

Evangelicals Condemn Anti-Semitism

BY RABBI MARC H. TANENBAUM

The lead editorial in the April 24th issue of the major evangelical journal, Christianity Today, which powerfully condemns anti-Semitism and calls for mutual respect between Evangelicals and Jews, is a fundamental contribution to the strengthening of American democratic pluralism.

Written by Dr. Kenneth Kantzer, the journal's editor, the moving statement was first presented as "an Evangelical manifesto" at a conference of national American Jewish Committee and other Jewish and Evangelical leaders in Deerfield, Illinois, last December.

Published to commemorate Holocaust Remembrance Day, the editorial recalled "the unspeakable tragedy" of the Nazi holocaust. "Christianity Today," it said, "joins with the Jewish people in remembering this infamous event. With them, we are determined that nothing like it shall ever happen again." The editorial then called on evangelicals to "publicly acknowledge past anti-Semitism and declare it to be sin."

In a forthright expression of solidarity with Jews, Dr. Kantzer wrote, "Christians need to share equally with the Jews in the ongoing battle against anti-Semitism. They must make all legitimate Jewish concerns their own... We evangelicals need to make our identification with Jews so plain that when anyone attacks Jews as Jews, or displays any form of anti-Semitism, he must know that he is also attacking evangelicals and violating their basic convictions. And he will then need to do battle against both Jews and evangelicals."

If you want to read this historic editorial -- and you should -- write to me at the American Jewish Committee, 165 East 56th Street, New York, N.Y. 10022.

ARMS PACKAGE STILL UNDECIDED

WASH. (WNS) -- Secretary of State Alexander Haig said that it would be "difficult to predict" when the Reagan Administration proposed arms sale package to Saudi Arabia would be submitted to Congress. Testifying before a Senate appropriations committee, Haig, replying to a question from chairman Sen. Lowell Weicker (R, Conn.) as to whether the package would be submitted to Congress this year, replied "I wouldn't even want to prejudge that."

Haig said that the proposal is now being worked out with Congressional leaders. He added that once the technicalities of the proposed arms sale are worked out, many of the critics in Congress will change their minds. Haig did deny that the U.S. was seeking agreement from the Saudis for a U.S. ground base in Saudi Arabia.

Meanwhile, the

House Foreign Affairs Committee adopted by a 14-11 vote a resolution that would require the U.S. to receive Congressional approval for U.S. leasing of military equipment. Rep. Tom Lantos (D, Calif.) who

introduced the resolution, said the measure was needed to close a "loophole" whereby Congress could reject a proposed sale of military equipment but which the Reagan Administration could then lease to a foreign

country. A spokesman for Lantos said that while the Congressman didn't specifically mention the AWACS, this was one of the items he had in mind in bringing up the measure.

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