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### Ecumenics

In her yellow pants suit the attractive woman at the rostrum might have been an actress. But she was a Christian theologian, publically admitting that much of the Jew-hatred in the world, including Nazism, stemmed directly from the New Testament.

That theme was reiterated frequently in a remarkable conference staged recently on the premises of one of the most majestic edifices in the world, the Episcopal Cathedral on Amsterdam Avenue in New York City.

For four days learned scholars pondered how the world could have permitted an Auschwitz. They also tackled the problem of how to avoid another.

Prof. Ruether was joined in her confession of Christian guilt by such learned people as Prof. Gregory Baum, an Augustinian monk from Toronto; Prof. John Pawlikowski, of Chicago; Prof. Walter Burghardt, an eminent New York Jesuit; Claire Huchet-Bishop, a writer who has become the echo in this country of the late Jules Isaac who convinced Pope John that the church should cease showing its contempt for Judaism, and others.

Jewish savants, such as Rabbi Irving Greenberg, Rabbi Emil Fackenheim, Elie Weisel, Rabbi Marc Tannebaum, Rabbi Balfour Brickner and others, also took part in the unusual series of seminars.

The most astonishing part of the gathering convoked by the ADL, the American Jewish Committee, the Union of American Hebrew Congregations and the Cathedral's officials, Bishop Paul Moore and Canon William Johnson, and a cluster of Christian groups, was the confession that Christianity itself has engendered xenophobia.

The Christians freely admitted that the New Testament often indulges in anti-Semitism, that the Pharisees (who were the gentlest and most earnest of men) have been unfairly stigmatized, that Christians must atone for the bloodshed they incited and ignored.

The subtitle of the convocation was "the Beginning of a New Era." If ecumenics can move men towards confessing their guilt then a new epoch of fraternalism may indeed be discernible through the long, dark tunnel of misunderstanding.

### Argentina's Jews

by Robert E. Segal

Late in 1972, when General Juan Peron was hysterically welcomed back to Buenos Aires after 17 years of exile, the Jewish press throughout the world carried the welcome news that Peron had flashed a message of friendship to

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the Jews of Argentina.

But that was only for starters. Here we are, 1-1/2 years and considerable ferment later. And the Jews of Argentina are thrown anew into a state of apprehension.

Peron is nearing 80 now; and despite the stirring welcome he received when he returned from forced residence abroad, including 12 years of convenient hospitality from Generalissimo Franco, his hands on the reins of government are not as firm as they were when he had Eva Maria Peron at his side. Much that smolders beneath the deceptive calm in Buenos Aires is bubbling to the surface. And Argentina's Jews are in the direct path of the heat.

Consider for a moment the ingredients for a blow up: Peron's personal secretary, Jose Lopez-Rega, holds the cabinet post of Social Welfare. A Jew, Jose Ber Gelbard, is important also to the aging dictator as his Minister of Finance. Place this power struggle against a background of a trek by numerous Nazis to Argentina after Hitler. Add the rise in importance of the South American nation's conspicuous Arab population, aware of the heightened power of oil. Remember always the key role taken by Argentina's fickle military clique, largely responsible for hoisting Peron to power in the first place, central to his downfall in 1955, and pleased to see him again in 1974, finally, hold in mind that the poor who were so vigorously championed by the late Eva Peron are in deeper poverty than ever now, and the rich (including the general-dictator himself) naturally richer.

A nearly perfect formula for a Latin American explosion!

In February, Senor Peron's Senor Rega, the Social Welfare minister, returned from Libya aglow with promises of plenty of Arab oil and stepped up Arab trade. To take his rival, Senor Gelbard, the Jewish Finance Minister down a few notches, Rega made a gratuitous public comment about the unwelcome presence of Jews in the government of Argentina. Rega's cunning way of putting it was to say that Argentina's new and great friend, the Libyans, had a mistaken conception of Argentina's link with Arab nations because of "religious aspects" now inherent in the government of the powerful Latin American nation. Paraphrased, his message was intended to reassure Arab buddies that the Jew in the Cabinet didn't really belong there and probably would soon be out.

The mischief wrought by Rega was followed by an ugly scene on a "Journalists' Table" television panel program on which one of the participants asserted that "Zionist capitalists" can be blamed for impoverishing a country. Adding that Judaism is "anti-social and anti-Christian," he helped blow the fuse of amicable relations in Argentina.

For Jews with long memories --- some stretching back 2000 years --- this scenario is highly disturbing. Such Jews recall, with special apprehension, the more than 200 recorded anti-Semitic incidents in Argentina in

## TELL TALES

"One Man Plus The Truth Constitutes A Majority"

BY JACK TELL



(Continued from Page 1)

ple what is at issue here. Administration officials have grossly overstated what the sponsors of our amendment are seeking from the Soviet Union and have just as grossly understated -- or completely ignored, as the President did so conspicuously in his recent speech at Annapolis -- what the Soviet Union is seeking from the United States.

The sponsors of our amendment have no illusions about restructuring the Soviet system. We are talking about the fundamental right of people who cannot tolerate or be tolerated by that system to emigrate to a nation which will welcome them. We are calling on the Soviet government to live up to its international obligations to uphold this right.

The Soviet Union, for its part, is asking for most-favored-nation tariff treatment and economic benefits which involve the transfer of sophisticated American technology and a massive infusion of American capital. These transactions are supported by U.S. government credits, which are in turn subsidized by the already hard-pressed American taxpayer so that the Soviets can pay a far lower interest rate than he must pay for any loan.

We have no obligation, international or otherwise, to permit the Soviet government to share in the benefits of our economy, conditions or no conditions. But we do have, it seems to me, an obligation to insist on Soviet consideration of our humanitarian concerns in return for our consideration of the Soviet government's economic concerns.

Mr. Nixon did not mention that our government has already made available more than \$1 billion in subsidized credits to the Soviet Union; the most recent deal was a \$180 million loan, at about half the prime interest rate, approved by the Export-Import Bank last month. Nor did Mr. Nixon mention the intensified campaign of repression against emigration applicants and dissident intellectuals with which the Soviet government has responded to our generosity.

The effort of the President to sweep these issues under the rug may help him get the red carpet treatment in Moscow but it will not endear him to the growing majority of Americans who understand that a genuine detente must include progress toward the freer movement of peoples between East and West, which is also to say progress in the area of human rights. I hope the President will take a more constructive and humane position in Moscow than he has taken on the way to Moscow.

NEW YORK -- Publication of a 52-page Kasher Products Directory, with more than 3,000 products, has been announced by the Kasher Certification Service of the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America. Copies are available, without charge, on request to: Dept. B, Orthodox Union, 116 East 27th Street, New York, N. Y. 10016.

PHILADELPHIA -- Jerome J. Shestack, prominent Philadelphia attorney and civic leader was re-elected president of The Jewish Publication Society of America for a third term.

NEW YORK -- Frank R. Lautenberg of Montclair, New Jersey, was elected President of the American Friends of The Hebrew University, succeeding Henry Sonneborn III.

NEW YORK -- The American Jewish Congress announced publication of "Poor Jews: An American Awakening," the first reader of studies in Jewish poverty.

the 1960s when Father Julio Jenville was riding high. It was he who told his extensive flock that "Jews are the children of the devil." This recollection makes for gloom. And so does one's recall of the quasi-facist Tacuara in Buenos Aires, a city in which a half million Jews have the best of life one day and the worst of disquiet the next.