDARD. (OUTLINE OF CONGRESS FOLLOWS) PM BEGIN, MIN OF RELIG AFFAIRS ABUHATZEIRA MAYOR TEDDY KOLLEK OF JLM WILL BE AMONG THOSE GREETING THE CONGRESS. ALSO REPORTED WAS A CONFERENCE OF INTERFAITH LIBERAL CIRCLES FROM THE USA TO TAKE PLACE THIS MONTH IN J'LM. DR YOUNG EXPLAINED THAT THERE IS NO SPECIAL ORGANIZATION BEHIND THE CONFERENCE BUT THAT PARTICIPANTS ARE PERSONS PART OF VARIOUS CHURCH BODIES NUMBERING IN HIS WORDS ABOUT FORTY MILLION PERSONS AND WHO SHARE A COMMON DENOMINATOR OF CONSERVATIVE PROTESTANT RELIGIOUS FAITH IN THE BIBLE AS THE WORD OF GOD INCLUDING THE PROPHECIES ABOUT THE RETURN OF ISRAEL TO ITS HOMELAND.... IN THIS SPIRIT GIANT ADVERTISEMENTS HAVE BEEN PUBLISHED IN MAJOR USA NEWSPAPERS OPPOSING THE SOVIET AMERICAN DECLARATION AS WELL AS PUBLIC^{& PARLIAMENTARY} PRESSURE EXERTED WHICH IN DR YOUNG'S OPINION DECISIVELY INFLUENCED PRES JIMMY CARTER (WHO HIMSELF BELONGS TO THE SOUTHERN BAPTIST CHURCH WHICH IS PART OF THE EVANGELICAL STREAM REPRESENTING ABOUT ONE THIRD OF ALL USA PROTESTANTS. IN REPLY TO MY QUESTION DR YOUNG SAID THAT INDEED IN THE LONG RUN HE HOPED FOR GOOD RESULTS FROM THE SADAT BEGIN INITIATIVE (AS PER THE PROPHECY OF ISAIAH CONCERNING THE THREESOME OF ISRAEL EGYPT & ASSYRIA, BUT HE IS NOT PARTY TO THE EXCESSIVE OPTIMISM & HAS RESERVATIONS ABOUT THE PROSPECTS. "I WOULD NOT YIELD TERRITORY ON THE BASIS OF PROMISES ALONE, " HE STATED.... WITH RESPECT TO ~~THE~~ MY QUESTION CONCERNING THE NEW LAW IN THE MATTER OF THE MISSION, DR YOUNG EXPRESSED SHARP OPPOSITION TO ALL ATTEMPTS AT CHANGING RELIGION & ESPECIALLY BY INVALID MEANS, AND HE DOES NOT IDENTIFY WITH THE PROTEST OF THE UCCI (PROTESTANT) OF WHICH HE IS NOT A MEMBER, BUT HE DOES HAVE APPREHENSIONS ABOUT THE LAW WHICH ~~IS~~ IS LIABLE TO HARM THE GOOD NAME OF ISRAEL, AND IT IS ALSO POSSIBLE TO ABUSE THE LAW BECAUSE OF IT S VAGUE WORDING. ON THE OTHER HAND, IN HIS OPINION THERE IS NEED FOR LEGISLATION AGAINST MISSIONARY ACTIVITY BY THOSE MASQUERADING AS STUDENTS & TOURISTS."

3. RER BROADCAST WITH CHRISTIAN OVERTONES

DATE: 3.1.78 JOURNAL: HATSOFE (NRP AM) NEWS ITEM
 HEADING: PROTESTS AGAINST BROADCAST WITH CHRISTIAN CHARACTER
 EXTRACTS: DOZENS OF COMPLAINTS HAVE REACHED THE DIVISION FOR CAMPAIGNING AGAINST THE MISSION OF "YAD L'AKHIM" IN THE WAKE OF A PROGRAM ABOUT JESUS THE NAZARENE WHICH WAS BROADCAST WEDNESDAY IN THE PROGRAM "FOR MOTHER & CHILD" ON ISRAELI BROADCASTING NETWORK. THE PROGRAM INCLUDED QUESTIONS & ANSWERS OF CHILDREN AGE 9-12 ON THIS SUBJECT. PARTICIPATING IN THE PROGRAM WERE A DOMINICAN PRIEST & A HEBREW U. LECTURER. THE COMPLAINANTS STRESSED THAT IN THE PROGRAM THERE WAS FELT A SYMPATHETIC TONE TOWARD CHRISTIANITY.

DATE: 3.1.78 JOURNAL: SHEARIM (AGUDA AM) NEWS ITEM
 HEADING: PROTEST AGAINST BROADCAST WITH CHRISTIAN CHARACTER (AS ABOVE)

DATE: 4.1.78 JOURNAL: HATSOFE (NRP AM) LETTER TO EDITOR
 HEADING: "CHRISTIAN CONSCIOUSNESS" IN A CHILDREN'S BROADCAST
 SUMMARY: READER'S EXPRESSION OF SHOCK AT HEARING BROADCAST & DEMAND FOR SUPERVISION OF BROADCASTS.

DATE: 5.1.78 JOURNAL: HAARETZ (IND AM) FEATURE ARTICLE

HEADING: WAS BUBER CLOSER TO JUDAISM OR CHRISTIANITY

BYLINE: MORDECAI ARTZIELI

SUMMARY: REPORT ON SECOND DAY OF BUBER CENTENNIAL CONFERENCE AT BENGURION UNIVERSITY. DR PHINEAS PELLI LECTURED ON BUBER'S CRITICAL ATTITUDE TOWARDS JEWISH HALACHA & HIS WIDESPREAD INFLUENCE AMONG GENTILES AND A YOUNG GENERATION OF KENYAN JEWS IN CENTRAL & WESTERN EUROPE (SUCH AS FRANZ ROSENZWEIG, HUGO BERGMAN, MAX BROD, FRANZ KAFKA, GERSHOM SCHOLEM). THE LECTURE DREW SHARP REACTIONS EVEN STORMY ONES. A JESUIT PRIEST ALSO CONTRIBUTED HIS THOUGHTS ABOUT THE IMPACT OF BUBER'S "I-THOU" DIALECTIC ON CHRISTIAN THOUGHT. THERE WERE OTHER LECTURERS WHOSE VIEWS ARE SYNTHESIZED IN THE ARTICLE LEADING TO VIGOROUS DEBATE IN THE MEETING HALL & CORRIDORS & DINING HALLS.

SUPPLEMENTARY:

SUBJECT: UCCI PRESS CONFERENCE ON ANTIMISSION LAW:

DATE: 2.1.78 JOURNAL: DAVAR (LABOUR A.M.) FEATURE ARTICLE

HEADING: "ISRAEL IS NO ORPHAN, NOR IS JESUS A WIDOWER"

BYLINE: Teddy Freuss

EXTRACTS: "THE AMENDMENT TO THE CRIMINAL LAW--ENTICEMENT TO CHANGE OF RELIGION--WAS ENACTED WITH UNDESIRABLE HASTE. THE KNESSET WHICH IN THE COURSE OF MANY YEARS HAS BEEN "UNABLE" TO AMEND THE ELECTION LAW SUCCEEDED IN A MATTER OF A FEW WEEKS TO ADOPT THE ABOVE AMENDMENT AND TO AFFIX TO IT PENALTIES OF AN EXTRAORDINARILY SEVERE KIND.....THIS IS MORE THAN A RAPIST OR EMBEZZLER IN A HIGH POSITION MAY EXPECT, WITHOUT MENTIONING AIR POLLUTERS AND DRIVERS GUILTY OF MANSLAUGHTER....IS THERE NO BETTER WAY TO COMBAT PERSUASION TO CONVERSION BY SUCH MEANS...? THE CLAIM THAT PROGRAMS OF ENTICEMENT UNDERMINES THE JEWISH RELIGION IS GROTESQUE....TWO THOUSAND YEARS OF EXILE IN ADDITION TO PERSECUTIONS & TORMENTS DID NOT DESTROY JUDAISM. THEREFORE IT IS LAUGHABLE THAT JUST IN ISRAEL AN INSIGNIFICANT MINORITY COULD SUBVERT JEWS, AND THE NUMBERS BEAR WITNESS TO THIS FACT. WHAT IS INVOLVED ARE A FEW DOZENS WHO HAVE BEEN BAPTIZED (NOT ALL OF WHOM WERE BAPTIZED AS A RESULT OF ENTICEMENT). WHOEVER HAS READ THE WORDS OF EXPLANATION TO THE AMENDMENT OF THE LAW WILL FIND IT DIFFICULT NOT TO AGREE WITH THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UCCI THAT IT WILL SOW HATRED AMONG THE RELIGIONS AND IN SOCIETY AMONG WHOM THERE ARE ELEMENTS NOT NOTED FOR THEIR TOLERANCE, AND THE LAW WILL ADD TENSION AND FANATICISM. THIS MUCH MAY BE SAID FOR THE CHURCH REPRESENTATIVES. HOWEVER, THOSE WHO LISTENED TO SOME OF THEIR SPOKESMEN CANNOT BE DISMAYED BY THE TONE OF THEIR REMARKS. ALTHO' ALL OF THEM UNDERLINED THAT THEY REJECT MATERIAL "INCENTIVES" FOR MISSIONARY WORK, SOME OF THEM ADDED ARGUMENTS HERE AND THERE THAT ARE REMINISCENT OUR OWN (JEWISH) RELIGIOUS FANATICS. A SPOKESMAN OF THE ORGANIZATION, JAY DAVID, FOR EXAMPLE, SURVEYED THE DECLINE OF THE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY IN ISRAEL. HE STATED THERE WERE TEN PERCENT CHRISTIAN POPULATION IN ISRAEL ONCE, BUT NOW ONLY 2.5%. INASMUCH AS HE CONNECTED THIS WITH ABUSE OF CHRISTIANS IN ISRAEL, HIS REMARKS TOOK ON A MOST SERIOUS SIGNIFICANCE. THERE IS NO NEED TO STATE THAT THIS CLAIM IS NOT ONLY SILLY BUT ALSO WICKED. IN 1975 THERE LIVED IN ISRAEL ABOUT 80,200 CHRISTIANS AS OPPOSED TO 50,500 IN 1961. THE DECLINE ~~IS~~ IS ONLY RELATIVE AND DERIVES FROM THE INCREASE OF JEWISH IMMIGRATION TO ISRAEL AND FROM THE MUCH GREATER NATURAL INCREASE OF MOSLEMS. DAVID WENT FURTHER GIVING THE IMPRESSION THAT THE ENTIRE JEWISH PUBLIC IS A PASSIVE PARTNER TO THE ABUSES OF SECTS OF JEWISH RELIGIOUS HOODLUMS. (ONE MEMBER OF THE UCCI FROM FINLAND RELATED FROM HIS PERSONAL EXPERIENCE EXAMPLES, AND IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE NOT TO BE MOVED AT THE HEARING OF THE EXAMPLES HE CITED, BUT HIS REMARKS HAD AN ENTIRELY DIFFERENT TONE THAN THAT OF DAVID). JUST AS ISRAELIS DON'T SEE EVERY PRIEST, MONK OR MISSIONARY AS ANOTHER CAPUCCI, SO THE OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN OF THE UCCI IS REQUESTED NOT TO IDENTIFY THE ENTIRE (JEWISH) PUBLIC WITH "THE TORAH FAITHFUL" OR THE JEWISH DEFENCE LEAGUE. THE UCCI ~~XXXXXXXXX~~ IT-SELF & ITS SUBJECT ~~AS~~ SERVICE IN APPOINTING SUCH A MAN AS ~~HAS DONE~~ ITS SPOKESMAN....IS IT IMPOSSIBLE TO FIND A MORE RESTRAINED & CIVILIZED SPOKESMAN THAN JAY DAVID? AFTER ALL, "NO WIDOWER IS JESUS" (i.e. not desolate or without companions or followers.) END.