HAPPY PASSOVER AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE SPONSORS UNPRECEDENTED DIALOGUE

Saint Meinrad, Indiana, "Pluralism is something more than the simple condition of man; it is the will of God," a leading Jewish theologian declared in the course of an unprecedented four-day dialogue here with one of Europe's most brilliant young Catholic scholars.

Arthur Hertzberg, Dr. Lecturer in History at Columbia University and Rabbi of Temple Emanu-El, Englewood, New Jersey, examined various aspects of the theme, "Religion and the Modern World Jewish and Christian Perspectives," with Father Johannes Baptist Metz, Professor of Fundamental Theology and Dean of the athlolic Theological Facu-Its of the University of Muenster, Father Metz made a special trip to the United tates to take part in this

The unprecedented colloquim, which took place at it. Meinrad School of Theo-

logy, was co-sponsored by order." Saint Meinrad and the American Jewish Committee.

In his lecture Rabbi Hertzberg said: "The definition of Maimonides of the Messianic age is that it will be a world of justice and peace in which the varying communities of man will continue to exist. The confrontation with secular ideology at this moment in history has to be a confrontation with the whole of the religious and cultural tradition of the West."

He continued; "If pluralism is, indeed, the will of God, then He has created these diverse traditions and outlooks as correctives of each other. If God is larger than the church or synagogue, then something of what He wants is present in securar ideologies. All of us together are subject to one ultimate judgment, that we should labor for the minimum of constraint upon each other, the barest minimum that is necessary for social

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Both Father Metz and Rabbi Hertzberg agreed that we are living in a secularized, pluralistic world in which religion has a definite role to play.

Father Metz said that the Christian eschatological message (of Hope and Faith) was not a private concern but a public one in which the church must unite with other groups to work for peace, social justice and the protection of the oppressed.

"While the technological planners work on one level to achieve these ends, the role of the church is to act as a responsible critic," Father Metz said.

"Whereas political, ideological institutions limit their goals and define the means for attaining them, the institution of the Church must go further," according to Father Metz, saying it must protect the sanctity of the individual so that he doesn't become a card in a

vast computer, and deal with those problems of personal survival that are not related to the politic-economic state.

To the extent that Christian and Marxist goals to improve the future of man on earth are similar, they can work together, Father Metz said.

The Church, he continued, should not, therefore, be a "tranquilizing force" focussing hope on the afterworld, but should be "a litigant in man's suit for a better life

on earth." Conceding that, historically, the Church has more often been counter-revolutionary than revolutionary, Father Metz declared that the institution of the Church must be prepared to be the object of criticism as well as a critic, if it is to have credibility.

Rabbi Hertzberg pointed out that while the Jews benefited from the Enlightenment by gaining civic equality, they have always been a group outside of the establishment, "Judaism, both as a faith and as a self-image of the individual Jew, was not more at home in the new age than it had been in the older, medieval ones." he said. Today, in this pluralist world, he says, Christianity is also a diaspora community as is Mar-

In his remarks at the opening session, Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum, Director of Interreligious Affairs of the American Jewish Committee said: "The dialogue between a leading Catholic and a Jewish scholar devoted to a searching examination of the relationship of Christianity

and Judaism to the modern world has meaning beyond the inherent value of their intellectual probings. It demonstrates that both Judaism and Christianity, confronted by common challenges of secular modernity. have profound insights to

contribute out of their respective and differing histories and traditions which are mutually complementary as well as mutually corrective,"

(To Be Continued)

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