

WASHINGTON DATELINE

BY TRUDE B. FELDMAN

ISRAELITE'S WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENT

Washington, D.C. -- Although it was not intended to be a major point of departure in the Annual National Conference of Catholic Bishops -- meeting here this week -- continued friction over Jewish attitudes toward granting aid to parochial schools drew heavy attention, almost overshadowing other issues such as a plea for decent housing for all Americans and a guarantee of jobs for everyone.

Capturing the tone of the dissention was William Willoughby, Religion Editor of the WASHINGTON STAR, who is a veteran observer of the Catholic-Jewish scene in the Nation's capital.

Willoughby's report of the action centered on remarks made by John Cardinal Krol, Archbishop of Philadelphia, who said that Catholics need to be frank with Jews on attitudes reflected by many Jews against Catholic efforts to obtain public funds for their school operations.

"I think we're shortchanging our Jewish friends if we don't call attention to a very disturbing fact in our relations," Krol said.

His remarks came as Washington's Archbishop William W. Baum presented the conference with a statement commemorating the 10th anniversary of Nostra Aetate, a landmark Vatican II document which set in motion an extensive and continuing dialogue with American Jews.

Even though Krol didn't identify the groups, Willoughby explained that they are the American Jewish Congress and the B'nai B'rith Anti-Defamation League both of which have consistently joined other groups such as the American Civil Liberties Union, Americans United For Separation of Church and State, the NAACP and the National Education Association in opposing tax credits and other types of aid for parochial school children or their parents.

Rabbi Marc Tannenbaum, national director of the AJC's interreligious affairs department, said before the bishops convened, "The fact that there are today networks of Jews and



COL. NAUM ALSHANSKY, (LEFT) WHO SPENT 26 YEARS IN THE SOVIET MILITARY BUT WAS RELIEVED OF HIS PENSION BECAUSE HE SOUGHT AN EMIGRATION VISA TO ISRAEL, IS GREETED IN AMERICA ON A SPEAKING TOUR BY JUDGE PAUL RIBNER, NATIONAL COMMANDER OF THE JEWISH WAR VETERANS OF U.S.A.

Christians who meet regularly, share common and respective concerns, is a development of unprecedented, even historic, importance.

"To my knowledge, there has never been such an extensive interaction on a personal, social and professional basis between Jews and Christians in any period of history during the past 1900 years as there is today, especially in the U.S."

The statement, adopted at the conclusion of the conference says, "We do not wish to convey the impression that all our problems are behind us. There still exist areas of disagreement and controversy which separate the Jewish and Catholic communities. We should like to believe that the difficulties can be resolved to some degree in amicable dialogue."

The statement says that, while there is good reason to believe that anti-Semitism is at its lowest ebb in history, "there is no ground to presume that it has been permanently eliminated."

It says that since the implementation of Nostra Aetate there has been a decline in old "anti-Judaic theology" which had been widely voiced by Catholics, principal of which was that Jews were and are collectively guilty of the death of Christ.

The statement says that the Vatican document goes beyond the notion of "exoneration" of the Jewish people. "The truth is that the (Vatican) Council acknowledged that the Jewish people never were, nor are they now, guilty of the death of Christ."

The statement acknowledges a growing consensus among Jews that compositely they are a people racially, ethnically, and religiously entwined and with a special affinity for Israel.

The statement does say that Christians should strive to understand the attitude of many Jews toward Israel. It urges that Catholics at all levels continue to carry out the spirit of Nostra Aetate, and that preachers and liturgists show genuine appreciation "of the special place of the Jewish people as God's first-chosen in the history of salvation and in no way slight the honor and dignity that is theirs."

LONDON (WNS) -- Chief Rabbi Immanuel Jakobovits of the British Commonwealth has accepted an invitation from the Moscow Synagogue congregation and a wide range of Jewish groups to visit the Soviet Union for ten days next month.

TORONTO (WNS) -- The Vancouver City Council has voted 10-1 against holding the United Nations - sponsored Habitat conference in the British Columbia city because of the expected attendance of representatives of the Palestine Liberation Organization and the anti-Zionist resolution adopted by the UN General Assembly.

NEW YORK (WNS) -- Shabtei Rosenne, a legal advisor in the Israel Foreign Ministry, has expressed optimism that the Red Magen David Society in Israel will be admitted into the League of Red Cross Societies when the issue comes up in April at the diplomatic conference of Reaffirmation of Humanitarian Law in Geneva.

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