

# CATHOLIC - JEWISH UNDERSTANDING

NEW YORK-- The establishment in Rome of a permanent liaison body between the Roman Catholic Church and the Jewish community has been hailed by a prominent Jewish leader as "a major step forward" in advancing solidarity between members of the two faiths.

Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum, national director of the Interreligious Affairs

Department of the American Jewish Committee, who took part in the Vatican meeting as one of the International Jewish Consultative body, gave his assessment of the three-day session on radio station WINS.

The Vatican-Jewish steering committee, Rabbi Tanenbaum said, "will seek to advance Catholic-Jewish understanding systematically on an international level, and to promote closer collaboration in such areas of common concern as justice and peace in the world, overcoming poverty, combating racism and anti-Semitism in all their manifestations, the defense of human rights and religious liberty, and the deepening of Jewish-Christian understanding through scholarly study and brotherly dialogue."

Rabbi Tanenbaum quoted the Vatican's ranking ecumenicist, Jan Cardinal Willebrands, president of the Christian unity secretariat, who participated in the meeting. "Vatican Council II has given us reason to hope that hostility between Christians and Jews can be changed in our time. When we consider the depth of our common roots, we know we are not just human beings, we are brothers and sisters before God, and that is our hope and orientation for better fraternal relations for the future."



AN HONORARY DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF LAWS WAS CONFERRED UPON PRESIDENT ZALMAN SHAZAR (CENTER) OF ISRAEL BY THE DROPSIE UNIVERSITY, THE ONLY POST-GRADUATE INSTITUTION IN THE UNITED STATES COMPLETELY DEDICATED TO THE STUDY OF HEBREW, BIBLICAL AND MIDDLE EAST LANGUAGES AND CULTURES. THE PRESENTATION WAS MADE AT A SPECIAL PRESIDENTIAL CONVOCATION AT THE HOME OF THE ISRAELI PRESIDENT IN BEIT HANASSI, JERUSALEM. THE FORMAL PRE-

SENTATION WAS MADE BY DR. ABRAHAM I. KATSH (RIGHT), PRESIDENT OF DROPSIE, LOCATED IN PHILADELPHIA, PA. ON THE LEFT IS DR. SOLOMON ZEITLIN, DISTINGUISHED PROFESSOR OF RABBINIC HISTORY AND LAW AT DROPSIE, WHO MADE THE INVESTITURE OF THE ACADEMIC SASH ON THE SHOULDERS OF PRESIDENT SHAZAR. PROF. ZEITLIN AND THE ISRAELI PRESIDENT WERE CLASSMATES AND ROOMMATES IN EARLIER DAYS AT THE ACADEMY OF JEWISH STUDIES IN ST. PETERBURG.

## SOVIET JEWS ...

(Continued from Page 1) the other sentences would also be revoked.

A Rakach (pro-Moscow communists) spokesman said the party had always been convinced the death sentence would be commuted. He also said the Soviet Union did not prohibit the emigration of Jews to Israel.

In Tel Aviv, leaders

of the Herut-Hatzohar World Movement planned to take "public action" to demonstrate the "fury" of the Jewish people over the trials of Jews in the Soviet Union, and a delegation of high school students from Herzliah presented petitions to the Finnish Embassy protesting the suppression of Zionism in the Soviet Union. The Finnish Embassy re-

presents Soviet interests in Israel.

In the United States, President Richard M. Nixon and Secretary of State William P. Rogers were said to be "gratified" over the commutation of the death sentences.

Also expressing their gratification and calling for the revocation or reduction of sentences imposed on

Republican Senator Jacob K. Javitz of New York, Rabbi Herschel Schacter, chairman of the American Jewish Conference on Soviet Jewry, the Jewish Labor Committee, the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, the American Jewish Congress, the American Jewish Committee and B'nai B'rith,

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