

AJC ESTABLISHES INTERFAITH COMMITTEE

NEW YORK -- The American Jewish Committee announced the establishment of the Nathan Appleman Institute for the Advancement of Christian - Jewish Understanding, which will expand the Committee's innovative work in the inter-religious field and develop greater sensitivity by lead-

ers of the two faiths on interreligious issues. The Institute is named for the Honorary Vice President of the American Jewish Committee, who has long played a leading role in the agency's efforts to combat prejudice and build understanding between peoples of different faiths, races and ethnic backgrounds.

Mr. Appleman, a native of Oklahoma, is a prominent figure in the petroleum industry, as well as in philanthropic and communal agencies in New York and in Palm Beach, Florida.

In announcing the establishment of the Appleman Institute, Richard Maass, President of the American Jewish Committee, pointed out that the agency's "pioneering work in building Christian - Jewish understanding, which goes back more than three decades, must be expanded and intensified. Though overt anti-Semitism has not increased in the U.S., there have been a growing number of situations in which insensitivity and irritability with Jews and Jewish concerns have been displayed. Against this background, our work with Christian church leadership takes on an added urgency, for not only do Christian teachings profoundly affect attitudes toward Jews, but the churches help set the moral tone for American society."

Mr. Maass pointed to a number of critical areas in the interreligious field. 1. Helping to root out the stereotype of Jewish responsibility and Jewish clergy and lay leaders for "consciousness-raising" on mutual

for the crucifixion of Jesus. Though major church groups have repudiated this charge, major efforts must still be made to overcome the 2,000-year - old polemic that still exists in both religious and secular attitudes.

2. Containing forces in the United States who still view Jews only as potential converts; who would impose a religious test for public office and private enterprise; and who would make of Jews second - class citizens.

3. Instituting programs of dialogue and education with the religious leadership of Hispanics in America.

4. Developing programs of interaction with two million American Arabs, both Christian and Moslem.

The Appleman Institute, Mr. Maass explained, will develop specific programs to deal with these questions, including:

1. Work with teacher-training institutes to help sensitize Christian and Jewish teachers to interreligious issues on all levels of education.

2. Develop preparatory courses on Jewish - Christian relations at key Catholic, Protestant and Jewish seminaries.

3. Prepare specialized curriculum to be used in religious education to counteract negative stereotypes of Jews that may remain in some Christian teachings.

4. Analyze and evaluate the religious mass media to determine how Jews, Judaism, anti-Semitism, the Nazi Holocaust, and Israel are projected to Christian audiences.

5. Arrange seminars for teams of Catholic, Protestant,

concerns.

6. Undertake jointly with the Catholic hierarchy the preparation of guides for priests on Jewish - Christian relations.

7. Develop similar materials for Protestant ministers in cooperation with Protestant divinity and seminary educators.

8. Publish literature interpreting critical themes in Jewish-Christian relations.

NEGEV EXPANSION EXPECTED TO DOUBLE

LOS ANGELES -- The population of the City of Beer Sheva, Israel, site of the main campus of Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, and surrounding communities is expected to more than double in size, growing from 150,000 to over 325,000 in the coming 5 to 10 years, with the greatest increases coming in the next 3 years.

Other areas of the Negev will experience similar expansion rates as individuals, whole towns, and Israeli military installations are relocated to the Negev from parts of the Sinai now being reassigned to Egyptian jurisdiction.

In this growth atmosphere, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev has been given enormous responsibility to make the resettlements successful.



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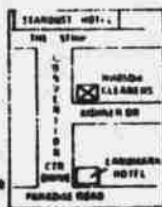
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