

Canadian scholars affirm solidarity with Israel

William Nicholls, on leave from his post as head of the Department of Religious Studies at the University of British Columbia, drafted this statement on Israel and the Middle East crisis, with assistance from theologians Gregory Baum and Lloyd Gaston. The signers sent the statement to Canadian Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau and Allan Joseph MacEachen, the minister for external affairs.

AT THIS TIME of grave crisis in the Middle East, and the renewed threat of war which could involve the rest of the world, we the undersigned Christian theologians and scholars in religious studies working in Canadian universities affirm our solidarity with our Jewish brethren in Israel. We recognize the Jewish faith as an authentic religion bearing witness to the one God. We repent of our own past indifference to the suffering of the Jewish people, in particular the holocaust of the six million during World War II.

We reject collective attempts to convert Jews to Christianity, or to take from them their rights to the full practice of their own religion anywhere in the world. We believe that the maintenance in the land of Israel of the Jewish people and their faith is an integral part of their witness to the one God, and therefore also a proper matter of Christian concern.

In the present crisis, we call on members of all Christian churches, and the political leaders of Canada, to take all possible measures to uphold the security and integrity of the state of Israel. We ask Canadian representatives at the United Nations to continue to oppose the recognition of the Palestine Liberation Organization as a claimant to the territory of Israel, and to protest by all means available against the cutting off of UNESCO support to Israel.

At the same time, bearing in mind that the international legitimacy of the state of Israel derives originally from the resolutions of the General Assembly of Nov. 29, 1947, we recognize the justice of the claim of the Palestinian Arabs to their own form of statehood, envisaged in the same resolutions. However, in view of the rejection by the Arab states of these resolutions, their



PLEDGE TO COUNTRY OF CONTRASTS: "We believe the maintenance in the land of Israel of the Jewish people and their faith is an integral part of their witness to the one God." -RNS

armed aggression against Israel in 1947-8, 1967, 1973 and at other times, and the annexation by Jordan of territories in Palestine designated as Arab by the UN resolutions, we do not consider that Israel is now bound either by the form of statehood or the territorial division laid down in the resolutions in question.

Rather, we consider that Israel must have secure as well as recognized borders, in accordance with Resolution 242 of the Security Council, Nov. 22, 1967. We urge the Israeli authorities to continue to play their part in the negotiated implementation of Resolution 242 by making withdrawals from occupied Arab territory in exchange for progress toward recognition

of her own final borders. We accordingly also support the recognition by Canada of an eventual Palestinian state arising from the full and impartial implementation of Resolution 242.

We regard the recent resolution of the General Assembly, recognizing the Palestine Liberation Organization as a legitimate claimant to the territory of Israel, a member state of the UN, as illegal, null and void, and a threat to peace. We hope for the emergence of legitimate representatives of the Palestinian people with whom it would be possible for Israel to negotiate on the setting up of an independent Palestinian state.

We do not regard ownership of the land on which Christian holy places are situated as a legitimate Christian concern, provided that freedom of access to pilgrims and worshippers is assured, as under the present Israeli administration. We therefore consider that Christians have no specific interest in the form which the future of Jerusalem should take. In our view, this is solely a matter for free negotiation between the parties directly concerned.

We call on all parties in the Middle East to renounce the further use of force in the settlement of the differences between them, to enter into genuine negotiations aimed at mutual recognition and neighborly relations in the Holy Land, sacred to Moslems, Christians and Jews alike.

We pledge ourselves to work toward the acceptance and implementation of these principles, and we call on members of all Christian churches in Canada to do the same.

Signed: Terry Anderson, Vancouver School of Theology; Gregory Baum, Ecumenical Institute, St. Michael's College, Toronto; David Demson, Toronto School of Theology, Emmanuel College, Toronto; Alan T. Davies, Combined Departments of Religious Studies, Emmanuel College, Toronto; William O. Fennell, Emmanuel College, Toronto; Lloyd Gaston, Vancouver School of Theology; James Guthrie, Emmanuel College, Toronto; James Lindenberger, Vancouver School of Theology; Harry McSorley, St. Michael's College, Toronto; John Meagher, Director, Institute of Christian Thought, St. Michael's College, Toronto; William Nicholls, Department of Religious Studies, University of British Columbia; Edward A. Synan, Director, Pontifical Institute of Medieval Studies, Toronto.

(ED. NOTE: One of the most gratifying pleasures in the life of the Tells was meeting, and knowing and becoming friends with Father Toomey. His total concern and dedication to all humanity, regardless of race, creed, religion or nationality is exceeded only by his compassionate understanding of the other man's problems. All the respect one can hold, is ours for him. When Father Toomey was transferred Temple Beth Shalom toasted his departure with a round trip ticket to Israel. Washington Theological Coalition's gain was Las Vegas' loss. We miss him deeply, but we wish him well, from the bottom of our heart. J.T.)

TELL TALES

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story did not mention was that the litigation also involved the \$4,000,000 loan under terms, described by the Wall Street Journal that General Motors could not get from the Bank of America. The land, mentioned in the Sun story, was collateral, along with the Las Vegas Sun itself, for the loan. The original note, drawn in 1967, called for payment in full by 1975. Greenspun produced a subsequent note, dated shortly before Maheu was fired, extending payments until the year 2004.

We wonder what all this could almost be considered as?

In closing we answer those few who accuse us of being jealous of Greenspun. It is not true. We are as jealous of Greenspun as Sen. Sam Ervin was of Nixon during the investigation that led to the President's resignation. Early in the hearings Sen. Sam sadly commented

Dear Jack:

Each week I read very carefully the Las Vegas Israelite. It keeps me in touch with you and the Jewish community.

I would like to call to your attention an article which appeared in the January 31st issue of the National Catholic Reporter entitled: Canadian Scholars Affirm Solidarity With Israel. I am sure you will find it of interest, and I have enclosed a copy.

Don't you think it's about time that you get a new picture of yourself for your Tell Tales column? Looking at those three granddaughters, I am sure that like myself you must be getting older, but perhaps you are using something to keep your hair from getting grayer as mine has.

With every best wish, I remain
Sincerely yours,

Reverend Patrick J. Toomey, CSV
Chairman, Department of Pastoral
Field Education.

that the most tragic event in American history was the Civil War -- until Watergate.

We maintain that the Sun publisher, like Nixon, must be stopped. The consequences of Greenspun's abuse of power is far more dangerous because the cherished Freedom of the Press is at stake. There are ways of dealing with dishonest politicians, whose knavery is nearly always brought to light by the watchdog for the American public, the decent, honest American press.

But the only effective way to cope with a corrupt publisher is by exposure in another

newspaper, which is exactly what we are doing. The decline of Walter Winchell, whose offenses were innocuous compared to Greenspun's was brought about by an expose in the N. Y. Post. There appears to be no hope of relief from Greenspun because apparently our leading citizens and the other Las Vegas daily fear a confrontation with the all powerful, all vindictive, and since Hughes all rich, journalistic menace.

But we'll keep pecking away because we love America, the American press and the State of Nevada.

ISRAELITE ADS PAY